



POST OFFICE BOX 110034 BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11211

Updates for October 29th

15 Oct - Kings Bay Plowshares Update

On October 24th, all seven of the “Kings Bay Plowshares” activists were convicted of all charges and now face more than 20 years in prison for destruction and depredation of government property in excess of \$1,000, trespassing, and conspiracy. Below are articles to fill out the timeline of events leading up to their convictions.

MORE:

October 15th - Daniel Ellsberg: Plowshares Action Justified to Prevent Omnicide

Last week, accuracy.org released the news release: “The Coming Trial: Activists Facing Decades in Prison for Turning Weapons into Plowshares.”

Today, Daniel Ellsberg, who exposed the Pentagon Papers, said in a statement to accuracy.org: “I strongly endorse the action of civil resistance by the Kings Bay Plowshares 7 defendants who are now on trial for having ‘nonviolently and symbolically disarmed the Trident nuclear submarine base at Kings Bay, Georgia.’ The sign they displayed during their action on the base — ‘The Ultimate Logic of Trident is Omnicide’ — is exactly right. I believe they are definitely entitled to the legal defense, among others, of ‘Justification’ or ‘Necessity:’ that an action which would under other circumstances be illegal can be justified as legal by a reasonable belief that it is necessary to avert a much greater evil: in this case, omnicide, the collateral murder of nearly every human on earth in a war in which the nuclear missiles aboard Trident submarines were launched.

“I lay out the argument for that defense in this case in an affidavit that has been submitted to the court. It is based on an earlier affidavit, much longer and more detailed, with legal references, that I have entered in similar trials of anti-nuclear resistance. A key point is that without the impact on myself of actions of civil resistance during the Vietnam War like those of the defendants in this case — including those of Father Philip Berrigan, the late husband of the current defendant Elizabeth McAlister, and of Dorothy Day, grandmother of another defendant Martha Hennessy — I would never have considered revealing the top secret Pentagon Papers: which legal scholars have described as having had, ‘arguably at least,’ a causal effect in shortening the Vietnam War.

“I believe that omnicide, the end of civilization and most of humanity, will not be averted without a moral transformation and political mobilization that requires actions of civil disobedience — including that of the Kings Bay Plowshares 7— to inspire.”

Ellsberg’s latest book is “The Doomsday Machine: Confessions of a Nuclear War Planner.”

Six of the The Kings Bay Plowshares 7 — activists who entered into a Trident nuclear submarine military base on April 4, 2018 — are available for interviews. Father Stephen Kelly, a Jesuit priest, continues to be in jail. See the website for more information: KingsBayPlowshares7.org.

Their trial is set for Oct. 21 in Brunswick, Georgia. The judge is Lisa Godbey Wood. They still do not know if they will be able to argue various justifications for their actions, like a Defense of Necessity as outlined by Ellsberg.

More information is available at KingsBayPlowshares7.org

October 20th - On Eve of Trial Judge Limits Plowshares’ Defense

The Kings Bay Plowshares 7 long-awaited trial begins on with jury selection at 9 am tomorrow, more than a year and a half after their symbolic disarmament action at the Kings Bay nuclear submarine base in nearby St. Mary's. They acted on the 50th anniversary of the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Friday night, October 18, at 10 pm, Judge Lisa Godbey Wood sent her final ruling on what testimony the defendants will be allowed to present at trial this coming Monday. The judge's ruling had been expected after a hearing on Wednesday.

Expert witnesses for a necessity defense including Daniel Ellsberg and Prof. Frances Boyle and Prof. Jeannine Hill-Fletcher and Mississippi Catholic Bishop Joseph Kopacz for a religious freedom defense have been excluded. However, the deadly nature of nuclear weapons, the meaning of religious symbols and the defendants' motivations will be allowed only brief mention during testimony and cross-examination.

Defendants have been threatened with a mistrial, contempt of court rulings, and severance from the unified trial if they disobey the guidelines.

"We have seen courts exclude information from jurors. The defendants have not been allowed to present their motivation for acting to uncover the nuclear threat in 100 Plowshares actions since 1980," said Laurie DeFlaun of Ithaca, NY responding to the court decision. She is the wife of John Grady of the Plowshares Number Four.

Ellsberg, referring to the KBP7 defendants, said, "An action which would under other circumstances be illegal can be justified as legal by a reasonable belief that it is necessary to avert a much greater evil, in this case omnicide, the killing of nearly every human on Earth, in a war in which the nuclear missiles aboard Trident submarines were launched." For two years the seven defendants studied Ellsberg's *The Doomsday Machine: Confessions of a Nuclear Planner* in preparation for their action. Ellsberg, a former National Security Council member, has unique insider knowledge as author of US nuclear policy and knew of the dozens of times nuclear weapons use was averted within minutes.

International law professor Frances Boyle wrote in a statement, "Today's nuclear weapons establishments as well as the entire system of nuclear deterrence/terrorism currently practiced by all the nuclear-weapon states are criminal — not simply illegal, not simply immoral, but criminal under well-established principles of international law.... All human beings possess the basic right under international law to engage in non-violent civil resistance activities for the purpose of preventing, impeding, or terminating the ongoing commission of these international crimes."

At the Justice Department in Washington on Thursday, supporters delivered to Attorney General William Barr thousands of signatures on a global petition for the dismissal of the charges. Nobel laureates, including Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Mairead McGuire, Beatrice Fihn, and more than 100 other distinguished signers such as Martin Sheen, Angela Davis, and Fr. James Martin joined more than 6,000 signers.

The seven defendants face more than 20 years.

October 25th - Anti-Nuke Protesters Convicted in Break-In at Navy Sub Base

Seven Roman Catholic activists have been convicted of federal crimes for breaking into a Navy submarine base in Georgia to protest nuclear weapons.

The defendants face potential sentences of more than 20 years in prison after being found guilty Thursday of trespassing, destruction of government property and other counts in U.S. District Court in Brunswick.

Prosecutors showed the jury videos the activists took of themselves using wire cutters to enter a locked security gate at Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base on April 4, 2018. Inside the base they spray-painted anti-nuclear messages and hammered on an outdoor display before being arrested.

Defense attorneys argued in pretrial hearings that the activists should not be prosecuted because they acted on sincere religious beliefs. The judge ruled they couldn't use that defense at trial.

16 Oct - Short Update from Xinachtli

You may well have heard from Xinachtli more recently, but if not, a bit of news.

MORE:

"I just saw the Hepatitis C specialist on 09/23/09 and she told me my last blood tests showed the Hep C virus is completely gone, and the medicines worked, and restored my liver to its vigor capacity and free of toxins and viruses. My treatment ends October 6th, and I could be returned to the Allred Unit in Iowa Park, TX anytime after that [depending on how fast Huntsville puts me back on the return chain?]"

He also currently has his typewriter and all his property back (unless they're now in the middle of transferring him and losing it all again).

17 Oct - Prison Radio: "Mumia Abu-Jamal Just One Step from Freedom" notes Maureen Faulkner

From the minute Mumia picked up a microphone and a pen at the age of 14, Philadelphia's notoriously racist police department has been seeking to silence him.

MORE:

Just look at the FBI files- documenting that the Philadelphia PD Civil Disobedience Unit Red Squad trailed him -- and the Police Chief Frank Rizzo targeted him -- feeding his name to the FBI to put him on the "security index." Mumia was literally covering community events and rallies, and writing for the Black Panther Party Paper, all this while he was still in his teens!

During the 1995 PCRA hearings, 13 years after Mumia's questionable murder conviction, a Philadelphia police officer was heard by a *New York Times* reporter outside the courtroom saying "we should have executed him that night."

Remember: it was Philly cops who shot Mumia. The Philly cops who brutally beat him at the scene, in the police wagon, and on the floor of the Jefferson Hospital emergency room entrance.

Joe McGill, the prosecutor on Mumia's case, and Ed Rendell, the District Attorney at the time, worked closely with the police to frame and convict Mumia for the Dec. 9th 1981 murder of Philadelphia police officer Daniel Faulkner.

In 2020, a new hearing in Philadelphia Common Pleas could be, and should be, free from bias. Everyone knows that Mumia's trial judge in 1981-1982 was a stone cold racist. A current sitting homicide judge on the Common Pleas Court bench has commented that Albert Sabo was "the most racist and sexist judge I have ever met."

Here is information that has been suppressed and buried for decades and now could be available for the first time during a new trial:

- Did DA Joe McGill pay off witnesses with favors and cash?
- Did McGill allow the cabbie with a suspended license to keep driving? Photos of the crime scene by the Philadelphia Bulletin prove the cab driver's car was literally not at the scene.
- Did Joe McGill illegally remove Black jurors because of their race?
- Did Joe McGill track and fix the outstanding cases of other key witnesses?
- Did the DA's office for 37 years withhold and suppress critical information from Mumia's criminal defense team?

- Did judge Albert Sabo state "I am going to help them fry the n*****" in front of Judge Richard Klein and court clerk Terry Maurer Carter?
- Did Alfonso Giordano Philadelphia Police Commander-- the highest-ranking officer on the scene of officer Faulkner's murder on Dec. 9th 1981 falsely state that Mumia confessed while he was beating him in the police van? At the time Giordano was under federal scrutiny for running gambling, extortion and payoffs and thus not used as a trial witness. He testified at pretrial hearings but was not "available" at trial. He retired the day after Mumia was found guilty, with full pay. Soon thereafter he pleaded guilty to tax evasion for the bribes taken from illegal gambling in East Division, 29 officers were convicted in just that scandal alone.

A few months ago, I got a chance to speak with Maureen Faulkner. I asked her: "What did she think was going to happen next in Mumia's case?"

She replied: "You have to go to Prison Radio's website and listen. Judith Ritter, Mumia's lawyer really thinks they have a chance."

Maureen, paused, and continued. She had to admit:

"We are in a really hard spot. There is not much we can do, the way it is going...We have to fight to keep Mumia in prison as long as possible."

Finally the tides are turning. Justice is palpable.

While Maureen Faulkner, widow of Daniel Faulkner, is being put forward as the face of the opposition in recent court proceedings, the real players behind the scenes are the Fraternal Order of Police. And they are worried. There is a lot of self-interest on the part of the 6500-member Philadelphia Police Union in toppling Larry Krasner, the popular new DA with an anti-corruption agenda.

Early this fall, in a groundbreaking development, Krasner filed a brief in Superior Court (see sidebar) agreeing that a new evidentiary hearing should be held in Mumia's case by the Philadelphia Common Pleas court. "The Commonwealth does not oppose defendant's motion for a remand to the PCRA court for defendant to present newly-discovered evidence."

This PCRA hearing would evaluate the evidence found in the six previously undisclosed banker boxes from Storage Room 17, that Larry Krasner found after taking office and turned over to the defense. Maureen Faulkner tried to file an objection to the seeking removal of Krasner's office. But just last week, her pro se application to intervention in the Superior Court Appeal was denied.

Fast forward to October of 2019, "Mumia Abu-Jamal is just one step away from Freedom", Maureen announced at her press conference at the DA's office at 3 Penn Square in Philadelphia.

Things are changing. Grassroots organizing popularly elected a progressive District Attorney Larry Krasner who is willing to hold the police and former district attorneys accountable. It has been 37 years, and we are closer to justice than we have been since the 1995 PCRA hearing. The courts may be slow to follow, but there is no way to go back. We are on the path to freedom.

You have been there, making it happen, each and every single step. Thank you.

We all must remember that the Philadelphia police have been violent and racist and corrupt for decades. They have a lot to lose if Mumia wins—because when Mumia wins, the forces that support Black dignity and freedom are winning.

Let us not misunderstand the depth of racism - throughout the police department in Philadelphia. Here is a picture of the brand new (this month) acting Police Chief Christine Coulter. Here she is wearing an LAPD

t-shirt mocking the beating of Rodney King. "LAPD "We treat you like a King". She did not resign when this photo surfaced.

John McNesby, the FOP Lodge 5 President, is deeply invested in continuing the brutal power that the Philly police department enjoyed in the past. At the FOP Lodge Five Event in April he tells his brother officers: "Krasner is going after cops instead of keeping this city safe...We have so many officers on the do-not-call list, we could invade Cuba". This was a riff on the line by former Mayor and Police Chief Frank Rizzo that "We could invade Cuba and win". The "do not call list" includes officers designated by the DA's office as not available to testify at trial because they have been caught by the courts "test-a-lying" or they have been indicted.

The scandals regarding police corruption are splashed across the Philadelphia Inquirer's front page each and every single week. This week another African-American man was exonerated after proving police falsification of evidence. Willie Veasy's return to his family after 27 years of bondage was the 10th so far this year.

Mumia Abu-Jamal will follow Willie Veasy out of imprisonment. But only because thousands of you have stood by him and committed to this fight for justice. We still have work to do, we still need every one of you to make sure that justice is done and Mumia comes home.

20 Oct - Short message from Ferguson prisoner Josh Williams on Atatiana Jefferson

Ferguson prisoner Josh Williams has asked for people to share the following short statement from him.

MORE:

"#justice4atatiana jefferson and her family

Cory Hughes is speaking for them he is at Fort Worth. Atatiana Jefferson. Blast this online immediately, this is murder again, this is bullshit, turn the fuck up. This shit will stop right now, it's no longer obeying them and waiting till they have their investigation. Fuck that shit, turn up for the family, this woman got shot in front of HER FUCKING NEPHEW. THIS IS A DEMAND TO ACTION NOT A CALL TO ACTION IT A DEMAND JUST LIKE WE DID FOR MIKE. LET'S DO IT FOR THEY FAMILY TELL THE FAMILY THEY GOT MY SUPPORT EVEN IN PRISON. October 11 2019 is when she got killed by Fort Worth police while unarmed."

21 Oct - RAM Statement Against New NYC Prison Construction

Statement from the Revolutionary Abolitionist Movement (RAM) about the recent decision in New York City to build four new jails in the area.

MORE:

After years of calls to shut down the brutal penal colony that is Rikers Island, the state surveyed the landscape of dissent, as all colonizers do, and formed a plan to crush, co-opt and exploit the people's fight for liberation. The state focused its glowing red eyes on what could be gained from the disaster it created. It folded in its tiny ears to block out the deafening legacy of slavery, very much alive today. It flared its nostrils to detect its prey, and then opened its monstrous jaws to devour the vision of the people. Abolition is the vision of the people. Those of us who envision abolition see ourselves in it, engaged with it, in complicated and committed ways. We see a multiplicity of responses to suffering, formed and practiced within families, between friends, and among neighbors. We see a community of strong, caring and wise people with the capacity to lift one another up, without the violent intervention of the state and its proxies.

In its vote yesterday to build four new jails, the city, buttressed by a putrid sea of nonprofits, failed to recognize the wisdom of the people. In the months leading up to the vote, the city got a whiff of the people's power, they got spooked and they pounced to control every aspect of the narrative and, of course, the purse strings. The bald-faced wheeling and dealing of resources in exchange for carceral power is

explained in abstract reports and dystopian renderings. There's no attempt to hide the transactional nature of their plan because trading human lives for political clout is the expected and agreed upon outcome of a capitalist democracy. And so, billions of dollars go to secure a future of slavery for generations not yet born.

If the city's nonprofits weren't so blatantly embedded within law enforcement (with the same organizations in unquestioning, dutiful compliance with prosecutors and jailers), perhaps we wouldn't see right through their slick attempts to call slavery by another name. Alternatives-to-incarceration, ankle monitors, supervised release, community policing... the flood of euphemisms is astounding, pulling a thin veil over the violent surveillance and genocide of black and brown people, trans and nonbinary people, and people with mental illness.

In the fight against jail construction in NYC, a clear line has been drawn between the reformist compromises forced by capitalist bureaucracy and a true vision of abolition that rejects the false and insulting promise of "humane" slavery. An abolitionist vision does not, and will never, incorporate or tolerate carceral models, even in exchange for critical resources. While that was fiercely clarified throughout this fight, we must take a necessary ideological step to extend our vision of abolition beyond prisons and police. Abolition cannot live and grow without a full reckoning of the society in which prisons can exist. Prison abolition must live inside a larger and longer fight—a fight for the abolition of the state and capitalism. Only when we are liberated from governance that rules from above can we build an abolitionist future.

The state has never given us a reason to trust it, and its latest performance—the song and dance of “decarceration”—changes nothing. We must trust each other, by building revolutionary relationships that actively attack the racist and patriarchal state using violence to hoard power and profit. We will be strategic, creative and relentless in our fight for the abolition of the state, and every incarnation of imprisonment that it manifests.

21 Oct - US prisons to photocopy inmate mail to curb drug smuggling

As always, read corporate media with a critical eye.

MORE:

by Michael Balsamo (*Associated Press*)

The U.S. Bureau of Prisons has started photocopying inmate letters and other mail at some federal correctional facilities across the U.S. instead of delivering the original parcels, in an attempt to combat the smuggling of synthetic narcotics like K-2, officials told The Associated Press on Monday.

The program is being implemented at a “number of Bureau facilities impacted by the increased introduction of synthetic drugs,” the agency said in a statement to the AP. At those jails and prisons, Bureau of Prisons employees are currently copying incoming mail and then distributing the copies to inmates, the agency said.

Officials would not say how many staff members are being assigned to make photocopies or whether they are removing correction officers to perform the task. The initiative raises questions about whether the agency, which has been plagued by chronic staffing shortages and violence, is reassigning staff members to spend time making photocopies instead of watching inmates.

The Bureau of Prisons has faced increased scrutiny since billionaire financier Jeffrey Epstein was able to take his own life behind bars at a federal facility in New York in August. Across the board, the agency has been down 4,000 jobs since 2017. Staffing shortages are so severe that guards routinely work overtime shifts day after day, sometimes being forced to work mandatory overtime.

In the wake of Epstein's death, Attorney General William Barr removed the agency's acting director and named Kathleen Hawk Sawyer, the prison agency's director from 1992 until 2003, to replace him.

Officials did not provide details on the specific jails and prisons where the program is being implemented, but a person familiar with the matter told AP that one of the facilities is USP Canaan, a high-security penitentiary for male inmates in Pennsylvania. The person spoke on condition of anonymity in order to discuss jail operations.

Officials say wardens at each of the facilities have discretion under current policy to order the photocopying because they "may establish controls to protect staff, inmates, and the security, discipline, and good order of the institution."

The agency is also exploring the possibility of using an off-site vendor to scan general correspondence and then send it as electronic files to kiosks in the correctional facilities where inmates would be able to view and print the letters.

The choice to have mail photocopied depends on the size and security level of the correctional facility, as well as the "degree of sophistication of the inmates confined, staff availability, and other variables," the statement said.

22 Oct - Jalil Muntaqim Parole Denied

On October 22nd, NYC Jericho received word that our comrade Jalil Muntaqim was given a 12-month hit by the NYS Parole Board, meaning his parole was again denied.

MORE:

This was a unanimous decision by the Board, despite the fact that Jalil has been in prison since August 28, 1971.

25 Oct - Call to Support Imprisoned Antifascist David Campbell

David Campbell is being unjustly imprisoned for events that unfolded at the protest of a New York City alt-right event on January 20, 2018.

MORE:

A lover of language and the arts, David was two weeks away from moving to Paris to study French translation. It was his commitment to antifascism and his community that brought him out to the protest that night.

At the protest a brawl broke out in which a 56-year-old intoxicated alt-right man was knocked unconscious. During the brawl a police officer, unannounced, threw David to the ground breaking his leg in two places. With no other arrests made on either side, the officer alleged that David had stalked, punched, and strangled the alt-right party attendee, and then tried to strangle the officer himself. These fabrications went on to be circulated by right-wing media.

The initial charges were dropped after surveillance footage failed to back up any of the above allegations. However they were replaced with a more vague and heavy-handed charge of Gang Assault. Gang Assault makes any group of three or more people involved in a fight legally responsible for each other's actions, and carries a steep mandatory minimum of 3.5 years.

After almost two years of legal maneuvering, David took a non-cooperating plea for a sentence of 18 months in a local facility, to avoid a trial and a much longer sentence in a facility far away from his friends and family. During this period the Manhattan DA inexplicably offered much more lenient plea deals involving only community service to a number of alt-right gang members arrested and charged in a separate but very similar case about ten months after David. No justification for these disparate outcomes

has been given by the Manhattan DA. The arresting officer in David's case has not been held responsible for breaking David's leg and lying about David's actions.

Message from David:

I have a confession to make: I'm an antifascist, and I'm going to jail for it. It's a long, complicated story. In a nutshell, I was arrested at a protest against the alt-right in NYC last year. A brawl broke out, and I got caught up in it. A cop tackled me from behind, broke my leg, and lied about it. Tabloids smeared me as a thug and the DA charged me with gang assault, a vague and draconian law. It legally makes any group of 3 or more people engaged in a fight a gang, and makes them all legally responsible for each others' actions, and carries a 3.5 year mandatory minimum. If I go to trial and lose, I do at least 3.5 years in an upstate prison, with Nazi gangs and inmates serving decades, and then at least 5 years parole. The Manhattan DA wants desperately to shoehorn me into the Antifa Bogeyman category and make an example of me. They can probably do it. My superb lawyers at NDS Harlem and the other dozen lawyers I consulted all agreed: short of going to trial and rolling the dice, there's nothing I can do. The Manhattan DA simply doesn't want to let this go. My lawyers generally put my odds at trial around 50-50 at best. I took a terrible plea to cut my losses.

I'll serve 12 months of an 18-month sentence at Rikers starting October 23rd. There will be no Nazis, and no one will be there for longer than 2 years, and I will have no parole. A shit deal, but the least shit we could get.

The past 19 months have honestly been the worst of my life. I'm sentenced to 18 more, and I'm so very ready to begin my sentence. The uncertainty of not knowing has been by far the worst aspect of this whole process. Doing 12 more months with a definite ending will be comparatively easy. I've tried to enjoy my freedom in the face of this carceral deadline and to be grateful for what I have. And indeed, I've had it really good compared to most people who have to do time. Many, many people can't make bail. I had friends step up and plop down a fat wad of cash to secure my release. Thanks to them, I've spent the past 19 months free, and I've tried to live my life to the fullest, despite the psychological torture. I've cooked good food and enjoyed it with family and friends, celebrated Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's and my birthday with people who matter to me. I lived in France for three months with a person that I care deeply about. I adopted a cat and it has given me so much daily pleasure to be kind to a furry little creature, and to see it become kinder and more affectionate in return. I've been hiking and backpacking, I've had bike rides and visits to museums and theaters whose work still leaves me breathless in retrospect. I circumnavigated the globe with a single backpack to remind myself that it is so much bigger and richer than the box into which they're going to put me. I have taken exactly none of this for granted. Of course, I'm sad to go away, but many have been through much worse for much less.

I've had ample time to prepare for my imprisonment, and I've got a solid group of friends that have been there for me every step of the way with everything I've needed—support, security, research, legal aid, connecting me with therapists, self-defense experts, and other activists who have done time. Above all, I have a reason to do time, even if it isn't right that I do it, and that's a very strange but comforting thing, because I'll know while I'm in there that a) it's for a cause I believe in, and b) it's bullshit.

I will miss good food, fresh air, my bed, my friends and family, my cat, art, theater, music, nature, privacy, kindness, cuddling, sex, and of course the freedom to make my own decisions. I will not miss paying rent, social media, the frenetic New York life, the FOMO anxiety that comes with it, or the MTA.

If you're reading this, I'm already in a cage. Contact with the outside world is one of the biggest predictors for good recovery from incarceration. I don't care if we haven't talked in years. Write me, visit me. Free David Campbell has all the info you need.

It's doubtful that any amount of public pressure can get me out of jail, but no matter what happens to me, the precedent for responding to this sort of repression needs to be set. Trump is stacking the courts, both high and low, with unqualified right-wing judges. Legislation proposing penalties in excess of 10 years in

prison for those deemed antifascists, often simply defined as protesting while wearing a mask, is being regularly advanced in both state and federal legislatures. If this is what they do to me, a nerdy, normal-ish young everyday antifascist in 2019, then you can be sure that much, much worse is coming, and possibly for you—unless you make it clear now that this is unacceptable behavior from any government agency in an ostensibly free and fair society. Call bullshit on this. Even if you don't like me, agree with me, or approve of my tactics, call bullshit on this case, for all our sakes.

I'll be writing more about this, and there will be an article coming out soon. In the meantime, write me, visit me, petition for my early release, and keep the faith against the fash. I'll try to take this time to better myself, and to come out without PTSD or a giant facial scar. The only way out is through.

1 Nov - Mutual Aid Disaster Relief Training

WHAT: Workshop

WHEN: 6:00pm, Friday, November 1st

WHERE: Interference Archive—314 7th Street, Brooklyn

COST: FREE

MORE:

“Building the Movement for Mutual Aid” is a 2-part workshop that makes the ideas and practice of Mutual Aid Disaster Relief accessible to everyone!

The first part is an entertaining introductory presentation, “Protectors v. Profiteers: Communities in Resistance to Disaster Capitalism,” utilizing graphics from the Beehive Collective to tell stories about historic and contemporary colonization and the frontline communities that are protecting their land and water.

The Mutual Aid Disaster Relief (MADRelief) Training Team, individuals with direct experience in grassroots humanitarian aid, will explain how natural storms turn into unnatural disasters through dangerous new forms of “disaster capitalism” and “extreme resource extraction” (Part 1) and train diverse affinity groups on principles of grassroots direct action humanitarian aid and crisis response, covering a wide range of topics such as “Principles of ‘Solidarity, Not Charity,’” “Using Privilege to Break Down Barriers,” “Building Power in Collaboration,” and “Overcoming Trauma Together” (Part 2).

The time is right for developing and training a standing network of organizers and volunteers, continually growing in size and efficacy, which will be at-the-ready to respond to natural and unnatural disasters – from hurricanes to hate rallies, from mudslides to mine waste spills – and to help survivors, especially those in marginalized communities, to restore their homes, to build their power, to thrive through cooperation, and to vision a more sustainable future.