

ELECTION AFTERMATH:



Protest at Univ. of Minnesota demanding all charges be dropped against the hundreds arrested at November 4 rally demanding Trump out now and for a people's agenda for change.

Photo / Sigal Photos

the people can't wait — government must give relief now!

Photo / Fibonacci Blue



COVID
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EVICCTIONS
HOMELESSNESS

POLICE

WATER

IMMIGRATION



Photo / NNU

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Welcome to the People's Tribune Digital Edition

We are doing issues in digital form because of the pandemic crisis, for financial reasons, and to facilitate the digital distribution of the People's Tribune. Please remember that we are supported entirely by donations, and we do still need your continued financial support. And please circulate this digital edition to your email lists and through social media.

As always, we welcome your feedback at www.peoplestribune.org or info@peoplestribune.org.

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Thank you!

Police teargas peaceful marchers heading to vote

"I am running for Congress here in [North Carolina] and my eyes are full of pepper spray ... we were peacefully demonstrating. . . exercising our first amendment rights with Black Lives Matter [in a march to the polls.] And I witnessed what's happening all over America. People should be allowed to vote ... The police work for us yet I witnessed pepper spray, chemical weapons sprayed on my fellow Americans. If we don't stop this mess, our country is going to fall apart . . . exercise your right to vote! This should not be happening. I have three children. Children here got pepper sprayed. This is horrible. Black Lives Matter! And all lives won't matter until we stop this. I mean it. I urge my Republican opponent to finally stand up to these white supremacists, these neo-Nazis and stand for America. (Excerpts from Scott Huffman's Twitter video)
See more on P. 10. ■



Scott Huffman,
Candidate and Navy Vet

About the People's Tribune

The People's Tribune is devoted to the understanding that an economic system that doesn't feed, clothe, house, or care for its people must be and will be replaced with a system that meets the needs of the people. To that end, this paper is a tribune of the people. It is a voice of millions of everyday people who are fighting to survive in an America in crisis. It helps build connections among these fighters and the awareness that together, we can create a whole new society and world.

Today, technology is permanently eliminating jobs. Ultimately, our needs can only be met by building a cooperative society where we the people, not the corporations, own the technology and the abundance it produces. Then, everyone's needs will be provided for.

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

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

Articles that are unsigned, such as the cover story and editorials, reflect the views of the editorial board. Bylined articles reflect the views of the authors, and may or may not reflect the views of the editorial board.

Designed by Mauricio Rivera / Rivera Design & Illustration



Albuquerque,
Sharon Chischilly

Cities erupt in celebration
after Trump's projected defeat!
But the fight for a
new America is not over.

— *The Editors*



Detroit, Larry Lipton



Atlanta, Daniel LaChance



Washington, DC., Joshua Contreras



Philadelphia @EnvAn



Washington, DC., Ted Eytan



Eugene, OR, David Sierralupe

Election aftermath: the people can't wait — government must give relief now!

By the **People's Tribune**

When the long-awaited announcement finally came, there was dancing in the streets.

The defeat of Donald Trump was a joyous moment, made possible by quiet courage and meticulous organization. Tens of millions braved a pandemic to vote. Tens of thousands made phone calls, sent text messages, and knocked on doors. Despite a systematic, relentless campaign of voter suppression directed

against Black voters in particular, there was still a massive turnout of African American, Latinx, and Native American voters. This upsurge was especially important in swing states like Georgia, Arizona, and Wisconsin. Trade unionists of all different ethnicities and young environmental activists also played an important role.

The year 2020 saw the largest voter turnout since the presidential election of 1900, a sign of the deep concern voters felt about the country's profound problems. In the weeks since the voting, those problems have only worsened. The federal government has no national plan to deal with the pandemic, a crisis intensifying rapidly. Across the country, hospitals are running out of beds for patients. In mid-November, the members of the U.S. Congress left Washington for their comfortable Thanksgiving vacations without passing an economic stimulus package. As a result, millions may lose their jobs or pandemic unemployment assistance, and renters may soon face a tsunami of evictions.

Since Election Day, there has been much talk by politicians about "unity" and the need to "bring the country together." The millions hurting today also want unity. Their call? Unite the homeless with homes. Unite the sick with health care. End police brutality. Help the immigrant children who were snatched out of the arms of their distraught parents by re-uniting them with their families. That's the kind of "unity" this country needs — not platitudes about "healing." The government needs to act *now*. We cannot wait until after Inauguration Day.

Election Day, November 3, was one battle in a long war to change the United States. The different grassroots organizations — large and small — which came together to produce the gigantic turn-out have every right to savor the success of their hard work. At the same time, we all have to remain vigilant. Trump's



Austin, TX. In April nearly 2,500 families lined up in cars to get food from the Central Texas Food Bank. *Photo/ © Bob Daemrich/ZUMA Wire*

attempts to invalidate the results have shown he is still very dangerous. His brazen attempt to stop the certification of the vote in Michigan was correctly met with an outpouring of outrage. That's exactly the response needed to Trump's schemes to cling to office — along with mobilizing to insure government passes a stimulus package NOW!

The fight for a new America is far from over; it has now shifted to Georgia. There, the upcoming January 5 run-off will determine control of the

U.S. Senate. Once again, the future of the entire country hinges on what happens in the South.

The victory of November 3 must be sealed by another on January 5. Then we will have to fight relentlessly to force the new government to address the urgent problems facing this country. We pledge that the People's Tribune will always stand with those fighting the life-and-death battles of the working class. Our pages will always be open to everyone fighting in the historic movement for justice now underway in this country.

See Georgia coverage on P. 5

Why are millions going hungry when there's plenty of food?

In early November, one in eight adult Americans said they sometimes or often didn't have enough food to eat in the past week. The number climbed to more than one in six adults for households with children. This is criminal in a country where food is plentiful. Meanwhile, the richest three U.S. billionaires — Jeff Bezos, Bill Gates and Warren Buffett — now have as much wealth as the bottom half of the U.S. population combined.

At least 25.7 million U.S. workers (more than 15% of the workforce) are being hit right now by the economic downturn. This includes 18.7 million unemployed, and 7 million whose pay and hours have been cut. Yet Congress has given trillions to big business, and little or nothing to the people.

The people need direct financial aid right now, and that assistance must continue as long as we need it. What is the federal government for, if not to stabilize the country and sustain the people in a national crisis? ■

Southwest Georgia Project: 60 years of voting rights work

By **Allen Harris**

Shirley Sherrod, a long-time civil rights leader, is the executive director of the Southwest Georgia Project, founded in 1961 in the town of Albany. It has been working to register local people to vote AND to run for office.



Shirley Sherrod

“My husband, Charles Sherrod, was one of the founding members of SNCC (the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee) and the first field secretary of SNCC,” she said. “So he came to southwest Georgia because the Justice Department had filed a voting rights suit against Terrell County.

“His work started here in southwest Georgia and it also led to creating the Albany Movement and the movement in Terrell County, in Sumter County, in Baker and Worth [counties].”

She recently described the Project’s work before Election Day and the strong voter turnout in Albany.

“We encouraged people to vote absentee and those who didn’t,

we encouraged them to go to early voting. And the lines here were wrapped around the building. And the young people, some of them who were part of a coalition that included Black Voters Matter, decided to get snacks and water to people who were standing in line.”

As much as Georgia has changed since the Sixties, Sherrod agreed that in recent years, the clock of history has turned backward in terms of voting rights.

“We got the right to vote and then the Supreme Court took some of that away [Shelby County v. Holder, 2013]. And who knows what else they are going to do to suppress our vote.”

Regarding the January 5 runoff election for Georgia’s two seats in the U.S. Senate, Sherrod spelled out what the Southwest Georgia Project’s role in the coming weeks will be.

“As a nonprofit organization, we can’t tell people who to vote for, but we can work really hard with folks. [...] We realize how important this election is. Again, we can’t tell our people who to vote for, but we can work with them and push them to get out and vote.” ■

Project to mobilize rural Georgia makes gains

Evelyn Lynn, Director of Southern Crossroads-Fight4theSouth, speaks with the People’s Tribune’s Sandy Reid about organizing in rural, Southern communities. Below are excerpts from an interview to appear on peopletribune.org/latest-news/

“I come from a small town in western North Carolina, in the foothills of the Appalachian mountains, and grew up working class. Most of my folks worked in the furniture factories and hosiery and textile mills. My family has lots of Trump’s supporters. I grew up conservative, Christian, longing for something different for my own community. I finally got the opportunity.

“Starting in 2016, when Trump was rising, I worked with campaigns in the South where poor white, rural folks could be brought into a larger multiracial, anti-racist, populist coalition fighting to transform this country. We believe these communities are strategic if we’re to peel them off of a white solidarity coalition that’s been fueling energy, power and violence on the right. And we had to get Trump out. ...

“[In 2020] we made over a million calls in GA. We had something like 50,000 conversations, 35,000 were 20 minutes or longer. We weren’t calling to say Biden is the end all be all because that ain’t true. We talked to people about the issues they cared about. We asked, what do you care about, what do we need to do to bring people together, to make our communities and states and country better for our children and grandchildren? No one has



Press conference on housing. Sign in back says: We welcome refugees not slumlords.

ever called and asked what they care about. Just sharing your story and knowing that one other person in this world cares enough to ask, can transform someone. ...

“We got 21,000 commitments to vote from people who rarely vote, and around 3,500 or 4,000 people want to get involved with Southern Crossroads. [Also a local] person who ran on a platform about renter’s and poor people’s rights and the need to bring folks together unseated an incumbent who had been there for more than a decade in a county that Trump took by 50 points.

This article continues on the next page (left side) . . .

“When we fight for economic justice and racial justice policies, if you provide a progressive vision, people will come along. ...

“If Democrats or any kind of progressive political party had been investing in the people, we would have already won the South.

“Now we're pivoting to the GA Senate races, trying to again make a million calls. The organizing that made the Biden victory possible was led by long-term Black organizers, Black women in particular . . . They registered 800,000 Black and Brown voters. So with our little 21,000 vote commits, we're trying to bring up the rear.” ■

Chicago prosecutor wins with strong social justice message

Kim Foxx was reelected as Cook County State's Attorney, bringing a strong message of social justice. Foxx, an African American woman who grew up in Chicago's Cabrini-Green housing development, was first elected in 2016 in the wake of the police murder of Laquan McDonald.



Kim Foxx

In her November 3 victory speech, she spoke of Chicago's broken criminal justice system “that saw men and women wrongfully convicted for crimes they didn't commit,” and where it was thought that “justice in law and order should be accomplished by any means necessary.”

She said her victory brings “a promise of turning the page from a history of [Chicago] being the wrongful confession capital of the U.S. – from the history of Jon Burge, from the history of Ronald Watts, from the history of an incarceration system that has failed so many of our communities like the one I grew up in at 624 West Division.”

She spoke of the devastation in communities of color in Cook County. “I talked months ago about the casual racism that allows us to know that communities of color were dying at a significant impact versus the others ... I ask us again to look at that same parallel with our justice system ... are we satisfied with the system that sees so many people from neighborhoods that have been left far behind? . . . try to understand the anger and angst and anguish for those who see prosperity when other neighborhoods are healthy and thriving [and theirs are not.]”

Jon Burge was a police commander who used torture to force confessions. Ronald Watts was a police sergeant who planted drugs and framed detainees. ■

The people fought and won in state and local races, too

By the **People's Tribune**

Progressive candidates and ballot referenda won in many states and cities in the November election. Here is just a sampling:

Candidates for county sheriff who opposed having the sheriff's office help ICE round up undocumented immigrants won elections in Georgia, South Carolina, Ohio and Massachusetts. And in Florida's Miami-Dade County, Democrat Daniella Levine Cava won the mayor's seat after running on curtailing cooperation with ICE.

Every US House candidate that ran on Medicare for All won. The “Squad” all won re-election, and added two more members, Jamaal Bowman of New York and Cori Bush of Missouri. Oakland, California housing activist Carroll Fife won a City Council seat. The first two openly gay Black men were elected to Congress in New York, (one of the men also identifies as Latino), and in Flint, MI, some Water Warriors won election to local offices. Four states elected democratic socialists to state government.

Indiana, Wisconsin and Arizona voted to increase public school funding. Oregon voted to tax the rich to fund universal pre-K. Florida, along with Portland, Maine, approved a hike in the minimum wage, and Portland also voted for rent control, a local Green New Deal, and against facial surveillance. Oregon voters decriminalized a number of drugs. South Dakota, Montana, Arizona, and New Jersey legalized marijuana for adults for any reason. Mississippi approved medical marijuana, and Washington, DC, legalized psychedelics.

LA County passed Measure J, which sets aside 10 percent of county-generated funds for social services in communities harmed by racism and bars local government from spending any of that money on jails or police.

Seven cities elected or re-elected district attorneys who campaigned on reforming the justice system.

And in a powerful rejection of the distortions of the past, 73 percent of the voters in Mississippi voted to adopt a new state flag.

These victories, and others, show that when we fight we win. The unity and political infrastructure that was built in winning these victories will no doubt be strengthened for the struggle that still lies ahead. ■

Carroll Fife wins: from homelessness to homes for all

By [Austin Long-Scott](#)

OAKLAND, CA — It was such an audacious move, a community organizer challenging the first African American woman to be elected president of the Oakland, CA City Council, a two-term incumbent who was endorsed by the mayor. Now that Moms4Housing activist Carroll Fife has won the seat that represents some of Oakland's worst gentrification crises, Fife insists she's just getting started.



Carroll Fife

"This one council seat is just the beginning," she says. "Our campaign is transitioning into a permanent political organization dedicated to passing transformative legislation and building a progressive majority on the Oakland City Council."

The 44-year-old mother of three, who found her calling in community organizing, centered her winning campaign on the moral values that housing is a human right, and that public safety should be reimagined by shifting the big budgets flowing to the police to more effective social services.

Oakland, like other major U.S. cities, has seen homeless tent encampments expand for more than a decade as low-income, no benefit jobs explode and gentrification makes housing unaffordable for more and more working people. Meanwhile

the profitable building of luxury housing has also exploded. It has been estimated that Oakland has 4 vacant housing units for every homeless person, many kept empty waiting for their value to rise even higher.

"That's what's criminal about this housing crisis. There are actually places where people can live," Fife told Democracy Now! in discussing the Moms4Housing takeover by three homeless mothers and their children of a speculator-owned Oakland home. "This is starting a movement where people who are also experiencing housing insecurity... are waking up... and saying, 'We deserve housing for all.'"

Fife, who takes office in January, came to public attention as the lead organizer behind Moms4Housing. Moms4Housing inspired housing takeovers in Los Angeles, Philadelphia, San Francisco and Minneapolis. Her win has the potential to shift Oakland's priorities in how the city handles its embrace of gentrification and its troubled history with well-funded police violence.

"We've tried over-policing, we've tried police reform. None of it is working," she says. "As people across the nation rise up to demand an end to racist police violence, and as our unfunded liabilities put the City of Oakland on a trajectory toward insolvency, it is time to relocate our public resources to preventing violence and avoiding bankruptcy, instead of reacting to it with more violence and throwing our tax dollars away. By moving just half of the public funding we spend on policing in Oakland into programs that are actually proven to prevent violence, we can build a safer community for everyone." ■

Youth gave Biden a climate mandate

These are excerpts from a post from Sunrise Movement's Facebook page.

Joe Biden wins with the highest youth turnout in history. Young people saved American Democracy and ended the fascist reign of Donald Trump.

And you know what the number one swing issue for young black folks and young Latinos was? Climate. We just gave Joe Biden a #ClimateMandate.

Is he gonna lead with bold power? Is he gonna smash all those DC norms that let our people die?

Or is he gonna be Mitch McConnell's vice president?

Biden won on the strength of his GND-influenced economic recovery and climate plan — the plan we redesigned with @AOC as part of the Biden-Bernie climate task-force.

Biden out-performed Conservative Dems who ceded all economic vision. They have been losing down ballot races for a decade, but every election, the losers blame something new. Gay marriage, M4A, BLM.

They lose because Democracy is a popularity contest and they are unpopular.

We can't cure fascism with centrism. Trump, QAnon, fascism has seized the public imagination. We will only win with bigger ideas.

No Progressive lost their seat. It's time to remake the Democratic Party in our image.

The Dems will go extinct if they don't build people power. Showing up to protests and union meetings. Recruiting inspiring candidates who sound like their constituents.

We need to build a prophecy of what we can build together. Green New Deal is that. Even Make America Great Again is that.

The age of incrementalism is over. ■



Photo / Sunrise Movement

The Coronavirus is out of control. The article below is from the National Nurses United, which is in the forefront of the fight for universal health care. Nurse deaths from the virus number more than 220; 60% are people of color. The deaths were avoidable, a result of government and employer inaction. Nurses were forced to work without proper PPE to do their jobs safely.

— The Editors



Nurses memorializing those lost to Covid-19.

Photo / Joe Flood

Nurses welcome science-based plan for pandemic

In a statement issued Nov. 9, National Nurses United (NNU) praised the Biden-Harris plan to beat Covid-19. The NNU called the proposed plan a huge step forward in confronting the deadly pandemic, based on science and public health, that if implemented immediately could save countless lives, and has been proven effective in other countries.



National Nurses United

“This is the plan the American people have been waiting for,” said NNU President Zenei Cortez, RN, urging the Trump administration to work with the incoming Biden-Harris administration to implement it immediately.

“Not only does the plan address the current crisis, it would begin to rebuild the infrastructure needed to be able to respond to infectious disease outbreaks, that are likely to happen more often due to the climate crisis, globalization, and rapid urbanization in the future,” Cortez said.

NNU has advocated and urged policy leaders to carry out key elements of this proposal since February. The union has warned of the consequences of failure to act, as seen in the current explosion of record numbers of infections, hospitalizations, overwhelmed health care facilities, and deaths.

Cortez noted that the failure of policy makers and employers to guarantee that health care workers have proper PPE “is why hospitals have too often become super spreader hot spots and more than 2,000 health care workers, including over 220 nurses, have died from Covid-19.”

DID YOU KNOW:

“The 100 most expensive U.S. hospitals charge up to \$1,808 for every \$100 of their costs. There is no excuse for these scandalous prices . . . for the most basic necessity of your life: your health.”

— NNU President Jean Ross, RN

Major components of the plan welcomed by NNU include:

- Full use of the Defense Production Act to ramp up production of masks, face shields, and other PPE, not just to meet demand but to replenish stockpiles and create a supply chain in the U.S.
- Prioritizing and relying upon science, when creating guidance and when reviewing and approving vaccines and therapeutics, with transparent access to local case data.
- A task force on racial and ethnic disparities, that is essential to confront the disproportionate number of deaths that have ravaged Black, Latino, Filipino, and Indigenous communities in particular, including among nurses, other health care workers and essential employees.
- Restoring the U.S. relationship to the World Health Organization, which is an important step towards rebuilding a coordinated international response to the Covid-19 pandemic, and as a framework for ensuring a unified approach to future outbreaks.
- Urging states to make wearing masks mandatory, as the governor of Utah declared Nov. 8, a critical facet of an overall public health plan.
- Nationwide contact tracing that is essential to confronting and limiting the spread of the virus to identify people who have been exposed and set the stage for isolation to protect others from becoming infected.
- Creation of a Public Health Job Corps, as the plan proposes, utilizing community resources “to perform culturally competent approaches to contact tracing and protecting at-risk population.”
- Investing in a massive vaccine manufacturing and distribution plan that will guarantee “it gets to every American, cost-free.”
- Working with Congress to pass an emergency package to ensure schools have the additional resources they need to adapt effectively to Covid-19.
- Providing a “restart package” that helps small businesses cover the costs of operating safely, including things like plexiglass and PPE. ■

North Carolina: Police prevent voters from getting to polls

*Excerpts are from a **Democracy, Now!** interview.*

Police in Alamance County in North Carolina pepper-sprayed a peaceful get-out-the-vote march October 31, including children and elderly people, on the last day of early voting. At least eight were arrested, including march organizer Rev. Greg Drumwright:

“Once [our march] got to North Main Street in front of a Confederate monument, we kneeled eight minutes and 46 seconds... in honor of George Floyd ... four members of the family was there with us. [At] the nine-minute mark, [police] began to release pepper spray and tear gas upon our marchers, stating we were not moving fast enough out of the roadways ... that’s only 14 seconds for hundreds of people to remove themselves peacefully.

“Because of this police brutality, we never made it to the polls. And therefore, we believe this ... interference ... obstructed our marchers from not only lifting up our First Amendment rights to protest, to speak out, but also our right to vote ...

“This is a sheriff that has been sued by the federal government in 2012 ... for actually disproportionately arresting Black and Brown people, even referring to Hispanics as “taco eaters.” Sheriff Terry Johnson and his department has long suppressed the citizens of Alamance County. There are horror stories. The

fearmongering is very intense. One of our marchers who spoke ... uplifted that she, as a business owner, has been targeted. Other [marchers] have had the KKK show up in their yard. And all have information that leads back to [the sheriff’s] administration.

“[An elderly woman in a wheel chair] ... is still recovering. She is very sore and very shaken ... They wrestled many of the folks that ended up in jail with me onto the ground ... already pepper-sprayed ... I was grabbed by my clothing and roughed up and taken into custody right there in front of the Confederate monument.

“There needs to be



Alamance County, NC. March to the polls attacked by police.

police reform in Graham, NC, just as it is being discussed in Minneapolis, Minnesota. This scene, and even July the 11th, where over 200 Confederates and neo-Nazis were allowed access to our march to disrupt our efforts, is all too common right now in Graham.

“[In jail] I met folks I didn’t know yet ... people that were there to stand with us in solidarity. I met Black folks and white folks in jail.” ■

GoodKids MadCity ‘Love March’ takes to Chicago streets

Below are excerpts from an article by Allison Schatz of Medill Reports. [See full article here.](#)

A crowd of close to 100 community activists and residents marched down Ashland near 67th Street, while cars honked in support, during GoodKids MadCity’s [GKMC] ‘Love March.’

Held on October 17, organizers say the march was meant to share a message of hope and to push back against the narrative that so often frames Englewood as a community of violence.

“Today’s march is about spreading peace and love throughout this community, so that we can do a better job keeping our streets safe without police,” GKMC youth member Miracle Boyd said. “Hundreds of children have died this year due to stray bullets.”

But despite the trauma, residents of communities such as Englewood say they are tired of being the sole focus of stories about violence, not change . . . tired of feeling forgotten by politicians who promise change but never seem to deliver. Among the issues of concern, lack of access to mental health services, fresh food, safe schools, affordable housing and medical care, and job access.

As a proposed solution, GKMC created the “Peace Book Ordinance,” to reallocate 2% of Chicago Police Department funding to support community sponsored programming aimed at reducing gun violence through a model that includes restorative justice solutions, substance abuse treatment, mental health services, fair housing and fresh food access.... ■



Many residents of Englewood feel forgotten by politicians. For these youth activists, the path towards change is activism.

Photo / Allison Schatz/MEDILL

The People's Tribune hosts discussions on the water crisis facing so many of our communities across the country where people can share experiences and strategize. Send your story to info@peopletribune.org! — *The Editors*

Water activists seek to build national movement

By **Cathy Talbott**

Inez, Kentucky, nestled in the hills and hollers of eastern Kentucky's coal fields in Martin County, was chosen by the United Nations to host world Water Day. Postponed from March because of the pandemic, water activists BarbiAnn Maynard of Martin County Water Crisis, and Anthony Diaz, of the Newark (New Jersey) Water Coalition, united around their mission of starting a national movement for clean, affordable water for all, spoke to media at the event held in October.



World Water Day, 2020. Barbi Ann Maynard of Martin County, KY and Anthony Diaz, of Newark, NJ spoke at the event.

Photo / Silas Walker

BarbiAnn, involved in the fight for clean and affordable water for twenty years, was called "crazy" when she first complained about the water to the district. For years residents have complained about the poor water quality, frequent outages and high bills. "It's not just Martin County. It's Newark, New Jersey; Aliquippa, Pennsylvania; Denmark, South Carolina," she said. "It's lots of little cities all around the United States. What people don't know is we're really working on a major movement to make a difference nationally." Acknowledging that she has been exposed to polluted water since childhood, she emphasizes that she's fighting for the next generation. "I'm fighting for the little kids who go to recess or PE and go to the water fountain. To me, that's like lambs being led to the slaughter. I'm fighting for them now." Maynard said.

Diaz emphasized that even in a time when the country is divided, we can join together to fight for access to clean water. He has been actively organizing in his community for two years after discovering high levels of lead in the water. "Black and brown communities always get the short end of the stick. It just happens. Here we are in a white community in rural Kentucky and they are also getting the short end of the stick. It's not what separates us, it's definitely what joins us up. If you can organize around water, you can organize around any issue."

Information from Kentucky.com ■

Minister steps in to save his town from toxic water

Rev. Edward Pinkney describes the toxic water crisis in Benton Harbor, MI, a majority African American town, home to and under the heel of the corporate giant, Whirlpool.



Rev. Edward Pinkney

Photo / daymonjhartley.com

BENTON HARBOR, MI — "The mayor said the water was

great. He didn't know I was testing. It came back that the water was undrinkable with lead and other toxins. That's when they started passing out the water filters. But they only gave one, or two. When filters get a yellow line, it's time to change. The Berrien County Health Department didn't want to give people replacements — being a black community is the worst. We had to fight them. We forced them to start giving people more than one. Their job is to distribute water filters, but they had no relationship with the people. We came in and showed them how to distribute the filters. We were the ones knocking on doors, making sure everyone had a filter. We did good, 75% of the homes got filters. They would take major credit, but we were out here door to door, even with the pandemic. We got a team of young folks who mask up, with gloves, and simply ask people, "Do you have a water filter? Is the light blinking red? How long have you had it?"

"Recently, Michael O'Malley, Director of the Water Plant, failed to flip a switch to kill bacteria in the water for over two hours. It was so bad they fired him. We did the job they should be doing, warning people to not drink, cook or bathe in the water, and to boil it. One of the main killers in water is bacteria in combination with lead. It's deadly, affecting children and seniors more. This morning they said they believe the bacteria has been contained, but what does that mean? I'm advising people to not drink, or brush your teeth with it and if you cook with it, boil it. We organize 'drive-bys' where we give out hundreds of cases of water; people drive up and kids put it in the trunk of their cars. We're also working on projects to get lead out of houses and stop the water leaks.

"So why won't Whirlpool help the people?" ■

The city of Los Angeles attacks homeless communities

By Services Not Sweeps

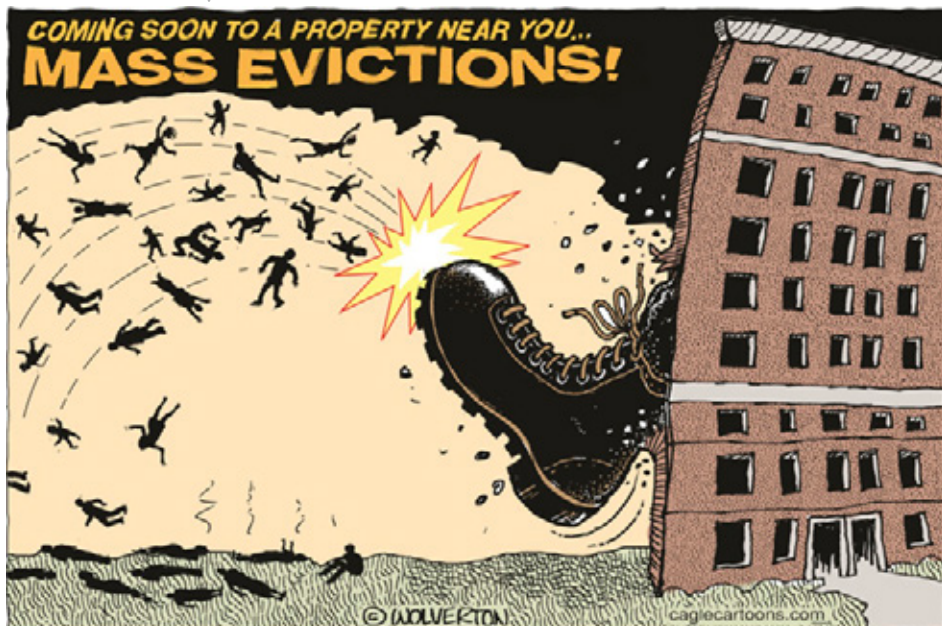
“I’ve never seen homeless people so harassed!”

These testimonies are from interviews by the advocacy group Services Not Sweeps, in response to brutal encampment sweeps in targeted areas all over L.A. — at a time when people are particularly vulnerable to COVID-19. Instead of attacking the homeless, shouldn’t the city be guaranteeing safe housing for all? — The Editors

Stephanie: My experience has been horrible. It is extremely difficult to move everything you own in such a short amount of time. I hear about the clean-ups the day before they happen, sometimes one hour before they happen. I’ve watched them throw my clothes away, and my son’s shoes. One time they took his food he had just received the night before. Once we were hounded by five different police departments. I’ve never seen homeless people so harassed every day.

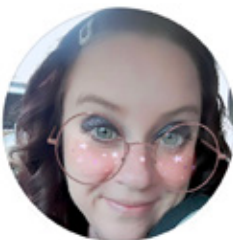
T for Thomas: I have no vehicle, no way to get to the location to pick up the items that were taken. It was a setup. They (the police) give you a ticket on some BS like smoking a cig on the edge of the grass. They give everyone a ticket and give them all the same court date (the day of the sweep) and then sweep everyone’s possessions away. I was arrested for an outstanding warrant for blocking a sidewalk. So I was in jail for the day of the sweep. People who didn’t have a record now have a record.

Robert: They do one every week for the last year and a quarter. The first one they didn’t give notice, the second one was even worse because they came earlier. I lost a lot of possessions, including my mom’s bible that she gifted me before she passed. Usually the police don’t bother me unless there’s an action taking place, then they act like Roman soldiers. During sweeps we’re made fun of, treated with disrespect, made to feel like shit from the people conducting the sweeps. ■



Millions of evictions are expected as a result of the pandemic and job loss. Tenants groups have banded together to demand housing as a human right.

Homeless mom and president of the Santa Cruz Homeless Union, homeless rights activist Alicia Kuhl recently ran for City Council in Santa Cruz, CA, as reported in the August 2020 People’s Tribune. Here from Facebook posts she meditates on her journey, and shares advice on positive action.
— The Editors



“I just want to thank everyone who supported me in my campaign for City Council. I am so proud of all of the work and effort that my team does on a daily basis. We didn’t win but we will definitely try again next time. Part of the reason why I ran for city council was to change the narrative surrounding people experiencing homelessness. The fact that a mom living in an RV in Santa Cruz ran for City Council to promote positive solutions to key issues in our community will always be something. Thank you for your support. I am forever grateful.

“One thing a lot of people don’t understand about children in

‘Spread the Message and Organize!’ Santa Cruz homeless activist answers “How can I help?”

foster care and group homes is that they grow up — that I grew up — feeling that I was not wanted. I had no community, no family support, and I didn’t feel valued by the people in my life. In that type of situation it’s hard to value yourself, and it’s hard just to move forward — it’s a struggle to choose to make the best of your own life. And so many foster kids don’t make that choice — they sink into depression, they have substance abuse disorders, they take their own life. By the Grace of God, I didn’t make that choice — I chose to move forward, to make the best out of my life, and now I fight, I advocate, and I organize for all the people that aren’t valued by our society, that are told they don’t matter.

“A person asks, how can I help? Spread the message, organize, get involved, volunteer your time, social media exposure, writing letters. There are always ways to contribute. Thank you so much for asking.” ■

The People's Tribune and our bilingual sister publication, El Tribuno del Pueblo, launched "The People to People Fact-Finding Delegation to the Border" in August in collaboration with a group of activists, researchers, and independent journalists, who are deeply concerned about human rights violations at the U.S.-Mexico border.

From August through October 2020, the group convened five virtual panels (listed below) representing different sections of the U.S.-Mexico Border. By making several virtual stops at border crossings along that route, in Brownsville, Texas-Matamoros, Tamaulipas; El Paso, Texas-Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua; Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, Arizona; and Mexicali-Calexico, San Diego-Tijuana, we sought to reveal some of the specificities and commonalities between these embattled but nonetheless vibrant border communities.

Twenty-seven experts who are active in the border region collectively gave nearly 10 hours of eyewitness testimony to more than 400 listeners. Their testimony was given against the background of what has been probably the most critical presidential election in U.S. history, and in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic. A full report, to be issued soon, will be based on the findings from this fact-finding delegation and will be distributed to state, national and international governmental and human rights bodies.

▶▶▶ Visit our website to view the five panel videos – [Click Here](#) ◀◀◀

Panel 1 — Current State of Migrant Protection Protocol at our Southern Border

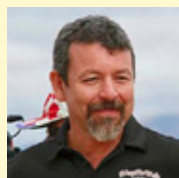
Thursday Aug. 13, 2020

Sister Norma Pimentel, Catholic Charities RG; **Lilli Rey**, Founder Bay Area Border Relief; **Jorge Sanchez**, Venezuelan Attorney and Asylee; **Thelma Garcia**, Immigration Attorney in South Texas; **Jennifer Harbury**, Attorney and Human Rights Activist

Moderator: Dr. Belinda Hernandez-Arriaga, USF Assistant Professor, Bay Area Border Relief Team

Panel 2 — El Paso, Texas and Cd. Juarez, Chihuahua Mexico

Thursday Sept. 3, 2020



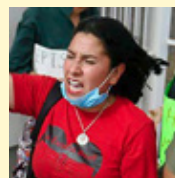
Fernando Garcia
Border Network for Human Rights



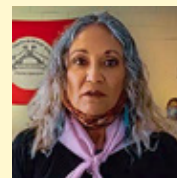
Susana Prieto Terrazas
Labor Attorney



Carlos Marentes
Border Agricultural Workers Project



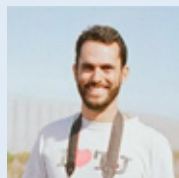
Hilda Villegas
Familias Unidas del Chamizal



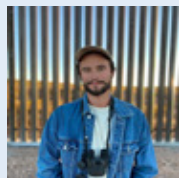
Rosemary Rojas
Border Agricultural Workers Project

Panel 3 — California/Tijuana, Southern Arizona, and Rio Grande Valley, Texas

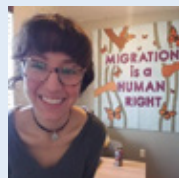
Thursday September 17, 2020



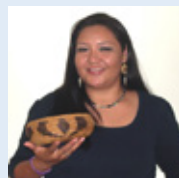
Dan Watman
Coordinador and founder of the Binational Friendship Garden of Native Plants.



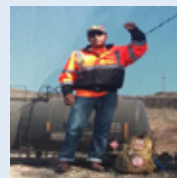
Laiken Jordahl
Borderlands Campaigner with the Center for Biological Diversity.



Norma Herrera
Working to stop border wall construction in the Rio Grande Valley.



Ana Gloria Martha Rodriguez



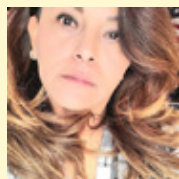
Alejandro Ortigoza
ARMADILLOS



Pedro Rios
MODERATOR
American Friends Service Committee

Panel 4 — Mexicali, Tijuana and San Diego

Thursday Oct. 1, 2020



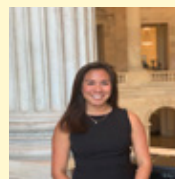
Yolanda Varona Palacios
Dreamers' moms



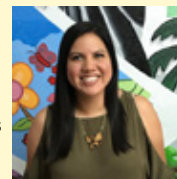
Dulce Garcia
Border Angels



Hector Barajas
Deported Veterans Support House



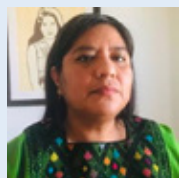
Carolina Cortez
Border Kindness



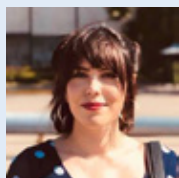
Tania Garcia
Espacio Migrante

Panel 5 — Militarized Border Communities

Wednesday, October 14, 2020



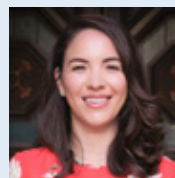
Alma Maquitico
National Network for Immigrant Refugee Rights



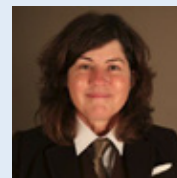
Estefanía Castañeda Pérez
UCLA Department of Political Science



Ricardo Favela
Alianza Comunitaria



Vanessa Ceceña
American Friends Service Committee



Vicki Gaubeca
Southern Border Communities Coalition

Group issues damning findings on human rights abuses at border

Editor's note: From mid-August to mid-October of this year, the People's Tribune and our bilingual sister publication, El Tribuno del Pueblo, worked with a group of activists and researchers to sponsor a series of five "Zooming to the Border for Human Rights" online panel discussions investigating abuses of immigrants and refugees along the U.S.-Mexico border. The findings from the online hearings were outlined in an executive summary released Oct. 29. Below are excerpts from the executive summary. A full report will be issued soon. The video recordings of the panel discussions can be viewed on the People's Tribune [BORDER HUMAN RIGHTS](#) page.

It is at the border that the character of the nation is being defined, for better or for worse. — Fernando Garcia, Director, Border Network for Human Rights

...The view from the U.S.-Mexico border is both a damning portrait of national policies, and an inspiring vision of community struggle and resilience. For many, the image of Ellis Island as a welcoming gateway to the poor masses yearning to be free, seeking liberty, justice, and the pursuit of happiness, eager to contribute their energy and intelligence to building the young nation, is iconic of the U.S. 20th Century. It seems that the U.S.- Mexico Border is fast becoming the reference for this country's 21st Century, and, at least for the moment, a far less inviting image of fences and walls. Every issue that afflicts our nation today is magnified here at the border: racism, excessive force, the exploitation of essential workers, the ongoing separation and unequal conditions in schools, the inadequate health care system and environmental contamination and ecosystem destruction.

[During five online hearings] 27 experts who are active in the border region collectively gave nearly 10 hours of eyewitness testimony to more than 400 listeners.

The report finds that all along, and on both sides, of the border, vibrant communities are being sacrificed as the border is turned into a highly profitable zone for unbridled militarization, carceral state expansion, border industrialization (factories and farms), and environmental and ecological devastation. The report further highlights how, in the name of a manufactured threat to our national sovereignty, \$381 billion of taxpayers money has been siphoned away from desperately needed social infrastructure for communities. Instead of strengthening and uplifting our communities, our resources have been misdirected towards subsidizing the endless construction of a massive border enforcement landscape.

While the militarization, industrialization and denuding of the landscape of border communities is, no doubt, extremely profitable for corporate interests in the security and construction industries, it tears apart and weakens the fabric of community and environment, not only along the border but for all of us.

In addition to the blatant disregard of indigenous treaties, this egregious misappropriation of resources also entails countless illegal violations and the outright suspension of long and hard fought national and international protections and rights for labor, refugees, children and the environment. ■

Help get the voice of the movement out

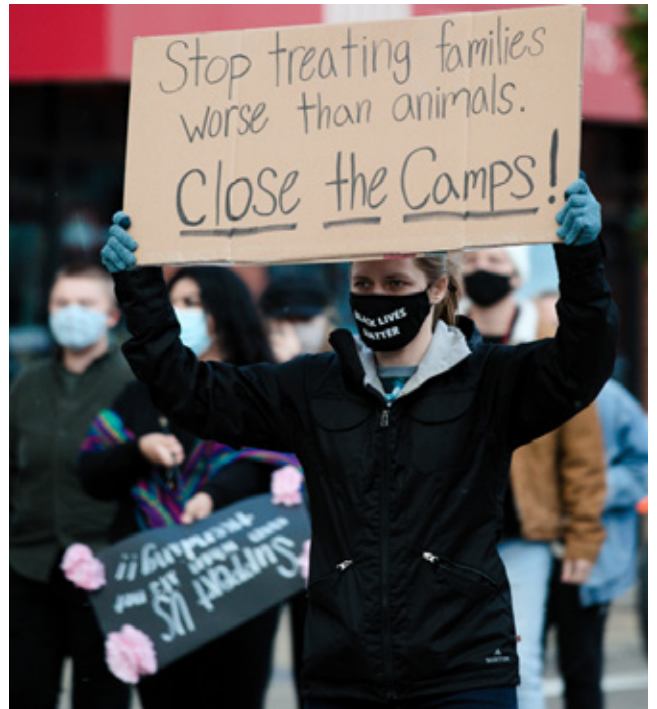
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PT Twitter

<https://twitter.com/peoplestribune>



Marchers outside the Minneapolis office of Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) demanded legalization for all DACA recipients. They criticized Republican policies and expressed anger at Democrats for not acting. They also demanded the end of "Prevention through Deterrence" and separation of families at the border. (Oct., 2020)

Photo / Fibonacci Blue

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