

## **PART's Perspective: A-I SQUARED**

# **Artificial Intelligence: Product & Tool of American Imperialism**

by Michael Novick, Anti-Racist Action-LA/People Against Racist Terror (ARA-LA/PART)

Most of the fears expressed about A-I have focused on a couple of issues. There are fears of a fourth industrial revolution in which massive numbers of intellectual, professional, and creative workers are replaced by automatons, along with other skilled and unskilled “blue collar” workers like drivers, warehouse workers, clerks and others. On a more science fiction level, there are fears of a “singularity” in which robots dominate or even attempt to exterminate their human creators.

But in the real world, right now, these fears discount or disregard the actual reality, which is that A-I stands for not only “Artificial Intelligence,” but also “American Imperialism.”

Civilian applications of A-I like Chat-GPT and its emulators, rely on digital sweatshops of tens of thousands of low paid workers in the Philippines and other “3rd World” countries to convert texts and images of all sorts into “feedstock” to train the large language models and the graphical “generative A-I” programs.

The recent strikes by screen-writers and actors in the WGA and SAG-AFTRA focused attention on the use of AI-- “Artificial Intelligence” using large language models by big corporations -- to try to automate creative jobs and other work, through the use of computers that can simulate voices, generate

designs, and produce meaningful (if not necessary factually accurate) literary and analytical texts. Fears of such automation generated widespread support for the striking Hollywood workers. But there’s another aspect to the whole process that has gone un-noticed.

Occasionally, however, the truth leaks out even in corporate media. In the *Washington Post*, Rebecca Tan and Regine Cabato recently reported the dirty little secret behind AI -- it depends on exploiting tens or hundreds of thousands of underpaid foreign workers.

“In a coastal city in the southern Philippines, thousands of young workers log online every day to support the booming business of artificial intelligence,” they report.

“In dingy internet cafes, jam-packed office spaces or at home, they annotate the masses of data that [US] companies need to train their artificial intelligence models. ... More than 2 million people in the Philippines perform this type of ‘crowdwork,’ ... as part of AI’s vast underbelly. While AI is often thought of as human-free



**Crewless autonomous US Navy vessel**

machine learning, the technology actually relies on the labor-intensive efforts of a workforce spread across much of the Global South and often subject to exploitation. ... Low-quality data yields low-quality AI. So click by click, a largely unregulated army of humans is transforming the raw data into AI feedstock.”

### **Whose language are large language models speaking?**

In the Philippines, they report, at least 10,000 of these workers do this labor on a platform called Remotasks, which is owned by the \$7 billion San Francisco start-up Scale AI.

Remotasks describes itself this way on its website: “Remotasks is an online tasking platform focusing on building technologies related to AI (artificial intelligence), neural networks, and machine learning. We work with different companies to help them form tomorrow’s smarter gadgets - from self-driving cars to more intelligent AI systems. With our Remotaskers, we help deliver various output[s] to clients that can help them develop their AI projects - this time with our invaluable human input.

“However, unlike other online tasking platforms, Remotasks won’t force you to do the same tasks over and over again. Thanks to our continuous stream of orders, our Remotaskers can engage in a wide variety of Tasks - from simple orders to more challenging projects.”

Remotasks may admit that human input is “invaluable”, but they are essential arbitrageurs generating colossal profits out of the artificially low cost of human labor in the Third World applied “remotely” into the high-value-added products of Silicon Valley (whose value lies in part in their capacity to eliminate the need for higher-paid labor in the US itself).

Hiding in plain sight in AI, as it does in the extraction of cobalt in the Congo or lithium on Native lands in the US for the new “green” energy economy, is the reality of imperialism, neo-colonialism, land theft and genocide.

The empire is a fractal or holographic system -- at every level of magnification and within every cell or fragment of the system, the reality of the empire is omnipresent and inescapable. Whether you are organizing for worker

rights or traffic safety or the environment in the US, the fact of the matter is, you are confronted by an empire that is your intractable enemy. The only way to win in the long run is to recognize this reality, this enemy, and strategize accordingly, in solidarity with those millions in Asia, Africa, and Indigenous America, north or south.

### **What’s driving driverless vehicles?**

We must not ignore the even more consequential role of the US military in developing and deploying artificial intelligence and its associated technologies, such as autonomous vehicles, facial recognition, motion detection and other techniques that are grouped as “cyber warfare.” For example, attention has been focused on traffic jams created by robotaxis in SF, but the larger reality is that self-driving car research in the US is being driven principally by the US Army Tank Division to build autonomous battle vehicles. That’s why all the Big Tech companies like Google and Amazon are now major military contractors on cost-plus “Defense” Department contracts. These developments reflect a military that cannot trust humans to carry out its dirty work for fear they may turn the guns around, even with an all volunteer army or navy.

Very little if any of this development is being reported in the corporate media for public consumption, despite reports to Congress, discussion at various quasi-public events hosted by “think tanks”, and coverage in the trade press of the military-industrial-complex corporations. Much of what follows comes from reports published by Defense One and other such on-line publications that keep “defense” contractors apprised of what the Department of “Defense” is experimenting with or paying for.



**Swarm of pilotless US Air Force drones**

The U.S. Navy, for example, recently completed its first deployment of four unmanned warships. The vessels spent five months in the Pacific testing various ideas about how to integrate their capabilities into “crewed” fleet operations. They had engaged in joint combat training operations with ships run by and containing Navy sailors.

The four autonomous surface vessels left Southern California on Aug. 7, 2023 and returned here almost six months later on Jan. 15, 2024. Two, Sea Hunter and Sea Hawk, were produced by DARPA, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (the same agency that developed the backbone of what became the Internet); the other two, Mariner and Ranger, were from the Navy’s Strategic Capabilities Office’s “Overlord” program.

The Navy brought swarms of air drones to interface with the unstaffed vessels to the annual Unitas exercise, where they collected and shared reconnaissance data that helped the multi-national fleet of warships of the US and those of several of its NATO and other military allies detect, identify, and take out “enemy” craft more quickly in the exercises.

Rear Adm. James Aiken, commander of the US Navy’s 4th Fleet, declared at a recent US Navy Surface Warfare symposium in Virginia, that, “We had an unmanned surface vessel and unmanned air vessel informing each other and then we actually had an international partner’s missiles on



board, and were able to shoot [at] six high speed patrol boats coming at us. And we were six for six.”

The US Army tank division continues to be leading the development of autonomous vehicles. All branches of the US military are using armed autonomous aerial vehicles (AKA drones), as evidenced by the Navy report.

The Defense Department recently published a guidance document on the use of autonomous weapons and when and under what circumstances they can be authorized to kill, buried in bureaucratized and swamped in acronyms for various military and civilian authorities. This is part of a larger strategy for warfare in “cyber-space”, including surveillance, intelligence gathering, hacking, and disruption of both military and civilian ‘command-and-control’ systems.

In a separate recent declassified report to Congress, the DoD declared:

“Since 2018, the Department has conducted a number of significant cyberspace operations through its policy of defending forward, [TTT note: “Defending forward” is more commonly known as aggression] actively disrupting malicious cyber activity before it can affect the U.S. Homeland. This strategy is further informed by Russia’s 2022 invasion of Ukraine, which has demonstrated how cyber capabilities may be used in large-scale conventional conflict.

“These experiences have shaped the Department’s approach to the cyber domain:

- The Department will maximize its cyber capabilities in support of integrated deterrence, employing cyberspace operations in concert with other instruments of national power.
- The Department will campaign in and through cyberspace below the level of armed conflict to reinforce deterrence and frustrate adversaries.
- Finally, the Department recognizes that the United States’ global network of Allies and partners represents a foundational advantage in the cyber domain that must be protected and reinforced.”

The report concludes that “The Department confronts an increasingly contested cyberspace,” facing what is seen as sophisticated and capable enemies in China and Russia, as well as threats from Iran and other states, non-state actors, and international criminal elements whose cyber-crimes have a potentially disruptive impact on US economic interests. It authorizes a much more aggressive approach to these “adversaries.”

Margaret Palmieri, the deputy chief of the Pentagon’s



**A-I command, control and communication integrates GIs with autonomous tanks**

lead data and AI office, said that recent experiments have brought the Defense Department closer to achieving smoother, more interconnected communications among all its operations and exercises with allies. “Absolutely we have a new connection, a new set of connections across multiple data fabrics and applications,” she said during a Hudson Institute event in Washington, D.C.

The Pentagon has been conducting a series of “global information dominance experiments,” acronym GIDE, to help the DOD improve sharing information across the military forces network and as part of the larger goal of creating more seamless military communications—an

**Continued on next page, See “A-I Squared”**

# A-I SQUARED

...Continued from previous page

effort it calls “combined joint all-domain command and control,” or JADC2.

Palmieri said senior defense officials still need to be briefed on the GIDE 8 results, but the plan for the next GIDE experiment is to sync efforts with the Army’s Project Convergence event in March. “We really want to see how the combat commands and the joint task forces now take that down to a tactical level,” Palmieri said. GIDE will then head to the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command’s Valiant Shield exercise and the Joint Staff’s global integration exercises.

The US military is using off-the-shelf commercial A-I for some of these functions, as well as developing its own A-I mechanisms. The DoD is developing its own chatbot. But they rely heavily on existing civilian A-I products. Chat-GPT recently changed its “terms of service” to drop the prohibition on its use by the military. And of course almost all the other commercial users and developers of A-I, like Google, Amazon and Microsoft, are actually defense contractors in their own right, developing software applications and weapons control and surveillance systems for the US military.

Jude Sunderbruch, director of the DoD’s Cyber Crime Center (DC3) recently spoke at DefenseScoop’s Google Defense Forum alongside Col. Richard Leach, the Defense Information Systems Agency’s intelligence director. “I think we’re really just at the start,” Sunderbruch said, later adding that the U.S. and its allies will have to get creative and learn how to best use existing AI systems to gain a leg up on competing intelligence giants like China.

AI and so-called machine learning technologies are seen as the next phase of cyber-security, as they enable new ways to carry out social engineering attacks and enhance hacking tools. AI systems can also be used for threat and vulnerability analysis, as well as system testing, said Sunderbruch. The US has already used ChatGPT to create software in the coding language Python that analyzed communication between MAC addresses— unique identifiers used by networked devices. Based on their movement and communication patterns, the military’s A-I “Geronimo” project could deduce what types of units they were tracking.

Inexpensive technology can be “very, very effective,” US Army Chief of Staff Gen. Randy George said in an interview at the Joint Readiness Training Center. at Fort Johnson in Louisiana. George cited a \$75 decoy device built by Geronimo that mimics the electromagnetic signature of a command post. But that’s just the tip of the Geronimo’s home-built arsenal, which includes everything from computer code written by ChatGPT to a thermal-scoped, bomb-dropping version of the Army’s TS-M800 quadcopter.

Geronimo modifies quadcopters (drones) for various military purposes. One TS-M800 carries scanners that can find cell phone and WiFi signals. By flying drones over a forest, Geronimo members told George, they could identify Army positions by picking up WiFi signals below.

The Defense Information Systems Agency’s intelligence director speaking with Sunderbruch underlined the importance of the use of cheap, commercial A-I for military intelligence purposes. “Such tools may be less secure than U.S. Army software,” but commercial software can sometimes be the better option if it defeats an enemy before they can exploit a vulnerability. “I don’t care if you can hack into my stuff if you’re dead,” he said.

He highlighted Geronimo’s use of cheap hardware like the Raspberry Pi hobbyist computer and spectrum-analysis devices like HackRF and RTL-SDR. Such devices are widely used in Ukraine to identify enemy drones. Geronimo’s use of commercially available, open-source compatible technology also tamps down logistics burdens, he said.

Not admitted in these remarks is that budgetary concerns are also a factor. The US economy is not really capable of

sustaining all the costs of the vast military apparatus of its globe-spanning empire, militarizing the border, arming its clients and cat’s-paws like Israel, Ukraine, Egypt and others, and carrying out its own costly military assaults and exercises. Using cheap off-the-shelf hardware is desirable as compared to signing off on cost-plus contracts with cyberwar and A-I tech companies. The USAF (that stands for Air Force) and the new Space Force create by Trump to militarize near-Earth orbits, are more frank about the need to economize, especially in the context of the on-going war planning vis a vis China. As Defense One recently reported on a think tank analysis of USAF “war games” against China, using drones to complement and supplement dwindling piloted aircraft: “The U.S. Air Force still needs to figure out the “right tradeoffs” to balance cost and capability for its future family of drones, ...after testing how a mix of unmanned and manned aircraft would fare in a fight with China.

In a story entitled “Robot Wingmen Versus China,” they report that, “During a July 2023 wargame run by the Mitchell Institute for Aerospace Studies, three “blue” air teams used a mix of collaborative combat aircraft, or CCAs, as sensors, decoys, jammers, and weapon launchers to “disrupt and stimulate” China’s integrated air defense system, “locate its critical nodes, and begin to attrit threats to support crewed aircraft operations,” according to the institute’s new report on CCAs. The Mitchell Institute is sponsored by defense companies and is an affiliate of the Air & Space Forces Association.

“The report echoes the Air Force’s own argument for CCAs: the service needs them as its fighter force shrinks. But realizing this vision hinges on the service’s ability to buy it. Since the Next Generation Air Dominance, or NGAD, manned fighter aircraft, won’t be ready until the 2030s and will likely have a hefty price tag, the service is relying on CCAs to provide “affordable mass.” The Air Force has been reluctant to release the exact cost range for the drones, but Air Force Secretary Frank Kendall has said he wants a single CCA to cost no more than a third of an F-35—meaning a CCA would cost about \$27 million.”

“The Mitchell wargame featured ten types of CCAs, ranging from expendable, \$2 million drones to highly capable, \$40 million “non-attributable” ones. The biggest takeaway was the importance of affordability, since the teams gravitated towards lower-cost CCAs across the board, Robert Winkler, vice president of corporate development and national security programs at Kratos Defense, said Tuesday during the report’s release. Winkler said his team tended to use CCAs in the \$10 million range.” See the full report at <https://www.defenseone.com/technology/2024/02/robot-wingmen-vs-china-what-think-tanks-wargame-revealed-about-key-usaf-concept/393980/> The Air Force recently confirmed that five companies—Boeing, General Atomics, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, and Anduril—are under contract to design and build a fleet of at least a thousand CCAs [robot drones on the scale of fighter jets].

Even the Pentagon is coming up against the realities of the cost of the “two-and-a-half wars” that US military strategy is still based on. But few if any corporate politicians or journalists are acknowledging these costs in public or the concomitant sacrifice of civilian infrastructure, housing, health care and education, let alone opposing or condemning them.

One positive outcome of the exposure of US-Israeli complicity in genocidal attacks on Palestinian civilians is that it is also shining a light on Israeli companies like Elbit whose technology is also being used in US border control operations. Workers at US tech companies like Google and Amazon have begun speaking out against and blowing the whistle on the use of their tech by the US military and “intelligence” (espionage and counter-insurgency) operations. Such understandings need to inform a deep and anti-imperialist understanding of and effective opposition to “AI” - A-I squared - American Imperialism’s Artificial Intelligence cyber warfare on the people.

## For Bob Wells, ¡Presente!

by Mumia Abu-Jamal

For Bob Wells, a life lived long was a life lived well, for he wore many hats, organizer, anti-racist activist, supporter and worker with the John Brown Anti-Klan Committee in Chicago, teacher, investigative reporter, magazine editor, seaman, hotel and restaurant cook, and banquet chef. He was a key activist in anti-prison and abolitionist work with the Labor Action Committee in San Francisco. And finally, a self-defense instructor.

But if you really wanted to know Bob Wells, all you had to do was read him. Inspired by the classic work of Mark Twain, Bob Wells wrote of Huckleberry Finn and fugitive slave, Jim, who both met up with John Brown and his fellow abolitionist fighters before the coming of the US Civil War.

If you haven’t already done so, I urge you all to read the book entitled, *Passing Through to the Territory*, by Robert Wells. His work, is a wonderful piece of work, a novel of historical fiction, of what might have been. On every page is Bob’s fine and rich, anti-racist imagination.

Three years ago, unfortunately, Bob had a stroke. And today, he is no longer with us. He is with his ancestors. But we remember him through his work, his wisdom, and his fight for labor and the oppressed.

With love, not fear. This is Mumia Abu-Jamal.



## Sekou Odinga, soldier for Black freedom, transitions

by Mumia Abu-Jamal

His name was Sekou Odinga, a lifelong soldier for Black liberation. When there arose a Black freedom movement, he never hesitated to join in and add his life’s energy to the struggle.

In the 2020 book, *Black Power Afterlives*, Sekou and his partner, dequi kioni-sadiki, wrote a moving self-history that gives us insights into these lives and freedom struggles.

Sekou Odinga wrote, “I was a member of the Black Panther Party for Self Defense, a Black Liberation Army soldier. And for 33 years, a US held political prisoner of war. Most of my adult life has been spent in the struggle for Black self-determination, Black revolutionary politics, and Black liberation. As such, my life speaks to the oft heard expression: Oppression breeds resistance and resistance breeds repression.

“My political consciousness began when I was a youthful offender, at Comstock Correctional Facility in upstate New York, with a good friend and close comrade, Lumumba Shakur. Lumumba’s father, Hajj Salahdeen Shakur would send his son reading material on Malcolm X, his teachings, nationalist politics, the struggle for land and independence. And most pointedly, the human rights Black people must exercise to arm and defend themselves against violence, state or personal. Lumumba would share these materials with me. And after serving a three-year sentence, I was back on the street and seeking the Malcolm that had inspired me in prison.” The words of Sekou Odinga from the book, *Black Power Afterlives* published by Haymarket.

Odinga would join the Organization of Afro-American Unity, or the OAAU, led by Malcolm, but shortly thereafter, Malcolm would be assassinated. Odinga would leave the OAAU. In 1968 a delegation from Oakland, California, called the Black Panther Party would be sent to New York to seek recruits. Odinga and Lumumba Shakur joined immediately. The rest was history.

In November 2014, Odinga made parole and he and dequi fought for Black freedom for a decade. Sekou Odinga, 79, returns to the ancestors.

With love, not phear, This is Mumia Abu-Jamal.

*These commentaries are recorded by Prison Radio.*

**A-I and robotics, drones and autonomous tanks and ships are central to US military plans because the US empire has China, a populous economic power-house, in its crosshairs.**



# ISRAELI CRIMES AGAINST PALESTINIAN JOURNALISTS

RAMALLAH, Monday, February 5, 2024 (Wafa) – At least 135 crimes, assaults and violations committed by the Israeli occupation against journalism in Palestine were recorded in January, the foremost of which was the killing of 14 journalists, including eight who were killed by direct missile and bullet attacks against their homes and four others who were killed while on the job, according to the monthly report issued by the Freedom Committee at the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate.

The report stressed that the Israeli attacks on journalists, including the intentional targeting of their homes and the killing of their families, continued unabated. According to the report, 12 inhabited houses were targeted, which led to the killing of dozens of journalists' family members.

The report affirmed the Israeli occupation soldiers' lawless measures against journalists in the West Bank, adding that 50 cases of attacks against journalists were recorded, including detaining press crews, preventing

them from doing their job and targeting them with live bullets.

The report stressed that journalists are faced with violence and intimidation, recording at least 26 incidents in which four journalists were brutally injured by bullets and missile shrapnel, in addition to four others who sustained cuts and bruises in Israeli attacks.

The report recorded four cases of beatings, eight injuries by tear gas and sound bombs and seven cases of destruction and seizure of equipment. In addition, The Israeli occupation detained two journalists and stormed press institutions and the homes of three journalists. One journalist was also subjected to prosecution.

The report also cited the complete interruption of communication and internet services for 14 days last month as a result of the Israeli direct targeting of telecommunications towers in Gaza. Several technical staff were killed by the Israeli occupation while attempting to fix the damage, it added.

The commission said that 116 journalists and media workers have been killed in the Gaza Strip since the beginning of the Israeli aggression on October 7.

At least 35 journalists remain behind Israeli bars under harsh conditions that deny them the most basic rights of prisoners enshrined in international laws and conventions, according to the report.

The report added that the fate of several journalists remains unknown after losing all contact with them on October 7.

**Editor's Note:** Pacifica Fightback is working on a national virtual town hall on attacks against journalists in Palestine, and against US journalists, academics and others who speak out for Palestine, as well as the complicity of US media with genocide in Palestine. For more information, see <https://pacificafightback.org>

## Militarized Virginia Prison Guards Believe Amerika Was Fighting Space Aliens In Afghanistan

by Kevin "Rashid" Johnson

I had an experience that illustrated for me just how psychotic these right-wing military types are. The ones who work in rural prisons and police forces in particular. The fearful thing about all this is that these nuts are armed by the state and use violence against the people—especially people of color.

I was being transported by this group of three guards, who were dressed out in green military fatigues, from prisons in Indiana to Ohio during the summer of 2021. The Virginia Department of Corrections (sic!) [VADOC] had sent them to get me. They bring some special unit of pigs organized by VA prison officials for special tactical operations—just to make it sound "military."

They carried AR-15s fitted out with military scopes and wore military flak jackets covered in ammunition packets. They all had buzz cuts including their leader named Freeman who had to be in his sixties and was no taller than about 5'5—and wore their pants tucked into their boots like Nazi stormtroopers. Lest I forget to mention, they were all white and regularly employed at VA's remote and notoriously racist and abusive Red Onion and Wallens Ridge State Prisons. I'm black, of course. Now that you have a mental picture of this group, let's get on to my experience with them.

After I was loaded into the back of their transport vehicle, these cretins set a cell phone on the center console, connected it to the SUV's bluetooth and proceeded to blare the most psychotic selection of ultra right-wing propaganda through the speakers I have ever heard. And the thing is, they were into it like it was air they were breathing.

## Virginia Prisoners Hunger Strike at Red Onion State Prison

On Tuesday, December 26, 2023, several prisoners confined at Virginia's Red Onion State Prison began a hunger strike to protest the continued use of long-term solitary confinement within the institution. Despite critical concern, outcry from the public and prisoner populations in the state, incarcerated people are still subjected to this brutal practice which has been renamed "restorative housing" since July 1, 2023 when measures were passed to limit its use in the state.

Leading these prisoners in this effort is longtime prison activist, revolutionary writer and artist, Kevin "Rashid" Johnson. Rashid has stated that no one will take any food at all until demands are met. Some of the strike participants have underlying health concerns that make the undertaking of such a demonstration particularly risky. Rashid, himself, is recovering from multiple rounds of radiation to treat prostate cancer as well as suffering from untreated heart disease/congestive heart failure. This is why the public's support is especially needed. We are asking that calls, emails, and letters be sent to the Virginia Department of Corrections (VADOC) officials as well as Virginia governor Glenn Youngkin's office voicing support for the strikers and condemnation for the inhumane use of long-term solitary confinement/restorative housing.

Red Onion Hunger Strike Participants:

Kevin "Rashid" Johnson – #1007485  
Jason Barrett – #1092874  
Rodney Lester – #1429887  
Charles Cousino – #2213403  
Eric Thompson – #1208012  
Joe Thomas – 1193196  
Nguyen Tuan – #1098070  
Demetrius Wallace – #1705834  
Gregory Binns – #1157265

First came the mild shit, an hour or so of Rush Limbaugh ranting about Critical Race Theory dividing Amerika and how white men are an oppressed minority suffering discrimination because of affirmative action. A slew of typical modern day Southern Strategy race baiting politics oriented to the alienated psyches of rural white males.

Then came the madness. For the rest of the ride these nuts blared podcasts about U.S. Special Operations units fighting aliens in the deserts of Afghanistan. Not the aliens that sneak across borders on foot, mind you. But the kind that invade planets in space ships. And no, they weren't listening to this shit as entertainment, they were actually believing this was real reporting on what the U.S. military was engaged in in Afghanistan during the occupation there. It kinda made sense since there was an actual military for the self-proclaimed "world's baddest fighting forces" to fight in that poor shattered country. And of course it does nothing for public and U.S. military morale to admit they were actually over there massacring women and kids and getting their asses handed to them by civilians trying to expel foreign occupiers (the U.S. being the real invading aliens being fought).

So there be no mistake that these militaristic nutcases who were transporting me really believed what they were listening to, they frequently commented and cheered during the program stating how dangerous conditions were for the special ops forces against the aliens, and how they would have engaged them and their high tech weapons if they were there fighting. They even threw in a few lies about having friends and relatives over there

P. Williams – #2103207  
DeQuan Saunders – #1458253  
J. Hilliard – #1988319  
Ray Galloway – #1407902  
Gregory Azeez – #1421616

### Whom To Contact:

VADOC~ Central Administration; P.O. Box 26963; Richmond, VA 23261  
David Robinson, Phone: 804-887-8078, Email: david.robinson@vadoc.virginia.gov  
Virginia DOC ~ Director, Chadwick S Dotson, Phone: (804) 674-3081 Email: Chadwick.Dotson@vadoc.virginia.gov  
Rose L. Durbin, Phone: 804-887-7921 Email: Rose.Durbin@vadoc.virginia.gov  
Beth Cabell, Division of Institutions beth.cabell@vadoc.virginia.gov (804)834-9967  
Gov. Glenn Youngkin (804)786-2211 glenn.youngkin@governor.virginia.gov

Kevin "Rashid" Johnson, a journalist, artist, and prison intellectual, has been retaliated against by guards and prison officials for years. He has been writing and drawing and speaking out about the inhumanity of US prisons. He is being punished for exercising his First Amendment rights.

He was recently transferred far from his medical providers while undergoing treatment for cancer and congestive heart failure. He has been disappeared by the prison officials, his number erased from their system. He remains on hunger strike and has refused to eat for 42 days.

Rashid began the hunger strike inside Red Onion State Prison to protest his transfer, medical neglect, and solitary confinement. He was denied access to drinking water and had to drink from the toilet. His health is

fighting and sending back whispered reports confirming their involvement in their super secret missions against alien invaders. It kinda reminded me how poor whites during antebellum times believed blacks grew tails after sundown.

I sat in the holding section of the vehicle listening and looking at these nuts in disbelief. No one could have convinced me that there were people this culturally bent actually running around with assault rifles in government uniforms. And I was in their custody! I mean you hear about rural whites and their cultural disconnect from things, but one tends to reject that as a negative stereotype. This shit was live and in my face! It was like a scene ripped from a Jeff Foxworthy "redneck" joke.

This was the same special unit of pigs that came to transfer me from Sussex I State Prison to Red Onion State Prison on October 30, 2023, that gassed the shit out of me as I stood locked inside of a cell, because I asked to them to honor a medical order I had for extra large cuffs. Maybe I looked like one of those aliens they were so eager to fight over in Afghanistan back then. Or maybe they thought they saw me with a tail. In any case, I guess space aliens and black folks have at least one thing in common when it comes to interacting with Amerikan pigs—we have no rights that they are bound to respect.

**Dare to Struggle Dare to Win! All Power to the People!**

rapidly deteriorating. The prison brought him to court and attempted to have the local judge issue an order to force-feed him. He is currently imprisoned at the Powhatan Medical Unit in Virginia, a Virginia Department of Corrections facility.

Rights Behind Bars has filed a lawsuit to take action against the VADOC for unconstitutional retaliation by guards and officials. From the footnotes of that lawsuit: "Mr. Johnson's medical records initially showed concerns for cancer in or around October 2021.

However, he was not aware of these concerns for approximately six months, until a chronic care appointment where he was referred to a urologist. VADOC officials delayed his access to that specialist until after a public protest on Mr. Johnson's behalf. He received a biopsy and tests to determine that he had prostate cancer in July 2022. Yet again, VADOC staff members delayed his care or forced him to miss medical appointments until 2023, after more public protests. In sum, it took Mr. Johnson 1.5 years to begin receiving treatment for his prostate cancer.

Before the retaliatory move at issue in this Complaint, Mr. Johnson had been receiving radiation treatments from VCU for this cancer.

"Mr. Johnson suffers from the following chronic conditions: edema, cough, fatigue, weight gain from fluid retention. Notwithstanding these documented conditions, Mr. Johnson has not been able to get diagnostic, preventative, or ongoing care from VADOC medical staff. He has been referred to the cardiac clinic at VCU by his cancer care providers, but VADOC staff members never brought him for that referral."

**Read more here:**

<https://www.prisonradio.org/complaint-filed-by-rights-behind-bars-on-behalf-of-kevin-rashid-johnson/>

# Peoples Park: Target of Relentless Efforts at Destruction

by Isis Feral

All but one of the attached aerial photos of the goings on behind the fortress walls surrounding People's Park were taken within the last few days by Aidan Hill, an active supporter and participant of the Park, who is running in the upcoming special election for the city council seat suddenly vacated by Rigel Robinson, who

supported the Park's destruction. These photos represent some of the most recent record of UC's destruction of People's Park.

The first photo shows the entire Park a month ago, as the container wall was being installed, and is from this Berkeley-side article: <https://www.berkeleyside.org/2024/01/05/peoples-park-berkeley-wall-shipping-containers-history>

I'm also attaching another photo, from ground level, that shows the razor wire attached to the containers at one end of the Park, from this Berkeley-side article: <https://www.berkeleyside.org/2024/01/11/berkeley-peoples-park-shipping-container-barbed-wire>

Isis



## Anti-Repression Round Up:

## Palestine Solidarity, Cop City, Uprising Defendants & Other Ongoing Cases

from In Contempt #37, [itsgoingdown.org](https://itsgoingdown.org)  
<https://itsgoingdown.org/in-contempt-37/>

An arrest has been made in Charleston, South Carolina, of a person suspected of arson connected to solidarity actions for the Stop Cop City campaign. Seth Brock Spigner, 23, of Charleston is charged with arson in the second degree, suspected of setting fire to a concrete company's trucks. His bond was set at \$25,000, according to the Dorchester County Sheriff's Office. More information here: <http://tinyurl.com/SCbust>

Ayla King, the first Cop City RICO defendant to go to court, has faced a delay to their case. You can find an interview with a defense attorney from early January here: <https://www.mainlinezine.com/first-cop-city-rico-trial-unexpectedly-delayed-challenge-to-dismiss/>, and a more recent article from the Atlanta Community Press Collective here, covering the latest developments regarding the limitation and criminalization of bail funds <https://atlpresscollective.com/2024/02/05/why-the-house-must-vote-no-on-sb-63-upholding-people-over-profit/>.

The Palestine solidarity movement continues to face repression. Recent events have included eight arrests at a careers fair at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and UC students facing misdemeanor charges for a sit-in at a UC Regents meeting in Berkeley, as well as continuous repression against Palestine solidarity protests in Toronto. Students in Berkeley were handcuffed and forcibly removed for peacefully staging a sit-in. They were fingerprinted, slapped with misdemeanors and told to appear in court. This follows a wave of repression against the movement for Palestinian Liberation on campuses across the country, where students have been doxxed, punished and have had chemical weapons sprayed on them. A solidarity campaign is being set up for the Merrimack 3, three defendants in New Hampshire facing charges for allegedly taking direct action against the Israeli arms company Elbit Systems.

In Arkansas, four defendants from the George Floyd Uprising have just been sentenced, with one defendant receiving a sentence of four and a half years, and three others receiving eighteen months each. You can read more about the background to the case here: <https://www.thenation.com/article/society/movement-racial-justice-police-arkansas/>, and GoFundMes have been set up to raise funds for Rene <https://www.gofundme.com/f/renes-commissary-funds>, Angel

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-angels-commissary-prison-costs> and Cody <https://www.gofundme.com/f/codys-commissary-fund>

In Houston TX, police repression continues against the local Food Not Bombs chapter, with two people arrested and one tased during a FNB meal in early January, while a trial concerning the group has had to be postponed because "[t]oo



many of the potential jurors said that even if the defendant, Elisa Meadows, were guilty, they were unwilling to issue the \$500 fine a city attorney was seeking". More information here: <https://www.houstonpublicmedia.org/articles/news/criminal-justice/2024/01/05/473616/two-people-arrested-one-tased-during-food-not-bombs-meal-service-for-unhoused-houstonians/>.

Chris "Big Tex" G, a community organizer from North Texas, is asking for support as he fights both state charges and a lawsuit from a self-described Christian-fascist group. You can donate to his legal funds here: <https://www.spotfund.com/story/1263b271-b07d-4894-bb16-8675a3482dea>

### San Francisco Jail News And Analysis

Oakland Abolition & Solidarity have shared some analysis of recent events concerning CJ3, the San Francisco Jail, via email:

This past October saw events involving CJ3, the San Francisco Jail in San Bruno. First, a federal judge ruled favorably on a class action suit brought to get the incarcerated of CJ3 access to sunlight. Yes, it took a class action suit to get sunlight... 15 minutes of sunlight, if all circumstances and the will of the jailers permit it.

From the judgment:

"Given the need for daily access to direct sunlight, the fact that plaintiffs began suffering

from medical problems approximately a year after they were incarcerated, and the failure to identify the amount of time for daily exposure, the court rules that defendant must offer to each inmate who has been incarcerated for longer than a year the following: daily access to direct sunlight, weather permitting and in the absence of an emergency (including but not limited to a global pandemic or prison riot) for at least 15 minutes."

The second event that October was the reopening of the CJ3 annex to accommodate the increase in San Franciscans being locked up for drug offenses. As per the October San Francisco Chronicle article on the reopening, "the county jails house 1,105 incarcerated people, a 32% increase from last October's daily average of 835." This increase over the last year is a direct product of the political machine of Mayor London Breed installing Brooke Jenkins and the re-prioritizing of low level street drug arrests. We can't help but recognize this as one symptom of a nationwide 'law-n-order' crime panic that has been manufactured for political capital and the re-legitimization of the policing regime.

Rather than just report on events here, let's put these two events next to each other and apply some simple strategic, cost/benefit accounting from a liberatory movement perspective.

The class action suit "victory" demanded four years of litigation (first filing was in 2019), however much effort and organizing of prisoners and supporters it took to gain the attention and commitment of a law firm on their behalf, and an unknown but undoubtedly hefty sum of money to fund the litigation. This is all in support of an effort that just as easily could have been summarily blocked and denied by the action of the judge. So all this was in service of a crapsheet basically. This judge rules differently or you happened to draw some other more conservative judge and all this effort is for naught...

Every legal victory has to be defended FOREVER. Judgments aren't magical in their power. Very real agendas and institutional power remain. Judgments, if enforceable at all, are defied, outmaneuvered or whittled away. The record of prisoner struggles show this whether it be the judgments won by the women of Chowchilla for medical care or the settlement over indefinite solitary won by the massive California prisoner hunger strikes of 2011-2013.

The advances in medical care are still uneven, insufficient and being constantly attacked and whittled away by CDCr. Indefinite solitary has definitely decreased and indeed been discredited in the public sphere, but prison-crats continue to fight oversight, use workarounds such as making release processes fragile or unworkable, in addition to now repeatedly hitting people with one 90 day stretch in "Ad Seg" one after another instead of actually reclassifying someone as a SHU inmate.

## 100X100 Campaign to Increase Publication Frequency of *Turning the Tide*

Over its 36 year publishing history, *TTT* has been published in magazine format, as a 24-page tabloid, and from time to time on a bi-monthly basis, six issues a year. For the last few years, economic necessity has dictated that we guarantee four 8-page issues a year. To restore bi-monthly publication, we launched a fund-raising campaign we've dubbed "100X100."

We are still looking for one hundred people who will donate \$100 a year, or \$10/mo, to make it possible for *TTT* to resume publishing six issues a year, and continue mailing about 1700 copies of each issue into the prisons. You can donate online at [https://ko-fi.com/anti\\_racist\\_action\\_la](https://ko-fi.com/anti_racist_action_la)

*Turning the Tide* doesn't print itself, or mail itself. Some prisoners who get the paper contribute a few stamps.. Often, they pass the copy of *TTT* that they received from hand to hand, cell to cell, or they send in the names and addresses of half-a-dozen or more other prisoners. **Prisoners, if you can find donors or subscribers outside prison to subsidize your sub, that would help a lot!**

If you'd like to see *Turning the Tide* more frequently, if you want to contribute to breaking down the walls of isolation and separation imposed by the prison system, please contribute. If you can't manage \$100 all at once, you could donate \$10 a month. But any donation you make can help. Postage costs for a single issue of *TTT* are over \$1000 and climbing. If you can't donate yourself, please help spread the campaign via your social media, to your Facebook friends, Twitter followers, Instagram, TikTok and email contacts. Everything helps. Nobody makes a dime working on *TTT*.

If the campaign is successful, we will resume publishing every other month in 2020. Postage is our biggest expense. Nobody gets paid at *TTT*. But the Postal Service is not so generous. We have a handful of people who are sustainers, making a monthly donation, a larger number of people who subscribe once a year or so. Right now, we are at about 10% of our goal. LA area supporters could set up house meetings, where the editor will pitch to your friends for support. The future of *Turning the Tide* is in your hands. Now, while you're thinking about it, go to:

[https://ko-fi.com/anti\\_racist\\_action\\_la](https://ko-fi.com/anti_racist_action_la) and donate, or use paypal to [antiracistaction\\_la@yahoo.com](mailto:antiracistaction_la@yahoo.com) if you prefer. Then share it with your contacts. With your help, *Turning the Tide* can step up to the "urgency of now" -- the necessity for radical organizing, educating and analyzing to respond to the growing crisis of the Empire -- endless war, police terror with impunity, mass incarceration, colonialism, ecological devastation that will shortly become irreversible.

If you think *TTT* is a useful tool in the struggle for people's power and a new world, please donate today. If you wish, you can also just send cash, check or money order to

**Anti-Racist Action, PO Box 1055, Culver City CA 90232.**

# KOREA PEACE NOW WOMEN MOBILIZING TO END THE WAR

<https://koreapeacenow.org/>



Korea Peace Now! Women Mobilizing to End the War is a global campaign to educate, organize and advocate for a Korea peace agreement by 2020. We are a growing movement of civil society organizations working for an end to war and lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula. Women Cross DMZ, Nobel Women's Initiative, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) and the Korean Women's Movement for Peace officially launched the campaign in March 2019.

By the end of 2020, the campaign aims to have made significant headway toward:

1. Peace-building process including a formal ending of the Korean War, a Korea peace treaty or agreement, and normalized relations.
2. Tangible de-militarization including denuclearization, removal of landmines, and reduction of bases and troops.
3. Women's leadership and gender-based analysis (government and civil society) in peace processes.
4. Lift broad-based sanctions against North Korea, especially those impacting humanitarian conditions.
5. Redefine security from national security based on war and militarism to a feminist understanding of security centered on basic human needs and ecological sustainability.

The Korean War is the longest-standing U.S. conflict. While it no longer consists of active fighting, hostilities between the warring parties have remained high, resulting in the extreme militarization of the Korean Peninsula. Here are five reasons we need a Korea peace agreement:

1. A peace agreement would eliminate — or greatly reduce — the possibility of a long and costly U.S. military conflict.

A fragile truce has defined U.S.-D.P.R.K. relations for 70 years, which means that war could break out at any time. It's estimated that as many as 300,000 people would die in the first few days of conventional fighting on the Korean Peninsula. Former Secretary of Defense James Mattis warned that a conflict with North Korea "would be probably the worst kind of fighting in most people's lifetimes."

Because of provisions in the U.S.-R.O.K. Mutual Defense Treaty of 1953 and the Sino-North Korean Mutual Aid and Cooperation Friendship Treaty of 1961, a war with North Korea could legally force the United States and China into direct armed conflict with each other, leading to a much larger regional war.

2. A peace agreement would be a crucial step toward denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula.

North Korea has stated that the primary impetus for its drive to achieve nuclear capability has been the immense nuclear threat posed to it by the US, and has made it clear that it will not give up its nuclear weapons until the U.S. drops its "hostile policies" against Pyongyang.

Peace is the necessary condition for denuclearization. To convince someone to put down a gun, you first have to convince them that they will not be harmed. The only way to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula is to end the Korean War, negotiate a peace agreement, and work toward normalizing relations.

3. A peace agreement would help improve humanitarian conditions for millions of North Koreans.

The U.S. strategy of "maximum pressure" on North Korea resulted in several rounds of UN Security Council economic sanctions, unilateral U.S. sanctions, and an aggressive strategy by the U.S. State Department to force other countries to cut off diplomatic ties with North Korea.

Current sanctions have essentially cut off the humanitarian lifeline provided by UN agencies and aid groups for the most vulnerable populations in North Korea: More than 60,000 North Korean children are at risk of severe acute malnourishment — effectively a precursor to starvation — due to the disruption in the availability of humanitarian supplies caused by tightening sanctions.

According to David Beasley, the head of the UN's World Food Program, a peace agreement with North Korea would greatly improve the country's food security woes.

4. There is strong popular support for a peace agreement on the Korean Peninsula.

Polls show that 9 in 10 South Koreans want an end to the war.

5. A peace agreement would be a major step toward ending the U.S. policy of perpetual war and shift national resources from the military to more basic human needs.

A peace agreement between the U.S. and North Korea would provide an opportunity to revise U.S. foreign policy and its \$700 billion military budget, which could go toward domestic investments that would improve genuine human and ecological security.

A peace agreement would also help facilitate disarmament and demilitarization on the Korean peninsula. Rather than demanding North Korea's unilateral denuclearization as a precondition for a peace agreement, the agreement and peace process should provide the context for denuclearization, an end to the U.S.-South Korean nuclear relationship and military exercises, and demining efforts.

Women have been at the forefront of social movements calling for peace on the Korean Peninsula. Despite this, there are very few women involved in the official Korea peace process. For the Korea peace process to be successful, women must have a seat at the table.

Research shows that the participation of civil society groups, including women's organizations, makes a peace agreement 64 percent less likely to fail. And when women participate in peace processes, the resulting agreements are 35 percent more likely to last at least 15 years. From Liberia to Northern Ireland, women have been instrumental in making peace agreements.

Including women's equal participation and meaningful involvement in peace processes is also a commitment of both UN Security Council Resolution 1325 of 2000 and the U.S.'s Women, Peace and Security Act of 2017, which recognize the crucial role that women play in conflict prevention, management, and resolution.

But it's not because of gender that many women are powerful peacemakers; it's because they are advocates of feminist peace. Feminist peacebuilders believe that dialogue and cooperation, not weapons and sanctions, are the most effective routes toward creating genuine, long-lasting peace and security for all people.

## URGENT APPEAL

We need your financial support to continue sending the paper free to about 1700 prisoners around CA and the US. Stamps went up to 68 cents each.

### PLEASE SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

[ ] \$24 a year individual [ ] \$36 institution/international [ ] \$50 sustainer

payable only to **Anti-Racist Action**  
at P.O. Box 1055 in Culver City 90232

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ St: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Postage alone for this issue comes to over \$1100. We would like to increase the size and frequency of *Turning the Tide*, but we can only do it with your support. If you're a prisoner and can send stamps or get someone outside the walls to subsidize your subscription, please do so. If you work with an info shop or other zine or record distro, please consider ordering a bundle of TTT to distribute; \$5 will get you 10 copies. And check out our 100X100 campaign elsewhere in this issue. If you live in L.A. or nearby, we can come to house meetings to speak and collect donations for the paper. Email [antiracistaction\\_la@yahoo.com](mailto:antiracistaction_la@yahoo.com)**

# Palestinian Prof at NYU Suspended over pro-Palestine Speech

[Excerpts]

<https://hyperallergic.com/870452/2000-sign-letter-of-support-for-palestinian-nyu-professor-amin-husain/>

Over 2,000 artists, cultural workers, scholars, and students have signed a letter in support of Amin Husain, the Palestinian adjunct professor at New York University (NYU) and co-founder of the art and activism movement Decolonize This Place (DTP) who was suspended from his teaching position last week, allegedly due to his pro-Palestine speech. The petition's signatories include artists Walid Raad and Chloë Bass, scholars Robin D. G. Kelley and Ariella Aïsha Azoulay, and human rights attorney Noura Erakat.

According to a statement issued by the New York-based civil liberties group Parachute Project, Husain met with NYU's Human Resources team on January 19 and 22 and was asked about his statements and affiliation with DTP in light of the group's social media posts about Gaza. He was allegedly notified of unspecified complaints against him and informed of his suspension on January 23.

NYU spokesperson John Beckman issued a brief statement informing the college community of Husain's suspension two days later.

"All members of our community must adhere to the University's discrimination and anti-harassment policies; we investigate all complaints we receive and take appropriate action, which may include taking measures such as suspension," Beckman said. On January 29, the school also suspended Clinical Psychology Professor Tomasz Skiba, also allegedly for his statements regarding Israel's attacks on Palestine.

Hours before NYU's public January 25 announcement, a video was circulated by the Free Press, run by cultural commentator and self-described Zionist Bari Weiss, showing Husain calling on his students to conduct their own research into Hamas's 2017 charter. A petition first circulated in October by NYU alumna Sherrie Soleymani calling for Husain's removal from the school's faculty has almost 6,700 signatures.

The NYU branch of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP), a nonprofit that advocates for the faculty and higher educational professionals in its ranks, penned a January 29 letter to the school criticizing Husain's suspension, stating that "the nature of the complaint and status of the complainant have been kept from him, and so Professor Husain has not been able to defend himself." The group sent a second letter on February 2 calling on NYU to reverse its decision.

Decolonize This Place has played an outsized role in museum protest movements in the last five years, including the 2019 ousting of Whitney Museum of American Art Vice Chair Warren Kanders over his connections to the tear gas business and most recently actions at the Brooklyn Museum calling on the institution to "take a stand against genocide."

Here's the full text of the letter in support of Amin Husain:

## Free Palestine, Decolonize This Place: A Statement in Support of Professor Amin Husain and Collective Speech Against Genocide

As we witness the genocide unfolding in Palestine, measures of repression against pro-Palestinian speech around the world are intensifying. Among the latest examples is the suspension last week of Professor Amin Husain from his long-standing adjunct teaching job at New York University for speech-related activity about the U.S.-funded war on Gaza. These attacks on speech (and speakers) reflect the ideology behind the logic of destruction inflicted on the cultural infrastructure of Palestine itself. Every university in Gaza has been destroyed, not to mention most libraries, archives, and bookstores. Museums have been looted, and cultural and religious sites decimated. Scholars, poets, students, artists, journalists, medics, doctors and at least two Palestinian college presidents are among the 26,000+ Palestinians assassinated.

This statement amplifies calls by students and colleagues to NYU president Linda Mills to immediately reinstate



*Prof. Amin Husain, suspended by NYU*

Professor Husain's classes, Justice Lab and Art and the Practice of Freedom, and to issue an apology for having disregarded the students' educational rights. More importantly, this statement is a call to each other to protect and strengthen our spaces of assembly, anti-colonial pedagogy and aesthetics.

Professor Husain has been teaching for a number of NYU departments since 2016. He is a popular teacher, which is why departments continue to call on him to offer courses. A week before classes were to start, Professor Husain was called to meetings with NYU Office of Human Resources, where he was questioned about speech-related activities and his affiliation with Decolonize This Place (DTP), an art-based collective. The officers referred to DTP's social media and brought up posts relating to the war on Gaza, indicating there were allegations and complaints but refusing to provide further context. Hours before Professor Husain's first class was set to begin on Tuesday January 23, the class was canceled by the administration, leaving students at a loss without explanation. NYU publicly announced his suspension in a statement given to the press, which was then sensationalized by media outlets that published doxing articles with malicious intent. The administrative actions appear to be a clear violation of academic freedom because off-campus speech is fully protected from retaliation by an employer according to the American Association of University Professors' (AAUP) principles of academic freedom.

Professor Husain's situation is egregious, but not unique. Many NYU students have also been suspended, and other faculty members have been interrogated and cautioned. In the words of Shay Negron, an attorney for the Parachute Project, a civil liberties organization representing Amin and others who are facing repression on campus, "A new form of McCarthyism, in which accusations of anti-Semitism take the place of charges of pro-Communism, has been creeping to the fore for many years, but greatly accelerated after October 7. Among the faculty and students we are representing at a variety of universities, we are seeing accusations of anti-Semitism based on uses of the phrases and terms 'settler colonialism', 'genocide' and 'Zionist'. First Amendment-protected speech critical of a nation-state, Israel, is now routinely punished and chilled. We are dedicated to assisting Professor Husain and our other clients re-establish their rights of academic freedom and free speech and to oppose all attempts to destroy their reputations and careers."

The crackdown on pro-Palestinian speech in the university aims to prevent people from seeing each other and learning together; it is a war on our collective intellect, memory, and imagination. Repressive measures are also an attack on people's livelihood and material condition, entangling us further with bureaucratic and legal mechanisms that sap energy away from doing the work and caring for each other. In these ways, the university acts to extend and normalize an

ongoing genocide and settler-colonial occupation, which it upholds most explicitly at the ground level by maintaining a satellite campus in Tel Aviv.

Classes are canceled. Students are assembling. Faculty are opening their homes to foster and support, rather than regulate and suppress, study. Unions are stepping up to defend academic workers. The unsavory power of Zionist trustees and donors is being publicly exposed and called out. Artists and cultural workers are making the connections between museum boards, empire and genocide. We are taking action in the places where we are, standing with each other across institutions, movements, and borders, cultivating our interconnected struggles with Free Palestine as our compass.

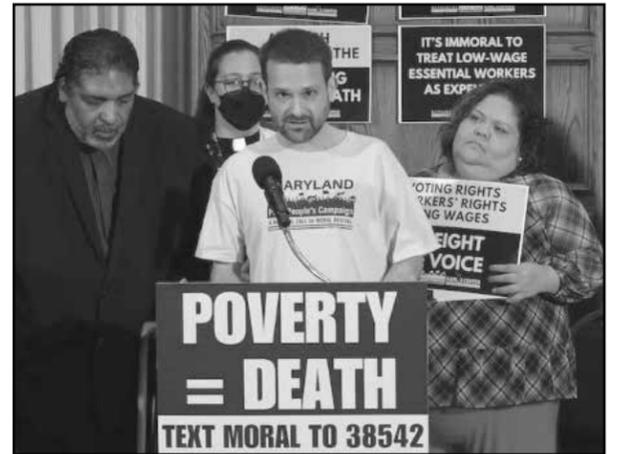
We urge the NYU administration to change course and stand on the right side of history. End the punishment, policing, and silencing of all students, faculty, and staff speaking out against genocide, and redress the harm already done.

## Poor Peoples' Campaign to Rally at 30 State Capitals in March

Poor and low-wage people joined PPC co-chairs Bishop Barber and Rev. Theoharis, plus tri-chairs from all over the country and leading pollster Celinda Lake, at a recent press conference. There, they announced details of the PPC's major 2024 voter mobilization campaign.

Bishop Barber, who was recently kicked out of a movie theater and separated from his aged mother because of his need for disability accommodation, spoke about the need to protect and expand voting rights and to pass a living minimum wage. He called out the eight senators who, together with Republicans, voted against raising the minimum wage to \$15/hour. "We are 60 years behind," he said. "People are being treated as if they are expendable. That's why we are launching this voter mobilization campaign."

"We must talk to the poor and low-income voters like we never have before. We must wake the sleeping giant. It is political suicide not to care about this bloc of voters, who represent 30 to



40 percent of the electorate in many of the swing states. We have power and we must build it now!"

Rev. Theoharis spoke to the breadth and depth of voter suppression efforts: More than 1,000 voter suppression bills have been introduced since the last election; pandemic-era protections have been allowed to expire, and other predatory policies have targeted poor and low-wage Americans.

"Economic justice and saving this democracy are deeply connected," she said. "We are mobilizing and organizing and registering and educating people for a movement that votes.... People are dying, and it doesn't have to be this way. We are calling on everyone to join this Poor People's Campaign and voter mobilization effort!"

Mass Assemblies, Bishop Barber said, would take place in March at 30 state capitols. "We are very serious about this mobilization. This is a Third Reconstruction."

But perhaps the most forceful words came from people directly impacted. Here are two of the event's standout speakers.

"For three years I worked the assembly line at Amazon in Bessemer, Alabama. The work was grueling. We were expected to work like robots, moving like 1,000 pieces per hour. Amazon let me go because I was helping organize the union. Forty-seven percent of the voters are poor or low-wage. Getting that vote in is very important. We cannot settle for less. We've got to stand up for our rights." —Linda Burns, Alabama

"I take care of people with disabilities and who are sick and who need help with their daily activities—but I do not have health insurance myself. I have been called an essential worker. I am living paycheck to paycheck. And I have to make decisions every day: Do I put gas in my car, or do I pay my bills, or do I put food on my table? We have got to get our power as people.

## On-Line Resources for Turning the Tide & ARA-LA/PART:

You can find archives of *Turning the Tide* at [www.antiracist.org](http://www.antiracist.org) that go back more than 35 years.

In addition, there are several Facebook pages, such as [facebook.com/tideturning](https://facebook.com/tideturning), and [facebook.com/intercommunalsolidarity](https://facebook.com/intercommunalsolidarity).

Follow @ara\_losangeles on Twitter, IG @antiracistaction\_la, and the De-Colonize LA! blog at [ara-la.tumblr.com](http://ara-la.tumblr.com).

# KNOW THY ENEMY

## “Army of God” Headed to US Border with Mexico, including San Ysidro

An anti-immigrant truck convoy is heading from Florida to Texas, Arizona and California. Retired military commander Pete Chambers gave a rundown of the situation in Eagle Pass, Texas, during a planning call for the convoy.

These latest developments have aroused civil war fantasies on fringe forums, as well as on the social media accounts of GOP lawmakers and right-wing political commentators. On Thursday, Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt and Newsmax host Carl Rigbie mused about the possibility of a “force-on-force conflict” erupting between the federal government and the Texas National Guard, The Daily Beast reported. And this all means that the border convoy is garnering more interest than it might have done a couple of weeks ago.

The convoy’s crowdfunder on GiveSendGo has raked in more than \$30,000 just this week, totaling nearly \$50,000 by Friday morning. “Once willing to die defending this country, now willing to die protecting my family from what this country has become,” said one donor, who identified himself as a Navy vet. “Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes,” wrote another. Thousands rolled in on Wednesday, when Infowars’ Alex Jones interviewed one of the organizers, Pete Chambers, a former military commander who says he was a green beret. “There’s a war literally happening now for America,” Jones said.

“We’re at 1774 right now,” said Chambers. He later drew a comparison with the Biblical story of Gideon’s Army; in the Book of Judges, the army’s faith in God allowed them to prevail over their enemy despite being vastly outnumbered. Ads for the convoy have gone up on 40 digital billboards in Florida, Texas, Louisiana, and California, courtesy of a “private donor” whose identity organizers would not disclose.

In an interview with VICE News, organizer Scotty Saks, who is the host of “Sovereign Radio,” said the convoy has nothing to do with the ongoing fight between Texas and the feds. “We’re not really focused on that,” said Saks. “We’re staying the course about making this peaceful assembly as large as we can make it, to make a statement to federal, state, local officials that we don’t want open borders.”

## Man sentenced to 18 years for bombing church that was hosting drag event

Aimen Penny, 20, a member of the Nazi-oriented White Lives Matter, got an 18-years prison sentence for firebombing a church to stop a drag event in northeastern Ohio on April 1 last year. He drove for an hour to the Community Church of Chesterland, where organizers were planning to host a “Drag Brunch and Story Hour”. There, investigators said, he hurled two Molotovs, hoping to burn the church down.

Penny was sentenced to almost two decades in prison after pleading guilty to two felonies: committing a church arson hate crime and using fire and explosives to commit a felony. Penny’s attempted firebombing of the Community Church of Chesterland came as some right-wing media outlets intensified their rhetoric against drag shows and conservative lawmakers made banning them or limiting children’s exposure to them an increasingly high priority. Meanwhile, the number of attacks against drag events continues to rise.

At the same time, right wing Florida legislators have authorized child labor in the state, and adding insult to injury, refused to adopt an amendment prohibiting sexual abuse of the child laborers. If Penny really wanted to protect children, he was apparently aiming at the wrong target.

## Support KPFK during Black History Month

Support the contemporary voices that are changing the world today!

KPFK and Pacifica have some of the most valuable archives of the sounds of social and political struggles and freedom movements over the past three quarters of a century.

But what makes us really unique is that we are covering the contemporary voices and struggles that are making history today, building a culture of solidarity, resistance and liberation on the basis of equality, justice, peace and effective concern for all our relations and the biosphere that sustains us.

From Black Lives Matter Grassroots to Extinction Rebellion, from the Lawyers Guild to American Indian Airwaves, from Rhapsody in Black to Folk Scene, from Spotlight Africa to Think Outside the Cage, from Sojourner Truth to Insurgencia Femenina, from Democracy Now to Grayzone Radio, from Voices from the Front Lines to La Raza Radio, KPFK is on the air 24-7, 366 days this leap year, providing a platform to the voices of the Black freedom struggle, the peace movement, Indigenous land and water protectors, and others building unity and community. Look at this lineup of community based programs that have been maintained, returned or added to the airwaves in the last year or so:

Move the Crowd from Black Lives Matter; Radio Insurrection from Stop LAPD Spying; Think Outside the Cage, the prison and formerly incarcerated people’s show; Health Care 4 US, a socialistic single-payer program; Grayzone Radio from Max Blumenthal and Aaron Mate; KPFK’s Rebel Alliance News locally produced and all-volunteer, featuring news from non-NATO sources; Capitalism, Race & Democracy, produced by volunteers across the network; Working Voices, a labor-focused program covering strikes and rank-and-file democratic efforts;



Society of Native Nations/Be a Better Relative, from Idle No More and others, covering Indigenous land and water protectors and MMIW issues; La Raza Radio from La Raza Unida and Matt Sedillo; Rootwork by radical Black journalist and organizer Thandiswe Chimurenga; Creative Frontline, Indigenous struggles against extractivism; Out-FM, Building Bridges and Equal Rights & Justice from sister station WBAI in New York; Whole Mother on midwifery and overcoming infant and maternal mortality from sister station KPFT; Cut to the Chase with Sylvester Rivers and hip-hop artist and professor Ife Jie; Access Unlimited, the disability rights and resources program; Conversations on the Way with Nana Gyamfi, executive director the Black Alliance for Justice Immigration; new Spanish language programming like El Noticiero and los Musiqueros, young local musicians, and extending Informative

## Fascistization of “Mainstream” Politics

Gov. Ron DeSantis’ administration has hired a company that specializes in combat training, including a former U.S. Navy SEAL accused of war crimes as an instructor, to “recruit and train members of a civilian military force under his control,” report Ana Ceballos and Lawrence Mower of the Miami Herald.

Thomas Kennedy clarifies, “DeSantis administration hired a company that has a trainer who is a former Navy Seal accused of war crimes to train its new taxpayer funded state militia.”

Meanwhile, Southern Brooklyn Councilmember Inna Vernikov will be cleared of an illegal gun charge, according to the Brooklyn District Attorney’s Office, George Joseph writes in THE CITY. “Social media photos ... appeared to show the Republican with a gun on her waist at a counter-protest against pro-Palestinian college students. A New York law, passed last year, prohibits the possession of firearms at ‘sensitive locations’ including protests—even for licensed gun holders like Vernikov.” “Aidala did not respond to questions about whether the gun was already inoperable at the time of the rally, or whether someone removed [the recoil spring assembly] afterwards,” Jeff Coltin quotes.

## Moonies Backing Trump

<https://www.kangnamtimes.com/trending/article/55701/>

excerpt:

Former U.S. President Donald Trump received ... approximately \$3.3 million for three video message lectures from related organizations of the World Peace Unification Family Federation (formerly Unification Church, hereinafter Family Federation) in 2021 and 2022.

On the 25th, Mainichi Shimbun reported that according to the financial reports required to be submitted by U.S. presidential candidates, Trump received \$500,000 (approximately \$670,000), \$1 million (approximately \$1.35 million), and \$1 million for each of his 10-minute video message lectures at the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) events in September 2021, and February and July 2022.

UPF is a private organization established in 2005 by the founder of the Unification Church, the late Moon Sun-myung, and current president Han Hak-ja, with its headquarters in New York.

## Nazis on Substack

In late November, the Atlantic reported that a search of the publishing platform “turns up scores of white-supremacist, neo-Confederate, and explicitly Nazi newsletters on Substack — many of them apparently started in the past year.” That included 16 newsletters with explicit Nazi imagery, including swastikas and the black sun symbol often employed by modern white supremacists. The imagery appeared in prominent places on Substack, including in some newsletter logos — places that the kind of algorithmic moderation systems standard on traditional social media platforms could easily detect.

Substack writers took note, and a letter collecting the signatures from almost 250 authors on the platform pressed the company to explain its decision to publish and profit from neo-Nazis and other white supremacists. “Is platforming Nazis part of your vision of success?” they wrote. “Let us know — from there we can each decide if this is still where we want to be.”

Pacifica to five days a week, a whole lot more.

But don’t take it for granted. KPFK and Pacifica have always been in the crosshairs of the US state security, surveillance and counter-insurgency agencies that have spent billions to control the corporate media including individual journalists, academia including individual professors, and cultural content producers on film and in music. KPFK and its sister stations have had to respond political attacks and even physical ones, like the KKK twice bombing KPFT in Houston, as well as turmoil and efforts to rule or ruin Pacifica from within. We have stood strong in the face of all that, and will persevere. We can only do it with your engagement and support. Last month we had two great community events, one with a panel of a dozen peace activists on the west side, speaking out for peace and justice in Palestine, Ukraine and elsewhere; the other in Leimert Park/Africa Town with Dr. Gerald Horne and Melina Abdullah, filled to capacity.

We will be doing more such events. But the “bread and butter” of KPFK is listener memberships and donations. Please donate generously today during our on-air membership and funding drive during Black History Month, as so many of our hosts and guests continue to make history. Right now, call 818-985-5735 and press option 2 for the pledge line, or go to KPFK.org and click on donate. Make the largest generous donation you can, or better yet become a sustaining member with a regular monthly subscription. On the website you can also click on the big button to get the station’s weekly email Dispatch, like 18,000+ other people. Pass the word to your friends, followers, coworkers to get to know KPFK. And drop a line to comments, letting us know that you like and value cutting edge, community oriented radio and want more of the same!

Anti-Racist Action Publishers  
PO Box 1055  
Culver City, CA 90232-1055

First Class Postage

— A JOURNAL OF INTER-COMMUNAL SOLIDARITY —

# TURNING THE TIDE

Volume 36 ★ Number 1 ★ ISSN 1082-6491 ★ Jan. - March 2024

## INSIDE

- ### UPCOMING EVENTS:
- ★ Black History Month - KPFK on-air member drive 2/6 - 3/1 [kpfk.org](http://kpfk.org)
  - ★ Feb 10 - Michael Novick birthday benefit bash at Re/Arte in ELA, 5-7p
  - ★ Feb 21 - 59th anniversary of assassination of Malcolm X
  - ★ March 8 - International Women's Day - "Women Hold Up Half the Sky"
  - ★ March 14 - Pi Day (3.14)
  - ★ March 31 - Trans Day of Visibility - Defend LGBTQIA + people in the struggle

Check us out via [www.antiracist.org](http://www.antiracist.org), [facebook.com/tideturning](https://facebook.com/tideturning), [ara-la.tumblr.com](https://ara-la.tumblr.com)

TURNING THE TIDE GOES FREE TO **1,700** PRISONERS EVERY ISSUE.  
ALMOST

**\$5 DONATION** GETS THIS INTO THE HANDS OF 7.  
POSTAGE ALONE COSTS \$1200!!

"SUPPORT TURNING THE TIDE, FOR WHEN YOU DO SO, YOU SUPPORT YOURSELF,  
AND THE MOVEMENTS THAT ARE PAVING A WAY INTO THE FUTURE."

- MUMIA ABU JAMAL

Send cash, check, or money order payable to: **Anti-Racist Action,**  
PO Box 1055, Culver City CA 90232. We CANNOT process checks to Turning the Tide or  
Intercommunal Solidarity -- **All checks to 'ANTI-RACIST ACTION' only!!**

- Individual Subscription: \$24    Institutional Subscription: \$36    ARA Benefit CD: \$10+\$3 S&H  
 25th Anniversary Commemorative Edition: \$6    Additional Donations \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

TTT published at least four times a year. **No checks to Turning the Tide, please! Can't process them!**  
Please write us every time your address changes, with your EXACT address as it should appear on the address  
label. TTT is a small project with few resources: we can't provide books or legal aid, or investigate individuals'  
*innocence.*



The real reason Biden bombed Yemen - Millions of Yemenis rallied  
in Sana for Palestine and against US aggression and complicity!

## LIBERATION THROUGH DECOLONIZATION!

- ★ A-I Squared - Artificial Intelligence = American Imperialism
- ★ Mumia Abu-Jamal on Sekou Odinga
- ★ Palestinian Prof Suspended at NYU
- ★ Support KPFK Radio Powered by the People
- ★ Defend Cop City protesters
- ★ Know Thy Enemy
- ★ Korea Peace Now!
- ★ People's Park
- ★ and Much More!

Anti-Racist Action-LA/  
People Against Racist Terror  
PO Box 1055  
Culver City, CA 90232  
[www.antiracist.org](http://www.antiracist.org) ★  
747-666-PART (7278)  
[antiracistaction\\_la@yahoo.com](mailto:antiracistaction_la@yahoo.com)