



Protest at City Hall in Flint, MI, over the poisoning of the city's drinking water with lead and other toxins. The corporate theft of public water rights now underway led to this crime. PHOTO/DAYMONJHARTLEY.COM

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# WATER FOR LIFE - NOT FOR PROFIT

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# Defense of homeless is a defense of us all

## EDITORIAL

Homelessness is on the rise in America. In Los Angeles, 15,000 become homeless monthly. No longer relegated to primarily urban centers, the homeless population in suburbs, small towns and rural areas is also growing, despite government statistics, which claim otherwise. Tent cities are cropping up across the land. But as the camps and homeless on the streets increasingly become visible, governments pass anti-homeless laws (a recent law bans the homeless from having blankets in public) and send in the police to destroy the camps and the personal property of the inhabitants. Authorities have placed spikes under bridges in Florida to keep the homeless from sleeping there. The homeless are fined, jailed, beaten and even murdered by police.

This is quite a contradiction from the America painted in song as the land of the free. The America from which so much abundance is produced! The America in which workers have produced so many houses that the government now owns more than enough to house every homeless person yet holds them as assets to be sold off to private speculators and developers.

Growing since the 1980's, the homeless population includes millions of families with children as well as individuals, including a large percentage of veterans. These are refugees of a dying economic system for which corporations no longer have use. They are at the heart of a new class of workers who cannot compete with computerized-robotic production. They are of all colors and ethnic backgrounds. This is the new post-“Great Recession” norm in America where any worker can be thrown into the streets!

The corporate ruling class has for decades painted the home-



A former resident of San Jose, California's "Jungle" encampment weeps as it is destroyed by bulldozers supported by city police in December 2014. PHOTO/SANDY PERRY

less as shiftless, lazy, drug addicted, mentally ill, and dangerous criminals, cultivating a fascist culture that creates indifference to our brothers and sisters lying in the streets or rounded up and taken to prison camps. Isolating the homeless thus sets the stage for a fascist police state to control the entire new class of workers that have no stake in this system, and eventually society as a whole.

This ruling class propaganda has been countered by growing resistance. Organizations of the homeless and the broader community of people of conscience have arisen nation-wide

to defend their human rights and demand that the government provide housing and basic necessities for everyone who needs them. This unity and public outrage has forced the government to pay lip service to ending and decriminalizing homelessness but the attacks continue.

A system based on the private ownership of the means to produce what we, the workers, need to survive, cannot and will not provide housing and basic necessities to those the corporations can no longer exploit for profit.

Uniting around the program of the “least of these” for food,

housing, clothing, all the necessities for a decent life, is the first step in uniting our class politically and creating the basis for a new cooperative society where everyone's needs are met. Only then will these words from “America the Beautiful” ring true:

*O beautiful for glory-tale  
Of liberating strife  
When once and twice,  
for man's avail  
Men lavished precious life!  
America! America!  
God shed his grace on thee  
Till selfish gain no longer stain  
The banner of the free!*

## PEOPLE'S TRIBUNE

An economic system that doesn't feed, clothe and house its people must be and will be overturned and replaced with a system that meets the needs of the people. To that end, this paper is a tribune of those struggling to create such a new economic system. It is a vehicle to bring the movement together, to create a vision of a better world and a strategy to achieve it.

Labor-replacing electronic technology is permanently eliminating jobs and destroying the foundation of the capitalist system. The people's needs can only be met by building a cooperative society where the socially necessary means of production are owned by society, not by the corporations.

We welcome articles and artwork from those who are engaged in the struggle to build a new society that is of, by and for the people. We rely on readers and contributors to fund and distribute this paper.

The *People's Tribune*, formerly published by the League of Revolutionaries for a New America, is now an independent newspaper with an editorial board based in Chicago.

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**Deadlines for articles and art:** The deadline for articles, photographs and other art is the first of each month for the issue that comes out at the beginning of the following month. For example, the deadline for the June issue is May 1. Articles should be as short as possible, and no longer than 500 words. We reserve the right to edit articles to conform to space limitations.

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# Water for life, not for profit

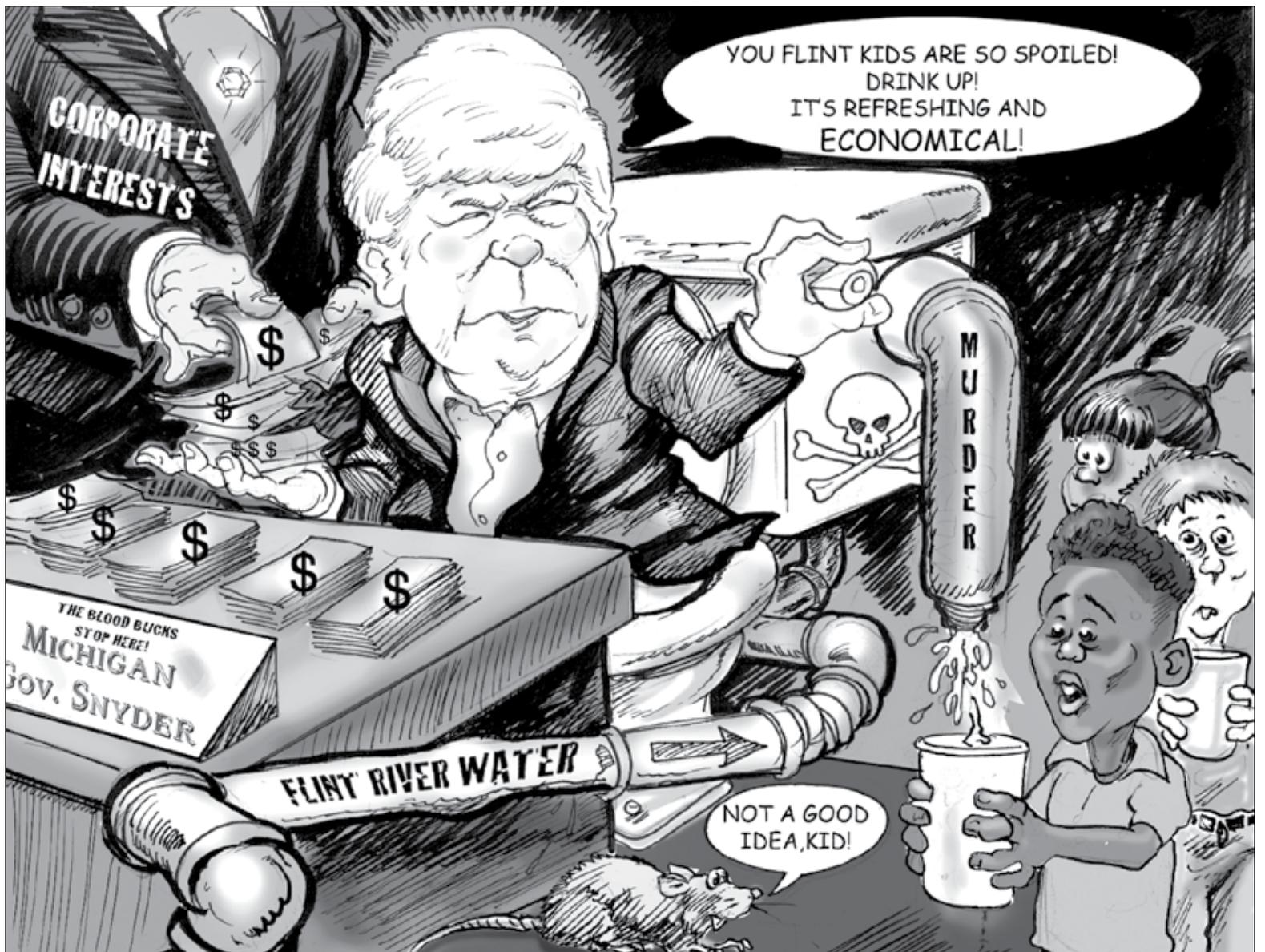
## COVER STORY

The poisoning of the people of Flint, Michigan—especially the children—with lead and other toxins in the drinking water is just the latest ugly example of how corporate control of America is destroying human life.

Lead poisoning can cause irreversible brain damage and other health issues for a whole generation of children—and their children’s children. Flint residents filed a class action lawsuit against the city and state, and thousands of people have signed a petition calling for Gov. Rick Snyder to be jailed.

Snyder deserves to be jailed, but we need to go further. Snyder, representing a class of billionaires that own the means of producing what we need to live, is dictator in chief of a dangerous political model in Michigan: fascist Emergency Managers. This system is designed to expand corporate private property by dismantling “democracy as we know it.” Seizing control of municipalities and school districts, the EM’s steal parks, public schools, and more. The corporate theft of local public water rights now underway led directly to the poisoning of an entire city in Michigan.

At the behest of Flint’s Emergency Manager appointed by the governor, Flint switched its water supply from the Detroit system (lake water) to water from the polluted Flint River on April 25, 2014, to “save money.” The water was coming out of the tap brown and smelly and making people sick. Despite public protests, the city and state did nothing. Finally, last September, independent researchers proved there were high levels of lead in Flint’s tap water. In October, county officials declared a public health emergency in Flint, and Gov. Snyder,



CARTOON/ANDY WILLIS

under pressure, announced the city would switch back to Detroit water.

Underlying this process, computers and robots have been replacing human labor in the workplace for years. We see the results graphically in Flint, where G.M. was a center of industry and high-wage employment for thousands of workers once needed in production. Today, the unemployment, the poverty, the falling wages, the home foreclosures, the water shut-offs, the homelessness we see—these are the results when our labor is no longer needed and a few wealthy individuals

and corporations make the decisions about who gets life-sustaining resources and who doesn’t.

We either end the system of corporate ownership of productive property, or the system will end us. If the people build a powerful movement to take over the corporations, we could use the abundance the technology makes possible to guarantee that no one is homeless or hungry, or having to drink polluted water.

The Flint experience makes clear that the corporate politicians and parties can’t represent the people. We have to start building our own political orga-

nizations. And whether the issue is water or whatever, we have to demand that the government serve the people’s interests. Water should be publicly owned and the government should guarantee that everyone is able to get safe, clean water, regardless of ability to pay. The government has intervened to bail out the banks and other industries—why can’t it bail out the workers? Putting this demand forward will start a debate that will help take us toward the new society we need.

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— People’s Tribune Editorial Board

# Baltimore: Police violence increases as jobs decrease

By Jim Fite

BALTIMORE, MD — Last spring Freddie Gray died in Baltimore Police custody. Freddie Gray came from a part of Baltimore called Sandtown. Here one-third of the housing units are empty. Sandtown leads the city in foreclosures. There are no bank branches. Only one in 20 adults has any college education. One in ten is on parole or probation. Unemployment is 23%. Sandtown has more residents in jail than any part of Maryland. One in four juveniles has been arrested. Life expectancy is 65, compared to 83 in Roland Park, a wealthy community just a few miles away.

As economic conditions worsen, more and more money is spent on police. The city budget of Baltimore increased 11% but the police budget has grown 25%. The city spends more on police than on health, housing, community development, library, arts and culture and employment, combined. Choices are made—four police helicopters instead of 5,000 summer jobs for unemployed youth.

Police violence is increasing

as the jobs are decreasing. Instead of directing traffic, protecting women and assisting the elderly, police are more involved in violence against people. The police are used to make things right for the wealthy business owners. They are used to make downtown safe for the outlying visitors to watch professional sports, drink, dance, or visit downtown entertainment.

Last year, the *Washington Post* and *Guardian* newspapers published articles on police killings in the U.S. They showed that 8% of firearm deaths are by police officers, three people every day. Minorities represented two thirds of all people killed by police. When police kill people they always say the person was attacking them, but one-third of the Black people killed by police were unarmed, and 20 percent were running away.

Police violence might appear to be just racism. There is no doubt that it is racist, but it is becoming apparent that it is directed against all types of working people. As more people are losing their stake in the “American Dream” to robots, they are served violence. The billionaire



Protest for justice for Freddie Gray who died in police custody in Baltimore, MD.

PHOTO/JOSH SISK, JOSHSISK.COM

media pretend that police violence is needed against criminals, but they then criminalize unemployment, homelessness, disability and poverty and turn the police loose to beat the people off the streets.

Jail and police violence are

not solving the problems of widespread poverty and unemployment. The only way police are going to stand down from brutal violence is if those who are being thrown into joblessness and poverty join together in a battle for a new society where soci-

ety's wealth is distributed to all based on need. As long as private individuals can horde billions through exploitation and inheritance, they will direct the police to do whatever it takes to protect their wealth.

# Movement for justice in education can only be national



The Chicago Teachers Union pickets the Board of Education last year. Now, after the closing of 50 schools, teachers face mass firings of up to 5,000 if they don't take the contract offer of Chicago Public Schools.

PHOTO/SARAH JANE RHEE

By Lew Rosenbaum

CHICAGO, IL — When March, 2016 arrives, Illinois may still be holding back the \$500 million supposed to be allocated to Chicago's public schools. Negotiations between the Chicago Teachers Union (CTU) and the Chicago Public Schools (CPS)

may still be stalemated over pensions, wages and working conditions (the last contract ended after the last school year). Claiming budget constraints, the CPS has been threatening for months to fire thousands of teachers. March may also bring a new teachers' strike in Chicago.

Chicago Mayor Rahm

Emanuel accused Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner of “holding the children of Chicago hostage” by blocking the release of school funding. Rahm should know about holding children hostage: he used the last teachers' strike, in 2012, as an excuse to close 50 schools. He holds sacred the high interest contracts between the city and the banks, while daily violating CPS contracts with the CTU. Now CPS proclaims: take their contract offer now or suffer the mass firing of up to 5,000 teachers.

CPS demands a four-year contract, an 8% cut in pay, pension and health care cuts, and no improvement in working conditions (class size, for example). And they are disputing the validity of the CTU's December strike authorization vote.

On their side, the CTU bargaining team, that meets with CPS, includes allied community organizations. These organizations, supporting the CTU position completely, show that CPS will face a broad community front. Should CPS carry out mass layoffs, CTU will respond the next school day with a mas-

sive rally. Students are organizing independently to carry out actions. CTU is planning informational activities to show that, in a city rife with corruption, Chicago has access to slush funds that could resolve their revenue problems in the short run.

In the long run, this movement is recognizing that Rahm and Rauner and the rest of the gang of political-corporate miscreants that are running education no longer need to educate most of the students in Chicago. Education used to be a ticket out of poverty and schools used to be geared to providing fodder for the industrial work force. High technology is ending that dream and bringing in the austerity budgets. That is why Illinois, guided by both Republican and Democratic administrations, is lowest in the country in funding education. The high performing Chicago Public Schools, mostly selective enrollment schools with capacity to raise private funds, spit out enough potential graduates for the limited high stakes jobs available. The rest can be warehoused in buildings they still call schools, without resources for education,

way stations on the way to homelessness or prison.

The movement is seeking a political solution to this problem, both in its demand that Rahm resign, and in the fight for an elected, representative school board. At some point we are going to have to come to grips with a national solution to these state and local problems. It's everything or nothing, all of us or none. A movement for justice in education can only be national in scope to guarantee the localities sufficient funds and resources.

cold rain  
here you come again  
and my friends' shoes  
not dry  
from the last one

— Sarah Menefee

# Flint residents outraged over water poisoning

Editor's note: This article is excerpted from a Facebook post.

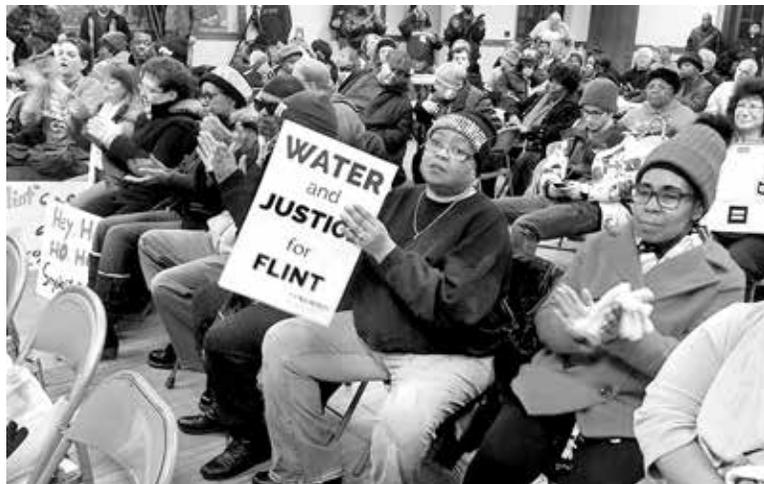
By Monica RW

DETROIT, MI — There is a serious conflict playing in my head on the true magnitude of the Flint water crisis... follow me here.

Today I observed a 10-year-old little boy with his mother praying on his knees at the Romney Building for justice in Flint, MI. Has he been lead poisoned or subject to some amount of lead due to the water situation? Likely, yes indeed. Yet, he and his mother were begging for relief and attention. Why is their story not covered?

I heard a conversation between two ladies from Flint. One told the other to stop drinking the water in Flint. Literally, the lady was—despite everything told—still drinking Flint's water. Why? Because she has no transportation to get to the "pick-up" centers for water and filters. She has to carry water cases back home when she walks to pick up clean water—in the cold and snow and slush, plus on some days, in below freezing temps. She STILL did not know how to coordinate the supposed "delivery" of clean water to her location.

A Grandmother told of not being able to have her grandbabies, six and nine years old, stay the night at her home in Flint



(Above) Protesting Flint's water crisis at the state capitol in Lansing, Michigan. PHOTO/INDEPENDENT UNDERGROUND NEWS AND TALK (Right) A. Porter, age 9, of Flint, Michigan, joins the protest of water warriors in Lansing. PHOTO/DONATED

due to the tainted water—and cried about this as she missed her grandkids coming over to her home. She has lived in Flint for over 60 years and is a retired "Buick City" General Motors employee. Her daughter now lives in Grass Lake where the water is clean and non-toxic. The daughter worries her kids might forget their Grandmothers' pleas not to drink the water from her tap, so she insists Grandma visit her granddaughter's at her home only. "Why does my life have to change due to the inactions of others?" the Grandma said rightfully while discussing how hurt she is that the grandkids cannot do simple things like take a bath or enjoy this summer running under the water sprinkler at her

home due to what Flint's tainted water could do to the granddaughter's skin.

Are we losing sight of the people on the ground in Flint living every-damn-day with this man-made tragedy? Sadly, and unfortunately after listening to Flint Residents' stories—I truly do believe it has. It being, the real story has been lost.

Monica RW is the owner of Independent Underground News and Talk in Michigan. She is the Executive Producer and host of Independent Underground Radio LIVE, a biweekly podcast. Visit [facebook.com/ROJSRadiolive/](http://facebook.com/ROJSRadiolive/)



**Speakers for a New America proudly presents:**  
**New speaker from Flint**  
**tells the untold story of the**  
**poisoning of a city's water**

Claire McClinton, born and raised in Flint, Michigan, UAW retiree, in the thick of the fight for safe, clean water for all, has joined Speakers for a New America! Claire McClinton brings analysis of what the poisoning of a city's water means for our country. In addition, we have other speakers—Marian Kramer, Maureen Taylor, and Sylvia Orduno, who are fighting to turn running water back on for thousands of Detroit's residents who cannot afford its skyrocketing price. Speakers can discuss why water should be publicly owned and how to guarantee that everyone has safe, clean water—regardless of ability to pay!

Call Speakers for a New America today at 1-800-691-6888 or e-mail [info@speakersforanewamerica.com](mailto:info@speakersforanewamerica.com) to book speakers.

## The trial of the Homrich 9

Editor's note: This is an interview with Marian Kramer, one of the Homrich 9 water warriors in Detroit, MI, arrested for disorderly conduct while blocking

city trucks setting out to do mass turn-offs of people's water. Marian and defendant Rev. Bill Wylie-Kellerman requested a jury trial. Marian explains what happened.

DETROIT, MI —

PT: What strange things occurred in this trial?

**Marian Kramer:** We weren't allowed to say the words civil disobedience, civil rights, or the name, Martin Luther King, or the fact that I've been part of the movement for 50 years. We weren't even allowed to mention the name Nicole Cannon, a plaintiff in a suit against the city of Detroit who died as a result of fighting her water shut off. And these were all the reasons we were out there protesting.

PT: So things were getting political?

**MK:** Yeah, just as the jury was about to deliberate, City lawyers said that testimony from the victims of the water shut offs had tainted the jury, so they had a

judge from a higher court come in and shutdown the trial. Lawyers, court clerks, even police said they never saw anything like this before.

PT: What is the significance of all this?

**MK:** They have us in legal limbo. We are charged with disorderly conduct, a misdemeanor. But it's bigger than that. It's about the Emergency Manager system denying water to the poor and then privatizing it for the corporations. Look at what they did to Rev. Pinkney in Benton Harbor. He was also charged with misdemeanors for protesting this sort of thing but now sits in prison. This is fascism creeping in. These corporations aren't going to let anything stand in their way, not the public health, not dead bod-

ies not even the law. I think one possible outcome of this is going to be anyone who protests against corporate power using civil disobedience will be denied trial by jury. If they can get away with this in Detroit, then it won't be long before they can go anywhere in America and get away with it.

### Correction:

We apologize for not including the name of the photographer, Gladys Williamson, with the photo for the "Water Wars Escalate In Flint, MI" story in the January, 2016 edition.

— The Editors



"Water Justice Journey" from Detroit, where thousands have their water cut off, to Flint, where the water is poisoned. PHOTO/VALERIE JEAN

# The homeless stand up for their rights

By Gena Mercer

MERCED, CA — Here's a true story I want to tell you. It all started on September 25, 2015. Merced, California was having a Homeless Connect event. A lot of us homeless hang out during the day at Applegate Park. We all help each other and look out for one another. On that day, one of the women stayed behind to watch our stuff so that all of us that wanted to go could, without dragging our stuff around.

This woman didn't know that her boyfriend had already been told his stuff couldn't stay at the park. So after most everyone left, the captain of the Merced Police Department shows up and starts giving this woman a lot of crap. The woman told the Captain that she just got out of jail the night before and knew nothing of the law that our stuff can't be at the park. His response was if she wants to claim all the belongings there she would receive a ticket and go back to jail. The ticket would be a violation of probation. So she backed off. The Captain then called a city dump truck and within 15 minutes everybody's belongings were in it. One woman lost her medication, some lost bikes, clothes, hygiene items. I had

received a ten-pound bag of dog food from someone and had taken it to the park to share with other dog owners. It was taken along with things like photos, letters, and important documents.

While at the Homeless Connect event, we were able to get legal advice. The Captain had no right throwing out our belongings. He violated our rights. Unfortunately, it was too late. Our belongings were on their way to the city dump. But for the woman who stayed behind, it was just starting.

Almost every day for the next week, the Captain showed up. He'd get out of his personal car and start throwing people's stuff in the trash. The park hours are 5 a.m. to 11p.m. He gave people tickets for camping in the park. One girl got one for sleeping on a bench. One morning the Captain started in on the woman because she was helping a friend bring their stuff to the park. He said the same crap to her. This time she took the ticket and with the help of another homeless lady, was able to get her story out to the public. It seemed like as soon as her picture came out in a local newspaper, the woman was arrested and put in jail. She got out within 24 hours. There was a warrant for her arrest again so she goes back to



Participants in the Global Homeless March at Merced Courthouse Park in Merced, California on April 15, 2015. PHOTO/GLORIA SANDOVAL

jail. She was even on Merced's Top Ten Wanted list. She went through Hell just to help others.

I want to thank her so much for what she has done. Standing up for your civil rights is a must to get the police to stop treating us like we are nothing. We have rights. Get to know those rights, stand up for them. So thank you, friend. This is for you.

## Homeless point the way forward

From the Editors of the *People's Tribune*

The battles by the homeless and their supporters show they have power far beyond their numbers. When the homeless speak out, they dramatically expose the moral corruption of a system that values private property more highly than human life. In addition, they point the way for the rest of the working class. Their unity, based on common poverty, across lines of color, gender, and immigration status, is advancing a political campaign to hold the government accountable to meet the needs of the people. This is what class unity looks like.

Order copies of the *People's Tribune* to share with others. Send your stories! Email [info@peopletribune.org](mailto:info@peopletribune.org).

## Victory for the homeless

By Ron Johnson

SAN JOSE, CA — On December 15, 2015, after 18 months of struggle, the homeless in Santa Clara County won written commitments from the San Jose City Council (SJCC) and the Santa Clara Board of Supervisors (BOS) to work together to create a pilot sanctioned homeless encampment. This is the first time either jurisdiction has recognized that people without housing have a right to a safe and legal place to sleep. This also means, that for those lucky enough to get into this pilot camp, the sweeps and raids will stop and the unhoused will be treated with the respect they deserve. Sanitary facilities and social support services will be provided at the campground. It has not yet been determined how many homeless will be served at the pilot camp.

The BOS and SJCC actions were a complete reversal of long established policy. Just one year prior, on December 4, 2014, San Jose savagely closed the country's largest homeless encampment, known as the Jungle. On that terrible day hundreds of homeless watched helplessly in the mud

and pouring rain as their tents and other possessions were destroyed by bulldozers and fed into compactors. Rental vouchers were provided for about half of those displaced, but many of those who got vouchers have been unable to find apartments.

How was this change in policy won? Organizing!

In the spring of 2014, half a dozen affordable housing activists shifted their attention from low-income housing advocacy to working with homeless rights advocates and the homeless. In part, this shift came in response to rumors that San Jose was planning to close the Jungle. Homeless advocates and the homeless themselves began appearing at SJCC meetings to demand humane treatment for the homeless, including legal places for the homeless to sleep at night. Advocates and homeless individuals and families took every opportunity, and made opportunities where none had previously existed, to get media coverage and build support in the community. The twin crises of homelessness and skyrocketing rents had become (and remains) too big for the media to ignore.

The strategy for the campaign was simple: at every opportunity, arrange for the homeless to tell their stories and to demand sanctioned campgrounds. When the council "explained" that sanctioned encampments have been proven not to work, the homeless would simply ask the council member(s) to offer another solution. No other solution was ever offered. A second part of the strategy was to continually call attention to the hundreds of millions of public dollars spent every year on camp sweeps, police actions, and medical care.

The homeless and their advocates understand that sanctioned encampments are difficult to operate, just as they understand that homeless encampments are not an acceptable solution for homelessness. But, the homeless also understand that no solution is possible unless the community and its government agencies recognize that the homeless (and low-income renters) have rights and are willing to defend them. At least for the moment, in Santa Clara County, this first crucial step has been won.



San Jose, CA brags that it is the "Capital of Silicon Valley", a world-class center for technology and innovation, but it cannot even provide basic human necessities for its people. Thousands are homeless, forced to live in tents outside in the rain, like these on the doorstep of San Jose's futuristic City Hall. PHOTO/SANDY PERRY

# Homeless leader speaks on homeless realities



Occupiers at Liberty City, Berkeley City Hall in California.

PHOTO/SARAH MENEFFEE

*Editor's note: These are posts that Mike Zint, of "First they came for the homeless," wrote on social media on the realities of life on the streets and the movement for homeless rights and the*

*right to housing. He recently led a tent occupation of Berkeley City Hall, which was covered by the People's Tribune and other media.*

By Mike Zint

SAN FRANCISCO, CA — During police sweeps you have a few minutes to save your belongings if you are lucky. Cities have no intention of preserving or keeping it for you. The intention is to purposely steal it as punishment for being homeless in public. To fight back is impossible. You need money to do that. Or lawyers. And good luck getting a lawyer. They want big bucks.

Things I used to own: baby pictures, multiple warm sleeping bags, cell phones, computer, extra clothing, back packs, inhalers, and a jewelry making set up that took years to develop. Zero charges, zero arrests, and this has happened multiple times.

Why do they do it? Because there is no room for poor people anywhere. Harass them, steal from them, abuse them, torture them, and maybe they will move along.

Class warfare waged by Chambers of Commerce, com-

mercial districts, business associations are the reality. And it won't stop until enough people get screwed by the corrupt, greedy system!

Homeless people get almost no choice. Shelter system, sleep on the sidewalk, hide a tent. Shelters are one step above jail. Abuse by staff, violence, lice, bed bugs, exposure to illness, these exist in shelters. So, is it really a choice?

Sleeping on the sidewalk (exposed) is horrible too. Cardboard for meager insulation, no padding except for a sleeping bag, no privacy except what exists between your nose and the blanket you are hiding under. Yes, hiding is accurate. For mental stability, privacy and security are needed. When a blanket was what I had, that little space had to do. Fear never leaves either. Will I get roused by cops? Robbed? Beaten? So, the longer you live this way, the worse your mental state becomes.

So, hide a tent is left. This

works until you are found. When found, your gear is usually confiscated. You are ticketed. And you spend the next few nights in a shelter, or on a sidewalk exposed."

Spread the word. Two cities torturing the homeless now have homeless uprisings. Throughout history, it has been the poorest, most beaten down people who rose up in rebellion. This history will repeat.

The population is the enemy when the police are militarized. The proof is in the violence, killings, illegal detentions, and lack of accountability. "I'm scared for my life" has become the mantra for murder. Dogs and cats are not even safe. Next year, it will be worse. And it will not change until we make them change. A few thousand protesters will not do it. A few million will get some attention. A national strike will win the day.

## Homeless occupy city halls: Resistance is rising

By Cathleen Williams

SACRAMENTO, CA — "Last night, Dec. 20, 2015, I spent what can only be called the night from Hell [at the homeless protest in front of Sacramento City Hall]. Even with a tarp over and under me, the rain became a very real threat. If your gear gets wet, you're up the proverbial creek without the proverbial paddle. So you fight to protect your gear. You fight to keep your tarp from blowing away. It's a war between you and the wind. You're in the trenches. The wind is firing over-head and, like all wars, you must keep vigilant."

— Suzanne Hastings, Sacramento Writer and Activist

At 2 A.M. on January 2, 2016, the police came to break up the homeless protest encampment in a squad of over 50 officers, in full riot gear with helmets, boots, and vests.

Their target: 20 people, all asleep, who had chosen the thresh-

old of City Hall to call for repeal of Sacramento's "anti-camping ordinance," which criminalizes "living outside." The encampment is organized by the Community Dinner Project, which had "unlawfully" served dinner at that site for a full year to protest Sacramento's anti-homeless ordinances.

A few days later, again in the middle of the night, the police launched a second raid, telling one protester he had to get up or face arrest. When he failed to immediately comply, he was taken to jail because he was sleeping.

In Berkeley, California, in November and December, until evicted by the police, "Liberty City" sprang up on the lawn in front of City Hall inspired by the group, "First They Came For The Homeless," to protest new onerous ordinances.

In Santa Cruz, CA, last summer, the "Freedom Sleepers" camped out at City Hall to oppose ordinances that make it illegal to

sleep in public covered or uncovered between the hours of 11 p.m. and 8:30 a.m., and also criminalize sleeping in cars.

In 1966, Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., summed up the situation today with far-seeing words: "[Now] we have left the realm of constitutional rights and we are entering the area of human rights... it is morally right to insist that every person has a decent house, an adequate education, and enough money to provide for the basic necessities for one's family."

A few years ago Occupy Wall Street rocked the country, but the American people have long resisted by occupying centers of political power. In 1894, "Coxey's Army" headed for Washington to establish protest encampments. Then, as now, this inclusive, poverty-driven, multi-ethnic movement was ridiculed by the press and violently attacked by the police.

The official response is the same today—but today, the jobs aren't coming back due to the technology that is revolutionizing the economy and creating greater and greater abundance with fewer and fewer workers. The challenge faced by homeless activists today is to claim this abundance—including the right to housing—in the name of the millions of ordinary people who are living on the edge of survival.



Suzanne Hastings at the Sacramento, California City Hall Occupation. Over 50 officers, in full riot gear with helmets, boots, and vests came to break up the protest encampment. PHOTO/CATHEEN WILLIAMS

### Keep donations to People's Tribune rolling in!

A church donates 5% of one month's tithe.  
A woman who digs in dumpsters donates monthly.  
Homeless readers donate.  
Prisoners contribute postage stamps.  
These donations show that our readers know the People's Tribune is their paper!

— The Editors



Chicago protest against more police killings, this time of a 55-year old mother and 19-year old engineering student. Demonstrators want the Mayor out. PHOTO/FRANK JOHNSON

# Police murder of poor continues in Chicago area

By Allen Harris

CHICAGO, IL — If the capitalists do not need to hire you, they will not provide your loved ones with mental health treatment services. They will not resolve your domestic troubles even when you call their police for help. That means murder of the poor and dispossessed under this dying capitalist system.

Once again, on December 26, proof came from the guns of Chicago Police officers who took the lives of Quintonio Legrier, 19, and his downstairs neighbor Bettie Jones, 55, on the city's West Side. Later the same day police nearly killed Mekel Lumpkin, in his 20s, on the South Side.

Officers shot Jones as she opened the door to her building for officers investigating a call for a domestic disturbance. Three bullets hit her and seven hit Legrier standing near her. He was reported to be wielding a metal bat while mentally disturbed.

"It's like you call for help, and you lose someone," Legrier's

mother told reporters, "and that has to stop." Legrier's father has sued the city over his son's death.

Lumpkin was shot five times, also because of a reported domestic disturbance. Witnesses said police shot him after he laid down a gun and raised his hands.

On December 30, police in Zion, Illinois shot Charles Hollstein, 38, three times in the back. Hollstein was unemployed. His father said his son had been diagnosed with schizophrenia.

A study by the Treatment Advocacy Center has this to say: "...a minimum of 1 in 4 fatal police encounters ends the life of an individual with severe mental illness. At this rate, the risk of being killed during a police incident is 16 times greater for individuals with untreated mental illness than for other civilians approached or stopped by officers."

Further, only 1,800 out of 11,000 cops had been trained in crisis-intervention training (CIT) and less than half of

mental health related calls were answered by CIT-trained police (*Chicago Reader*).

In 2012, Chicago mayor Rahm Emanuel closed six municipal mental health clinics—mainly in poor communities. Two years later, one third of Cook County Jail's 10,000 inmates had some kind of mental illness (*The Atlantic*).

These killings express the real social agenda of an abundantly wealthy capitalist class that will not take any responsibility for the well-being of workers whose labor they no longer need. Corporate-controlled government is privatizing or destroying public services and building a police state on the backs of the poor and dispossessed of all nationalities.

The officers who shot Legrier, Jones, Lumpkin and Hollstein must be brought to justice. But no one talks any more about a few rotten apples in the police barrel. For the sake of survival, the dispossessed must unite and struggle for their own solution—a new society.

## On the rising police state

From the Editors of the *People's Tribune*

The underpinning of the rising police state is the changing economy and the mass poverty it produces. Given American history, it could not be otherwise that the victims of police brutality are disproportionately people of color. History also shows that as this brutality becomes accepted by the majority, it is inevitably used against everyone. To stop a complete fascist police takeover of the country, every instance of police violence and attacks on our liberties must be fought. We need your voice. Please contact us with a story. Email [info@peopletribune.org](mailto:info@peopletribune.org).

## 'I was moved out of SHU after nine years of torture'

*Editor's note: The People's Tribune received this letter from Jose Villarreal who had been locked up for nine years in a SHU solitary confinement unit where prisoners are isolated from human contact. The drawing on this page is his.*

By Jose Villarreal

Revolutionary greetings to the *People's Tribune*!

I hope this letter reaches you all in the best of health and spirits. As you all probably heard, we SHU prisoners have reached a legal agreement with our captors, and as a direct result of this and our collective efforts in struggle, I have been released from SHU!

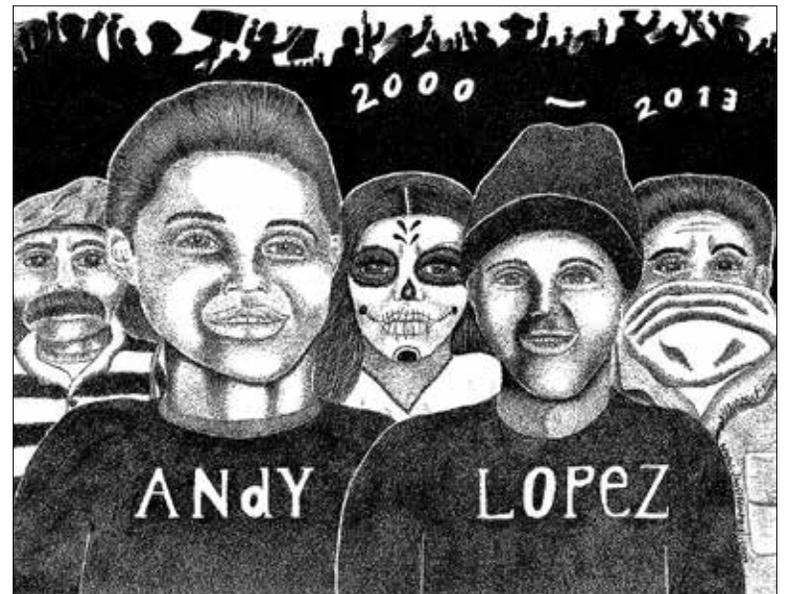
I was moved out of SHU after nine years of torture. It has been such a beautiful thing to finally feel the sun touch my skin. To shake hands with other human

beings and to converse without being accused of "gang activity." Socializing is a human necessity.

As great as it is to be let out of the torture chamber I know that many more continue to be tortured. So the struggle against this dehumanization continues. We will continue to fight solitary confinement until it has finally been abolished.

Your paper continues to nourish me and I thank you for it. I want all to learn from your refreshing articles. I don't want to miss an issue of the *People's Tribune*.

*Editor's note: The People's Tribune thanks the readers and prisoners who have donated to the People's Tribune Prisoner Fund that helps with mailing costs. Send donations to PO Box 3524, Chicago, IL 60654.*



Andy Lopez, 13 years old, was killed by a Santa Rosa, California, sheriff while walking through a vacant lot with a toy gun. The federal government agreed with the local decision to not file charges, stating, "no civil rights were violated." DRAWING/JOSE VILLARREAL

Gargoyles weep  
Angels weep  
Monsters weep  
But politicians smile

— Maria Johnson

## PEOPLE'S TRIBUNE DISCUSSION GROUPS!

Call or email us to find out if there is a *People's Tribune* discussion group in your area.

(800) 691-6888 [info@peopletribune.org](mailto:info@peopletribune.org)

# Speak your piece: A campaign against hate

Editor's note: In response to the start of "Klan camp," a coalition of rural advocates and civil rights groups speaks out against racial

hatred. Below are excerpts from an article in *The Daily Yonder* by Rachel Reynolds Luster.

BOONE COUNTY, AR — Today (July 20, 2015), near the small community of Zinc, Arkansas, the Ku Klux Klan begins a train-

ing camp for participants ages 16 and up with the goal of creating "a mighty army" to achieve what it calls "racial redemption" and protect whites from what they claim is "racial genocide."

The camp is in the heart of the Ozarks, near where I grew up.

The Klan will claim their message of racial hatred represents white America, white Christian families in particular, and that their actions are for our protection.

We all know these claims are lies and delusions. Today, we're launching a campaign to say so. Because recent events remind us that it is not acceptable to remain silent in the presence of hate.

There is a long cultural history of silence in the face of prejudice in rural places. While there are people who have made the stand against hate, far too often people find it easier to refrain from public conversations about race and other matters of social justice. Some rural communities have fewer numbers of people of color. While the individuals who reside in these communities find racism and white supremacy immoral, they will not speak out. It becomes easy to believe that it is not our problem. I am here to tell you that it is. It is all of our problem. It's a northern, southern, western and eastern problem. It's a rural and it's an urban problem. It is a white, black, and everything in between and

beyond problem. It is an American problem. We can no longer be complicit in silence. We must speak out, because it is right and necessary.

People around the South are coming together in response to the Klan's "training camp" by building a regional coalition to stand against hate and silence and to reclaim our identity. Today we are launching the #NotmyOzarks campaign... It is up to each of us to break through the silence, join with others bravely speaking out in their local communities, and build long-term campaigns for change.

Change begins at home, wherever that might be.

We must pull together to fight for our future.

We stand up as grandmothers, parents, youth, teachers, gas station workers, church members, farmers, writers, and organizers and say that we will not accept the KKK's divisive tactics... We come together to support communities where racial hatred finds no protection. The time has come for each of us to stand up in our home communities and ask, "What will the coming generations expect of us?" And then we need to act accordingly. Won't you join us?

Follow the campaign at #NotmyOzarks and on Facebook.



Rachel Reynolds Luster (left) shares this photo of her family as part of the #NotmyOzarks campaign in response to the start of a "Klan camp" near Zinc, Arkansas. She encourages others to create images and share them, too, as part of the campaign. PHOTO/DAILYYONDER.COM

## Prisoners' rights and environmental justice in Kentucky



By Alex Engel

TAMPA, FL — The United States boasts the highest prison population in the world. The government constantly installs new, larger prisons to fill with "criminals" indicted for committing successively minor crimes—in fact, over 60% of the US prison population is composed of drug offenders and those who committed immigration-related crimes, both non-violent offenses. Many are aware of the cultural repercussions of this practice and have begun to call for reform, but, recent-

ly, a question has been posed by the Prison Ecology Project that does not often receive due attention—what are the environmental effects of these massive, rampant institutions?

The group currently challenges one particular prison proposed to be built in Letcher County, Kentucky that, if constructed, will carry a slew of weighty problems to the region. This specific prison exemplifies the flaws in the United States' penal system and, if overlooked and allowed to be established, will cause massive damage to the biologically diverse landscape surrounding it.

The Bureau of Prisons plans to place the penitentiary on a retired coal mine site that is currently being drilled for natural gas, despite the imminent health issues sure to affect inmates being kept in the area for long periods of time. Exposure to mining—even after drilling has ceased, and in this case it has not—causes various serious pulmonary diseases,

including CWP, COPD, and a plethora of other life-threatening ailments. Elevated rates of lung cancer are also associated with areas nearby mining sites.

This proposed site is also in direct proximity to the Lilly Cornett Woods, a 554 acre area listed as a US Department of Interior registered national landmark, a registered natural area of the Society of American Foresters, and a designated State Wildlife Refuge. The area contains 252 acres of "old growth" forest, a forest which has not undergone notable natural or manmade changes in at least 120 years; for this reason it is a prime location for ecological and environmental research. The prison could adversely affect 71 species registered as endangered, threatened, or of special concern in Kentucky as well as damage the Lilly Cornett Woods' unique ecosystem.

While the Bureau of Prisons' environmental analysis for the project admits evidence of

impacts to the surrounding environment stemming from the construction, management, and existence of a large prison in this area, the prison has not been barred from construction and could come to fruition without the resistance of activists and organizations. Reviewers from EPA region 4 claim that although the Bureau of Prisons' environmental analysis does concede to environmental impacts, the study is still insufficient. To urge the EPA to

continue pressuring the Bureau of Prisons, email [militscher.chris@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:militscher.chris@epamail.epa.gov).

The Prison Ecology Project seeks to block the establishment of a prison that would cause severe harm to both the human beings forced to live inside of it and the fragile animal and plant life residing near it—to offer much needed and well-deserved support to this objective, or to simply find more information about the issue, visit [PrisonEcology.org](http://PrisonEcology.org).

revolt  
as necessary as food

it is the riffraff  
the slaves the freed  
into poverty  
who do

— Sarah Menejee

# African American History Month, 2016



Protest of low wage workers against Walmart in Chicago.

PHOTO/UFCW INTERNATIONAL

## From the Editors

African American History Month 2016 finds society becoming more polarized around wealth and poverty as the economy continues to replace workers with automated production.

The African American workers, who have historically been the last hired, and first fired, were the first to feel the effects of these epochal changes in the economy. The legacy of slavery locked most African Americans, all but the elite, into the

unskilled and semi-skilled sectors of the economy where automation was first introduced. As huge masses of workers are cast into permanent unemployment and poverty, the African American workers descend at twice the rate of whites and are dis-

proportionally murdered by the police.

This revolution in how society produces the necessities of life has given rise to a new section of workers, a new class whose labor is steadily replaced with computers and robots. Although increasingly jobless and destitute, the ruling class will not provide for their support. At the core of this new class lies the mass of African American poor. Today this core of impoverished African American workers is joined by workers of all colors and nationalities. Every sector of the economy has shed millions of jobs or is creating part-time minimum wage and contingent jobs. The result is that millions are homeless, hungry and without adequate health care. Growing numbers of Americans lack basic utilities and are even denied clean, safe, life sustaining water.

The broad equality of poverty within the new class across previous lines of division is something qualitatively new in the U.S. and is the basis for real unity among the workers. Unity won't come automatically, however—it has to be fought for. Such unity must be based in a common struggle for basic needs and a vision of a society where the private property of the corporations is made public.

In such a society, the abundance automation is producing will be distributed to all according to need.

The ruling class has to stop the working class from uniting to achieve this vision. To do this, they are making use of the history of racial division—a division that they as a class have created to maintain their class domination. Their tactic is to use the race question and the attack especially on the African American poor to hide the fact that they are step-by-step imposing a police state on our entire society. If this attack is accepted by the majority, the ruling class will turn the attack against everyone.

Revolutionaries must fight every instance of racism with the understanding that this fight is part of the effort to unite the millions of dispossessed and destitute in a common struggle for life itself. This battle for unity is already underway in struggles to end police violence, homelessness, poverty and for necessities like water. Such a focus will set the basis for the people to carry on the fight for the strategic goal: a whole new society that will end poverty and racism.

## We have the capacity for a happy human race

*Editor's note: What follows are excerpts from an interview with the late Nelson Peery, a great revolutionary of our times, author, and founder of the People's Tribune.*

There's a difference between dreams and visions in the political sense. A dream doesn't have any foundation, it's fantastic glory... For example, every Wednesday night I buy my lottery ticket, and before I go to sleep I'm lying in bed dreaming about what I'm going to do with the \$60 million that I've won. Well I have one

chance in 125 million of winning that lottery—in other words I don't have any chance. And it's fantastic to talk in terms of what I'm going to do with the \$60 million that I'm not going to win. In other words, it doesn't have any material foundation. So that's a dream—that is not a vision.

A vision is based upon the capabilities of the means of production that exist today. For example, in my great grandfather's time, his vision was to own that plow, to own that mule, to own that 40 acres of land, and to be able to feed his family, and to see to it they had some kind of elementary education. That was a vision that arose on the basis of the means of production that were in existence at that time. Let's talk about the means of production that are in existence at this time.

Even without going any farther than what we are today, we have the capacity to wipe out diseases. We have the capacity of feeding every human being on the face of the earth. We have the capacity to educate every human

being on the face of the earth. We have the capacity, in other words, to lay the material foundation for a happy human race. That can be done with what exists today. So when we're talking about vision, we're talking in terms of what we can do with these means of production [of the wherewithal of life] if they were used for public welfare rather than for private aggrandizement.

When we talk about vision we're talking about what's possible—we're not talking about dreams. Everybody on the street knows that they're getting more and more production today with fewer and fewer workers, and the time is around the corner where we're going to get that production with *no* workers. There won't be any work—the kind we could call work today won't exist. Nobody today chops the ground with a wooden plow—they don't do that anymore. It's not necessary, and neither will work be necessary in the coming period of time. So what kind of a world are we going to have? We're going to have a world that's possible based upon



The high-tech economy creates a dramatic polarization of wealth resulting in workers facing high rents, low wages, or no jobs. Yet, the capacity exists today to feed and house every human being on the face of the earth.

PHOTO/SANDY PERRY

the productive capacity of the means of production that are in existence today. No big deal. No big deal.

Donations in celebration of Nelson Peery's life can be sent

to the People's Tribune, PO Box 3524, Chicago, IL 60654 or donate via Paypal at [peopletribune.org](http://peopletribune.org). You can hear the complete interview at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=kKdrRbg7qLE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kKdrRbg7qLE)

do you remember when they called a blanket and a piece of cardboard a structure?

according to the law

all night we lay there without a single structure arms around each other

— Sarah Menefee

# Immigration is not the problem – Capitalism is

From the editors

The Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency (ICE) welcomed the New Year by raiding and terrorizing our communities. Though raids won't stop immigration, they do serve to terrorize our communities and keep them in check so that people don't protest injustice and organize for their human rights.

Immigration is not the problem—capitalism is. Capitalism is an economic system that cares only about exploitation and extracting profits for the corporations.

Worldwide migration is emerging today under the new conditions of globalization of the market. Globalization is dismantling national borders and creating an international production process that guarantees maximum profits for the global capitalist class.

With globalization, production of goods and services flow to the low-wage areas while labor naturally moves to countries where workers see hope for jobs and higher wages. Consequently, the greater the globalization, the greater is the immigration. This is economic reality.

Globalizing production without globalizing the producer—that is, without allowing workers to migrate freely, does not work. Workers will continue to migrate to survive, whether they are fleeing economic crisis, poverty or war. In doing so, millions of workers are becoming aware of their class interests.

Immigration sounds the political death knell of the capitalist system. The slogan “Workers of the world, Unite!” takes on new meaning. The birthing of a world class struggle brightens an otherwise dark and dangerous tomorrow.

## Greetings from Rev. Pinkney!

By Sandy Reid and Bob Lee  
of the *People's Tribune*

CHICAGO, IL — Over New Year's, we drove from Chicago to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan (near Canada) to visit Rev. Edward Pinkney. Isolated in a prison that looks like a 19<sup>th</sup> century castle, 500 miles from family and supporters, stripped of phone privileges, the reverend was happy to see visitors, and sends greetings to all his supporters.

After hugs (only allowed at the beginning and end of visits) he told us that a guard is trying to set him up. In one incident, the guard passed him in a hallway and tried to force a collision. Rev. Pinkney flattened himself against a wall to avoid him, explaining to us that a prisoner who even touches a guard faces an assault charge. He now fears that someone will place a weapon in his cell.

Rev. Pinkney is a political prisoner, jailed because of his leadership in the fight against the corporate dictatorship in Benton Harbor, Michigan and because of his staunch defense of the poor. As industry automated or fled the area, the local power structure—led by Whirlpool—turned to tourism for additional profits, leaving many workers jobless.

Rev. Pinkney and the community fought to unseat the mayor who spoke for Whirlpool's interests, a fight that the government used to frame and jail him. Rev. Pinkney is *extremely* pleased that the mayor was recently ousted.

Our discussion turned to the water wars in Michigan, and the immorality of an economic system that won't provide even clean water to the people. Rev. Pinkney emphasized the importance of the water struggle. And he was very happy to hear that the poorest among us are unifying in the fight for water, housing, for the jailing of police who kill, and politicians who represent the corporations, and that they are refusing to let anyone break their unity. Rev. Pinkney said he “can't wait to get back into the fight.”

Powerful forces are trying to break Rev. Pinkney to stop the movement he represents. *They are not succeeding.* Rev. Pinkney received a mountain of holiday cards, some from supporters in foreign countries. The word is spreading! Connect Rev. Pinkney's story to your struggle. Order a bundle of *People's Tribunes* to help build unity in our fight for survival. Visit [peopletribune.org](http://peopletribune.org) to order papers. Donate to Pinkney's defense at [bh-banco.org](http://bh-banco.org).



Members of NOWCRJ's Congress of Day Laborers lead a vigil to protest the anti-immigrant attacks of Louisiana Governor Jindal. Immigrant workers are part of our working class. PHOTO/TED QUANT

## The Dharma

He slings through trash  
On every block  
He only finds refuse  
No food  
I watch him  
From the other sidewalk  
As he rows down the  
concrete  
Looking as if he's Kerouac  
Scanning for fires  
From the Dharma mountain  
Arms swing free  
He's being noticed  
By someone today  
He smiles  
Waves from the other side

— Eric Allen Yankee

## A friend and comrade passes

By Marilyn McQuerrey Hunter

When Scott Dutton of Seattle, Washington, died in early December a voice for clarity and understanding about the current economic and political system passed from among us. As a young man, Scott had taken to the streets alongside others of his generation to express his anger and frustration with war and discrimination. Channeling some of that energy into study and research with friends and comrades, he made his contribution to the building of a core of revolutionaries in the United States. He devoted his life to his family, including a large extended family, and to representing workers and others confronted by the unfairness of the U.S. legal system. His commitment to sharing his understanding with others never left him. In the last decade of his life, it led him to begin a book about how the Democratic Party has betrayed the needs of the working class and why revolutionary change is needed in our country and the world. Only death ended that commitment. He expressed his on-going support for the efforts of the *People's Tribune* in a significant posthumous donation. Echoing the words of the letter received after his death, we salute Scott with his last words: “Be well, old friend. Up the revolution!”

# 'We demand the real criminals go to jail'



By Dorothy Pinkney

*Editor's note: This is the text of a speech by Dorothy Pinkney in honor of Martin Luther King's birthday.*

BENTON HARBOR, MI — In 1963, Dr. Martin Luther King shared a prophetic speech to millions of people called, "I Have A Dream." In it, he quoted the Old Testament Prophet Amos: "But

let justice run down as waters and righteousness as a mighty rushing stream." Dr. King's dream was to see justice prevail as a mighty flood that washes away injustice, hatred and racism. But now, 53 years later, we find ourselves still in a state of emergency of injustice and racism. Our lives are in jeopardy. We're fighting a war against Fascism. It is a toxic relationship of corporations and government. It's a relationship formed from the pit of Hell; an organized criminal enterprise that has caused injury to justice and human rights everywhere. They use any means necessary to destroy humanity with contamination of water—gentrification—false imprisonment—police brutality—homelessness and poverty.

The corrupt government and their in-house slaves are all guilty of committing fraudulent acts against those who oppose them. Like they did to my husband, Rev. Pinkney, an ordained minister of

the gospel, an activist for justice and equality, a political prisoner who exercised his political rights as a citizen of Berrien County, initiating a recall petition against James Hightower, who was mayor of Benton Harbor. Because Rev. Pinkney was successful, he became a target of Whirlpool and Berrien County government.

He was accused of changing five dates on the recall petition. He was tried in a Berrien County kangaroo court with no evidence, no witnesses. He was found guilty by an all white tainted jury for a crime that Whirlpool, Judge Schrock, Prosecutor Mike Sepic and the sheriff's department created to silence his voice. He was sentenced in December, 2014, to 2½-10 years.

Since then he has been transferred from prison to prison. Today he has served 399 days and is in Marquette Branch Prison, 500 miles from home. He has been subjected to inhuman conditions of black mold, constantly

harassed, threatened and intimidated by racist guards, phone privileges taken away by the warden, accused of smuggling information to me, incoming and outgoing mail is tampered with and he has had several bogus tickets written on him. Each day is a struggle of survival for him.

Many supporters have made phone calls to the Michigan Department of Corrections regarding his safety. PLEASE continue to make calls. Governor Snyder refused to meet with supporters concerning these issues. His trial case is in the Court of Appeals, but there's nothing listed on their court docket yet.

Let me leave you with this in closing: In Proverbs 29:18 it says, "Where there is no vision the people perish." Our vision today is to cause this corrupt criminal enterprise system to be exposed, and we demand that the real criminals go to jail. Then and only then will justice prevail.

## 'The Pinkneys have done so much for so many,' says supporter

By Pati Heinz

BENTON HARBOR, MI — On Dec. 15, 2014 two people were actually sentenced by the Berrien County courts—Rev. Edward Pinkney, who was railroaded, and his wife, Dorothy.

The first thing I take issue with are the dates. I observed the proceedings as a courtroom observer, and there were injustices aplenty! But, there was also out-right planned, spiteful actions by Berrien County which further proves Rev. Pinkney was and is a target of the system.

On April 24, 2014—Michigan State Police, Berrien County Sheriff's Department and Benton Township Police Department formed a SWAT team to rush then-65-year-old Rev. Pinkney's home. That also happened to be Dorothy's birthday. Oct. 27, 2014—the trial begins. This is Rev. Pinkney's birthday. And, their most hurtful act, sentencing Rev. Pinkney on Dec. 15, 2014 which happens to be the Pinkneys' wedding anniversary. This was NOT a coincidence, I challenge anyone to find a case where such personal dates happen to coincide with court dates.

Then, as fall was settling in, the MDOC moved the Reverend to Marquette, MI, 500 miles away from Mrs. Pinkney. I believe it was done to hinder her ability to see her husband.

The latest incident is taking Rev. Pinkney's phone privileg-

es away. So now she can't even speak to her husband! There is no legal reason why their communication should be blocked. This is a direct, cruel attack on BOTH Rev. Pinkney AND Dorothy, and is meant to be hurtful.

I ask people to rally to support not only Rev. Pinkney, but his wonderful wife, Dorothy. She is an amazing, strong woman who, like her husband, has stood for so many people over the years. And we should stand in solidarity with Mrs. Pinkney and demand Justice4Pinkney NOW!!

Call Gov. Snyder at (517) 373-3400 and ask why a 67-year-old Reverend is wrongfully imprisoned. Call MDOC Director, Heidi Washington at (517) 241-7238 and ask why he is being denied phone use, and harassed by guards. And, call Marquette Prison at (906) 226-6531 just to let them know there are people out here who care, and we are watching.

The Pinkneys have done so much for so many, it's time we return the favor!!



Rev. Pinkney speaks at protest over water cutoffs in Detroit.

PHOTO/DAYMONJHARTLEY.COM



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## Free Rev. Pinkney!

Defender of the poor and a political prisoner—Rev. Pinkney sounded the alarm early on about the threat of the iron fist of the emergency manager system of corporate dictatorship in Michigan. Now the fight is spreading from water shutoffs in Detroit to fighting poisoned water in Flint, both of which result from the emergency manager system. The "Free Rev. Pinkney Coordinating Committee" coordinates national activities in the campaign for his defense. In the words of Rev. Pinkney, "Let's join together and defeat this monster!" Contact us at [justice4pinkney.com](http://justice4pinkney.com) and Friend us on Facebook at [justice4pinkney](http://justice4pinkney). Tell us what you can do and join the fight to "Free Rev. Pinkney." Write him: Rev. Edward Pinkney N-E-93 #294671, Marquette Branch Prison, 1960 US Hwy 41 South, Marquette, MI 49855. Make donations at [bhbanco.org](http://bhbanco.org)