

# YO!

Publication of NJ Youth United Against War and Imperialism

# The Youth Organizer

Turn the pages of history!

V.1 No. 2 - Spring / Summer 2012

## Tear Down The Walls! End Mass Incarceration!

by Benjamin Woods

Students Against Mass Incarceration (SAMI) was started at Howard University in February, 2011. After taking a course on the Black Power Movement and reading books like Safiya Bakari's "The War Before" and Michelle Alexander's "The New Jim Crow", several students decided to use the information learned to advance the Black community. Uniting with other students who had organized before around prisons, they started SAMI.

SAMI aims to raise awareness of the prison industrial complex, existence of political prisoners and recidivism. Our vision is to build a movement for the complete abolition of prisons and freedom for all people imprisoned for their political beliefs and actions. We are anti-capitalist, anti-imperialist and prison abolitionist. We understand that prison abolition can only occur through a radical transformation of the society, particularly the economic system.

### **Incarceration Targets Youth of Color**

In the 1960s and 1970s there was a peak of movement activity in the U.S. and the world. Youth were at the center of these movements. One of the most revered organizations of this period was the Black Panther Party for Self Defense. The average Black Panther Party member was between the ages of 18-22. Over 60% of panthers were women. In SAMI we argue that the Prison Industrial Complex (PIC) has two functions: profit and social control. So called racial profiling particularly targets young Black and Brown people. We see that one of the central purposes of the PIC is to stop the development of another Black Power Movement, American Indian Movement, Chicano

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## New B Town Youth Struggle Forward

Our organization is undertaking a community organizing project called Audify New Brunswick (see page 5). One of our aims is to build a social and political relationship with youth of New Brunswick and surrounding communities. In order to get a better understanding of the issues and struggles of New Brunswick youth, we have reached out to local activists with questions. We were fortunate to have our questions answered by Tormel Pittman, Noble Aaron El Shabazz and Fahym Torres, all of whom have been active in efforts to call for justice for Barry DeLoatch an unarmed African American who was shot dead by police last fall and Victor Rodriguez who was also shot by police, calling out local officials on police and official corruption and calling upon the community to stop the violence from within. We hope to continue to pursue questions with these and other activists as well as young members of the community. We hope to get a better understanding and use YO! to bring the issues facing youth to the forefront.

### **What are the most important issues facing New Brunswick youth?**

**Tormel Pittman:** Education. New Brunswick youth have not been exposed to an adequate education in 30 years or more. There is only one blue ribbon school in New Brunswick and that sits in Rutgers Village...(Editor's note: Rutgers Village is the more affluent and more Caucasian sector of New Brunswick.)

### **Are there adequate positive activities for youth?**

**Tormel Pittman:** No, there are no adequate youth programs. The same people responsible for the educational programs are the ones who

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NJ Youth United audifies New Brunswick streets and movement . . . beckons for musical uprising, See article page 5. **Like** <http://www.facebook.com/AudifyNewBrunswickNj> .

## Say NO to U.S. War on Iran!

Members of the youth, we face a dire predicament with Iran, one that cannot be ignored or passively dismissed. At the moment the U.S. stands on the brink of war with Iran. The US and its European allies have imposed crippling sanctions, a nuclear armed US war fleet and submarines are patrolling the coasts of Iran and US President Obama has stated that "he does not bluff" and that the US would use military force if it suspects that Iran is seeking nuclear weapons. A mysterious string of assassinations targeting Iranian scientists are occurring and various other sabotage operations are proceeding inside Iran. For it's part, U.S. armed Israel is threatening also to initiate an attack on Iran.

Iran has cooperated with international inspectors, has stated that its nuclear program is to provide energy only and there is no credible evidence that it is seeking nuclear weapons. Much like the U.S. drive to war on Iraq fueled by false accusations of weapons of mass destruction, unsubstantiated accusations against Iran are regularly passed along by U.S. leaders of both political parties and the media as if they are truthful facts.

NJ Youth United Against War and Imperialism call upon youth and all people of conscience to resist the inciting of war with Iran that could only lead to the wholesale massacre of the Iranian people. We must demand an end to the sanctions, withdrawal of the nuclear armed war fleet and a halt to the threats being waged daily against Iran.

## Demand Student Debt Forgiveness and an End to Tuition!

**NJ Youth United Against War and Imperialism calls upon collective youth power to formulate an effective movement to fight for free higher education in all of the state and county universities and colleges across the U.S. In many much poorer nations than the U.S. education is not only free but it is seen as a vital part of efforts toward social upliftment. In the U.S. the high cost of education at private colleges as well as the spiraling costs at public institutions and a for profit student loan system is closing the doors of the schools to greater numbers of youth and creating an underclass of indentured servants among those who graduate with massive student loans to pay off. The following is written by Dong Gu Yoon (Jack), of the USSA Board of Directors, Empire/Garden Chair and he can be reached at neagonant@gmail.com / 732-589-4644**

Back in January, the United States Student Association's Board of Directors met at Rutgers University. We debated on a number of issues including our annual spring legislative conference, called LegCon. Legcon is a five day conference where statewide student association, government and movement representatives come from around the country to attend workshops on grassroots power and lobbying. At the end of the conference, there is a tradition where students rally for higher education, and march to the capital. There the students give/listen to speeches, then go off to lobby their Senators/Representatives. This year, because student debt was to surpass 1 TRILLION dollars, and the fact that education is NOT a priority in this country, we need the national student movement to step it up! So the board, including myself and Rutgers University Student Assembly president Matt Cordeiro as well as students from around the nation and the staff of the USSA including president Victor Sanchez and vice-president Tiffany Loftin, decided to do an action against Sallie Mae. We realized that Sallie Mae is the largest holder of private student loans, and is a well-known practitioner of predatory lending practices.

Student loans are often filled with compound interests and other unfair characteristics. The loans are offered to people who they know cannot pay back. The

We must assemble and form a counterculture, based on the preservation of peace and the proliferation of democratic principles. The U.S. working people do not want a war costing billions and causing energy costs to spiral. We want federal funding to go to the education system, to the health care system, to urban development.

More important than the economic costs of this pending war, if the US carries through on its threat, it will result in the highly immoral wholesale slaughter of Iranian people and possibly others in the surrounding area, as well as the deaths and destruction of the lives of US GIs serving in the operation.

Youth must stop enlisting in the armed forces. We are being used as cannon fodder for endless war. As we protest rising tuition, cuts to public education, attacks on women, on equal rights, police repression in our communities and of our democratic rights and as we join in the Occupy Wall Street movement, we need to bring to the streets a clear message that shouts loud and clear, in our literature, our banners, our signs and our chants: NO WAR WITH IRAN. NO SANCTIONS. NO BOMBING. NO SABOTAGE AND ASSASSINATION. US FLEET OUT OF THE HORMUZ REGION! DEMAND THAT THE U.S. TELL ITS ALLIES IT WILL NOT SUPPORT OR DEFEND AN ATTACK ON IRAN.

banks can do that because the government backs up these loans, so they are essentially risk-free for these institutions. Also one of the large selling points is that "these loans are ok because once you get an education, you will be able to pay back no time!" If you replace the words LOAN and EDUCATION with MORTGAGE and HOUSE, you will see an eerie resemblance to the housing crises that CAUSED THE CURRENT RECESSION! We are forced by market practices to take out MORTGAGE sized loans with NO HOMES.

So the action we decided to take was to request a meeting with the CEO of Sallie Mae, Albert Lord. After months of trying to get a meeting, we saw the only course of action, to take our power to them! So during the last day of LegCon, we split up the action into two general parts. First, the student volunteers, including myself, were to go into Sallie Mae, dressed in our fancy lobbying suits, and do an old-fashioned sit-in at the lobby of Sallie Mae until we got a meeting with Albert. Second the rest of the students would follow after us, and after we had sat down, would catch up with the inside team and hold a large 300 person rally outside of the building.

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## Reasons Our Generation Must Learn How to Fight!

There are many reasons why youth need to learn how to fight. We invite you to tell us why you are ready to join the battle!

1. **The endless war** is a major threat to the survival of our generation. The war hits us from all sides. We are viewed as cannon fodder - as grease for their war machine which produces endless profits for the war industry. The endless war is a big black hole sucking up all the resources from education, health care, infrastructure - it's where all the money goes. YO! articles in this issue cover the pending war with Iran and various aspects of war recruitment.
2. **Mass incarceration** of youth - The US has 2.5 million people, more than any other nation, in prison. Like war, prisons are a profit generating industry. Polititicians get paid by the industry to make laws designed to increase the prison population. Refer to the article that starts on the front page of YO! for more on the topic.
3. **Immigrant youth under attack**. Immigrant youth and their families, including NJ's own Jordana Judith Vera Serna face a constant imminent threat of being arrested, detained and deported. Nobody should worry about looking over our shoulder, wondering if the person talking to you might be an undercover ICE thug. Solidarity means that we fight to defend the rights of immigrant youth and their families. See the YO! article and poem on page 4 about how the life of Jordana, a NJ immigrant youth, was disrupted by these policies.
4. **Hunger and poverty** are on the rise in NJ. 1 in 3 NJ youth live in poverty. We have a class based system with winners and losers. Why should we support a system that would deny basic human needs to large portions of the population - food, housing, education, health care? We need to fight to eliminate class differentiation and the violence of hunger and impoverishment. See the YO! article on page 5 on the increasing poverty of NJ youth.
5. **Public education** across NJ is slashed. Music and art are cut. Fees are imposed for activities. Schools are closing. There is a push to privatize public education. On the back page of YO! you can read about what happened when a Maryland high school fought back.
6. **Higher education:** Tuition at state and county colleges is spiraling. Graduating students are drowning in debt into a market of job scarcity. The imperialist parties debate whether to double the interest rate on student loans or to keep the current usurist rate. A front page YO! article provides a first hand account of a student fightback effort.
7. **Historic Inaccuracy:** To keep us confused, public schools spin historic fictions. In some states like Arizona it is actually illegal to teach an indigenous or Chicano perspective on history. History is taught through the perspective that serves a system of oppression. See the YO! article on page 3 for more on the topic.
8. **Islamophobia**. With the war on terrorism comes the endless attacks on Muslims. On page 4 of this YO! paper we continue to follow the NYPD / CIA Muslim harassment scandal, with an update on how the NYPD is spying on Muslim students at Rutgers and other NJ campuses. Meanwhile the US carries out military assaults on civilian Muslim populations in such countries as Iraq. Afghanistan, Pakistan, Yemen, Somalia, Libya as it threatens a major war that could result in large scale killings in Iran.
- YO! scratches the surface about the need for youth unity, the need for us to learn how to organize and how to take a stand around the issues we face. We hope you read YO!, every article, contact us and get involved. We can change history - that is what makes us humans - but in order to assert ourselves we need to become actors on the stage of history. So turn the pages of YO! and turn the pages of history!**

GET 100 COPIES OF YO! TO DISTRIBUTE

CALL 908-635-3285 OR WRITE NJYU@NJYOUTHUNITED.ORG

### Does the guidance office look like a war recruitment office?

Are recruiters stalking the office, corridors, lunch rooms and invading classrooms? Is your school administering the war recruitment ASVAB test? Is your neighborhood patrolled by recruitment vans and trucks? Are helicopters dropping in on your local play ground? Are you hounded at your home, on the phone, by unwanted advances of recruiters? What are the war recruitment methods at your college campus?

We want to document just how pervasive are the armed forces recruiters and what methods are they using. We want your stories. We want your photographs of the recruiters in action in classrooms and halls and guidance offices and in the neighborhood. Record their phone solicitations and face to face recruitment with recording devices. Video record them with your phone or other video equipment. Write to us and tell us your stories. Send us the pictures and videos. Help us document what is going on and the nefarious affect this war at home is having on NJ youth.

If you or someone you know got in trouble messing around with a recruiter and might be on the hook for some awful mission that you are really not interested in, contact us. We can help you make contact with those who can inform you of your legal rights, what you are committed to and what measures you can take to step away from a war mission. The truth is that recruiters are often not truthful and might make you think you are already committed to something when you actually are not and there are legal experts who can help assure that you can take charge of your life.

NJ Youth United Against War and Imperialism strongly urges youth not to enlist and not to become part of the imperialist war machine. Please be encouraged to contact us if we can be of assistance or if you want to help with our investigation.

Call today: 908-635-3285

Want to be a writer, distributor, producer, editor of YO! for the next issue? Call 908-635-3285 immediately!

Does your organization have a youth outreach plan? We can help you get started. We offer support to like minded organizations that want to figure out how to better reach out, organize, unite and help youth get involved. If you think your organization could do more to reach out to youth and you want some support in doing so, please contact us immediately at 908-635-3285.

- Getting started at your middle or high school, campus or community:
1. Contact us. Click join button at <http://NJYouthUnited.org>
2. Are there any groups that are approachable around issues of youth activism, war, austerity, etc? Make contact with those groups. Attend there meetings and present proposal to get started.
3. Get a location for first meeting, either at a library meeting room, at a local pizza or cafe shop, in the school commons area or wherever you can meet quickly without red tape. Spread the word in social network, with fliers, word of mouth, e-mail and phone.
4. Propose an intial small scale activity like handing out YO! newspapers, protesting military recruiters, showing a film or having a discussion, inviting a speaker, etc.
5. See where it goes.

Contact us as you go. We can help you figure out how to navigate obstacles to get things gong. We all have to think of ourselves as organizers. The first step is within each of our minds when we make a decision to act.

**Want to learn more about the struggle, get involved, get some papers to share - do you know about an injustice that needs some youth unity support -- are you a musician who wants to use your instrument as a weapon and your music as ammunition against oppression . . . READY TO TAKE A STAND? CALL THE YOUTH UNITY HOT LINE RIGHT NOW!**

# 908-635-3285

## Oppose Imperialism, Even On Election Day!

### NJ Senator Menendez Fans Flames of War on Iran

NJ Youth United Against War and Imperialism supports the use of every level of struggle and we believe electoral work is a tool in the anti-imperialist tool box. In NJ, we are faced with the prospect of voting for US Senate this year. Though he is touted by liberal groups, we do not view US Senator Menendez as a friend of peace. He is an architect of the U.S. sanctions on Iran which is an act of economic war on the Iranian people. The following is an excerpt of comments by U.S. Senate candidate Greg Pason who is running under the banner of the Socialist Party. We urge voters to steer clear of both imperialist parties, the Republican and Democratic parties and instead to consider voting for Greg Pason or for Ken Wolski of the Green Party. We invited both to comment to our YO! paper but only Greg responded. For more on his platform, visit: [www.votepason2012.org](http://www.votepason2012.org) . Here are some of his comments:

**Is a Vote for Menendez Even a Choice for Progressives?**

There have always been calls from the progressive community to support the “lesser-evil” Democrat come election time. Usually the argument is based on “stopping the Republicans and their reactionary agenda”. With Senator Menendez, specifically on foreign policy, this argument is getting harder and harder to make with a straight face.

On foreign policy, Menendez is the face of the Cuban embargo. From co-sponsoring amendments with Republicans like Marco Rubio to try to prevent any lessening of travel restriction (his latest amendment would’ve blocked all new flights to Cuba for educational, religious, cultural and humanitarian groups to visit the island) to ,like in 2009, threatening to single-handedly block environmental legislation over his objections to weakening travel restrictions. His positions on Israel have been just as bad. He has continued to support the worst of Israeli policy and proudly promoted his call to war against Iran. Sen. Menendez was a prime motivator of this call to war by co-sponsoring the pro-war resolution S.

The following contributed to the production of the 2nd. issue of YO!:

Robert Colby-Witanek, Zax Buzz, Jenna Depasquale, Baruti Kafele Jr., Nima Homami, Waqas Malik, Yvez Nibuncko, Pat Noble, Greg Pason, Tormel Pitman, Noble Aaron El' Shabazz, Isabel Rodriguez, Stijn Talloen, FahiyM Torres, Benjamin Woods, Dong Gu Yoon

Newspaper laid out with public domain Scribus <http://www.scribus.net> (download and you can help with next issue)

Looking for: distributors (to get this one out) and writers, photographs, graphics, layout volunteers, donations and fundraisers, ads, promoters and other help to get this issue out and the next issue to the printer.

**Blog with us! Sign Up Today:**  
<http://njyouthunited.org/wp/>

### Spread the AUDIFY Movement!

NJ Youth United wants to help you get started with an audify presence in your community or on your campus. Pick a spot where there is significant pedestrian traffic. Pick a start date. Get a at least a couple to a few musicians and supporters who can make a fairly regular commitment to participate. Pick a time of week when you can be there regularly for 2 - 4 hours. Learn some revo tunes. Use whatever free standing amplification you can get your hands on and get away with or go all acoustic if need be. You don't have to be super polished. Teach each other the songs at the event. Tell everyone that they should come out and bring whatever instruments they play and whoever shows up, teach them the songs and allow them to join in. Print enough song sheets for everyone to sing or rap or whatever along. Use the music as a back drop for handing out leaflets about issues. Bring sings and banners. Engage passers by in conversation about the state of conditions and the need to struggle. Dedicate to community issues as they arise.

If you want to see if we are available for an initial foray in your community, check give us a call at 908-635-3285. We believe the Audify strategy works in engaging the community and giving an opportunity for people to plug in and be part of the efforts. It is a community outreach effort that works!

R. 380 which holds Iran to a standard regarding IAEA inspections and the Non Proliferation Treaty which Israel has repeatedly refused to obey. Former AIPAC chair David Steiner said of Menendez “In my years of working in the pro-Israel community, I have not met a leader who understands the importance of the U.S.-Israel relationship better than Bob Menendez."

On civil liberties and the military budget, Senator Menendez has recently shown his true colors, supporting the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), a military bill stuffed fat with billions of dollars and provisions that further eliminate our civil liberties. Menendez’s support is consistent with his track record as a Senator. He supported the USA Patriot Act and called for its renewal. He voted for the Homeland Security Act, the Military Commission Act and countless pro-military budgets that have helped to drain vital resources from social services. Menendez, just like Obama, is a candidate of war who is willing to put the needs of the Military Industrial Complex ahead of those of the people of NJ.

This is why I am running for Senate this year. As a candidate for the Socialist Party USA, I stand for an immediate 50% cut to the military budget, I pledge to help end the Patriot Act and completely oppose the infringements on our civil rights by the expanding security state. Socialists understand the nature of war – the rich profit while the sons and daughters of the poor and working class are sent off to slaughter. We therefore call for withdrawal of all troops from Afghanistan, an end to the drone bombings in Pakistan, the closing of the detention center at Guantanamo Bay and the removal of all foreign bases operated by the US military.

I encourage you to look outside of the Democratic Party and politicians like Menendez. Check out the alternatives, including my campaign. Greg Pason for US Senate.

Get Your On-Line NJ Student Rights Handbook:  
<http://www.aclu-nj.org/downloads/2011studrhtsweb.pdf>





# Welcome to the Rape Factory, AKA The US Armed Forces

by Rob C-Dub

I was called recently by a war recruiter who did not like the article in our first issue of YO!, (see page 3, Don't Talk to that Guy in the Snappy Uniform!). Specifically this guy who gave his email address as Tyler Smith (probably a fake name, there is a KIA by that name from the US invasion of and war on Iraq) did not like that we are providing facts about the extreme likelihood that women who join the armed force will be raped. As our article reported, the statistic widely touted by many studies is that one in three women that join the armed forces will be raped. In fact, an AP study uncovered that during a 6 month period, 100 women were sexually assaulted BY THEIR MILITARY RECRUITER! Reportedly, women who report that they have been raped are often labelled psychologically unfit to serve by the Armed Forces.

Well this guy went on to tell me that less than one in three women who joined the armed forces are raped. I guess they can put that in their next recruitment brochure:

JOIN THE ARMED FORCES, LESS THAN ONE IN THREE WOMEN WHO JOIN GET RAPED!

Recruiters are on the hunt and part of their hunt focuses on young boys and

young girls who are not yet adult, who are in high school, who have left high school, who are in the street, who are homeless, jobless, directionless . . . who cannot afford higher education, who are impoverished.

They are looking for young blood because young blood is the fuel of the endless war - of bloody invasions past and probably future - imperialism is getting ready for another slaughter in Iran any day now!

So to Tyler Smith or whatever your name is, I say to you: YO! is in the street and in the face of your war recruitment. We are blowing the lid of the scandal of the rape epidemic in the US armed forces. We got over 5000 copies of our first issue out and are printing thousands of our second issue. Your call has driven me to continue to work to get the YO! out.

Nowhere in the recruitment literature will they warn you about this occupational hazard. (And some studies show that one in four MEN get raped in the armed forces as well!) The armed forces are like a prison sentence and many of the symptoms of rape and abuse that plague the prison system also plague the armed forces.

We say don't enlist, don't kill, don't die, don't get raped, don't be a bullet for imperialism!

GET 100 COPIES OF YO! TO DISTRIBUTE AT SCHOOL, TO NEIGHBORS, IN THE STREETS.  
CALL 908-635-3285 OR WRITE [NJYU@NJYOUTHUNITED.ORG](mailto:NJYU@NJYOUTHUNITED.ORG)

## Constitutional Litigation Clinic Releases Report on Military Recruitment and Student Privacy

In 2011, the Constitutional Litigation Clinic of Rutgers School of Law—Newark released a report raising concerns about the techniques used by military recruiters in New Jersey and across the country. The report is entitled “Should You Enlist? What Everyone Should Know About Military Recruiting, Military Life, and Veteran Affairs Before Enlisting.” It aims to provide students and parents with information about military service so that they can make an educated decision about whether military service is the right choice for their family members. The report can be found at: <http://www.law.newark.rutgers.edu/files/Military%20Recruitment%20Report.pdf>

The report discusses how the military spends hundreds of millions of dollars on slick and misleading ads and video games to recruit students. Those ads and games do not in any way warn of the many dangers of war and the serious challenges faced by veterans, including lack of health care and homelessness. The report also discusses how the

military violates privacy protections required by its own regulations and federal law.

The report provides extensive information about scholarships available to all students, not just top-ranking students. Students who are interested in pursuing college educations have many options available to them and need not pursue military service for the sole purpose of receiving a college education.

In concluding, the Clinic makes recommendations for schools to adequately protect student privacy and comply with federal law.

The Constitutional Litigation Clinic is currently presenting the report to high school students, and is advocating for legislative changes to protect student privacy.

To invite a Litigation Clinic representative to speak to students and staff on this topic, contact **Diego Iniguez-Lopez** ([dniguezlopez@gmail.com](mailto:dniguezlopez@gmail.com)).

## NJ HS Students Demand: Close the "School of the Assassins"

Recently a group of NJ high school students organized by a local church traveled to Georgia to join a protest at the "School of the Americas" (SOA), or as activists refer to it, School of the Assassins. School of Americas is a military training camp at Fort Benning Georgia where military officers from throughout Latin America are trained. Such officers have been tied to human rights violations throughout Latin American including torture and summary killings. The following is an interview with Angie Valazza who was part of the group:

**YO! Please describe the group that went and the purpose of the trip.**

I went with our local parish's youth group from St. Charles Borromeo. 11 other high school students and I had been educated about the School of the Americas briefly and signed up for the trip. We were required to attend four meetings prior to going, where we discussed SOA, watched documentaries to learn what the school was about and what the graduates did. Our purpose was in reverence to the thousands of people who died because of the School and to help raise awareness.

**YO! What activities did you participate in there?**

We listened to a keynote speaker from Guatemala talk about her experience with the school and how the graduates killed her people, we participated in the protest, we watched a documentary about victims' experiences with the SOA graduates being high in governmental status and abusing their power, etc.

**YO! What are some of the kinds of people did you meet at the protest?**

Everyone there was really down to earth. Everywhere you went, there was a table where someone wanted to feed you information about their cause. They would be selling you things, handing out fliers and stickers and everything. Everyone there had something they stood for. There were a lot of college students there too. We

even got to meet and have a conversation with Martin Sheen!

**YO! has your participation in the events, what you heard and saw, the people you met – affected how you look at the world now?**

I've been greatly affected by it. We all were. I think that everyone in our group took a little piece of the school with us after the vigil. Especially one incident, there was this woman who jumped the fence. She made a speech on the stage about how she had nothing the way she was living now, and how she would rather be in jail eating three meals a day and had made a difference than not do anything about this cause. So she went to the main gate, climbed, and jumped over. Of course she was immediately arrested, but the fact that someone can give it all away to take a stand for something she cared about made it all the more easy for the rest of us to do the same. I mean, we didn't jump any fences or anything, but after seeing her do it, I wasn't holding back anymore when someone back home tried to make the School of Americas sound like an okay thing. I didn't care if I sounded radical or crazy because I was passionate about something. I just stood up for what I believe in and that's what matters.

**YO! Are you following current events like news of a US soldier shooting up innocents in Afghanistan, regular drone bomb reports, and the threat of a US attack on Iran? Do you think young people should take a stand against these never ending wars?**

Yes, I've been following it. I definitely think that people need to take a stand. If the slick KONY2012 video can get teenager's attention, why can't everyone care about the war in Afghanistan or the threat of war on Iran? I realize that kids are jumping on the bandwagon, but what if SOA Watch got that recognition? Or other anti-war groups? Imagine the possibilities for organizations like those if they got the same support as the misleading KONY2012.



History topics in NJ elementary and high schools are taught from the perspective of the power elite. History is interpreted from the point of view of the people that control the institutions of society. Specifically the power elite are the people that control the nine areas of human activity including economics, entertainment, education, law, labor, politics, war, religion and sex. These people are the upper middle class, the capitalist class and ethnically speaking, they are the white Anglo Saxon Protestant group.

I am not implying that all white Anglo Saxon Protestants are economically and politically powerful but it is ostensibly visible that we still live in a society that is race oriented where one's phenotype is indicative of one's status, treatment and social acceptance. Race is a social construction historically used to stratify, label, marginalize, stereotype and divide people in society to keep the majority of the wealth in the hands of the minority of the people and to make certain people more accessible to the wealth than others. The power elite divide and conquer the majority based on ethnicity and economics to alleviate the threat of social change or dynamics leading to social justice.

As relates to history topics in NJ schools, the founding fathers of the U.S. are not viewed with a critical eye nor are the “explorers”, the “puritans” and the “pilgrims.”

The people that were oppressed in American history and are still oppressed today are people of African descent, Native Americans, Mexicans and Latinos (who are largely of African descent). These groups are portrayed as heathens and uncivilized and a people with no history. These claims about Black and Brown people are mendacious and wrong.

One revered western scholar, Frederick Hegel, one of the brainchildren of "dialectical materialism" said that “Africa is no historical part of the world.” Hegel further said about people of African descent that their "sense of personality; their spirit sleeps, remains sunk in itself, makes no advance, and thus parallels the compact, undifferentiated mass of the African continent.”

It has been proven that Africa is the cradle of civilization where the progeny of Africa built the most meritorious civilizations of the ancient world including Ancient Nubia, Ancient Kemet (Egypt), Ancient Sumeria, Phoenicia, Ancient Carthage, Ancient Monomotapa, Ghana, Mali, Songhay, the Mossi States, and others. There are historical records from Dr. Ivan van Sertima, Dr. Runoko Rashidi, Dr. Imhotep and others who prove that ancient Africans travelled to the Americas and Europe and brought civilization to these continents thousands of years before Columbus. Since the first humans were phenotypically Black people from Africa, they had to be the first people to populate the various land masses of the world. One could go to the la Venta in Mexico and see the Olmec statues from circa 800-700 B.C.E. and see the colossal statues with phenotypically Africoid features and

## On NJ Public School Teaching of History

by Baruti N. Kafele

wearing war helmets like the ones of the 25th Cushitic Dynasty of Ancient Kemet (Egypt). It was the Black Africans and Arabs of North Africa who built the first universities, public baths, monasteries and introduced erudition and various other forms of education to Europe to bring about their “Renaissance” after the fall of the Roman Empire. Scholars like Dr. Cheikh Anta Diop and Dr. Theophile Obenga who presented at the UNESCO Conference in 1974 proved that the Ancient Egyptians for the most part were Black African people like any other cultural community, tribe or nation in Africa and who brought religion, architecture, science and philosophy to Ancient Crete and Greece. According to Gerald Massey, Albert Churchward, Dr. Yosef Ben Jochanan, Dr. Clarke and many others, Africa is the patriarch of Western civilization. Contrary to the typical public school history curriculum it is wrong to say that African people had no history and that the European oppressors, invaders, conquerors and conquistadors brought civilization to people of African descent.

As far as the Native Americans, they were and still are not a homogeneous group of people or “Indians” who were uncivilized, backward people engaged in savagery. The Native Americans had advanced ancient civilizations like the Olmec, Mayan, Aztec and Incan civilizations. These cultures erected magnificent and enormous architectural constructions. They had extremely organized communal, egalitarian, cooperative and progressive societies. These cultures possessed complex writing systems with matriarchal and patriarchal societies where males and females had symbiotic relations with one another. Also, in the Ohio Valley and in other parts of the Midwest, there were Moundbuilder cultures with sculptures used as burial sites and spiritual temples in the shapes of humans, falcons and serpents similar to the sculptures of Ancient Egypt. The Native Americans were artisans, architects, scribes, kings (chiefs), queens, potters, stylists, jewelry makers, farmers, etc. The Native Americans resided from Alaska to South America and number to an estimated 75 million people of different nations, languages and evidently cultures which were still relatable to one another.

Usually, the history topics do not explain that the people that the Europeans came in contact with were civilized, advanced and amicable people and that oppositely, the explorers, navigators and founding fathers were invaders, murderers, killers, thieves, slave traders and slave masters who coercively mutilated and eradicated the Native American population in order to enhance their power for the purpose of controlling the natural resources of the land which include gold, tobacco, sugar, corn, etc. We are not taught that Pres. /Gen. George and Martha Washington collectively owned an estimate of 300 enslaved Africans. We are not taught that Christopher Columbus traveled to the Americas for the objectives of bringing gold and enslaved Native Americans back to Spain for the monarchy. We are not taught that because of Columbus, in two years, through genocide inflicted upon the Native Americans that half of the Native Americans (125,000 people) of Haiti were dead! We are not taught about Jeffery Amherst who got blankets from a smallpox hospital and gave them to the Native Americans by treacherously giving the impression that he was being friendly, altruistic and munificent and he ended causing a smallpox

**Go to page 6!**



Let's work together and support each other. Let's listen to each other and learn about each other's hardships. We will realize what we have in common. YO! is your resource for organizing a united youth movement.



Free Jordana and All Detainees!  
Stop the Raids and Deportations! Close the Detention Camps!

Youth solidarity demands a response when an immigrant youth of our communities is removed from her home, taken to a detention center (read prison) and threatened with deportation. Jordana Judith Vera Serna, a youth resident of NJ who came to the US at age 12 has faced that situation. To support her, NJ Youth United Against War and Imperialism has dedicated two of our Audify events to her release. We have had a petition table for her, have circulated this video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MOMx9EgwBx0> and handed out 100 fliers supporting her release.

Quoting from the flier: " NJ Youth United Against War and Imperialism is all about youth uniting and making it clear that if the system attacks, we defend. We are calling upon youth to unite to support each other when we come under attack, including those . . . like Jordana who are basically kidnapped and torn from their peaceful lives by ICE agents to be detained without committing any crime and who face deportation . . . Why does the system do this to young people?

Because if the youth are under attack . . . it will keep the youth divided and living in fear and unable to organize the necessary struggle to rid us of these injustices. . . . When will these attacks end? . . . when the youth draw lines and tell the system not to cross the lines!"

Jordana has been released from detention. In 6 months she will again face deportation. That is a victory for all who pressured for her release and for her, but it is only temporary - we need to continue to pressure so that the threat against her is removed and until all the raids, detention and deportations are ended. The following is a poem offered by Isabel Rodriguez:

**6 months released**  
6 months released . . . is not enough . . . Jordana's supporters aren't defeated . . . Because it is still not just.  
What did she do? . . . at 12 years old . . . came to America to start anew . . .in jail her dreams turn to mold.  
Argentina may be her home, . . . but so is New Jersey . . . United States is her hope . . . so release her indefinitely  
She's a hard worker . . . held several jobs: waitress, cashier . . . if she can aim for higher . . . .  
she would be a psychologist or lawyer.  
Jordana's no criminal . . . only honest and striving . . . to work past the minimal . . . and go beyond surviving  
Other women, like her . . . are detained for seeking better . . . She translates in Spanish . . . and ensures they have a voice  
6 months released . . . A woman who hasn't done a wrong. . . Instead she wants to contribute to greatness & make peace . . . Why detain her any longer?

**For more about Jordana's case, see:**  
**<http://bit.ly/Jordana.NJ> . To connect with NJ leaders in the immigrant youth dream movement: NJ Dream Act Coalition**  
**<http://www.njdac.org/info@njdac.org>**

**Immigrant Support Organizations / Organizaciones de Apoyo de Inmigrantes**  
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Jordana libre y todos los detenidos!

Los jóvenes deben actuar cuando una inmigrante joven es expulsada de su casa, detenida y amenazado con la deportación. Jordana Judith Vera Serna, una joven de NJ que vino a los Estados Unidos cuando tenía 12 años, se enfrenta a esa situación. Para apoyarla, Juventud Unida Contra la Guerra y el Imperialismo ha dedicado dos de nuestros eventos de Audify a su liberación. Hemos tenido una una mesa para recoger firmas para ella, hemos circulado este video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MOMx9EgwBx0>, y repartimos 100 folletos que apoyan su liberación.

El documento declaró: " Juventud Unida de NJ trata de unir con la juventud y hacer claro que si el sistema ataca, defendemos. Hacemos un llamamiento a los jóvenes a unirse y ayudarse unos a otros cuando están bajo ataque como Jordana que son secuestrados por agentes del ICE al ser detenido sin cometer ningún delito y que se enfrentan a la deportación. ¿Por qué el sistema hace esto a los jóvenes? Porque si los jóvenes están bajo ataque, mantendrá la juventud dividida y viviendo con miedo y sin poder organizar. la lucha necesaria para liberarnos de estas injusticias. ¿Cuándo se terminarán estos ataques? ¡Cuando los jóvenes decimos ya basta a este sistema! Cuando el sistema sepa que los jóvenes ya no aguantan más.

Jordana ha sido liberado de la detención. En 6 meses ella enfrentará nuevamente a deportación. Eso fue una victoria pequeña para todos los que presionaron para su puesta en libertad y con ella, pero sólo es temporal. Tenemos que seguir con la presión para que se elimine la amenaza contra ella y hasta que todas las redadas, detenciones y deportaciones se terminen. Lo siguiente es un poema ofrecido por Isabel Rodríguez:

**6 Meses Liberados**  
6 Meses Liberados . . . no es suficiente . . . Partidarios de Jordana no están derrotados . . . Porque todavía no es justo.  
¿Qué hizo ella? . . . a los 12 años . . . Llegó a Estados Unidos para empezar de nuevo . . . en la cárcel sus sueños recurren a moldear  
Argentina puede ser su casa, , , , pero es tan Nueva Jersey . . . Estados Unidos es su esperanza . . . Así libera a ella indefinidamente  
Ella es un gran trabajador . . . Celebró varios empleos: camarera, cajero . . . Si ella pueden aspirar a mayores . . . ella sería un psicólogo o abogado  
Jordana no es ningún criminal , , , sólo honesto y esforzando . . . a trabajar pasado el mínimo . . . y ir más allá de sobreviviendo  
Otras mujeres, como ella, . . . están detenidos para buscar mejor . . . Ella se traduce en español . . . y asegura que tienen una voz  
6 Meses Liberados . . . Una mujer que no ha hecho un mal. . . En su lugar quiere contribuir a la grandeza y hacer paz. . . . ¿Por qué le detener ya?

**Para obtener información acerca de Jordana:** **<http://bit.ly/Jordana.NJ> . Para obtener información acerca del soporte técnico de juventud de inmigrante: NJ Dream Act Coalition** **<http://www.njdac.org/info@njdac.org>**

# YOUTH

## YOUTH CREATES ANTI-IMPERIALIST OPTION AT THE POLLS

### Interview with Pat Noble, youth socialist candidate

**YO! You recently ran for public office. Can you give the details?**

I ran for the Board of Chosen Freeholders in Monmouth County, NJ in 2011 as a socialist. I was nominated by the Socialist Party of Monmouth and Ocean Counties, a local of the Socialist Party of New Jersey. The SPNJ is the state affiliate of the Socialist Party USA. I decided to run for Freeholder with the goals of bringing a socialist alternative to the people of Monmouth County, as well as to build the local party through the campaign.

**YO! Why did you run as a socialist instead of as a Democrat or Republicans?**

As a socialist, it would be a complete contradiction of my beliefs to run under the banner of the capitalist Democratic Party. The Democrats and Republicans both serve as the tools to entrench capitalism's continued success in electoral politics. How is it possible that the Democratic Party represents the working class, but at the same time is funded by and for the wealthy? It is not possible, and I could never bring myself to uphold that blatant lie by being a Democrat or running for office as one.

**YO! How were you able to work your socialist viewpoint into local concerns?**

I wrote a platform that offered real solutions to local problems. Some of the proposals I made were to use the former Fort Monmouth land for cooperative businesses and affordable housing, mandate that all county employees are earning a livable wage of at least fifteen dollars an hour, and enact a moratorium of eminent domain in the county. By approaching the system issue-by-issue, it becomes easier for individuals to understand socialism and some of what its application would look like.

**YO! How has your candidacy helped your development and do you recommend such engagement for other youth activists?**

Being a socialist is an ongoing development and learning experience. The campaign was a great way to get in touch with the average person and what they need and believe. I recommend that youth activists involve themselves in electoral action, be it as a candidate or a campaign volunteer. The corporatist parties always try and court the "youth vote", despite the facts that they

deny the same youths an affordable higher education, and would willingly send them to fight and die in foreign wars in their name. It's high time the youth take action, instead of rallying around lying elitists like Barack Obama and Ron Paul.

**YO! What about those who say that if you want a chance to win you have to run as Democrat or Republican?**

There are a few things to keep in mind when someone says that alternative parties don't stand a chance against the two corporate parties. Firstly, the Democrats and Republicans have rigged the system in a way that almost makes them political wings of the government, rather than independent organizations. Running with either party does give you a better chance of winning an election, but to do that, you have to essentially accept that you are helping to keep the two-party dictatorship functioning. Running with an alternative party, as the system currently stands, is less a means to be elected into office, and more a means to use your platform as a candidate to build your party and spread your message. That is what alternative party campaigns are really about, spreading your ideals and strengthening their support as a result. When participating in electoral action as a socialist, the most important fact you can remember is that capitalism will never be voted away. At best, you can vote right-wing capitalists out of office and replace them with centrists. Electoral action is a way to fight the system, but it will not be the way to replace it. There has never been a point in history where the oppressors have given up power to the oppressed solely because of a democratic vote and without non-electoral struggle, and there is no reason to believe now will prove any different.

**YO! How would an age eligible youth go about getting backing to run for office from the NJ Socialist Party?**

If a youth is interested in running for office as a Socialist Party candidate, or with our endorsement, they should read the Party's Statement of Principles and platform, to ensure that she or he agrees with what we stand for. To find out more information about possibly running for office with us, I would encourage anyone to contact me at [secretary@njsocialistparty.org](mailto:secretary@njsocialistparty.org).

## Follow Up: NYPD Spies on Students

by Waqas Malik

A Speaker Moustafa Zayed confirmed our fears when he stated that the NYPD had been spying on Muslim students from Rutgers University. Mr. Zayed had recently spoken at the 2012 Inspiring American Muslim Youth (IAMY) convention on the topic of “Islamophobia in the Making.”

Ever since September 11th 2001 xenophobia against Muslims, has been apparent, but only now has it come to this extent. What is disturbing is that the New York Police Department finds that their intrusive tactics are necessary in stopping terrorism. Yet their sudden jurisdiction is a blatant racist act because they only observe Muslim students rather than anyone that falls under “radical” characteristics. The police have cooperated with the CIA and have kept detailed records of students including who they talk to, what organizations they’re associated with, their attire, what stores they go to, their neighborhoods, how frequently they attend the Muslim Student Association, pray at mosques, and many other activities.

The police have been mistaken from the start since most Muslim students that attend Rutgers are native-born Americans not “foreigners” (less than 2 – 5% of students are foreign-born). Even if such was not the case, reports have shown that of all westernized countries the United States is the least likely to have a radical Islamist uprising from within. It is the “reluctant terrorist syndrome,” a positive result of having Muslims understand the point-of-view of non-Muslims. After all, we’ve grown

up with many ethnicities as our neighbors, and are intelligent enough to know that acceptance is better than forceful assimilation and intimidation. Something the NYPD needs to learn more about.

The NYPD has responded that is was only using the same tactics of the FBI. Put aside the fact that in no form is the NYPD the FBI (not that the FBI should be allowed full control either), and you’ll find that the police have kept track of several other colleges including the University of Pennsylvania, Yale, and the University of Buffalo. These schools are 100 to 300 miles away from New York City! How is this allowed? Certainly this is paranoia gone out of control. New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg has been quoted saying “I have my own army in the NYPD, which is the seventh biggest army in the world.” His emotional defense of the Islamic Center that was to be built near the World Trade Center is beginning to seem a tad faulty.

How much of an outcry would there be if the students that were profiled were Christians or Jews? Would there not be widespread protest? This is why we must stand-up for our brothers and sisters. Not just our literal family, not just people who belong to our religion. But everyone, everywhere; our entire community

**NJ Youth United Against War and Imperialism reminds readers that while NYPD looks for false terrorist boogy men among Rutgers students, U.S. drone missiles are killing civilians including women and children in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Yemen and Somalia. Let us unite and demand that the NYPD stop working as religion cops against Islamic youth.**

Check out official NYPD document "Weekly MSA Report"  
<http://hosted.ap.org/specials/interactives/documents/nypd-msa-report.pdf>



# UNITY

## NJ Youth United Audifies New Brunswick Streets

Audify New Brunswick NJ is a project of NJ Youth United Against War and Imperialism. Inspired by the occupy concept of setting up a consistent presence of people in communities calling for change and protesting injustice, we are attempting to expand the concept to occupy the sound waves of the streets with music of struggle. Our goals are several:

- to use our musical talent to promote community struggle against war, imperialism, injustice, economic oppression and for equality
- to add a musical cultural component to the various local struggles around similar issues
- to lend musical support at local protests, demonstrations and other events
- to provide musical education at our audify events for musicians and vocalists of all levels to develop musical skills and learn songs of struggles
- to maintain a consistent presence and to use our events to communicate our protest message and share our literature with the community
- to connect with the youth of New Brunswick and other area communities and utilize the music as a fun, positive yet meaningful, educational and productive activity

We welcome suggestions of songs and we also would like to make contact with music

**Like <http://www.facebook.com/AudifyNewBrunswickNj>**



Blessed  
Are  
Those  
Who  
Struggle  
- Last Poets

We Will  
Get  
Stronger  
Just Like A  
Waving  
Flag  
-Knaan



## We Want Your Used Instruments: Arm Local Youth With Instruments of Musical Insurrection: Call 908-635-3285 Today!

To make our audify movement accessible to the community where we perform, we need material support in the form of donations of used musical instruments or funding to purchase used instruments. Some of you might have old guitars, first instruments that you graduated from years ago, instruments that your children played briefly but have no intention of returning to, smaller versions of instruments that you or your children have outgrown, instruments passed on to you by relatives, instruments you are upgrading from but are still in good working condition, etc. If you have no used instrument to offer, we welcome financial contributions with which we will find low budget instruments to purchase and share.

We NEED those used, possibly less than perfect but still useful, tools of music. We want to arm the youth of New Brunswick and surrounding areas with musical instruments so that they might become part of our audify events. We plan to build

teachers who can refer their students to our street performances. And just WHERE ARE the radical band directors who can turn their entourage into a justice marching band!

With flexibility, we hope to have a consistent presence at the fountain (corner of George and Livingston) in New Brunswick 2 - 5 pm on Saturdays. The schedule or location can change due to availability, weather, events that we are performing at, decisions to shift to other locations. We will use this page to keep people up to date of the current plan.

<http://www.facebook.com/AudifyNewBrunswickNj>

If you are not sure, call 908-635-3285 to confirm the details about our next event. You can also contact us at [NJYU@NJYOUTHUNITED.ORG](mailto:NJYU@NJYOUTHUNITED.ORG).

**It is our sincere hope that this method of movement building achieves increasing success and can possibly serve as a model for other similar AUDIFY projects in communities around the state and across the nation. If you are interested in getting such a project going in your community, on your campus, in your high school, contact us NOW 908-635-3285.**



## Anakbayan NJ Offers Filipino Solidarity Summer Exposure Trip

We are calling everyone who is wondering how it looks like to be on the other end of U.S. Imperialism' and to those who are looking for inspiration on how a people resistance against Imperialism looks like, this exposure program is for you.

### What is Anakbayan's Summer Exposure Program?

It is a 3 week program from July to August that aims to expose and immerse the youth and student participants to the social realities of Philippine society. Participants will undergo educational discussions, trainings, and immersion to the day to day life of different sectors, particularly with workers, peasants, urban poor and indigenous peoples.

### What is the purpose of the Summer Exposure Program?

The summer exposure program serves as the necessary bridge to the cultural and historical gap between the Philippines and its migrant population. It serves to connect the migrant and

US-born Filipino experience to the history and ongoing struggles of the Filipino people back home.

### Building a solidarity movement

This exposure program is not only limited to those of Filipino descent. It also caters to others who would like to see people power in action through the various grassroots organization of the national democratic movement. It aims to expose the youth and student activists here in the belly of the beast to the struggle of the youth and student movement in the Philippines. Participants will be able to share experiences, participate in educational discussions and join the day-to-day organizing and campaign work of youth and student organizations in the Philippines. It seeks to generate awareness and broad support for the continuing struggle of the Filipino people for genuine independence and democracy.

**For more information: Email Anakbayan at [anakbayan.nynj@gmail.com](mailto:anakbayan.nynj@gmail.com)**

Contact Anakbayan Youth NJ: [anakbayan.nynj@gmail.com](mailto:anakbayan.nynj@gmail.com)  
[anakbayannynj.wordpress.com](http://anakbayannynj.wordpress.com) Twitter: [anakbayannynj](https://twitter.com/anakbayannynj)  
Facebook: Anakbayan NJ / Anakbayan NY

## Solidarity with Anakbayan Youth Issued During February for Filipino Solidarity Month

In solidarity with Filipino youth and in hopes of developing an organizational sisterhood with Anakbayan youth organization, NJ Youth United Against War and Imperialism condemns recent US decisions to increase the number of US troops in the Philippines. We demand the immediate withdrawal of US troops and an end to the interference of imperialism in the internal affairs of the Philippines. The history of US imperialism in the Philippines is shameful. The struggle of Filipinos to free from the shackles of imperialism is an example to all who look to forge a better future for ourselves, our nations and for the world.

In NJ, Anakbayan has been at the forefront

of many struggles, including opposition to war and imperialism, support for public education, workers rights, immigrant rights and struggles opposing tuition hikes and other austerity measures. These are all concerns of our organization and we hope that as our struggles develop, our efforts can better be merged into a unified movement.

We look forward to opportunities to work with Anakbayan around educational events specifically about the Philippines and about more general topics of imperialism and in the organizing of actions to unify youth and working people for changes to a system that depends on these forms of super exploitation.

## Rich Are Getting Richer While NJ Youth Poverty Grows!

From press release of Advocates of Children of NJ

In 2010, nearly one in three New Jersey children -- 619,000 -- lived in families that earn too little to meet their basic needs, representing a 14 percent increase since 2006. During roughly the same time, NJ households without enough food rose an alarming 56 percent, coupled with a steep 76 percent jump in the number of children receiving food stamps. These findings come from the just-released New Jersey Kids Count 2012, which each year tracks trends in child well-being in critical areas -- poverty, health, education, child protection and juvenile justice.

"What seems most striking this year is the persistent and pervasive evidence that more and more families struggle economically," said Cecilia Zalkind, executive director of Advocates for Children of New Jersey, the producer of the report. "These are families from our cities, our suburbs and our rural areas," Zalkind added. "They are young adults who can't find a job. They are U.S.-born children living in immigrant families. And, increasingly, they are parents who have always worked but cannot find a full-time job with benefits."

This growing poverty was seen in other areas:

- \* The number of children eligible for free school meals rose 26 percent.
- \* Sixteen percent of all young adults, ages 18 through 24, lived in poverty, up 33 percent since 2006.
- \* The percentage of immigrant children living in poor families increased 23 percent since 2006. A family of four earning \$22,050 in 2010 was considered poor by federal standards.
- \* Nearly half -- 45 percent -- of immigrant single mother householders with children under age 5 had incomes below the federal poverty level.

Research shows that children in poor families are less likely to succeed in school. They are more likely to suffer from health problems because they lack medical coverage. "High school graduation is not a given for these children, nor is going to college and landing a decent job," Zalkind said.

Report at this link: <http://www.acnj.org/main.asp?uri=1003&di=2146>

**GET 100 COPIES OF YO! TO DISTRIBUTE AT SCHOOL, TO  
NEIGHBORS, IN THE STREETS.  
CALL 908-635-3285 OR WRITE [NJYU@NJYOUTHUNITED.ORG](mailto:NJYU@NJYOUTHUNITED.ORG)**



# Teach Youth the Truth!

From page 3

epidemic killing off the Native Americans during the French and Indian War. Hence, Amherst committed biological warfare! Additionally, we are not taught that Abraham Lincoln wrote the Emancipation Proclamation in 1862 and was passed in 1863 to Free the enslaved Africans in the Confederacy which was a separate nation-state formed in 1861 that Lincoln had no jurisdiction, authorization or power over and that the Emancipation Proclamation was not applicable to the enslaved Africans who were enslaved in the North at the time! Henceforth, Abraham Lincoln’s aspiration and priority was not to “free slaves” but to restore the union in which there were dialectical economic differences which was industrialization in the North which was spreading to the conservative agriculturalist south where slave labor was still extremely beneficial and complimentary to the southern economy!

Credit is due the late Congressman Payne’s brother, Assemblyman Bill Payne for the passing of the Amistad Legislative Act in 2002 mandating that “African American History /Contributions be incorporated into everyday American and world history in chronological order.” It is questionable to say that the bill is enforced. When this writer was in seventh grade in 2002, he attended a Jersey City Public Schools and was not educated about the contributions of people of African descent and Native Americans before their contact with the Europeans. What this misrepresentation does is exclude students of color from the history lesson and tell us that we were backward people needing Europeans to civilize us. Education has an integral role in the socialization process. When history is told from the side of the oppressor, it is unsurprising to see the drop out, suspensions and arrest rates and failing test scores in public schools.

Thus, the mis-educated peoples exhibit the behavior of an uncivilized people since the history teacher(s) taught that their ancestors were uncivilized. For this to change, we need to read books from different authors of different perspectives. We need to unlearn the lies that were taught in school and in other institutions and to build institutions and use the existing institutions to teach history not from a one-sided perspective but from an “all-sided perspective” based on the facts!

**Recommended reading: “A People’s History of the United States” by Howard Zinn, “The Color of Wealth” by Meizhu Lui, Barbara Robles and Betsy Leondar-Wright, “Introduction to Black Studies” by Dr. Maulana Karenga and the U.S. Constitution.**

## Immigrant Support Organizations / Organizaciones de Apoyo de Inmigrantes

**AFSC Immigrant Rights Program** (973) 643-1924, 89 Market St., Fl 6, Newark, NJ 07102  
**Casa Esperanza**, PO Box 2693, Plainfield, NJ 07060, 213 West Union Ave., Bound Brook, NJ 08805 732-748-1111 Fax: 732-748-1121 casaesperanzanj@yahoo.com  
**Casa Freehold** http://www.casafreehold.org, 65 South St. Freehold, NJ Tel: 732-409-3111 Fax: 732-409-3188, casafreehold@yahoo.com  
**IRATE & First Friends**, 321 South Broad Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07202, 908-965-0455, firstfriends2@juno.com, irateadvocacy@gmail.com http://www.irate-firstfriends.org/index.html  
**NJ Dream Act Coalition** http://www.njdac.org/info@njdac.org  
**Latin American Legal Defense & Education Fund (LALDEF)**, PO Box 80, Princeton NJ 08542, (877) 452-5333 charoj@msn.com  
**New Labor**, 103 Bayard St, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 (2nd Floor) | 732-246-2900  
**Pax Christi NJ**, www.paxchristiusa.org, 973-610-1684, kolearypcnj@gmail.com  
**Unidad Latina en Acción NJ**, www.ulanj.webs.com ulaccionnj@hotmail.com 203-278-2729  
**Wind of the Spirit - Immigrant Resource Center**, 19 Market St, Morristown, NJ 07960 | 973-538-2035

# Justice for Trayvon Martin And Many Others!

by Jenna Depasquale


It is a tragic reality that has been seen time and time again; African Americans being wrongly incriminated due to the color of their skin. But unlike in the cases of Mumia and Troy Davis, Trayvon Martin was not accused of firing the bullet. He took the bullet himself.

While leaving a 7-Eleven store in his town of Stanford, Fla. with a bag of Skittles for his younger brother, Martin was detained by neighborhood watchmen George Zimmerman, who claimed Martin appeared “suspicious”. Zimmerman then proceeded to shoot the unarmed Martin dead after an alleged “altercation”. And so, the cycle of targeting innocent black men continued. That is, of course, if you can even consider a Martin a man. He was only 17 years old.

Martin, who saved his father from a burning kitchen at the age of 9, will never be able to fulfill his dreams of attending college and becoming an aviation mechanic. His father, who at first assumed his son was missing, found himself in a parent’s worst nightmare when he had to identify young Martin through a picture of him with blood running from his mouth. It remains to be seen if justice will be carried out for Zimmerman who was not charged until several weeks after the shooting.

The Black youth of America are left to endure not only the loss of Martin, but the chains of bigotry that are deeply rooted in America. Those unaffected by prejudice may believe that the battles of race have already been fought and that the issue of skin color is obsolete. As a society we have made great strides. Countless races and ethnicities work collectively daily in order to keep the country in order as an African American president keeps watch. But as freedoms are stripped and lives are taken, it is clear that the goal of full equality has not been met.

Although it is impossible to return Martin back to his loved ones, it is imperative that justice is served. It is not only the least of what this ambitious young hero deserves, but a notable step in rectifying racial profiling and prejudice. As we struggle for justice in Trayvon's case, we must also continue to struggle for justice for hundreds, perhaps thousands of others who are shot by police, beaten, falsely accused and imprisoned - those who unlike Trayvon, their names are unknown, in towns across NJ and throughout the U.S.



## Strange Fruit is STILL Hanging from the Poplar Tree!

Trayvon Martin, Barry DeLoatch, Victor Rodriguez . . .

These are only a few of the recent names from a parade of victims. A 21st Century Anti-Lynching campaign is needed!

Not only do we need justice for the victims, we need to create the condition where those who do the victimizing can no longer do so with impunity. Only then will we begin to see a turn around.

**For that to happen we need organization, unity and struggle!**

# Tear Down The Walls! End Mass Incarceration

From Page 1

Movement, and Puerto Rican Movement etc. In short, youth are the most targeted and most affected.

## Mass Incarceration for Profit

Private prisons are central to the Prison industrial complex. The two largest prison management companies, CCA and GEO group, had a combined revenue of almost \$3 Billion in 2010. The rise of private prisons is connected to the neoliberal thrust to privatize various aspects of life that previously had been the domain of the state. These same corporations are trading on the NYSE. To maintain the high revenue flow they must ensure a steady supply of prisoners. Thus private prisons have contributed huge amounts to politicians. In turn, elected officials use the rhetoric of law and order and pass harsh drug sentencing laws.

## Imprisonment Equals Enslavement


Enslavement is still legal in the US. The 13th amendment states "involuntary servitude is abolished except in cases of punishment for a crime." The State can legally own human beings, once convicted of a crime. In the 19th century, under "Convict leasing" a private employer could hire out convicts, 90% of whom were Black, at a fee to the state. Governments passed things like vagrancy laws, that stated a person had to prove employment on command. Many Blacks were arrested on trumped up charges to provide labor to white corporations and plantations. Such laws were the predecessor to today's stop and frisk policies. Now, prisoners are paid as little as 10 cents an hour to make everything from furniture for college campuses, assemble cell phones and serve as call center agents. The PIC is a continuation of previous forms of national oppression of Black people.

## Immigrant Detention

There are several connections. CCA states that it plans to move into the area of immigrant detention. CCA was a member of the American Legislative Executive Council (ALEC), a right wing lobbying group made of some of the largest transnational corporations. Through ALEC, CCA helped to craft the legislation that became SB1070 in Arizona. The anti-immigrant thrust is pushed by the prison industry. Chicanos are one of our natural allies in the struggle to abolish all prisons.

## Cops in Schools, Schools Like Prisons

The purpose of education in any society, including the US is to reproduce the social order. Following this premise, public schools in the US want to maintain the colonial domination of Black and other people. Majority Black schools are historically underfunded, have the least experienced teachers, and the students are the most criminalized. Similar to college campuses, the campus police became prevalent after the racial rebellions in the late 1960s. From personal experience I can tell you, K-12 schools are increasingly like prisons (bars on the windows, metal detectors, and armed police roaming the halls). It is preparing youth for their future role in society: prisoner. The slightest infraction warrants arrest, suspension, or expulsion. Youth are labeled as a "problem" and they get kicked out of school



into the streets where their future life options are almost always prison.

## Organizing Against Incarceration Nation

To fight these issues we got to educate-agitate-organize. Right now we are in the education phase. SAMI has gone everywhere from prisons, adult education courses, high schools, and other college campuses to conduct workshops around the issue of mass incarceration. We need to be clear about our objectives: 1) end of the capitalist system 2) full self-determination for Black people in US 3) the abolition of all prisons.

The issues are interconnected. You can not abolish all prisons unless the profit system that sustains it is ended. Black people and the entire US must undergo a cultural revolution, meaning a transformation of values, norms and beliefs. Something similar occurred during the New Negro and Black Power Movements. Most people in the US have taken on the neoliberal values of individualism, consumerism and white supremacy. We in SAMI attempt to use the arts to kick start a cultural revolution. Last semester we created a mixtape which included the songs of artists like Brand Nubian, Dead Prez, Common etc. and speeches from activists such as Malcolm X, Fred Hampton and Angela Davis.

Colleges and high schools have to organize together on the issues that most affect them such as campus police, military recruitment on campuses, and racist stop and frisk policies. In most urban areas, students could organize direct action campaigns around these issues. Stop and Frisk must end immediately! It is one of the primary methods used to get Black youth caught in the PIC. How Youth Can Connect to Movement

**SAMI is a Black radical student organization. We look forward to starting chapters and organizing with fellow comrades. We can be contacted at samiathu@gmail.com, 607-339-8188, twitter: @samiathu, and Youtube: HowardSami. Other organizations doing similar work include Malcolm X Grassroots Movement, Jericho Movement and Black August Planning Organization. Much respect to all the aforementioned groups. .. Free'em All!!!!**

Do you have a friend or family member in prison, a youth facility or detention center? Would you want us to send a copy of YO! to them. As the publisher of the paper, we can send the issue directly to them. However you need to give us the name, ID and address of the incarcerated person. Please send the information to NJYU@NJYOUTHUNITED.ORG .

First Steps Toward Action:  
Visit http://NJYouthUnited.org (early and often)

Call 908-635-3285



# Struggles of New Brunswick Youth

From page 1



ntrol the youth programs. They are just mock organizations in place to get government funding. Just like the school gets Abbott funds.

**Noble Aaron El Shabazz:** No, there are not positive activities for the youth in new brunswick which allows them to be idle and bored, which helps lead them into mischievious activities.

**Fahym Torres:** I do not think there are adequate activities for the kids just for the fact they are closing or shutting down most programs. You can see them schooling kids in a warehouse right across the street from the unemployment office - now what kind of message is that sending them? That no matter how hard you work that you are going to end up right across the street! The teen center is really the only outlet in New Brunswick for kids and if you can get past the gangs or the race wars you might be able to go there on a daily bases but why is the city taking down basketball courts in the complex's around here?

**What is going on with New Brunswick schools, the buildings, how decisions are made, etc.?**

**Tormel Pittman:** The school system is being ran by thieves. They have a 200 million dollar budget. And none of that focuses on education. The city will invest more in the buildings than the education, except for Redshaw school where students are being educated in a warehouse.

**How do issues of joblessness, homelessness, crime affect New Brunswick youth?**

**Noble Aaron El Shabazz:** Joblessness and homelessness also have major affects on crime in the city. I can personally empathize because about 20 years ago I was homeless, I looked for jobs and no one would hire me, so, although I did not want to do this, as a" last resort" I turned to <negative activities> in order to try & escape the horrible social conditions (homelessness, poverty, despair) that I was forced into by this capitalist system. Self preservation is the 1st law of nature so it is a natural response for human beings who are

systematically forced into inhumane living conditions to resort to crime to try and survive. **What is the relationship that the police have toward New Brunswick youth - is it respectful?** **Noble Aaron El Shabazz:** The relationship police have with the youth(as well as the adults)especially in certain communities within New Brunswick is to view us all as "criminals" and treat us accordingly or they view us as mere "subjects" who are "inferior" to their fraternal order of feudal-lords aka police and treat us as inferior beings with inferior rights.

**Fahym Torres:** Why is the police presence seen heavily in the so called inner city areas but most calls are coming in from the French St. side on towards the Easton Avenue side? . . . Why hasn't Anthony Caputo (police director) not made a statement , after one police killing and one police attempted murder, numerous assaults, false stops, fake write ups and many more slaps in our faces. . . . How can you ask for community relations with the police when the community is still waiting for answers from the Barry DeLoatch killing? Why would the community want to fix relations with the police when they can not show their face or even give us closure on that matter?

**Are Rutgers facilities and activities accessible to New Brunswick youth? How does the Rutgers administration relate to New Brunswick youth?** **Noble Aaron El Shabazz:** The Rutgers administration does not relate at all to New Brunswick youth and as far as I'm aware they do not provide any facilities or activities that are accessible for New Brunswick youth. If, by chance, they do- they do not make the community aware of this.

**Fahym Torres:** Why are we a city who houses the state university but rarely see any progress or community involvement from Rutgers? Because the system has been broken since I was a kid and now Rutgers has planted a seed in its head that says the inner city of New Brunswick is a mess and if they try and help then the mayor or political figures around here will probably cut ties to Rutgers.

**What are the prospects for college for New Brunswick youth?**

**Noble Aaron El Shabazz:** College is so expensive the prospects for college for New Brunswick youth are slim to none, and before many of our youth can even begin to focus on going to college, first they must overcome the conditions of homelessness, joblessness, and other forms of social injustices.

**Other Comments?** **Fahym Torres:** If you have no political leaders fighting for our youth and our streets then what makes you think they want to believe in Tormel or myself or even you? It is a big fight to save this corrupted city but we are fighting . . .



Pics courtesy of Zax Buzz, Tormel Pittman at left, Candle light vigil on April 1 for Trayvon Martin, Barry DeLoatch, Victor Rodriquez above, March for Justice for Barry DeLoatch at right.



Audify!  
Make Music  
With Us  
Saturdays 2 -  
5 pm  
Fountain  
George &  
Livingston  
New  
Brunswick,  
NJ

Like <http://www.facebook.com/AudifyNewBrunswickNj>

## NYC HS Students May 1 Unity Demands Education Justice and an End to Criminalization of Youth

Students at Paul Robeson High in NYC called for a city-wide student walk-out on May 1, 2012, and have a list of demands specific to their school community.

Dear New York City,  
We, the students of public education, are here to inform you about the injustice that is taking place in our school system:  
\* The privatization of our school system  
\* The budget cuts  
\* Lack of appropriate leadership  
\* Malicious closings/phasing out of schools against the communities’ wishes.  
\* Cell phone policies  
\* Overcrowded classes & abuse of SAFE rooms  
\* Over policing of our schools and the criminalization of our youth

We feel that these issues are setting our students up for failure, and we DEMAND a change! We believe that trying to control our schools is just another symptom of the blatant racism in our country similar to the government’s response to the senseless killing of Trayvon Martin.Because of this, our first action will be a mass student walkout on May 1st at 12pm to Fort Greene Park. We will be holding teach-ins, teen summits & other peaceful events.

Please add your name to our letter and support us in our struggle for our education.  
Signed, **Student Leadership Paul Robeson HS**  
**Hopefully this sort of leadership and level of organization being exhibited in NYC can take hold in all over 600 districts in NJ and the youth can be fully engaged in the struggle to assure our own survival and for a better future!**

**For more about NYC High School Movement Activities visit:**  
**<http://occupyhighschool.org/>**

## Writing for YO! It's Not That Hard!

In order to make it easier for writers to contribute to YO! we often employ an interview format with a number of questions that help structure the article. Sometimes the article is run as an interview and sometimes it is restructured to read more like an article. If you have interest in writing about an important issue that affects youth and that demands a unified youth response, the first step is to contact us with the idea. The following is a sample general outline of an interview that you can use to help structure the article: You would write a few sentences for each answer.  
What is the issue of concern?  
How does it affect youth?  
What are the forces involved?  
How is it an injustice?  
What entities benefit from the situation?  
What specific examples are there that demonstrate how youth are harmed?  
What are the demands that should be articulated?  
What are the suggested organizational steps that are needed?  
What are groups and individuals already doing about it?  
How can interested people make contact and plug into those efforts.

You can follow an outline such as this, develop one more specific to the issue you want to address or we can help you come up with the questions.

This being our second paper in about 6 months, it looks like at this point we are semi-annual but we could become more frequent with more involvement and an increasingly engaged youth movement.

So contact us today! If we have much interest, and we are doing a good job getting this paper distributed, we can start immediately working on our next issue.

Get the ball rolling . . . call us NOW! at 908-635-3285

New Brunswick Youth,  
What do you think needs to change in New Brunswick?  
Send us your opinion to [NJYU@NJYOUTHUNITED.ORG](mailto:NJYU@NJYOUTHUNITED.ORG) .

GET 100 COPIES OF YO! TO DISTRIBUTE AT SCHOOL, TO NEIGHBORS, IN THE STREETS.  
CALL 908-635-3285 OR WRITE [NJYU@NJYOUTHUNITED.ORG](mailto:NJYU@NJYOUTHUNITED.ORG)

YES! I want to be a member / supporter of NJ Youth United Against War and Imperialism

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Street / Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Membership: Youth: \_\_\_\_ Elder Supporter: \_\_\_\_ Mentor / Advisor: \_\_\_\_

Phone Numbers: Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Land: \_\_\_\_\_

Attending what schools (if any)? \_\_\_\_\_

Membership donation: \$5 \_\_\_\_ \$10 \_\_\_\_ \$20 \_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please include details as to your interests in youth organizing. You can use the join button at <http://NJYouthUnited.org> or write [NJYU@NJYouthUnited.org](mailto:NJYU@NJYouthUnited.org) to share your interests.  
Please clip coupon and mail to NJ Youth United, PO Box 163, Belle Mead, NJ 08502  
Make donation checks payable to NJ Youth United AWI



## Forgive the Debt! Abolish Tuition!, From Page 1

On the day of the action, we were unable to get into the building, as one of the security guard physically blocked the entrance. We had no choice but to plop-down right at the entrance, at which point a very angry security guard was yelling at us for being "lazy mother\_\_\_\_s".

Victor (president) calmly explained to him that the reason for such a need for civil disobedience was due to the lack of Sallie Mae's will to stop destroying our futures. Suddenly, we heard a distant march. Quiet chants of "Education is a right!"were audible. It started to get louder as the crowd of disciplined and angry students marched towards Sallie Mae. Victor looked up with a smile and said "We brought friends". The chants grew louder as the students got closer. A few of them broke off (planned) and blocked the streets, stopping the flow of traffic as the rest of the rally from a semi-circle around the entrance, chanting "Salle Mae, you can't hide, we can see your greedy side!" and other chants.

After 10 minutes the D.C police arrived and

warned us that we were to be arrested. 8 more students from the crowd joined us in our civil disobedience. After the third warning, the police started the arrests.

After we got hauled into the police van, the women, or those who "looked" like women to the cops, and the people who they saw as "men" were shipped to different cells. During the 5-6 hours where we were in the cell, we spent our time talking about our action, and how we can re-invigorate the student movement to continue building power. After building incredible solidarity in the cell, we were generously bailed out by the AFT (American Federation of Teachers), and JWW (Jobs with Justice).

Our action was incredible. We had a strong sense of righteousness on our side, considering Sallie Mae is actively participating in crippling the youth's future. In any social movement is the youth at the forefront. Education is a right, and crippling our generation's future for profit is disgraceful and criminal.

## Tuition and Endless Imperialist War, We Need to Connect the Dots!

by Rob C-Dub

NJ Youth United Against War and Imperialism is in solidarity with the struggling university students on all of the state and county campuses across NJ. We support the efforts to contain tuition hikes, fight privatization, provide student debt relief and instill university democracy by treating students as actors in the process as opposed to subjects. Our vision for education is the complete abolition of tuition at public colleges and universities and forgiveness of student debt for students who attend public universities. These goals can easily be accomplished by reordering the national priorities.

What we see as lacking is a vision that links the struggles of students for debt and tuition relief with the demand for an immediate end to imperialist war and aggression. In discussions with student activists, I have been told often that "We are against the war but we need to wait until later to get to that demand. We need to unify first and then educate toward that demand." I have heard this for years and that point of making the link to the demand to end the wars is still beyond the horizon. That argument is much like the timetable withdrawal mirages that the ruling parties use to justify endless war and intervention.

Adequate funding of education that will allow for tuition abolition will never occur while the US continues to spend trillions on arming itself to the teeth for endless wars of imperialist aggression. The math equation is a no brainer. Most activists recognize the connection and personally agree yet their campaigns are not properly linking the systemic issue of war for profit to the inadequate support for public higher education.

Our organization and probably some others around NJ want to work with the student activist groups to address these issues, make the connections and hopefully develop an approach that can effectively unite a strong student movement that relentlessly demands an immediate end to imperialist war and the absolute abolition of tuition at public colleges and universities.

## OPEN INVITATION TO THE YOUTH OF NEW BRUNSWICK AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

Our organization has been holding what we call "Audify" events at the Fountain on George Street and Livingston Avenue on Saturdays from 2 - 5 pm. We are pleased that local youth from New Brunswick and Highland Park have joined in our street performances. We hope that more young people feel comfortable participating, as active performers and by watching and listening to our performances.

We are asking for donations of used instruments and are hoping that once we get some instruments, that we can share them with those of you who might be seriously interested in learning an instrument. If you are interested in learning an instrument let us know and we will let you know when we come up with such a donation. We also incorporate music training into the performances and in the future, we can incorporate formal music lessons into the project.

So BE ENCOURAGED to join us when we are here and to get the word out to the musicians in the neighborhood, to bring your instruments and the songs you want us to learn with you or that you want us to accompany your singing on. If you are interested, come by when you see us. You can call us at 908-635-3285 to find out when we are going to be there. If you use Facebook, the page that will be updated with our plans is at this site: <http://www.facebook.com/AudifyNewBrunswickNj>

NJ Youth United Against War & Imperialism  
PO Box 163  
Belle Mead, NJ 08502

## Maryland HS Students Organize - Administration Calls Cops . . . and the Dogs!

**At a high school in Maryland, called Northwestern, students were trying to organize a support rally for public education that included a symbolic "walk out" from the school. The administration found and and instead of negotiating with student leaders, they called the cops . . . and the dogs! The following is written for YO! by one of the student leaders who wishes to remain anonymous.**

On March 1st, in solidarity with similar actions across the country planned on the same day, hundreds of students at Northwestern High School attempted a student walk out to protest issues with our education system; poor sanitation, a freeze on teacher pay, cutting good teachers and important programs like the arts and ESOL, an unengaging school environment, and so on. Dozens of students were involved in organizing it, and several outside organizations, such as university student groups from the University of Maryland and Occupy DC, were present in support of the action. However, my school's administration put the school on lockdown. There were dozens of police throughout the campus blocking exits, several canine units in the parking lot, and administrators illegally filming students. Students were stuck inside and only a few trickled out. Several students were suspended because of twitter posts they had made the night before in support of the action.

Northwestern has a reputation for being "ghetto" and "dangerous". Yet, we have the top AP classes in the county, and our student body is very diverse, intelligent, and has great potential. Because it is mostly Black and Latino, many people may look down upon it as being one of "those" schools and suburban nightmare, almost inner-city, and next to a dreamland college campus. I think these stereotypes affect the administration's actions in response to students when they are organized.

**What is El Cambio?**

El Cambio is a student activist group founded by socially conscious students who want to politicize others! We've gone to Occupy DC teach ins, and we've talked about issues such as factory farming, child abuse, immigrant rights, and the U.S. education system. We have guests from organizations like Occupy DC, the International Socialist Organization, Casa De MD, and the DC Learning Collective. The group is democratic with no hierarchy. There are active members who often lead meetings and initiate activities, but everyone is free to participate, and most are engaged in discussions and coordination. This is the group's first year at Northwestern, and it currently has over 30 active members.

**Freedoms Taught About in School?**

One word adequately describes the relationship of the constitutional rights like freedom of speech, assembly, rights of association and the response to the student action: "lacking." If schools are to instill democratic values, is it suitable for schools to call police and canine units to halt a peaceful student demonstration demanding better education? I've never heard of canine units, or the level of police involvement in a public high school like we saw March 1st.

**Punishment for Defending Public Education**

Several students were initially suspended for allegedly organizing the action. The entire student body was threatened with suspension if they participated. Those who were suspended were threatened with expulsion. Now the

student body is engaged and more politicized. People have been talking about the conditions of our schools and Northwestern HS more critically and want to make real changes. Participants have matured into student leaders and the formerly latent student body is more ready than ever to communicate our demands. We are looking forward and talking about what to do to be heard.

**Northwestern vs. Other Student Actions**

In Arizona, students walked out to protest the suspension of the Mexican Americans Studies program in Tucson. In NY City, students at Lehman High walked out because the city is shutting down their school and will fire half the staff without rehiring them. On March 1st, students across the country walked out of their schools. In Howard county, which neighbors Prince George's county (where Northwestern is located), the administrations of two schools SUPPORTED the students in walking out...in one instance, the administration walked out with students.

Northwestern's peculiar experience teaches that even when progress is being made on one front, there is a degeneration that occurs elsewhere, even on the same issue. While students speak out elsewhere with the support of their principals, other students are on police lockdown for trying to do the same thing.

**Similar disparities are highlighted**

A recently published New York Times article showed Black and Latino students, especially males, are more likely to be punished, and to be punished more severely, in schools than their white peers. Funding for minority-majority schools is typically less than others, and affluence tends to generate better schools than poverty, which most students at Northwestern suffer. Failing schools are not the result of some subtle racist agenda, and Prince George's county is the richest minority-majority county in America.

Because of my peers' color, it is assumed they must be more liable to become riotous. I think that because they are poorer than the upper middle class students of Fairfax and the more adequately funded students of Montgomery, they are looked upon as the future blue collar workers in an America that has become increasingly anti-labor...they aren't looked upon as potential geniuses, doctors, thinkers, creators, and innovators. They are looked upon as "ghetto."

I hope that other high school students in the country learn that democracy is something that we must fight for, because freedom is not free, and we are only strong enough to win it together.

Through this experience, I've come to realize how important it is to maintain serenity when I am in political situations where my passion and emotions are running high. It is fun to feel the elation of a protest, but it is wise to not be ruled by it. You'll make mistakes.

To other students, I say: Read. Educate yourselves about what is really happening in this country and on this planet. Start questioning what you believe in, and challenge yourself to use science and evidence to come to conclusions about how the world works before you develop a worldview.

If you know what you are talking about and are able to talk to people about making clubs like El Cambio at your schools, then do it! Even if the group is small at first, do something interesting that gets more people involved. Go to your local Occupy, or visit a non-profit organization or an urban farm...watch videos about factory farming or the banking system. On an individual level, go check out some protests and ask the people participating in them what they believe in and why they are protesting.