



Protesters fighting water shutoffs in Detroit were greeted by a convoy of Canadians who traveled to the city with hundreds of gallons of water to help those who have been cut off because of unpaid bills. As people begin to fight the growing poverty in America, a police state is being imposed to crush their resistance.

PHOTO/DAYMONJHARTLEY.COM

## *Special Coverage:*



Minister imprisoned for speaking out against corporations

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# POLICE STATE GROWS FROM ECONOMIC CRISIS

[Read story on page 3](#)



# Homelessness demands a new society

## EDITORIAL

In a wave of hard-hearted attacks, cities across the U.S. are adopting laws that criminalize homeless people for sitting, lying down, sleeping, asking for spare change, and other survival activities. They are also criminalizing people for sharing food or otherwise helping their fellow victims of a collapsing economy. A 90 year-old man in Ft. Lauderdale, FL., was arrested three times for feeding hungry people in a public park, before a national outcry forced a change in the mean law.

Laws like these signal that the poorest among us have no rights anyone is bound to respect. Inhumane “sit/lie” laws are spreading across the country. The police killing of an unarmed homeless man near his campsite above Albuquerque, New Mexico, set off large protests by people sick of police brutality and murders that are routine there.

Other random attacks and killings of homeless people are on the rise, as they are scapegoated by the rotten system that has failed them. Frail encampments made by people whose only crime is to seek shelter from the elements and gather in mutual protection are bulldozed, and possessions destroyed. Recently, the nation’s largest homeless encampment, in the city of San Jose in the heart of uber-wealthy Silicon Valley, was razed and its residents scattered to the cold wet streets. Other cities and towns across the country are doing the same.

The majority of Americans are said to now be just one paycheck away from homelessness. Many have already fallen to the streets, as capitalism self-destructs. The replacement of human labor by automation has thrown many out of work and



The nation’s largest homeless encampment in the uber-wealthy Silicon Valley was demolished by the city of San Jose, CA. Eva, 61, who has a fractured hip and is scared to fall in the muddy ground, was awakened by police putting up barricades and was told to leave.

PHOTO/SILICON VALLEY DEBUG

into homelessness, with millions of others at risk. Many homeless people work, and many others have worked in the past and have useful skills. They are part of the working class, and have a common interest: the reorganization of society to guarantee that all can survive and thrive.

The denial of the right to housing is a go-die policy. The attacks by the armed enforcers of the ruling class against these thrown-out workers are symptoms of fascism, which will soon be directed against our entire class.

Right now in the U.S. there are six houses standing empty for every homeless person. The crisis of homelessness could be solved overnight. The only thing

standing in the way is the private property relations of capitalism. That is, the owning of what we need to survive by the billionaire ruling class and available only to those who can pay.

Before human labor was replaced by computerized automation, most people could work to earn enough to keep a roof over their heads. Those days are over and won’t return. The working

class, homeless and at-threat, must understand our common interests. We must gain political power to replace this failed system with one based on distribution according to need, where the means of producing the socially necessary means of life are owned in common. The demand for an end to homelessness, and for housing as a right, is a call for revolution and social transformation.

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## 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.

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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.

**People’s Tribune Editor:** Bob Lee

**Editorial Staff:** Brett Jelinek, Sarah Menefee, Shamako Noble, Joseph Peery, Nelson Peery, Sandra Reid, Cathy Talbott

**Photo Editor:** Daymon Hartley

**National Office:**  
*People’s Tribune*, P.O. Box 3524  
Chicago, Illinois, 60654  
e-mail: [info@peopletribune.org](mailto:info@peopletribune.org)  
Phone: 773-486-3551  
Toll Free: 800-691-6888  
Fax: 773-486-3552  
Web: [www.peopletribune.org](http://www.peopletribune.org)

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**Reach us locally at:**  
**Chicago, IL:** 773-486-3551  
[peopletribunechicago@gmail.com](mailto:peopletribunechicago@gmail.com)  
**Ann Arbor, MI:** [zetlir@gmail.com](mailto:zetlir@gmail.com)  
**Atlanta, GA:** [atlanta@peopletribune.org](mailto:atlanta@peopletribune.org)  
**Carbondale, IL:**  
[carbndale@peopletribune.org](mailto:carbndale@peopletribune.org)  
**Denver, CO:** [info@peopletribune.org](mailto:info@peopletribune.org)  
**Detroit, MI:** 313-438-6115  
**Houston, TX:**  
P O Box 231281, Houston, TX 77223-1281  
**Los Angeles, CA:** 310-548-6491  
**Oakland, CA:**  
[oakland@peopletribune.org](mailto:oakland@peopletribune.org)  
**Washington, DC:**  
[pt\\_in\\_dmv@yahoo.com](mailto:pt_in_dmv@yahoo.com)



# Police state grows from economic crisis

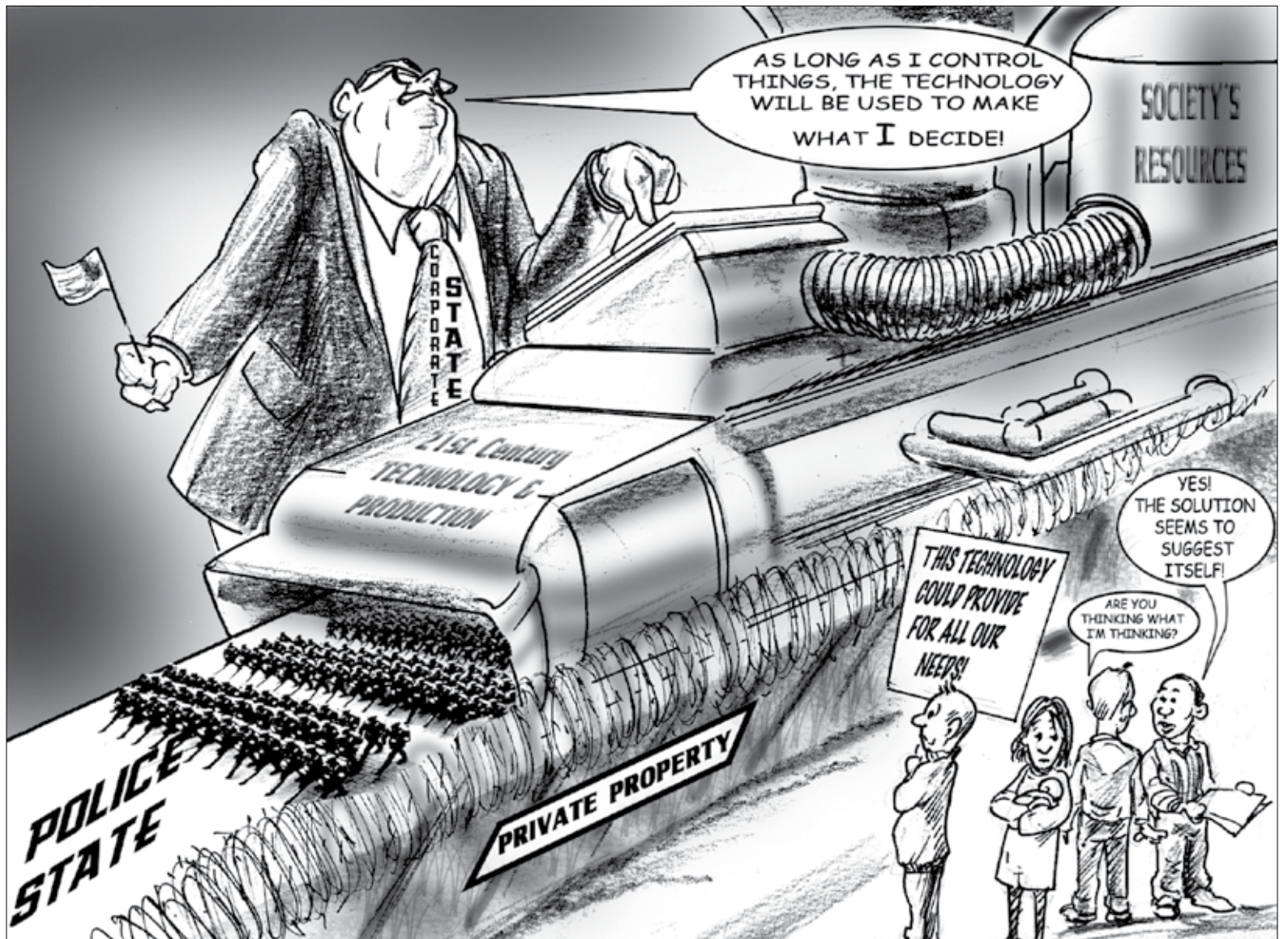
## COVER STORY

In recent months, economists warned that another economic crisis is coming. In contrast, the U.S. government announced that job growth increased above expectations for the month of December, 2014, supposedly proving that the economy is strong and well on the way to recovery. How can these two seemingly opposite things, going on at the same time, both be true? The answer lies in how capitalism causes economic crisis.

In a world of continuous change, new productive technology is always introduced. Productivity increases. Soon production out paces consumption. Markets become saturated. Commodities cannot be sold. Slowing sales lead to layoffs. Layoffs lead to even slower sales and a downward spiral begins. Such over production crises have occurred 14 times since the Great Depression, on average every six years.

The introduction of new labor replacing electronic technology, beginning in the 1970s, however, is creating a new situation. It constantly cheapens everything, including labor. While some jobs, particularly low-wage, may temporarily grow numerically, wages and hours fall. The working class, unable to buy back the things they have produced, find themselves homeless and hungry in a world of plenty.

This kind of wide-scale poverty used to be temporary. Today it is becoming permanent. The new advanced automated production also insures that each recovery from crisis is born ready to give birth to new crises. In order to keep sales up and commerce moving, credit expanded far beyond the ability of those in debt to pay. The debt bubble



CARTOON/ANDY WILLIS

this has created stands ready to burst at any moment. Trillions of dollars from the federal government continues to pump into the bankers' hands, under the guise that this will stimulate investment and jobs. But all this does is inflate stock prices and create another bubble ready to burst.

The capitalist class, organized into giant corporations, and increasingly unable to make profits in the old way, has resorted to privatization. Public schools, parks, housing, parking, water—in other words, all things public are becoming the private

property of the corporations and a source of profit.

This outright economic theft of 'we the people' is finding political expression in the development of an openly militaristic police state, put in place to defend the private property of the ruling class. Protests against the outright murder of unarmed citizens by police are directly challenging that police state with signs that read, "the whole damn system is guilty." Yes, the system is guilty of impoverishing workers by the millions and then murdering anyone who resists in the slightest.

Revolutionaries face a paradox in that they must participate in the fight to reform a system which cannot be reformed. Automated electronic production is making capitalism impossible. What is becoming possible is a new economic system of public, common ownership of that automated electronic production where goods are made available to all as needed. Once the working class grips this vision, a new world without economic crises or police states is not only possible and necessary, it is inevitable.

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— People's Tribune Editorial Board



# Homelessness: From empathy to revolution!



Homeless people in Bronx, NY wage a protest after receiving a disturbing letter that their shelter is closing.

PHOTO/©PICTURE THE HOMELESS

By Gracie Sandoval

NEW YORK, NY — Contrary to what we may think, this country does not have a homeless problem. In fact, in East Harlem, NY, many buildings are purposefully kept empty by their landlords. Foreclosed upon homes coast to coast are vacant and boarded up, now owned by banks. At my university, my potential roommate was turned away for her inability to pay the deposit. So, all semester long, her room gathered dust and remained empty, while other students scrambled to find affordable housing.

Therefore we don't have a "homeless" problem. There are plenty of homes—more than can be filled. The problem lies with the violation of our human right to have a home. The real problem consists of unequal distribution, theft and greed. Ironically, the rhetoric used to attack us, "the working poor", that of "irresponsible spending, entitlement, and corruption" has always been more applicable to the politicians Americans continue to elect into office; and an increasing number

of us are realizing it.

Like most people, I was taught that hard work equaled success, wealth and most importantly—safety—from evictions, lack of food, unstable income, etc. So I never understood why my mother, the hardest working person I knew, struggled to provide all that and more.

She instilled in me the need to persevere at any cost. So I moved to Los Angeles in pursuit of a college degree and more promising future. It seemingly worked; I graduated with my A.A. and transferred to Columbia University. That's the story on the surface; the headline people point to and say, "If she can succeed, you can too!"

However, this is not an example of success, but one of failure. The story underneath the surface is proof that the capitalist system by default oppresses the poor.

The full story involves bureaucracy, student debt, the inability to afford school fees, rent and living expenses despite working, couch surfing, car dwelling; and the depression and anxiety produced by all of these stressors. I was only

one of a growing number of students surviving this way.

These days many of us understand these struggles either through experience or extension. The popular notion that "hard work" is your only meal ticket out of poverty has proven to be a fallacy and countless people throughout the country are now echoing these sentiments. From conservative classmates, to co-workers to online forums, I have witnessed their objections to these conditions!

However, this rise in empathy and deeper understanding is tied to our material conditions—we know that we're far less removed from the harsh consequences arising. More and more of us are recognizing the need for a new economic system, one that doesn't celebrate the perceived triumphs of a few, but creates a new standard of living that will allow all of us to reach new potentials. Accepting there is a problem is always the first step but empathy alone is not a solution. We must demand what is rightfully ours! Housing is our human right!

## Government must provide housing for all

By Yolanda Catzalco

SAN FRANCISCO, CA — On my walks along Mission Street in the predominantly Latino neighborhood of San Francisco, I find many homeless people who live on the streets. Some are Latinos, African Americans, Anglo Americans, Asians, Filipinos, and Native Americans. Some are young, and some are old.

These people don't choose to be homeless. Those that sleep on the streets sometimes protest with Occupy, San Francisco. They protest wealth inequality in the U.S. and in the world.

There are some homeless who get money from the government, but it is not enough to pay for SROs (Single Room Occupancy) rooms in the Tenderloin, the poorest area in San Francisco. Those hotels have one shower per floor and maybe 30 to 50 rooms per floor.

There aren't enough beds in the shelters. Also, some say shelters are infested with lice, bed bugs, and infectious, contagious diseases like Tuberculosis; it's the same in the SROs.

The homeless sleep on the streets at night when suddenly the Department of Public Works (DPW) turns on the water hoses and douses them with water. It gets worse when DPW then



Homelessness on Market Street in the Tenderloin, one of the areas with the highest concentration of homeless people in San Francisco. This is a common sight in the neighborhood.

PHOTO/DIEGO CUPOLO

washes sidewalks with chemicals, mostly bleach and Pine Sol which causes dangerous reaction to the health of the homeless. One Occupy woman was hospitalized with stomach pains. Another Occupy woman who was pregnant lost her baby.

How can a person sleep in the streets, and wake up and either go to work or look for work in the morning? It's mind-boggling.

It is time to demand the U.S. government provide housing for all, even though people don't have income and/or don't have legal immigration papers, nor have enough money for housing.

Don't turn your back on the people that have nothing to lose but their chains that tie them to the streets.

**Housing for all, regardless of money or immigration status!**



People's Tribune Radio podcasts are available at [peopletribune.org](http://peopletribune.org). Hear from people at the forefront of the struggles for a new America.



# Mother calls for new system to end homelessness, poverty

By Rebecca Fritz

DETROIT, MI — As a single mother of five, I feel the attack on those with limited means. Having completed my stay at a domestic violence shelter in 2013, I was homeless in the freezing cold, in my van, pregnant with toddlers. With shelters full and winter in full force, I found an abandoned house in Detroit left wide open, and set about securing it and making it livable. Like thousands of other properties left vacant, it had been breached and scrapped out, just an empty blighted shell waiting to go up in flames or bulldozed to the ground. For the last year, I've cleaned up the property, posted up inspirational phrases, planted vegetables and flowers, and turned what was previously a crackhouse into a home, where neighbors appreciate my presence, and a safer atmosphere has been created, across the street from two schools. Now it is going into tax foreclosure, after abandonment by an investor in England. Again, the safety of my family is threatened, and what I did for survival, though commended by many, has been criminalized by the state of Michigan,

in a slow, fascist takeover.

Systematic oppression is nearing its peak in Detroit, with upwards of 130,000 faced with living on the streets this year as over 67,000 homes face tax foreclosure. Property taxes haven't been reassessed since the housing crash, and Detroiters pay twice what they should in taxes, including countless seniors on limited incomes. A slow, forced exodus of those of color and limited means is currently in effect by the establishment, the plan to bring wealthier whites in from the suburbs. Available shelters house 1900 people. Where will this new population of homeless go? In 2014, in Michigan, trespass became a first offense misdemeanor, second offense felony. Operations are underway to criminalize homelessness, and feeding the homeless. A strategic class war is being waged, and the conditions causing poverty and homelessness are like a domino effect. It happens easily—one wrong move, and the entire house of cards falls down. All over the country, we seem to be moving towards the U.S. equivalent of the Holocaust.

I'm fighting it, and I encourage others to mobilize and fight



Homeless family in Detroit. From left to right: Samantha, 16; Chance, 3; Darryl, 6; Julius, 5; Rebecca, 35; Honesty, 6 months. PHOTO/DAYMONJHARTLEY.COM

systematic displacement and criminalization of the citizens of Detroit, and everywhere. This is NOT optional. This is NOT Nazi Germany, or the pre-Civil War South. This is AMERICA, in 2015! The heart of the country will not go down without a fight.

Guaranteed in our Constitution is the right to life. Requirements of life are food, water, and shelter. I think it's time to enact FDR's 2nd Bill of Rights. Join with me, fellow citizens, fellow humans! Stand up before it's too late! A new system needs to replace the cancerous one in exist-

ence, which wages war all over the world and has turned on its own people. We cannot let the police state to come to full fruition. Please help NOW to stop it in its tracks.

Contact 248-979-1596 or email: [goddessrmf@gmail.com](mailto:goddessrmf@gmail.com) for more information.

## A call to action: The civil rights movement then and now



Pastor Cue Jn-Marie ministers to those in need on the streets of Skid Row. Here, he leads a protest in downtown Los Angeles. PHOTO/JOHN HWANG

By Suzette Shaw, Skid Row resident, poet, feminist activist

LOS ANGELES, CA — As a member of LA CAN (Community Action Network), an organization which advocates for the homeless and poor, based in LA's Skid Row, I am witnessing the birth of today's civil rights movement.

Over the Thanksgiving holiday I watched "Pastor Cue" Jn-Marie lead a crowd through downtown Los Angeles to protest the police killings—most often of Black men—throughout the nation. Here in Los Angeles, Ezell Ford, a mentally disabled man, was killed. Pastor Cue, the lead pastor and founder of "The Church Without Walls,"

a Friday night ministry in Skid Row, is also a member of CLUE LA (Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice) and an organizer for SCLC—the Christian Leadership Conference—which Dr. King was president of at the time of his murder.

Los Angeles has living connections to the Civil Rights Movement led by Dr. Martin

Luther King, Jr. I learned this myself when leaving the theatre after seeing "Selma," the new film that chronicles the months of struggle leading up to the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. I found the movie to be thought provoking, yet inspiring. As we departed the theatre, an elderly Black lady announced, "I'm from Alabama, I have friends who use to march with Dr. King." We got in touch, and one week later, I am sitting at the residence of Joyce Orange and her husband, Nathaniel.

A young Black teen raised during the mid-1900s in the heart of the Jim Crow South: Birmingham, Alabama. Joyce Orange Nelson says, "We didn't know we were getting involved in a movement. We just wanted to be able to sit at the counters to eat, ride the bus and try on clothes in the department stores." (Blacks then were not allowed to go into fitting rooms in department stores.) She was approximately 14 years of age when she joined the movement. She was arrested multiple times, once with Dr. King himself bailing her out, along with her father. Mrs. Nelson's brother, Reverend

James Orange, was Dr. King's personal aide, present at Lorraine Hotel when Dr. King was murdered.

Nathaniel Nelson made an interesting comment as I sat with them at their residence, "It should have never been a civil rights bill," Mr. Nelson proclaims, "It should have been an equal rights bill. With civil rights they felt they were giving up something to give to us, which should have been equally ours as American citizens."

I find this point fascinating, given here we are today, still fighting for "equal rights." Ironically, the current civil rights movement appears to be dealing with many of the disparaging issues which plagued our forefathers and mothers of the past movement; voting rights (check California Prop 47), wage gaps, self-sustainable employment, access to housing and fair treatment overall—but in a new environment of economic crisis, job loss, and displacement of the 99% as a whole. As Dr. King's character says in the movie "Selma," "It doesn't do much to sit at the lunch counter if you can't afford a hamburger."



# Resistance to police state growing

## 'It's not just police brutality. There's a system around it'

Laura Garcia of the *Tribuna del Pueblo* interviewed Mari Caldwell-Robinson at the Michael Brown protests in Ferguson, MO. Mari is part of North Carolina's Black Workers for Justice and their youth organization, Hip Hop for Justice in Raleigh.

Laura Garcia: Why are you in Ferguson?

**Mari Caldwell-Robinson:** I was angry and had to come. I feel connected to the people in St. Louis because it happens everywhere. We have issues with police brutality. We have organizations fighting with the Durham police to get more respect in their communities. I came so we could get different points of views and bring strategies back so that we can all network and communicate. If there is something going on in Texas, we'll go to Texas. If it is happening in Florida, we'll go to Florida, so we can all be there for each other.

LG: Police have been killing

people forever. What is different today?

**MC:** That we decided as a group, nationally, that we can't stand for this anymore and are ready to organize. We have been standing for it for hundreds of years, but now we are like, No! We won't any longer just organize in small groups. Now we're going across state lines and saying, 'hey, can you come down and help us organize, or if you can't come, tweet support or fundraise or write an article for us to help us in our fight.'

LG: Is this movement about more than police brutality?

**MC:** Yes. There is a system—there's poverty, unemployment, incarceration, they're not educating our kids. They are outsourcing jobs. You can't make it on \$7 an hour. So yes, it's a bigger thing. It's not just police brutality. There's a system around it, and there's people in Congress who are supposed to represent us, but really it's the Democrats and Republicans fighting each other.

but not really representing us.

LG: What role are women playing?

**MC:** Women run the movement. We are stepping up and our voices are being heard. We are producing the kids that are possibly going to get shot or that can be leaders in this community. We want a better world for our children and for ourselves. We want respect, just as men are treated with respect. We want our voices heard.

LG: How do you see the youth?

**MC:** This is a youth movement. Leaders from the '60s say we've been content with how things are. It's not really true. I've known people my age who have been fighting since they were 8 or 9, but in states or counties. We have always been fighting, we just haven't made a lot of noise and we haven't crossed state lines to help with each other. Social media helps out a lot. Now we can connect nationally or globally.



Rally in Ferguson, MO., demanding that the officer that killed Michael Brown be indicted, draws people from all of the country. PHOTO/DAYMONJHARTLEY.COM

LG: What do you say to other youth in the country?

**MC:** Listen. Educate yourself about what's going on. Sometimes you may not want to be a

social activist, you may not want to get in a protest, but at least be knowledgeable about what is going on in your community or county. Vote.

## It's one struggle, say Kansas City organizers



The group, "One Struggle KC," and friends after successful bridge-building event.

PHOTO/KAITLYN GRIFFITH

By Danny Alexander

KANSAS CITY, MO — Over the past few months, a new organization, One Struggle KC, has tirelessly coordinated Kansas City's responses to Ferguson while leading many demonstrations, even at the city's largest tourist attractions. The group has also held day long arts work-

shops for the sake of community healing. Two of the founders, Diane Burkholder and Kristin Chow, tell their story.

**Kristin Chow:** Five of us just got together. We knew each other from different groups around the city, and we came up with some visions of what we've always wanted to see here. At the core of

it was bridging the gaps between Black and Brown communities.

**Diane Burkholder:** We wanted to make sure that women, the undocumented and youth, whoever was involved, had equal footing and equal say.

The first event drew about forty people, with signs in solidarity with Ferguson and signs in soli-

darity with Ayotzinapa [Guerrero, Mexico, where 43 activist students recently disappeared].

**Chow:** By our second week, we did a banner drop at the Power & Light District during the sixth game of the World Series. We've grown fast and created a Spanish speaking wing called Una Lucha. We're taking some direction from the larger Ferguson action movement, but we try to localize the issues. We've had people arrested and experienced police violence.

The misreporting of these events broke a few hearts in our group, and these events led us to think about how to work around the mainstream media. I give it up to [the Ida B Wells Coalition Against Racism and Police Brutality in Kansas City] because they understand that you have to be out in the community [the group has held vigil every night since the Michael Brown decision]. We've talked about teach-ins, even at bus stops.

**Burkholder:** Our immediate focus is how to keep the momentum going and hang on to what

has been working. A lot of artists have said "I want to help out, I want to contribute."

We knew people were hungry for an outlet, but we've been surprised how many come to us saying "I'm doing this," and "I want to be connected." It hasn't felt forced. And people step up so others can step back for a few days and take care of ourselves.

**Chow:** I was having a conversation with one of the Ida B. Wells members, who said that last year thirteen white men were killed by police in Kansas City. Though we've featured the killings of whites in our protests, we were discussing how to start that dialogue, at the same time recognizing that there is a distinction behind Black Lives Matter versus other communities.

In Black-led movements, the natural instinct is to relegate white people to an allied role, and that's why we've been having conversations about letting politics lead, and not relegating white people to just an ally, you know, peripheral status. They have a vested interest in tearing down these systems as much as we do."



The underpinning of the rising police state is the changing economy and the mass poverty it produces. As the class aspects of the struggle become clear, the police more and more separate themselves from society and govern solely through force since the precedent has already been set by the attacks against the minorities.

# ‘We don’t just stand for Dontre, but for everyone’

*Editor’s note: The People’s Tribune’s Sandy Reid interviewed Dameion Hamilton, a brother of Dontre Hamilton who was killed by police in Milwaukee, WI. As we go to press, the District Attorney announced that the officer who killed Dontre would not be charged.*

“On April 30, my brother left a hotel in downtown Milwaukee and went to a park. While there, he decided to take a nap. An employee from Starbucks felt there was an issue and called the police. Two officers came by and spoke to my brother, made sure he was OK, and left. Then, Dontre went to sleep again. The employee called the police again. Two officers came back. They told the employee that the man was not doing anything wrong and to not call police anymore. Within 45 minutes, Officer Manning shows up. Dontre was awakened abruptly.

The officer performed a Terry pat down on him for no reason and started beating my brother with his baton. The officer said Dontre retrieved the baton. Some say Dontre hit the officer; others say he never swung the baton. The officer stood in a defensive stance, about 20 feet away and

said to Dontre, “So you want to play?” He opened up 14 shots on my brother. Seven of 14 shots were shot in a downward spiral. That means Dontre had fallen on the ground or was already on the ground while the officer was standing over him shooting. In the midst of the shooting, his hands were up—his thumb was blown off. Witnesses say they saw the officer shooting my brother after he was down. Yet, a few days before Christmas, the District Attorney said the officer would not be charged. He has been fired, but not charged in the use of deadly force. An hour after that decision, the Federal government picked up the case.

“We’ve been protesting for about six months and will continue until we get justice. This movement has been peaceful. We’re trying to make a statement. But the police don’t want us out here. They arrested 74 people in a peaceful highway protest. They didn’t have to get arrested. They were fighting for justice.

“They’ve been trying to defame my brother’s character. When they notified my mother of Dontre’s death, they put her in a car and asked her questions about her kids. They tried to ask me about him, too. My brother



Family members of Dontre Hamilton, a young man killed by police in Milwaukee, WI. Left to right: Dontre’s mother and brothers, Dameion and Nate. PHOTO/BLAKE HUGHES, WORLDJUSTICEREPORT.NET

suffered from schizophrenia. But, I want to make clear. Dontre’s illness did not kill him. He was murdered. The officer needs to be charged with murder.

“My brother was non violent. He would give you the shirt off his back. He lived his life for his family. We are pushing grieving off to use our energy to fight for Dontre’s rights. This is not about

money. We want policies put in place so that officers know how to assess people with mental issues. We have to put things in order so the poverty level in the community won’t be so high. This is not just a Milwaukee thing; its national. We’re trying to provide a better environment for the kids. We can’t bring my brother back but we hate to see

another person lose their life due to a senseless killing.

“I’m a songwriter. When I’m asked to sum up who my brother was to me, I say, Dontre was the perfect lyric within an awesome beat.

For more information, call 770-624-0062.



Rally in Chicago to reclaim the radical legacy of Martin Luther King. PHOTO/SARAH JANE RHEE

## From the Editors

Black History Month is more than a time to set forth or celebrate the contributions of outstanding African Americans to American history. It is increasingly becoming a time to sum up

the struggles of the past, extract the lessons and adjust our efforts for the oncoming battles.

America has entered a vast social revolution. This revolution is having its effect on all aspects of life, including the ongoing African American fight

## Black History Month: Lessons for today

for equality. It is not possible to think strategically for the coming period without considering the impact it is having and will have on today’s movement.

While it is clear that a new form of movement is emerging, it is necessary to sum up the breaks in continuity that create new possibilities.

Historically, there were two main conditions for controlling the Black movement.

Most important was the isolation of the Black workers from their white counterpart. Thus the century of legal segregation. Today, technological development is forcing a sector of white workers into social and economic conditions similar to those occupied by the Black. Communication among the workers is now possible and the ideological fight for class unity can now be won.

Secondly, segregation forced

the isolated Black worker to rely on those who had communication with not only the “power structure,” but with other Black communities. These were, in the main, the direct descendants of the “house slave.”

Under such conditions, the white ruling class literally appointed the leaders of the Blacks. It should be remembered that every single uprising of the field slaves in America was compromised by the “house slave,” who was living better than the field slaves.

The upsurge of national unity beginning with the Trayvon Martin case through the police murder of Eric Garner in New York, could not possibly have happened without social media. There is a huge effort to contain this new weapon—but the reality is that the grassroots today have the communication possibilities

that were reserved for the elite just a few years back.

New means of struggle are available to both sides. However, this latest round of struggle has shown that the days of the unknown national “leader” coming in and disrupting the local organization are coming to an end.

Tactics have to change accordingly. The indispensable introduction of new ideas is possible as never before. The ruling class is even more capable of imposing “leaders” on the mass—but the mass has this new capacity of popularizing concrete demands and exchanging experience.

The revolutionaries today, as never before, can and must dig deeper into the mass—arouse them and guarantee the stability that only local organization can create.

# To Damo, with our love...



The “We Charge Genocide” delegates raise fists in silent protest to the U.S. government’s responses at the United Nations Committee Against Torture in Geneva, Switzerland.

PHOTO/WE CHARGE GENOCIDE

By Mariame Kaba

CHICAGO, IL — The news came on Friday. I wasn’t able to hear it as it broke. Later when I checked email, I read the excited comments. The United Nations Committee Against Torture (UNCAT) had released its concluding remarks. Among many references to the brutality and

impunity of U.S. policing, they wrote:

“The Committee is concerned about numerous, consistent reports that police have used electrical discharge weapons against unarmed individuals who resist arrest or fail to comply immediately with commands, suspects fleeing minor crime scenes or even minors. Moreover, the

Committee is appalled at the number of reported deaths after the use of electrical discharge weapons, including the recent cases of Israel “Reefa” Hernández Llach in Miami Beach, Florida, and Dominique Franklin Jr. in Sauk Village, Illinois.”

So much of what we do in the name of the dead is really for us, the living. It’s so we can try to

make sense of the senseless. It’s so we can carry on and move through our grief. It’s so we don’t follow the dead into their graves. In May, when I wrote about your killing by the Chicago Police Department, I didn’t know how your friends (how our community) would come together to ensure that your death wouldn’t be another routine occurrence.

We Charge Genocide (WCG) was born from the tragedy of your killing. Through WCG, many of us have re-membered to hope. WCG member Sarah Macaraeg captured the essence of the UN delegation’s trip earlier:

“By the time the delegates left, they had staged both a walk out and a silent protest inside the United Nations when ‘US representatives responded to . . . questions regarding police use of tasers by claiming police are properly trained to use them and that they aren’t lethal,’” according to a group statement.

The story of Dominique Franklin Jr., has now been covered around the world, affirming the belief that his life mattered, as all young Black lives matter. Questions of police impunity, militarization, excessive force, and patterns of discrimination are now among the forefront of those posed by U.N. members to the U.S.”

Your friends made sure your name was entered into the record when they charged genocide for your killing and those of other Black people in Chicago.

On Friday, the UN guaranteed that your tragically unnecessary death, will serve as a platform for future organizing and change. All of us involved in this effort are committed to continue the work of creating a more just world in your name and those of the others lost to us through state violence.

Your friend Malcolm, who was/is gutted by your killing, was among the delegation that traveled to the UN in Geneva. They took the task incredibly seriously. You would be proud.

We struggle out of profound love. It’s a love that sustains and strengthens us. It’s a love that convinces us that we will eventually win. I close with Malcolm’s words about you, Damo, because they are so eloquent. Malcolm urges that “no matter what life you lived, you deserved to live it!” We carry on. Rest in power, young man, rest in peace.

*Mariame Kaba is a Chicago-based, New York City-born organizer and educator. This piece was excerpted with permission from her blog, Prison Culture: <http://www.usprisonculture.com/blog>.*

## Either we organize or we die!

By Dorothy Payne

ST. LOUIS, MO — “Either We Organize, or We Die!” declared one protestor the night they announced no charges against Mike Brown’s killer, the cop Darren Wilson. I went to St. Louis/Ferguson after Mike Brown’s murder to await the Grand Jury decision and to interview African-American residents there, some of whom were old friends and colleagues. What sparked this mass, militant response against police brutality?

The delayed announcement sparked a wildfire around the world. As demonstrators hit the streets, I contacted a politically conscious, African-American artist/professor at Washington University who had just completed making an award winning film, “From Jim Crow to Obama”.

I asked how St. Louis—Ferguson especially—had come together so quickly. “St. Louis was ready!” she exclaimed proudly.

“Law students had been monitoring police brutality in the city, and neighborhoods, church groups, women’s organizations had all been meeting regularly, because it had to stop! Ferguson is not the worst you know.”

She went on to praise the work of groups like CAPIC (Coalition to Abolish Prison Incarceration) and MORE (Missourians Organized to Reform and Empower), and “Sisters Talking Back”. “St. Louis was already on the move” she reiterated.

“MORE organized the Saturday march after Brown’s murder and that stunning St. Louis Symphony action. Groups all over the city, of all ethnicities and classes have been meeting. Vets for Peace, the Organization of Black Lawyers, and other community groups began organizing de-escalation training, scheduling rallies, leading Walmart shutdowns. Students rallied. Coalition meetings were called and that following Wednesday, people crowded into the city

council meeting and made their demands. The council refused to respond, so groups met all over the city, then collectively decided on that huge march which brought people from the world. There was nothing spontaneous about it! We all pulled together. During one meeting a cop kept referring to the ‘riots’. ‘Stop calling them riots!’ several in the audience called out. The cops instigate the violence!’ This meeting gave the voiceless an opportunity to testify to police insults and abuses, and gave others the opportunity to listen and understand. In Ferguson, David Whitt organized a neighborhood watch and fund raisers to buy video cameras and sent people house to house to distribute them and show folks how to use them.”

When the Grand Jury announcement finally came, anger mounted as grief dissolved into a dignified rage, not only in Ferguson, but on Grand Avenue in the historically white



On the eve of the Ferguson Grand Jury verdict that failed to indict the police officer that killed Mike Brown, some protesters marched with the American flag upside down, a sign of distress.

PHOTO/ADRIAN GARCIA

south side: a major freeway was blocked, candles lit, chants intensified; many wept. I asked one young man if he was afraid as the cops came piling out of hiding from behind buildings and dark alley ways. “No”, he said boldly. “If they can kill you, and leave you to die like a

dog in the street, you either organize or die.”

St. Louis/Ferguson was prepared for the fight. The city’s interracial organizing and collective courage has shown us how to ready ourselves when “the whole zone is permeated by the enemy.” (Che Guevara)



# Fighting to stop water shutoffs

The People's Tribune interviewed Rev. Bill Wylie-Kellermann, a leader in the struggle to stop the water shutoffs in Detroit, MI.

People's Tribune: Tell us about the actions around the water shutoffs.

**Rev. Bill Wylie-Kellermann:** A private company, Homrich Demolition, was contracted by the Emergency Manager to do 129,000 shutoffs, 3,000 a week. In July, we did the first of two direct actions blocking trucks from going out to shut off water. We blocked the gates for a couple of hours. All of a sudden, the police moved in. People sat down in front of the truck and were dragged. The next weekend we blocked the gates for 7 ½ hours before police moved to arrest us. That's the action that they're prosecuting 9 of us for now. We're called the "Homrich 9."

PT: Will there be a jury trial?

**BK:** There may be 4 or 5 separate jury trials. We've filed discovery motions asking for information from the city on the number of shutoffs and where they are, stating we need this information for our defense. Our argument is that we had to do these actions as a matter of moral and legal necessity. In the summer, National

Nurses United came and made a public declaration that water shutoffs are a health crisis. The next court date is February. The trials will be in March.

PT: Why did they arrest you?

**BK:** That same day there were 1500 people in the streets of downtown Detroit protesting the water shutoffs. The timing suggests they decided to arrest us or more people might join.

PT: What role has Detroit's Emergency Manager (EM) played in the water cutoffs?

**BK:** The EM affects everything. The whole city, including the water department, was under the EM at this time. The impetus for shutoffs was coming from him as well as the bankruptcy into which he and the governor had put the city of Detroit. The shutoffs were in part to make the water department more desirable, either as an asset for full privatization and sale or for regionalization under the Great Lakes Water Authority. Aspects of the sewage treatment and other things have been contracted out to private contractors. Union workers are concerned that people will come in that don't know what they're doing. It's designed to weaken and break the unions. The threat was that they would



Protests to turn the water back on for thousands of the poorest residents in Detroit, MI, unable to pay the skyrocketing price. Water is being privatized throughout the country so corporations can profit. Water should belong to the people. PHOTO/DAYMONJHARTLEY.COM

sell the entire thing to a private corporation. A French corporation, Viola, (formerly Viviendo) which did a lot of work regarding water in the occupied territories in Palestine, had such a bad reputation they changed their name. Viola has been contracted by Great Lakes Water Authority as a consultant and will likely be

contracted to run the water department. This is the direction things are moving.

PT: What's the solution?

**BK:** In 2005, strong members of the city council voted for a water affordability plan which would have set rates according to people's ability to pay. It could still

be operationalized for the whole region to insure the human right to access to water. I believe this is an asset that belongs to the city of Detroit as part of the commons. The people of Detroit need to hold it as a public trust.

## Residents ask, 'Are they trying to kill us?'

### Water Wars: Life under dictatorship reaches all time low

By Claire McClinton

FLINT, MI — The water crisis here has reached a tipping point. The Department of Environmental Quality has ordered the city's Emergency Manager to issue notices to water customers that Flint's water violates the Clean Water Act Standards. The water drawn from the Flint River (temporarily while a new pipeline to Lake Huron is built) contains excessive levels of cancer causing trihalomethanes (TTHMs).

The notice urges citizens not to panic. It says that the water is safe, yet cautioned "elderly and households with infants" or others with "compromised immune systems" to "consult their physicians"! Local hospitals and colleges are scrambling to upgrade their filtering systems and monitor water quality in response to the alarming reports. In the meantime, town hall meetings and demonstrations all over town are being held to confront

the crisis. A lawsuit is in the making.

Residents have known that something was wrong with this water since spring of last year, when the Flint River was used. Aside from a series of water boil advisories, countless complaints of skin rashes and physical illness have fallen on deaf ears of the Emergency Manager regime.

This past October, the General Motors Engine plant asked for and received permission to discontinue Flint water usage since high levels of chloride were rusting axle parts—the same chloride levels that have exposed us to the unacceptable TTHM levels. Under corporate dictatorship, an engine part has more value than the health and well being of human beings.

#### Water Rate Scandal

Even before the Department of Environmental Quality issued it's finding on the life threatening contaminants in Flint's water, the



Water wars in Flint, Michigan. The water in Flint, Michigan contains excessive levels of cancer causing trihalomethanes. PHOTO/NAYYIRAH SHARIFF

cost of water here became mind-boggling. Like Detroit, excessive water rates have resulted in numerous water shutoffs. In one year's time, over 10,000 property liens have been issued due to water debts. Flint water rates are the highest in the state. Homeowners as well as renters are leaving

the city in droves to deal with the crisis. Others have their water on "illegally", hoping they won't be discovered and face prosecution. Yet, bondholders and banks have not missed one payment while the citizens, living under Emergency Manager rule, are gouged to pay for water that we own but

do not control.

In their quest for quality and affordable water, the citizens of Flint are writing a new chapter in the struggle. Who would have imagined that the home of the great Sit Down strike would be called on to fight under the banner: WATER IS LIFE!





**One-day boycott of Chicago Public Schools. Community groups marched to City Hall to demand that Mayor Rahm Emanuel meet their demands.**  
PHOTO/SARAH JANE RHEE

**By Lew Rosenbaum**

CHICAGO, IL — Chicagoans will have an opportunity to vote for aldermen and mayor in a hotly contested political season, with national significance. The context of this election year is an economic depression that will not go away, and a city administration which attacked worker pensions, closed mental health clinics and schools, and priva-

tized everything in sight. After active teachers and parents were unable to defend their right to education by appealing to their government, they resorted to running for office. Each and every alderman and all city offices are in the grip of the Democratic Party. The main question in these elections is, are fissures emerging in the Democratic Party stranglehold?

We have reported on some

# Chicago elections: Building a movement representing the dispossessed

independent candidacies in previous issues of the People's Tribune. In the 25th Ward, three of six challengers identify themselves as "socialist." Alberto Bocanegra (15<sup>th</sup> Ward) is running for alderman as a Green Party member. The Green Party has endorsed several other candidates as well. One of the common planks is the opposition to corporate, "downtown" control, and a key slogan of mayoral candidate Jesus "Chuy" Garcia is to put the neighborhoods first, a lesson he says he learned from his experience with Mayor Harold Washington.

Mayor Rahm Emanuel began this campaign with approval ratings dipping into the 30% range. All of the challengers, mayoral and aldermanic, expect to capitalize on hatred of the mayor. *But will voters find something they want to cast a ballot for?*

All challengers are trying to force a runoff, when an outright victory may not be possible. Mayor Emanuel has a ten million dollar war chest. Alderman Bob Fioretti, a long-time antagonist of the mayor, has been courting the teachers' union and parent activists for years and on that base is running for mayor. Garcia, with many years in progressive politics, says he now has \$1 million in the bank. That challenge to the mayor is forcing Emanuel to spend his money flooding the TV with ads lying about his own record, rather than funneling money to crush challengers to his alderman incumbent buddies.

To what extent are these challenges another face of the Democratic Party seeking to corral in the voters with promises that will necessarily be unfulfilled? For example, Mayor Emanuel swept into office with

promises about rebuilding the neighborhoods.

Campaigns that tap into the discontent of the grass-roots struggles for food, clothing, shelter, education—the right to survive—are direct challenges to a system that cannot answer the demands made upon it, except by increased repression. In the midst of such struggles, when traditional forms of party organization cannot hold, opportunities arise to fight for a cooperative society that can guarantee our needs. Electing independent candidates furthers those opportunities. The teachers' union has been in the forefront of developing an independent political organization. Some such political expression of the workers is the next step in challenging the machinery of the Democrats, a necessary step in developing a force that represents the dispossessed of our city.

## Protect your people march

**By Sandy Perry**

SAN JOSE, CA — On December 18, the residents of San Jose, California held a diverse, spirited, and unified demonstration against the national epidemic of unpunished police murders. Its immediate cause was death threats to protestors tweeted by San Jose police officer Phillip White on social media. "Threaten me or my family," wrote White, "and I will use my God-given and law-appointed right and duty to kill you. By the way, if anyone feels they can't breathe or their lives matter, I will be at the movies tonight, off duty, carrying my gun."

The rally was led by families of victims of local police violence, including Laurie Valdez from Justice for Josiah, whose husband was gunned down by San Jose State University Police in February. The strength of the demonstration was its unity across color lines, built by years of efforts by families fighting for justice for their loved ones. Although the police have historically targeted mainly Latinos and African-Americans, the diversity of San Jose's population means that whites, Vietnamese,

and others have also been affected by the killings and abuse, and have also organized in response.

The diversity of this struggle points to a deeper reality that underlies the violence. The lives that do not matter to the police, or to the system, are those of the people who are being cast out of the high technology Silicon Valley economy. As automation replaces their jobs, the very workers who built the area's infrastructure are now considered expendable. This was graphically demonstrated on December 4, when San Jose demolished the nation's largest homeless encampment on Story Road. Police drove out Latinos, whites, African-Americans, and Vietnamese alike and scattered them to the streets of the city.

Although it would only cost one-tenth of one percent of Silicon Valley's corporate wealth to end homelessness, the system places a higher value on the profits of its corporations than on the very lives of its people.

San Jose's recent Mayoral election did little to change the situation. The vote was split between the mainly upper-income and white neighborhoods on the West Side, who voted for the



**High school students join the Protect your People March. They are part of RAD (Regeneration Against Destruction). "We believe we exist in a world that is constantly being destroyed, we are here to take a stand and regenerate it."**  
PHOTO/SANDY PERRY

pro-corporate candidate, Democrat Sam Liccardo. The mainly working class, Latino, and Asian East Side neighborhoods voted for Democrat Dave Cortese, the union-supported candidate. Liccardo won a narrow victory, largely because Cortese organized his campaign around an anti-crime message promoted by

the Police Officers Association, and failed to emphasize the desperate survival issues faced by a larger and larger section of the electorate.

Real change will come when the scattered struggles of people dispossessed by the hi-tech economy begin to coalesce and develop independent political

campaigns to fight for their interests. Real change will come when we secure the political power necessary to put an end to police oppression and reorganize the economy to meet basic human needs





Petition delivery and rally to stand up for Marissa Alexander at Florida State Capitol. PHOTO/WEAREULTRAVIOLET

By Nell Myhand

OAKLAND, CA — Days after giving birth to her youngest child of three, Marissa Alexander fired a warning shot to stop Rico Gray, her estranged husband, who abused and threatened to kill her, from carrying out his threat. She had two restraining orders

against Gray, and had been hospitalized for injuries he inflicted. Based on *his* claim that *she tried to kill him*, police SWAT teams surrounded the house and arrested her.

Special Prosecutor Angela Corey charged Alexander with three counts of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, de-

# Free Marissa NOW!

spite the fact that no one was injured. Corey is the same prosecutor who failed to get a conviction against George Zimmerman. In the Zimmerman case, the question was not whether Zimmerman killed Trayvon Martin, but was killing Trayvon a crime. What an insult to Black people everywhere that state power was used to convict Marissa, while granting immunity to Zimmerman!

Judge Elizabeth Senterfitt denied Marissa Alexander the use of a “Stand Your Ground” defense during her first trial, saying that Alexander could have found a way to leave the house without firing her weapon. Stand Your Ground specifically says that there is no duty to retreat, that if you feel threatened you can use any force you choose to defend yourself. Does that apply only to white men?

In jury deliberations lasting 12 minutes, Alexander was convicted of all counts and received Florida’s mandatory minimum 20-year sentence for each count,

to be served concurrently. On appeal, the conviction was overturned, yet Corey pursued a vendetta against Alexander with a particularly sinister move calling for the three twenty-year sentences to be served consecutively. Alexander’s case is a clear example of the racist and sexist bias that mars the criminal justice system.

Faced with another exhausting and expensive trial and the possibility of a 60-year prison term, Marissa accepted a plea deal that returned her to jail. The national organizing campaign is demanding that Ms. Alexander be pardoned. Her children are growing up without their mother due to racial, gender and class bias rampant in the criminal justice system. Join us in demanding a pardon for Marissa Alexander so she can rebuild her life and care for her children.

## What You Can Do

- > Spread the word about this injustice!
- > Contact Florida Governor Rick

Scott (850) 488-7146, The Capitol, 400 S. Monroe St., Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001, and President Barack Obama 202-456-1414, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20500, and demand a pardon!

- > Demand media coverage of the story!
- > Contact Attorney General Eric Holder, U.S. Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20530-0001 and demand that the Department of Justice investigate whether Alexander’s due process rights were denied when she was prevented from using the Stand Your Ground defense.
- > Donate to Marissa’s legal defense fund at [gogetfunding.com/project/marissa-alexander-freedom-fundraiser/](http://gogetfunding.com/project/marissa-alexander-freedom-fundraiser/)
- > Develop and engage in direct actions highlighting Marissa’s case and other incarcerated women’s experience with the *criminal injustice system!*

## Peace Poem

Face your pale peace  
And you’ll wish  
That Your blood  
Had been alive  
In your silent  
Rattlesnake throat  
On the night breath  
No longer imagined  
In the lungs  
Of our human  
Angel Michael Brown

Face your pale peace  
And you’ll wish  
That Your hood  
Had come unraveled  
In your voiceless  
Saw-scaled heart  
On the day blue death  
No longer allowed  
Freedom in air  
For our human  
Father Eric Garner

Face your pale peace  
And you’ll wish  
That your good  
Had risen up  
In your reticent  
Flat-headed feet  
On the night the police  
No longer respected  
The mourning of the mother  
Of our human  
Son DeSean Pittman

Face your pale peace  
And you’ll see  
There is no peace poem  
When our guardians  
Are killing our children  
In the gardens

— Eric Allen Yankee

## Waiting

(Jan. 3, 2015)

On a cold, puddle-filled night  
some folks wait for a bus  
under the shelter of a train station.

We don’t look at each other,  
or speak to each other,  
but we are waiting for the same bus.

Another unspeakable year gone by,  
and we are still traveling  
this road together,

me and my working-class comrades,  
me & my fellow pilgrims –  
we weary travelers in the night.

— Adam Gottlieb



# 'This is a fight for us all,' says Rev. Pinkney

The People's Tribune interviewed Rev. Edward Pinkney who is imprisoned in Marquette, Michigan. Pinkney is a leader of the people who was unjustly convicted of vote fraud charges in Benton Harbor, MI and sentenced to up to ten years in prison. He speaks about what this fight is all about.

"My case represents a direct attack on democracy. This is an issue around the world, and especially here in the U.S. It shows what the corporate power structure will do. They are determined to crush anyone who stands in their way. They need to control the working class. It's about the haves against the have nots, the rich against the poor. It's not about Rev. Pinkney or Benton Harbor. It's an issue for everyone. They no longer need workers like they used to. It doesn't matter if you are Black, white, Mexican, Puerto Rican, etc. If you're not part of what they're trying to do, you're not useful to them.

"This struggle is really be-

cause of the economy. We must find a solution. We can no longer allow a society that cannot feed, clothe and house people. That society must be overturned. We need to make sure everybody is fed, clothed, and housed in America. They are cutting food stamps. They are cutting subsidies for housing. Until the people take a stand, they are going to continue doing the same thing. What's next after food stamps?

"We have to show them we are not willing to lay down and let them walk all over us. This is why I don't mind being in the prison system. I don't mind even this horrible food. I don't mind that I came up here in a cold bus, shackled; it took two days. I don't mind because I know we are going to win in the end. I know this because the poorest workers stood up in my trial. They told the truth and were not intimidated by the sheriff and prosecutor. It was so profound. It gives me hope. All this is not for nothing. All this is just the beginning of something bigger than



Rev. Edward Pinkney, speaking at a Detroit water rights protest, has been in the forefront of the struggle to stop water cutoffs in Benton Harbor and other Michigan cities.

PHOTO/DAYMONJHARTLEY.COM

Rev. Pinkney.

"We're talking about a movement. We're getting world recognition. We're doing all the

right things. We must make this struggle a victory for all who are victims of this economic crisis in every city, state

and country. We must continue to fight this battle until we win, and we will win. That is why we are fighting today."

## The struggle is for life itself

From the Editors of the People's Tribune

Babies in America go hungry while 442 billionaires wallow in wealth. A powerful movement for food, housing, water and other necessities is arising. Everywhere, the people are coming into conflict with a murderous police state that stands in the way of the movement achieving its demands.

Michigan is an example. Here, the once stable working class cities are shattered by automation and globalization. As the people struggle for their needs, the police, the watchdogs of the private property of the billionaires—who are the owners of the corporations that have taken over the government and our nation—rear their head.

In Detroit, running water for thousands of families too poor to pay the skyrocketing price is shut off. Water, this basic hu-

man need, is step by step being privatized so the corporations can profit. When the community protested at the gate of the private company the city hired (to the tune of over \$5 million) to turn off the water, demonstrators were roughed up and jailed.

In Benton Harbor, where 42.5% of the population live in poverty, an uncompromising leader of the people, Reverend Edward Pinkney was imprisoned for up to ten years on phony charges. His crime was standing up for the poorest workers against Whirlpool, the giant corporation that rules the area.

Michigan also shows how the rulers utilize the "race" card to try to stop the people from coming together in a common struggle. Their tactic is to attack Black-majority cities first, painting them as incompetent to run their own affairs. Then they impose dictatorial emergency managers on them. These unelected

officials, operating in the service of the bankers and corporate owners, usher in the attacks on necessities such as water and pave the way for privatization of all of a city's public assets.

The largely Black cities are the starting point for the dismantling of democracy, but the real target is the whole working class and the whole of society. Already the emergency manager system has reached 17 municipalities and school districts in Michigan. Now, this model is appearing in other states, too.

Today, the economy is destroying the lives of so many workers it is possible to forge a new kind of unity. Working class unity in the fight for our necessities and for a new cooperative society where everyone's needs are met, and where the police state is a thing of the past, is the only force that can save humanity.

We must take the battles for our lives out to all of the towns and cities where the new poverty makes our practical economic class interests identical, regardless of color. This is part of the struggle for the power necessary to build a new society run by and for the people.

## Voices from Benton Harbor

The People's Tribune interviewed people from Benton Harbor, MI about the continued struggle for justice.

"They dismissed the latest mayoral recall because the mayor can't be recalled in his last term. The recall effort was because the city is operating illegally without a civil service board. If no action is taken, I will ask the prosecutor to investigate. Even though recall petitions can't be filed against the mayor, he is not free of any prosecution investigation."

— Denny Brown

"County Commissioner Bob Wooley could get 20 years for embezzlement from the county. They didn't want us BANCO members to demonstrate so they kept his court hearing private. They don't even put him in the paper like they did Rev. Pinkney. They don't deal fairly. They should push his sentence to the max. If not, then release Rev. Pinkney."

— Emma Kinnard

"The incarceration of Rev. Pinkney, found guilty with no evidence, brings awareness of the modern day Jim Crow in Berrien County: the black robes of injustice, uniforms of deception, and an all white jury representing something other than the truth. The revolution for justice has increased world-wide."

— Dorothy Pinkney

"Boycott Whirlpool. Boycott Whirlpool. Boycott Whirlpool."

— Rev. Pinkney

Send donations to Rev. Pinkney's legal defense to: BANCO, 1940 Union Avenue, Benton Harbor, Michigan 49022. Or go to [bhbanco.org](http://bhbanco.org) to donate via paypal.

## Order People's Tribunes!

Get up to date coverage of the movement to free Pinkney. Get timely analysis about the struggle for a new society. Call 800-691-6888 or visit [peopletribune.org](http://peopletribune.org). Donations are 50c per paper.