

Issue 19: Summer 2011

4STRUGGLEMAG

from the hearts and minds of north american political prisoners and friends



www.4struggle.org

4strugglemag
P.O. Box 97048
RPO Roncesvalles Ave.
Toronto, Ontario
M6R 3B3 Canada



geronimo ji-jaga, 1947-2011

IN THIS ISSUE: War in Lybia ● Anti-Racism ● Black August ● FBI Repression
Struggle & Analysis ● Letters ● Poetry ● Updates & Actions ● and more!

Welcome to 4strugglemag

You have just come upon a dynamic and unique publication, where Truth (real and raw) speaks to power. This magazine focuses on the insights and experiences of north american political prisoners on major issues of the day. While a lot of the writing is by political prisoners, other activists, allies, revolutionaries and insightful outside voices are included. We publish three issues a year and all back issues remain posted on the website (4strugglemag.org).

4strugglemag is an independent non-sectarian revolutionary voice. We are unapologetically anti-imperialist and solidly in support of progressive national liberation, especially the struggles of New African/Black, Mexicano/Chicano, Puerto Rican and Native American Nations presently controlled by U.S. imperialism. Reflecting on the work and principles of political prisoners held by the United States, 4strugglemag advocates for justice, equality, freedom, socialism, protection of our Earth, human rights and peace.

www.4strugglemag.org is primarily an e-magazine, but hard copies are available (see sidebar for subscription details). We encourage readers to respond, critique and carry on discussions in the magazine. We value and encourage feedback and discussion. The address of each political prisoner is posted with his/her article so people can directly communicate with them (few political prisoners have access to the internet).

We like dialogue, but we are not going to print racist or pro-imperialist messages, so you government agents and klansmen don't bother wasting your time.

Each issue of 4strugglemag focuses on at least 3 main topics. Additional poems, graphics, essays, announcements and more are included. Unsolicited writings and graphics are accepted and welcomed. We won't guarantee printing, but we'd like to see your work. This and other correspondence should be sent via regular mail to the following address (remember it costs 75 cents to send a letter to Canada from the U.S.).

4strugglemag
P.O. Box 97048
RPO Roncesvalles Ave.
Toronto, Ontario
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or via email to:
jaanlaaman@gmail.com
Jaan Laaman, editor
anti-imperialist political prisoner

Moving? Don't forget to send us your new address!

Call for contributors

4strugglemag is looking for quality writing that contributes to critical, revolutionary thought and reflection. In particular, we are interested in the following:

Feature articles: In-depth, analytical articles that critically examine a particular issue, historical occurrence, political idea, or current event. If you are in need of research or writing help, don't hesitate to ask..

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Letters: We love to hear from you. Please let us know if we have permission to print your letter.

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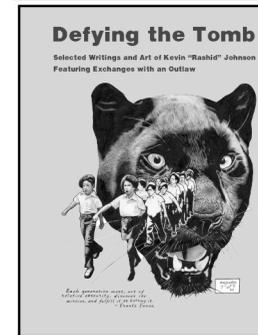
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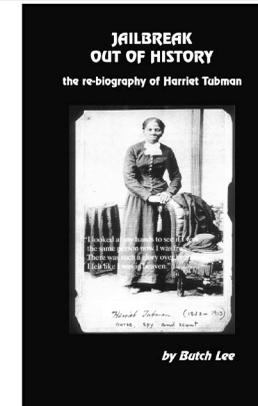
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Selected Prison Writings and Art of Kevin "Rashid" Johnson, Featuring Exchanges With an Outlaw

ISBN 978-1-894946-39-1
386 pages paperback

\$20.00

This beautifully illustrated book includes a series of essays by Kevin "Rashid" Johnson, Minister of Defense of the New Afrikan Black Panther Party-Prison Chapter, as well as an intriguing and educational correspondence between Rashid and the revolutionary prisoner "Outlaw". Includes a foreword by Russell "Maroon" Shoats, introduction by Tom Big Warrior, and afterword by Sundiata Acoli.



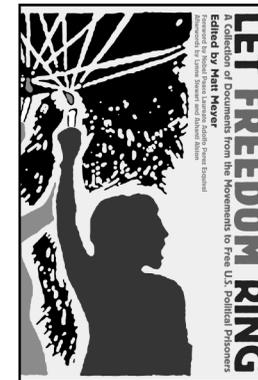
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by Butch Lee
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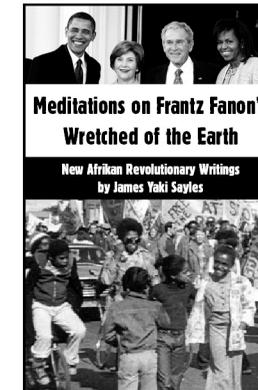
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edited by Matt Meyer
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Represented here—in over one hundred documents from the past 20 years—are prisoners from the movements that have most challenged the U.S. empire from within: Black Panthers and other Black liberation fighters, Puerto Rican independentistas, Indigenous sovereignty activists, white anti-imperialists, environmental and animal rights militants, Arab and Muslim activists, war resisters, and others.



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New Afrikan Revolutionary Writings by James Yaki Sayles

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"This exercise is about more than our desire to read and understand *Wretched* (as if it were about some abstract world, and not our own); it's about more than our need to understand (the failures of) the anti-colonial struggles on the African continent. This exercise is also about us, and about some of the things that We need to understand and to change in ourselves and our world." (James Yaki Sayles, aka Atiba Shanna)

Remembering Gil Scott Heron

BY JAAN LAAMAN

The core of my personal soundtrack in this life has long been Bob Marley and roots reggae. Right next to that music, and interwoven through the decades, has been the rhythms, the sounds and definitely the words of Gil Scott Heron.

It is with sadness that I heard the brother, Mr. Gil Scott Heron passed on May 27, in New York City. He was 62 years old.

I never knew the man personally, but from way back in the 60s, when we first heard the different sound and lyrics of “The Revolution will not be televised... the revolution will not go better with Coke/ the revolution will not fight the germs that cause bad breath/ the revolution will put you in the driver’s seat/ the revolution will not be televised/ will not be televised/ WILL NOT BE TELEVISED/ the revolution will be no re-run brothers/ the revolution will be live.” we knew this brother had something to say. And he said it and did it in a way like now one else ever had before. Of course Gil Scott heron has been recognized as a pioneer of spoken word and rap sounds.

Gil Scott created music that touched you, made you think, gave you information and insight, made you dance too. Gil Scott Heron inspired, informed, inflamed me and so many others, with his raw, real, relevant rhymes and sound. His music was about reality, about social struggle from the U.S. to South Africa and across the world.

Gil Scott understood that artists have a social responsibility and that culture is about this world we live and struggle in: it’s not above it. Gil Scott was a man of principle. Even though he had need of cash, he did not betray his principles for corporate and imperialist money. For example in 2010, after his last album, “I’m New Here” came out, he turned down a concert in Israel, out of solidarity with the Palestinian people and their struggle (see “Singing for Justice as a Life-long Commitment”, by Marta Rodriguez, on page 25 of issue 16 of 4sm, for an article on Gil Scott Heron’s refusal to play at this pro-Israeli concert).

Think back readers: “Winter in America,” “1980,” “Johannesburg,” “Angel Dust,” “In a Bottle,” “The Vulture,” and many, many more cuts. Yea, Gil Scott is in a lot of our soundtracks. We



are going to miss you brotherman, but we will keep on listening to all you had to say.

PS: for 4sm readers who aren’t too familiar with much of Gil Scott Heron’s music, do yourself a favor, get some of it and listen, learn and enjoy it.

Gil Scott-Heron

BY CHUCK D, time.com

A week before Gil Scott-Heron’s death on May 27 at 62, I recorded a guest vocal on a remix of his song “Third World Revolution.” I was honored, of course. I first met Gil when we appeared on a CBS Morning News show in 1988. I’m typically quiet in the presence of royalty—musical or otherwise—so I just listened carefully that time and on the few occasions we got together after that.

Obviously, Gil’s art, music and opinion formed a basis for rap music. His performances, with their ad-lib-lecture-poet-style commentary, were like his own onstage play-by-play. And though he didn’t like to claim responsibility, he clearly is a cornerstone of what we do and why we do it, especially when we get it right. No him, no us.

What gets me is that for the past 25 years, folks had said he was so frail. And yet he kept keeping on, smashing great songs, albums and concerts, all of which were a testament to his will and strength. He was and will remain a man whose powerful lines can knock you over in under 140 characters.

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Issue 19 Introduction



Greetings, readers, friends, fellow activists and revolutionaries. Welcome to 4sm number 19 (mid-summer 2011). This issue begins our seventh year of publishing the news, views, insights and analyses of political prisoners and allies.

Tens of thousands of readers check out each issue (primarily the online edition). Yet 4sm's production team is very modest and the work gets done because of the extraordinary voluntary

effort and commitment of a small number of dedicated and righteous comrades in Canada. And of course it is the words of political prisoners and other insightful writers (inside and out), who create the material that makes this unique mag what it is. So thanks to everyone who has contributed to 4sm, in words, work or material support. Let's keep it up and keep advancing. We welcome and need your words and your political and financial support.

After our letters section, we begin this issue with our celebration of Black August 2011. 4sm dedicates Black August and this entire issue as a tribute to geronimo ji-jaga, who passed of a heart attack on June 2, in Tanzania. geronimo, who was 63 (and chose to write his name without capitalization) was a major leader of the Black Panther Party and a founder of the Black Liberation Army. He was railroaded to prison on a bogus charge and did 27 years before he was exonerated and freed in 1997. We include several tributes to geronimo, as well as basic information on Black August in the first section.

Then we have a section on updates and actions. Everyone should check out the material on Pelican Bay, as well as this year's "Running Down The Walls" (RDTW), which will take place on July 31. Next is our primary analytical and dialogue section, on the war in Libya. Following this is our section on struggle and analysis which includes essays on "Being Anti-Racist," information on the government's recent attacks on Carlos Montes, an original founder of the Brown Berets, and more. Remember, we welcome feedback and revolutionary dialogue on all our articles. We will look forward to your words for issue 20, including updates on Pelican Bay, and report backs on RDTW.

As you go through this issue, keep geronimo in your thoughts, as well as our warrior sisters who passed last August: Senora Lolita Lebron and Ms. Marilyn Buck. They all did so much, and now it is our turn. See you all in issue 20, out in November.

Jaen Laaman, editor/anti-imperialist political prisoner

Struggle in Pelican Bay and beyond

A very significant struggle began on July 1, by the brothers in D corridor, SHU, Pelican Bay SP. Quoting from some material recently released by the brothers:

"The D corridor has the highest level of restricted incarceration in the state of California and among the most severe conditions in the United States. Conditions of long-term isolation imprisonment amount to torture, and are designed in order to coerce prisoners into "debriefing", i.e. informing on other prisoners. Many debriefers simply make up information about other prisoners just to escape the isolation units. This misinformation is then used to validate other prisoners as members or associates of prison gangs who in reality have nothing to do whatsoever with gang activity, and then they too become subjected to these inhumane conditions. This July 1 struggle has the potential to become the most significant event in California prison reform in the last decade. Public support is crucial."

July 10 update: The CDCR's own figures acknowledge 6,600 prisoners participated in the hunger strike across 13 prisons (out of a total 33) in California this past weekend. Thousands of prisoners have come together in solidarity with the prisoners at Pelican Bay SHU, while being locked up in brutal conditions themselves. This massive resistance and support is a testament to people's undying will and ability to build collective power in the face of disappearance and death.

July 17 update: After unanimously rejecting an insulting offer by the CDCR, prisoners continue to strike for meaningful changes in Security Housing Unit (SHU) conditions and policies. Prisoners who began eating again due to extreme medical situations have rejoined the hunger strike to re-invigorate support for the Pelican Bay hunger strikers demands to be met.

July 22 update: Mediators from Prisoner Hunger Strike Solidarity's Mediation team spoke with hunger strike leaders at Pelican Bay and confirmed the leaders have accepted an offer from the CDCR. At the same time, hunger strikers in other prisons continue to refuse food - in at least CCI Tehachapi, Corcoran and Calipatria. It is unclear how long they will continue, if they are aware of the agreement or even believe anything the CDCR claims given their history of deliberate misinformation campaigns. The message from Hunger Striking prisoners across California this week is clear: Support from people on the outside is more important than ever.

PBSP brothers Todd Ashker, Danny Troxell and Mutop DuGuya/J. Crawford, have laid out the issues and goal of this struggle in several notices and letters. These communiques and all the information are printed in the online edition of 4sm, #19. For hardcopy readers, if you can, check out the online version. You can also receive the latest information by writing to:

LA-ABCF
P.O. Box 11223
Whittier, CA 90603 USA

Just ask them to mail you the 4sm PBSP struggle information.

A Voice for Change: The 60s, the Civil Rights Movement and Today

BY TIM LOC, alhambrasource.org

Activist Carlos Montes, a familiar face in the 1960s Chicano Movement, moved to Alhambra 20 years ago because he saw it as a peaceful enclave that was close to his home-base of East Los Angeles. He had a rude awakening on May 17 when the FBI and deputies from the Los Angeles Sheriff's department executed a search warrant on his home. He was arrested after the search turned up a firearm. Montes speaks to *The Alhambra Source* on his history with activism, and what he alleges is the FBI's agenda of targeting activists like him.

You were a co-founder of the Brown Berets. How did it begin?

It started as a civic youth group. It became the Young Chicanos for Community Action, and then it got more involved in direct grassroots organizing. Then it became the Brown Berets, and we dealt with the issues of education and police brutality. It started small, but once it took on a broader view of the political situation it grew really fast. It became part of the movement of the 60s. I grew up in East LA, so I saw the police mistreating the youth. We'd cruise down Whittier Boulevard with the music on in the car and we would be harassed by the sheriffs. And in the schools the students were mistreated and the classes were overcrowded.

You were among the leaders of the school walkouts in 68. When you look at the quality of education today, in particular for Hispanic and Latino students, do you think anything has changed?

We've made some gains, but it looks like recently we've been losing ground. The original demands of the walkouts was that we wanted ethnic studies and bilingual education. We wanted teachers and administrators that reflected our backgrounds. We've gotten a lot of that, but still have the issue that public education is underfunded. It's under attack by those who want to privatize it. And there's also the dropout rates, and the wide achievement gaps. The Mexican-American youths, the Latino youths, and the Chicano youths - they're still behind in reading and math. And with college admissions... well, back then it was even worse.



Carlos Montes | Photo from www.stopfbi.net

I mean we weren't even going to college. We were being channeled into certain trades and into the military.

Activism must be so different these days. People have so much more access to information.

It's absolutely true. There's more information. I can only remember one book from back then that dealt with our history - Carey McWilliams' "North From Mexico." Now we have hundreds of books, magazines and websites. And there's Facebook and Myspace. The youths and organizers using Facebook and email have been able to get more people involved, and faster. Back then we didn't have cell-phones [laughs]. We organized by getting into a car and driving to each community. But you know what, the best organizing is done face-to-face.

The Committee to Stop FBI Repression alleges that search warrants have been executed for you and similar activists. What led to this?

The motive is political persecution. Twenty-plus activists, back in September, had their homes raided by the FBI. They had their computers and documents confiscated. It dealt with their involvement with Palestine and Columbia. And of course they all refused and got lawyers and organized the committee. I was listed in one of the search warrants that was presented at a raid at the anti-war committee in Minneapolis. That's how I got hooked into this thing.

How do Palestine and Columbia figure into this?

Activists were openly denouncing U.S. policies, starting with Iraq and Afghanistan. We also looked at the U.S. support for Israel and its treatment of the Palestinian people. One of the groups we formed - it was in Chicago - was called the Palestine Solidarity Group. It organizes tours for people to go to Palestine and come back to the U.S. to speak about it in forums and newspapers. I myself went to Columbia and did the same thing. I met with human rights activists and labor activists. When I came back to LA I organized several forums. We denounced the U.S. policy of - specifically in Columbia - supporting what they call Plan

Columbia, where they give a billion dollars a year to the Columbian government under the guise of fighting the drug war. In reality, however, the money is going to the Columbian military, which is using it to fight its own people. Human rights activists are being kidnapped and assassinated.

The FBI is using the pretext of our solidarity work in Palestine or Columbia to persecute us. They say we're providing "material support" for terrorist organizations.

are added, the number killed as a direct result of the sanctions rises to between 1.5 and 2 million dead civilians.

It was in direct response to this humanitarian catastrophe that Dr. Dhafir founded the Help the Needy (HTN) charity, and for 13 years he worked tirelessly to help publicize the plight of the Iraqi people and to raise funds to help them. According to the government, Dr. Dhafir donated \$1.4 million of his own money over the years.

Government Duplicity

From the outset of the case, the government was duplicitous. Using unfair tactics and innuendo, and aided by a compliant media, the government transformed Dr. Dhafir's community image from a compassionate humanitarian into that of a crook and supporter of terrorism.

Seven government agencies investigated Dr. Dhafir and Help the Needy for many years. They intercepted his mail, e-mail, faxes, and telephone calls; bugged his office and hotel rooms; went through his trash; and conducted physical surveillance. They were unable to find any evidence of links to terrorism, and no charges of terrorism were ever brought against Dr. Dhafir. Yet he and other HTN associates were subjected to high-profile arrests in the early morning of February 26, 2003, just weeks before the U.S. invasion of Iraq.

The first indictment against Dr. Dhafir contained 14 charges related only to the Iraq sanctions. Later, when Dr. Dhafir refused to accept a plea agreement, the government piled on more charges, and he eventually faced a 60-count indictment that included violating federal regulations related to economic sanctions imposed against Iraq, money laundering, mail and wire fraud, tax evasion, visa fraud – all related to running the charity – and Medicare fraud.

Medicare charges usually involve fictitious patients and made-up illnesses; Dr. Dhafir's case had none of this. The government never contested that patients received care and chemotherapy. Its argument for all 25 counts was that because Dr. Dhafir was sometimes not present in his office when patients were treated, the Medicare claim forms were filled out incorrectly, and he was thus not due any reimbursement for treatment or for the expensive chemotherapy his office had administered...

Inconsistencies in the government's position were a startling feature of this case from its inception and suggested two possibilities: either one hand of the government didn't know what the other was doing, or the government was deliberately aiming to deceive. The fact that, once conviction was successfully achieved, the district attorney and local prosecutors claimed it as a successful prosecution in the "war on terror" suggests that the government's duplicity was a strategy from the outset.

What you can do

Write to Dr. Dhafir and let him know that he is not forgotten and that his humanitarian work is appreciated: Rafil Dhafir, 11921-052, P.O. Box 33, Terre Haute, IN 47808 USA

Dr. Dhafir's case will soon be coming back to court for resentencing; write to the judge asking for leniency (letters should be submitted to Dr. Dhafir's lawyer and not directly to the judge): www.dhafirtrial.net/write-to-judge-mordue

My Friend Marguerite

BY JAAN LAAMAN

"Marguerite Cole Koester, 84, died peacefully surrounded by her family on January 6, 2011."

Marguerite was a friend of mine, a friend of 4sm and political prisoners in general. I got to know Marguerite almost 20 years ago, when I was in Leavenworth Penitentiary. In the early 1990s, *The Guardian* (independent radical weekly) newspaper, ran a series of articles on political prisoners in the United States. I was featured in one article and as a result, received a good handful of letters from various random people. Marguerite wrote to me and we never stopped corresponding.

She was a little older than me and shared many interesting and informative stories about attitudes, life and struggle before and during World War II. Marguerite was a consistently progressive and justice striving individual. She was a supporter of political prisoners, an anti-war activist and seriously disliked George Bush and his wars. Marguerite truly cared about people, she cared about this country and our whole world.

I will miss my old friend and I'll end by reprinting part of her obituary from a local Akron, Ohio paper.

"Born in Pittsburgh, she moved to Akron with her family in 1976 and came to consider it her home. She always said her greatest accomplishment was her nine children, who had the profound privilege to be raised by this extraordinary woman. Intelligent, well read and unabashedly liberal in her politics, she taught us all about activism and social justice. She volunteered for the American Friends Service Committee and worked for Planned Parenthood. She once had business cards printed that read, "Marge Koester, Knitting and Peace Consultant." "Momma Blossom" was a spiritual person who loved music, poetry, laughter and, above all, family. She maintained the art of letter writing throughout her life, corresponding with friends, family, prisoners and well known figures..."

Letters

Peace,

I just wanted to tell all of those down with the "4struggle" movement, that it is a pleasure to see different brothers and sisters come together, and to keep fighting your inner and outer struggles. Know and understand that the challenges we face in life are what show us our strengths and weaknesses. Regardless of what you do, do not give up! Anything worth having is worth working hard for to get. A female friend of mine told me, "you always looking for the easy way out. Sometimes you have to do things the hard way," seven and a half years ago, which is how long I've been incarcerated. For years these words have been stuck in my head and it took me a while to grasp the meaning of what she had said to me. Then, one day, I received spiritual insight (understanding), and the meaning of her words unfolded and expanded my view of life. I came to the conclusion that, "patience" really is a "virtue." You have to really sit yourself down, "check yourself," or "life will do it for you!" Which leads me to say, "constantly reflect upon everything you think, say, or do, because in the end you'll find love, peace, and happiness, that nothing material can buy."

Peace and Blessings,

Knowledge G (Stanley Corbett Jr.)

To those interested in my poetry – contact:
Stanley Corbett, Jr. #0716025
1300 Western Blvd.
Raleigh, NC
27606 USA

Revolutionary Greetings!

Fellow Comrades in this struggle. This is my first sermon, in a series to come, as I wish to extend internationally with those dedicated to the freedom of all oppressed peoples of the world and especially those in the Prison Industrial Complex.

I was encouraged by your method in reaching those in most need of such: prisoners! As Karl Marx stated, "philosophers have only interpreted the world in various ways; the point is to change it!"

That change starts with the mind! A revolution of the mind – the mind of the masses of people. Revolutions arise from the objective conditions. Building public opinion as Mao stated helps one learn about the objective conditions which develop revolutionary consciousness and the will to act.

As a prisoner who is oppressed in the belly of the beast,

I've come to learn, through the revolution of knowledge, that I have been deceived by gimmicks and tricknology that has numbed into apathy my existence, a system that dehumanizes and keeps oppressed people under a social yoke of slavery (13th Amendment) through an economic system built to fetter one to a surplus value enriching and keeping in power the prisoncrats and exploiters.

Those asleep need to be woken up; those dead to the struggle; need to be mobilized or tossed aside like unusable trash and the hunter/capitalist must now be hunted. Many of you just don't realize that if you are not a part of the solution then you are a part of the problem.

I want to extend national salutations to my Brother K. Solomon who has helped me overcome in this dark and lonely place. Thank you, Brother, let us build and mobilize all those "we" and who can until the turning wheels fall off.

In love, strength and sacrifice!
K. Tocatzin

Anthony Montanez #1362332
Connally Unit
899 F.M. 632
Kenedy, TX
78119 USA

Hotep,

Shu Ru. Thank you 4struggle for giving the Politically Intelligent Revolutionary Units an outlet for their voice to be heard. We must learn from the people over in Egypt, Tunisia, Yemen, etc. to become one minded. We must fight for a cause like freedom, justice, and equality against a common enemy, the oppressive and exploitative establishment.

I'm interested in knowing, do any brothas or sistas have the whole "Lift Every Voice and Sing" Black National Anthem song, that they can send to 4struggle to possibly print or send to me at the address below, for this blessed black history month?

In Political Education for this time we need more legal education. The lawyers we pay or don't pay are selling us out. They are cutting backroom deals with the prosecutor and manipulating the law to use loopholes to get brothas and sistas enslaved in these modern day concentration camps.

Trial lawyers be inexperienced; they fail to bring up beneficial issues, they allow the prosecutor to misstate or cover up evidence and they fail to make proper objections at times. Some issues not brought up at trial or before trial are deemed as waived. Trial lawyers will pretend they are helping you, they take your money and they contact the appeal counsel to cover up their tracks on a buddy-buddy

system or favour for favour.

If your appeal counsel do not present the right issues in your appeal brief, you will have problems while filing your State Supreme Court brief and your Federal Habeas Corpus. Ignorance of the law is no excuse. Motions must be filed within time limits. Two good books to have for beginners are your State criminal rules of court for trial and appeal and your State civil Federal rules of court for Federal Habeas Corpus. It also helps to get a *Black's Law Dictionary*. Due to lack of knowledge, understanding and comprehension, we are being railroaded into the system. The judge and prosecutor are not going to tell you or your lawyer how to do their job. We must educate ourselves and each one teach hundreds.

Paralegals in jail are not really helping prisoners either. They only give you what you request from the computer or books. They don't tell you what you need to know or how to do something.

I recommend that jailhouse lawyers build a network to exchange intel and communicate with brothas and sistas who come into the system that done went to trial. When the system fails us we must help ourselves as a collective. We must be leaders over our destiny.

For my Guerrilla Revolutionary Freedom fighter brothas and sistas, these concentration camps are a form of population control. You cannot reproduce from prison. Families are being torn apart and we are prisoners of war. A silent war is being carved out by targeting our domains under the disguise of the war on drugs, violence, terrorism, etc. We are under attack, so the natural law is to defend self, family, and domain, Guerrillas Rise Chanting Liberty or Death.

Dedicated to all P.P/P.O.W., the Black Blood Brotha and Sistahood, P.D. 1 and the Maddox Family.

Mr. Maddox #555753
878 Coitsville Hubbard Rd
Youngstown, OH
44505 USA

[Editor's note: we've reprinted "Lift Every Voice and Sing" on this page]

Dear 4strugglemag,

To all comrades who are a part of the struggle, a good comrade just recently received your material and it inspired me to push this pen and share my thoughts. I would like to be put on the mailing list to start receiving your mag. I am currently serving two life sentences at Ely State Prison, and it is "hell" for some of my comrades. I salute you in respect and solidarity. I would like to start this letter by introducing myself as "the Dropout." Most of the gangs in here do not associate with me at all. They call me the "enemy" because I do not choose to engage in prison gang politics. I choose to rise above this system and for our comrades and sistas to stay together and rise above the cruel and unusual punishment we endure day in and day out in this environment.

Lift Every Voice and Sing

Lift every voice and sing,
'Til earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the listening skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on 'til victory is won.

Stony the road we trod,
Bitter the chast'ning rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat,
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past,
'Til now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who has by Thy might
Led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,
Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,
May we forever stand,
True to our God,
True to our native land.

Paying the Price: Feeding the Children of Iraq

BY KATHERINE HUGHES, dhafirtrial.net

February 26, 2011 marked the eighth anniversary of the imprisonment of Dr. Rafil Dhafir as he continues to pay the price for feeding the children of Iraq during the U.S.- and U.K.-sponsored UN sanctions against that country. His charity, Help the Needy (HTN), openly sent food and medicines to starving civilians in Iraq during the brutal embargo.

I did not know Dr. Dhafir before attending virtually all of his 14-week trial. The demonization of Muslims in the U.S. in the post-9/11 period, and the fact that the government was hinting at terrorism connections without bringing any charges, made it imperative for me to attend. I have had a passion for the preservation of civil liberties since watching a documentary, at the age of 14, of the Allies going into Bergen-Belsen, and for 38 years I have been a voracious reader of first-hand accounts of what happened in Germany in the 1930s. I knew that should anything like this happen in my lifetime, I wanted no part of it.

Dr. Dhafir was born in Iraq in 1948. He completed medical school before immigrating to the U.S. in 1972, and has been a U.S. citizen for more than 30 years. An oncologist in an underserved community, he treated many people for free, paying for expensive chemotherapy out of his own pocket. He is a pillar of the central New York Muslim community and a well-known national and international figure. Although charged with only white-collar crime, Dr. Dhafir was held without bail for 19 months before trial, which greatly impeded his ability to prepare his defense.

The proceedings showed him to be a devout man of compassion who was highly esteemed by all his associates, and the message his conviction sent to the Muslim community cannot be overstated. Dr. Dhafir was convicted of 59 counts of white-collar crime (the government had made a mistake in one of the counts, and the jury was not allowed to deliberate on it) and is currently serving 22 years – for a crime he was never convicted of in a court of law, money laundering to help terrorist organizations – in a special Communication Management Unit that houses almost exclusively Muslim and/or Arab prisoners.

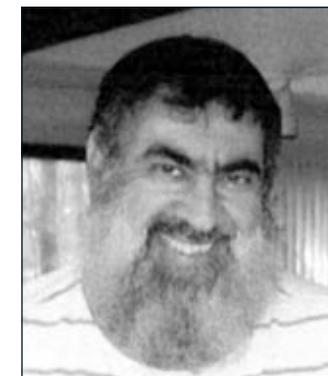
Before attending this trial, I spent my entire life secure in the knowledge that my civil rights would always be respected. I no longer believe this to be true...

Iraq under sanctions and Dr. Dhafir's humanitarian response

Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait on August 1, 1990, and on August 2, U.S. sanctions against Iraq were put in place. On January 17, 1991, the first bombs of the Gulf War were dropped on Baghdad. Before this war, the people of Iraq had a standard of living comparable to many Western countries. Although a brutal dictatorship, the government provided universal healthcare and education, including college, for all its citizens. There was virtually no illiteracy, and the education and health systems were the best in the region...

The result of the war was total devastation: more bombs were dropped on Iraq in a six-week period than were dropped by all parties during World War II. In total, these were at least six times more powerful than two atomic bombs. Many types of bombs were used, including ones containing depleted uranium (DU), the waste matter from nuclear plants; hundreds of tons of DU ammunition now lie scattered throughout Iraq. The DU dust has entered the food chain through the soil and the water, and as a result many formerly unknown diseases are prevalent in Iraq. Many pregnant women deliver babies as early as six months, and many babies are born with terrible deformities. Cancer rates increased dramatically. (These effects have been compounded by the current war in Iraq.)

All major bridges and communication systems were bombed, making communication both inside and outside the country extremely difficult. The water purification system was bombed and the UN never allowed it to be repaired; as a result, 15 years' worth of raw sewage piled up in the streets and resulted in much disease and death, particularly among the young and very old. Hospitals and schools were not spared, and as a result of the bombing and the sanctions, the health and education systems in Iraq went from being the best in the region to being the worst.



Dr. Rafil Dhafir

According to the United Nations' own statistics, every month throughout the 1990s 6,000 children under the age of five in Iraq were dying from lack of food and access to simple medicines. Three senior U.N. officials resigned because of what they considered a "genocidal" policy against Iraq. The United States led the effort to place restrictive sanctions on Iraq, and when Madeleine Albright, then-U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, was asked in a CBS interview if the deaths of half a million children were a price worth paying to punish Saddam Hussein, she infamously replied, "I think this is a very hard choice, but the price – we think the price is worth it." When the deaths of children over the age of five and adults

Groups, and American Muslims

2. CIA/U.S. Military operations and wars against revolutionaries, insurgents, and guerrilla warriors in the Middle East, Afrika, Asia, and Latin America
3. CIA/U.S. Military global war against Al-Qaida, and Operation Jeronimo wherein CIA and U.S. Special Forces assassinated Osama bin-Laden

From this study, comrades should acquire knowledge of the identities, capabilities, weaknesses, and methods of the G8/G20 KKKlan and their police, security, and intelligence forces, and further learn revolutionary and guerrilla tactics and strategies required to institute a revolutionary insurgency and defeat counterinsurgency of the opposition. Such study and preparation is most critical. As previously stated, we have enough political prisoners, prisoners of war and martyrs already. We need not add to these if no extraordinary or special reason justify it, and if it can be avoided by more effective preparation and execution.

Free the Land! Reparations Yes!
Death to White World Supremacy (Racism)!
Death to Imperialism!
Allahu Akbar!! Allahu Akbar!!

Truth is Revolutionary

BY TERRANCE E. WHITE (COMRADE TEE)

Thinking people choose to guide their political awareness and activity by one of two basic assumptions: coercion, force, slavery, and oppression are acceptable or they are not.

Human society is either driven by mutual aid or some form of predation. Examples of both abound throughout history and among personal relationships. One is sustainable and beneficial and facilitates the flowering of all things good and the other drags our world toward demise, destroying life and making it miserable instead of joyous and creative. Amerika or Empire or predator or whatever you want to call it, is the quintessential en-slaver of this earth. It is Hitler's dream come true. A white, ultra capitalist power dominates and acts as Nazi-esque enforcer. To some, this is a good thing and they develop elaborate systems to justify it and obfuscate the truth. To them, slavery is freedom and war is peace.

Every second of our lives is bombarded with their propaganda, mixed with threats and countless examples of what can happen to you if you don't go along with the program. The world gets bombs and we get bars. Their object is to kill off hope of a better world, while revelling in obscene wealth and the "thrill" of oppressing humanity. I'm talking about the people behind the curtains – the policymak-

ers. They may even have bought into the propaganda that leads them to think they are doing the opposite, helping humanity. Paul Wolfowitz, recently appointed to the U.S. dominated World Bank, claims this group is interested in "ending poverty" when in fact it does the opposite. This makes for a deeply pathological society.

The murder of tens of thousands, even millions of people is outside judicial prosecution, as committed under the aegis of the State, as is the theft of billions of dollars by them and their corporate sponsors. Street crime, on the other hand, is viciously prosecuted to the point where we now have 25% of the world's prisoner population—2.2 million souls—warehoused in dreadful torture chambers. Where rape, violence, and disease are pandemic. It is domestic oppression of the highest order.

Abu Ghraib and Cook County Jail have similar objectives and tactics. They are meant to keep the poor people down! The punishment industry is ground zero in the war, here in the United States. The most oppressed are also the most knowledgeable and insightful and that is why I work closely with them. I want to learn and disseminate the truth – to do my part.

Prisoners are classified as slaves, sanctioned by the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, which we have been told was meant to abolish slavery!

This is the implementation of policy to neutralize the threat from the oppressed communities. Young Blacks have had their very existence criminalized. One third of all Black men in their twenties are either incarcerated, on probation, or on parole. In some cities, this figure is well over 50%.

Even the staid incarceration experts in the universities call it a "frenzy to incarcerate." It is a holocaust situation and most non-Black people do not even know or care. That is demented. A similar situation is forced upon others who are not willing to be brainwashed and plugged obediently into the system, such as Native Americans, Spanish speaking people, and young people. But, there is no such thing as "white people" and we too are human beings who should demand our own self-respect and not whore ourselves out to such hideous bullies.

We are oppressed too, as wage-slaves, taxpayers and drones. A vacuous, hedonistic, materialist culture is a shameful price to pay for acquiescence.

Truth is revolutionary.

Terrance E. White #200632909
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I read all the writings in 4strugglemag and I feel good inside, feel good to see other brothas and sistas rise for their right to be treated with respect to not be treated as human slaves. We allow ourselves to become stagnant; we allow ourselves to be racist, to be hateful and grimy. Now to all who say I am the enemy because I chose to liberate and educate my mind and not be racist, not be hateful and grimy, but to rise against the system to refuse to be treated unfairly, cruelly and unusually—to refuse to be treated like a slave. We need to eliminate prison gang politics and racism and create a movement to rise above, to educate ourselves. To liberate our minds we must fight our true enemies not only physically, but mentally as well. We waste so much time fighting amongst each other; it does not make sense.

I give my full salute to prisoners in Georgia for their "non-violent rise against the system" for sticking through the pain they're put through in hard times. I am there with you comrades. I'm fighting the same fight. I refuse to be stepped on and used like a slave. I also salute in solidarity the Brown Riders Liberation Party for their struggle and rise against "the pigs" we are "at war" against. We need to open our eyes and see. We must stand together as an unbreakable wall, to liberate ourselves, to educate ourselves not only blacks and browns, but as human beings part of the struggle. I've shed blood for respect and I know who the real enemy is. I am not the enemy. I speak truthfully. There is no solidarity in this system. There is too much hatred between rival gangs; we are treated like circus tigers who are being whipped to jump through hoops, to turn on one another while these pigs laugh and treat us like dogs. We need to put an end to prison gangs and a rise to radical prison groups, chapters, and revolutionary prison movements. I hope all my comrades in solidarity read and take notice, to unite against the true enemy. These are the words from "the Dropout."

To all prison radicals that may have love and resistance in their hearts and the power to educate and liberate their mind.

With respect and solidarity,
Ricky "the Dropout" Vazquez
(Brown and Down)

Dear Friends,

I am writing this letter because I was inspired by Lynne Stewart from Issue 18 for the Spring. Through family members I was in indirect contact with her asking about others like her that may have been able to help me, in my case prior to the Appeal Courts' decision about her petition. Though I was never able to utilize anyone she may have referred to me, I was pleased and filled with gratitude that there are still human beings like her on Earth.

Dear friends, It is a constant "struggle" for me to live a life

of controlled intervals of activities behind fences and walls but keep my beliefs and thoughts about the problems of the world bottled up without losing a piece of my humanity, mind, and spirit. I refuse to blindly follow!

Most people may not be aware of the connection that we all have as human beings, and how powerful that connection really is. How as individuals we all have an effect on one another whether this may be positive or negative in nature. No matter how far away we all may be from each other or even if we do not even know one another, we cannot escape this reality which exists in all levels of consciousness. This connection is not only limited to human beings. However, mankind, as the vicegerents of this earth have the most influence and effect!

Generally, individuals care about events surrounding them and no more; this is because of the immediate or the delayed effect that certain events may have on themselves and on their loved ones. Although it is an exceptional reaction of the human psyche, it is insufficient in higher levels of spirituality, thought and especially when taking account of the great human potential. It has been decades, if not centuries, that there has been a great deal of discoveries, inventions, and evolutions that have taken place in our materialistic lives. Yet the majority of the masses are still in primitive thoughts like racism, nationalism (which is equal to tribalism of the early times) and capitalism without the "proper" avenue to care for the unable and the disabled, wars for idealism that cost millions of lives without result and betterment of the world for mankind or for the future. Sadly, the truth is the opposite, we all have allowed catastrophes and disasters to take place throughout the ages simply because we lack a true vision and insight for the future and because of the senselessness we have allowed the destruction of the future generations after generations.

There are many reasons why these problems have got out of control. The masses are generally guided by their idealistic governmental propaganda, rather than being able to process the information televised to them with a realistic overall assessment of the events. We see an uproar of the sensible youth around the world objecting to the same old police states, military dictatorships, saying "NO" to tyranny and oppression and some of them even paying the ultimate price of giving their lives up, in reality for all of our struggle. I say our struggle because this world that we live in belongs to all of us. There is no such thing as superior race, colour, nation, civilization (with its correct meaning). We are the inheritors of this world. We all are the ambassadors and governors of this planet. We all should have more say as to how to operate this machine, rather than just having a choice to vote for one of the two bad guys. We all should prioritize the things that really matter and start changing the fall into the endless pit, and start climbing back up, taking care of needs of the future generations instead of leaving today's problems that need fixing now to be dealt with later.

As human beings on the face of the earth, each and every one of us as individuals can take care of one major problem that causes some of the worst epidemics; that is to realize we all have responsibilities to one another and that our actions affect masses no matter how big or little. No matter what we do, we all must first think of how a certain thing is going to affect us as individuals, therefore affect our families, therefore affect our neighbours, therefore the town, the city, country, the world! This is the reality, and we all as individuals struggle hard, and strive to make this domino effect in a positive manner that will only benefit humankind.

We must care for each other and seek change of the current state of the world due to lack of true leadership, lack of true vision of what we all stand for globally, what we want for ourselves and for the future. However, the change we want comes with a price tag. That is, stopping to overly enjoy the very short time we all have here on this earth, and being productive, not just for this life but also for the hereafter. We all must work double hard to try to make up for the time that's lost, and still making sure that the future generations struggle for even more generations to come, instead of back tracking.

“By the Token of time through the Ages,
Verily man is in loss,
Except such as have Faith, and do Righteous deeds,
and “Join Together” in the mutual teaching of Truth,
And of patience and constancy!” (103-1-3)

I am 4 struggle!

* I had to generalize to a minimum as a lot of what I wrote are huge topics that are dealt with in the study of sociology theses that have volumes upon volumes of books that have been long available. History repeats itself only because we do not learn from the mistakes of the generations that came

and passed before us. I have especially stayed away from adding a lot of personal details because of my ongoing battle with a system that serves only to its own benefit and political propagation and agendas. Thank you all who have worked so hard to make this magazine happen. I wish all the success and a healthy growth. Anyone interested in finding out about me, simply Google my name : Serdar Tatar



Dear 4sm,

Greetings in constant elevation of unity, peace and equality amongst all with a firm and solid revolutionary salute ... my name is comrade k/m.g. I've been incarcerated for 23 yrs; half of those years I've been kept in administrative custody because of my activism within the Puerto Rican population, as well as my political belief and the encouraging of Resistance against the racist and oppressive PA. D.O.C. Practices. But if you allow the administrators (slave masters) of the PA. D.O.C. to explain I'm a gang leader, a threat to the running of their institutions. Anytime you choose to fight the oppressors and not your own, now you are the enemy of the state.

Just recently I came across your magazine issue #17 Fall-Winter 2010; it was passed around by other revolutionary and conscious minded brothers and comrades, here at this control unit. I was blown away by the information that I was honored to read; being that PA loves to monitor and censor all political and revolutionary books, zines, and newspapers, and mags, or literature.

I really loved the Remembrance and The Commemoration that was offered to my fallen sister and mother patria Lolita Lebron. As a proud and strong Boriwa guererro man (Puerto Rican) my heart wept when we lost the mother of our Independence Movement, but our struggles and cause will continue. For all my Puerto Rican Brothers & Sisters and their Revolutionary Comrades – who are being oppressed by this racist and imperialistic capitalist government that seeks to destroy us by systematically undermining us, in the workplace, educational levels, and in the economic system – I implore you all to continue to fight... So we can undermine Their (the pigs) colonization of our peoples, and the expansion of the prison complex control unit, where so many brothers find themselves, for not agreeing with the government/police or their system of oppression.

4sm, I would like to know can your magazine please put me on your mailing list so I can obtain your knowledgeable magazine so it can be passed around this unit – so our young brothers can wake up and see who the real enemy is! So they can learn and know the beautiful history our people came from and that our strong culture as blacks and latinos is what gives us the strength and that willing spirit despite our struggles, trials or tribulations to continue to fight and stand up against this racist, oppressive and capitalist machine (Amerikan Government).

We must learn from our past history, the mistakes our fallen comrades made, so we won't repeat them, and become our own demise. It's about the people first. We will never leave where we are until we decide where we'd rather be. Our expectations set the boundaries for our lives my brothers and sisters. In a revolutionary mindset, we must know that the means by which we live have out-distanced the ends for which we live. Our scientific powers have outrun our

Part 2: Fighting Strategy to Defeat G8/G20 Global Imperialist KKKorporation

BY DANNY BONDS

In adherence to General Malcom X, the G8/G20 resistance movement must speak the language of the enemy (i.e. the nations, multinational corporations and banking institutions that make up the G8/G20 Imperialist Kkkorporation): Peace when they speak peace, violence when they speak violence.

The successful protest marches, rallies and demonstrations in Tunisia and Egypt this January and February 2011 show that such forms of peaceful resistance may be effective in bringing about revolutionary change, or in asserting people power on the national and/or global scale. However, if and wherever such peaceful protest marches, demonstrations and activism are met with oppressive or violent state repression (i.e. Lybia, Syria, and Ivory Coast etc.), the Resistance Movement must initiate/conduct a well-organized urban guerrilla war campaign against the G8/G20 Kkklan on a national or global level.

There are three “alternative institutions” to the G8/G20 Kkkklan that come easily to mind that G8/G20 resistors can and should use to assert people power on the national and/or global scale. They are: 1) The Millions More Movement (www.millionsmoremovement.org); 2) The U.S. Social Forum/World Social Forum (www.usf2010.org); and 3) The Left Forum (www.leftforum.org). I would urge all G8/G20 resistance comrades to join forces/collaborate with one or more of these alternative institutions, help build and strengthen them, and use them as the vehicle for fighting, defeating, and replacing the G8/G20 Global Imperialist Kkkorporation.

In 4strugglemag #17, page 43-44, the 4SM editor spoke in his response to my “Fighting Strategy to Defeat G8/G20 Global Imperialist KKKorporation” (Part 1), about the nature of demonstrations and the different things for which people were arrested while protesting the June 2010 G8/G20 Summits. I take no issue with his analysis of the demonstrations in general, or the fact that people were arrested illegally simply for being leaders, speakers, or organizers engaged in lawful/peaceful marching and demonstrations. However, the G8/G20 protests and demonstrations must be planned and conducted in such a way as to avoid or minimize all unnecessary arrests or other state attacks.

The risks involved in anti-G8/G20 protests, demonstrations and marches should be identified and weighed beforehand and these resistance activities planned and conducted in accordance with a cost-benefit assessment that

seeks to get maximum benefit from every contribution or sacrifice, and to avoid or minimize all unnecessary loses or attacks on our comrades. G8/G20 protesters should not make themselves open invitations, easy targets, or likely victims of foreseeable arrests or violent attacks by police, security, or intelligence forces. This is especially true when such counter-revolutionary forces can be out-smarted, out-manoeuvred, and/or evaded by the planning and conducting of the protests, demonstrations, and marches in a place, time, and manner that put counter-revolutionary forces at their weakest point.

Just because the 2010 G8/G20 Summits were in Huntsville and Toronto does not mean that the protests had to be staged at the same place instead of in a city or country more hospitable to anti-G8/G20 protesters. Neither did the time of the protests have to coincide with the time of the G8/G20 Summits, nor protesters have to engage in direct-action confrontation or encounters with the opposition in order for anti-G8/G20 protests to be effective and successful. The time of the protest demonstrations could have been weeks or months before or after the Summits, and the manner of protesting could have been demonstrations, marches, rallies, or conferences (i.e. World Conference on Racism) held at or in safe, neutral or allied territory where the opposition would not be able to carry out repressive activities against G8/G20 protestors. (Note: CIA/U.S. Special Forces Invaded Pakistan to assassinate Osama bin Laden).

Most fundamentally, any actual confrontation or engagement with the G8/G20 Kkkklan and or their police, security, and intelligence forces should be conducted from a position of equal or greater power, whether these be direct, indirect, open or covert protest/resistance activities. It is neither wise nor revolutionary for G8/G20 protestors to engage the enemy from a position of weakness when better options remain available. Like Shaka Zulu, the Great Afrikan King and military strategist, the G8/G20 resistors must always fight from a position of equal or greater power by always dictating, determining, and controlling when, where, and by what methods (terms) the war will be fought, such that we are not fighting from a position of weakness, and the superior power of the enemy is effectively off-set or circumvented.

Finally, G8/G20 protestors and other comrades who commit to armed revolutionary struggle should assume the character, strategy, and tactics of the guerrilla warrior, as these apply to fighting in rural and urban areas and on the local, regional, national, or global level. This should be done instead of engaging the enemy in counter-revolutionary or self-defeating confrontations. In this regard, it is crucial that comrades seriously study the following:

1. FBI secret wars against the U.S. Communist Party, Black Panther Party and Black Liberation Movement, Native American Indian Movement, White Leftist

ny, history, philosophy, and jurisprudence, were to be mastered in Spain and in Spain alone.” *The Secret Teachings of All Ages*, Manly P. Hall

In the Americas before the Spaniards arrived, there were tribes of Indigenous people living in Kingdoms established by three major Empires: Aztecs, Mayas, and Incas.

Within these Kingdoms many tribes of Indigenous people lived, some in peace and others in bitter dispute. Overall there was an economy established that exported and imported goods from these tribes to those across the Americas. These facts are visible due to archaeological findings in the Americas.

There was even a route that was used for such purposes within the mountains of South America up throughout North America. There were magnificent structures built; immaculately and mathematically well that on their civilized habitat, they were most advanced with the least complications and disease compared to other parts of the world in those days (1492).

These three kingdoms are comparable due to their location in the Americas. They represent the founding, just as black people represent the founding of Africa. We should have reason enough to unite just as the black people do.

Some claim that Brown and Proud cry, but really fail to realize that it is their own pride that divides the Kingdom of freedom we seek to establish and build upon.

That pride is insignificant when you commit social crimes against your own people—the same people you must protect and unite with: the oppressed masses!

When the Spaniards arrived, the Indigenous people were colonized and a new breed emerged out of this mixture of Spanish, Indian, and African, who contributed to the establishment of Nations, respectfully.

This colonization divided us even thinner such as Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, Cubans, etc. Which is in reality an illusion because we are all the same people. Just like Mexicans in California are the same as the Mexicans in Texas, but divided it would be Californians and Texans. This “divide and conquer” is an old trick in the books of Imperialism, which we must seek out and destroy.

The Spanish people have a beautiful culture and a deep history, that when they mixed with Indigenous people of America, created a new enlightened peoples (Latinos) for the world to see and learn from.

These ancestors of ours are the reason for our existence. For better or worse, they must help us battle the forces that seek to deny...
This Brown Consciousness is the gift of flavours which

makes the future leaders, and only in that way can one truly exist in the light of things.

With this mixture began a new migration to North America and has not stopped, settling in the Southwest (Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, etc.) and continues on into today’s gateways through North America and the World.

When these colonized settlements rebelled against Spain, it was due to the lack of communication and weapons, and Spain’s ignorant decision not to recognize the Mestizo people (Latino). For the Spaniards were already established 15 years before any Spanish females arrived which led to some, most, Spaniards taking Indigenous womyn as their wives and started the process, one that Spain did not want to recognize. These actions created a rebellion!

Puerto Rico has been colonized by the United States since 1898. They invaded the Island and have stayed their oppressing the people “de La Isla Del Encanto.” Since 1846-1848 the North American invasion, as it is known in Mexico, took over half of Mexico from the Mexican people and have stayed there since. The North American Indians have also been invaded and colonized since the first settlers in the 13 colonies. The African Americans have also been oppressed by the same system. To put this in proper perspective, Mexican, Puerto Rican, North American Indians, and African Americans all have a common interest and a common enemy: the liberation of all lands and the destruction of capitalist-imperialism!

There are semi-differences between Mexican and Puerto Rican people, but the similarities are much deeper and stronger for we both share the same blood (Spanish and Indigenous with a sprinkle of African love). For those Mexicans who can’t digest what I’ve just stated, remember Vincente Guerrero who was mulatto (Spanish/African) and was a Founding Father of Mexico. He helped in the liberation of the African slaves that were victimized in Mexico and helped liberate the Mexican people to a State of Independence.

To all Internationalists, Che Guevara, Colita-Lebron, Albizu Campos, Emiliano Zapata, The Brown Beret, Young Lords, Independistas, Macheteros, AIM, Zapatistas, ALKQN, and all those not mentioned, the Life, Energy and Strength of your past sacrifices reminds us that the struggle is a continuous cycle: 500 years and it still ain’t stopped. Our people have fought against colonialism, hunger and ignorance and for human dignity. Let us not keep their names in vain. Let us carry their names into our deaths.

Anthony Montanez (Rey Tokatzin) #1362332
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revolutionary and consciousness power. We must continue to fight oppression and racism at all cost, because making a living is not the same as making a life.

In closing my revolutionary brothers and sisters, life is the greatest of all statements; so lets make sure ours speak volumes for the cause, of our people... because most people would rather look backward than forward because its easier to figure out where you’ve been, then to figure out where you’re going.

To my tribe and beautiful nation, the A.L.K.Q.N. is nation time! Five Alive. Allow the light of our crown to be the illuminating light that shines towards our path-like 41 000 suns. And the wisdom of our ancient ancestors the guiding Guide... whether in front or profile, together in one mind, body and soul we stand... KING LOVE.

In solidarity to all oppressed people,
peace in black & gold ...
Miguel A. Martinez #BD 5038
State Correctional Institution at Smithfield
P.O. Box 999, 1120 Pike Street
Huntingdon, PA
16652 USA

Revolutionary Greetings:

I am writing this missive with two intentions in heart. First and foremost: I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the “4strugglemag” publication. I became aware of your publication while I was being warehoused in this State Supermax gulag. After receiving and devouring the first issue I received I became an avid reader and unofficial 4strugglemag advocate.

As a former lumpen, I believe that 4strugglemag is a vital tool in assisting the Revolutionary Conscious Prison Class to reshape, rehabilitate and de-program the brothas and sisters who are being held in this rapacious “Belly of the Beast” who will turn to booty magazines, unrealistically violent urban novels, and other irrelevant publications as a form of escapism. These things are nothing more than a diversion to keep Brothas and Sisters from focusing on the real issues facing our collective struggle. The Prison Industrial Complex encourages this type of numbing of the mind, and why wouldn’t they? It’s easier to deal with a prison full of zombies than to face a prison full of revolutionaries!

Also, it’s real good to be able to do my part in Our Struggle by helping to enlighten these Brothas by the dissemination of 4strugglemag, *Monthly Review* and other revolutionary publications. To take on the title and legacy of “Revolutionary” is to take on your shoulders the burdens of the world. “Heavy is the head that wears the Revolutionary

Crown.” This is why they say that ignorance is bliss, because once you become conscious of Our Struggle and adopt that revolutionary title you also inherit obligations: obligation to yourself, to become a Weapon of Change; obligations to others, those who have come before you and have shed blood, theirs as well as others, in the name of Our Struggle; those who have died and will die in these gulags for choosing to resist oppression; and an obligation to carry on the legacy of Our Struggle, to advance it. And so, it’s our responsibility to strive without cessation while we’re behind these walls to awaken these zombies and to turn these prisons into universities and to force “This Belly of the Beast” to become “The Womb of the Revolutionary.” I believe that 4strugglemag is an essential weapon in this war behind enemy lines... It’s without doubt food 4 thought, and so Ashanti (thank you)...

In conclusion I would like to give a special thanks to those who have sacrificed so much to Our Struggle: (in no particular order but with deep reverence to all): Assata Shakur, Dr. Mutulu Shakur, Sundiata Acoli, Pro. Angela Davis, Geronimo Pratt, Mumia Abu Jamal, George Jackson (RIP), Mark Clark (RIP), Sister Akua NJeri, Bro. Cinque, Khatari (RIP), Fleeta Drungo, Native son Leonard Peltier, all of the Africas and the Move Organization, Comrade Russell Maroon, Ed Pointdexter, Mr. We Langa, Glose N. Lutala, Bro. Kevin Rashid, sister Lolita Lebron— Viva Puerto Rico Libre! (RIP), Jalil Muntaqim, Mrs. Safiya Bukhari (RIP), Nuh Washington, Our Sister Marilyn Buck (RIP), and the many many more Brothas and Sisters who gave their all and dared to Struggle, from the BPP and BLA to the Young Lords and the other respective revolutionary movements.

Know that as long as one young revolutionary remembers, acknowledges, and respects your legacy then all of your sacrifices will never be in vain ... Ashanti Na Heshima ...

This is where I conclude, but in closing I would like to leave by saying this: a real revolutionary acknowledges his/her role in Our Struggle and understand that this is a protracted struggle and for the sake of this struggle sacrifices must be made. So therefore we must strive not just for self but for the Collective. If you don’t realize the importance of the Collective Struggle, then you haven’t adopted the true title of The Revolutionary, you’re just usurped.

Shindano Jendelea ! (The Struggle Continues)

Your Brotha: (Jova El Mansa Pambano)

Government Name: Joeval Mansa Jones #294919
Plantation: Waupun Correctional Inst (WCI)
P.O. Box 351 Waupun, WI
53963 USA

Dear 4StruggleMag,

Today I was introduced to your thought-provoking publication; for the first time ever even hearing about a collective work focused in a comprehensive manner toward a higher sense of awareness for the imprisoned. To fight against tyrannical imperialism through the spreading of knowledge and insight is vital, offering a viewpoint that opposes the government controlled media's self-serving bias against those who refuse to conform to its agenda.

While I am not a political prisoner per se, I have been a witness and a victim of "The System," both in the facade of due process in Court and under the seemingly magnanimous punishments of Florida's Department of Corrections staff, where any complaints of abuse are reviewed by the offending staff member(s) brethren to no avail. After eleven years of this, I know all too well the plight suffered by prisoners alike in hell-holes nationwide. Reading issues 16 and 17 gave me a new sense of unity and of being understood in the struggle for authentic justice so readily denied by the powers currently in place.

It is my wish to contribute to the strengthening of the network of voices being raised for the sake of true humanity. We must be heard! We must share our views; encourage our fellow warriors of all races and genders! We must overcome our own divisions that were embedded into our vulnerable childhood minds to keep us from writing as one! When we become one people, one voice, one force centered on one goal – freedom – then, we shall know glory, but only then.

As we struggle together, I welcome all who are of a like mind, yearning for a better way of life, enduring the hardships of today for hopes of a better tomorrow and willing to continually push onward, for you are my friends, my family and joint-heirs of the victory on the horizon. Please feel free to contact me at any time.

Wherever you may be, wherever you've been, wherever you may be going, never surrender. Never give up. Triumphant are those who refuse to be crushed or broken.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jeffrey Hatcher #125540
Wakulla CZ Annex
110 Melaleuca Drive
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USA 32327

Destruction of Culture

BY KEVIN YOUNG

The May 2011 issue of XXL, a magazine that reports on the music industry, such as Rap/Hip Hop/R&B, featured rapper/comrade Lupe Fiasco who explains his issues with his record label.

Atlantic Records, an imperialist/capitalist organization, wants the rapper to change his political and revolutionary style. They say that they want to see growth from Lupe, when his fans love him the way he is. They want Lupe to make more R&B and pop songs, which he stated he does not know how to make.

This imperialist/capitalist organization understands that music is part of the oppressed nation. Culture and its history is based on revolutionary principles. They know the impact music has on the oppressed nation and how wide a message can get spread to the youth, which they do not want, to awaken the consciousness in the people.

Lupe stated, "we live in a heartless society, I like being the rebel. In this society being the rebel is being the guy who gives a fuck." He is right. Look at the Black Panther Party and what they did for the community. But, the imperialists/capitalists view them as a threat because they are willing to make the people aware and conscious.

Lupe spoke about rappers like Rick Rass, who are misguiding our youth, praising selling drugs, money, cars and clothes. What the rapper does not tell the youths is that you may go to jail and never get out. Before they rap to make our youth more aware of themselves and what is going on around them they send false messages.

Lupe knows how the youth think and knows what they need: "that's consciousness." Lupe grew up with a father that was a gun dealer and his friends are or were in the streets living the life these so-called rappers praise.

We are seeing how the imperialists/capitalists are destroying our culture in music. They want our people to remain deluded by using rappers and singers to create an illusion that selling drugs to the oppressed people is cool, women selling themselves is cool, all the wrong messages.

When we have rappers like Lupe Fiasco we have to embrace them and help them fight for creativity, to keep their revolutionary principles in their work. We also have to have our own record companies, so we can put out our own revolutionary work.

In Unity and Struggle,

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fearing and despising us – before they even come into contact with any of us! They are led to believe that all prisoners are manipulative, deceitful and dangerous, and that all prisoners are the scum of the earth. So no, they don't care about us, they are not even *allowed* to care about us; we are not even human to them. Needless to say, none of this leads to rehabilitation. On the contrary, it only contributes to the everyday depravity here in this hellhole.

I'm writing about all of this for a reason though. I'm here to expose the abuse, the injustices, the disparity and hopelessness. I'm here to raise awareness about all of these things, and I'm here to help seek solutions. One of the things I'd like to help Nevada prisoners understand is that the situation for us out here is deplorable. There is a real problem with this whole system, and if we don't recognize these problems, we will never find solutions, not to mention the possibility that we ourselves could even be contributing to many of these problems. Please believe, the way they've got us doing our time is not the way we're supposed to be doing our time. This whole prison is "the hole." There's no general population here at E.S.P.; there's no incentive, no programs, no rehabilitation, nothing. We have way more coming to us than this! We are not supposed to just lay down and accept this. We have to start finding ways to come together. We have to start striving to make the necessary changes that will help better our positions in life, so that we don't have to keep coming back to these dead ends.

Furthermore, like Ikemba always says, there's no real level of activism in Nevada. Prisoners do not have any available resources, bookstores for Nevada prisoners, no prisoners' rights advocacy groups, no solid help from the outside, whatsoever. In order to make changes on the inside, we need support from the outside. We must take it upon ourselves to build a proper support structure for Nevada prisoners, and we have to do this from the ground up!

So, if you're a prisoner doing time in Nevada and if you have family/friends out here in Nevada – or anywhere else on the outs – I would like to encourage you to explain to them how bad the situation is for you/us in here. Let them know that we cannot expect any type of real rehabilitation from this system; explain to them that the administration is not going to do anything to help us further our growth and development, or push us close to becoming reformed, socially functioning individuals. We have to take it upon ourselves to do these things and we can't do it without a proper support structure from people on the outside.

Talk to your families. Talk to your friends. Talk to your loved ones out there (show them this newsletter if you have to). See what they would be willing to do to start up programs for Nevada prisoners. Something needs to be done, but nothing will improve unless prisoners start taking the initiative. The guys who have to do life sentences, or who have to be here for the duration, I encourage you to

start learning the law. Use it as a tool to make changes for everybody; start stepping up to the plate, instead of waiting for others to do it for you. As long as we keep trying, sooner or later something has to give. It's better to try than to do nothing, especially when we're living like this! We can do anything we put our minds to, it all starts with a thought, and what we think about we become, so let's get it cracking!

Until then, we are just going to sit here, warehoused in this misery. As the years go by, more people losing their minds, more deaths and suicides, more repression, more rules being placed on us, making it harder on us, more restrictions, more losses of privileges and whatever else they want to take from us. We will sit here with sad looks on our faces, as anger and hatred eat us up inside. The despair will lead to depravity, and the depravity will do us in. Death is the only outcome tomorrow, for those that don't start taking action today.

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Building Revolutionary Organizations with Numbers Consciousness

BY REY TOKATZIN

"America is derived from the name Amaruca, which is Quiche meaning "plumed serpent" in the native language of the Incas and was adopted to give a geographical location to North and South America."

Let me start with Spain before it invaded the Islands and Americas

In 711, the Arabs and the Berbers invaded Iberia (Spain) through North Africa. For nearly eight centuries under her Mohammedan rulers Spain set for all of Europe a shining example of a civilized and enlightened state. Art, literature, and science prospered as they then prospered nowhere else in Europe. Students flocked from France and Germany and England to drink from the fountains of learning which flowed only in the cities of the Moors: "Moors were the mixed, created by the Arabs and Berbers."

"The surgeons and doctors of Andalusia were in the van of science; womyn were encouraged to devote themselves to serious study, and a lady doctor was not unknown among the people of Cordova. Mathematics, astronomy, and bota-

hours, and then they have to decide what to do from there, whether excessive force is to be used or not. Did this happen? No. These pigs refused to follow their own rules and a man died as a result.

I can tell you exactly what took place. After Redman refused to surrender, the pigs then proceeded to spray one can of pepper spray into his cell. After that the senior officer in the control bubble commenced to open Redman's cell so the pigs could run in there on him and retaliate, and then remove him from his cell. But the cell door was jammed from the inside, and they couldn't get it open. Obviously Redman was no dummy, he knew how to keep the pigs out, and he knew why it was so important to do so. That's a situation that you usually don't win. They come in and beat your ass, and after they've got you fully restrained, they beat you some more as they yell out "Stop resisting! Stop resisting!" So, over the course of two hours, the pigs emptied a total of 6 canisters of gas into Redman's cell, and then sprayed a seventh canister one time. They would spray him, and then go hide out in the upper storage room, so that the gas wouldn't affect them (Redman was housed in 3-B-48, right next to the upper storage room). When they were finally able to open Redman's cell to get him out, he was dead. His face was purple, his body was blue and blood was coming out of his nose. His boxers were stained with feces and urine and he had what appeared to be a smile on his face. The nurses and doctors tried to revive him, but to no avail.

What's mysterious about this whole situation was that when they pulled Redman out of his cell, there was no rope tied around his neck or anything. But they say he hung himself. They said it was a suicide. But did he really hang himself, or was he murdered by six cans of pepper spray? Was it a cover-up? People need to be concerned about this, and they should demand to see the video footage of the extraction, just to make sure, because the whole thing seemed mysterious to the majority of the inmates who saw the incident take place.

All seem to agree that Redman died from the pepper spray. They think he was murdered. Who knows what happened. All humans are capable of murder, and death row inmates have been murdered before under McDaniel's administration. I know this much: a couple of hours after they carried Redman's body out of the unit, 2 of the wardens, the coroner, and the investigator were all standing outside of Redman's cell laughing, smiling and joking around, thinking it was funny, until a prisoner piped up and said, "What are you laughing at? If that was one of your own who died, you wouldn't find it very funny, now would you?" They got quiet. But it seemed like they were happy to see Redman die. At dinner time, a guard who was on the extraction team came into the unit and yelled out loud, so everybody could hear, "Cell 48 said he doesn't want his tray." It just goes to show how much regard these pigs have for our lives. They have no love, no mercy for us. The whole scene was

a blatant violation of the administrative regulations and a blatant disregard for Redman's life. And the really cold, cold, part about it was, when the coroner asked the warden, on two separate occasions, "How should I decide this?" "How do you think I should decide this, suicide or murder?" The warden looked around, seen that prisoners were standing alert at their doors and said, "I can't decide that, that's your job." But what would even propel the coroner to ask such an odd question like that in the first place? It makes you wonder...

I knew Redman personally. He wasn't really a friend of mine, but someone I talked to occasionally. I don't know what set him off to go after the pig, but I do know this: Redman was a death row inmate who has had to endure 23-hour lockdown while on H.R.P. (High Risk Potential status: supermax custody level) for 16-17 years straight. I've heard him talking once about how year after year administration is stripping one privilege away from us each year. Tobacco, milk, scrambled eggs, hot lunches, food packages, clothing packages, etcetera, etcetera. They just take, take, take and keep you locked down in a cell with a death sentence hanging over your head. Oh yeah, and I know that they were messing with Redman's mail too. He seemed to think that his wife left him due to this; because certain letters never got to her. So, I think it's safe to say, with all these things taken into consideration, you have a man who has nothing to lose, and no hope in sight, who has basically been driven to a point where life doesn't even matter anymore.

There's a lot of people like that in here. They weren't always like that though. They've deteriorated, and have been broken, and just stopped trying, stopped caring, with no one or nothing to help pull them through. It's a sad, sad story, about depravity and despair. Some of us fight and struggle (psychologically and spiritually), trying to make it through this, trying to better ourselves and better our positions in life, and some just give up all hope. It's easy to give up in a filthy, foul-ass place like this, where nobody cares about what you're going through, or about what happens to you, one way or another.

The guards that work here don't care about us, they're not trained to care about us, they are only trained to control us. Ely State Prison is an unproductive, unhealthy environment, even for these pigs. It has been documented that prison guards have the highest rates of heart disease, drug and alcohol addiction, divorce – and the shortest lifespans – of any state civil servants, due to the stress in their lives. Prison guards are in constant fear of injury by prisoners, and the fear of contracting diseases always lingers in their minds, since prisons are normally flooded with all kinds of diseases, from hepatitis C, tuberculosis, to AIDS.

From the first day in the academy these guards are trained to believe that they are the "good guys" and that prisoners are the "bad guys." They are pretty much programmed into

Black August 2011: Editor's Introduction

Black August is a celebration of Freedom Fighters, an affirmation and renewed commitment to the struggle, on every level, of New African - Black Liberation. It is a time to understand, remember and FIGHT for freedom, justice and self-determination for Black people and the New African - Black nation within the imperialist U.S. state.

Black August (BA) originated in the California prison system in the 1970s. Many significant events in the New African Nation's struggle for justice and liberation have occurred in August. The commemoration of Black August salutes, in particular, the sacrifices and advances of Black Freedom Fighters.

This year 4sm respectfully dedicates its BA tribute to the outstanding Black leader and freedom fighter, geronimo jijaga (Pratt), who sadly passed on June 2 in Tanzania. We include some information and tributes to geronimo in the BA section of this issue.

Following are several pages of authentic information on BA, put together by Doc Holiday, an original comrade of George Jackson and a long time figure in the Black liberation and prison struggle.

Black August: A Celebration of Freedom Fighters

BY DOC HOLIDAY ET AL.

Black August originated in the California penal system in the 1970s. Many significant events in the New African Nation's struggle for justice and liberation have occurred in August. The commemoration of Black August particularly hails the advances and sacrifices of Black Freedom Fighters. Following are several pages of authentic information on Black August provided by Doc Holiday, an original comrade of George Jackson and a longtime figure in the Black Liberation and prison struggle. Doc is presently in prison in Marion, Illinois.

History of Black August: Concept and Program

The month of August gained special significance and importance in the Black Liberation Movement beginning with a courageous attempt by Jonathan Jackson to demand the freedom of political prisoners/prisoners of war, of which the Soledad Brothers' case brought to the center of attention.

On August 7, 1970 Jonathan Jackson, William Christmas,

James McClain, and Ruchell Magee were gunned down at the Marin County Courthouse in that attempt for freedom. Ruchell Cinque Magee remains the sole survivor of that bid for liberation. He also remains a POW at Folsom prison, doing life. Though this rebellion was put down by gory pigs and their agents, it was internalized within the hearts and minds of the people on the outside in the larger prison as well as those in the concentration camps (prison), internalized in the same fashion as we honor other heroic African Freedom Fighters, who sacrificed their lives for the people and the liberation.

On August 21, 1971, almost exactly a year following the slave rebellion at Marin County Courthouse, George L. Jackson (older brother of Jonathan Jackson as well as one of the Soledad Brothers) whose freedom was the primary demand of the Marin rebellion, was assassinated at San Quentin prison in an alleged escape put forth by prison administration and the state to cover its conspiracy. Comrade George Jackson was a highly respected and purposely influential leader in the Revolutionary Prison Movement. Jackson was also very popular beyond prison, not only because he was a Soledad Brother, but also because of the book he authored appropriately entitled *Soledad Brother*. This book not only revealed to the public the inhumane and degrading conditions in prison, he more importantly, correctly pointed to the real cause of those effects in prison as well as in society: a decadent Capitalist system that breeds off of racism and oppression.

On August 1, 1978 brother Jeffery "Khatari" Galden, a Black Freedom Fighter and Prisoner of War, captured within the walls of San Quentin was a victim of a blatant assassination by capitalist-corporate medical politics. Khatari was another popular and influential leader in the Revolutionary Prison Movement.

An important note must be added here and that is, the Black August Concept and Movement that it is a part of and helping to build is not limited to our sisters and brothers that are currently captured in the various prison Kamps throughout California. Yet without a doubt it is inclusive of these sisters and brothers and moving toward a better understanding of the nature and relationship of prison to oppressed and colonized people.

So it should be clearly understood that Black August is a reflection and commemoration of history of those heroic partisans and leaders that realistically made it possible for us to survive and advance to our present level of liberation struggle, such as Nat Turner, Harriet Tubman, Gabriel Prosser, Frederick Douglas, W.E.B. DuBois, Marcus Garvey, Paul Robeson, Rosa Parks, M.L. King, Malcolm X, and numerous others in our more contemporary period. It must be further clarified that when we speak of "Culture Development," we are not advocating Cultural Nationalism and/or merely talking about adopting African names, jewellery, dashikis, etc. Our primary interest lies not only

in where we came from, but the nature of “WHY” we were forcefully brought here, understanding the character of “CONTINUOUS” struggle with the recognition that it is a protracted struggle and developing the necessary lifestyles to guarantee its success.

August 20, 1619: First born Afrikan captives were brought to England’s North Amerikan colony of Jamestown, Virginia.

August 16, 1768: Charlestown, South Carolina. Rebelious Afrikan slaves (known as maroons) engaged British military forces in bloody battle defending their camp which was a haven for fugitive slaves.

August 30, 1800: Day set for launching Gabriel Prosser’s revolt. On this day over 1000 armed slaves gathered to endeavor to secure their liberty, however bad weather forced them to postpone the revolt and betrayal ultimately led to the crushing of their physical force.

August 21, 1831: Slave revolt launched under the leadership of Nat Turner which lasted four days and resulted in fifty-one slaveholders and their loved ones being subjected to revolutionary people’s justice.

August 29, 1841: Street skirmish took place in Cincinnati between Afrikan and Euro-Amerikan, wherein for five days Afrikans waged valiant struggle in defense of their women, children and property against brutal racist terror campaigns.

August 1854: Delegates from eleven states met in Cleveland at the National Emigration Convention of the Colored People, to advance the position that an independent land base (nation) be set up for the absorption of captive Afrikans in Babylon who wanted to return to Afrika.

August 1, 1856: North Carolina. Fierce battle erupted between fugitive slaves and slaveholders who sought their capture and re-enslavement. The only recorded casualties were among slaveholders.

August 1860: Freedom (slave) conspiracy uncovered with the discovery of an organized camp of Afrikans and Euro-Amerikan co-conspirators in Talladega County, Alabama.

August 2, 1865: Virginia. A statewide conference of fifty Afrikan delegates met to demand that Afrikans in Virginia be granted legal title to land occupied during the Civil War. Numerous off-pitch battles ensued during this same month as terrorist mobs moved to evict Afrikans from the land and were met with resistance.

August 17, 1887: Honorable Marcus Garvey, father of contemporary Afrikan Nationalism, was born.

August 1906: Afrikan soldiers (in service of Babylon) enraged behind racial slurs and discrimination struck out and wrecked the town of Brownville, Texas.

August 1906: Niagara Movement met at Harper’s Ferry, Virginia and issued W.E.B. DuBois’ historic manifesto against racist discrimination in Babylon against Afrikans.

August 1, 1914: Garvey founds Universal Negro Improvement Association, advancing the call for Land, Freedom, and Independence for Afrikan people.

August 23, 1917: Afrikan soldiers in Huston engaged in street skirmishes that left more than seventeen Euro-Amerikan racists dead.

August 1920: Over two thousand delegates representing Afrikans from the four corners of the earth gathered in New York for the International Convention of the Negro People of the World, sponsored by UNIA. The convention issued a bill of rights for Afrikans.

August 1943: Slave revolt took place in Harlem as result of a K-9 shooting a brother defending the honour of Afrikan womanhood. More than 16,000 military and police personnel were required to quell the rebellion.

August 1963: 190,000 Afrikans (250,000 people in total) took part in the March on Washington led by Dr. Martin Luther King to petition for the extension of the rights and privileges due to them mandated by the U.S. Constitution.

August 1964: Afrikans launched comparatively large-scale urban slave revolts in the following cities: Jersey City NY, Paterson NJ, Keansburg NJ, Chicago IL, and Philadelphia PA. These slave revolts were for the most part sparked by either police brutality or disrespect shown toward Afrikan womanhood.

August 16, 1965: Urban revolts took place in Northern Philadelphia.

August 7-8, 1966: A large-scale urban revolt was launched in Lansing, Michigan.

August 28, 1966: Waukegan, Illinois. Urban slave revolt launched in response to police brutality.

July 30-August 2, 1967: Urban slave revolt launched in Milwaukee.

August 19-24, 1967: A comparatively large-scale urban slave revolt was launched in New Haven, Connecticut.

August 7, 1970: Jonathan Jackson killed in firefight while leading the Marin County Courthouse raid.

August 21, 1971: George Jackson shot and killed in San Quentin by tower guards.

Most standard history books tend to either play down or ignore New African resistance as a factor in the destruction in the slave economy. On the other hand, when one understands that New Africans are still an oppressed nation, the reason for such deception becomes clear. Black August contends that not only was such resistance a fac-

Ely State Prison, Nevada: A Place of Depravity, Death and Despair

BY COYOTE

Ely State Prison is a place of death, stagnation, misery, pain, loneliness and indeterminate lockdown. If you were to take a walk on one of these depressing tiers back here in “the hole,” you would hear many disembodied voices ring out, yelling in anger and frustration, trying to tell you how bad it is for us in here, in between the isolated confines of steel and stone.

This is a maximum security prison, but not everybody here is a security risk, but if you were to ask these pigs that, they’d probably tell you otherwise, just to try to justify the fact they’re keeping us warehoused in here, whether we deserve it or not. With time things change, and usually for the worse. Deterioration is a normal occurrence in here. In fact, if you were to ask the prisoners around here if they think the conditions here will get better or worse, most of them will tell you things are only going to get worse. Pessimism and hopelessness permeate the minds and attitudes of the average prisoner in here. There’s nothing much to look forward to, besides the next meal, and maybe a letter in the mail, if you’re lucky.

Back in the day, ironically when E.S.P. was actually opened up (when we were allowed group yard, tier time, porters, etc.), the majority of the prisoners here were actually befitting of the status ‘maximum security.’ Back then, a man was sent to Ely State Prison for failure to adjust in another, less secure prison: violence, escapes and things of that nature. But even then, that could also mean he was disruptive—someone who organized other prisoners, led religious services, or filed too many legal writs or grievances.

Not every man at ESP is told why he’s here these days, and not every man here has committed a violent crime. Not every man here has done anything serious to even warrant maximum security status (for example, I have a neighbour here in the hole with me right now who was transferred up here simply for contraband). A prisoner has no chance to appeal a transfer before being sent to ESP, and sometimes arrives in the middle of the night without warning. Brought into a world of darkness, locked into a cell, left to get stale and stagnant as he deteriorates, like a mouldy piece of bread.

Nobody belongs in a world where they’re buried alive, where they’re in a tomb for the dead, basically. And the police have total control, and many of them frequently abuse that control, either on a psychological level, or on

a physical level. And over the days, weeks, months and years, a prisoner who is confined to this every day misery, begins to degenerate. I’ve seen it happen, over and over again. Nobody belongs in a world like this, where death permeates the atmosphere, where pressure is applied so constantly that all it does is make these men hard and mean as time goes by.

Some of these guys in here feel they only have 2 or 3 choices now: escape, snitch or suicide. Nobody has escaped from here yet, but many turned into snitches, and many have committed suicide. And others have succumbed to psychotropic medications, which is a form of both escape and suicide. For so many of us in here, there’s nothing to strive for: no aim, no goals, no hope, no light at the end of their tunnel, and they just give up, give in. There’s no love here, just the artificial love that you’ll find in the gang culture of prison life. This is a terrible place to be, especially for someone who has to return back to society.

All you have to do is read a little psychology to figure out what’s going on, to understand what’s being done to us in here. They try to break us down, sever our family and social ties, dominate us, talk shit to us, treat us like children, going out of their way to try to keep us stagnant and ignorant, and always out to break our spirits. Needless to say, I pass around books, articles and notes on psychology, so that prisoners can get a deeper understanding about things—not just about being in prison, but also about how our minds work, personality, emotions, why we act the way we act, and why we are the way we are. It’s very important to actually be able to come to an understanding of these things; to raise our level of conscious. To be able to elevate our thinking under these circumstances is very important in more ways than one, and it’s also necessary for our survival in here, where psychological warfare is being waged on us every day.

The depravity and despair in this graveyard continuously pushes men to death or insanity. I wrote an article on November 18, 2009, about the mysterious death of death row inmate Timothy Redman. November 18, 2009, was the day he died, and I was there when it happened. This is a prime example of the daily depravity that takes place in this hell-hole. Approximately an hour after Redman allegedly tried to grab a correctional officer by the wrist and pull his arm through the food slot (apparently the pig had to struggle to free himself), an extraction team of officers was made up to physically and forcefully remove Redman from his cell, or at least to try. Redman refused to surrender and to be placed in handcuffs, and he did so by displaying a weapon. What’s cold about this whole thing is that the policy (administrative regulation) even states that any time a prisoner has a weapon in his cell, his water and toilet is to be shut off, an officer is to be stationed outside of his cell, and nothing is to come in or go out of his cell—not even meals, and this officer is supposed to stay stationed outside of his cell until the prisoner either gives the weapon up, or for 72

Why Libya Matters

BY CHAD WELLINS

The current revolts in Libya and across the Middle East open up possibilities for a world freer from U.S. imperialism. Libya in particular may prove to be a crucial fulcrum in this struggle. Keeping the U.S. military and NATO entirely out of the civil war in Libya is the one thing people in the U.S. can do to help facilitate self-determination for Libyans and a reduction of U.S. power in the region.

The first thing that makes Libya an important cause for people in the U.S. to engage is historical. The U.S. has an unwavering track record of hoisting leaders, friendly to U.S. business interests, to power. Never has a U.S.-backed ruler put the needs of the people first. This happened with the Shah of Iran in the 1950s. Saddam Hussein was the chosen strong man to control Iraq in the 1980s and more recently Hosni Mubarak had U.S. backing to control the population of Egypt.

These are examples only from the Middle East. There are many more examples from the Western Hemisphere that can be provided to prove the point as well. If the U.S. gets involved in Libya militarily, and maybe even if it doesn't, it is all but guaranteed that the U.S. will set up a government friendly to the U.S. and unfriendly to its own people.

Another possible outcome of U.S. involvement could be to draw religious fundamentalists seeking to fight the U.S. from all over the Muslim world. There is some evidence that such a campaign is already under way. As was witnessed in Iraq, such a situation could cause the conflict to grow, causing even more destruction to Libya. If a conflict between Muslim fundamentalists and Western imperial powers sidelines secular, reform minded Libyans there may be no positive outcome. It would be an incredible shame if the deaths and the courageous efforts of the resistance army did not result in a more just society. Besides justice and self-determination for the people a second consideration in the case of Libya is its proximity to Egypt. As the second largest recipient of military aid in the Middle East, Israel being number one, Egypt has been a key U.S. ally for many years. Having Mubarak ousted must have the U.S. intelligence apparatus, military and State Department in a tailspin.

The U.S. government is assuredly trying to influence the power struggle going on in Egypt right now and one way to exert control over Egypt is to control Libya. Flipping the scenario around, if first Libya, and then Egypt with its large military were to expel Western powers and take a stance firmly opposed to U.S. involvement in the region the whole landscape of U.S./Western imperialism in the Middle East would change overnight.

Suddenly Israel would be very much alone and the Intifada would have new negotiating terms. The rebellion in Syria could receive support from these new regimes. U.S. client states everywhere would have questions to answer.

We are currently at a crossroads. The U.S. successfully influencing the outcome of the revolt in Libya could have terrible consequences. The Libyan people being able to determine their own destiny could result in huge blow to American power.

For a better future to be possible, we in the U.S. must play our role and do whatever we can to keep the U.S. and NATO out of Libya.

Black Guard (UNI 2)

My despair is not black,
my mourning clothes are not black
my devil's food cake is not chocolate.
Neither my angel, vanilla.
My kAos is not confounded with confusion.
It is a Black light,
a night lite,
a blueblack print of the UNI-verse
from which came the universe.
There are no black sheep,
little white lies
or blacklists!
Although blackmail doesn't exist,
when these Black men Black out,
a Black rage turns day to night.
Which is why, my black is not
always beautiful.
Sometimes it gets sticky and swamp thick!
Yet it's still
purple plums and blackberry kool-aid sweet.
Infinitely as beckoning as stars in
Midnight's eyes and just as misunderstood as
tightly clenched raised fists, yet
as reliable as New Afrikan hands
outstretched to assist.

A. Castlin J99402
PBSP SHU D1-210
P.O. Box 7500
Crescent City CA
95532 USA

tor in the destruction of the slave economy, but New African resistance to slavery continues to inspire New African resistance to national oppression. Herbert Aptheker (the author of "American Negro Slave Revolts") recounts the personal remark of one New African involved in the civil rights struggle:

"From personal experience I can testify that American Negro Slave Revolts made a tremendous impact on those of us in the civil rights and Black Liberation movement. It was the single most effective antidote to the poisonous ideals that blacks had not a history of struggle or that such struggle took the form of non-violent protest. Understanding people like Denmark Vessey, Nat Turner, William Lloyd Garrison etc. provided us with that link to our past that few ever thought existed."

Black August contends that from the very inception of slavery, New Africans huddled illegally to commemorate and draw strength from New African slaves who met their death resisting. Black August asserts that it is only natural for each generation of New Africans faced with the task to liberate the nation, to draw strength and encouragement from each generation of New African warriors that preceded them. It is from such a rich heritage of resistance that Black August developed, committed to continuing the legacy of resistance, vowing to respond to the call for the destruction of colonial oppression with our George Jacksons, Malcolm Xs and Fred Hamptons etc.

New African resistance moved decisively into the 1920s and 1930s. Evidence of this was movements like The African Blood Brothers, The Share Croppers, The Black Bolsheviks, etc. Unduly there is an incorrect tendency to confine the discussion of African Nationalism to the well-known Garvey Movement as the sole manifestation of national consciousness. The Garvey Movement was the point of the emerging politics of New African resistance.

In labor, national consciousness, (i.e. literature, jazz, art, etc.) in the struggle for the land, in all areas of politics, like a great explosion of previously pent-up National Consciousness took place among New Africans. The sixties were a further example of New African resistance to national oppression. It should be emphasized here that that struggle of non-violence was at that time a strategy of illegality, of danger, of arousing New Africans to direct confrontation with the colonial oppressor. Whether it was a sit-in at a segregated lunch counter or bus station, the movement deliberately broke the colonial law.

Inevitably the anti-colonial struggle moved to a higher level, growing beyond the initial stage of non-violent civil rights protest. The non-violent civil rights strategy was tried and discarded by New Africans, who found that it was a failure, incapable of forcing an entrenched settler's colonial regime to change. Black August purports that it is important to briefly men-

tion such events to counter the colonial propaganda that the riots of the 1960s was due to anger brought on by overcrowding and summer heat. Black August asserts that in order for New Africans to arise to the historical task of defending the Nation, it is imperative that New Africans have a historical perspective of themselves resisting colonial oppression.

Black August avers that at a time when the Black Nation is experiencing the destruction of its community through planned gentrification, at a time when the quality of New African life is being blunted through unemployment, prison, drugs, high infant mortality and poverty, the call of New African organization should be one of resistance.

Black August is the antithesis to "celebration" and empty "homage." Black August attempts to place struggle and sacrifice on center stage. In this respect, Black August summons all progressive people who identify with the legacy of resistance to colonial oppression to actively participate in Black August. Thus during the entire month of August in commemoration of those Africans who have made the supreme sacrifice for the cause of African Liberation and reflect upon the significance of those contributions as well as to draw closer to the continuing necessity for resistance, we embrace the following as tenets to be practiced during Black August.

Tenets of the Black August Program

1. A fast which historically has been used as an expression of personal commitment and resistance. Hence, from sunrise until evening meal we will abstain from eating. We abstain from consuming any type of intoxicants for the entire month of August. The necessity for this should be self-evident for all serious participants of Black August (BA).
2. We limit our selection of television and radio to educational programs, i.e. news, documentaries and cultural programs, etc.
3. During BA we emphasize political and cultural studies for individuals involved in BA. Participants in BA should pair off with someone else you know to study and share knowledge of African affairs.
4. As an outward expression of BA we wear a black arm band on the left arm or wrist as a tribute to those Africans who have died as a result of their sacrifice for African Liberation. The arm band can be worn either on the inside or outside of your clothing.

Black August is a revolutionary concept. Therefore, all revolutionaries, nationalists and others who are committed to ending oppression should actively participate in Black August. Such participation not only begins to build the bridges of international solidarity, but it is through such solidarity that we strengthen ourselves to struggle for victory.

geronimo ji jaga, 1947-2011 From Lynne Stewart

geronimo ji jaga (September 13, 1947 - June 2, 2011), also known as Geronimo ji-Jaga Pratt (born: Elmer Pratt) was a high ranking member of the Black Panther Party.

The FBI targeted him in a COINTELPRO operation, which aimed to “neutralize Pratt as an effective BPP functionary.” Pratt was falsely accused, tried and convicted of the kidnap and murder of Caroline Olsen in 1972, and spent 27 years in prison, eight of which were in solitary confinement. Pratt was freed in 1997 when his conviction was vacated. He was working as a human rights activist up until the time of his death. Pratt was also the godfather of the late Tupac Shakur. He died of a heart attack in his adopted country, Tanzania, on June 2, 2011.

Take the opportunity to remember Geronimo, and more importantly, to spread his message and example. freedomarchives.org/Geronimo.html

From Sundiata Acoli

geronimo ji Jaga was a true “Top Soldier.” Highly skilled in warfare, tested and proven on the battlefields of Viet Nam, he returned stateside to put his expertise at the service of the Black Panther Party, the Black Liberation Army and other select organizations of the era. He saved many lives. He made many soldiers.

geronimo, or “G” as we called him, was our much beloved comrade, brother, hero and leader. He was also a father and husband who literally gave his entire life over to the liberation of Afrikans, here and abroad, and other oppressed people worldwide. He was all that—and yet he was one of the most forgiving persons i’ve ever known. It was part of his makeup, and his enigma.

G fought to the end, he gave all that he had and we, Afrikans and others oppressed, are all the better for it. We are forever in his debt.

May the Ancestors receive him with their proudest salute to a returning soldier.

The untimely death of Geronimo Ji Jaga Pratt has hit me very hard because it reminds me of all the work yet to be done. Not only the liberation of the oppressed to which Geronimo dedicated himself as a young man and again after his release but also the liberation of those locked away in the torture chambers of this Gulag USA.

The loss of Geronimo is so difficult because he was robbed of the opportunity to contribute to the long term struggle for liberation of the Black community in his most productive years. Yes, there was always a mention or a placard “Free Geronimo Pratt!” but his ability to publicly inspire and uplift was jailed at San Quentin. He was there in his 20s and 30s and 40s. The movement suffered...Hoover and his like triumphed. We must now undo this evil.

By torture chambers I mean, of course, the Prison “holes,” those places of solitary confinement, where loneliness and total lack of human contact, drive people mad. Even the strong are “modified”. Many of those who have been jailed in this way are political prisoners. Many of them have been in 24 hour lockdown for more than 20 years and face the rest of their lives there. I really don’t need to name name—they are engraved on my heart and I hope on yours. Just check the Jericho website for a complete rundown. And also, dare I say it, the Project Salaam listing of Muslims wrongfully imprisoned.

If we are spared and are still in the world and able to act and activate—this is our primary obligation if we think of ourselves as political, to take up this struggle and liberate those behind bars. As Mutulu Shakur wrote to me (and I paraphrase) “The faith of those who gave their all and still wait for the dedicated comrades, the People, to bring them home, is greater than any religious devotion.”

Geronimo’s death reminds us of this paramount obligation. The enemy, in the BOP, the Nebraska and New York and Louisiana prisons will never act until those unjust imprisonments become more detrimental to them and their system than freeing our brothers and sisters. Action! Action! Change! Change!

GERONIMO JIJAGA PRATT
—Presente! Live Like Him!!

injured from NATO’s latest installation of shock and awe. Suddenly, the streets around my hotel became full of chanting people, car horns blowing, I could not tell how many were walking, how many were driving. Inside the hotel, one Libyan woman carrying a baby came to me and asked me, “Why are they doing this to us?”

Whatever the military objectives of the attack (and I and many others question the military value of these attacks) the fact remains the air attack was launched on a major city packed with hundreds of thousands of civilians.

I did wonder too if any of the politicians who had authorized this air attack had themselves ever been on the receiving end of laser guided depleted uranium munitions.

Had they ever seen the awful damage that these weapons do to a city and its population? Perhaps if they actually had been in the city of an air attack and felt the concussion from these bombs and saw the mayhem caused they just might not be so inclined to authorize an attack on a civilian population.

I am confident that NATO would not have been so reckless with human life if they had been called on to attack a major western city. Indeed, I am confident that they would not be called upon ever to attack a western city. NATO only attacks (as does the U.S. and its allies) the poor and underprivileged of the Third World.

Only the day before, at a women’s event in Tripoli, one woman came up to me with tears in her eyes: her mother is in Benghazi and she can’t get back to see if her mother is OK or not. People from the east and west of the country lived with each other, loved each other, intermarried, and now, because of NATO’s “humanitarian intervention,” artificial divisions are becoming hardened. NATO’s recruitment of allies in eastern Libya smacks of the same strain of cold warriorism that sought to assassinate Fidel Castro and overthrow the Cuban Revolution with “homegrown” Cubans willing to commit acts of terror against their former home country.

More recently, the Democratic Republic of Congo has been amputated de facto after Laurent Kabila refused a request from the Clinton Administration to formally shave off the eastern part of his country. Laurent Kabila personally recounted the meeting at which this request and refusal were delivered. This plan to balkanize and amputate an African country (as has been done in Sudan) did not work because Kabila said “no” while Congolese people around the world organized to protect the “territorial integrity” of their country.

I was horrified to learn that NATO allies (the Rebels) in Libya have reportedly lynched and then butchered their darker-skinned compatriots after U.S. press reports labeled Black Libyans as “Black mercenaries.” Now, tell me this,

pray tell. How are you going to take Blacks out of Africa? Press reports have suggested that Americans were “surprised” to see dark-skinned people in Africa. Now, what does that tell us about them?

The sad fact, however, is that it is the Libyans themselves, who have been insulted, terrorized, lynched, and murdered as a result of the press reports that hyper-sensationalized this base ignorance. Who will be held accountable for the lives lost in the bloodletting frenzy unleashed as a result of these lies?

Which brings me back to the lady’s question: why is this happening? Honestly, I could not give her the educated reasoned response that she was looking for. In my view the international public is struggling to answer “Why?”

What we do know, and what is quite clear, is this: what I experienced last night is no “humanitarian intervention.”

Many suspect it is about all the oil under Libya. Call me skeptical but I have to wonder why the combined armed sea, land and air forces of NATO and the US costing billions of dollars are being arraigned against a relatively small North African country and we’re expected to believe it’s in the defense of democracy.

What I have seen in long lines to get fuel is not “humanitarian intervention.” Refusal to allow purchases of medicine for the hospitals is not “humanitarian intervention.”

What is most sad is that I cannot give a cogent explanation of “Why” to people now terrified by NATO’s bombs, but it is transparently clear now that NATO has exceeded its mandate, lied about its intentions, is guilty of extra-judicial killings—all in the name of “humanitarian intervention.” Where is the Congress as the President exceeds his war-making authority? Where is the “Conscience of the Congress?”

For those of you who disagree with Dick Cheney’s warning to us to prepare for war for the next generation, please support anyone who will stop this madness. Please organize and then vote for peace. People around the world need us to stand up and speak out for ourselves and them because Iran and Venezuela are also in the cross-hairs.

Libyans don’t need NATO helicopter gunships, smart bombs, cruise missiles, and depleted uranium to settle their differences. NATO’s “humanitarian intervention” needs to be exposed for what it is with the bright, shining light of the truth.

As dusk descends on Tripoli, let me prepare myself with the local civilian population for some more NATO humanitarianism.

Stop bombing Africa and the poor of the world!



Cynthia McKinney Speaks on Libyan TV

BY ABAYOMI AZIKIWE, Workers World

Speaking on Libyan TV May 21, former U.S. Congressperson Cynthia McKinney condemned the brutal war against the government and the people of that country. McKinney, an African American and a fierce critic of U.S. foreign policy in Africa and the Middle East, traveled to Libya as part of a fact-finding mission to expose the criminal nature of the war.

McKinney stated, “It’s very important that people understand what is happening here. And it’s important that people all over the world see the truth. And that is why I am here ... to understand the truth.”

The Green Party 2008 presidential candidate emphasized: “I want to say categorically and very clearly that these policies of war ... are not what the people of the United States stand for, and it’s not what African Americans stand for. Under the economic policies of the Obama administration, those who have the least are losing the most. And those who have the most are getting even more.”

McKinney noted, “The situation in the United States is becoming more dire for average ordinary Americans, and the last thing we need to do is to spend money on death, destruction and war.”

These comments came in the aftermath of the NATO bombing of numerous Libyan ships docked in three different ports along the Mediterranean coast. In addition to bombing ships, NATO forces announced the deployment of attack helicopters into the theater of war.

NATO forces and the rebels they support have once again rejected calls for a ceasefire from the United Nations Secretary General as well as the Libyan government. Instead the European Union has opened an office in the rebel-held city of Benghazi in a further attempt to encourage regime change in the country.

NATO: A Feast of Blood

BY CYNTHIA MCKINNEY
From Workers World

While serving on the House International Relations Committee from 1993 to 2003, it became clear to me that the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was an anachronism. Founded in 1945 at the end of World War II, NATO was founded by the United States in response to

the Soviet Union’s survival as a Communist state. NATO was the U.S. insurance policy that capitalist ownership and domination of European, Asian, and African economies would continue. This also would ensure the survival of the then-extant global apartheid.

NATO is a collective security pact wherein member states pledge that an attack upon one is an attack against all. Therefore, should the Soviet Union have attacked any European Member State, the United States military shield would be activated. The Soviet response was the Warsaw Pact that maintained a “cordon sanitaire” around the Russian Heartland should NATO ever attack. Thus, the world was broken into blocs which gave rise to the “Cold War.”

Avowed “Cold Warriors” of today still view the world in these terms and, unfortunately, cannot move past Communist China and an amputated Soviet Empire as enemy states of the U.S. whose moves anywhere on the planet are to be contested.

The collapse of the Soviet Union provided an accelerated opportunity to exert U.S. hegemony in an area of previous Russian influence. Africa and the Eurasian landmass containing former Soviet satellite states and Afghanistan and Pakistan along with the many other “stans” of the region, have always factored prominently in the theories of “containment” or “rollback” guiding U.S. policy up to today.

With that as background, last night’s NATO rocket attack on Tripoli is inexplicable. A civilian metropolitan area of around 2 million people, Tripoli sustained 22 to 25 bombings last night, rattling and breaking windows and glass and shaking the foundation of my hotel.

I left my room at the Rexis Al Nasr Hotel and walked outside the hotel and I could smell the exploded bombs. There were local people everywhere milling with foreign journalists from around the world. As we stood there more bombs struck around the city. The sky flashed red with explosions and more rockets from NATO jets cut through low clouds before exploding.

I could taste the thick dust stirred up by the exploded bombs. I immediately thought about the depleted uranium munitions reportedly being used here—along with white phosphorus. If depleted uranium weapons were being used what affect on the local civilians?

Women carrying young children ran out of the hotel. Others ran to wash the dust from their eyes. With sirens blaring, emergency vehicles made their way to the scene of the attack. Car alarms, set off by the repeated blasts, could be heard underneath the defiant chants of the people.

Sporadic gunfire broke out and it seemed everywhere around me. Euronews showed a video of nurses and doctors chanting even at the hospitals as they treated those

Leonard Peltier Remembers Geronimo Pratt

Greetings to all my friends and compatriots,

Everyone it seems knows something about Geronimo Pratt. To all of us, to every human being on the planet, he was a beacon of principle that we should all aspire to emulate. To those directly involved in the struggle, he was one of those gifted, tough as nails warriors who not only had the vision to know what was right, but the strength and courage to stick to his convictions no matter the cost. When he had to be, he was a terror to his enemies.

To me, he was a friend and an ally. I met him in jail of course, so many years ago. He always had so much of my respect.

He gave his all to the fight for liberation, justice, and equality. His effectiveness as a man and a leader can be measured by the extent to which the enemies of justice and equality went in order to try and silence him. It wasn’t enough to frame him for murder. It wasn’t enough to flush twenty-six years of his life down a hell hole. No, they had to take those closest to him as well. But even the simultaneous losses of his freedom and the lives of his wife and unborn child could not break him. All the lies and injustice they could muster could not subdue such greatness. The combined resources of the FBI, Los Angeles police, and the L.A. District Attorney’s office couldn’t defeat him. What those in power did not understand was that Geronimo Ji Jaga Pratt was no ordinary man. He was a giant among men and remained focused during the most trying times. What they did not comprehend was that you can jail the warrior but not his ideas, not his strength, nor his effect on others.

No one would have blamed him if after twenty-six years in jail he wanted to live a private life and age gracefully. True to his nature he continued to be a light in the darkness, fighting for human rights until his death. He gave everything to the issues which he held most dear. In do-

ing so he inspired generations of young people who carry on his legacy.

Perhaps it is fitting that this statement is being prepared on the anniversary of his false conviction being vacated. With that in mind, now that I think about it, this can and should be a time of celebration. Rather than mourn a loss of such magnitude, let us rejoice that we were blessed with such a presence to begin with.

The history of mankind is not written by corrupt governments or their shadow agencies; it is formed by greatness of spirit and strength of mind. This is why Elmer Pratt will always be remembered and honored as a prophet and perhaps even a saint to his people. I know wherever he is, he is speaking truth to power and rallying spirits to his cause.

This was not a spark that died! He was a fuse, igniting a series of events that we have yet to fully understand. I am certain in the fullness of time he will be celebrated while those who opposed him and their descendants will hang their heads in shame. It is this knowledge that makes me smile, and weep tears of great appreciation. So raise your hands, raise your hearts, raise your voices. Give thanks to Wankan Tanka that such a Titan walked amongst us. Never forget this incendiary spirit that opened minds and knocked down walls. Say his name with reverence, for he represents the very best of us all, and in that he will live forever.

In the Spirit of Crazy Horse...Doksha.

Blood of a slave, strength of a panther

BY BARRY CRUMBLEY

Shackled, chained and placed in “captivity” in a 10 by 4 setting (cage) that’s made of nothing more than cold steel and layers upon layers of cement, my oppressors have stripped me completely naked of my freedoms, and placing me on a congested bus with similar images as myself as human cattle only to be first counted and shipped hundreds of miles away in the distance from both my kin and natural habitat as I know it.

...Blood of a slave, strength of a panther...they (my oppressors) have disregarded and forgotten about my good grace and humanity because they themselves are nothing more than beasts!! Constantly being watched in hopes that I will break mentally and physically as well as submit to their torturous mercies, their impatience goes unnoticed by the day as their smiles begin to turn into evil grimaces with razor sharp teeth, and their eyes suddenly turn into slits of a serpent. Determined I hold up and keeping my fear on firm ground, I will not break!! I will not falter neither my dignity, integrity, nor my self-worth...for I am strong in mind, and a warrior in heart, and warriors don’t cry!! Not only that but I’m a man!! What kind of man you ask am I? One who was born with the blood of a slave, and the strength of a panther!

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Self-Awareness

BY EDDIE LANG

How do we as Black Leaders over our domain define ourselves? Some who stand for and with the Black Liberation Organization of Defense claim to be revolutionaries, but most claim and represent oppression, destruction, and total chaos. We must be aware that everything that we say and do affects the nation as a whole. We must separate ourselves from those who fail to truly embrace and represent the true cause of our nation with sincerity. We must separate ourselves from those who consider themselves “gang-bangers” so that we can no longer be looked upon in society as monsters and savages, but as revolutionary warriors. Removing this false “gang” concept from our organization will not be an easy task but it should be of importance so that we will have nothing holding us down from building our nation into an empire.

For the last 30 or more years Black Leaders over our domain have witnessed first hand oppression in its worst form. The government has successfully enslaved our mindframes by keeping us at war with ourselves so that we will not be strong enough to unite and overthrow this unjust system. We are so blind, deaf and dumb that we fail to see that not only are we oppressing our own race but we are also oppressing ourselves! We do this by cherishing the “ghetto superstar” lifestyle instead of striving to be successful in life as doctors, lawyers, etc. It is not impossible for us to gain (regain) our self-dignity but we must first wake up and realize that our enemy is keeping us divided by brainwashing us to believe that there is no solution to our problems. The solution is education, understanding, wisdom, knowledge and self-awareness. Once we find solutions to our everyday problems we must react!

Our organization was developed and designed to stand for a common cause. What is that common cause? To fight off oppression by any means necessary and to unify black men and women so that we can overcome the harsh conditions of confinement that we are forced to endure, based on the fact that the black race is degraded and humiliated not only in our neighbourhoods but in society in general. We must stand up and unite as one and rebuild our sets and organizations to become true revolutionaries and not “gang-bangers” fighting over land that is controlled and owned by our common enemy, the oppressors!

We need to change the mindframes of young brothas and sistas who embrace this nation from the negative conception into a more positive and meaningful clarity. We need to show young brothas and sistas that what they see on T.V. and hear in hip-hop music is a false conception of what we stand for and represent. If we began to teach young brothas and sistas at a young age what revolution is and set examples of how we as revolutionaries react to the op-

pression that we face daily, then we can reverse this cycle from gang-bangers and recruit more black leaders over our domain who can contribute to our nation in a meaningful and constructive way.

We must begin to put our words into action and give our life for this cause. The way to regain our liberation and dignity is through revolution. We must form a new strategy that will educate and guide young brothas’ and sistas’ mindframes to strive to achieve more in life and not continue to accept what they have or do not have. Revolution is a process, a process that involves more than just strategizing. We must begin to put our thoughts into action.

We must offer our brothas and sistas successful ways to override oppression and feed them constructive knowledge to make them more conscious that they (we) are the oppressed. Those of us that must put our freedom at risk in order to feed our families, we must educate and build up our women so that when we do fall they will continue to stay strong. We must show love, honour, and respect to our beautiful black women at all times so that they will never feel forgotten or unloved. For a woman is the backbone and foundation of our existence.

We must stop labeling ourselves as a gang and not accept society labeling us as a gang. We must get the “gangsta” and “thuggish” mentality out of our mindframe. Gangstas end up dead or in prison, revolutionaries end up in legacies and in the hearts, spirits, and mindframe of their comrades. Secondly, we must own up and take responsibility for our actions. This is how we become honest within ourselves which causes us to be honest with those who we come in contact with. Being honest with oneself is one of the keys to really changing. When a person starts to make a real change they listen to what others have to say about them because others see things about us that we cannot. Often times another will say things about us that we refuse to say about ourselves. Change takes a lot of strength and sometimes a lot of time.

Most of all, we must be more conscious of our actions because we stand as a unit that is united and unified as a whole. There is never enough time in the day for the busy and never enough rest for the weary, but a lazy heart can always find the time for nothing. Do not allow yourself to grow lazy, for the heart is what keeps our blood flowing through our veins. Sawoop to all the Damus, political prisoners, and revolutionaries who died in the struggle.

In solidarity through the struggles,

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Wars and Revolutions

BY MUMIA ABU-JAMAL

As NATO targets Libyan leader, Col. Muammar Qadhafi, the cover story, that its bombastic efforts are designed to ‘protect civilians,’ is wearing exceedingly thin.

Daily, NATO’s efforts, including the targeting of Qadhafi for assassination and the killing of members of his family, look like regime change — suspiciously similar to Iraq of several years ago.

As for the assassination charge, Britain’s Sir David Richards, Chief of the Defense staff, answered questions to that effect by declaring, “Absolutely not. It is not allowed under the UN Resolution” (LATUR 94/11, 71). Those assurances were blasted into confetti by leading British politicians.

Indeed, the Iraqi pattern is virtually identical: demonization in the corporate press, no fly zones, bombing aimed at the leader and/or his family, and (once assassination is accomplished) the installation of a compliant, Western-friendly puppet who acquiesces to the looting of his country’s natural resources for foreign profit.

When did the West ever care about Arabs (other than sheikhs or princes, that is)? David Morrison, writing in a recent edition of *Labour & Trade Union Review* answers the question thusly:

It is inconceivable that the Governments of France and Britain and the U.S. embarked on this mission out of concern for the lives of Libyan civilians. In recent years, the U.S. itself has killed hundreds of civilians in Pakistan in drone attacks triggered from the safety of mainland U.S. The slaughter has intensified under the Obama administration and it is still going on. Has France or Britain ever expressed any concern for these civilian killings, carried out regularly by their close ally? Of course not.

Morrison goes on to write of the thousands of Lebanese and Palestinians killed by Israeli bombing in 2006 and 2008-2009, “without any call for a No Fly Zone” from any of the states now leveling Libya.

Morrison notes: “In the case of Lebanon in the Summer of 2006, the U.S. and Britain acted to prolong the conflict, and the killing.”

Clearly, Morrison writes, “another reason, motivates the Western powers other than the suffering or the bombing of Arab civilians, which they, or their allies, do with reckless abandon.

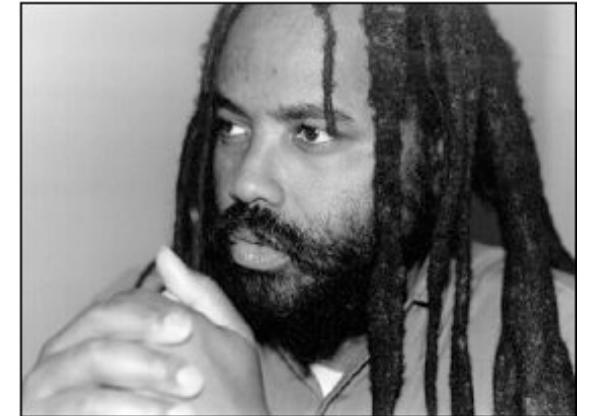
Morrison writes: “Though Qadhafi has accommodated himself to Western interests in recent years, and opposes

Al Qaeda, he has maintained the coherence of the Arab nationalist State he has built, and retained a form of Socialism in its structures. This is intolerable to Western interests, which prefer to see a mess a la Iraq, rather than a strong State pursuing the interests of its people in its own way. The plan, therefore, is to destroy the Libyan State under a humanitarian and democratic guise. It is of no concern to the West that it may be unleashing a bloodbath.

First Iraq, then Libya; that leaves the last Arab Socialist State, Syria. That’s why France and Britain and the U.S. are bombing Libya.”

My sentiments, exactly.

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Action Alert!: Call and Demand Leonard Peltier Be Taken Out of Solitary

On June 27, Leonard Peltier was removed from the general population at USP-Lewisburg and thrown in the hole. He has been struggling with his bad kidneys and diabetes and is now in an even more precarious situation because of his placement in solitary confinement. We urge everyone to call in to Federal Bureau of Prisons to demand he be returned to general population.

Call Thomas Kane, Acting Director Federal Bureau of Prisons 202-307-3198

The Libyan anarchist whose letter we printed in the beginning of this dialogue on the Libyan war section, was clear as well, that foreign intervention was NOT what he and other anti-Qaddafi activists wanted.

The main losers in this war on Libya are all the Libyan people. They are getting killed. Their homes are being bombed. Foreign powers are calling the shots. Even the anti-government rebels have become pawns in an imperialist plot to reassert control over Libya and its oil (Libya has the largest proven oil deposit in all of Africa).

The imperialists also want to use this war in Libya, and later they hope, a conquered Libya, under the direct or indirect control of the U.S. and Europe, as an example to all the people in North Africa and the Middle East, that U.S. imperialism is all powerful and each country better make its own deal of how to live under imperialist control. Whether such a sorry situation comes to be is also uncertain. What is certain is that the struggle for freedom and justice, independence and human dignity will continue. And the struggle against U.S. and western imperialism has to be a central part of any real liberation struggle.

Let me conclude this analysis by clearly stating my personal leanings and questions on Libya, since I have been told I have gotten this situation wrong.

I have long admired and quite often supported Libya, in its domestic and foreign policies, under the leadership of Muammar Qaddafi. This is particularly true from the overthrow of the Libyan king in 1969, till around 2000. In 1969, millions and millions of young people, especially, were in the streets of America opposing war, racism and injustice.

We supported many liberation struggles, especially Vietnam, Palestine and the struggles in Africa. When junior officers overthrew the Libyan king, kicked out western bases and nationalized the oil fields, Qaddafi was admired and supported by activists and revolutionaries worldwide.

In the 1970s and 80s, when Libya was a loud voice and concrete material supporter of liberation struggles around the world, Libya under Qaddafi was saluted. This doesn't mean that I agreed with or supported all of what Qaddafi did, but overall he was seen as an anti-imperialist and popular nationalist leader. A lot of oil wealth was used to uplift Libyans. The role, rights and opportunities for women were greatly expanded. A firm and ongoing effort was established to keep the government and state of Libya secular. These policies developed and modified over the years, but remained consistent until the early 2000s, when a policy shift toward the U.S. and west was made by the Qaddafi government.

After Bush attacked Iraq, Libya capitulated to U.S. imperialist demands and pressure. This was disheartening for me

(and many others) to see. A continuing weakness in Qaddafi's Libya is that it never had a popular socialist revolution. Until the early 2000s, it had mostly been an internally progressive and somewhat socialistic country, and an anti-imperialist country. It never had significant mass revolutionary formations and organs of power, and therefore too much power has always rested in the central leadership and government.

Certainly having the same leader in power for 40 years will be the source of some internal opposition. I do have criticism of the Qaddafi government and especially some of its policies of the past 8 years. I do understand, like the letter from the Libyan anarchist shows, that there are legitimate activists, radicals and revolutionaries in Libya who feel that the removal of Qaddafi is necessary. I don't know how large a percentage of the rebellion they are. By all media accounts, the rebels and their leadership are mostly comprised of exiles, pro-imperialist and pro-capitalist elements: people who deserted the Qaddafi government for tribal, regional or personal interests, and Islamic fundamentalists.

I do not feel it is my place to tell the Libyan people, the rebels or pro-government forces, how to organize their nation and move it forward. Still, it does seem to me that a positive path forward for Libya and its people is the AU plan. First of all Africans should be primarily responsible for their own people, countries and continent.

The call for an immediate cease-fire, and an end to ALL foreign military action and a withdrawal of all foreign military forces, followed by humanitarian aid to all parts of Libya and then an AU sponsored peace effort of all factions of Libyans, is what I think would actually help Libya and its people.

Imperialism, U.S. and other western interference will neither benefit nor help Libya in any sense—now or in the future. Libyans need to be given the space and forum to decide their own collective future. It is their country, their land, their future. We in the west can support or criticize who we want, but the principle of self determination for all people and nations demands that Libyans be allowed to work out their own problems and future.

Imperialism has no legal, moral or ethical right, no place or justified interest in Libya. It only seeks to rape, pillage and assert control over Libya, Libyans and their natural resources.

For us revolutionaries, activists and progressive people in the United States, we do have the right to examine, critique and support the various forces in the Libyan civil war. That said, we must be very careful and clear to not support the U.S. bourgeoisie, the U.S. government and U.S. imperialism overall in its war against Libya.

On Being Anti-Racist

BY CHRISTOPHER GONZALEZ

I am anti-racist. What this means is that I am against the beliefs that any race is superior to another and that hatred and hostility promoted towards a person or people because of their ethnicity or because of the colour of their skin, is immoral and unjustifiable.

A common misconception that I come across when I tell people that I am anti-racist, is that I am speaking solely against white supremacists. While I have declared war on some groups such as racist skinheads, this is not because they are white, but because their crimes are atrocious.

I recognize in its entirety the fact that there are many racists amongst people of colour, but since I am ignorant to, and have not had any experience with any groups made up of "minorities" that dedicate themselves to promoting racism – I must deal with people of colour on an individual basis.

I do not judge based on colour (or lack of), but judge based on conduct and best believe that I will just as quickly hit a fellow "minority" in the mouth for using racial slurs towards whites in my presence as I would a nazi for using derogatory terms towards people of colour.

I don't care who your hate is aimed at when it stems from racist ideology. There is nothing one can say that justifies hating an entire people because of the ethnic group they were born into. Such prejudice is absolutely fucking ridiculous. That is not an opinion that is fact. I defy anyone to prove to me that there is anything at all intelligent in racist theory...

I have heard all the excuses. Everything, from the belief that some groups are "god's chosen people" and the rest are scum, to the weak excuse that the faulty actions of some justify the discrimination of the whole, and from time to time a racist will be honest and say that either they were raised to believe that shit, so it is "natural" or that they are simply fucked up in the head and hate everything to do with peoples of a certain race for reasons they don't know or care to examine...

I must also point out that I feel that there is a difference between "nationalism" and racism. I personally haven't any serious issues against nationalism. There are some who love their people and believe that it is their duty to strive for the betterment of their own before others, and though I would rather see a world of unity than one of pessimism, I cannot honestly say there is anything "wrong" with focusing your efforts on helping a minority rather than the majority.

What is wrong is taking this a step further by saying that while your goal is to uplift your own, you also have to bring down all those outside your race. Once that line has been crossed, a threat has been established and an enemy revealed.

I am a supporter of humanitarianism and an enemy to all those who have no regard for human life. Racists are such enemies. They wish for the elimination of all men, women, and children whose only crimes are to have been born from different people than they.

I believe that all people should be free to live as they see fit, though I likewise believe everyone must face the consequences of their actions – good or bad – so it is that one should not expect me to be passive when the motives of another threatens my well-being or that of any other...

While there are those who have confrontations with their conscience about their beliefs and actions, and even though they may have potential in learning the truth, a racist is a racist and therefore an enemy and shall be treated as such until the day comes that they renounce their delusional and damaging ways and show some remorse.

I encourage them to do as much and more, but until then I will battle these haters with a frenzy whether on the yard or in the free world.

For me, being anti-racist isn't just saying I disagree with racism, it is actually standing against those who promote it.

Though I have a humanist heart, I am incapable of showing haters my love...

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Transitions Part One: Casualties of War

BY SALEEM, New Afrikan Liberation Front Pennsylvania

I've enjoyed reading the issues of 4struggleMag sent my way and have noticed that a lot of imprisoned comrades from all over the country (and world) read and contribute to it. Many come from experiences similar to mine, i.e. gangs, so I decided to put together a 2-article series called "transitions" that breaks down the transition from gang member to revolutionary activists.

"War is an extension of politics by different means"
- Clausewitz, Military Tactician

"We have to face the fact that the whole problem is really the Blacks. The key is to devise a system that recognizes this while not appearing to." —U.S. President Nixon, 1970

"Killing us one by one. In one way or another Amerikkka will find a way to eliminate the problem one by one. The problem is the troublesome Black youth of the ghetto. And one by one we are being wiped off the face of the earth at an alarming rate. Niggas what are we gonna do? Walk blind into a lie? Or fight and die if we must like niggas? Amerikkka! I charge you with robbery, for robbing me of my history. I charge you with false imprisonment for keeping me trapped in the project. Nightmare, that's what I am, Amerikkka's nightmare. I am what you made me. The hate and evil you gave me. You should be scared. You should be running. You should be trying to silence me. Just as you rose, you will fall, by my hands!" —Words of Wisdom, Tupac Shakur

In all the hype surrounding the so-called "War on Terror" abroad, many people are blind to a war that has been waged on the homefront by the government for over 40 years within Amerikkkan cities. It is a quiet war with many nameless and faceless victims. It is the longest declared war in Amerikkkan history. It is the so-called "War on Drugs," a war that in reality is being waged against youth of color and which benefits white conservative and rural Amerikkka, you know those people who want to see "niggers" put back in their place and "spics" and "wetbacks" deported to Mexico or whatever country they came from. The battlefields of this war are the "hoods" and "barrios" of Amerikkka. Young blacks and latinos hanging out on corners in their "hoods" are the targets. Young black and latino gangbangers have been identified as ruthless terrorists long before Al-Qaeda and in the eyes of law enforcement have terrorized Amerikkkan cities long before September 11. They were wanted "dead or alive" long before Osama bin Laden. Within the borders of Amerikkka, youth of color are "it" in a no holds barred game being played out from the East Coast to the West Coast.

When former U.S. president Richard Nixon stood on the White House Lawn in 1970 and declared a "War on Drugs," his declaration placed youth of color within the crosshairs of law enforcement. This war on youth of color was declared because at the time black people, in particular militant youth of color, had developed a revolutionary consciousness and were seeking to overthrow the racist political system under which they had been raised.

The government struggled with how to crush the militancy of the youth without appearing to uphold the racist and exploitative political system the youth were rebelling against. A war on drugs was launched to give the government the justification to flood communities of color with police, pass harsh sentencing laws and connect crime and criminality with youth of color as a means of imprisoning them en masse. The government used the white public's fear of Black militancy to garner public support to launch its campaign against youth of color.

What have been the results of this War on Drugs? In 1970, the nation's prison population was under 200,000. Today the nation's prison population numbers over 2.3 million; the overwhelming majority are prisoners of color. The war on drugs has turned the United States into a Police State.

In 1970, the revolutionary prisoner and writer George L. Jackson wrote in his book *Blood in my Eye* that in the future the streets in Black communities would be patrolled by armored personnel carriers and the sky's buzzing with military helicopters as soldiers cordon off whole neighborhoods conducting search and destroy missions to murder or apprehend young Blacks. George Jackson predicted these search and destroy missions would be conducted to hunt down Black revolutionaries and his analysis was dismissed by many critics as the ranting of a revolutionary extremist. Yet everything he predicted has happened. The only difference is the Black revolutionary is not the target of these operations. Youth of color are, in particular, youth of color in urban neighborhoods that suffer from poverty and drug addiction.

The designation of youth of color as the enemy has allowed police commandos trained by the Amerikkkan military's special forces to patrol our hoods in black ninja suits with ski masks jumping out on young men in poverty stricken and drug infested hoods to harass, strip and humiliate. A young brotha can't even walk down his own strip without a bunch of peckerwoods in black jumpsuits jumping out of unmarked vehicles and slamming him to the ground searching his body and person because he fits a "profile": young, male and dark skinned. The enemy in the eyes of law enforcement.

Hooded SWAT Teams roam our hoods like death squads kicking in doors and disappearing brothas into the prison system or pumping a young brotha full of holes because he made a suspicious move or because he was tired of being

group's solidarity with the Libyan rebels."

Family, clan and tribal ties are very significant for many Libyans. It has been reported that some eastern tribes, or sections of them, have aligned with the rebellion in Benghazi. Further reports say that hundreds, and perhaps up to 6000 soldiers, have defected from the government and joined the rebels.

And then of course, as we often see on U.S. TV news, there are dentists, students and clerks who have dropped their books and tools and become volunteer rebel soldiers. Many of these grass roots rebels, like the unarmed demonstrators protesting in early February, are trying to bring change to their country and do NOT want foreign powers to come in and take over their struggle and dictate how it will proceed, who will lead it and what type of country Libya will be if they are successful in overthrowing the Qaddafi government. They are all part of what is now an ongoing civil war in Libya.

How this war will develop and conclude is uncertain. What is certain is that major western imperialist powers have directly intervened and are now the major factor and force on the rebel side.

When Barack Obama announced the United States and NATO attack against Libya, he made a big point about not putting any U.S. boots on the ground in this war. He also said the U.S. government was not going to arm and militarily supply the rebels. As it turned out, and was reported in the *NY Times* on 3/31/11, "In early March President Obama signed a secret finding authorizing the CIA to provide arms and support to Libyan rebels."

Since then it has been widely reported that CIA and special forces troops have been in Libya meeting with rebel troops and marking targets for missile and bomb attacks. Even before this was revealed, it was reported that British SAS troops were also in Libya organizing rebel troops and marking targets for bombs and missiles. The boots are already on the ground. Meanwhile, the French, and then the British, recently sent in attack helicopters to go along with the U.S. and NATO jet fighters, bombers, missiles and unmanned drones.

The official publicly announced U.S. cost for this war is \$1 billion as of mid-June. Actual costs, including what it costs to keep an aircraft carrier and its group off the coast of Libya, the aircrafts that fly in from Italy and other European bases, the drone flights, etc., are not even included in the \$1 billion figure. Wars cost money and this new war in Libya, even in the midst of financial cut backs and budget problems in the U.S., is no exception.

The British Sunday Telegraph reported over a month ago (May 15), that NATO had by then flown 2700 bombing sorties, over 57 per day. Since then the war has escalated

in several respects. The English press reported in late May, that General Sir David Richards, head of the British Army has called for and ordered a new level of U.S. and NATO attacks. Richards called for NATO states to intensify the war by directly targeting the Libyan government, rather than protecting Libyan civilians, as specified in the United Nations Resolution 1973. Within days of his remarks, the bombing of Tripoli was intensified. The British general ordered an increase in the range of targets to be hit, specifically including Libya's infrastructure. The new bombing has already hit telecommunications facilities, ports, government buildings, power grids, fuel depots, schools and hospitals.

I really think, as Americans, we should be ashamed and disgusted that we have allowed our government to get us into this third simultaneous war. The government has tried to diminish the reality of this war against Libya, by calling it a NATO war and an air campaign and that the U.S. only has a back up role now and so on. The reality is we are bombing a wider range of facilities and killing, wounding and ruining more lives than when we started this war.

The government is also trying to present this latest war of choice, as a killing field a lot of the world supports. This is not true. Since March 11, all 53 countries in Africa, are on record, through the African Union (AU), as "calling for noninterference by foreign military forces, the adoption of an immediate cease-fire, the protection of migrant workers from other parts of the continent, swift distribution of humanitarian relief to people in need, and safe passage inside and outside of Libya."

India, Brazil and China are all on record as not supporting this war. Even Germany didn't go along with its NATO partners on this war.

People and activist and revolutionary organizations around the world have come out and strongly denounced this imperialist war. Just a small sample of some of these organizations are: Worker's World Party, Free Arab Voice, World Federation of Trade Unions, Nation of Islam, Communist Party of Canada, Communist Party of Australia, Revolutionary Communist Group (Britain), International Communist League and its U.S. branch, the Spartacist League and many, many more organizations.

The US/NATO war against Libya is an imperialist war that all progressive, anti-war, anti-imperialist and left revolutionaries should oppose and work to end. The natural history and development within Libya, including the civil war which began before the imperialist intervention, has been distorted and polluted by the foreign attack. Whether the people, regional forces, tribes and classes of Libya, are able to resolve their contradictions is unclear and probably not likely, because of the imperialist intervention. Whether the Qaddafi government and an independent Libya survive is also unclear and not at all certain.

it was at this point that the U.S. and NATO launched their war against Libya.

Let us now look more specifically at some of the elements who make up the Libyan rebels. First, let me say, I have no more, and probably less, access to information than many of you 4sm readers. My information comes from the bourgeois corporate press (*New York Times*, etc.), the Left press (Marxist, anarchist, etc.), and some information from comrades outside (U.S. and overseas).

There is no question some people in Libya want major changes in their country, including change in the top leadership. There were some public protests in Tripoli and Benghazi in early February. There were some reported clashes with cops and demonstrators, but no reports of mass shootings or killings. In fact a front page *NY Times* article on February 25 described how different Libya is from other Arab countries facing rebellions: "Unlike the Facebook enabled youth rebellions, the insurrection here has been led by people who are more mature and who have been actively opposing the regime for some time." The article described how arms had been smuggled across the border with Egypt for weeks, allowing the rebellion to "escalate quickly and violently in little more than a week."

In the early weeks of what had already become an armed rebellion in the eastern areas of Libya, the National Front for the Salvation of Libya (NFSL), was often quoted and described as being a leading force in the uprising. Earlier in this analysis, I explained how the CIA had set up the NFSL in 1981, including training a military force that was

based in Egypt.

Also widely quoted was the "National Conference for Libyan Opposition," which was a group organized by the NFSL, and the "Libyan Constitutional Union." This latter group advocates for a return of the deposed monarchy in Libya. In fact the flag of the Libyan rebels, which is often seen in U.S. news clips, is the Senoussi clan flag that was used by the Libyan king, before the monarchy was overthrown in 1969.

All these CIA sponsored and/or U.S. or British based exile groups were incorporated into the Libyan "National Transitional Council" (NTC). Many long time U.S. residents were sent to Libya to be leaders of the NTC. A top military leader is Khalifa Heftah, a retired general from Virginia. A teacher named Ali Tarhouni, who had been living in the U.S. for 36 years, teaching economics at the University of Washington, was recently sent over to become the finance and oil minister in Benghazi, the rebel capital. France, Kuwait and Qatar have recognized the NTC as the "legitimate" representative of the Libyan people. The U.S. government, NATO and others also meet and work with the NTC.

Another element within this rebel uprising are fundamentalist Islamist fighters. Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, which the CIA lists as the world's largest Qaeda branch, has periodically launched attacks against the Libyan government even before this rebellion. In March, the *NY Times* quoted a report by Andrew Exum of the Center for a New American Security, stating, "Eastern Libya, the locus of the rebellion, sent more foreign fighters per capita to join the Iraqi insurgency, fighting against U.S. troops, than any other region of the Arab world." Many of these experienced Al Qaeda fighters returned to Libya and rejoined the battle against the Qaddafi government.

For years, even before 9/11/01, the Qaddafi government had recognized the danger that Islamist militants posed for Libya and its secular socialist leaning government. Islamist militants were not tolerated in Libya and many were arrested and imprisoned. On March 17, 2011, the *NY Times* reported that Abu Musab Abdul Wadid, the leader of Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, stated that he "reaffirmed his

harassed by a bunch of racist police playing Rambo in the hood. To add insult to injury, cops brag about the deadly tactics of harassment they get away with in our hoods. One SWAT Team member in an interview boasted:

"We're into saturation patrols in hot spots. We do a lot of our work with the SWAT because we have bigger guns. We send out two, two-to-four man cars, we look for minor violations and do jump outs either on people on the street or in automobiles. After we jump out the second car provides periphery cover with a large display of weapons. We're sending a message; if the shooting don't stop, we'll shoot someone. —Excerpt from "Militarizing American Police," 1997.

Why don't these SWAT Team death squads do "jump outs" in white neighborhoods? The answer is because in Amerikkka black life still possesses little value compared to white life and Obama's election as president didn't change this. If police kill a white youth in cold blood there is massive outrage. As a matter of fact I can't remember the last time a young white was shot 14 times by police. Yet when police pump an unarmed brotha full of 14, 20, or even 44 holes in cold blood it is viewed as a tragic accident and the police are given the benefit of doubt. The murdered victims are viewed as "collateral damage" in the war on drugs and the SWAT Team commando death squads that patrol our hoods looking for trouble are considered a necessary consequence of the war on drugs. The war on drugs has turned black and latino neighborhoods into combat zones and free fire zones making the inhabitants fair game while the police have unchecked power to do as they please without accountability, consequence or repercussion.

When the police brutality and high tech lynching in the courts have replaced the night time lynching of the Klan is it any wonder why some brothas have decided to hold court in the street in a trial of fire? In Philly, 9 police officers have been killed in the past 2 years by ex-prisoners who have decided to go down shooting rather than be shot or rot away in Pennsylvania's racist Department of Corrections. Brothas know they ain't got nothing coming in the racist courts. In Oakland, California, a brotha on parole and facing a return to prison for a parole violation went down in a hail of gunfire, taking 4 SWAT members with him to the grave, rather than being another victim of the politics of mass imprisonment. What is it inside these prison kamps that create this type of attitude in brothas released from prison?

A trip inside any one of the maximum security prisons in the United States is like traveling 50 years back in time, especially if that maximum security prison is located in rural Amerikkka (where the majority of them are). Prisoners of color step into a white rural culture that is steeped in racism. They encounter red neck prison guards who patrol the prison with Amerikkkan flags on their shoulders who believe that they are serving the national interest and performing a

patriotic duty by oppressing prisoners of color. Day in and day out prisoners are humiliated as a matter of policy; they are not recognized as men or for that matter even humans. In casting youth of color as public enemies the state has created a climate of fear within the public that justifies the expansion of the prison system and more police to prevent restless and ruthless youth of color from invading the suburbs, rural Amerikkka and disturbing white Amerikkka's way of life. Casting youth of color as enemies of the state also allows prison guards to believe they do not have to respect the basic rights of prisoners which breeds a culture of racism, brutality and unaccountability with the prison system.

The courts have slammed the door shut in prisoners' faces, making it almost impossible to overturn an unjust and disproportionate sentence or file complaints about prison conditions. The courts have adopted a "hands off doctrine" when it comes to prisoners' legal appeals. Faced with the injustices of the War on Drugs the language of the infamous U.S. Supreme Court's 1857 Dred Scott legal opinion rings relevant today: "People of Afrikan descent are not and cannot be considered citizens of the United States and the blackman has no rights which the whiteman is bound to respect." For those of us imprisoned in rural white communities those words sound as if they were uttered yesterday and represent the mindset of prison guards and administrators.

The fact is the ideology of white supremacy is most aggressive and blatant behind the walls and gun towers of Amerikkkan prisons.

What hurts most is that brothas subjected to the manifest racism and injustice behind these prison walls continue to leave these kamps and return for the same bullshit. To add insult to our injury, the same peckerwood guards that proudly wear that Amerikkkan flag on their shoulder and hold us hostage in these prison kamps are the cousins and ideological relatives of the racist peckerwood police that patrol our hoods. The same brothas that go home from these prison kamps chasing drug profits, destroying our hoods and humiliating our sistas are the profit for rural white Amerikkka because every time they are returned to prison their imprisonment bankrolls the employment of these racist prison guards to maintain the prison plantations scattered throughout rural Amerikkka.

The so-called gangstas are being tricked out by law enforcement in the servitude of white supremacy and don't even recognize it or refuse to recognize it because if they recognized it they would have to take a stand and fight against it. Gangstas don't want to challenge the police, yeah they don't like the police and occasionally defy the police but they ain't ready to go toe to toe with the police. There comes a time when we must draw the line. We have to understand what this war on drugs is hitting for. It is against "us" for the advancement of the racist capitalist state.



Our imprisonment funds the maintenance of white supremacy at the expense of black and latino advancement and empowerment. When we recognize this is a war, then we must act accordingly and stop selling ourselves short and stop selling out ourselves and our hoods.

We have to start putting up some kind of resistance to this one-sided war that has us constantly on the other side of the gun and being led en masse into prison kamps. Regardless of where we are from, this beast has bitten us all and it doesn't discriminate when it comes to inflicting pain and imprisonment on us and our families.

What is needed is for us to take a pledge, a prisoner pledge that commits us to not returning to our hoods and poisoning them, disrespecting our sistas and people and not snitching or informing for law enforcement agencies that are the frontline stormtroopers in a state sponsored war being waged on youth of color.

We can't poison or terrorize our hoods on the one hand then complain when the people snitch or inform on us. Even a dog has enough sense not to shit where it sleeps yet we destroy our own territory in the name of representing.

It is time someone else became casualties in this war and maybe then we'll put an end to this so-called war and its tragic consequences for youth of color. Brothas need to start putting in real work, put down the bullshit street novels and drop the weak style gangsta mentality that always has us ducking for cover.

Pick up Comrade George Jackson's books and recognize his saying that: "The soldier (of our people) has to be the baddest strongest of our kind: calm, sure, self-possessed and completely familiar with the fact that the only thing that stands between black men and a violent death are the fast break, quick draw and snap shot."

—Comrade George L. Jackson, *Blood In My Eye*

In Transitions Part 2 I will discuss the process of transforming the criminal mentality into a revolutionary mentality and most importantly, what must be done once you make that transition.

Tarantelle

BY KELLY PFUG-BACK

Every day she pulls my body from the ground and wrings the water from my clothes anew, cradling my head in her hands when she takes me to the river and lowers me in. I am born again, she tells me. Its surface is troubled, broken where she wades.

She wants me to forget my name and press my cheek into her belly's smooth alter. She wants to wrap the bones of fish into my winding sheet and sow me in the ground like a seed, my skull crowning from the dirt once the frost has thawed.

In her kitchen she smooths my hair with a fishbone comb; I close my eyes and I can feel the rats walk across me with their sharp feet, naked tails gripping the catwalks of my arms for balance. She folds paper and cuts the shapes of people, unfolding accordion-pleated garlands into a fanning arc between her hands. Every day they rise from dust to destroy each other again; they coat the ground in their white ash, settling while she paints crude animal shapes on my body with her set of stinging brushes. They paw at me with their blunt hooves and I feel nothing, braying panicked screams when they bound across my abdomen away from the candle flame's paraffin torch.

My shadow dances a death-tarantelle under a canopy of powerline transmission towers, the frost-hard dirt furrows cracking the soles of my feet like old leather. Small leaves have grown where the callous rends and seeps my blood; It rains in fat teardrops from the fanned tips of my fingers, beading like sweat on my skin where the flames curl and lick.

She wants to see me lined in shadows; in the cut-up shade of her broom-bristle wings. She wants to press me through the filter of her laced fingers and hold my face while I drown, choked in pearls; my blood's furnace quelled to a snuffed-out wick.

Another aspect of structural reform was the end of restrictions on imports. Foreign companies were granted licenses to export to Libya. Products from all over the world flooded the previously protected Libyan market. This was a disaster for Libya's factories, and led to thousands of more job losses. Over the past 5 to 7 years, rising prices, the end of subsidies for necessities, and increasing unemployment has led to poverty and dissatisfaction among growing sections of Libyan people. This has set the stage for a larger and broader opposition to the Libyan government, by its people, than ever before under Qaddafi's leadership and government.

Let us turn to the events and changes that have been happening in North Africa and the Middle East since the beginning of this year. Social upheaval and liberation struggle began in Tunisia, which led to the overthrow of western imperialist backed strong man Ben Ali. The following month, U.S. imperialist backed Hosni Mubarak was pushed out of power in Egypt. Social struggle is still very intense in both of these countries. The changes, leadership, and type of system that will emerge are not yet clear in either country.

What is clear is that U.S. imperialism (western imperialism overall), suffered a serious loss of power and ability to manipulate events, economies, leaders and entire countries, with the removal of Ben Ali in Tunisia, and especially Mubarak in Egypt. For decades, U.S. policy in the Middle East has been centered on support for the Israeli state; support for and control of Egypt, with the largest population and military machine in the Arab world; and support for and major influence in the Saudi Arabian kingdom and its huge pool of oil. Fundamentally, it is all about the oil in the entire Middle East. It is about who controls the oil, the governments in the region and the huge profits made by the oil companies.

U.S. imperialism never had complete control of all of the countries in this region, but with support for and control of Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Israel, they also controlled or manipulated Jordan, Kuwait, Qatar, Yemen, Bahrain, Oman, United Arab Emirates, Tunisia and Morocco. Turkey is a NATO member and usually supports all U.S. policy in the Middle East. Iraq was a problem until the U.S. invaded and occupied that country. Iran, Algeria, Lebanon, Syria and Libya have not allowed western imperialism to directly dominate or control them. Sometimes these countries have opposed and resisted western imperialist political and economic policies and plans.

For decades, the U.S. government has treated these countries and their leaders as obstacles and often as enemies. This is especially true for Libya, Syria and Iran.

When the people in Tunisia and Egypt threw out their long time dictators, it left U.S. imperialism scrambling to retain some control over this entire region. As the peoples'

legitimate thirst for greater freedom and needed change rippled across North Africa and the Middle East, western powers saw the possibility of new ways to attack and try to overthrow those governments and leaders who had long opposed imperialism. Recent events demonstrate this is especially true in Iran, Syria and particularly Libya.

The people in every country have the right and often the real need to push for reform and even total revolutionary change. We see this happening all across the Arab, Mid-East and North African region. This is a natural and positive development, and activist and progressive people around the world look with interest and support to our sisters and brothers who are trying to bring real change to their lives and lands.

It is the right of any oppressed people to oppose and organize against their leaders if basic needs and rights are not being met. It is not the right of imperialist governments to manipulate, exploit and outright intervene in the internal affairs of another country while personally and politically demonizing their leaders.

Imperialist western powers are trying to regain control of Egypt and Tunisia. They are also trying to take advantage of peoples' legitimate demands for change in Libya and Syria, by trying to overthrow those leaders and governments who they have been after for years. We can see this by the drastically different actions the U.S. government has taken towards the governments in Bahrain and Yemen, versus their actions toward Syria and especially Libya. The Bahrain government has repeatedly beaten, imprisoned, shot and killed unarmed public demonstrators. The U.S. has said almost nothing about this and continues to support the Bahrain government. The Yemeni government has also repeatedly attacked and fired on unarmed protesters. Recently there have been more armed clashes between government and rebel forces in Yemen. Here too the U.S. government's response has been mild and they continue to work with the Yemeni regime.

In Syria, repressed unarmed demonstrations and armed clashes between government and anti-government forces have led to U.S. and European sanctions against the government and calls for the president to step down.

In Libya, early in February, there was about a week of public demonstrations that were repressed, but there were no large scale deadly attacks or mass shootings of unarmed protesters.

Within a week, the Libyan opposition took up weapons and it became an armed rebellion between government and anti-government forces. As the Libyan government rather quickly moved to regain control of Benghazi and some other eastern towns, a cry went up from the U.S. and NATO powers that large numbers of Libyan civilians would soon be massacred—but NO massacres actually occurred. And

colonialists that was centered in the eastern part of Libya around Benghazi.

Italy carried out a brutal occupation and colonization of Libya from 1911 to 1943. With the defeat of the Italian fascists in WWII, Britain, France and the U.S. took control. In 1951, these imperialists created an independent Libyan state by joining together three distinct regions: Cyrenaica in the east, Tripolitania in the west and Fezzan in the south.

The British set up a Libyan king, King Idriss, who was from the Senoussi clan of eastern Libya, to rule this country. The King allowed Britain, France and the U.S. to retain their military bases and corporate interests in Libya. Britain kept its bases and political dominance in the east, bordering its former colony of Egypt. France kept its military and its dominance in the southwest, near its colonies of Algeria and Tunisia. The U.S. military kept Wheelus Air Base outside Tripoli to dominate the entire Mediterranean area. In 1955, oil was discovered in Libya, and these three imperialist powers took significant control of the entire oil industry.

This imperialist plunder lasted until 1969, when a nationalist, Pan-Arab, revolutionary-minded group of junior military officers, led by a then 27 year old Muammar el-Qaddafi, overthrew the King, his government and system. Libya changed its name from the Kingdom of Libya to the Libyan Arab Republic and later to the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. All foreign military bases were shut down. The oil industry was nationalized, along with many commercial interests that had been under U.S. and British control.

Muammar Qaddafi and the other military officers did not come to power in a revolutionary upheaval of the masses. It was not a socialist revolution. Libya was and still is a class society, with extensive inherited wealth and old privileges. But, Libya was no longer under foreign domination.

Many progressive changes were carried out and a lot of the oil wealth was used to steadily uplift the standard of living of the Libyan people. Most basic necessities—food, housing, fuel, healthcare and education (all the way through college level)—became subsidized or totally free. Within 20 years, Libya had the highest Human Development Index ranking in Africa—a UN measurement of life expectancy, educational attainment and adjusted real income. Conditions for women changed positively and dramatically. Women entered various professional ranks from doctors to teachers to military and security roles.

On the international level, Libya became a firm anti-imperialist voice and supporter of liberation struggles from South Africa, to Palestine, to Ireland, the ETA and the Basque land, and even quietly supporting revolutionary forces in Europe like the Italian Red Brigades, Direct Action in

France and the Red Army Fraction in West Germany.

Throughout these years, the U.S. carried out numerous assassination and coup attempts against the Qaddafi regime. The CIA financed and helped organize armed opposition groups. In 1981, they helped set up the National Front for the Salvation of Libya (NFSL), which maintained a military force, called the “Libyan National Army,” in Egypt near the Libyan border. The NFSL and its military units were reported, in the international media, as being involved in armed confrontations with government forces in the early days (Feb.) of the present Libyan uprising. We'll come back to the question of who some of the Libyan rebels are later in this analysis.

In 1986, Ronald Reagan sent 66 U.S. jets to bomb Tripoli and Benghazi. They bombed Qaddafi's house and killed his 2 year old daughter. This is tragically similar to May 1st of 2011, when NATO fired 4 precision missiles in the home of Seif el Arab el-Qaddafi (one of Muammar's sons), killing him and three of Muammar's grand children: a 4 year old granddaughter; a 1 year old grandson; a 2 year old granddaughter.

A lot of people have and continue to die in Libya, up to this very moment. This includes babies, children, non-combatants old and young. One dead child is as sad and precious as any other. American bombs, NATO bombs, British and French bombs and missiles are doing most of the killing. This is the reality of imperialism, the reality when imperialist powers attack a country, under whatever pretext.

In the 1980s and especially the 90s, the U.S. government was increasingly successful in isolating Libya with severe economic sanctions and continuing efforts to destabilize the government and economy. After the massive U.S. attack and invasion of Iraq, Libya gave in to U.S. demands. Qaddafi opened up and turned over his entire nuclear weapons development program to the United States Pentagon. He also offered to assist the U.S. in its “war on terror.” Libya had to accept responsibility for the Lockerbie plane bombing and pay \$2.7 billion in indemnities. Additionally, in order for U.S. sanctions to be lifted, Libya had to open its markets and “restructure” its economy.

IMF officials descended on Libya with mandatory programs. Although Libya did not have a foreign debt (it had a 27 billion dollar surplus that year), the IMF prescribed the same measures they impose on every developing country. The IMF demanded an end to government subsidies of basic necessities, in order to undermine the public's support for the regime. Libya was told to privatize 36 state owned companies, including steel mills, cement plants, food factories, truck and bus assembly lines and state farms. This left thousands of workers jobless. Libya also had to sell a 60 percent stake in the state-owned oil company, Tamoil Group and privatize its flour mills.

Running Down the Walls 2011

Los Angeles

On Sunday, July 31, 2011 at 10 a.m., the Los Angeles Anarchist Black Cross will host a 5k run/walk/jog/bike around the festive paths of MacArthur Park. This run/walk/jog/bike is designed to raise much-needed funds for the ABCF Warchest program and Revolutionary Autonomous Communities (RAC).

We are attempting to reach the goal of \$3,500 with the run. Funds will be divided between the two programs:

ABCF Warchest: The ABCF Warchest program is now almost 17 years old; funds for the Warchest are divided and distributed through monthly stipends to political prisoners who receive little or no financial aid. Prisoners use this money to cover the basic necessities of everyday living. These funds have been used by prisoners to pay for stamps, shoes, clothes, as well as assisting their families with what little they can. www.abcf.net/la

Revolutionary Autonomous Communities (RAC): In the aftermath of the May Day 2007 police riot targeting migrant workers who dared stand up for our human rights, members of the MacArthur Park area and others joined together to support those with no papers and those with no means. RAC-LA came forward to aid the community in self-organizing such that with the help of each other we might make an inhuman way of living a bit more bearable while at the same time acquiring the means to one day transform this system into an image of our own humanity. revolutionaryautonomouscommunities.blogspot.com

Solidarity Runs: Every year, prisoners and supporters of political prisoners organize solidarity runs with Running Down the Walls. In sync with each other, we will collectively pound the pavement with our feet and bike tires as we exhibit our strength and stamina as examples of our tireless effort to free our imprisoned comrades. In past years we had runs in Albuquerque (NM), Arcata (CA), Ashland, (OR), Bellefonte (PA), Boston (MA), Connecticut River, Dannemora (NY), Denver, (CO), Detroit (MI), Elmore (AL), Guelph (CAN), Inez (KY), Los Angeles (CA), Marion (IL), Mexico City (MEX), New York City (NY), USP Navosta (TX), Pelican Bay (CA), Phoenix (AZ), Sandstone (MN), Tucson (AZ), USP Tucson (AZ), and Guelph and Toronto (CAN).

Support the Struggle: We must remember that many of those arrested in the past or present are not far from us. Many of them were and are community and labor activists, queer, and environmental activists; people who decided to speak out against various forms of oppression and paid the price of their freedom for their actions. We must remember

that any one of these people could have at one time stood beside us in a demonstration, at a speak-out, or even at an organizing meeting. At any given moment it could be us who finds ourselves in this situation, so it is imperative that we ensure that a strong enough community of support exists for these people as well as ourselves. The strength of our movement is determined by how much we support our fallen comrades. As Anarchist and former POW Ojore Lutalo says, “Any Movement that does not support its political internees is a sham movement.” So please help us help them! Help us help you!

Donate to the Warchest: Send funds directly to the Los Angeles ABCF (PO Box 11223, Whittier, CA 90603) or to the Philadelphia ABCF (PO Box 42129, Philadelphia, PA 19101) Make checks or money orders out only to Tim Fasnacht.

Guelph

On the last Saturday in July, hundreds of people across the country will participate in solidarity 5k runs in communities and prisons. This collective event, known as Running Down the Walls, has been held annually since 2002. Each year, Anarchist Black Cross chapters, prisoners, and allies participate in these runs to raise funds for the Anarchist Black Cross Federation Warchest (a fund that sends monthly stipends to political prisoners across North America), and other support efforts for political prisoners and prisoners of war.

Last year, Guelph's Running Down the Walls drew 30 participants, and we raised over \$2000, which was split between the ABCF Warchest and the G20 Support Fund.

This year, we are aiming to double the amount of participants and also, in turn, double the amount of funds raised. The money raised from this year's Guelph run will be split between the ABCF Warchest (see above for info) and living expenses/rent for two G20 defendants: Kelly Rose Pflug-Back and Ryan Rainville.

Living Expenses/Rent for Kelly & Ryan: Kelly Rose Pflug-Back and Ryan Rainville are two individuals from Southern Ontario facing criminal charges stemming from last year's G20 summit protests in Toronto. While on house arrest, as well as other court-ordered conditions, it is difficult to earn an income and also retain legal aid as the amount of money one can earn is quite low. Thus one is essentially forced to “choose” between being unemployed/precariously employed or crippled with legal debt. So that is why we are raising money for Kelly and Ryan's living expenses—to help our comrades get back on their feet (and back to their communities!) after their legal situations are resolved. To make this effort successful, we need YOUR support!

Who is Kelly Rose Pflug-Back? Kelly Rose Pflug-Back is a grassroots anti-poverty activist from Guelph. She was arrested over the G20 weekend on conspiracy charges and released on bail. On July 21, police issued a news release announcing that she was wanted for 6 counts of mischief over \$5000 from the G20 protests. After weeks in jail, she was released on strict house arrest bail conditions. Her conspiracy charges have been since dropped. She remains on house arrest far from her friends.

Who is Ryan Rainville? Ryan Rainville is an indigenous anarchist who was arrested at the G20 and released on bail. About a month later, he was rearrested on more charges related to the G20 including mischief and assault. He was in jail for almost three months and was rejected bail multiple times. He was finally released on bail on November 9 with very strict conditions. His trial was on April 12, 2011 and is now awaiting sentencing.

If you are not able to attend, but want to support this fund raising effort, please mail donations written out to Tim Fasnacht:

c/o Toronto ABC
P.O. Box 97048
RPO Roncesvalles Ave
Toronto, ON M6R 3B3, Canada

Or contact guelphabc@riseup.net to work out a way to donate. Solidarity with our allies on both sides of the wall!

Denver

Saturday July 30th
9:30 am - 1:30pm
Starting at La Raza Park (38th and Navajo)

Over the last weekend of July, hundreds of people across the country will participate in solidarity 5k runs in communities and prisons. This collective event, known as Running Down the Walls, has been held annually since 2002. Each year, Anarchist Black Cross chapters, prisoners, and allies participate in these runs to raise funds for the Anarchist Black Cross Federation Warchest (a fund that sends monthly stipends to political prisoners across the country), and other support efforts for political prisoners and prisoners of war.

Last year, the Denver Anarchist Black Cross event drew 30 run participants, and we raised over \$700, which was split between the ABCF Warchest and our local Mutual Aid Fund.

This year, we are aiming to double the amount of participants and also, in turn, double the amount of funds raised. The money raised from this year's Denver run will be split between the ABCF Warchest and MOVE political prisoner Mike Davis Africa, who will use his funds to purchase a

bass guitar and an amp so he can start a revolutionary jazz band behind the prison walls.

To make this effort successful, we need YOUR support!

Run/walk/bike in the 5k: We need participants who can run/walk/bike the 5k and are able to collect financial pledges to offer as donations to the run. If we get 60 participants, who each raise \$50, we can double our goal for this year's run!

Volunteer for the run: We need folks who are willing to staff a registration/literature table, hand out water, bike the route as street medics, and help chalk the route before the march.

Donate to the run/sponsor a participant: If you are not able to attend, but want to support this fundraising effort, please mail donations to Denver ABC, 2727 W. 27th Ave Unit D, Denver CO 80211. Or contact denverabc@rocketmail.com to work out a way to donate.

Want to participate? Want to volunteer? Want to donate? Contact us at denverabc@rocketmail.com.

RUNNING DOWN THE WALLS

EACH YEAR, VARIOUS ANARCHIST BLACK CROSS CHAPTERS AND POLITICAL PRISONERS PARTICIPATE IN 5K RUNS IN CITIES AND PRISONS ACROSS THE COUNTRY. THIS YEAR'S RUN IS BEING ORGANIZED TO RAISE MUCH-NEEDED FUNDS FOR THE ANARCHIST BLACK CROSS FEDERATION WARCHEST (A POOL OF MONEY THAT PAYS OUT MONTHLY STIPENDS FOR VARIOUS POLITICAL PRISONERS IN THE U.S.) AND LOCALLY TO HELP POLITICAL PRISONER MIKE DAVIS AFRICA PURCHASE MUSICAL EQUIPMENT TO START A REVOLUTIONARY BAND INSIDE THE PRISON WALLS.

LAST YEAR, WE RAISED NEARLY \$700 FOR THE WARCHEST AND OTHER DADS EFFORTS. THIS YEAR, WE HOPE TO DOUBLE THE AMOUNT OF FUNDS RAISED.

JULY 30th 9:30am - 1:30pm, LA RAZA PARK 38TH & NAVAJO
PARTICIPATE, DONATE, VOLUNTEER : DENVERABC@ROCKETMAIL.COM

An Anti-Imperialist Analysis of the War Against Libya

BY JAAN LAAMAN, anti-imperialist political prisoner/ editor

This article is being written in mid-June, as U.S. and European bombs and missiles continue raining down on the people and country of Libya for the third month in a row. The United States, Britain, France, Canada, Italy, Denmark, NATO, Qatar and some of the other oil kingdoms have all been at war against the official legitimate government and state of Libya.

Initiated under the context of a UN Security Council resolution to "protect Libyan civilians," this war against the country of Libya has morphed into a clear war to overthrow and/or kill the official Libyan government led by Muammar Qaddafi. This is U.S. and European imperialism waging war against a small, but oil rich, Third World, largely Muslim nation.

From an anti-imperialist perspective, this unfolding military-geo-political-historic reality is not very mysterious or complicated. Western imperialism is waging war to reconquer or reestablish control over a former colony and neo-colony. As a revolutionary and anti-imperialist, I am totally and completely opposed to the U.S. imperialist state attacking a sovereign nation, bombing its cities, government and military installations and trying to overthrow or murder its official government and leader. And let us be clear, the country and government of Libya committed no acts of war or aggression against the U.S. or any other country. There is not even the pretext of Libya building nukes or weapons of mass destruction.

Anti-imperialists, peace advocates, progressives and certainly all leftist revolutionaries should clearly be against the U.S. and European governments' war and bombing of Libya. In particular, as activists and revolutionaries within the United States, we hold a personal and international responsibility to make clear we do not support the imperialist policies, and especially wars, of the U.S. ruling class, the U.S. government, and the U.S. corporate elites. Let us remember that when the U.S. president and government orders the American military to attack some country, it is done in our name, in the name of the people of the United States. It is certainly true that we aren't consulted or given any input into these imperialist policies and wars: none-the-less the policies and wars are done in our name. We also of course are forced to pay for the bombs and bullets. So, it is imperative that we clearly and loudly oppose and resist the imperialist wars of the United States government, including this most recent war on Libya.

The war against Libya has created some confusion, dif-

fering perspectives and lack of unity among at least some anti-war, progressive and activist organizations and individuals in the United States.

There are many contradictions in the struggle in Libya. It is useful to identify and follow the development and changes in these contradictions, in order to have a clearer understanding of the war. Very early in February, we witnessed about a week of popular protests in several Libyan cities. At this point the main or principle contradiction (the principle contradiction is that major contradiction that informs, influences and impacts all the other secondary contradictions), was between sections of the public and the government. Some people were demonstrating for political and economic rights and reforms, and there were some calls for changes in the top leadership. Youth, sectors of the working class, relatives of prisoners, and some religious elements were lined up against the government and ruling class.

Within one or two weeks, armed attacks against Libyan police stations and government facilities, especially in the East, were taking place. Underground and foreign backed exile groups (at least some backed by the CIA) created a new level of conflict and a new contradiction between the government and ruling class, versus underground rebel and foreign backed armed groups. This situation soon developed into a low level civil war. The principle contradiction now was between the government and the tribes, people, classes and regions backing the government, versus the armed rebellion and the people, tribes and regions supporting the rebels. This principle contradiction was still internal to Libya, although western imperialist states were supporting the rebel side of the civil war.

When the United States and NATO countries attacked Libya, the principle contradiction changed from an internal civil war, to a war of resistance against a foreign imperialist attack and invasion. The internal contradictions still exist in Libya. There is still a civil war going on. There are still class, regional and tribal conflicts. But the principle contradiction now is the contradiction between the Libyan state, government and people, versus foreign imperialist countries who attacked and started a war against Libya. There are Libyan people and rebel forces who side with the foreign imperialists and act in coordination with them. In fact at this point they act as the main ground forces for the imperialists. At this point, the rebel forces are subordinate to the foreign imperialists who support and direct them against the Libyan government and state.

Let's now take a brief look at some of Libya's modern history and the historic events that have and are still unfolding in North Africa and the Middle East in 2011. Like most of Africa in the 19th and 20th century, Libya was ravaged by European colonialism. Italy attacked and invaded the area that is Libya in the Turko-Italian war of 1911. This invasion set off a 20 year resistance struggle against the Italian

has cost them thousands of dead women and men so far. An intervention that will also divide the Libyan resistance.

And even if these operations do succeed and Qaddafi falls (or dies) like Saddam Hussein, it will mean that we were liberated by Americans and French, and I can assure you that they will keep reminding us of that every minute.

How can we stand this later? How can we explain all these casualties to the coming generations, all those dead bodies that will be everywhere?

To be liberated from Qaddafi just to become slaves to those who armed him and empowered him during all those years of authoritarian violence and repression.

After the first mistake—the militarization of the popular revolution—here we are committing our second mistake: the establishment of a new leadership of figures arising out of the remnants of the Libyan Jamahiriya regime. And our third mistake is coming inevitably, which will be to ask for help from our enemies. I only hope we will not reach the fourth one: that is, occupation and the arrival of the marines.

Sarkozy and France are our enemies; they are also enemies of the whole Third World. They don't hide their contempt of us. All that Sarkozy cares about is to be re-elected next year.

The man who organized the meeting between Sarkozy and the representatives of the interim national council is none other than Bernard-Henri Levy, a quack philosopher, and for those who don't know him, a French Zionist who concentrates all his efforts on supporting Israel and defending its interests. We saw him lately in Tahrir Square just to make sure that the revolting youth there would not chant against Israel.

What can be said while waiting for the bombs?

Because bombs will not differentiate between those who are pro-Qaddafi and those who are against him.

Colonialist bombs, as you know, have only one objective: to defend the interests of arms traders. They sold Qaddafi arms worth billions and then we ask them to destroy them now...Then we will buy new arms through the new government—it is an old, well-known

story. But there are people who cannot learn except through committing old mistakes, made long before.

I say this very clearly: this is a very dangerous strategic mistake, one that the Libyan people will pay for, maybe for many years to come. More than the years of the rule of Qaddafi and his family.

I call today, and now, just hours before the burning of Libya and before it is made into another Baghdad, I call on all Libyans, all intellectuals, artists, university graduates, everyone, those who can write and those who cannot, every female and male citizen, to reject this military intervention by the U.S., France and Britain, and the Arab regimes that they support. At the same time, I call on all the peoples to support us, the Egyptians, Tunisians, French, even Chinese, all the peoples of the world, we welcome their support and sympathy.

But as for governments, whatever government, we will not ask anything from them, but to leave us alone, to let us finish the problem of Qaddafi by ourselves.



First Nations Under Surveillance: Harper Government Prepares for First Nations “Unrest”

BY RUSSELL DIABO AND SHIRI PASTERNAK
Full article at mediacoop.ca

Internal documents from Indian Affairs and the RCMP show that shortly after forming government in January of 2006, Prime Minister Stephen Harper had the federal government tighten up on gathering and sharing intelligence on First Nations to anticipate and manage potential First Nation unrest across Canada.

Information obtained by Access to Information requests reveals that almost immediately upon taking power in 2006, the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) was given the lead role to spy on First Nations. The goal was to identify the First Nation leaders, participants and outside supporters of First Nation occupations and protests, and to closely monitor their actions.

To accomplish this task, INAC established a “Hot Spot Reporting System.” These weekly reports highlight all those communities across the country that engage in direct action to protect their lands and communities. They include Tobique First Nation, Tsartlip First Nation, the Algonquins of Barriere Lake, Teztan Biny (Fish Lake) First Nation, Six Nations, Grassy Narrows, Stz’uminous First Nation, the Likhts’amsiyu Clan of the Wet’suwet’en First Nation, Gitxaala First Nation, Wagmatcook First Nation, Innu of Labrador, Pikangikum First Nation, and many more. They include bands from the coast of Vancouver Island to the shores of the Atlantic Ocean.

What we see in these documents – from the hot spot reports themselves, to the intelligence-sharing between government and security forces – is a closely monitored population of First Nations, who clearly are causing a panic at the highest levels of Canadian bureaucracy and political office.

Fear of Aboriginal “Hotspots”

In 2006, INAC gave the name “hot spots” to those First Nations conflicts of “growing concern” due to “unrest” and increasing “militancy.” In a briefing presentation that INAC gave the RCMP that year, they identified certain communities as hotspots: Caledonia, Ontario (Douglas Creek Estates occupation); Belleville, Ontario (Montreal/Toronto Rail Blockade in sympathy to Caledonia); Brantford, Ontario (Grand River Conservation Authority Lands); Desoronto, On-

tario (Occupation of Quarry); Grassy Narrows (Blockade of Trans Canada Hwy by environmentalists); and Maniwaki, Quebec (Blockade of Route 117).

But the “hot spot binder” prepared each week by INAC officials closely monitors any and all action taking place across the country and names dozens more communities as sources of potential unrest. A particular concern of the federal government is that these “hotspots” are unpredictable protests because they are led by what the federal government labels as “splinter groups” of “Aboriginal Extremists.” As INAC describes in the same presentation to the RCMP:

“Incidents led by splinter groups are arguably harder to manage as they exist outside negotiation processes to resolve recognized grievances with duly elected leaders. We seek to avoid giving standing to such splinter groups so as not to debase the legally recognized government. Incidents are also complicated by external groups such as Warrior Societies or non-Aboriginal counter-protest groups.”

Telling in the INAC statement above is that the identified protests are “outside of negotiation processes” with elected councils. Canada is clearly spooked by the spectre of First Nations demanding Crown recognition of Indigenous sovereignty and self-determination, as well as Aboriginal and Treaty Rights, beyond the narrow confines of Crown land claims and self-government policies. These so-called “splinter” groups also threaten the status quo by demanding their own First Nation leaders, staff and advisors to pull out of the compromising negotiations.

Also telling here is the cozy cooperative relationship between INAC and the RCMP. The INAC briefing to the RCMP is almost indistinguishable from a presentation one would expect to see from security forces, rather than from



Quebec riot police advance on Barriere Lake community members after a peaceful blockade in October, 2008 in north-western Quebec.

a government ministry. Contrary to their claims, Indian Affairs is not an institution of reconciliation and negotiation, but rather appears to be a management office to control the costs of Native unrest, and they are willing to work closely with law enforcement to accomplish this task.

In addition to the hotspot reporting, the Deputy Ministers of Public Safety Emergency Preparedness Canada and INAC directed that a summer operational plan be prepared in 2006 to deal with Aboriginal occupations and protests. A progress report on the operational plan reveals the blueprint for security integration on First Nations issues.

The “Standing Information Sharing Forum,” for example, is Chaired by the RCMP and includes as its members the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS), the Department of Fisheries, Government of Canada, Natural Resources Canada, Transportation Canada, and involves weekly conference calls and continuous information dissemination by INAC to its partners.

Harper is moving towards a security paradigm familiar since the War on Terror was launched in 2001. The inclusion of Transportation Canada at the Information Sharing Forum should also alert us to the commercial threat of blockades to the free trade agenda.

Aboriginal people who are defending their lands are now treated on a spectrum from criminals to terrorists. On either side, under Harper, an intensification of intelligence gathering and surveillance procedures now govern the new regime.

Activists Cry Foul over FBI Probe

BY PETER WALLSTEN, washingtonpost.com

CHICAGO: FBI agents took box after box of address books, family calendars, artwork and personal letters in their 10-hour raid in September of the century-old house shared by Stephanie Weiner and her husband.

The agents seemed keenly interested in Weiner’s home-based business, the Revolutionary Lemonade Stand, which sells silkscreened infant bodysuits and other clothes with socialist slogans, phrases like “Help Wanted: Revolutionaries.”

The search was part of a mysterious, ongoing nationwide terrorism investigation with an unusual target: prominent peace activists and politically active labor organizers.

The probe—involving subpoenas to 23 people and raids of seven homes last fall—has triggered a high-powered protest against the Department of Justice and, in the pro-

cess, could create some political discomfort for President Obama with his union supporters as he gears up for his reelection campaign.

The apparent targets are concentrated in the Midwest, including Chicagoans who crossed paths with Obama when he was a young state senator and some who have been active in labor unions that supported his political rise.

Investigators, according to search warrants, documents and interviews, are examining possible “material support” for Colombian and Palestinian groups designated by the U.S. government as terrorists.

The apparent targets, all vocal and visible critics of U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East and South America, deny any ties to terrorism. They say the government, using its post-9/11 focus on terrorism as a pretext, is targeting them for their political views.

They are “public non-violent activists with long, distinguished careers in public service, including teachers, union organizers and antiwar and community leaders,” said Michael Deutsch, a Chicago lawyer and part of a legal team defending those who believe they are being targeted by the investigation.

Several activists and their lawyers said they believe indictments could come anytime, so they have turned their organizing skills toward a counteroffensive, decrying the inquiry as a threat to their First Amendment rights.

Those who have been subpoenaed, most of them non-Muslim, include clerical workers, educators and in one case a stay-at-home dad. Some are lesbian couples with young children—a point apparently noted by investigators, who infiltrated the activists’ circle with an undercover officer presenting herself as a lesbian mother.

All 23 of the activists invoked their right not to testify before a grand jury, defying U.S. Attorney Patrick Fitzgerald, whose office is spearheading the investigation...

The activists have formed the Committee to Stop FBI Repression, organized phone banks to flood Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr.’s office and the White House with protest calls, solicited letters from labor unions and faith-based groups and sent delegations to Capitol Hill to gin up support from lawmakers.

Labor backers include local and statewide affiliates representing the Service Employees International Union and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, two of the most influential unions in the liberal movement. So far, nine members of Congress have written letters to the administration asking questions.

The major national labor organizations have not gotten

Dialogue on Libya: Editor’s introduction

The events - struggle - war in Libya, has engendered some confusion, questions, misunderstanding and disagreement among some progressive, anti-war and even revolutionary people and organizations. 4sm is opening an ongoing discussion among our readers and revolutionary elements on the war in Libya.

Every struggle, war and revolution is unique and based on the conditions, time and place of that particular event. The history, culture, specific incidents and leading forces and individuals of a particular struggle are the unique elements that drive and mold the contradictions within the struggle. The people’s rising in Tunisia, and then Egypt, certainly impacted and pushed forward the ensuing struggles in Libya, Bahrain, Yemen and across the Middle East. But each of these countries and their struggles is unique, even if part of a regional rising. Even the machinations of imperialism differ in regards to each of these countries, their leaders and governments. We need to look carefully and specifically at the events in Libya, including the imperialist war now going on against that country.

I was not aware there was much confusion or disagreement on the war in Libya, until I, along with Mumia Abu-Jamal, received a letter from Joe O’Connor in Olympia, Washington. He felt that both Mumia and I had it wrong on the struggle in Libya. Investigating this some more among leftist forces, I saw there was some disagreement and confusion about the struggle unfolding in Libya.

To begin this discussion 4sm is printing Joe’s letter; a letter from Saoud Salem, a Libyan anarchist; an article by Jaan Laaman (myself); Mumia’s words; and article and an interview with Cynthia McKinney (former Congress person and Green Party presidential candidate), who was just in Libya; and Tucson Dry River Collective member Chad’s views on Libya.

We urge 4sm readers, individuals and collectives to discuss the war in Libya and participate in this dialogue. Most of the Left is in agreement that the western imperialist attack and war on Libya is wrong and should be resisted. Send us your thoughts. We will publish legitimate progressive and revolutionary views and questions in Issue 20.

Dear Mumia Abu-Jamal and Jaan Laaman,

I’m sending this letter to both of you because you all have missed the point on the revolt in Libya. Normally you all have a keen insight into world affairs and solid political ideas that I appreciate. It appears you both fell for the

Stalinist political line on Libya. I want to remind you that life is more important than any political line.

Supporting the Gaddafi regime while it uses its full military might against rebels and civilians indiscriminately doesn’t make any sense, unless you come from the point of view of a head of state like Castro, Chavez and Ortega who would also use force against their populations to stay in power. But for political prisoners like yourselves to openly gloss over the huge loss of life to people in Libya so Gaddafi can stay in power, under the guise of “anti-imperialism” is missing the brutality of Gaddafi to the people of Libya. Did you miss the reports of government snipers mowing down peaceful protesters at the beginning protests in Tripoli and then the military offensive that followed?

To hear and read about the great upheaval across Northern Africa and the Middle East and then claim that in Libya the whole resistance is made up of people wanting to restore monarchy is like you turned off your brains. Or you read the Stalinist and corporate press. Also mentioning how movements get co-opted would help as well.

Some supporters of political prisoners are discussing ways to get a wider variety of news sources to you and others. Do you have ideas for people on the outside to regularly get news to the over 100 political prisoners and POWS in the U.S. in a non-sectarian way?

Here is an article from a Libyan anarchist written before the imperialist bombs started to fall in Libya.

Joe O’Connor

The Signs of the Defeat of the Libyan Revolution

BY SAOUD SALEM, a Libyan anarchist

I call on all the peoples to support us, the Egyptians, Tunisians, French, even Chinese, all the peoples of the world, we welcome their support and sympathy. In a few hours, the UN Security Council will decide to start air strikes against Libya. France has said that it is ready to start the bombardment from tonight..

We condemn this international resolution, if it is realized. And we totally reject any foreign intervention in Libya, whatever shape it may take, especially a French one. France, that sold Qaddafi weapons worth billions, weapons that he is using today to blow up Libyans, the same France that didn’t stop such deals until 3 weeks back.

We condemn this intervention that will transform Libya into a real hell, even more than now. That intervention will also steal the revolution from the Libyans, a revolution that

People's Lawyer Gets Jail Sentence

BY STEVAN KIRSCHBAUM, Worker's World

On May 19, people's attorney and longtime movement ally Barry Wilson was sentenced to 90 days in the South Bay House of Correction in Boston for contempt of court. This outrageous sentence was in response to Wilson's challenging racism and pro-law-enforcement bias in the jury selection process.

Wilson was defending a 22-year-old African-American man who was facing first-degree murder charges. Wilson had forcefully and passionately advocated for his client, objecting to the prosecutor's consistent use of peremptory challenges to strike all African Americans from the jury.

After an African-American juror was challenged because her children had "experience with law enforcement," the judge allowed a white, longtime Homeland Security veteran to be seated on May 5. Wilson strenuously objected and challenged Judge Patrick Brady on his reactionary, racist and pro-police bias.

Wilson has a long history of defending political activists, labor organizers, immigrants and oppressed people. He was lead counsel in the Plymouth 25, Marcus Jean and Amer Jubran cases; the first lawyer for the Boston School Bus Drivers, Steelworkers Local 8751, in the 1970s; counsel for framed African-American City Councilor Chuck

Turner; and has participated in countless other cases. Wilson once did six months in federal prison for refusing to violate attorney-client privilege. This flagrantly reactionary repression — which comes from the same poisoned well that jailed people's lawyer Lynne Stewart — is designed to send a threatening message to the progressive movement and to all defense lawyers who stand with it.

At a May 19 contempt hearing the courtroom was packed with supporters, including nearly every recognized progressive lawyer in the city as well as the family of the convicted young man, supporters of City Councilor Turner, Local 8751 members and International Action Center activists. Wilson's law partner, Michelle Brennan, made numerous airtight legal arguments defending Wilson.

The judge's outrageous, reactionary and vindictive behavior on the bench exposed him as the tool of the capitalist state that he is.

The highlight of the day was Wilson's defiant statement to Judge Brady, who wanted Wilson to beg for mercy and identify "mitigating factors" to show his remorse. Wilson explained that the only mitigating factor was that he had to try his case in an atmosphere of racist, reactionary and pro-law-enforcement tyranny. He passionately defended his actions as the only responsible, ethical and appropriate conduct—in order to zealously and passionately advocate for his client and for oppressed people generally. He stated that in 2011 an African-American man cannot get a fair trial.

Wilson spent most of his statement continuing to advocate for his client, saying that his client was the real victim of the court's unjust and unlawful conduct. A racist, pro-cop jury had found Wilson's client guilty, despite the fact that there was no credible evidence to support this unjust verdict.

Wilson concluded by stating that in 37 years he has never backed down from giving 100 percent to his clients' defense, particularly against racism and pro-cop bias, and pledged to continue regardless of the judge's sentence.

Wilson is scheduled to begin his sentence on June 29. He plans on appealing this outrageous injustice.

At Local 8751's monthly membership meeting on May 26, a strong resolution was passed supporting Wilson and recognizing his exemplary contributions to the struggle history of the union as well as his defense of movement militants and activists for more than 30 years.

involved in the case and are considered likely to support Obama's reelection next year.

But some state and local union organizations are expressing alarm about the case, saying that the government appears to be scrutinizing efforts by workers to build ties with trade unionists in other countries.

"I am so disgusted when I see that so many union people have been targeted in this," said Phyllis Walker, president of AFSCME Local 3800, which represents clerical workers at the University of Minnesota, including four members who are possible targets.

The union's statewide group, which says it represents 46,000 workers, called on Obama to investigate and passed a resolution expressing "grave concern" about the raids. Similar resolutions have been approved by statewide AFSCME and SEIU affiliates in Illinois.

If there are indictments, the case could test a 2010 Supreme Court ruling that found the ban on material support for designated foreign terrorist groups does not necessarily violate the First Amendment — even if the aid was intended for peaceful or humanitarian uses. The ruling held that any type of support could ultimately help a terrorist group's pursuit of violence.

The probe appears to date from 2008, as a number of activists began planning for massive antiwar demonstrations at the Republican National Convention in St. Paul...

Activists Get \$50,000 for FBI & St. Paul Police Raid Prior to 2008 Republican Convention

Preemptive, politically motivated raids are emblematic of police tactics used to suppress dissent

news.infoshop.org

St. Paul, MN: Three activists and their attorneys won a \$50,000 settlement in a lawsuit that challenged an August 30, 2008 police raid on a St. Paul home in advance of that year's Republican National Convention (RNC). The plaintiffs in the case—Sarah Coffey, Erin Stalnaker and Kris Hermes—are giving most of the award to the Committee to Stop FBI Repression, the Institute for Anarchist Studies, and the formation of a national legal defense fund for political activists. The St. Paul house raid was one of several police actions taken against protesters days before the RNC began, including the search and seizure of a central political meeting space, which is also the subject of pending litigation.

"The City of St. Paul and the federal government were forced to pay for their politically-motivated attack on organizers," said Sarah Coffey, one of the plaintiffs. "Rather than spend years in court fighting the government over its political surveillance program, we decided to use settlement money to invest in projects that oppose such repressive tactics." The lawsuit, which was filed in August 2009 and accused the St. Paul Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) of violating plaintiffs' First, Fourth and Fourteenth amendment rights, is so far the largest settlement of its kind stemming from the convention protests. "We hope this sends a message to law enforcement officials who would enter homes illegally or suppress political dissent," said Coffey, "there is a cost to their actions."

The raid garnered significant media attention at the time due to an hours-long standoff between 10 activists and residents and a heavily armed police force that had surrounded the duplex. Because the police attempted to raid the home without a search warrant, those inside refused them entry. After allegedly getting verbal authority from a local judge, the police used force to enter 949 Iglehart Avenue and detained everyone inside. The owner, several tenants and activists, including members of the I-Witness Video collective were detained for hours. No illegal items were found, no one was arrested and nothing was visibly seized, although computers and camera equipment were searched.

The search warrant affidavit, which was under seal until a month after the raid in a likely attempt to avoid media scrutiny, relied solely on a confidential informant who made the claim that weapons were being shipped to 951 Iglehart using the U.S. Postal Service. In a sensationalist move, the police also tried to tie property owner Michael Whalen to a defunct 1970s political group, the Symbionese Liberation Army, in order to bolster the warrant's outrageous claim of arms shipments. However, once inside 951 Iglehart, police discovered that the boxes contained only vegan literature. Unsatisfied, police broke through a locked attic door to enter the neighboring but separate 949 Iglehart, which plaintiffs claimed was the operation's true objective.

St. Paul Police Officer David Langfellow was in charge of the operation as a cross-deputized FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) agent. Langfellow testified during a deposition that although the FBI had been surveilling the duplex for more than a week before the convention, the investigation was not targeting Whalen, the main subject of the search warrant affidavit. Langfellow either was not told or refused to reveal details about the underlying investigation, which plaintiffs speculate had nothing to do with the shipment of boxes.

Plaintiffs' attorneys also contributed a portion of the award to the Impact Fund, which provides money to small law firms and nonprofits for lawsuits involving issues of civil rights, environmental justice, and poverty.



Barry Wilson, left, with client Chuck Turner in February 2009. Photo: Stevan Kirschbaum

Canadian Media Fails to Deliver: Media Coverage of Canada Post Labour Dispute Uncritical, Inaccurate

BY KALEY KENNEDY, mediacoop.ca

On the morning of June 14, letter carriers across the country showed up to go to work as usual but Canada Post told them to go home; no mail was to be delivered that day. Those workers are full-time letter carriers who deliver mail in our communities Monday to Friday.

While Canada Post claimed there was no work for the letter carriers, mail sat in the Halifax Canada Post plant, undelivered. Not even priority packages, which should be delivered by noon the day after they are shipped, were able to leave the facility. Indoor workers, who process and sort the mail were working – suggesting that there was mail that could have been delivered that day.

According to a twitter update from Ella Henry, a student activist in Fredericton, indoor workers were sent home after three hours of work, even though there was still mail to process. Fredericton workers had just come off a strike rotation, so the implication from Canada Post that there was no work for Fredericton workers, both indoor workers and letter carriers, is difficult to understand.

Despite these circumstances, the local hourly CBC radio broadcast in Halifax told listeners that Canada Post workers “consider themselves to be locked out” all day. A CBC News headline online reads, “Union calls postal service reduction ‘partial lockout.’”

The Canadian Labour Code states that a “lockout” “includes the closing of a place of employment, a suspension of work by an employer or a refusal by an employer to continue to employ a number of their employees, done to compel their employees, or to aid another employer to compel that other employer’s employees, to agree to terms or conditions of employment.”

Letter carriers showed up to work on Tuesday, and were told to go home because Canada Post decided no mail, not even mail that Canada Post guarantees delivery times on such as priority service, was to be delivered. This is very clearly a “suspension of work by the employer” and in the context of a rotating strike, very much “done to compel their employees... to agree to terms or conditions of employment.”



Locked out CUPW members in Halifax. Photo by Lesley Thompson.

The workers were locked out by their employer, plain and simple. The addition of the caveat “consider themselves” casts doubt on a clear situation, and works in favour of the employer’s spin on the situation.

There are several complexities that reporters and editors may not be familiar with when it comes to labour reporting. For example, when the partial lockout occurred, the union representing the locked out workers, the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW), declared the locked out workers to be on strike. This is not because the workers chose to strike that day, but instead, by declaring those members on strike, the union was able to protect workers who were not locked out from being pressured or disciplined for refusing to do the work of their locked-out co-workers. It is the responsibility of reporters and editors who intend to cover labour issues to understand these issues in order to cover labour issues fairly and accurately.

This example, though, is just one small example of the corporate and public media’s lack of fair, critical and accurate coverage of the labour dispute.

Prior to both the rotating strikes and the lockout, news sources reporting on the labour negotiations repeatedly listed wages and benefits that Canada Post workers receive. At \$26 per hour, a full-time worker makes about \$54,000 per year. While this is higher than the median individual income of Canadian workers, it is well below the median household income of \$68, 860. The sticking point has not been wages for current workers. The only place wages are concerned is in regards to implementing two-tiered wages – lower wages for new workers. These lower wages would see new workers paid about \$10,000 less than the median Canadian income, and more than \$30,000 below the median household income. We are talking about middle-income, stable, secure jobs. The kind of jobs that governments are arguing are necessary for economic recovery.

Many sources, including the CBC, have cited Canada Post’s statistic that mail volumes have fallen 17 percent since 2006. Overall, however, mail volumes have increased by 10 percent since 1997. Considering the worldwide economic recession that has been going on since at least 2008, it is understandable that mail volumes would be down. Also, the argument that more things are being done electronically needs to be examined. The internet has been around for a while now.

Also, there has been little to no investigation of why or how mail volumes are dropping. Are people using the mail less? Are people using other mail serv-

es? Has Canada Post lost contracts to private companies, or has it given contracts to Purolator, which it owns? Are all volumes down? It is very possible that letter mail volume is down, but parcel shipping is up (think about all the online shopping people do). Why isn’t the corporate and mainstream media looking into this?

Perhaps most frustrating is the incompatible arguments that on one hand mail is becoming irrelevant, and on the other, the disruption of the mail service has significant detrimental impacts on the economy. Canada Post and the Harper government can’t have it both ways, and I have yet to see a journalist take up this contradiction.

Repeatedly, articles have published that Canada Post has lost over \$100 million during the labour dispute. This is a number that was put forward by Canada Post, and reporters have given no context for how the corporation arrived at that number. It seems that reporters have done little to question where that number comes from, how it was arrived at, and when those losses are from.

While rotating strikes presented delays in mail delivery, mail was still being delivered to the customer, something that postal workers were keeping in mind. While in a legal strike position, they could very well have held a nationwide strike and stopped mail delivery all together. Instead, rotating strikes were implemented to balance the need to pressure Canada Post to bargain in good faith, and to continue to serve Canadians. Still, though, the corporate and mainstream media consistently repeated Canada Post’s rhetoric that service reductions, and the lockout were the fault of the union.

News sources have also completely failed to point out that workers who have been locked out are receiving no pay from Canada Post. Postal workers, like all Canadians, have families and bills and responsibilities and are being prevented from working by their employers. What is the economic impact of 48,000 workers being locked out? How much have workers seen in lost wages? What are workers doing to make up the lost wages? Are they borrowing more? Are they dipping into savings? Are bills being left unpaid?

Where is the corporate and mainstream media on all of these questions?

Deafeningly silent.

Activist Jaggi Singh Given Suspended Sentence for G20 Speech

BY MEGAN KINCH, mediacoop.ca

Montreal activist Jaggi Singh is free.

Charged with ‘counseling mischief’ at a press conference prior to the 2010 G20 protests in Toronto where he urged people to “take down those fences and those walls that separate us,” he faced a possible jail sentence of 6 months. The judge, however, handed down a suspended sentence, counting time served on house arrest.

Jaggi emerged from the old city hall courthouse into the brilliant sunlight, greeted by supporters and quickly surrounded by a media scrum. He had no apologies.

“I have no regret for what I said. My only regret is that we didn’t succeed in tearing down that fence, and we didn’t succeed in effectively disrupting the G20 in the way it deserved to be disrupted,” he said...

Jaggi also sent solidarity messages to those still facing charges—people like Byron Sonne and Ryan Rainville, both of whom faced significant jail time and severe bail conditions. Sonne was only recently released from jail...

Singh drew attention to the double standard applied to activists being charged for speech crimes, and police, who displayed significant violence against hundreds of people during the G20, and who got off with impunity.

“Two police officers charged? That’s just a drop in the bucket,” said Singh. “I’m here to defend what I said and I’m not ashamed of it. Meanwhile you have cops on the stand [who] were basically lying—lying about the identity of another cop [who] was totally identifiable.”

This double standard also applies to the massively expensive undercover operation against activists recently covered by Tim Groves. Singh suggested that if state money was spent infiltrating other right-wing or corporate groups, they might uncover more significant criminal activity.

“What if they infiltrated political lobbyists?” he said. “But instead they spent 2 years infiltrating political groups and all they get is a bunch of people talking about the G20, talking about what happened anyway—and that’s a conspiracy charge, even though thousands of people were talking about what might happen at the G20.”

Jaggi Singh is heading home to Montreal to continue organizing mass movements for social justice, because just being released is not enough. He stood on the courthouse steps, staring up at the sandstone structure that of Old City Hall, which represents both Canada’s colonial past, and the present justice system in Canada.

“If we had real justice,” he said, “it would be the G20 leaders up there in the courtroom facing charges.”