



Local Groups

People of the State of California vs. Johannes Mehserle

EXHIBIT 13

Description of local Groups involved in protesting, publicizing, and weighing in on the Grant shooting and Mehserle prosecution, with relevant links and images

In the aftermath of the Grant shooting various local groups were formed to demand that Mehserle be charged with murder and quickly convicted. Others already in existence took up the cause. These groups were effectively in getting their message out—through mass action, promotional activities, pressure on BART, the DA, and local politicians—which by itself has had an extraordinarily deleterious effect on the chance of empanelling an impartial jury in this county.

CAPE / Coalition Against Police Executions

<http://joincape.blogspot.com/>

SNAPSHOT (a summary of the group's web presence and professed activities gathered from its website)

This group provides comprehensive coverage of the Oscar Grant incident including postings about Upcoming events like Town Hall meetings, rallies, marches; links to all relevant news stories including sfgate coverage, KRON coverage, and provide many links to "NON-CORPORATE COMPROMISED NEWS ON THIS TRAGEDY". The site provides links to video of rallies, marches, The Oscar Grant Tribute Video ([Oscar Grant Tribute Video](#)). The site also provides flyers for download and urges readers to pass out the flyers in support of planned upcoming events.

WHO THEY ARE (a summary of the group's own description of its activities)

CAPE is a group of concerned organizers and individuals responding to the January 1 execution of Oscar Grant III, and all police executions.

WHAT THEY BELIEVE (as professed on the group's website)

1. We want the immediate arrest, indictment, and prosecution of BART police officer, Johannes Mehserle for the murder of Oscar Grant III.

We believe Oscar Grant III was maliciously murdered, robbed of his human and civil rights, and killed, in part, because of his race, class, youth, and dress which constitutes a classic case of racial profiling at best and at worst, a systemic BART philosophy of harassment, intimidation and violence as regards its patrons and citizens.

2. We want the release of the names and suspension of all the officers accompanying Officer Mehserle on January 1, 2009 at the Fruitvale BART shooting until a thorough and comprehensive investigation has taken place.

We believe that Officer Mehserle's actions were not a case of a 'bad apple', but indicative of a particular mentality and culture within BART police in particular and law enforcement in general that views young, black males as suspects, criminals, and enemies.

3. We want a public review of BART history, police policy, strategy, and philosophy to assess whether (A) BART police are really needed and (B). If needed, whether or not they need guns.

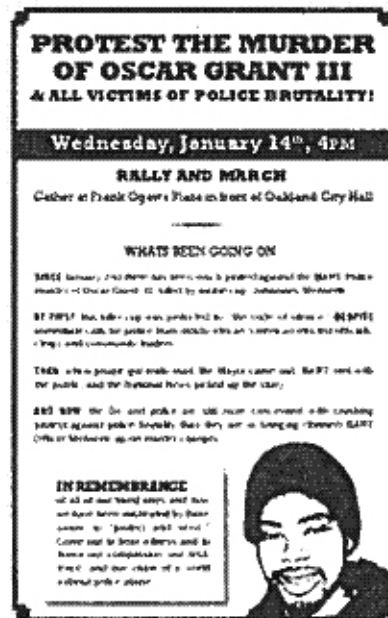
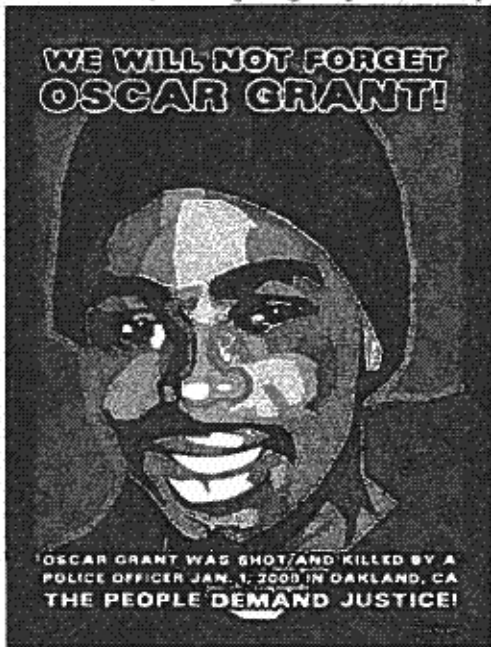
We believe that the BART police force operates from policies and attitudes that are biased, militaristic, and

racist and this philosophy is manifested in the actions and attitudes of its officers. Consequently, we recommend a citizen review of all such policies with the intent of creating a citizen review board to monitor excessive force, supervise implementation of diversity training and conduct an analysis on whether funds allocated for police might best be used differently.

4. We want BART, in the spirit of restorative justice, to make community restitution, in part, by funding community based healing centers throughout the city for grief counseling, conflict resolution, and healing.

We believe that the murder of Oscar Grant III is the latest chapter and Oakland's version of police, intra-community, terrorist and war violence that presently engulfs the planet. Only through concerted effort, understanding, and dedicated work and discipline can our city extricate itself from this madness. Institutions whose sole purpose is the healing of hearts (that have been wounded by violence) are needed throughout the world to show our communities, nation, and world that there is a better way.

IMAGES (a sampling of potentially prejudicial images taken from the group's website)



LINKS (a sampling of links on the website with brief descriptions)

Video of statements by council member

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0U8sldN4uDE>

Video of rap relating to Grant shooting, including various news clips

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zSFs1COYDgY>

Video interviews at rally

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aWZa2Vioae0>

Interview with lawyer for Grant family

<http://odeo.com/episodes/23838664-Police-Terror-in-oakland-Interview-w-John-Burris>

Article on the Grant shooting

<http://hiphopnews.yuku.com/topic/1001>

Video of speeches at protest

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0wls-UE8UKk>

Video of speeches and interviews at rally

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-KOooqb_cOO

Video of speeches and interviews at rally

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xym-xl8zLNw>

Video of speeches and interviews at rally

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ckw3fhGics>

News report on Grant killing

<http://hiphopnews.yuku.com/topic/994>

Article on Grant shooting

<http://hiphopnews.yuku.com/topic/998>

Video of riot

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4WFxAVIKQ44>

Video of riot

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sPbCoHN2WtI>

Video of riot

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dK4TcA_XUxU

Video of confrontation with Oakland mayor

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CUC_ZVbl4sM

Video of confrontation with Oakland mayor

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DL0S6a7NGoY>

Video of Video of interviews with police officials during one of the Oakland riots

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sbG-xTtgGOQ>

Video of speeches at rally

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ts5iXVnL-Vg>

Video of speeches at rally

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9OdI7aRp65Y>

Video of speeches at rally

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oBxxBxUyI28>

Video of speeches at rally

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wu-NSjj9wDk>

Emergency Town Hall Meeting Hosted by the Black Clergy

Brochure for rally

BAMN

<http://www.bamn.com/>

<http://www.bamn.com/oscargrantpetition.asp>

<http://apps.facebook.com/causes/188135>

SNAPSHOT (a summary of the group's web presence and professed activities gathered from its website)

BAMN is a group that circulates the Justice For Oscar Grant petition which calls for:

"Jail all the killer cops, End the BART cover-up, Open public investigation of the murder, Disarm the BART Police, BART police out of Oakland, Drop all charges against protestors" (see image of petition below).

BAMN also runs the Justice for Oscar Grant Action page of Facebook.

The purpose of this CAUSE is to EXPRESS YOUR OUTRAGE and GET ORGANIZED so we can win justice for Oscar Grant and make sure that such instances of racism and police brutality never happen again. Join us to get updates about actions.

WHO THEY ARE (a summary of the group's own description of its activities)

Coalition to Defend Affirmative Action, Integration and Immigrant Rights By Any Means Necessary.

WHAT THEY BELIEVE (as professed on the group's website)

Mass organizing of the communities of Oakland and other cities throughout California will be critical to win justice for Oscar Grant, the young man who was shot by BART police officer Johannes Mehserle on New Year's Day on video that has been seen across the nation.

1. BAMN is a mass, democratic, integrated, national organization dedicated to building a new mass civil rights movement to defend affirmative action, integration, and the other gains of the civil rights movement of the 1960s and to advance the struggle for equality in American society by any means necessary.
2. BAMN will consist of local BAMN groups, other independent organizations that choose to affiliate or otherwise associate themselves with BAMN, and individuals who declare their support for BAMN's principles and express this support in action consistent with these principles.

BAMN groups will include independent community, labor, campus, high-school, middle-school, youth, and other political and activist organizations that endorse the principles of BAMN, conduct their internal business democratically, and commit themselves in action to the achievement of BAMN's aims.

3. BAMN is committed to making real America's founding declaration that "all men are created equal." Real equality of rights and opportunities for women and for disadvantaged black, Latina/o, Native American, Asian Pacific American, Arab American, and other minorities requires active, positive measures, a national policy of affirmative action. American society can overcome its fundamental inequalities only if positive measures are taken to transform it into what it should be.
4. BAMN is committed to making real the ideal of "government of the people, by the people, for the people." But democracy, too, must be a sham as long as the fundamental inequalities of poverty, racism, and sexism deform the relations of political power along with access to educational and economic

opportunities. Here again, America can only become what it should be through a national policy of affirmative action.

5. BAMN recognizes that history has made clear that the positive measures, the affirmative action necessary to achieve genuine equality and real democracy will require the victory of the struggles of a new, independent integrated civil rights movement committed to fight for these aims by any means necessary. As Americans committed to saving our society from the evils of racism and sexism, we understand that racism and sexism are so deeply a part of the structure and institutions of American society that only the growing power of a new mass movement can uproot them.
6. BAMN defends the integration plans that were the decisive first fruit of the previous generation of civil rights struggles. We recognize that the attack on affirmative action has been accompanied by a less well publicized but even more dangerous series of right-wing attacks on integration plans in American public schools, even where these plans have been most successful and have had the widespread support of minority and white parents and students alike.
7. BAMN sees the attack on affirmative action and integration-policies that in practice have benefited people of both sexes and all races-as a fundamental attack on the democratic character of American society itself.

This is true, in the first place, because of the intrinsic importance of the actual policies under attack as very modest steps in the direction of equality of opportunities for women and disadvantaged minorities. But it is also true because the victory of the opponents of affirmative action and integration will set the stage for a broader and deeper attack not only on the gains of the past civil rights movement but on the democratic rights won through the mass struggles of the labor movement of the 1930s and the youth, women's, and lesbian/gay movements of the 1960s and 1970s.

8. BAMN will employ whatever means are necessary to oppose and defeat these attacks on the democratic and egalitarian aspirations and struggles of our people. Specifically, BAMN will employ the methods of independent mass organizing and struggle, of mass education and action, of democratic discussion and decision-making, of telling the truth and only the truth, of rooting our fights in the courts or in elections in the growing movement on the streets, of building the leadership of the disenfranchised and oppressed.
9. BAMN will be independent of the Democrats and Republicans and of governments and school and university administrations. In any elections, BAMN will consider supporting only those candidates, slates, and parties whose support for affirmative action and the struggle of the new movement for equality is explicit and unequivocal.
10. Confident in the capacity of a new movement to learn, grow, fight, and win, BAMN rejects cynicism and despair.
11. BAMN rejects the principle of "separate but equal" as one of the great lies of American history. We will oppose every measure aimed at the resegregation of American society.
12. BAMN rejects biological determinism and its pseudoscientific ideological explanations of the inequalities of modern society.
13. BAMN rejects all claims that the inequalities of race and gender and the oppression of racism and sexism can be adequately explained as natural or inevitable consequences of human nature, original sin, biological destiny, or the supposed deficiencies of various ethnic cultures.

The inequalities of race and gender in American society are a result of the actual history of that society. Racism and sexism are expressions of the actual inequalities of wealth, power, and status that characterize the society that have developed through that history. Our aim should be to understand that history in order to end those unequal relations of power and privilege, not to invent theories to rationalize passive submission.

14. BAMN will expose the falsehoods of the baseless and arrogant attempts to use standardized tests to define merit or intelligence or human dignity. We recognize that such inevitably biased tests correlate most strongly, not with any question of merit, but with the relative privileges or disadvantages of race and socioeconomic status and amount to a means of rationalizing preferences for certain racial and class privileges.
15. BAMN stands proudly in the tradition of the great abolitionist, civil rights, and antiracist movements of the past, critically studying, learning from, and developing the lessons of the struggles of our heroic forebears. We look especially to the towering figure of Frederick Douglass ("If there is no struggle there is no progress"), and, as representative leaders of the 1960s, Martin Luther King ("The whirlwinds of revolt will continue to shake the foundations of our nation until the bright day of justice emerges"), and Malcolm X ("action on all fronts by whatever means necessary").
16. BAMN will base itself on the new movement as it develops, viewing its tasks from the standpoint of the oppressed and the poor, not the privileged elite. While maintaining its independence and not shirking the duty of leadership or yielding the right of criticism and the obligation to tell the truth, BAMN will work hard to build any alliance that can help make the new, independent movement broader and more powerful.
17. BAMN defends the rights and dignity of immigrants against the divisive, racist, and chauvinist attacks that have deformed American political life over and over again throughout our nation's history.
18. BAMN sees itself as part of a reawakening international mass movement against racism and fascism and for equal rights and opportunities. We will develop links with antiracist and proequality movements outside the US in order to help where we can and in order to learn from the struggles of our sisters and brothers in other nations.
19. BAMN will fight for the democratic election of leaders of movement bodies; for the direct accountability of all leaders to the new movement; and for democratic discussion and decision-making in all the meetings and bodies of the new movement.
20. BAMN will be an organization in which strong women leaders play a fully equal role in all its work. BAMN will be built by women and male leaders inspired by the examples of the heroic women leaders of the abolitionist and civil rights movements—courageous fighters like Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth, Rosa Parks, Ella Baker and Fanny Lou Hamer. BAMN will fight for the equal leadership role of women in the new mass movement.
21. BAMN will be an organization in which black, Latina/o, Native American, Asian Pacific American, Arab American, and other minority leaders play a full and prominent role. We will fight for full integration of the leadership of the new movement.
22. In any new movement, youth must play a decisive role. BAMN will be an organization of idealistic and brave youth, fighting for a future of genuine equality and justice for all.

IMAGES (a sampling of potentially prejudicial images taken from the group's website)

BAMN Coalition to Defend Affirmative Action, Integration, & Inmigrant Rights
And Fight for Equality By Any Means Necessary

Back 1 Home

- SIGN THE PETITION -
Justice for Oscar Grant!

**Join all the killer cops
End the BART cover-up—Open a public investigation of the murder
Disarm the BART Police—BART Police Out of Oakland
Drop all charges against protesters**

PETICIÓN EN ESPAÑOL

Video of the killing (Warning: it is disturbing)

JUSTICE FOR OSCAR GRANT ACTION PAGE

On New Year's Day, **OSCAR GRANT**, a 32-year-old Black man, was murdered by a white BART officer at the Fruitvale BART station. Grant and several other men were removed from a BART train by BART police following a fight. Video footage from passengers on the train shows Grant and the other man sitting against the wall, surrounded by three BART cops. Grant was unarmed and not resisting, but he was forced to lie face down on the ground by the BART police. With one cop holding him down, the other cop shot him in the back, at point-blank range, execution-style, in front of scores of witnesses. As Grant lay on the ground, death, the report handwritten here:

Oakland will never forgive nor forget the racist officers, and we must fight for justice for Oscar Grant to make sure that this never happens in Oakland or any other city again.


Johannes Hebrerle, the BART cop who shot Grant in cold blood, was arrested in Nevada almost two weeks after shooting Grant. He has been charged with murder, the other officers have neither been charged nor arrested.

BART is a publicly-funded, privately run commission whose officers have no accountability to any demonstrably both. BART police have a history of constantly harassing and targeting minority youth. BARTI has been covering up the murder and protecting the killer cops.

Demonstrations held throughout Oakland make unequivocally clear that people want, demand and deserve justice. It is a travesty of justice that protesters demanding justice have charges pending against them while some of Grant's killers are still walking free.

Therefore, We the Undersigned Demand:

1. Jail BART police officer Johannes Hebrerle and the other BART cops who assisted in the killing.
2. End the BART cover-up—open an independent public investigation of the murder.
3. Disarm the BART Police.
4. BART police out of Oakland.
5. Lock up and charge the killer cops, not the protesters. Drop all charges against the protesters now.



Full Name

City **State** **"**

School, Church, or Org

Phone

E-mail

To get more updates of the movement, go to the [BAMN's FB page](#).

I want to help organize to seek justice for Oscar Grant. Please contact me. (Please drop your phone number.)

*Please allow 20-40 seconds for web server to respond

HELP CIRCULATE THE PETITION

■ Download the petition for distribution

Acrobat PDF file - English - Español

Word document - English - Español

■ Extra: all handcopy completed petitions to:

BAMN
P.O. Box 12572
Berkeley, CA 94712

510-782-9072

■ Use the [JUSTICE FOR OSCAR GRANT ACTION PAGE](#)

■ Sponsored by

Coalition to Defend Affirmative Action, Integration,
and Inmigrant Rights and Fight for Equality
By Any Means Necessary (BAMN)

Send a link to the page to a friend

Coalition to Defend Affirmative Action, Integration, & Inmigrant Rights and Fight for Equality By Any Means Necessary (BAMN) www.indybay.org 2/13/08 37:18

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START NOW



CAUTION: This page may contain content that is inappropriate for work environments. [Learn more](#)

JUSTICE FOR OSCAR GRANT ACTION PAGE

Open a petition for the release of Oscar Grant and the release of the 1000+ who are in your name and in 100+ cities across the world.

UNITED FOR QUALITY AND AFFIRMATIVE ACTION HAS

- 1. Let the world know about the injustice to Oscar Grant
- 2. Get the world's attention by getting the story on the news
- 3. Get the world's attention by getting the story on the news
- 4. Get the world's attention by getting the story on the news

Public updates: [Sign up for updates](#) and [Join list](#)

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Oscar Grant

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6,536 members



5,793 members

Members Board

Members Board

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Oscar Grant

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Caravan for Justice

Note:

The website <http://caravanforjustice.com/> AUTOMATICALLY REDIRECTS TO <http://gavinnewson.com/>

SNAPSHOT (a summary of the group's web presence and professed activities gathered from its website)

A group that insists that it's time for California lawmakers to get a wake-up call and stop gambling with citizens' lives. The group organizes citizens to caravan to rallies and protests throughout the Bay Area and up to the Capitol in Sacramento.

WHO THEY ARE (an overview of the group as described by the Sacramento Bee)

From the Sacramento Bee:

http://www.sacramentopress.com/headline/5747/Caravan_For_Justice_2

Named the Caravan for Justice, the group buses and drives in large numbers of people from around California in the hopes of getting lawmakers to reform different laws that specifically affect urban youth, touching on such subjects as law reform, prison reform and school reform.

This was not the first protest that the Caravan for Justice has hosted on the steps of the Capitol. On February 19, the Caravan for Justice bussed in hundreds of people who had been attending town hall meetings in nine cities in and around the Bay Area, motivated by the killing of Oscar Grant III by BART police officer Johannes Mehserle, as well as other major threats in the community.

LINKS (a sampling of links on the website with brief descriptions)

A 30 page analysis of the Oscar Grant shooting titled Justice for Oscar Grant: A Lost Opportunity?

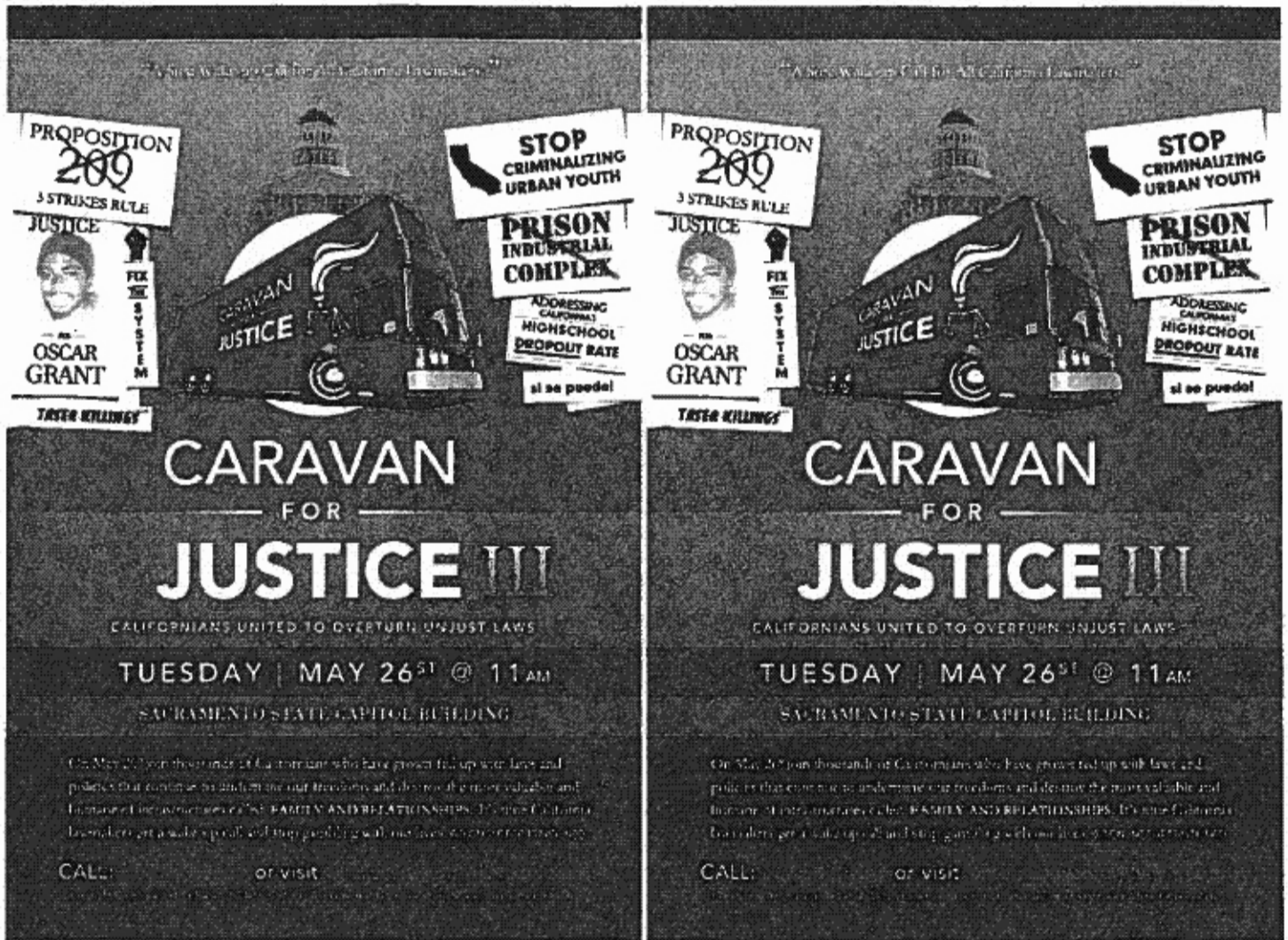
<http://advancethestruggle.files.wordpress.com/2009/07/oscargrantpamphletasblog.pdf>

<http://gavinnewson.com/>

Video clips feature recent Caravan events and speakers including the following:

- Minister Christopher Muhammad (May '09)
- Mike Ali (Cherokee Nation)
- Sandré Swanson (California Assembly Member & Chair of Black Caucus)
- Joe Coto (California Assembly Member & Former Chair of Latino Caucus)
- Pacific Islander Community
- Pastor Zachary
- Rudy Corpuz - Asian, Latino, & Pacific Islander Community
- Betty Williams (Pres. Sacramento NAACP)
- Rev. Gordon Humphrey
- Archbishop King
- Min. Keith Muhammad, Pete & Mandingo
- Caravan for Justice gathered inside California's Capitol Building
- Caravan for Justice Promo (by Goldtoes)

IMAGES (a sampling of potentially prejudicial images taken from the group's website)



<http://ruckus.org/section.php?id=72>

WHO THEY ARE (a summary of the group's own description of its activities)

The office staff is based in Oakland, California.

To achieve our goals, The Ruckus Society depends on a diverse network of over 100 talented, committed trainers, coordinators and workers who volunteer their time to train other people to be effective nonviolent activists and organizers.

The Ruckus Society provides environmental, human rights, and social justice organizers with the tools, training, and support needed to achieve their goals.

Working with a broad range of communities, organizations, and movements - from high school students to professional organizations - Ruckus facilitates the sharing of information and expertise that strengthens the capacity to change our relationship with the environment and each other.

We believe building partnerships with organizers and communities to create spaces for participatory learning, networking, and resource sharing is the most powerful way we as individuals can contribute to actualizing positive social change.

DIRECT ACTION: The strategic use of immediately effective acts to achieve a social or political end and challenge an unjust power dynamic.

CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE: Refusal to obey civil laws in an effort to change an unjust governmental policy or legislation.

IMAGES (a sampling of potentially prejudicial images taken from the group's website)



RUCKUS SOCIETY
Action Speaks Louder Than Words

Home About Us Blog Training & Action Support Why Join? Action Tools & Materials Donate Contact Us

Actions

Stop State of Fear Bookkeeping in 2010-2011

Operation Fall Her! Action Report

Angry - NYC 10/27 of Action

Victims Memorial Rally

Forward Not Back - Reproductive Justice for all

United We Stand

Free of Harassment, Not

Harassment

Organizing to Bring the

Business Home

Militants - Our Defenders of the

Business from 50+

Security Workers Fair

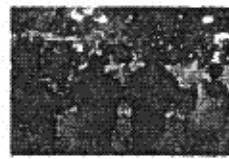
Action!

[More](#)

Get Involved



Action Support For Coalition Against Police Executions



PROTEST THE MURDER OF OSCAR GRANT III & ALL VICTIMS OF POLICE BRUTALITY

National Day of Nonviolent Action

"Praying for Peace, Working for Justice"

(see event information here, and scroll down for the Action Kit and flyers to download)

Wednesday, January 14th

At 4pm in Oakland, Coalition Against Police Executions (CAPE) is asking folks to gather at Frank Ogawa Plaza in front of Oakland City Hall for a peaceful, prayerful, healing Rally. Our main message is "Please Don't Shoot". We need support on security, so show up at 3pm if you are down to be plugged into protecting the marchers! Learn more about the case, and keep up with action planning and ongoing efforts on the blog!

Oscar Grant Memorial Arts Project

<http://urbanhabitat.org/rpe/oscar>

SNAPSHOT (a summary of the group's web presence and professed activities gathered from its website)

Over three dozen artists have contributed to the Oscar Grant Memorial Arts Project. Our goal was to gather the creative works dedicated to Oscar Grant from artists, musicians, writers, photographers and others. Any form of creative expression was accepted-- a video of a dance work, audio, song, poster, photo, etc. Selected portfolio work will be featured in several Bay Area publications (print and online). If you have any questions contact its curator, Christine Joy Ferrer: christinejoy@urbanhabitat.org.

WHO THEY ARE (a summary of the group's own description of its activities)

This project is co-sponsored by Media Alliance and Race, Poverty and the Environment.

Media Alliance's mission is to defend, develop and strengthen independent media to support the creation of a truly democratic society and to build capacity of low income people and communities of color to create and be represented by media responsive to the communities needs. MA helps create alliances between media creators and media consumers to bring light to under-reported issues, build public support for fundamental rights to communicate and lift up best practices for the inspiration of a broad range of communities, regionally and nationally.

Race, Poverty and the Environment is a project of Urban Habitat. Since, 1990 RP&E has been exploring issues at the nexus of race, class and the environment. Founded as a joint project of the Urban Habitat Program and the California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation's Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment, since January 2004 RP&E has been solely a project of Urban Habitat. Urban Habitat builds power in low-income communities and communities of color by combining education, advocacy, research and coalition-building to advance environmental, economic and social justice in the Bay Area. Race, Poverty and the Environment is a project of Urban Habitat. Since, 1990 RP&E has been exploring issues at the nexus of race, class and the environment. Founded as a joint project of the Urban Habitat Program and the California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation's Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment, since January 2004 RP&E has been solely a project of Urban Habitat. Urban Habitat builds power in low-income communities and communities of color by combining education, advocacy, research and coalition-building to advance environmental, economic and social justice in the Bay Area.

WHAT THEY BELIEVE (as professed on the group's website)

People are angry. Thousands have been appalled by the Oscar Grant shooting and have taken a new stand to fight injustice. Many have chosen to creatively express their stance through art. Songs have been written and dedicated to Oscar Grant. Poems, paintings and posters have been created. Graffiti artists have painted murals. Some of this is compelling art, some is ephemera. Some of this art is controversial in its subject matter or its expression, but above all this art is the expression of a critical moment in the movement to end police violence. For this project Media Alliance and Race Poverty and the Environment will act as a clearinghouse, collecting and archiving copies of the material and coordinating its presentation by partner publications including: Urban

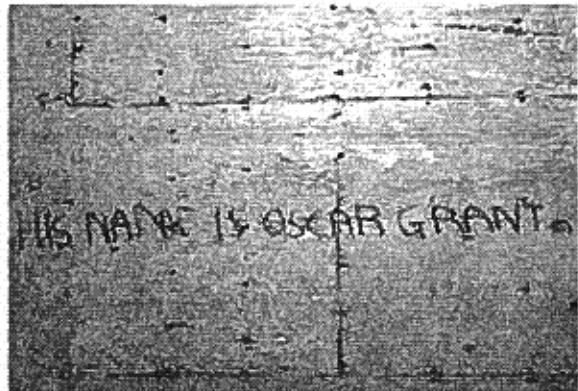
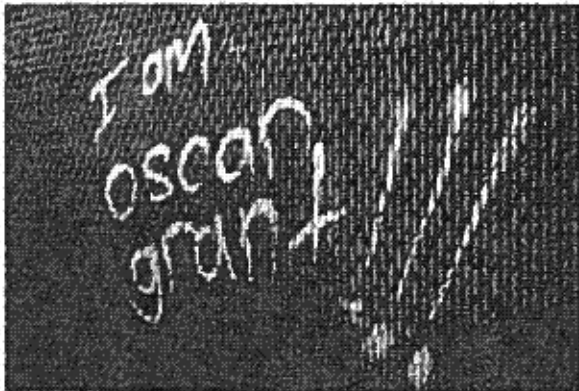
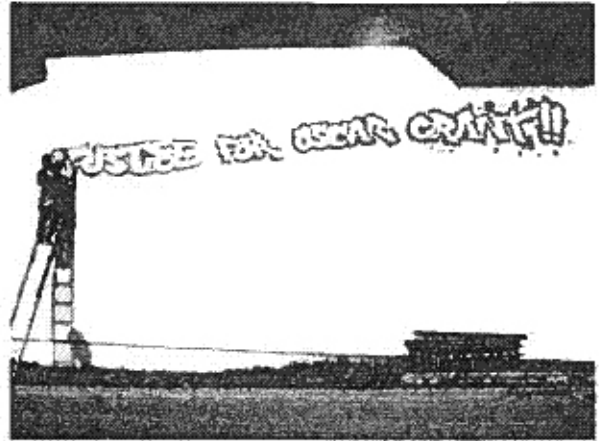
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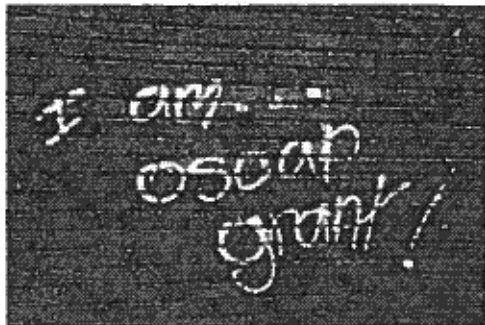
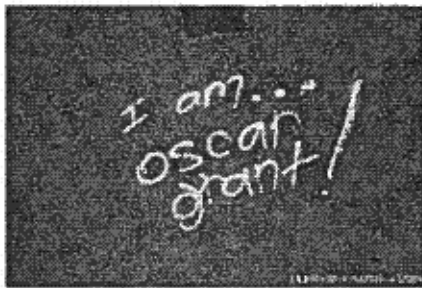
More Justice for Oscar Grant Movement News at www.indybay.org/oscargrant/

Habitat's Race, Poverty & the Environment Journal, Media Alliance, <http://media-alliance.org>, InColor magazine <http://In-Color.net>, and Street Spirit Newspaper. This work is supported by a grant from the Akonadi Foundation.

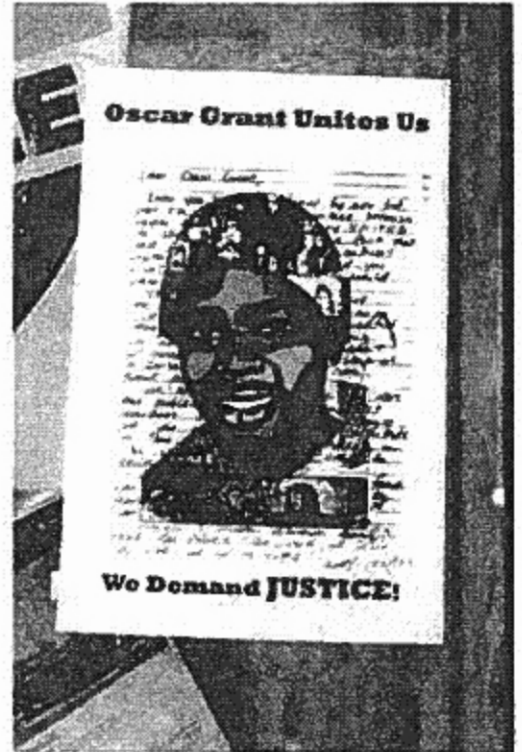
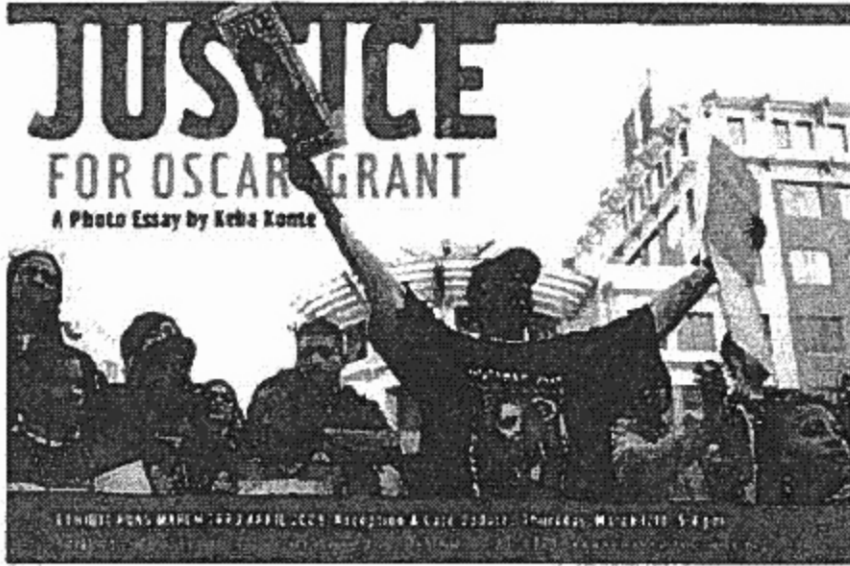
IMAGES (a sampling of potentially prejudicial images taken from the group's website)

Oscar Grant Memorial Arts Project / Graffiti

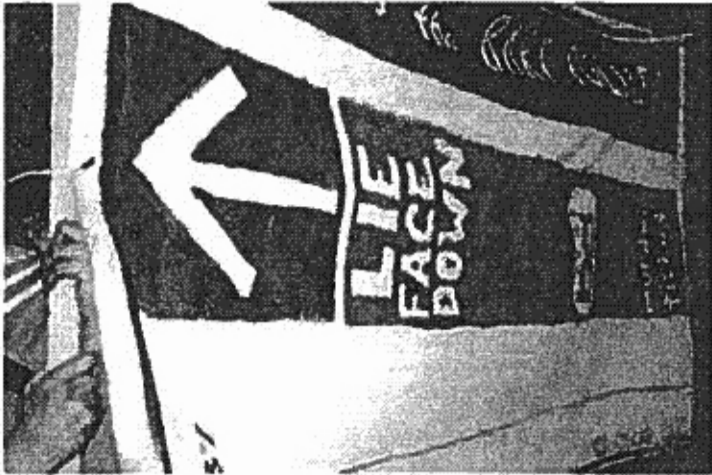




Oscar Grant Memorial Arts Project / Photos & Artwork








A TALE OF TWO CITIES IN POST-RACIAL AMERICA:
"IT WAS THE BEST OF TIMES, IT WAS THE WORST OF TIMES."

WASHINGTON, D.C.

FIRST EVER BLACK MALE SWORN INTO THE HIGHEST POSITION IN THE LAND
(HIS YOUNG DAUGHTERS WILL FROLIC IN THE WHITE HOUSE!)



HOPE

I HAVE A DREAM

OAKLAND, CA

NOT THE FIRST UNARMED YOUNG BLACK MALE TO BE EXECUTED BY THE POLICE IN A PRONE POSITION
HIS 3-YEAR OLD DAUGHTER NOW FATHERLESS



OSCAR GRANT III

NO JUSTICE
NO PEACE

...AND A CONTINUING NIGHTMARE.

No Justice No Bart

<http://nojusticenobart.blogspot.com/>

SNAPSHOT (a summary of the group's web presence and professed activities gathered from its website)

No Justice No BART has a list of demands of BART and Alameda County in the wake of the Oscar Grant Murder. The site collects donations for Oscar Grant's daughter. The group asks people to mobilize to support their cause and asks the public to help by "tell a friend, put up a poster, making a phone call, sending an email, boycott BART, pass out flyers, come to the next action, help us organize them they can help." The site has a calendar of weekly actions in which one could participate.

WHO THEY ARE (a summary of the group's own description of its activities)

No Justice No BART is a campaign of protest actions targeting BART in order to advance community demands in the wake of the police murder of Oscar Grant.

WHAT THEY BELIEVE (as professed on the group's website)

We don't believe the myth of "a few bad apples", and we are committed to articulating demands that address the systemic and structural causes of police violence, as well as demands that seek specific justice for the killing of Oscar Grant.

Historically, when social movements wish to advance serious structural demands, direct action and civil disobedience tactics become necessary. In addition to attending BART Board meetings and working in coalition with other groups, part of our specific strategy is to target BART as an institution. We are committed to a campaign of picketing BART and encouraging Riders to BOYCOTT BART. We hold regular demonstrations at BART stations, inside BART stations, on the platforms, and on the trains. Since the BART system is so important to the Bay Area, we believe that disrupting BART's "business as usual" puts serious pressure on all levels of government (city and county officials, BART, and the state) to produce the justice we demand.

We see the "No Justice No BART" [list of demands](#) as inclusive of the demands being made by most of the organizations working on a response to Oscar Grant's murder. Thus we are committed to working with any group that articulates any portion of these demands.

No Justice No BART believes in a unified movement and a unified set of demands. This list of demands is meant to be inclusive of other groups' demands.

No Justice No BART affirms that ours is not a new movement and that it won't end anytime soon. As a whole, these demands represent a modest step forward in holding the murderers of Oscar Grant accountable, and a modest step in the direction of changing the system that produced his murder in the first place.

We demand:

- 1) A full, competent, successful prosecution and conviction of former BART police officer Johannes Mehserle.
- 2) An independent investigation of the other BART officers present during Oscar's murder! Each individual officer involved must be named, along with a list of possible or probable violations of police policy and

procedure, as well as any potential criminal liability. Upon completion of the investigation, all officers suspected of procedural violations must be fired immediately, and any officers suspected of criminal wrongdoing must be fully charged and prosecuted by the District Attorney.

3) Suspension of all officers present during Oscar Grant's murder, for the duration of any investigations into their conduct.

4) BART employees who are already known to have engaged in cover-ups, procedural wrongdoing, and abuse of authority must resign, or be fired immediately. This includes:

- BART Police Officer Tony Pirone, who was videotaped violently assaulting Oscar Grant prior to his murder, as well as participating in the cover-up that followed.

- BART Police Chief Gary Gee, who attempted to cover-up the murder, and who has repeatedly failed to protect both the public and the public interest.

- BART General Manager Dorothy Dugger, who has failed in her role as supervisor of the BART police, and is complicit in the cover-up of Oscar Grant's murder.

5) The BART Board must implement and fund economic development and youth programs to repair relationships with communities of color!

6) The BART Board must abolish the BART Police, fully divesting BART of any police power over the communities it serves!

7) Protesters arrested during mobilizations for justice for Oscar Grant must be released immediately and all charges against them must be dropped.

8) Tom Orloff must resign as District Attorney before March 14th or we will begin his recall!

LINKS (a sampling of links on the website with brief descriptions)

Calendar of upcoming group activities and events including urging the public to "Pack the Courts" at the court dates for some of the 100 rioters arrested in Oakland.

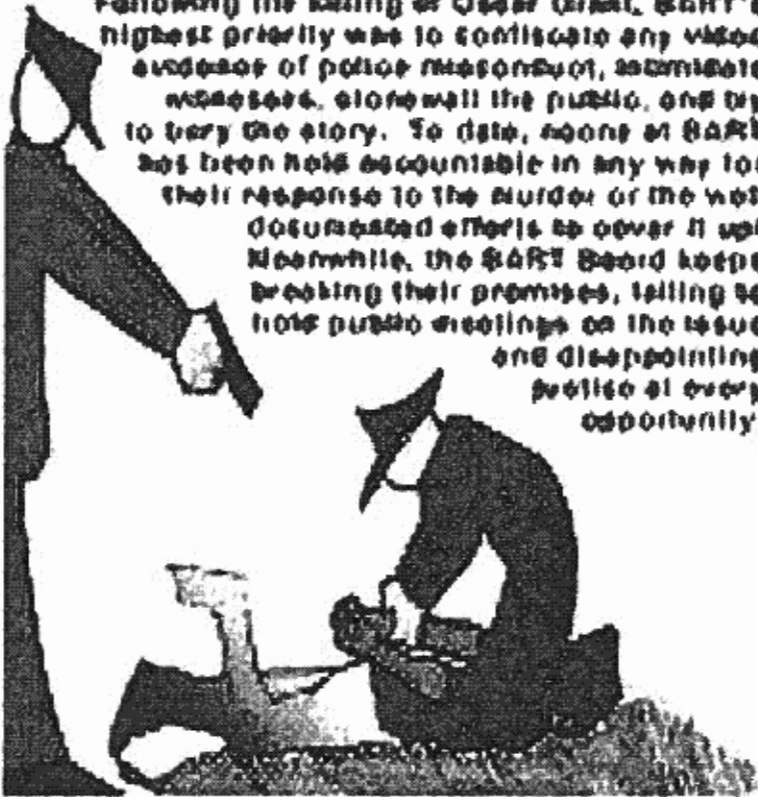
<http://nojusticenobart.blogspot.com/2009/01/calendar-of-upcoming-events.html>

Example event listed on group's action calendar:

Most of those arrested during the January 7th Oscar Grant Rebellion have had their charges dropped due to a lack of evidence. Three people were charged with felonies. One of them, David Santos, has already had his charges dropped. Yet bogus felony charges remain for JR, of the Block Radio Report, and Andrew Young, both of whom face upcoming court dates. They would appreciate your support in the court room. Also... Call Alameda District Attorney Tom Orloff and tell him to drop the charges! ALAMEDA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY 1225 Fallon Street # 900 Oakland, CA 94612 (510) 272-6222 (510) 271-5157 fax
<http://indybay.org/oscargrant>

IMAGES (a sampling of potentially prejudicial images taken from the group's website)

Justice Delayed is Justice Denied



Following the killing of Oscar Grant, BART's highest priority was to confiscate any video evidence of police misconduct, disseminate messages, slow down the public, and try to bury the story. To date, none of BART has been held accountable in any way for their response to the murder or the well documented efforts to cover it up. Meanwhile, the BART Board keeps breaking their promises, telling us nice public meetings on the issue and disappointing public at every opportunity.

**Join Us In Demanding:
Justice For Oscar Grant!**

Call the Board of Directors at 510-464-6095

Tell them 'No JJJJJ, No BART for real I'm going to end it killing BART and the No Justice No BART demands are met'

Boycott BART! Ride BART as little as possible.

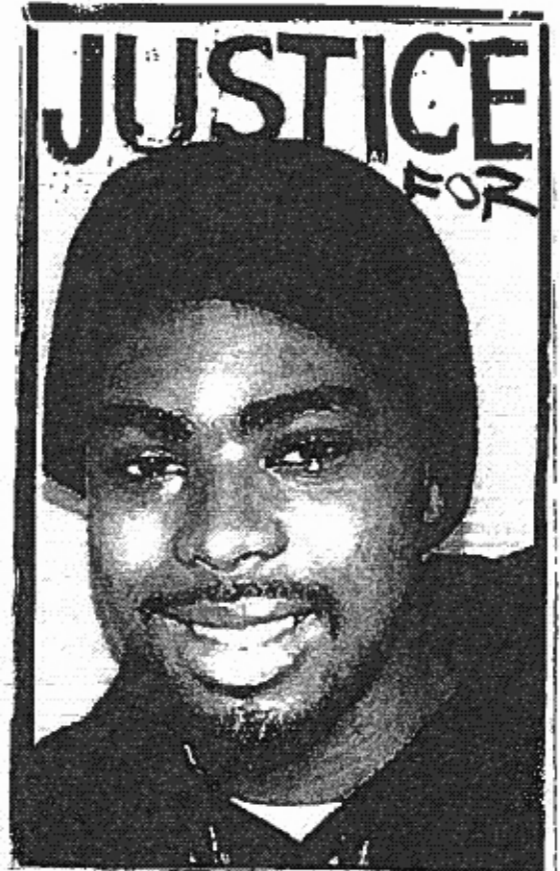
Use other means of transit such as the bus, cab, carpool to SF, use your bike or take your car

Put Stickers on BART! If you absolutely have to

ride BART, then make sure that each time you board a BART train you BART fight at it when you see the train. You can print these up from our website, or just use the car you are reading right now!

Join us at an Event! And bring a friend!

NOJUSTICE NO BART.BLOGSPOT.COM



OSCAR GRANT

Advance The Struggle

Bay Area Radical Perspectives

<http://advancethestruggle.wordpress.com/>

WHO THEY ARE (a summary of the group's own description of its activities)

Welcome to our blog! We are launching it today, May 1st 2009 (International Workers Day).

Why are we blogging? Because there's a need for a marxist analysis of current events, resistance movements, and revolutionary theory that isn't bogged down with the baggage of decades of defeat and dogma.

The Left today is dominated by liberal non-profit corporatism on the one hand, and marginalized marxist grouplets on the other. The former has constituencies and bases, but politically tail behind the Democratic Party, while the latter have revolutionary politics but lack the ability to build bases amongst the working class that would be necessary to put those politics into action.

We don't claim to have all the political answers or to have a significant base in the working class, but we are honest enough to admit it. We are dedicated to discovering the method for doing both.

What does it mean to locate the struggle in the working class? It means that people who earn a wage face a common enemy in the capitalists who exploit their labor on the job and steal their money through rent and other expenditures. This everyday struggle is something that people of all races and genders can relate to and should be the basis for unity.

But it isn't. Why not?

Because there are dozens of ways that the working class is divided against itself, the most obvious being the type of work people do, their income level, the places they live and work, and all the ways these things are connected to racism, sexism, and nationality. These divisions can be reconciled, and unity can be built. The left has done it before and we can do it again. But for decades, the US left has ignored these problems or focused on the divisions to such an extent that they lose hope to achieve unity.

WHAT THEY BELIEVE (as professed on the group's website)

Advance the Struggle sees one of the most immediate tasks of our movement as being the creation of a praxis that takes diversity and difference into account, challenges chauvinism/privilege, while in the quest for working class unity. This can't be done on paper or in conferences or in workshops. Unity will be achieved only through struggle within struggle, dealing with each other as we confront our common class enemy – the business owners, landlords, and politicians that exploit and oppress every working class black, latino, white, API, indigenous person, of all genders, sexualities, ages, abilities, and citizenship statuses.

Participation on this blog from revolutionaries, non-propheteers, and those who don't consider themselves radicals or activists (yet) will offer everyone an opportunity to examine their own positions and explore new ideas for creating social change.

The Advance the Struggle blog is in the process of becoming what we hope will be a space for vigorous debate and dialog on the burning questions of our time.

LINKS (a sampling of links on the website with brief descriptions)

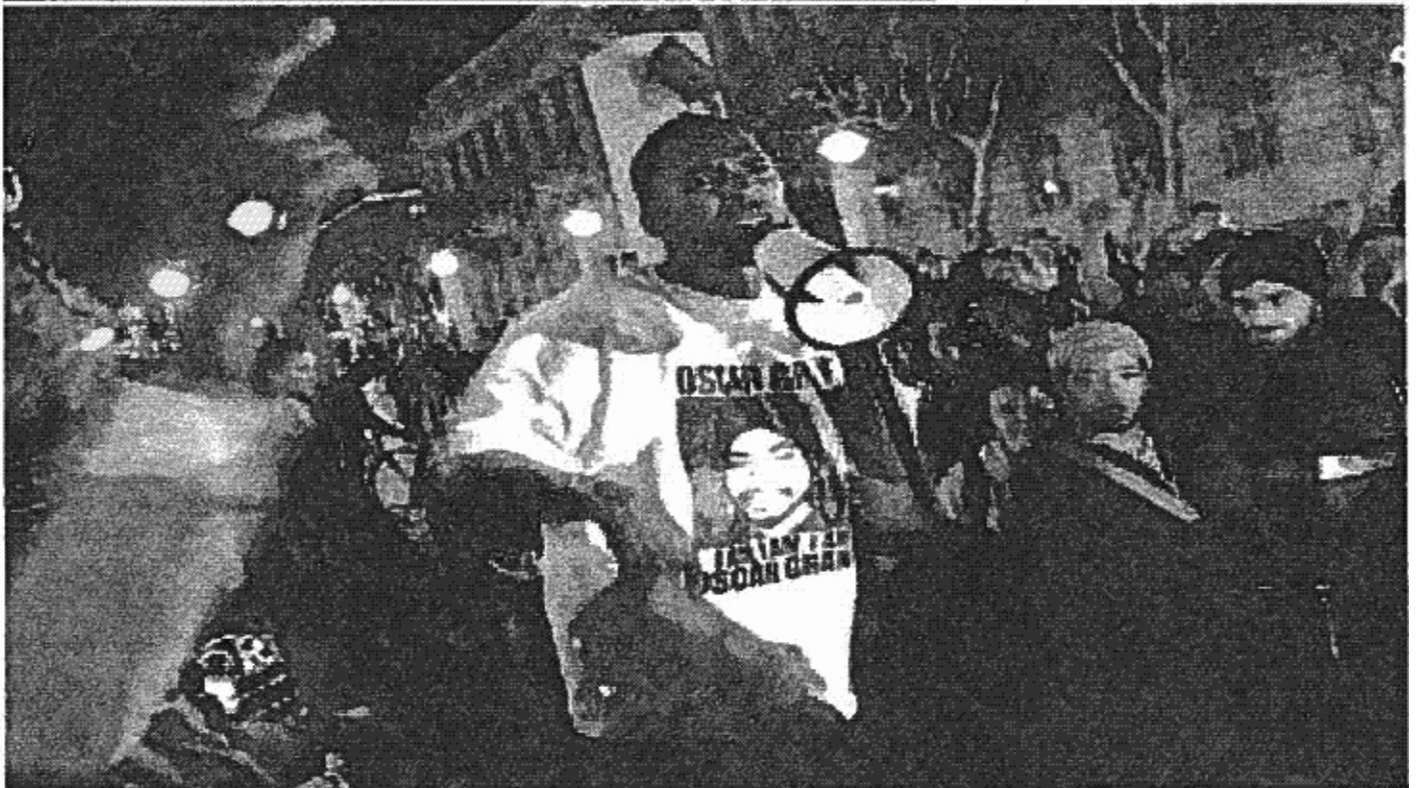
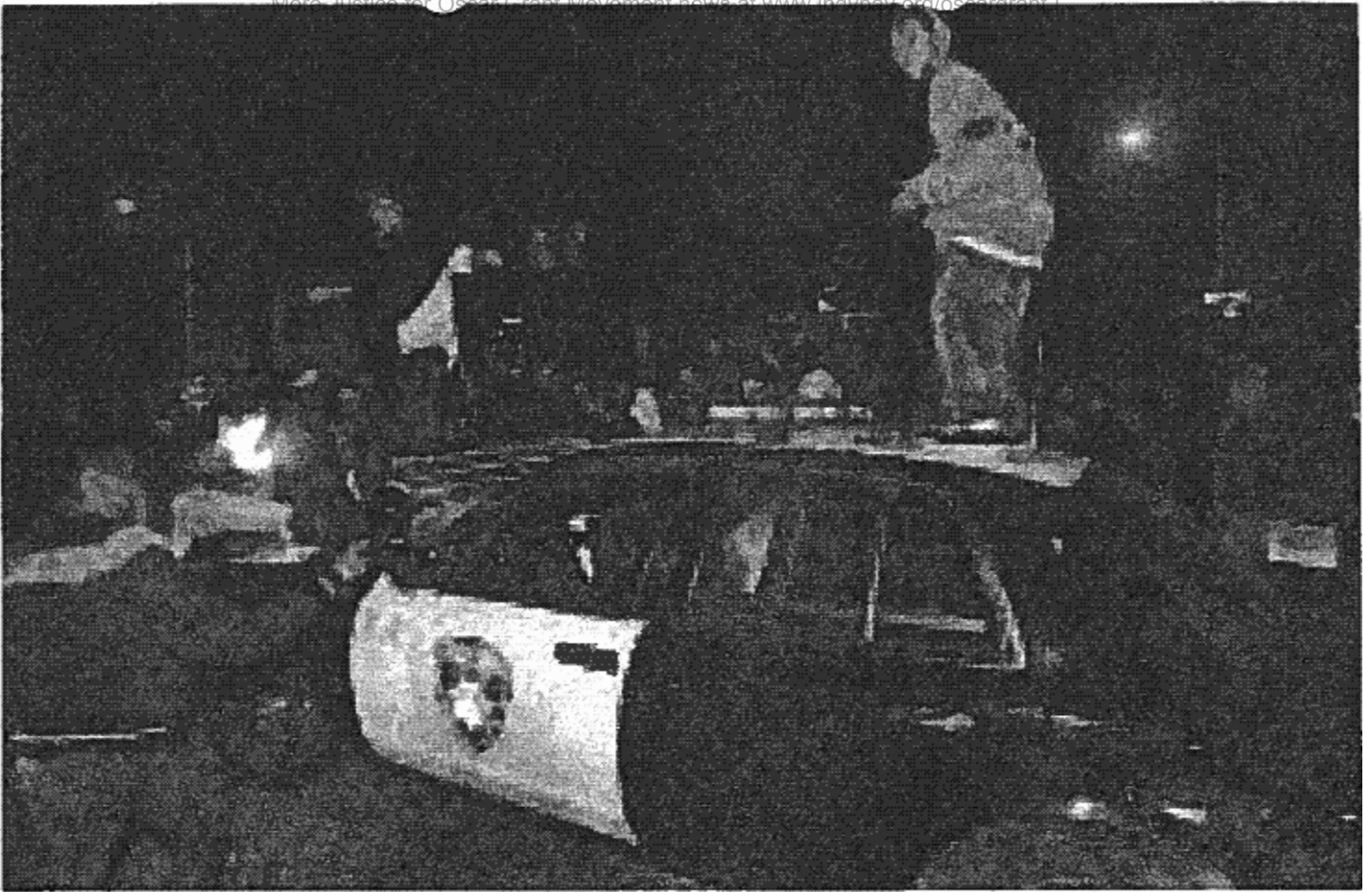
A 30 page analysis of the Oscar Grant shooting titled Justice for Oscar Grant: A Lost Opportunity?

<http://advancethestruggle.files.wordpress.com/2009/07/oscargrantpamphletasblog.pdf>

IMAGES (a sampling of potentially prejudicial images taken from the group's website)



Justice for Oscar Grant:
A Lost Opportunity?



[Please credit Indybay.org if this document used as source material elsewhere.
More Justice for Oscar Grant Movement news at www.indybay.org/oscargrant.]



Bring the Ruckus – Oakland Chapter

<http://bringtheruckus.org/about>

SNAPSHOT (a summary of the group's web presence and professed activities gathered from its website)

A national organization of revolutionaries organized to fight white supremacy and build dual power. The Oakland chapter of Bring the Ruckus responded to the Advance The Struggle, Oscar Grant pamphlet (see above) with their own publication titled Bring the Struggle, Advance the Ruckus, available here: <http://bringtheruckus.org/node/90>. They group provided support for the January 14, 2009 "PROTEST THE MURDER OF OSCAR GRANT III & ALL VICTIMS OF POLICE BRUTALITY" action, in Oakland, while advancing as their main message "Please Don't Shoot".

WHO THEY ARE & WHAT THEY BELIEVE (a summary of the group's own description of its activities, as professed on the group's website)

By the Ruckus Collective,
Phoenix, 2001

Over the last few years there has been a growing discussion among revolutionaries of the need for a national or continental anti-authoritarian revolutionary organization. This discussion has emerged from several contexts, including the death of the Love and Rage Revolutionary Anarchist Federation, the anti-globalization protests that began in Seattle in 1999, and by criticisms of the whiteness of the American left made primarily by revolutionaries of color. World and national events also seem to justify such discussion: globalization, the persistence of the American racial order, and the bankruptcy of reformist movements from the left, right, and center. Yet if talk about the need for a new organization is abundant, steps toward building it have been awkward. Much talk is simply recycled debate over violence and organizational structure, while other debates, such as over strategy, have been largely overlooked.

It is with the intention of furthering debate about a new revolutionary organization that this document was written. The Ruckus collective (no relation to the Ruckus Society) formed in Phoenix, Arizona, in 1997 to discuss revolutionary politics at a local and national level and to develop a revolutionary praxis. Our main contribution locally has been the creation of Phoenix Copwatch, which has been patrolling the streets since early 1999. Several months ago we began talking about the need for a national or continental revolutionary organization. This led us to embark on a program of study with the goal of creating a proposal for a membership-based national or continental revolutionary federation. During this time we studied a number of past revolutionary groups, focusing particularly on their politics, program, structure, and strategy.

The principles outlined below express the conclusions we have reached so far in our study. This is by no means a complete manifesto or political statement. It is simply an outline of principles we believe should be embraced by a new revolutionary organization. It is our hope that this document will not only add to the debate on the structure and politics of a new organization but help to push the development of such a group to the next level.

Neither the Vanguard nor the Network

A revolutionary organization for the 21st century needs to forge a path between the Leninist vanguard party favored by traditional Marxist parties and the loose "network" model of organizing favored by many anarchists and activists today. The purpose of a revolutionary organization is to act as a cadre group that develops politics and strategies that contribute to mass movements toward a free society.

It is not a vanguard group. It does not seek to control any organization or movement, nor does it pretend that it is the most advanced section of a struggle and thus has the right to act in the interests of the masses. Instead, it assumes that the masses are typically the most advanced section of a struggle and that the cadre perpetually strives to learn from and identify with the masses. At the same time, a cadre organization does not pretend it doesn't provide leadership for larger movements, nor does it pretend that leadership is inherently authoritarian. A cadre organization does not seek to control any organization or movement, it aims to help lead it by providing it with a radical perspective and committed members dedicated to developing its autonomous revolutionary potential. A cadre group should debate those politics and strategies that best imagine and lead to a free society and then fight to enact them in mass-oriented organizations and movements.

A cadre is not an umbrella organization. It does not participate in any and all kinds of progressive social activism. Instead, a cadre group seeks out, helps develop, and supports those forms of agitation that undermine the rule of official society and that in some way prefigure the new society. In other words, the organization would not actively support any kind of activism but only those struggles that hold the potential of building a dual power. We imagine that such a revolutionary organization would be to contemporary movements what the FAI was to the CNT in Spain or the First International was to the European working class movements: a membership organization of like-minded persons committed to developing and encouraging the autonomous revolutionary tendencies in our present society.

A Democratic Structure

In the proposed organization, all power and authority should be transparent, accountable, distributed democratically, and effective. We believe the structure for a new organization should be based on the following principles:

1. **Direct democracy.** All members should have an equal say in those affairs that affect the organization. Unlike democratic centralism, this would include the right to freely express disagreements with decisions made by the majority. This type of democracy doesn't mean that a minority faction can disrupt the decisions of the majority, which tends to occur in loose network structures (i.e. consensus processes).
2. **Membership.** The organization should be a membership organization. Only members ought to make decisions about and act on the behalf of the organization. The organization should be controlled only by those who commit themselves to it. Criteria for membership should be clearly established, along with criteria for suspending or expelling members who violate the organization's principles. Membership criteria should include both political and financial commitments to the organization.
3. **Local branches.** The group should be organized into local branches. One criteria of membership would be to join a local branch or to form one if one doesn't exist.
4. **Effectiveness and accountability.** A democratic means of making decisions and carrying them out should be established. Members who do not meet their responsibilities should be held accountable for failing to do so.

Against the White Race

The proposed organization's priority should be to destroy white supremacy. White supremacy is a system that grants those defined as "white" special privileges in American society, such as preferred access to the best schools, neighborhoods, jobs, and health care; greater advantages in accumulating wealth; a lesser likelihood of imprisonment; and better treatment by the police and the criminal justice system. In exchange for these privileges, whites agree to police the rest of the population through such means as slavery and segregation in the past and through formally "colorblind" policies and practices today that still serve to maintain white advantage. White supremacy, then, unites one section of the working class with the ruling class against the rest of the

working class. This cross-class alliance represents the principle obstacle, strategically speaking, to revolution in the United States. Given the United States' imperial power, this alliance has global implications.

The central task of a new organization should be to break up this unholy alliance between the ruling class and the white working class by attacking the system of white privilege and the subordination of people of color. This is not to say that white supremacy is the "worst" form of oppression in this country, nor is it to imply that if white supremacy disappears then all other forms of oppression will magically melt away. Instead, it is a strategic argument, based on an analysis of U.S. history, designed to attack the American death star at its weakest point. The glue that has kept the American state together has been white supremacy; melting that glue creates revolutionary possibilities.

Against the State

The proposed organization should be anti-statist. The function of the state is to 1) perpetuate the rule of the oppressing class and 2) maintain its own power. It therefore has nothing to do with a free society and should be abolished. A revolutionary strategy seeks to undermine the state by developing a dual power strategy. A dual power strategy is one that directly challenges institutions of power and at the same time, in some way, prefigures the new institutions we envision. A dual power strategy not only opposes the state, it also prepares us for the difficult questions that will arise in a revolutionary situation.

The organization should also support the principle of self-determination, or the right for people to control their own life and destiny. Movements for self-determination have often assumed the politics of nationalism. Anarchists have traditionally rejected nationalism as a tool of oppression. We recognize that anti-statism and nationalism are often contradictory tendencies, since nationalism often supports the creation of nation-states. However, nationalism has also been a liberating force in world history, particularly in the struggle against colonialism. Thus, despite its contradictions nationalist struggles cannot be rejected out of hand by anti-authoritarian revolutionaries. The task is to develop anti-statist tendencies within nationalist movements, not to denounce the struggles of oppressed peoples because they assume a nationalist form.

A Feminist Organization

Any new organization should be explicitly feminist, in several ways. First, a revolutionary organization should have a radical feminist analysis of our society that challenges male dominance, compulsory heterosexuality, and the bipolar gender system that forces humans into "male" and "female" and "masculine" and "feminine" categories. Second, its internal operations (organizing structure, allocation of positions of leadership, meeting procedures, debating habits, etc.) should ensure women's participation and be strongly aware of practices that tend to favor men's voices over women's. Third, it should be committed to feminist political work, particularly those kinds of agitation that connect struggles against sexism with struggles against white supremacy. Finally, a revolutionary organization needs a feminist vision. It should imagine a world not only without sexism or homophobia but one in which gender relations are completely transformed. Toward this end, it should encourage resistance to masculine/feminine gender borders and encourage people to critique and explore their desires rather than repress them.

Strategy

The proposed federation should recognize that political theory, no matter how strong, can accomplish little if it is not combined with effective strategy. The actions taken by the organization, its involvement in mass movements, and its public statements should all be determined on a strategic basis. The focus of our work should be involving ourselves in movements and activism where there is the potential to work toward the building of a dual power. Social reforms won by progressive movements may be important, but if they do not

work toward a dual power they are not the concerns of a revolutionary organization. For example, animal liberation is a worthy cause. However, it is difficult to imagine how a campaign for animal liberation could threaten state power and foreshadow a new society. Thus, while a revolutionary organization may applaud animal liberation activities, it would not devote energy toward animal rights. On the other hand, a program to develop local Copwatch chapters could represent a dual power strategy, since monitoring the police undermines state power by disrupting the cops' ability to enforce class and color lines and also foreshadows a new society in which ordinary people take responsibility for ensuring the safety of their communities.

Thus, campaigns developed by the organization that do not contribute toward the building of a dual power should be abandoned. If a popular protest movement has little hope of building a dual power, it is not one we should be collectively involved in. We may morally and politically approve of such movements but as a small group with limited resources, we must reject the liberalism of reform activism and concern ourselves with revolutionary strategy.

Vision

One of the great failings of modern radical organizations has been the failure to provide a strong vision of a new society. We are able to say what we are against but rarely what we are for. One purpose of a revolutionary organization is to provide people with a vision of a world worth fighting for. Lack of vision is one of the reasons why radicals have historically failed to win the working class to their politics. Unfortunately, the fascist right has not failed in this task; they offer a clear vision of the world they want to create. If we continue to fail to offer a vision of our own, we cannot expect to win people over to revolutionary politics.

Bring the Ruckus

This proposal is the product of our readings and discussion on various radical organizations and movements over the past year, ranging from works produced by the Black liberation struggle, women's liberation, the abolitionists, and both classical and contemporary revolutionary anarchism. The praxis addressed within is also based on our experience with grassroots political work, particularly in Phoenix Copwatch.

If you are interested in the politics of this proposal and would like to discuss it further, we encourage you to [contact us](#).

Deep Oakland

<http://www.deepoakland.org/project?id=130&project=130>

SNAPSHOT (a summary of the group's web presence and professed activities gathered from its website)

An Oakland-based community arts group dedicated to gathering images and articles about the Oscar Grant shooting, from citizens and the media.

WHO THEY ARE (a summary of the group's own description of its activities)

Cities are more than the people, buildings and geographical areas that define them. They are a nexus of connections creating active, vital communities. The size and shape of these connections may be invisible, even to the residents of a given city. And the location where one thing in the city connects to another thing is often on the move. Points of connectivity may be small, short-lived, visible only on a one-block radius. Connections mutate. Yet the way a city 'looks' from the outside (media) can remain proportionately static with the actual generation and re-generation of communities over time, the transit and intersections of people, water, money, memory, ballots, animals, concrete, water, labor, food and information.

Affiliated with neither the tourism nor better business bureaus, Deep Oakland seeks to create a compendium of inter-linked images, text and sound that represent the complications and vitality of Oakland's current moment.

This project is ongoing. As the website grows, we will continue to solicit and present archival and current materials from a diverse range of Oakland writers, artists, community leaders and organizations, materials that engage or investigate the city's ecology, economics, politics, development, history and the arts.

Our hope is that Deep Oakland will both serve as a location for conversation to begin, and will extend conversations already in progress, to the point of critical mass where the interconnectivity of the activities of these disparate activists, artists and writers becomes visible and begins to positively impact the Oakland community and the world at large.

Deep Oakland is a project of A'A' Arts (501c3), sponsored and supported by Mills College and the James Irvine Foundation.

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Stephanie Young

Managing Editor:

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David Harrison Horton

Juliana Spahr

Dillon Westbrook

WHAT THEY BELIEVE (as professed on the group's website)

Project: His Name is Oscar Grant

"His Name is Oscar Grant" says graffiti beneath a mural at 11th St. & Broadway, the mural depicting civic harmony and multiethnic commuters exiting a BART, now re-captioned: "BART Police Armed with Guns Get to go Home With Wife and Kids."

On January 31, 2008, Oscar Grant was shot in the back by BART police officer Johannes Mehserle on the Fruitvale station platform. Police confiscated phones and other video-capable devices from bystanders on the platform, but several videos made it out and onto YouTube, where they went viral and were aired on local television. On January 7, a demonstration in mourning and protest of Grant's killing (and lack of investigation to that point) was held at the Fruitvale BART station. It evolved into a march along International Blvd., around the edge of Lake Merritt and leading to BART offices/headquarters, where police used tear gas and rubber bullets, sending marchers streaming into various parts of downtown. The ensuing "riots" were covered by the national media, although a steady stream of un-edited images and commentary on YouTube, flickr and various independent media sources tell different narratives of that evening, just as cell phone videos from the shooting told a different story than the one BART officials told in the days immediately following the shooting.

Deep Oakland is collecting as many representations of, and responses to these events as possible, from both Oakland residents and media workers. We're interested in presenting community and independent media footage so that these materials can be accessed easily and considered in relation.

We are also interested in tracking and analysis of corporate media accounts of these events, as such accounts continue to construct a narrative and image system around some ideas of Oakland.

If you have written, read, produced or encountered an article, image, video or audio recording around these events please send a link and/or contact to deep.oakland@gmail.com.

We will continue posting materials ongoingly.

January 22, 2008

The Malcolm X Grassroots Movement

Oakland Chapter

<http://mxgm.org/web/mxgm-condemns/statement-against-the-execution-of-oscar-grant-iii.html>

WHO THEY ARE (a summary of the group's own description of its activities)

The Malcolm X Grassroots Movement is an organization of Afrikans in America/New Afrikans whose mission is to defend the human rights of our people and promote self-determination in our community. We understand that the collective institutions of white-supremacy, patriarchy and capitalism have been at the root of our people's oppression. We understand that without community control and without the power to determine our own lives, we will continue to fall victim to genocide. Therefore, we seek to heighten our consciousness about self-determination as a human right and a solution to our colonization. While organizing around our principles of unity, we are building a network of Black/New Afrikan activists and organizers committed to the protracted struggle for the liberation of the New Afrikan Nation - By Any Means Necessary!

WHAT THEY BELIEVE (as professed on the group's website)

OUR 6 CORE PRINCIPLES

1. We actively support and struggle to defend the Human Rights of Afrikan people in the United States and around the world.
2. We demand Reparations, or repayment for four hundred years of slavery, colonialism and oppression of our people in the United States of America.
3. We promote Self-Determination and must organize for the liberation of the Afrikan nation, held colonized in the United States.
4. We oppose Genocide or the acceptable and calculated killing of our people by individuals, institutions and organizations of the United States government, through lynching, disease, police terror and any other means.
5. We demand the release of activists who have been imprisoned because of their commitment in seeking human rights and liberation for our people. These brothers and sisters are Political Prisoners and should be recognized as such.
6. We actively struggle to End Sexist Oppression. We oppose any form of oppression that limits women from reaching their fullest potential, as manifested in our cultural, economic, political and social institutions, practices and beliefs. We actively oppose those beliefs, ideas, terms, etc. that limit the human worth of women and contribute to violations against women.

Statement against the execution of Oscar Grant III

Written by Malcolm X Grassroots Movement

Oscar Grant - Murdered by Police in Oakland

New Years Day 2009 started with the execution-style murder of 22 year old Oscar Grant III. Brother Oscar became a victim of police terrorism at Oakland's Fruitvale BART (Bay Area Rapid Transit) Station. Brother Oscar was shot, while laying face down, by Bart Officer Johannes Mehserle. While the victim and his friends were cornered in and terrorized by the BART Police. Oscar Grant could be heard saying "...don't kill me, I

have a 4 year old". Oscar and his friends were utilizing the BART stations all night service, an annual process on New Year's Eve.

On January 7th, Oscar's friends and family laid him to rest. The spirit of Oscar Grant lives on as a powerful rally of over 1,000 strong protested and shut down Fruitvale BART Station. A crowd of Bay Area youth, adults, activists and artists demanded that charges be brought against Johannes Mehserle. The people have grown tired of the domestic militarization of Oakland's Black and Brown communities.

Later in the evening of January 7th, a crowd of fed up youth and young adults rebelled in downtown Oakland. Mayor Ron Dellums was forced to come to downtown Oakland. Instead of responding to the crowd's legitimate tone of outrage, the Oakland Police picked up where BART Police left off by terrorizing the crowd and arresting over 150 people.

Many youth are consistently victimized by public services, and treated like new millennium slaves by the transit services they help pay. This atrocity was caught on tape for the world to see. Many people, who have been accused of similar crimes, are immediately jailed, often with high or no bail amounts. The fact that this murder was caught on tape and involves a trained officer of the law speaks of the highest injustice. An outright execution caught on videotape, in the year 2009, with no charges brought against the officer! The United States is an empire bent on staying oppressive regardless of false claims of "change".

The launch of 2009's police oppression continues a racist, militarized method of no accountability. Brother Oscar's murder is no different from the 2008 police killing of 15 year old José Buenrostro-Gonzalez, as well as the 2007 police murder of 20 year old Gary King Jr. A similar BART sponsored execution took place in 1992, when 19 year old Jerrold Hall was shot in the back of the head by Bart Officer Fred Crabtree. Hall was falsely accused of stealing a walkman. No legal action was ever taken against Crabtree.

This is the unfortunate legacy of Oakland youth being targeted and executed. The people of the world have to stand up. We live in an empire that was built upon bloodshed. We must demand accountability. Now is the time to stop Police Terrorism in every Oakland around the world.

Free The Land! Free The People!
The Malcolm X Grassroots Movement

Justice for Oscar Grant III

In response to the January 1st, 2009 Murder of Oscar Grant, the People Demand for:
Former Bart Officer Johannes Mehserle be charged with the murder of 22 year old Oscar Grant III.
That the U.S. Justice Department investigates the incident as a violation of civil rights.
That BART establishes an independent citizens' review board for its officers.
That BART Police Officers be disarmed.

For immediate review by County of Alameda District Attorney - Tom Orloff.
Telephone: (510) 272-6222
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Phone: (510) 272-6222

Pueblo/ People United for a Better Life in Oakland

<http://www.peopleunited.org/oscargrant.html>

SNAPSHOT (a summary of the group's web presence and professed activities gathered from its website)

PUEBLO leaders insist that the tragic killing of 22 year-old Oscar Grant III on New Year's Day and the ensuing protests must be understood as a wake up call to our political leaders about the consequences that result from a lack of effective and independent community oversight. The justified outrage must lead to systemic change if we are to prevent further senseless and needless deaths.

WHO THEY ARE (a summary of the group's own description of its activities)

PUEBLO is a multi-issue community membership organization located at 1728 Franklin Street, Oakland, CA 94612. Its mission is to advocate for the needs of low-income residents of Oakland, most of them people of color, by grassroots organizing, offering leadership training and initiating policy reform.

Since 1989, PUEBLO has won reforms in the areas of public health, education, living wage, environmental justice and youth development, as well as public safety. Among its most notable achievements, PUEBLO initiated the Alameda County Lead-Poisoning Prevention Program that offers free lead screening to low-income cities in Alameda County. That program became a national model, and one of our members is the community representative who sits of the Board that oversees its operation. PUEBLO also persuaded the Oakland Unified School District to provide free measles vaccinations to every Oakland public school student who had not been inoculated, when an outbreak of measles occurred in Oakland in 1989. Its youth leadership mission (Y.O.U.) led the movement, working with other youth organizations, to offer a ballot initiative (Kids First) that required the City of Oakland to allocate 2.5% of its general fund revenues to programs for children and youth. The Measure passed overwhelmingly, and was renewed and amended to double the resource allocation by ballot last November (Measure OO).

In 1993, PUEBLO initiated its Campaign for Community Safety and Police Accountability, in response to outreach efforts that identified police misconduct as a major concern. In 1996, working with the ACLU and the American Friends' Service Committee, PUEBLO sponsored a public hearing on Police Accountability that resulted in an Ordinance strengthening Oakland's Citizens' Police Review Board. In 1998, PUEBLO introduced a Risk Management strategy which was adopted by the City Council that aimed to make the Oakland Police Department financially accountable for the exposure to costly law suits that resulted from police abuse. And, in 2005, PUEBLO conducted a survey, in conjunction with the City of Oakland, which collected data from 1000 Oakland residents who were asked about their recent interactions with Oakland police officers.

However, in late 2003, it became clear to some PUEBLO members that there were some financial irregularities that needed to be looked at. The President and Treasurer of the Board began an inquiry, examining bank records, and determined that PUEBLO had been victimized by some of its Staff. PUEBLO was advised that in order to be able to recover the stolen money, a criminal investigation would have to be initiated, so in the Spring of 2004, soon after the Board terminated all Staff members, a formal complaint was filed with the Oakland Police Department.

The Board resigned, and an interim board was selected to seek a permanent Board of Directors, and restructure the organization. The new Board was appointed by mid 2005, and in 2007, voted to dissolve the non-profit corporation, due to the potential for insolvency as a consequence of earlier years of unpaid debt. This year, PUEBLO's Operations Manager in 2002-2003 was convicted of four felony counts of embezzlement and our former Director has also been charged with felonies.

Despite the harrowing experience and financial crisis, PUEBLO members, many of whom had worked as volunteers for over ten years, chose not to give up their quest for social justice, and decided to re-organize and establish a new non-profit organization. It was felt that keeping the acronym PUEBLO was important, so that our 16 year legacy of accomplishments in Oakland would be honored, so the name of the new organization is People United for a Better Life in Oakland. After applying for a new 501 c 3 status, the members continued to work for social justice under the fiscal sponsorship of the Agape Foundation, until our new non-profit was established in the Spring of 2008.

With a new Board of Directors taking a more hands-on approach to overseeing the mission and operations of the organization, new fiscal directives that provide for transparency and oversight, and growing membership, PUEBLO members have weathered the storm of 2004, and have provided a solid foundation upon which the organization is rebuilding a sustainable infrastructure.

Part of the re-energizing of the organization occurred in the summer of 2007 when PUEBLO initiated a pilot project called Urban Youth Harvest, a public-private collaboration with Mayor Dellums' Office of Sustainability, the Mayor's Commission on Aging, and the Alameda County Health Department. This program was intended to address two pressing problems in our community: the need for jobs for young people and the need for fresh produce for low-income seniors. The program employs young people to harvest the extra produce offered by many homeowners and deliver it to our low-income seniors – usually within an hour or less of its being on the tree!

Although the pilot project lasted only three weeks, and operated in conjunction with an outstanding youth services provider, Youth Uprising, the program gave the organization a focus for its advocacy and a generated a great deal of enthusiasm in the community. In the summer of 2008, it was greatly expanded, attracting interns and collaborations with several organizations including the HOPE collaborative, the People's Grocery and Oakland Berkeley Urban Garden (OBUG). PUEBLO was able to raise funds from the community to support this program, and our fruit donors tripled!

PUEBLO is now on firm footing to re-establish relationships with former funders, to rebuild its staffing, and to continue to serve the Oakland community as it reaches its 20th Anniversary. We are grateful for the ongoing support of foundations and the community, and are particularly proud of the Proclamation we received from Mayor Ronald Dellums, honoring PUEBLO for its contributions to the community and proclaiming November 8th PUEBLO DAY in Oakland!

WHAT THEY BELIEVE (as professed on the group's website)

Oakland Tribune, Jan 16, 2009 by Rashidah Grinage

The tragic killing of Oscar Grant III and the ensuing protests must be understood as a "wake up call" to our political leaders about the consequences that result from a lack of effective and independent community oversight. The reality is that the lack of trust in investigations conducted by law enforcement is what sends our residents to the streets to demand action. Politicians, clergy and citizens alike insist that BART convene a civilian oversight agency to investigate allegations of BART police misconduct.

But there have also been many police-involved shootings within the last several months involving the Oakland Police Department, yet many Oakland residents are not aware that the city of Oakland actually has a Citizens' Police Review Board that employs civilians to investigate allegations of complaints of police abuse. Unfortunately, this independent agency (CPRB) that Oakland created almost 30 years ago has been left to languish because it has been chronically underfunded and under utilized.

Ironically, many more resources have been spent on Internal Affairs, despite widespread mistrust that their investigations are either thorough or objective. It's not surprising to most people that only one in 10 residents who reported having a 'negative' rather than 'positive' experience with the police even bothered to file a complaint. (Survey of Policing in Oakland and the Filing of Complaints/2005 conducted by PUEBLO and the city of Oakland.)

Oakland Mayor Ron Dellums and the City Council must seize this moment and implement the proposal generated by the Police Issues Task Force, in which several PUEBLO members participated, that would greatly reduce the staffing of Internal Affairs and increase the mandate and function of the CPRB to intake and investigate all citizen complaints against police. Doing so would free up at least 10 experienced (an highly paid) sworn officers to do the work that the community needs done, such as investigating homicides and rapes. At the same time, the community would gain confidence in the complaint process because civilians, rather than sworn officers, would be investigating their complaints objectively, professionally and fairly.

Although there are some startup costs associated with increasing the scope of the CPRB, at the end of the third year, the program becomes cost-neutral, and the city will enjoy ongoing and increasing cost savings thereafter. The initial investment is also insignificant when compared to the price we all pay when the public lacks faith in the fairness of the complaint process. These costs are reflected in the multimillion dollar lawsuits for police misconduct, in the millions paid to independent monitors and in the kinds of damage that result from protests that get out of control because of frustration with and distrust of police investigations.

These recent tragic events demand that both the city of Oakland and BART provide and fund adequately credible civilian oversight agencies that offer the promise of justice to victims of police abuse.

Until citizens can feel confident in the investigation of police abuse, we will continue to see the evidence of frustration, despair and anger spilling onto our streets.

Rashida Grinage is the Director of PUEBLO (People United for a Better Life in Oakland), a nonprofit organization that has worked on improving police accountability for more than 15 years. Grover Dye is the chair of PUEBLO's board of directors.

LINKS (a sampling of links on the website with brief descriptions)

Audio of PUEBLO Director Grinage who joined Copwatch and CAPE to discuss the Oscar Grant killing.

<http://www.kpfa.org/archive/id/47444>

Links to photographs and commentary about the Oscar Grant protests

<http://www.indybay.org/newsitems/2009/02/07/18568811.php>

Links to TV coverage of Oscar Grant

KTVU

<http://www.ktvu.com/search/form.html?searchType=site&cx=partner-pub-6068200365010040%3A6uskt3qfbjw&cof=FORID%3A9&ie=ISO-8859-1&q=oscar+grant&stories=on&video=on&sa.x=37&sa.y=9>

CBS 5

<http://cbs5.com/search/Default.aspx?SearchString=bart%20shooting&TabId=0>

ABC

http://abclocal.go.com/kgo/story?section=news/local/east_bay&id=6645777

Gathering For Justice Solidarity for Oscar Grant

<http://gatheringforjustice.ning.com/group/justice4oscargrant>

SNAPSHOT (a summary of the group's web presence and professed activities gathered from its website)

A national group which founded a separate Oscar Grant chapter named Gathering for Justice Solidarity for Oscar Grant, which urges followers to help provide strategic support for the endeavors of CAPE and other Oakland coalitions.

WHO THEY ARE (a summary of the group's own description of its activities)

The mission of The Gathering is to build an Intergenerational, movement, rooted in history, cultures and non-violent direct action to heal communities, build collective strength and generate an environment of hope and opportunity.

Civil rights and social justice organizations have come to understand that collective action on a national basis is required to stop child incarceration and challenge the immoral process which perpetuates an unjust justice system. These groups are working under extremely difficult circumstances and many of them with little or no resources. The Gathering is a national movement that creates a coordinated space to 1) fortify relationships between regional groups, 2) support local endeavors and 3) enhance the ongoing organizing of non-violent direct action training. Central to its mission is strengthening our moral environment.

WHAT THEY BELIEVE (as professed on the group's website)

As all of you know, our comrades in Oakland have been responding to the murder of Oscar Grant III. Yesterday, a peaceful rally and memorial was held by community members and organizations. Over 700 people gathered and mourned Oscar for 3 and half hours. Unfortunately, a splinter group of participants left the rally and began rioting in Oakland. The day began with images of young people calling for an end to police brutality but ended with images of a small group of angry folks setting police cars on fire.

All of our comrades in Oakland are safe and none were involved in the riots. Last night they went on the offensive calling for a nonviolent solution and a plan to harness the anger the rioters feel into productive energy. They have been doing press all day promoting this message and the Mayor of Oakland is meeting with them as this blog is being written.

Oakland needs your help Gathering Family...

They formed an ad hoc coalition called "Coalition Against Police Executions" with three demands:

- 1) All police involved with the incident are criminally prosecuted.
- 2) The city begins an outside independent investigation on the murder of Oscar Grant
- 3) A community task force is empowered to work with BART police on police relations and accountability.

The Oakland coalition needs our support and The Gathering is asking you to do the following things:

- 1) Find an hour or two on wed. Jan. 14, 2009 to host a meeting with your crew to watch the video of the murder and to talk about solutions to end police brutality.
- 2) Get everyone who is a part of your coalition to send the video to 10 of their friends.
- 3) Use this moment as a tool to talk about why violent protest is not the answer.

If your region plans on doing something on Wednesday let us know. We have a press release and outreach plan to make sure Oakland can mention how many states through out the country are in solidarity.

We have set up an Oscar Grant group on the site, so from now on this information will be distributed to folks who are a member of the Oscar Grant group. So if you want to remain involved please become a member of the Oscar Grant group.

Lastly, be on our regional call tomorrow at 4:00pm EST to talk more about our solidarity week and the long term goals Oakland is setting up for themselves. The number is 712- 580-6300 code 786378.

LINKS (a sampling of links on the website with brief descriptions)

Article on the arrest of Masherle

<http://gatheringforjustice.ning.com/group/justice4oscargrant/forum/topics/exoakland-transit-officer-is>

Grant cell phone video and Oscar Grant tribute video

<http://gatheringforjustice.ning.com/group/justice4oscargrant/forum/topics/oscar-grant-videos-and-info>

Article on Gathering's stance on Grant killing

<http://gatheringforjustice.ning.com/group/justice4oscargrant/forum/topics/update-on-day-of-solidarity>

Literature for participants to use at Oakland protests.

<http://gatheringforjustice.ning.com/group/justice4oscargrant/forum/topics/call-to-action-in-kingian>