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

geronimo ji-jaga, 1947-2011
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 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, Mexican/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
M6R 3B3 Canada

or via email to: jaanlaaman@gmail.com

Jaan Laaman, editor

anti-imperialist political prisoner

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..

Book reviews: Is there a book you’d like to review for 4strugglemag? Let us know.

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

Subscriptions

Support 4strugglemag’s commitment to providing free prisoner subscriptions by subscribing or donating. We publish 3 issues a year.

Prisoner subscriptions: free

1 year standard subscription: $15
1 year solidarity subscription: $30
(Solidarity subscription covers 1 year for yourself and subsidizes a free prisoner subscription).

To subscribe by credit card or paypal, check out our website: www.4strugglemag.org

If you wish to pay by cheque or money order, please get in touch first. We cannot cash cheques made out to 4strugglemag.

If you are one of our 400+ subscribers with a free prisoner subscription, one way to contribute is to send us stamps, which help offset our huge mailing costs.

Back issues

Unfortunately, we lack the funds and resources to send back issues. You can print articles from our website, or have a friend do so, if you don’t have internet access: 4strugglemag.org

Moving? Don’t forget to send us your new address!
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! 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 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 created music that touched you, made you think, course Gil Scott heron has been recognized as a pioneer of 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 results from his voice and ad-libbing so well. He just kept going. And he did it in a way none other ever had before. Of course Gil Scott heron has been recognized as a pioneer of spoken word and rap sounds. 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 “Sing-ing for Justice as a Life-long Commit-ment”, 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.

By way of tribute, I have included a few of Gil’s lines, here:

“Doggone, I’m feelin’ better. Gonna make it through this crazy world alive. I’m feelin’ the music. Gonna make it through this evil world alive.”

“Are the people of this world ready to rise up? Are they ready to rise up? Are they ready to rise up? We have the power to rise up, to rise up and change the world.”

“Freedom is a must, my brothers and sisters. It’s a must. It’s a must.”

“The revolution will not be televised. We are going to make it happen. We are going to make it happen.”

We need to keep Gil Scott’s spirit alive and his music playing. As he sang in his song “Winter in America,” “This war’s not about us. It’s about the future you children will inherit. This war’s not about us. It’s about the future you children will inherit.”

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! 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 now one else ever had before. Of course Gil Scott heron has been recognized as a pioneer of 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.

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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 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 “Sing-ing for Justice as a Life-long Commit-ment”, 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).

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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. Please continue to submit your letters, analyses, and analyses of political prison situations and analyses of political prisoners and allies.

Ten 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 publication possible.

We’ve printed in 4sm, #19. For hardcopy readers, we include several tributes to geronimo, as well as basic information on Black August and then they too become subjected to these inhumane conditions. This 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 have 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 unyielding 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 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 six facilities, conditions and policies. The message from Hunger Striking prisoners across California this week is clear: Support from people on the outside is more important than ever.

PBSB brothers Todd Ashker, Danny Troxell and Mutop DuGuya/J. Crawford, have laid out the issues and goal of this struggle in several observations and letters. These communiques and all the information are printed in the online edition of 4sm, #19. For hardcopy readers, we include several tributes to geronimo, as well as basic information on Black August in the first section.

We then 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, which is the centerpiece of this issue 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 in Basco, Puerto Rico; the Laity B. Black. They did all so much, and now it is our turn. See you all in issue 20, out in November.

Jaan 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 debrieﬁers simply make up information about other prisoners just to escape the isolation units. This misinformation is then used to invalidate other prisoners as members of a group and strip them of their basic human rights. Those 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.”

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

By TIM LOC, alhambraresource.org

Activist Carlos Montes, a familiar face in the 1960s Chicanos 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 barged into his home. He was arrested after the search turned up a firearm. Montes appealed to the Alhambra Source on his history with activism, and what he believes 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 issues of resistance, the experience of the activists and the community really grew. 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 be on the back of buses, and we’d see the police treat us like that. It was the beginning of the Brown Berets.

You were among the leaders of the school walkouts in 1968. 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 backsliding. 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 issues of resistance, the experience of the activists and the community really grew. 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 be on the back of buses, and we’d see the police treat us like that. It was the beginning of the Brown Berets.

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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.

The Committee to Stop FBI Repression alleges that twenty plus activists were targeted 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. I was on forums. There wasn’t a lot of support for Palestine and 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 decided to support the U.S. people of color specifically in Columbia — supporting what they call Plan Colombia, where they give a billion dollars a year to the Colombian government under the guise of fighting the drug war. In reality, however, the money is going to the Colombian military, which is killing off to the tune of people. Rights activists are being kidnapped and assassinated.

The FBI is using the pretext of our solidarity work in Palestine or Colombia to go after us. They say we’re providing “mutilary support” for terrorist organizations.
4strugglemag

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tions rises to between 1.5 and 2 million dead civilians. Oth-
erwise added, the number killed as a direct result of the sanc-
tions rises to between 1.5 and 2 million dead civilians. It was in direct response to this humanitarian catastrophe
that Dr. Dhafrir 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. Dhafrir donated $1.4 mil-
lion of his own money over the years.

Government Duplicity

From the outset of the case, the government was duplici-
tous. Using unfair tactics and innuendo, and aided by a
media compliant to the government, the government transformed Dr. Dhafrir’s humanitarian image into that of a crook and supporter of terrorism.

Seven government agencies investigated Dr. Dhafrir and Help the Needy for many years. They intercepted his mail, e-mail, faxes, and telephone calls; bugged his offices and hotel rooms; went through his trash; and conducted physi-
cal surveillance. They were unable to find any evidence of links to terrorism, and no charges of terrorism were ever
brought against Dr. Dhafrir. Yet he and other HTN asso-
ciates 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. Dhafrir contained 14 charg-
es related only to the Iraq sanctions. Later, when Dr. Dhafrir refused to accept a plea agreement, the government piled
more charges on him, and was eventually faced with a 60-count in-
sideration of his own money over the years.

My Friend Marguerite

BY JAAN LAAAMAN

“Marguerite Cole Koester, 84, died peacefully surround-
ed 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 Peni-
tentiary. In the early 1990s, The Guardian (independent radical weekly) newspaper, ran a series of articles on po-
litical 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 consis-
tently progressive and just struggling 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 reprinted 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 extraordin-
ary woman. Intelligent, well read and unabashedly lib-
eral 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 was so innovative that other business cards printed that read, “Margaret 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 “4strug-
glemag” movement, that it is a pleasure to see different
brothers and sisters come together, and to keep fighting
you 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. I have
seen 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, once I recived spiritual insight (understanding), and the mean-
ing 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 “take a step back” which leads me to say, “constantly
reflect upon everything you think, say, or do, because in
the end you’ll find peace, love, 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. #0116025
1300 Western Blvd.
Rockton, IL 61072
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, “phi-
losophers 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 Marx
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 me of my existence, a system that dehumanizes and keeps oppressed people under a social
yoke of slavery (13th Amendment) through an economic
system built to letter one to a surplus value enriching
and keeping in power the prisoners and exploiters.

Those asleep need to be woken up; those dead to the strug-
gle; need be mobilized or tossed aside like unsalvageable 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. Sol-
omon 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 Ra. Thank you 4strugglemag 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
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
get this message through to this next generation for a cause like freedom, justice, and equality against a
common enemy, the oppressive and exploitative establish-
ment.

I’m interested in knowing, do any brothas or sistas have
the whole “Lift Every Voice and Sing” Black National An-
them song, that they can send to 4strugglemag 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 ed-
ication. The lawyers we pay or don’t pay are selling us out.
They are cutting backdoors 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 ben-
eficial issues, they allow the prosecutor to misstate or cov-
er 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

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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 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 prison either. They only give you whatever 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 brothers and sistas who come into the system that done went to trial. When the system fails we must help ourselves as a collective. We must be leaders over our destiny.

For my Guerrilla Revolutionary Freedom fighter brothers 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 the system that done went to trial. When the system fails we must help ourselves as a collective. We must be leaders over our destiny.

To all comrades who are a part of the struggle, a good comrade just recently received your mail. He invited 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.

Dear 4strugglemag,

To all comrades who are a part of the struggle, a good comrade just recently received your mail. He invited 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.

I did not know Dr. Dhafr before attending virtually all of his 14-week trial. The demonization of Muslims in the U.S. during this period, and the fact that the govern- ment was hinting at terrorism connections without bring- ing any charges, made it imperative for me to attend. I have been an ardent supporter of the right of Palestinian Libre since watching a documentary about the protests, at the age of 14, of the Allies going into Bergen-Belsen, and for 38 years I have been a vassal 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. Dhafr was born in Iran in 1948. He completed medi- cal 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 commu- nity and a well-known national and international figure. As a lawyer he will always speak the truth.

Dr. Dhafr 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 com- passion who was highly esteemed by all his associates, and his message his conviction sent to the Muslim community cannot be overstated.

God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who hast 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.

Above the United Nations’ own statistics, every month throughout the 1990s 6,000 children under the age of five and adults were dying from lack of food and access to simple medicines. Three senior U.N. officials, including the Peace People’s Medal of Honor laureates, who had been appointed by the late U.N. Ambassador to the United Nations, was asked in a CBS interview if the deaths of the 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...
The world gets bombs and we get bars. Their object is to happen to you if you don’t go along with the program. War is peace.

Forces assassinated Osama bin-Laden

Free the Land! Reparations Yes!

The punishment industry is ground zero in the war, here in the United States. The most oppressed are also the most dominated World Bank, claims this group is interested in humanity. Paul Wolfowitz, recently appointed to the U.S. slavery. We allow ourselves to become stagnant; we allow our race, colour, nation, civilization (with its correct meaning). is because of the immediate or the destructive. Generally, individuals care about events surrounding them and not escape this reality which exists in all levels of consciousness. This connection is not only physically, but mentally as well. We waste so much time thinking amongst each other; it does not make sense. Though I was never able to utilize anyone she may have been told was meant to abolish slavery! The destruction of the future generations after generations. Generally, individuals care about events surrounding them and not escape this reality which exists in all levels of consciousness. 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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 say, the lack of health and the lack of health care 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, what will affect our families, therefore affect our neighbours, therefore the town, the city, the 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 responsibility and that 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. This 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 future generations. We all must work doubly hard 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,
"By the Token of time through the Ages,
"By the Token of time through the Ages,
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"By the Token of time through the Ages,
Verily man is in loss,
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"By the Token of time through the Ages,
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 continuing 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 so many most, Spaniards taking Indigenous women 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 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. 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 Jr. 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, Albiz Campos, Emiliano Zapata, The Brown Beret, Young Lords, Independistas, Macheteros, AIM, Zapatistas, ALKQN, and countless others, the 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 Connally Unit 899 F.M. 632 Kenedy, Texas 78118 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 journal while being housed down here in this State Supremacy 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 Prisoner 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 sistas 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 not for the faint of heart. The burden of the word “Heavy is the head that wears the Revolutionary Crown.” This is why they say that ignorance is bliss, because you will never 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 ceasing 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 Revolutionaries.”

I believe that 4strugglemag is an essential weapon in this war behind enemy lines...It’s without doubt food thought, so Ashanti (thank you).

In conclusion I would like to give a special thanks to those who have contributed so much to Our Struggle: (in no particular order but with deep reverence to all): Assata Shakur, Dr. Mutulu Shakur, Similata Acoli, Pro. Angela Davis, Germaine Thomas, State Corcorge Jackson (RIP), Mark Clark (RIP), Sister Akua Nleri, Bro. Cinque, Khatari (RIP), Fleta Drungo, Native son Leonard Peltier, all of the Africans and the Move Organization, Comrade Russell Maroon, Ed Pointdexter, Mr. We Langa, Gleose N. Lutala, Bro. Kevin Rashid, sister Lolita Lebrun, Viva Puertorico Libre! (RIP), Jalil Muntaqim, Mrs. Safiya Bukhart (RIP). Nuh Washington, Our Sister Marilyn Buck (RIP), and the many more Brothas and Sisters who go by 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 you revolutionary remembers, acknowledges, and respects your legacy then all of your sacrifices will never be in vain... Ashanti Na Hessumsa!

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.

Shidamento Jendelea (? The Struggle Continues)

Your Brotha: Jova El Mansa Pambano

Government Name: Jovali Mansa Jones #294919
Plantation: Waupun Correctional Inst (WCI)
P.O. Box 351 Waupun, WI 53963 USA
**Building Revolutionary Organizations with Numbers Consciousness**

BY REY TOKATZIN

“Americas is derived from the name Amuraka, 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 were as rich 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 Cordova. “Civitas” were the mixed, created by the Arabs and Berbers.”

“The surgeons and doctors of Andalusia were in the van of science; women were encouraged to devote themselves to serious study, and a lady doctor was not unknown among the people of Cordova. Mathematics, astronomy, and botan...
They have no love, no mercy for us. The whole scene was hear, “Cell 48 said he doesn’t want his tray.” It just goes die. At dinner time, a guard who was on the extraction team was the man’s cell laughing, smiling and joking around, thinking it was funny, until a prisoner piped up and said, “What are all these things?” and the guards would just laugh and say, “That’s what your job is.” But what would even propel the coro...
them to postpone the revolt and betrayal ultimately led to 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 betray ultimately leading to the crushing of their revolt. Here, rather we deserve it or not, with time changes 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 that 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 in what we would call ‘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 street skirmishes that left more than seventeen Euro-Africans dead.

At the Marin County Courthouse raid.

Quentin by tower guards.

August 7, 1970: Approximately an hour after Redman allegedly tried to grab a correctional officer, he died, and I was there when it happened. This is a prime example of what 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 a cell door, the officer in question was able to free himself), an extraction team of officers was made up to physically move Redman from ESP, and sometimes arrives in the middle of the night without warning. Brought into a world of darkness, locked into a cell, left to think the conditions here will get better or worse, most of them will tell you that 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.

The deprivation and despair in this graveyard continuously pushes men to death or insanity. I wrote an article on November 29, 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 what 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 a cell door, the officer in question was able to free himself), an extraction team of officers was made up to physically move Redman from ESP, and sometimes arrives in the middle of the night without warning. Brought into a world of darkness, locked into a cell, left to think the conditions here will get better or worse, most of them will tell you that 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.

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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. imperial power. The U.S. has an unwaivering track record of hoisting leaders, friendly to U.S. business interests, to power. Never has a U.S.-backed ruler pat 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.

This 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 a draw religious fundamentalists seeking to fight the U.S. from all over the Muslim world. A possible outcome is that such a campaign is already under way. As was witnessed in Iraq, such a campaign 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 is little chance for a world freer from U.S. imperial power.

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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 k’Aos is not confined with confusion. It is a Black light, a night life, 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, there is some evidence that such a campaign is already under way. As was witnessed in Iraq, such a campaign 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 is little chance for a world freer from U.S. imperial power.

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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 destiny 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 Jackson, 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 conflate 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 saw the further development of New African resistance as a national oppression. It should be emphasized here that this struggle of non-violence was at that time a strategy of the average New African as well as our George Jackson, Malcolm Xs and Fred Hamptons etc. This should be self-evident for all serious participants of Black August (BA).

2. During BA we emphasize political and cultural studies, i.e. news, documentaries and cultural programs, etc.

3. During BA we emphasize political and cultural studies, i.e. news, documentaries and cultural programs, etc.

4. As an outward expression of BA we wear a black arm band on the left arm or 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 outside of your clothing or as a ribbon.

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 builds the bridges of international solidarity, but is through such solidarity that we strengthen ourselves to struggle for victory.
geronimo ji jaga, 1947-2011

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. freedo-marches.org/Geronimo.html

From Sundiata Acoli

From Lynne Stewart

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 Libyam woman carrying a baby came to me and asked me, “Why are they doing this to us?”

Whatsoever the military objectives of the attack (and I and many others question the military value of these attacks) the so called “humanitarian 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? And its accumulated effects? 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 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 (as has been done in Sudan) did not work because the enemy, in the BOP, is in Benghazi and she can’t get back to see if 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 the Libyan Army 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 rec¬counted the meeting at which this request and refusal were discussed. He did not want to cause any more bloodshed and impudently asked Kabila said “no” while Congolese people around the world prayed tell. How are you going to take Blacks out of Africa? Press reports have suggested that Americans were “sur¬prised” 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 isolated, 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 response she was looking for. In my view the international public is struggling to answer “Why?”

At least 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 arrayed 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 “humanitar¬ian intervention.”

There has been no allowance for the health needs of the hospitals in Tripoli. The sad fact, however, is that it is the Libyans themselves, who have been isolated, 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?

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Cynthia McKinney Speaks on Libyan TV

BY ABAYOMI AZIKIWE, Workers World

Speaking on Libyan TV May 21, former U.S. Congressperson Cynthia McKinney denounces the role of 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 various Libyan ships docked in three different ports along the Mediterranean coast. In addition to bombing ships, NATO forces announced the deployment of attack helicopters in the region.

NATO forces and the rebels support they 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 1949 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 Communism as the only anathema to the Western way of life. This is an anachronism.

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 bombshells 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, even in front of the hotels who were refugees 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. Oth- ers ran to wash the dust from their eyes. With sirens blaring, emergency vehicles made their way into the city scene of the attack. Car alarms, set off by the repeated blasts, could be heard underneath the deafening chants of the people.

Sporadic gunfire broke out and it seemed everywhere around. Euronews showed a video of nurses and doc- tors 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 me 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 rebels 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... many years ago. He always had so much of my respect.

He gave his all to the fight for liberation, justice, and equal- ity. His effectiveness as a man and a leader can be measured by the way in 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 simulta- neous 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 combination of the资源的 F.B.1, London police, and the L.A. District Attorney’s office couldn’t decide what’s what. They had no power to do what was right. Geronimo Ji Jaga Pratt was a giant among men and a giant among nations.

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 na- ture he continued to be a light in the darkness, fighting for human rights until his death. He gave every- thing to the issues which he held most dear. In doing 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 govern- ments 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 per- haps more so 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 descendents 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 voices. Give thanks to Wakan 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 represented 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 CRUMBLES

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 concrete 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 trampled over my ideas, not his strength, nor his power...for I am strong in mind, and a warrior in heart, and warriors don’t cry!! Not only...Blood of a slave, strength of a panther...they turn into slits of a serpent. Determined I hold up and keeping my fear on hold, I was that Geronimo Ji Jaga Pratt. He was a giant among men and a giant among nations.

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 descendents 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 voices. Give thanks to Wakan 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 represented the very best of us all, and in that he will live forever.

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In the Spirit of Crazy Horse...Doksha.
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 must 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 be looked upon in society as monsters and savages, but as revolutionary warriors. Removing this false “gang” concept from our organization so that we can no longer be looked upon in society as a revolutionary people as monsters and savages, but as revolutionary warriors.

We must begin to put our words into action and give our life for the way. The reason to regain our liberation and dignity is through revolution. We must form a new strategy that will educate and guide young brothers 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 must offer our brothers and sistas successful ways to override oppression and feed them constructive knowledge to make them more conscious of the revolution that they (we) are the oppressors. Then we must put our freedom at risk in order to feed our families, so that we may no longer be looked upon in society as monsters and savages, but as revolutionary warriors. We must educate and build up our families so that we do fall well 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 “gangster” and “thuggish” mentality out of our mindframes. Gangstas end up dead or in prison, revolutionaries end up in legacies and in the hearts, spirits, and mindframes of our comrades. Secondly, we must own up and take responsibility for our actions. This is how we become honest with 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 others 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 where blood flows through our veins. Sawpo to all the Damus, political prisoners, and revolutionaries who died in the struggle.

In solidarity through the struggles,
Edward Lang #532018
Ohio State Pen 878 Cossville-Hubbard Rd Youngstown, OH 44505 USA

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). The 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 his family, and (once assassination is accomplished) the installation of a compliant, Western-friendly puppet who acquires 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 rights of the Libyan people. 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 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 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 of 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.
Mumia Abu-Jamal #AM-8335
175 Progress Drive Waynesboro, PA 15370-8090

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 need to give our government and Prisons to demand he be returned to general population.

Call Thomas Kane, Acting Director Federal Bureau of Prisons 202-307-3198
We supported many liberation struggles, especially Vietnames

e anti-Qaddafi

Other anti-Qaddafi as well, that foreign intervention was NOT what he and his people 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
tive, radical and socialistic societies 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 making it clear who are the rebels and their leadership are mostly

ditionalists.

We supported many liberation struggles, especially Vietnames

We 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, kicked out western bases from Libya, to the fall of 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 Vietnames

The Libyan anarchist whose letter we printed in the beginning of this dialogue on the Libyan war section, was clear that foreign intervention was NOT what he and his people 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, radical and socialistic societies 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 making it clear who are 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 EU 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 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 land, their future. We the west can support or criticize who we want, but the principle of self determination for all people is a right and a responsibility that must 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 asset 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. Said that, 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

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 the their ethnicity or because of the color 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 of the racist skinheads, this is because they are white, 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 it, and have not had any experience with any groups made up of “me” – I must deal with racists – 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 racism – I must deal with people of colour on an individual basis.

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 them.

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…

Christopher Gonzalez

Christopher Gonzalez #95955
Ely State Prison
P.O. Box 1989
Ely Nevada
3901-1981 USA
Transitions Part One: Casualties of War

BY SALEEM, New African Liberation Front Pennsylvania

I’ve enjoyed reading the issues of 4strugglemag sent my way and I’ve noticed that it contains articles 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 membership to revolutionary activism.

“We are 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, you will fall, by my hands!” —Words of Wisdom, Qadda

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 armed personnel carriers and the sky’s buzzing with military helicopters as soldiers cordon off whole neighborhoods condoning black youths as potential enemies or apprehend young Blacks. George Jackson predicted these search and destroy missions would be conducted to hunt down young and bloodthirsty Black youth missed 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 anymore. The government is also trying to present this latest war of intervention as a “humanitarian” war by directly targeting the Libyan government, rather than protecting Libyan civilians, as specified in the United Nations (UN) Resolution 1973 of March 19, 2011, which called for the bombing of Tripoli was intensified. The British government, with the U.S. only a back up role now and so on. The reality is we are being bombed on the ground 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), 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 “humanitarian” war. Nobody 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 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 people of the world, regardless of their organizations 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.

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 the new drug war that emerged from the post Vietnam era. The drug war was declared because at the time black people, in particular, youth of color, had developed a reputation for criminality with youth of color as a means of imprisoning them en masse. The government used the white public’s fear of Black military to cynically launch the war on drugs for political capital and 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 armed personnel carriers and the sky’s buzzing with military helicopters as soldiers cordon off whole neighborhoods condoning black youths as potential enemies or apprehend young Blacks. George Jackson predicted these search and destroy missions would be conducted to hunt down young and bloodthirsty Black youth missed 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 anymore. The government is also trying to present this latest war of intervention as a “humanitarian” war by directly targeting the Libyan government, rather than protecting Libyan civilians, as specified in the United Nations (UN) Resolution 1973 of March 19, 2011, which called for the bombing of Tripoli was intensified. The British government, with the U.S. only a back up role now and so on. The reality is we are being bombed on the ground 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), 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 “humanitarian” war. Nobody 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 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 people of the world, regardless of their organizations 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.

Family, clan and tribal ties are very significant for many Libyans. Many are community based or organized around kinship; for example, the local tribes and the so-called Homs of Tripoli and various sections of them, have aligned with the rebellion in Benghazi. Further reports say that hundreds, and perhaps up to 700, 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 dem- onstrators protesting in early February, are trying to bring chloroform bombs into the country and do NOT want foreign powers interfering 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 di-

rectly 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 militar-

ily supply the rebels. As it turned out, and was reported in the NY Times on 3/5/11, “In early March President Obama signed a secret initiative authorizing the CIA to provide arms and support to Libyan rebels.”

Since then it has been widely reported that CIA and spe-
cific forces troops have been in Libya meeting with rebel commanders. It has been reported that some eastern tribes, or "Libys," have sent direct orders to their tribal members in Libya to support the rebels. It is also unclear and not at all certain.

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 Air Force carrier and its group off the coast of Libya, the aircraft that fly in from Italy and other Euro-

pean bases, the drone flights, etc., are not even included in the $1 billion which 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 that NATO had by then killed 2700 bombing missions. The British government, with the U.S. only a back up role now and so on. The reality is we are being bombed on the ground and killing, wounding and ruining more lives than when we started this war.

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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 do, for reasons of security. 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 between cops and demonstrators, but no reports of mass shooting. There were some public protests in Tripoli and Benghazi in early February. There were some reported clashes between cops and demonstrators, but no reports of mass shooting. There were some publicly reported clashes

In this analysis, I explained how the CIA had set up the rebel uprising, 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 Congress,” which has created a new group advocates for a return of the exiled monarchy in Libya. In fact the flag of the Libyan rebels, which is often seen in U.S. news clips, is the same flag 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 Hefat, 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 replaced by little value compared to the finance and oil minister in Benghazi, the rebel capital. France, Kuwait and Qatar have recognized the NTC as the “legitimate” representative of Libya. This is a clear mistake.

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 New York 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 than any other region of the Islamic 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, Al Qaeda and its secularist socialists governing leadership, Islamist militants were not tolerated in Libya and many were arrested and imprisoned. On March 17, 2011, the New York Times reported that Abu Musab Abdul Wadad, the leader of Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, stated that he “reaffirmed his
that transition. In Transitions Part 2 I will discuss the process of transforming the criminal mentality and the one-sided war that has us constantly on the other side of the gun and being led en masse into prison camps. Regardless of where we are from, this beat 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 retuming to our hoods and poisoning them, disrepecting our sisters and people and not satisfying 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 become 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 bravest stron-gest of all: kind: calm, sure, self-possessed and completely familiar with the fact that the only thing that stands between black men and freedom is 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 im-por-tantly, 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 broken, 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 grabbing 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 tendrils from the famed tips of my fingers, sweating like the face 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 restric-tions on imports. Foreign companies were granted licenses to export to Libya. Products from all over the world flood-ed the previously protected Libyan market, and led to thousands of more job losses. Over the past 5 to 7 years, rising prices, the end of subsides for necessities, and increasing unemployment has led to poverty and dissatisfaction among growing sec-tions of Libyan people. This has set the stage for a larger and more unified social opposition, by its people, than ever before under Qaddafi’s leadership and government.

Let us turn to the events and changes that have been hap-pening in North Africa and the Middle East since the begining of this year. Social upheaval and liberation struggle began in Tunisia, which led to the overthrow of wretched prisoner; in mid-2011 by Ben Ali. The fol-low ing month, U.S. imperialist backed Hosni Mubarak was pushed out of power in Egypt. Social struggle is still very strong in both of these countries. This is a war, a struggel, 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 ma-nipulate 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; sup-port 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 this so-called war on terrorism. 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 East, Saudi Arabia and Israel, they also controlled or man- nipulated 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 are all not allowed western imperialism to support, dominate or control them. Sometimes these countries have opposed and resisted western imperialist political and eco-nomic policies and plans.

For decades, the U.S. government has treated these coun-tries 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 re-tain 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 oust leaders who today are the last remnants of a now-opposed imperialism. Recent events demonstrate this is es-specially 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 with the removal of U.S. and Western imperialist gov-ernments 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 attacked and fired unarmed public demonstrators. The U.S. has said almost nothing about this and continues to support and protect the Bahraini regime. The Yemeni government has also repeatedly attacked and fired on unarmed protest-ers. Recently there have been more armed clashes between the Yemeni government and 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 become a daily occurrence. The U.S. government has also repeatedly attacked and fired on unarmed protest-ers. Recently there have been more armed clashes between the Syrian government and anti-government forces. The Syrian government’s response has been mild and they continue to work with the Yemeni regime.

In Libya, early in February, there was about a week of pub-lic demonstrations that were repressed, but there were no large, 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 Bengazi 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 Benghazī.

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, Italy renounced its claim to 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 Idris, who was from the Senussi clan of eastern Libya, to rule this country. The King allowed Britain, France and the U.S. to retain their bases and economic 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. Formerly a poor country, the 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 from the 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 a small group of officers who overthrew the 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 population, 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 (HDI) ranking in Africa—a UN measurement of life expectancy, education and economic development. Conditions for women changed positively and dramatically. Women entered various professional ranks from doctors to educational attainment and adjusted real income. Condi-

But, Libya was no longer under foreign domination.

Throughout these years, the U.S. carried out numerous anti-imperialist, Pan-Arab, revolutionary-minded 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, paramilitary 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.

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.

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 state. The CIA and other military and political groups involved in armed confrontations with government forces in the early 1980s (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 granddaughter. It was the most destructive bombing raid in Tripoli’s history. On the 1st of 2011, NATO fired 4 precision missiles in the house of Seif el Arab el-Qadda (one of Muammar’s sons), killing him and his young 1 year old granddaughter; 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 and children. One dead child is as sad and precious as any other. Arab-American bombs, NATO bombs, British and French bombs and missiles are doing most of the killing. This is the reality of imperialism, the reality that imperialism and its military establishment, with extensive inherited wealth and old privileges. But, Libya was no longer under foreign domination.

It is why we are raising money for Kelly and Ryan’s living expenses/rent for two G20 defendants: Kelly Rose Pfing-Back and Ryan Rainville.

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 MacArthur Park. The 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 entirely supported by this run. The money is distributed through monthly stipends to political prisoners who receive little or no financial aid. Prisoners use this money to purchase food and medicine. At the beginning of every year old, grandchild.

Solidarity Runs: Every year, prisoners and supporters of political prisoners organize solidarity runs with Running Down the Walls. In sync with each other, we all 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), Belfonte (PA), Boston (MA), Connecticut River, Dunnemura (NY), Denver (CO), Desmoyn (MI), Elmore (AL), Gueph (CAN), Inez (KY), Los Angeles (CA), Marion (IL), Mexico City (MEX), New York City (NY), Phoenix (AZ), Sandstone (MN), Tucson (AZ), USP Tuson (AZ), and Gueph 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 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 find ourselves in this situation, so it is important that we ensure that a strong enough community of support exists for these people as well as ourselves. The strength of our community can be utilized to mitigate the impact of our fallen comrades. As Anarchist and former POW Ojore Lutalo says, “Any Movement that does not support its political prisoners is a sham movement.” So please help us to help them! Help us help you!

Donate to the Warchest: Send funds directly to the Los Angeles ABCF (PO Box 11223, Whittier, CA 90607) or to the Philadelphia ABCF (PO Box 41229, Philadelphia, PA 19101) Make checks or money orders only out 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 (ABCF) members, leaders, and allies participate in these runs to raise funds for the Anarchist Black Cross Federation Warchest (a fund that sends hundreds of dollars monthly 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, which raised $1,500, more than doubling our support to 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 and the G20 Support Fund.

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Living Expenses/Rent for Kelly & Ryan: Kelly Rose Pfing-Back and Ryan Rainville. Kelly Rose Pfing-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 economically precarious 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 YOU support!
Who is Kelly Rose Pugh-Back? Kelly Rose Pugh-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 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 re-arrested on more charges related to the G20 including mischief and assault. He was in jail for almost three months and was arrested 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 PO 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 War Chest (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 War Chest 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 War Chest 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 run.

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.

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 and labeled a Libyan civilian war, 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 Gaddafi.

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 re-establish 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 aggression against the U.S. or any country. There is not even the pretense 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 militarized wars 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 U.S. government’s policies, including this most recent war on Libya.

The war against Libya has created some confusion, differing 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 as they unfold in the continuing struggle against the war. Very early in February, we witnessed about a week of popular protests in several Libyan cities. At this time the main contradiction of the imperialist attack and invasion is 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, proceeding 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, especially the United States. 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 satellite forces for the imperialists. At this point, the rebel forces are subordinate to the foreign imperialists who finance 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 distance. An intervention that will also divide the Libyan resistance.

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 interno 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 know him, a French Zionist who concentrates all his efforts on supporting Israel and defending its interests. We know him, a French Zionist who concentrates all his efforts on supporting Israel and defending its interests.

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 our 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.

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.

What can be said while waiting for the arrival of the marines.

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BY RUSSELL DIABO AND SHIRI PASTERNAK

Full article at mediaacco.ca

Internal documents from Indian Affairs and the RCMP show that after shortly 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 Nations 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, Tzettz Biny (Fish Lake) First Nation, Six Nations, Grassy Narrows, Stz’uminous First Nation, the Likh’s amisuyu Clan of the Wet’suwen’et First Nation, Gitxaala First Nation, Wagnatook First Nation, Innu of Labrador First Nation, and many more. They include islands 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); Bradford, Ontario (Grand River Conservation Authority Lands); Desoronto, Ontario (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 not by what the federal government labels as “splinter groups” of “Aboriginal Extremists.”

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 specter 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...
The search was part of a mysterious, ongoing nationwide inquiry as a threat to their First Amendment rights. The apparent targets are concentrated in the Midwest, including Chicagoans who crossed paths with Obama when he was a young state senator and others who have been active in labor unions that supported his political rise. 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 antiracist 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 indiccments 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 intimated 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, défying U.S. Attorney Patrick Fitzgerald, whose office is spearheading the investigation… The search was part of a mysterious, ongoing nationwide terrorism investigation with an unusual target: prominent socialist slogans, phrases like "Help Wanted: Revolution — sells silkscreened infant bodysuits and other clothes with their 10-hour raid in September of the century-old house shared by Stephanie Weiner and her husband.

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 for the Defense of Lamonnade Stand, which sells silkscreened infant bodysuits and other clothes with socialist slogans, phrases like "Help Wanted: Revolution —"

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 prov- 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 others who have been active in labor unions that supported his political rise. The apparent targets are focused 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. This does not include US Foreign Policy, and these contrac-tions are not aimed at impacting and pushing the war strategies 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.

Joe O’Connor

The Signs of the Defeat of the Libyan Revolution

BY SAOUD SALEM, a Libyan anarchist

Call on all the peoples to support us, the Egyptians, Tuni-sians, 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 bombing, "in support of the people of Libya." 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 Gaddafi weapons both arms and 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
Barry Wilson, left, with client Chuck Turner in February 2009. Photo: Stevan Kirschbaum

People’s Lawyer Gets Jail Sentence

BY STEVAN KIRCHBAUM, Worker’s World

On May 19, people’s attorney and long-time 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 deposition of a key witness and urging the judge to more forcefully object to the prosecutor’s questioning of Wilson’s client’s children. The judge took Wilson’s objections to mean that Wilson was trying to hide something. After the judge sentenced Wilson, the lawyer shot back:

“I am so disgusted when I see that so many 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 terrorist groups does not necessarily violate the First Amendment. The judge’s outrageous, reactionary and vindictive behavior, Wilson said, is designed to keep him from being able to do his job 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 and that there was no 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 1. His family has organized a massive protest to appeal 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.

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If there are indictments, the case could test a 2010 Supreme Court ruling that found the ban on material support for designated 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. The plaintiffs in the case—Sarah Coffey, Erin Stalnaker and Kris Hermes—have been giving most of the award to the Committee to Stop FBI Surveillance and 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 their 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, was 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 dissident,” said Coffey, “there is a cost to their actions.”

The raid garnered significant media attention at the time due to how long it took to reach a settlement, and reflects a pattern of targeting activists, including members of the I-Witness Video collective, who 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 say was a massive, politically motivated raid.

“Unsatisfied, police broke through a locked attic door to enter the neighboring but separate 949 Iglehart, which plaintiffs say was a massive, politically motivated raid. 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.

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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 ‘partial lockout.’” The Canadian Labour Code states that a “lockout” includes the dismissal of a part or all of an employer’s employees, to compel other employees to agree to terms or conditions of employment.

Letter carriers showed up to work on Tuesday, promising to go home because Canada Post decided no mail, not even mail that Canada Post guarantees delivery times on such as prior- ity service, was to be delivered. This is very unusual; the suspension of work by an 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 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 the locked out 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 still below the median household income of $68,860. The striking post point has not been wages for current workers. The only place wages are concerned is in regards to implementing 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 a family of four would live in substandard 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 by 10 percent since 1997. Considering the telecommunication and information sector which Canada Post owns 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 incomparable 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 other employer’s lack of evidence. There is no context for how the coroner 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 delayed 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, it is also important to hold a national wage strike and stopped mail delivery all together. Instead, rotating strikes were implemented in an attempt to help workers hold another wage strike and the Canada Post to bargain in good faith, and to continue to serve Canadians. Still, though, the corporate and mainstream media consistently report 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 money? Are they cutting down on 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, who got off with impunity.

“Two police officers charged? That’s just a drop in the bucket,” said Singh. “If we were charged with mischief, 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 under- cover 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 crimi- nal 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 calling for real justice for Jaggi Singh.”