



In Michigan poverty-wage workers picket a Walmart store on Black Friday in November, 2014, part of nationwide protests for \$15 an hour wages and more full-time work. They are part of a global movement of workers whose demands stand opposed to a global billionaire class that is only interested in maximizing its profits.

PHOTO/JIMWESTPHOTO.COM

## Special Coverage:



Minister imprisoned for speaking out against corporate power

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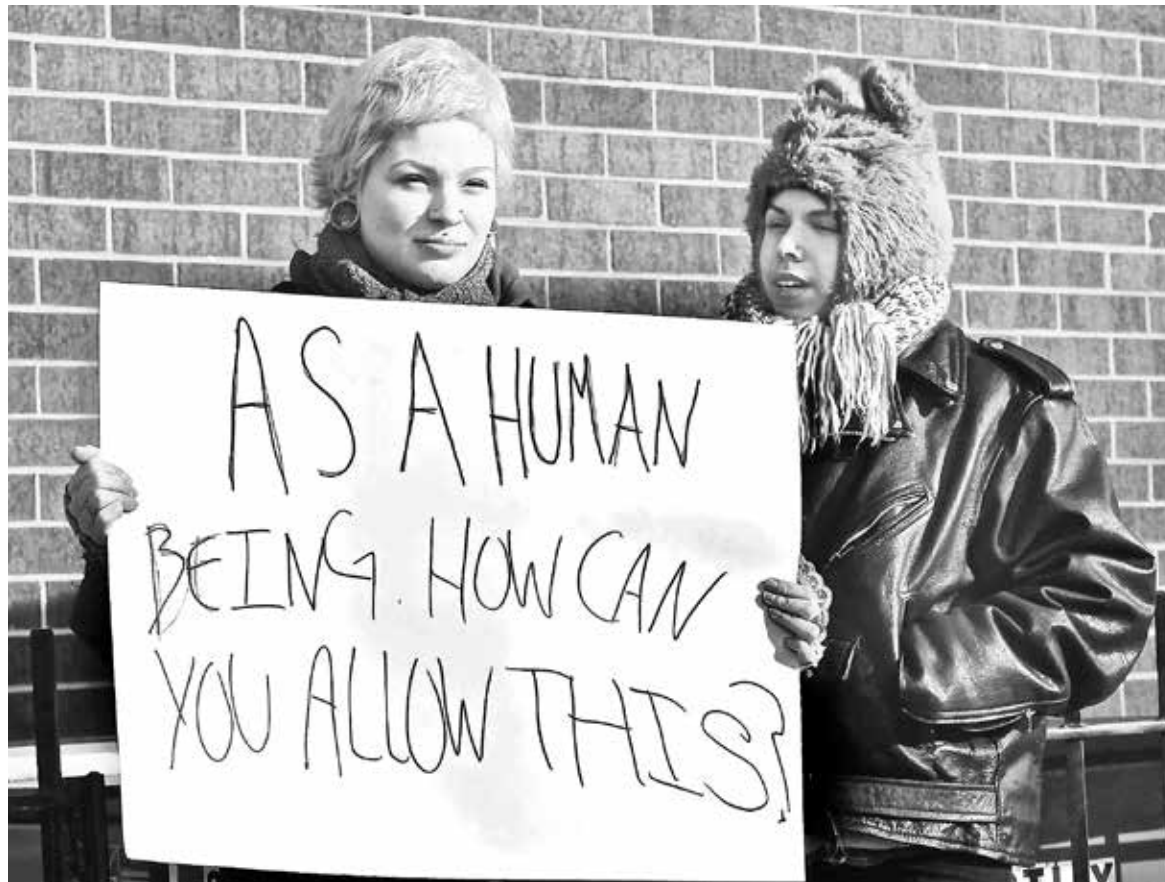
# COMMON POVERTY: BASIS FOR CLASS UNITY

Read story on page 3

### EDITORIAL

Every day we hear of a new police killing of an unarmed person, usually someone poor, young, of color or disabled. The police murdered 176 people in January and February 2015. Revelations emerged about a detention center in Chicago where people are held, tortured CIA-style, outside any legal proceedings—many for political dissent—and one man was found dead in his cell. A homeless man with the street name 'Africa' is gunned down in downtown Los Angeles, while his friends shout their horrified protests. Most recently, the police murder of a teenaged student in his Madison, Wisconsin home is sparking mass outrage. Militarized police forces break into terrified people's homes like storm troopers, gunning down women and children. The outcry and sustained demonstrations sweeping this country against the murders of Michael Brown in Ferguson, MO, and Eric Garner in New York, and so many others, are the beginning of a mass social response against this terror, and the corrupt system of laws that uphold it.

For the homeless, those this crumbling economy has driven into the streets, every aspect of their lives is criminalized. Towns and cities across the country are passing legislation against necessary survival activities: sleeping, sitting down, 'lodging', squatting empty buildings, asking for money for food. It is now illegal in 33 cities and towns to share food with homeless people. Shut-down prisons and detention centers are proposed as 'housing' for the homeless, as laws are passed to criminalize people and sweep them out of sight, to hide this human evidence of a mean



Protest at Homan Square in Chicago. It has been reported that this is a torture and illegal detention site. PHOTO/BOB SIMPSON

and failing social order. Jails are becoming the homeless shelters of today.

The introduction of computerized and robotized production is replacing a rapidly growing section of workers from all levels of society. These insecure, contingency, part-time and thrown-out workers are of all backgrounds, nationalities and colors. They are one layoff, sickness or eviction from the streets, or already there. They have in common that they must fight for what they need to survive. The capitalist system can't and won't support workers it doesn't need to exploit. It can only meet their demands with terror and violence. This rising police-state fascism protects the interests of the corporations, which hold what people need as private property. The demands of

workers for what they need are bringing them up against a system which has thrown them out. This can only be resolved under a new society—one that provides for all.

Whether in their struggles for the necessities of life or against police brutality and murder, people are organizing to demand what is rightfully and humanly

theirs, in a world free of violence, war and want. Their demands for justice, and for what they need to survive and thrive, are in reality a cry for a transformed economic and political system where the abundance the new technology creates is distributed according to need. A powerful movement is arising that can fight for this new society.

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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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**People's Tribune Editor:** Bob Lee

**Editorial Staff:** Brett Jelinek, Sarah Menefee, 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)

**Publisher:** People's Tribune  
ISSN# 1081-4787

**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:  
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# Common poverty: Basis for class unity

## COVER STORY

Imagine you're in a good job with good pay and benefits. One day you fall on the job. The injuries are so severe you are in a coma and lose your shinbone, which is replaced by a metal rod. You require continued medical care and other benefits to maintain your home and family. Then imagine that the insurance company refuses to pay for your medical treatments and other benefits. When you apply for Social Security Disability you are refused. You end up on the street, disabled, homeless and sleeping in below zero temperatures.

"I'm out here because I got hurt on the job fixing police and fire communication systems. Now I get abused, beaten, robbed and harassed by Philadelphia police on a constant basis. I've had water thrown on me in freezing cold weathers by the cops. My blankets and sleeping bag were taken by the cops. That's what they do to us out here. They've sent me out here to die... I'm cheaper dead than alive." This is the story of John. (See link to video on this page.)

When one man's tragedy becomes the fate of millions, aren't we really talking about class oppression? The cheapening of human life to the extreme of needless death on the street is becoming an all too common experience. The electronic economic revolution under capitalist society is the root cause. All sectors of the economy are transforming into industries in need of little or no human labor. The system will not support labor it does not need.

This process is creating a new section of workers, a new class,

employed and unemployed, ranging from minimum wage, part-time, temporary workers to the dispossessed, destitute and homeless. While the ruling class reports record profits, these workers, one-sixth of the population, live below the poverty line and are getting poorer. Nearly half of the American population is just above the poverty line and sinking. Under such conditions, the ruling class can no longer continue to hide the reality of class.

The American ruling class has been masters of divide and conquer for centuries. Billionaire Warren Buffett has called it "class war" and proclaims that his "side is winning." The strategy in class war, as in any other kind of war, is to weaken the enemy, dividing and isolating them. Their division of the working class into white, Black, Latino, undocumented and countless other identities serves that purpose.

In spite of this, the conditions for class unity are maturing. Automation is economically pushing society toward an irrepressible conflict. Commonly shared poverty and the permanent denial of the necessities of life by the owning class are giving rise to common demands. Whether you are Black and protesting in Ferguson or white, on welfare in Appalachia, the demand is the same for food, housing, health care, etc. None of these demands can be met without a cooperative society where social production is owned publicly and distributed according to need. The next step in that direction is for the new section of workers to become conscious of themselves as members of a class and unite on that basis.



CARTOON/ANDY WILLIS



See video of John's story at [invisiblepeople.tv/blog](http://invisiblepeople.tv/blog)

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# Water is a human right, not a 'commodity'

By Maureen D. Taylor  
State Chair, Michigan Welfare  
Rights Organization

*Editor's note: In Detroit, Michigan, up to 30,000 homes have had their water shut off for inability to pay, and the shutoffs continue.*

DETROIT, MI — The Michigan Welfare Rights Organization (MWRO) is organizing an event in Detroit, MI with a gathering of social movements. We are reaching out to all the Water Warriors we know of in the US, those in Canada, those in Mexico, and those in South America, asking that they arrive or be prepared to engage SKYPE in an effort to share best practices, and so they can see up front the attacks low income families in Detroit face with continuing mass water shutoffs. The purpose will be to expose this practice, and to raise the message that water is a human right and can never be defined as a "commodity," which implies access is tied to payment.

We are looking at a small gathering, with representatives from the Council of Canadians, the Indigenous Water Warriors, Women's Economic Agenda Project,

the Black Mesa Collective, plus we are asking these groups and others to share details about this event so that groups we are not aware of might know about this and connect to it. YOU HAVE TO COME!!

The event will be Saturday and Sunday—May 30 - 31. The event will be similar to this scenario:

1) Some may arrive Friday evening, so we are securing hotel accommodations.

2) Our City tour bus will start around 10am on Saturday to addresses in Detroit where water had been off, is off, or the residents are facing eviction. Residents at these addresses will board the bus to tell us what happened, plus answer any questions the riders may have. We will then have lunch and gather in the hotel conference room where we will hear about the work of our national and international guests. They will tell us what challenges they face in water and housing wars, and what are the best practices they are using to arrive at successful results. There will be a presentation from our local legal team who will share information about litigation efforts.



Canadians bring 750 gallons of water to Detroit to protest water shutoffs to thousands of households for inability to pay the skyrocketing price. PHOTO/DAYMONJHARTLEY.COM

In the last segment, visitors will hear from the community advocates in Detroit, including the Homrich 9. We will then dine and any cultural events can take place at that time.

3) If there is a desire, we can have a public event Sunday morning, where residents everywhere who have had water and housing challenges would be invited to come and share their ex-

periences. We will end before 1pm on Sunday, and folks can start returning home.

Contact the Michigan Welfare Rights Organization for more information at: (313) 964-0618.

## Poor denied healthcare while healthcare industry profits

By Katherine Bock

SAN JOSE, CA — Six Daughters of Charity Hospitals in California were poised for sale to a for-profit chain, Prime Healthcare, but the sale fell through in March. The State's Attorney General had conditionally approved the sale, requiring the buyer to continue providing the same level of charity and Medi-Cal (California's Medicaid) services for at least 10 years. Prime Healthcare declined those conditions.

Federal healthcare reform, cuts in insurance reimbursements, and general uncertainty in the economy combined to make it harder for the nonprofit Daughters of Charity to continue. At this point they face bankruptcy, which will also endanger patient care for poor people as well as worker rights and pensions.

It is shameful when a charitable organization has to sell—or go down, when so many will suffer. Daughters of Charity has been providing care for the poor in California since the 1800s. They never turned anyone away, including the migrant farmwork-

ers who have long provided food for the country in California's fruit and vegetable basket.

A pattern of such situations happening across the country proves that the ACA, known as Obamacare, was never meant to provide universal health care. For example, undocumented and some newly documented immigrants are denied care under federal healthcare reform. It was designed from the beginning to benefit the private insurance industry through mandating purchase and subsidizing it with public funds—and that is exactly what is happening. According to Forbe's 400 billionaires list for 2013, the richest people in America are getting richer, and 14 of the richest are in the health business—pharmaceuticals, hospitals, health information technology, drug distribution, medical equipment and supplies, etc.

In a monumental bait and switch, Medicaid, underfunded from its beginning, was expanded to cover people making 138 percent of poverty. To expand it as a major piece of the ACA was a set-up for failure. Immediately, the Supreme Court allowed 21

Southern states to opt out. And, many states had not participated in Medicaid fully before, including California, which still refuses to restore years of cuts.

Not surprisingly, the ACA has had a rocky start here. A lawsuit was filed because hundreds of thousands of applicants and their applications were floundering in our understaffed county offices for months. Two and one-half percent more workers than expected appeared to apply for MediCal. After all of that, a MediCal card does not guarantee that we will find coverage. Because of California's historically low reimbursement rates, most private doctors stopped seeing MediCal patients long ago, and the non-profit community clinics are understaffed and face a federal funding cliff in 2016.

What we must continue to fight for is nationalized health care. Healthcare is one of our most basic human rights. It comes down to the right to live. State sanctioned denial of healthcare, not treating large swaths of people as human, while siphoning off federal funds to corporations, is the beginning of

### Letter to the editor: Flint, MI water struggle

The situation in Flint is dire! Students can't drink the water at school, the water rates are through the ceiling and then you can't even feel safe drinking the water! On March 21 a public hearing on racial equity as it relates to water/housing/criminal justice and transportation will be held to provide a platform to raise these issues in a search for solutions. Go to [www.race2equity.org](http://www.race2equity.org).

— Debra Taylor, Flint, Michigan



Rally in San Jose, CA. to protect public programs and fight for Medicare for all. PHOTO/SANDY PERRY

fascism.

Please call about upcoming "Taking Back our Health" People's Movement Assemblies to San José Low-Income Self-Help

Center, (408) 977-1275, and help build toward the 3<sup>rd</sup> US Social Forum in San José in June. [www.ussocialforum.net](http://www.ussocialforum.net)

# Fighting for the demands of the people

## 'Chuy' Garcia vs. Mayor 1%

By Lew Rosenbaum  
and Allen Harris

CHICAGO, IL — In a startling accomplishment on February 24, Jesus "Chuy" Garcia forced incumbent mayor Rahm Emanuel into a runoff, despite Emanuel being endorsed by all major media and nearly every major power source in the city. What does Emanuel really represent?

On December 1, 2014, World Business Chicago (WBC) held a fund-raiser to aid in bringing more corporate investment to the 14 county Chicago area. Six hundred attendees contributed \$800,000 and heard an address by U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker, one of the wealthiest billionaires in the world. Emanuel chairs WBC. Last year he appointed as Vice Chair Michael Sacks, Chairman and CEO of Grosvenor Capital Management. Sacks' corporation donated over a million dollars to Emanuel's 2011 and 2015 election campaigns, more than any other contributor. Emanuel raised more than \$15 million for this election. Millionaire Bruce Rauner, at that time Governor-elect, attended the fund-raiser. After leaving his position in the Clinton administration, Democrat Emanuel earned \$17 million in the two years he worked for Republican Rauner. Governor

Rauner has been reported as urging millionaire former mayoral candidate Willie Wilson to support Emanuel in the runoff. Mayor Emanuel is Mayor 1%.

Endorsed by the Chicago Teachers Union, the Garcia campaign presents an opportunity to draw a clear line about what are the demands of the people of Chicago. The Emanuel administration has repeatedly ignored those demands: he closed a record number of Chicago schools, expanded charter schools, blocked an elected, representative school board, closed mental health clinics, ignored the need for a trauma center on Chicago's South side, pushed a deceptive minimum wage "increase," attacked public worker pensions, hid historic examples of police brutality, privatized services and installed an automated traffic ticketing system that many believe is simply a revenue raising ploy. This list represents a definite corporate agenda: public services are no longer necessary for a public that is no longer necessary. Fulfilling the demands of the people requires a society based on cooperation; a society where education, healthcare, and the abundant food, clothing and housing are available to all as needed.

In addition to the mayoral race, 19 of the 50 races for al-



On Feb. 24 Jesus (Chuy) Garcia forced Mayor Emanuel into an April 7 runoff election. This photo depicts the deep dissatisfaction with the Mayor and his corporate programs that are decimating working class communities. PHOTO/SARAH JANE RHEE

derman will go to a runoff April 7. For example, in the South Side's 10<sup>th</sup> Ward, environmental activist Susan Sadlowski Garza finished second behind pro-Emanuel alderman John Pope on February 24. She has campaigned against dumping petcoke (petroleum coke) in her community. "I believe in a complete ban on petcoke production and storage," says her campaign

web site. Garza has lived all her life in the working-class area of factories, rail yards, harbors and steel bridges. She is an elementary school counselor in Chicago Public Schools and an area vice president of the Chicago Teachers Union. Garza opposes Chicago school closings and turn-arounds and supports an elected school board, as do 91.24 percent of 10<sup>th</sup> ward voters. And

she supports "Chuy" Garcia for Mayor.

The Garcia campaign in all the wards, and especially in those where alderman runoffs are posing challenges to Mayor 1%, will teach us lessons about how to rely on the demands of the people while envisioning a new society where no one wants for what we need.



In spite of a bitter Chicago winter, volunteers pack the office every weekend to canvass for Tim Meegan's campaign.

PHOTO/ANDY WILLIS

By Andy Willis

CHICAGO, IL — Chicago is famous for many things—the skyline, deep-dish pizza, and Al Capone. But another thing the city is famous for (that her citizens are ashamed of) is that one of the most corrupt political machines

in the country runs City government. That seems odd—if the people don't like it, why don't they just vote it out? Easier said than done when big money is involved. The city has changed forever from its industrial past and money is playing a transformative role. Today Chicago's

## Meegan vs. Chicago Machine

fate is decided on Wall Street's speculative market.

Running for alderman, Tim Meegan represents hope to the entire city. He is willing to take on the corrupt political machine in one of its deepest strongholds—the 33<sup>rd</sup> ward. As a teacher in the public school system and leader of the Chicago Teachers Union (CTU), Meegan is at the forefront of the effort to save the public school system, while investors are busy trying to flip schools and everything else in the public sector into profitable financial instruments having nothing to do with guaranteeing education for the city's kids. The very last children considered live in the poorest communities.

The 33<sup>rd</sup> ward is run by an old school machine boss, Dick Mell. In this ward, deals have kept a virtual fiefdom in power for 38 years. When Mell retired as alderman but got his daugh-

ter Deb Mell to replace him in the city council, she was welcomed by financial trader turned mayor, Rahm Emanuel. She is a faithful supporter of every move Emanuel makes. Those moves have made millions for some well-connected players, while devastating large areas already engulfed in poverty.

The 1% are remaking Chicago in the era of robotic and computer production. Thriving working class neighborhoods, where millions of people worked and raised families, are rebuilt to fit a plan for the city based on a tiny highly educated workforce. Those who don't fit into this plan face foreclosures, evictions, layoffs, privatizing and even imprisonment.

Tim Meegan has studied, documented, and been outspoken about the schemes of the rich and powerful. The implications of this aldermanic race in

Chicago have national significance. Wall Streeter's plans for Main Street don't include millions of people who are no longer needed in production or service jobs, but these people are there and must be "dealt" with if the wealthy are to maintain their control over 80% of the private property. The elite are bound and determined to keep voices for the dispossessed people of Chicago out of office and out of the way of their agenda.

Sounds ominous and it is, but the people of Chicago are responding by fighting and organizing, and in spite of stolen elections and the millions dumped into corrupting democracy, we will build the organization needed to lead our city and the country toward an equitable society, where the existing abundance can be available to everyone.

## Marchers protest police murder of homeless man in LA

By Chris Venn

LOS ANGELES, CA — On March 3, I participated in one of many marches and rallies protesting the police murder of a homeless man, who was known in the Skid Row community as Africa. On Sunday, March 1, the police came to Skid Row on a complaint of assault. They demanded that Africa come out of his tent. When he didn't, they tasered him, dragged him out of his tent, and four officers beat him up and shot Africa five times, killing him.

Africa had spent the last 10 years in prison, eight of those years were spent in a mental ward. Africa was released just three to four months prior to his murder with no place to go. He set up a tent on the streets of Skid Row. The murder of Africa is a policy of the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD,) not an aberration or a mistake. The city policy, backed up by the LAPD, is to force the homeless and poor from Skid Row, no matter what.

This represents a desperate defense of private property.

The March 3 rally started on the corner of 6th and Main and proceeded to LAPD headquarters for a presentation to the Police Commission regarding the killing. The crowd was mixed and representative of the city with a strong representation of Skid Row residents. Many demonstrators carried large signs with pictures of loved ones who had been murdered by the police in Los Angeles and surrounding communities. It was a respectful, disciplined crowd speaking truth to power in front of the new 10 story, \$437 million, state-of-the-art LAPD headquarters.

General Dogon, an organizer with the Los Angeles Community Action Network, made the comment that "people should be allowed to sleep wherever they want. What we face in this country is the ownership of the soil by the owning class." Others commented about Amazon.com's use of robots at distributions centers. With this development, Skid



Skid Row Justice march for Africa, a homeless man killed outside his tent by LAPD.

PHOTO/LYNN ROSSI

Row can only grow larger.

The protests on Skid Row are part of a growing national movement demanding that the government house people and for an end to police murders and vio-

lence. The thousands living on Skid Row facing police terror are a harbinger for America if we do not act.

Chris Venn is a People's Tribune distributor. Contact him

at [info@peopletribune.org](mailto:info@peopletribune.org) or call 800-691-6888 if you would like to contribute stories or get bundles of the paper to share with others.



This couple was stopped by Georgia police. They were told their factory installed car windows were too dark. They were forced out of their car and questioned about drug smuggling. They stood in the cold for 20 minutes, which was especially difficult for Mr. Tharp who has cancer and back pain from standing. This is but one more example that shows the spreading police state. PHOTO/ADAM MURPHY

## Justice for Antonio! Justice for Jessica!

By Jose Garcia

CHICAGO, IL — Antonio Zambrano-Montes, 35, was killed by the Pasco, Washington police on February 10. He was killed after three officers chased him through a busy intersection with their guns drawn. As Antonio turned to face them, raising his arms, the police riddled his body with seven bullets. According to police reports, Mr. Zambrano-Montes had been throwing rocks at cars and officers deemed it necessary to shoot him.

Fabian Ebuy told the Tribune del Pueblo, "I have never organized marches or rallies. I have never done something like this. But Antonio's family asked me to help out. I did it because when I saw the video of Antonio running with his hands up, and the police shot him, I got mad. I'm going to do everything possible to help out."

A couple of weeks earlier, on January 26, Jessica Hernandez, 17, was killed by the Denver, Colorado police. The police claim she and several teenage friends were driving a stolen car



Jessica Hernandez (left) and Antonio Zambrano-Montes (right)



that struck and injured an officer. But a passenger says Jessica lost control of the car only after she was shot and became unconscious. A video captured by a neighbor shows police handcuffed Jessica and appeared to search her after she was shot. They rolled her on her back and stomach as she lay limp and motionless.

The police have to be reined in, and only "we the people" can do it.

Why is this happening? The underpinning of the 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 being set by attacks against minorities.

Justice for Antonio Zambrano-Montes!

Justice for Jessica Hernandez!

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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 overwhelmingly minorities. History also shows that as this brutality becomes accepted by the majority, it is inevitably used against everyone.

# Community outraged at police murder of teen

By the People's Tribune

MADISON, WI — A community, led by young people, erupted in protest, as yet another teenager was murdered by police, this time in Madison, Wisconsin. Police say they received reports that Tony Terrell Robinson, Jr., 19, was involved in a disturbance in traffic and behaving erratically. After police entered Tony's home in search of him, they say Tony punched an officer. Eighteen seconds after entering the home, an officer shot Tony in the torso, head and arm, killing him. The officer that killed Tony killed another person in 2007. The community is outraged and demanding justice.

Tony's mother, speaking at his funeral, said: "I was his light and he was mine. My son wanted to care for me and take care of me and stepped up to be the man of the house and raise his youngest siblings. He took care of the home in every single way. I want them to give me some answers. I want them to tell me why they took my baby. Why he deserved

such a violent, hateful, evil death." (From an article by Jeff Glaze at the *Wisconsin State Journal*.)

The struggle to indict cops for such murders is part of a whole process underway in our country. Underlying this process are changes in the economy, the introduction of labor replacing technology, which is permanently eliminating jobs or forcing so many workers into near starvation work or no work at all. Under these conditions, the youth are particularly vulnerable.

The powers that be, the billionaire owners of the corporations that have taken over this country in their search for greater profit, need a police state to control the developing mass movement against the growing poverty. Dropping the benign mask of "Serve and Protect," the police stand exposed as the watchdogs of the private property of these billionaires. Militarized, divorced from society, striving to become a law unto themselves, their every brutal, illegal act shapes and concretizes an American police state. As we fight to



Tony Robinson Sr., left, and Andrea Irwin, enter the funeral service for their 19-year-old son who was killed by Madison police. PHOTO/AMBER ARNOLD, WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL

end police brutality and killings, we must build a powerful movement that visualizes the world of peace and freedom that is possi-

ble and fight for that future.

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*lice state. Order bundles of papers to share with others. Email info@peopletribune.org or call 800-691-6888.*

## Jailed for fighting for Medicaid expansion

By Gloria Slaughter

ATLANTA, GA — Georgia Governor Nathan Deal vowed in Jan-

uary at the beginning of the legislative session that he would not accept federal funding for Medicaid Expansion that would add

650,000 people to the Medicaid rolls.

After protesting to fund Medicaid Expansion, twelve Moral Monday members decided they would go to jail to illuminate the situation in Georgia for those without healthcare. So, on Monday, March 2, protestors blocked the Capitol steps and refused to move.

The placards around their necks displayed what was happening in Georgia. Four hospitals are closed and eight are open day-to-day. Those who live in the rural areas of Georgia have a life and death situation since they may have to go sixty miles in order to get to a hospital.

Twelve hundred people died for lack of healthcare in Georgia in 2014. Georgia is #2 in the country with the death rate of those who don't have access to medical care.

The whole jail experience was like a step backward in time. It took from 5 PM until 11 PM to check us in—answering questions, getting finger printed, and getting our pictures taken. We

stayed in jail until 7:00 the next morning. I really think that they were trying to teach us a lesson for our civil disobedience.

When we were put into the holding cells, I was able to talk with some of the other people who were under arrest for minor offenses. These were the same people who are being denied health care. It was an eye opening experience to hear the reasons they were put in jail. One young woman told me that she ran a red light that day and the police stopped and arrested her because they had information from the computer she had missed a court date. She was supposed to have been in court the Wednesday before Thanksgiving but she said she didn't get the letter until the first week in December. Another young woman told me that she was arrested for buying a TV on Craigslist. It had been stolen. Others told me that they were arrested because they hadn't paid the loan from the bonding company the last time they had been arrested.

The guards yelled down the

hall at each other. There were no walkie talkies or any devices that should have been used. The guards screamed at the inmates and treated them inhumanely. We had to raise our hand in order to get up and go to the bathroom, go to the vending machines, or use the telephone. I think it was meant to set a very oppressive environment. One young African American woman analyzed the situation in the jail as one likened to the overseer on the plantation long ago. She stated that the overseer—the African American officer kept people obedient.

This jail was filled with people whose only "crime" was being poor and the majority of them were African American. Yes, I went back in time to a debtor's prison.

The struggle for Medicaid Expansion is a step forward in bringing consciousness to people that we need a new society that cares and values human life and provides the necessities for all.



Protest and twelve arrests on the steps of the Capitol in Atlanta, GA. The governor vowed to not accept federal funding for Medicaid expansion; 1200 people died in the state last year due to a lack of healthcare. PHOTO/STEVE EBERHARDT

# Give people a house so they are not homeless

By Judi Blueye

DETROIT, MI — Except for when I was rehabbing from breaking my right leg, twice, and when I traded my indifferent housekeeping for room and board (otherwise known as being a “stay at home mom”) I have worked continuously in allied health care since 1984. In those thirty-one years I have never seen any patients who lost body parts due to frostbite—until now.

This February, the coldest on record in 140 years, not one, but two patients who had to have both feet amputated due to frostbite were admitted where I work.

Alarmed by this, I called Mayor Duggan’s office. They reassured me that “Respite Centers” were available to keep people out of the cold. A respite center is more commonly referred to as a warming center and this means that there is a place for people to warm up while sitting on a chair. No bed. A chair.

Michigan saw a 6.1 % increase in the homeless population last year, whereas nationwide the numbers declined 2.6%. Currently, there are an estimated 20,000 homeless people in Detroit. There are only 1900 beds in homeless shelters in Detroit. Fifty percent of the homeless people are suffering from mental illness. Sixty percent are families with children. Only Cass Community Social Services and a Westland shelter have facilities that allow for boys between 12-17 to stay with their mothers and other siblings. All other shelters in Detroit require that boys thirteen and up have to be housed with the adult men! So a homeless male teen has a good chance of being housed with adult men who are suffering from mental illness rather than with his family

The problem can only get worse in the current political climate. Corporate Welfare grows, but the safety net is shredded. Marathon got a huge tax break but failed to come through with

the promised jobs for Detroiters. Lansing is considering bills to deny welfare to folks testing positive for drugs despite the dismal failure of such programs in other states. In Florida, drug testing welfare recipients only served to pad the governor’s pockets due to his ownership of the testing lab.

What is the solution? We are learning what should have been obvious: Housing First. If people are given a place to live, they are no longer homeless! Expecting people to fix what got them there first results in failure. Requiring a person to kick a drug, alcohol, or joblessness problem without the basics of a place to sleep, eat, bathe and wash clothes seems almost ludicrous. It costs thousands of dollars to rehabilitate someone who has lost both feet to frostbite. Even if money is the ONLY object, it is obvious we’re doing it wrong. We could have given these people each a HOUSE for far less than their rehabilitation and lifetime dis-



A homeless man rides a bike in Lake Orion, Michigan, trying to stay warm. Lake Orion is located in Oakland County which was once considered the fourth wealthiest county in the country. The auto industry implosion and recession has knocked the county from the list of America’s wealthiest counties.

PHOTO/DAYMONJHARTLEY.COM

abilities will now cost our society. We are literally cutting off people’s feet to spite ourselves by our moralistic approach to homelessness!

## Forum on Skid Row points the way forward

By Suzette Shaw

LOS ANGELES, CA — Los Angeles Community Action Network (LA CAN) held its first Town Hall Community Meeting in February at the James Woods Center in the heart of Skid Row in downtown Los Angeles.

The LA CAN Town Hall Community Forum invited community members, leaders and citizens who support the needs of the positive call to action movement here in Skid Row.

This Community Forum was inspired from the Town Hall Forum (a.k.a.: “Plan for Hope,” as it’s been called) that District 14 City Councilman Jose Huizar and his supporters put on in 2014. I say “his supporters” because residents of Skid Row, such as myself, were not invited to the table. As a matter of fact, Jose Huizar would later tell me (when I asked him about this shameful oversight) that “Tom Gilmore, a developer, was asked to be part of this panel presentation to represent the needs of Skid Row residents.”

In the midst of a re-gentrification surge in downtown Los Angeles, where residents and homeless alike feel they are being pushed out... that statement alone shows the disconnect of

humanity when it comes to those who have been elected to offices and hired to various supportive services for this “recovery community.”

This two-hour forum talked about: Human Rights, Culture/Public Space and Housing. The event opened with an improvisationalist “theatre of the oppressed” piece depicted by Skid Row resident and trans-women activist, Chella Moore and community supporter, Cynthia Ruffin. I even spoke a few words regarding my journey here to Skid Row.

General Jeff (a.k.a.: Jeff Page), considered by many as the “unofficial mayor of Skid Row,” made an impact statement regarding the need for Skid Row to have its own Neighborhood Council and going as far as to hold all accountable who are not in favor of this progressive action that many feel is vital to moving forward the residents here.

On the Housing panel there was a strong community supported ensemble: Downtown Women’s Action Coalition (DWAC), Skid Row Housing and Trust and AWARE (Alliance of White Anti-Racist Everywhere), spoke passionately about the need for more affordable housing for homeless and the poor, and how



Protest in Los Angeles of police murder of homeless man on Skid Row.

PHOTO/LYNN ROSSI

many in the community adjacent to Skid Row recognize that even the poor deserve human rights and housing. The need for a comfortable, safe space to live is not only vital for one to survive but is vital for one to thrive...

The Culture panelist, which consisted of many mainstay supporters from Los Angeles Poverty Department (LAPD), spoke about the history of Skid Row, its barriers, such as the criminalization of Black and Brown folks and how to broaden community through cultural engagement.

Ariana Alcaraz, moderator of the Human Rights panel, elo-

quently told me, “Because of the lack of resources and community input in city policies, the Skid Row community ends up suffering human rights violations. If our community was given the

opportunity to be at the table when decisions are made about our community, there would be actual community-based solutions that could work!” Well said, Ariana Alcaraz... well said.

**Help get the People’s Tribune out to homeless organizations and places where the homeless gather!**

Order bundles of papers. Send stories and information about arrests for trying to assist the homeless or the criminalization of the homeless. The People’s Tribune opens its pages to this fight! Call 800-691-6888, email [info@peopletribune.org](mailto:info@peopletribune.org) or write PO Box 3524, Chicago, IL 60654-3524.



# St. Louis homeless are under attack



Mass sleep out in St. Louis to protest the attempt to shut down a shelter that houses some 300 people. PHOTO/ NEW LIFE EVANGELISTIC CENTER.

Editor's note: *The People's Tribune's* Cathy Talbott interviewed Reverend Larry Rice, President of the New Life Evangelistic Center in St. Louis, MO. New Life runs a homeless shelter (the last major walk-in shelter in mid-America) that houses up to 300 persons on any given night. According to Rev. Rice, "On De-

ember 23, the St. Louis Board of Public Service issued an order that may prove to be not only a major assault on the homeless, but also one of the greatest local government attacks on the right of churches to practice their religious beliefs. The order declared that by May 12, 2015, New Life must provide documentation that

it has reduced its occupancy to 32 persons (for the past 30 days), or else lose its right to provide any shelter at all. Such a travesty of justice comes as a result of neighborhood gentrification and its push to keep the homeless out of sight and out of mind."

*People's Tribune:* Tell us the his-

tory behind your lawsuit against the city of St. Louis.

**Reverend Rice:** We've been in this community since 1975. It was a run-down neighborhood and gradually they started turning around the downtown, taking some of the old buildings and making condominiums. Parking lot owners have discovered gold mines. Seventy million dollars was put into the library, catty-corner from us. As a result, they've started to see the properties they bought cheap become very valuable. Now they start to see the homeless as a nuisance.

So, 116 condominium owners under the direction of the parking lot owner next to us, signed a petition saying we were a nuisance, citing public urination by the homeless. We tried to put out a porta-potty, but the city wouldn't give us a permit. We also put out additional lighting, doing everything we could to be good neighbors.

After having hearings since September of last year, the mayor-appointed board issued their decree, so we filed a federal lawsuit trying to get a permit extension from the judge. We're basing it on New Life's right to

fulfill its mission under the Religious Land and Institutional Act, the first and 14th Amendments to the United States Constitution and the Missouri Religious Restoration Act.

*PT:* How do the police treat the homeless?

**Rev. Rice:** In St. Louis, the word "homeless" has the same meaning, the same degradation that the "N" word had in the Deep South 50 years ago. Just as courageous people marched, bled and died for the right to vote, and as the people of Ferguson rose up to confront the racism resulting in Michael Brown's death, we're calling for the community to rise up against the racism in St. Louis that is going to leave the bodies of hundreds of homeless people in the streets without shelter. They'll be left with only the lies of the mayor who said he's going to open 225 beds when 70% of those calling the housing resource hotline last year were turned away.

We're meeting with Ferguson activists, homeless and others, challenging people to stand up for justice for those who have only the streets to sleep on.

## From 'middle-class' to homeless at 65

By Cathy Talbott

CARMEL, CA — Growing up in New York in a comfortable "middle-class" family, CeliaSue Hect says they used to walk over homeless people on the sidewalks. She never imagined in her wildest dreams that she would be homeless at 65. College educated and a skilled journalist, she has traveled the world helping other people in need. She was a full-time public-relations specialist for a nonprofit assisting Native Americans in Nevada battling the Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Repository Project when, burned out, she left the position in 2002. Since then, she has survived on part-time jobs and freelance writing work.

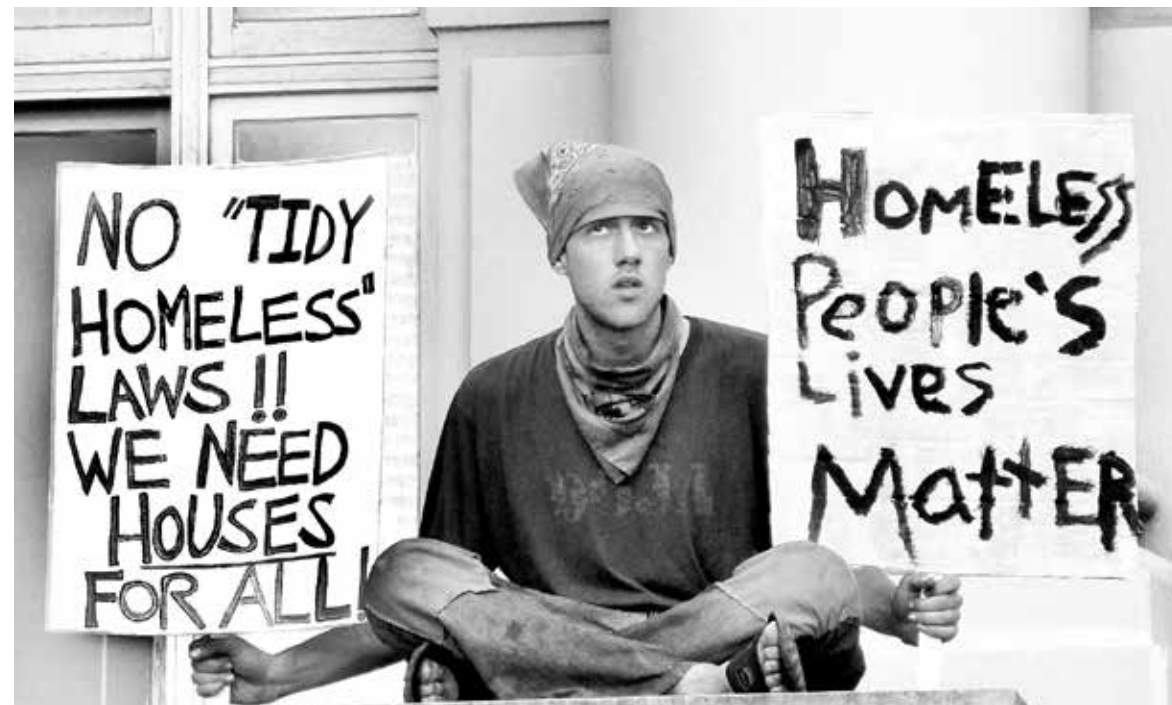
Forced to take early social security retirement benefits, she cannot afford rent in the beautiful and wealthy area of the Monterey Peninsula in California, where she and her dog live out of her aging car. With only \$672 monthly, a room cannot be found for less than \$600/month. She has been surprised to discover that government help is essentially nonexistent. The social ser-

vice agencies have no answers and even the religious leaders tell her to move someplace else.

But where is she to go? And now that she is facing some serious health issues requiring major surgery, moving to an unfamiliar area could be deadly. Instead, she is trying to raise funds via crowd-sourcing to build a tiny house but that is proving to be more difficult than she first thought.

While seeking assistance, CeliaSue discovered there are at least 350 other homeless women in the area. She estimates that the number is actually 500 to 1000 because she has seen them. Most, she thinks, are over 50. They sleep on the ground or wherever they can find a place that's safe. Other issues faced by homeless women, she has realized, include poor nutrition, stress and worry, financial upkeep of a vehicle, health concerns, weather, hygiene and loss of dignity.

CeliaSue's case clearly exposes the lie told by our ruling class that blames the economic and social crisis on the workers of previous generations, such as



Young people living on the streets of Berkeley, CA have no choice but to fight for their rights. PHOTO/SARAH MENEFFEE

the "Boomers." As the economy continues to replace human labor with computers and robotics, the value of all labor, including mental labor, is reduced. As Guy Standing states in his lecture on "The Precariat Class," we are all potential members of the precarious class except the

tiny few who own all the means of production, the banks, corporations, the land, etc. We must unite around the program of this growing class (for food, shelter, health care, etc.) who owns no private property and are being discarded by the new labor-less economy. In the words of Ce-

liaSue, "We must find creative, humane and compassionate solutions."

*Editor's note:* CeliaSue can be contacted through her voice-mail at 702-225-8206, or via e-mail at [celiasue.hecht@gmail.com](mailto:celiasue.hecht@gmail.com).

# The ending of the Civil War and lessons for today

From the Editors of the  
*People's Tribune*

April marks the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ending of the Civil War. There is much we can and must learn from its beginning, its conduct and its ending. A month before the outbreak of fighting, relatively few Americans believed the deepening crisis would erupt into the longest, bloodiest, most expensive war in history.

History has its logic apart from what participants want or understand. Humanity constantly develops new means of producing its necessities, which in turn creates a new economy. The new economy cannot function within the existing social and economic relations. Then, revo-

lution and social reconstruction become inevitable. How it happens depends on what the participants understand and do.

In the North, the majority supported, or at least did not want to interfere with, the South's "peculiar institution." Yet at the same time there was a seething, deepening hatred of the "Slave Power" that blocked the North's industrial development and wealth accumulation. There was a total intellectual disconnect in the North between the political might of the "Slave Power" which was white and its economic foundation—which was Black slavery. Thus, the two wings of the capitalist class—industrial versus agricultural—free labor versus slave labor—moved into the irrepressible conflict.

The world, under different conditions, has again entered that revolutionary process. Electronic production is incompatible with wage labor society. Daily, thousands of people are drawn into this polarizing, revolutionary struggle, and like the Civil War period, without a clear understanding of what they are fighting for and against. Today the people hate corporate political power but not the capitalist system.

The purpose of the *People's Tribune* is to educate and unite the democratic might of the American people. This is the only way to avoid repeating the horror of war as we face the inevitable revolution.



General Ulysses S. Grant at City Point, Virginia, a crucial port and supply hub for the Union Army of the Potomac.

PHOTO/LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

## Seizing Freedom: Slave Emancipation and Liberty for All by David Roediger

### Book Review

Review by David Cochran

In 1859, abolitionist John Brown was crushed in his attempt to inspire a slave insurrection. While his plan was deemed quixotic at best, most white Americans, South and North, viewed it as insane. Within three years though, Brown's vision of freeing and arming slaves to fight for their own emancipation had become official federal policy.

As David Roediger argues in his new book, *Seizing Freedom: Slave Emancipation and Liberty for All*, such rapid upending of traditional assumptions stands as an example of "revolutionary time"—"a period in which the

pace of change and the possibility of freedom accelerated the very experience of time." This process began with the actions of the slaves themselves, who greeted the coming of the Union forces by walking off plantations by the hundreds of thousands, and thus transformed the nature of the war itself from one over whether the slave states would secede from or remain in the Union, to a revolutionary war of abolition.

Observing the slaves engaging in what W.E.B. DuBois called "the General Strike," reverberated throughout American life. As Roediger argues, labor and women's rights activists drew inspiration from the slaves' self-emancipation. "In the period that historians called Re-

construction, but liberated slaves more tellingly called Jubilee, slaves not only won their own freedom, but white workers also built an unprecedented national labor movement around the visionary demand of an eight-hour day. Women meanwhile mounted the first serious national campaign for suffrage and undertook an unprecedented public discussion of domestic violence in their own homes. These staggering developments were evidence of how beholden they were to what Karl Marx referred to in an address to US workers at the time as the 'moral impetus... to your class movement' flowing from the slave's emancipation."

Through the condescension of history, of course, we know this coalition was fleeting, but

in the experiences of people living through the era it was a time when even the inconceivable—emancipation, the eight-hour workday, women's suffrage—seemed achievable. Roediger reminds us, though, that revolutionary momentum is hard to sustain. Thus, "the backward motion of history proceeded almost as rapidly as revolutionary time had."

The coalition created in the excitement of the General Strike disintegrated rapidly as a result of its internal divisions, greatly aided by a campaign of racial and sexual terror in the South, in which organizations like the Klan disarmed freedpeople, rendering Black militias and other self-defense organizations powerless. Meanwhile, the Re-

publican Party, which had been founded on the ideal of free labor and reform, proved itself an unreliable defender of the rights of freedpeople, workers, or women.

Today, as forces of change are organizing on a multitude of issues, Roediger's book serves as a useful reminder: "We cannot call revolutionary time into being, but knowing the story of Jubilee encourages us to cherish such time and the alliances of mutual interest and mutual inspiration that grew into it."

*David Cochran teaches history at John A. Logan Community College in Carterville, Illinois.*

## The ghost of Dred Scott awakens

By Adam Gottlieb

CHICAGO, IL — Less than four miles from the intersection where Mike Brown was killed—a ten-minute drive down Florissant Ave—is the Calvary Cemetery in St. Louis, where Dred Scott is buried. Visitors have left pennies on his grave—Lincoln faces up—for good luck.

Dred Scott was a slave who sued for his freedom in 1846. Over the course of a decade his case made its way up from local Missouri courts to the Supreme Court, which ruled that Scott, as a slave, "had no rights which the white man was bound to respect." The court also moved to expand

slavery throughout the nation, catalyzing the American Civil War.

History, it seems, is like a spiral, cycling but moving forward at the same time. (Perhaps this is the meaning of "revolution.") Every socially necessary cause offers a vision of liberation for which people are willing to struggle, advancing society to a certain stage and setting conditions for the next climactic point, where history repeats itself on a higher level.

Our past, present, and future are inseparably intertwined. Today, it seems, the ghost of Dred Scott is appealing his case, in Ferguson and across the nation.

His name has become synonymous with the names Amadou Diallo, Sean Bell, Dominique Franklin, Eric Garner, Oscar Grant, Roshad McIntosh, Ezell Ford, Rekia Boyd, Tanesha Williams, Desean Pittman, and countless others.

With those lost lives in mind, let us consider these words from Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address:

"It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion... that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall

have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

If we are to take seriously Lincoln's words, we must ask ourselves: are not the names mentioned above casualties of essentially the same war the slaves fought? And was not that war in a sense a continuation of the Revolutionary War—fought for a vision of "a new birth of freedom?"

The protestors in the #BlackLivesMatter movement are in a very real sense suing for their freedom: asserting that *all* of our lives matter; that we have rights which the law ought to respect.

But the government acts otherwise. The militarization of the police and the bolstering of the prison industry show that the ruling class is not interested in addressing the systemic roots of the problem, but only in containing inevitable social upheaval, made more imminent by school and clinic closings, water-shutoffs, and mass-privatization of the public sector. It is clear: the people now have no rights which corporations are bound to respect.

The spiral of revolution has brought us here, and what was once our vision is now our cause: "Government of the people, by the people, for the people..."

# A call to action: The Civil Rights Movement then and now

By Suzette Shaw

LOS ANGELES, CA — On Saturday, February 21, 2015, I marched alongside hundreds of others in the *March for Justice and Unity* which began at the Los Angeles Police Department's Southwest Division on Martin Luther King Blvd. in Los Angeles. How symbolic and purposeful of a start point. It was an honorable way of bridging Dr. King and the past movement as it relates to NOW, especially during the memorable celebration month of Dr. King's birthday.

Although Dr. King was savagely taken from us decades ago, his legacy and the spirit of his message still lives in the heart of many. On Wednesday evening, February 18th, 2015, I attended the planning meeting of the Black and Brown King Legacy March, scheduled to take place on April 4, 2015 which will be the anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s death, the day he was assassinated.

This planning meeting was the first of many which will take place over the course of the next

several weeks. The meeting was hosted by Pastor Cue Jn-Marie of Church Without Walls, a street ministry in Skid Row. He is also an organizer for Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) which Dr. King founded and was president of at the time of his assassination. *I was honored to meet at this meeting the current SCLC President, the Honorable Reverend Smart.*

The assassination of Dr. King still resonates with us today as Black and Brown people continue to be brutally murdered far too many times at the hands of law enforcement where excessive force appears to be prevailing over *protect and serve*. In addition, there appears to be a systematic criminal justice bias of mass incarceration, unjust criminal justice policies and a society where income inequality is still a plight for many who are stuck in low wage jobs that does not allow an individual to be self-sustainable nor care for his family and even her family, given that many households are now run by single mothers. In a land of the "free and the brave," third world living conditions



Justice march for Africa, who was killed by the LAPD outside his Skid Row tent. Pastor Cue Jn-Marie of Church Without Walls is in the front of the march. PHOTO LYNN ROSSI

appear to be more and more commonplace.

These are some of the topics which will be covered during

this event. There is a diverse input of Black, Brown and White folks alike coming together for a common good; the well-being

of those in our communities. We hope you will all get involved in this "call to action."

## Too Big

Big Man  
Big Muscles  
Big Nose  
Big Lips  
Big Hands  
Big Feet  
Big Penis  
Big Brain  
Big Heart  
Big Ego  
Big Smile  
Big Swag  
Too Big  
To Live  
Black Man

©2014 Wardell  
Montgomery Jr.

## Tea with Joe Hill

Joe Hill and I had tea  
He let his biscuits soak  
They say America is free  
Man how they love to joke  
Ask Sacco and Vanzetti  
Ask Red Cloud and Crazy Horse  
And the way I see  
Is things are getting worse

I said "Joe why ain't you dead?"  
Righteousness is like Love my friend  
Laughed Joe as he shook his head  
Spirits never die and never end  
A thousand tyrants and all their force  
In truth could never compete  
With the Love that is the source  
Of one of my melodies sweet  
You see death and life they coexist  
Some never die and some never live  
So songs of revolution will always persist  
For unto themselves my songs give

So open your eyes and organize  
Never give in to their lies and organize  
Do not hate and despise but organize  
Raise your voice in mighty cries and organize

Joe slurped the last of his tea  
And bid me a final farewell  
Above all fight to be free  
You'll get heaven when you give them hell  
— John Kaniecki

## Working Class Poem

I was born  
Free and penniless  
And just like you  
They have been robbing me  
Ever since

— Matt Sedillo

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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.

# 'We can win this fight,' says Rev. Pinkney from prison

*Editor's note: Reverend Edward Pinkney wrote this article from prison. He remains enthusiastic about winning this fight, despite the concentration camp-like conditions he and the other prisoners are living under. He says over 150 people use the same bathroom, about five people are living in 9 x 12 cubes and he wouldn't feed the food to a dog.*

**By Rev. Edward Pinkney**

COLDWATER, MI — I, Michigan political prisoner, Rev. Edward Pinkney, am a victim of injustice. I was sentenced to 2<sup>1/2</sup> to 10 years for supposedly changing the date on five recall petitions to recall Benton Harbor Mayor James Hightower. No material nor circumstantial evidence, no eye witness, and no confession was presented at the trial that would implicate me in the five felonies. Many believe that I, an international activist and leader of the Black Autonomy Network Com-

munity Organization (BANCO), am being punished by the local authorities for opposing the corporate plan of the Whirlpool Corporation, headquartered in Benton Harbor, Michigan. I say this is an opportunity to expose the Benton Harbor courthouse criminal enterprise and let the world know there is corruption from the top to the bottom of the totem pole where a lynch mob mentality reigns.

The Benton Harbor corporate structure has used similar charges to stop past efforts to recall or vote out of office public officials. In a majority Black city, as many Christian ministers do, I have always quoted the scriptures. I was even convicted for quoting scriptures in the People's Tribune newspaper. This outrageous conviction was overturned on appeal. We must do this again. Rev. Edward Pinkney has become the face of resistance to the nation that the working class has no rights that the corporations are bound to respect. Any and

all efforts must be made to overturn the charges against me as a step toward overthrowing the spread of this model to the rest of Michigan and the nation. This is not black versus white, it is the haves against the have-nots, the rich against poor.

Any time you have an economic system that refuses to feed clothe and house it people, it must be overturned and replaced with a system that meets the needs of people.

We will win. God to me is knowing how and when to gather stones to fight for the truth. I believe that humans are not all evil, just misled. We will win this fight because humanity is greater than those that will destroy it. We will win because it has become clear to the people just who the enemy is and the solution is so simple. A mass movement demanding a changed economic system, one that meets the needs of the people, not the corporations, is needed. We can win.



Rev. Edward Pinkney was handcuffed and ushered into the courtroom on the day of a hearing by two prison guards. The crowd of supporters in the courtroom immediately stood up and clapped (before the sheriff warned them to stop). Attend the next hearing on April 14 at 8:30 a.m. at the Berrien County Courthouse in St. Joseph, MI. PHOTO/DAYMONJHARTLEY.COM

## 'Voices from Benton Harbor'

The quotes below from Benton Harbor residents, and those in previous editions of the People's Tribune, show that, despite the government's attempt to make it appear that Rev. Edward Pinkney was the sole voice for change in Benton Harbor, there is a movement against corporate power growing in the town. Many participants are deeply concerned about the railroading of Rev. Pinkney for his leading role. They continue to fight for

him and for their city.  
— The People's Tribune

"Several young men's lives have been lost here. The last person they were seen talking to was a policemen. They ended up finding their body later. It's a dark cloud over Benton Harbor. The mayor's popularity is down to the dogs as far as the community is concerned. But corporations and all these big wigs supported all of his elections. They had to

buy him his term as mayor. Every Commissioner in there votes one way and he votes the opposite because he's all for corporations, he's been paid. Corruption is at the top. Large corporations are sucking the life out of the little people in Benton Harbor."

— Emma Kinnard,  
Benton Harbor

"Benton Harbor Commissioner Robert Wooley has been charged with theft of over \$150,000 from

the North Berrien Senior Center and about \$50,000 from the North Berrien County Fire Department. Sheriff Paul Bailey arrested him because they wanted to handle him nicely—no SWAT Team like they used for Rev. Pinkney. It was the same judge Rev. Pinkney had, Judge Schrock. Wooley was released and let out on bond. There was no media coverage of this, at all. The media, every chance they got, tried to slaughter Rev. Pinkney. I am trying to get people to come up to the courthouse and assemble for

these things because we have to speak out. There is too much unevenness of a balance in the justice here. There is no justice."

— Patti Heinz, Benton Harbor

"It's time to wake up. The world is in crisis. Our democracy is being snatched from under us. Our political prisoners are being attacked. Wake Up. Selma didn't die. It's still alive in Berrien County, Michigan."

— Dorothy Pinkney,  
Benton Harbor



Protest outside the courthouse where Rev. Pinkney was denied bail pending his appeal on phony vote fraud convictions. PHOTO/SANDY REID, PEOPLE'S TRIBUNE

## FREE PINKNEY!

Contact the Central Coordinating Committee for the Freeing Of Rev. Edward Pinkney at [pinkneycentral.weebly.com](http://pinkneycentral.weebly.com) for more information on the struggle and the ways you can assist.

## PEOPLE'S TRIBUNE READING GROUPS!

Discuss articles about the fight against corporate power and for a new society. Contact us: (800) 691-6888, [info@peopletribune.org](mailto:info@peopletribune.org)