

# UNITY

## Putting the Music into the Youth Movement

Cultural resistance, including the music of struggle is integral to any movement challenging for system change and against the status quo. Music can be dramatically unifying, enhancing emotional factors that motivate action. At the heart of virtually every struggle, movement, or protest are the rhythms and songs that encapsulate the feelings and ideals of the historic actors of the movement.

Different forms of protest music can serve many different purposes in the movement. Songs like "Feel Like I'm Fixin' to Die" by Country Joe McDonald, used humor, mockery, and bitter sarcasm to convince people to reject the system. Others have been used to generate anger, such as Graham Nash's song "Chicago" about Bobby Seale who was bound and gagged in the courtroom following the protests and police riot at the Democratic National Convention. Another more recent example is the antiwar song "Sir No Sir" by Outernational, which describes the brutal reality of fighting in the armed forces.

Some members of our organization New Jersey Youth United Against War and Imperialism, are involved in a band called RAW Machine, which stands for Revolutionary Anti War Machine. RAW is also war spelled backwards, because our goal is to reverse, or end the war. We have played

at antiwar coffeehouses, immigrant rights marches, and other events and we often bring our guitars, drums, violins and other instruments to street demonstrations. We aim to grow in to an entourage, or an antiwar rage, if you will, performing en masse at massive protests against war, austerity, tuition hikes, etc.

That is where you come in! We are looking for musicians and singers of every skill level who would like to become a part of the RAW Machine movement. We hope to do music workshops and we can have centralized as well as local rehearsals. We will

distribute the lyrics and music and can put together the arrangements for all instrument and voice parts.

When we rise against the war machine and the austerity clamp down, let our instruments be our weapons. Imagine our massing with hundreds of us with instruments in hand to spirit the struggle forward! Thousands of us across the state are in the various school marching bands, choruses, orchestras and our own pick up bands . . . let us add to our repertoire the music of struggle and use our music as a motivator for our generation. It will be fun, it will be hard work and it will be an effective way to make our voices heard and our power realized!

**Musicians: We want you to become part of the RAW Machine Anti-War-Rage. Join today: <http://RAWMachine.org>**

## LGBT Youth: What's at Stake?

A well researched article on issues that face LGBT youth is available at this site:

<http://thecurvature.com/2010/06/22/lgbt-youth-face-high-rates-of-homelessness-and-incarceration>

That article quotes another from The Nation publication:

"Across the United States, the brutal and dysfunctional juvenile justice system sends queer youth to prison in disproportionate numbers, fails to protect them from violence and discrimination while they're inside and to this day condones attempts to turn them straight. Antigay policies aren't just a problem in the Deep South or rural regions. According to Jody Marksamer of the National Center for Lesbian Rights, one of co-authors of a recent report on LGBT youth in the juvenile justice system, "These things happen in every state."

It also quotes from a report by Center for American Progress:

1.6 million to 2.8 million: The estimated number of homeless youth in the United States.

20 to 40 percent: The portion of the homeless youth population who are gay or transgender, compared to only 5 to 10 percent of the overall youth population.

320,000 to 400,000: A conservative estimate of the number of gay and transgender youth facing homelessness each year.

14.4: The average age that lesbian and gay youth in New York become homeless.

13.5: The average age that transgender youth in New York become homeless.

In light of these pertinent issues to LGBT youth, the following is how a NJ youth activist responded to some interview questions:

**YO: Is there sufficient focus on these youth issues by mainstream equality groups? Do they have other priorities? What are they?**  
I don't think that mainstream equality groups provide enough focus on issues that directly affect youth. So far, the focal point of LGBT activism has been marriage equality and, up until recently, repealing DADT, neither of which are really directly beneficial for LGBT youth. If LGBT rights activists want to make their goals more inclusive to youth in terms of direct benefit, they should focus more on trans-inclusive healthcare laws, legal protections against discrimination for both LGB people and transgender individuals, and stronger protection against homophobic and transphobic bullying (and not just around the Day of Silence and Spirit Day).

**YO: What will the likelihood be of the deficit reduction committee providing funding for shelter for homeless youth?**

Given the current political climate rife with high approval rates for politicians who have advocated, and sometimes with success, for major cuts to social services to the needy sector of the populace, I would be surprised if funding for homeless shelters didn't get cut!

**YO: Why should LGBT be anti-war?**

LGBT people, especially youth, should be anti-war because the allocation of federal dollars towards the military, also Orwellianly known as the "defense budget" is money being diverted from social services that LGBT people are disproportionately more likely to need, such as unemployment benefits, welfare, and assistance with homelessness. Also, anyone with a conscience should be repulsed by the indiscriminate murder of civilians going on in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

**YO! Why should anti-war and activists support LGBT youth?**

Anti-war organizations and activists should support LGBT youth because at this time, gay and bisexual youth are being especially singled out for military recruitment and some trans activists are pushing hard for inclusion of transgender people in the military. LGBT youth are more likely to be kicked out of their parents' homes (thus limiting their educational options) and also have a harder time finding lucrative jobs than straight and cisgender youth. For these reasons, they are more likely to enlist in the military to try to get by and are especially in need of empowerment to seek other options

**YO! What support does our organization offer?**

Our organization has a diverse membership that is committed to supporting all youth regardless of their site(s) of oppression. We regularly push for progress in regards to civil liberties, stopping institutional brutality, and fighting discrimination.

We would like to request any action to ensure that as many students as possible are made aware of our organization and more importantly, the fact that, as was said by the Supreme Court itself in Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District, students do not "shed their constitutional rights to freedom of speech or expression at the schoolhouse gate"

**To GSA organizations – we are interested in visiting your meetings to present and distribute our newspaper YO! and talking about building a unified youth movement. To invite us, e-mail [NJYU@NJYouthUnited.org](mailto:NJYU@NJYouthUnited.org).**



## NJ Filipino Youth Organize

The following are excerpts taken from an article provided by Anakbayan NJ entitled: "What is Imperialism, and How Did It Get to the Philippines?"

**What is Anakbayan?**

"... Anakbayan (in English: "sons and daughters of the nation") is part of the legal National Democratic mass movement across the country (Philippines) and abroad. Its aim is to fight for the basic rights of the Filipino in recognition of the fact that the country is controlled by a foreign entity, and will remain poor until it liberates itself from U.S. Imperialism. National Democracy involves the advancement of a mass-oriented, scientific and patriotic culture by providing free, accessible and liberating education to all levels; upholding worker's rights, raising the quality of life, and developing social services by way of genuine agrarian reform and strategic national industrialization; and adapting an independent foreign policy that is anti-imperialist, independent and peaceful. Its analysis of pressing issues such as budget cuts in education and other social services, oil price and fare hikes, U.S. wars, and human rights violations incorporates the relation of imperialism, bureaucrat capitalism and feudalism as the three basic problems in Philippine society."

**Defining Imperialism:**

"Imperialism is the highest stage of capitalism, the state of monopoly capitalism. Simply put, it is comparable to a leech, whose only means of living is by feeding off of its host. In reality, Imperialism, due to its crisis of over production, needs to feed off of the lives of feudal and or semi-feudal countries such as the Philippines.

At the dawn of the 20th century, the United States has reached the highest stage of capitalism, wherein capital, banking and industry have merged and reached a point of monopoly. Due to this combination, it has dramatically raised its productive capacities, enabling it to produce more than enough commodities needed for domestic consumption. As a by-product, the crisis of overproduction came knocking on its doors. This condition necessitated the United States to look for new markets, sources of cheap raw materials and surplus capital, and a cheap labor force.

In 1898, the Philippines was on the verge of a revolutionary victory against the crumbling Spanish empire. Led by the proletarian hero Andres Bonifacio, the Filipinos launched the first war for national liberation in Asia. Through the Katipunan, an underground

revolutionary movement, the young Filipino proletariat, in alliance with the farmers and intellectuals mobilized the Filipino masses to realize their national and democratic aspirations.

After buying the Philippines for 20 million dollars from Spain, the U.S. proceeded with its Imperialist conquest they called "benevolent assimilation". It immediately showed their benevolence by replicating its genocidal campaign against the Native Americans, this time against the Filipino people. Employing 100,000 troops and the most advance military weaponry available, they murdered an estimated 600,000 Filipinos, combatants and non-combatants alike, in cold blood. On July 4, 1902, the U.S. government declared the war "over" but Filipino revolutionaries, alongside the masses of workers and peasants, continued the struggle for national liberation and democracy

**Anakbayan NJ calls for:**

U.S. taxpayers should not subsidize the greed and ambition of monopoly capitalism.

Instead, the trillions of dollars spent on war should be cut, and re-channeled as budget for social services like education, health care, housing, pension, etc. Building an anti-imperialist united front here in

America is only possible if its citizens consciously link their domestic struggles to the global struggle against the reckless use of public resources for tyranny of one state over another.

Anakbayan New Jersey is inviting the youth, Filipino and non-Filipino, to: (1) work on joint campaigns to expose and oppose U.S. military presence and military aid in the Philippines and other semi-colonial countries; (2) participate in, and launch actions for, Philippine Solidarity Week in February; and (3) join the International League of Peoples' Struggle. "

In addition to its support for the Filipino struggle, Anakbayan organizes throughout NJ, and particularly in Jersey City and other Filipino enclaves, for affordable access to higher education, for immigrant rights, against transportation fare hikes and other austerity measures and in solidarity with various worker's struggles.

We consider Anakbayan NJ an important ally as we call for a multi-ethnic, multinational, multi-racial struggle around multiple issues. We encourage our readers to ally with Anakbayan and other sectors of the NJ youth movement.

For the complete rest of this article, see: <http://anakbayannnj.wordpress.com/2011/09/11/what-is-imperialism-and-how-did-it-get-to-the-philippines/>

## Soporte inmigrantes jóvenes!

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esfuerzo.

**La Juventud de NJ Unidad Contra la Guerra y Imperialismo** apoya los esfuerzos de la Coalición de la Ley de Sueño de NJ en su exigencia para un precio de instrucción en estado también como las otras organizaciones cerca del estado. Llamamos para un fin de las redadas y deportaciones, un fin a S-COMM, y el alto de la construcción de la nueva facilidad de detención en Essex County.

Nosotros también hemos trabajado con NJ Unidad Latina En Acción para ayudar a promover la marcha de los derechos de los inmigrantes el Primer de Mayo en Hightstown, NJ, cuando mostramos por la primera vez la pancarta que pintamos con los esloganes: "¡La Solidaridad de los Trabajadores No Tiene Ningunas Fronteras! ¡Pare las Redadas y

Deportaciones! ¡Amnistia para Todos Ahora!"

Llamamos a los jóvenes, si son ciudadanos, son residentes, tienen papeles, o no tienen ningunos papeles, a responder. Los ataques y las redadas contra inmigrantes, incluyendo inmigrantes jóvenes, son ataques para todos de nosotros. Nuestro objetivo de la unidad no es parado por las fronteras disgragadoras y leyes de inmigración que aspiran a penalizar las personas de naciones diversos.

Por un movimiento unido de los jóvenes con muchas temas, nuestra generación podrá subir y prevalecer.

las fronteras o las leyes que criminalizan a los inmigrantes! A través de la unidad de la juventud que puede elevarse y prevalecer.

**Información de un documento escrito por Marisol Conde-Hernández fue utilizada en**