

GUERRILLEROS DE LA PLUMA

Journal of the Raza Press and Media Association

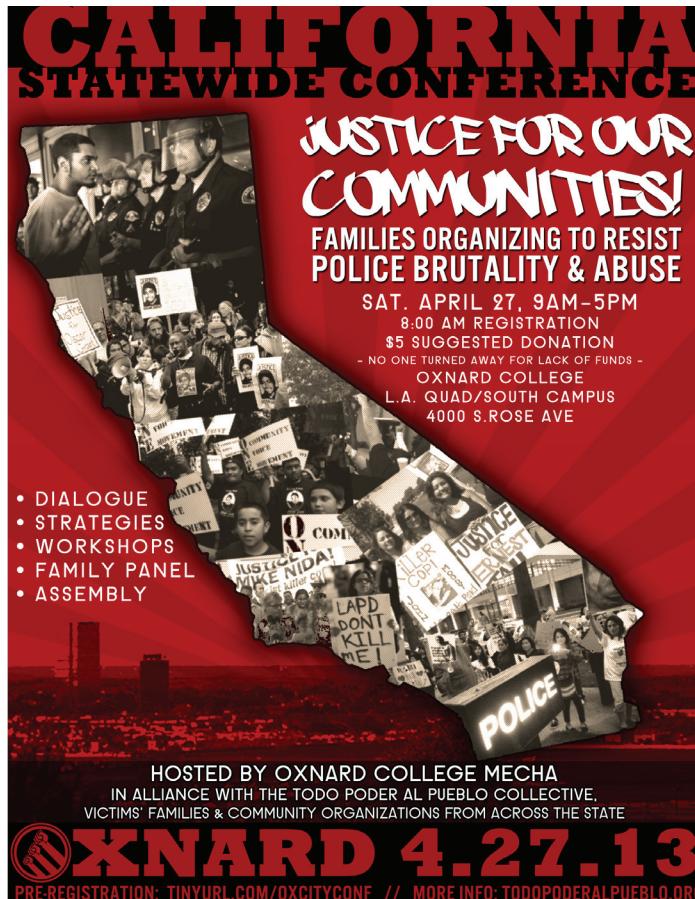
Spring-Summer 2013

IN MEMORY OF ERNESTO BUSTILLOS, 1951-2012 ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE

STATEWIDE CONFERENCE IN OXNARD MARKS A NEW CHAPTER IN THE PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT AGAINST POLICE BRUTALITY

BY THE TODO PODER AL PUEBLO COLLECTIVE

On April 27, 2013, hundreds of people from across California came to Oxnard for the Justice for Our Communities! Families Organizing to Resist Police Brutality and Abuse conference, the first statewide event of its kind. Fueled not only by embitterment and trauma, but also by dignity and hope, families from across the state came together to attend an unprecedented and successful daylong gathering that consisted of several keynote addresses, workshops, and a people's assembly. The goal of the conference, hosted by **Oxnard College MEChA** and organized by the **Colectivo Todo Poder al Pueblo**, was to begin charting a new course for the people's movement against the brutal and daily violence of the police.



Over the last several years our communities have witnessed an acute increase in the adoption of military tactics and technologies by civilian police agencies and the implementation of severely draconian social control implements such as gang injunctions and police partnerships with the Department of Homeland Security. These trends have resulted in a precipitous rise in incarcerations, as well as daily tragedies running the gamut from casual bullying and racial profiling to brazen extra-judicial killings in broad daylight. This coincides with

a boom in the establishment of privately owned and operated prisons and detention centers, as well as the increased reliance of American corporations on profits generated by the coercive (enslaved) labor "employed" in these same modern-day dungeons.

As we noted during the opening statement to the conference,

"The poor themselves have been criminalized. Whether it's mental illness, drug addiction, an inability to pay child support, a lack of documentation for economic refugees, et cetera – all these problems, rooted in poverty and desperation, have become equivalent to high crimes... Then there's driving while black or brown, or walking while black or brown, both of which we've seen are

capital crimes in the eyes of the pigs. These problems are inseparable from the nature of capitalism itself."

We've also witnessed positive signs in the form of a vocal and visible mass sentiment that rejects these hopelessly adverse conditions. The era of the protracted "economic crisis" and the post-September 11 "Homeland Security State" has become increasingly punctuated by the emergence of spontaneous outbreaks of rage and demands for justice on a mass scale. These have manifested themselves in differing degrees and in different ways, from the uprisings surrounding the police killings of

A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

It has been the tradition for our Guerrilleros de la Pluma to highlight an aspect of our community's struggle, the role of the media in (mis) representing it, and how that aspect of struggle or sector of our Movimiento shows the need for the building of an independent Raza Press as a vehicle for political consciousness towards liberation.



"NSA Scandal": published in China Daily, June 13, 2013

This Spring/Summer 2013 Edition is dedicated to State Repression and Peoples' Resistance. We are living in a time in which the criminalization of our Raza and other colonized/oppressed peoples within the current political borders of the "US" is at an all-time high. We live in a time where drones fly overhead, ICE Raids and Migra Pigs are kicking down our doors, "gang injunctions" restrict where we can walk and who we can talk to, and the mass incarceration of Raza is climbing at staggering rates. Once in their jails and prisons our

people are subjected to the inhumane conditions like the Security Housing Units and are made modern-day slaves for the Prison Industrial Complex. The imposed border that cuts our Patria in half and from the rest of Latin America is militarized every day while the "American People" (white settlers) clamor for more guns, more drones, and more killing. Criminalization and repression are the order of the day.

In this issue we highlight some of the struggles that have been taking place throughout Califas and Aztlan to confront the mechanisms of repression and the forces that operate them. We have seen a tremendous upsurge of struggle that has bypassed the admonitions of many of our "appointed leaders" to "go slow" and "be responsible." This is the authentic voice of the masses of our people, along with other colonized

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

RPMA CONSTITUTION (RATIFIED JANUARY 24, 2008)

OBJECTIVES:

- Create a movement of progressive and revolutionary media workers
- To establish a raza news wire service.
- Hold ongoing workshops and conferences to advance Raza Press, Media, and Popular Expression.
- Establish an editorial board to oversee joint publications.
- Pool existing resources to assist publications and to establish new ones.
- Establishment of a collection of periodicals, past and current.

PRINCIPLES OF UNITY :

- Must Be Raza publications/media workers who are independent of government agencies.
- Members must support Raza self-determination.
- Must adhere to democratically-reached decisions.
- Must support general objectives of the Association.
- Must support the struggles of other indigenous people, Latino Americanos (Raza), and all oppressed peoples within and outside the U.S.

MEMBERSHIP PRIVILEGES/BENEFITS:

- Admission to all RPMA events (conferences, summits, etc.)
- Membership Card and RPMA Press Card .
- RPMA Reference (for employment, grant purposes etc.).



Guerrillera/os de la Pluma

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RAZA PRESS, MEDIA, AND POPULAR EXPRESSION

- Technical assistance in media production.
- Voice in the direction of the RPMA.
- Knowing that you are fighting for justice, peace, and liberation

STRUCTURE:

- Mesa Directiva/Editorial Board will consist of a) Coordinator, b) Events, c) Membership, d) Publications, and e) Member-at-Large.
- Mesa will serve as coordinating body to ensure communication and completion of tasks.
- Mesa will also serve as Editorial Board for all RPMA

PUBLICATIONS:

- Standing Committees will be established as needed.
- Mesa Directiva will organize a yearly summit or conference.

THE LATEST “IMMIGRATION REFORM” SPIN AND WHAT IT REALLY MEANS

BY PABLO ACEVES

This last round of debate on what is being termed as “substantial immigration reform” is once again at the forefront of news reporting in both English and Spanish language media. It is also on the minds and the subject of discussions with most of our *gente*. Everywhere we go, we hear that “this time” there will be comprehensive reform and that there will be a resolution for the millions of our people whose lives exist in a kind of limbo because they don’t possess the “proper” white settler-colonial documents demanded of us to live on our own land.

This is not an article talking about “negotiating” the Bracero Program, or debating whether two new fences and five new drones are better than four new fences and ten drones. It is not discussing the merits of “path to citizenship” or whether it is ok or not to require our *gente* to learn English to be considered “worthy” of a *Mica*. This is an article addressing the context itself of so-called “legalization” by a White Power structure and what our community can expect from the current debate and negotiations. We are not here to quibble over the specific measures and ask if expanding bullets should be scrapped for “regular bullets” because expanding ones “cause a lot more damage.” What we will do here is analyze what this “reform” means to our community, give it a context in the overall struggle for *Raza* Liberation, and expose those who are peddling this as the “best we can hope for at this time.”

For at least the past 6 years on International Workers Day, May 1st mobilizations are organized to call for



“comprehensive immigration reform.” *Raza* responds in large numbers, but we are not being mobilized to march to demand anything of historical consequence. We are not being mobilized to let the *sistema* know that we are an indigenous people and that no gringo occupation government is going to determine our legality in our own land. We are certainly not being mobilized to protest US Imperialism in Latin America that has plundered so many countries and caused for mass migrations north to *Aztlan*.

The reality is that *Raza* are being mobilized to beg to stay in our own land and to show the Democratic Party that our “leaders” can mobilize American flag-wavers to get out the vote. The underlying theme is not “this is our land” but rather “please let us stay.” The rationale given to us by these “leaders” is that the masses of our people want to have their situation normalized, that they need to come out of the shadows, and this is the most outrageous, that

this is what the “people” want. What they in fact are saying is that the time of “rhetoric” and “political positions” is over and that we must “assist the people in gaining legal status.” What they advocate is a position that says that we must “carry whatever flag will get us the so-called reform. Over the past decade as never before we as a community have fallen victim to this accommodation politics disguised as inclusion. They paint those of us who question or reject these “reforms” as being “irresponsible,” “not grounded in reality,” and of being too idealistic.

This ahistorical position that is being pushed is not only absurd but dangerous to our survival as a people. Currently, millions of our *gente* are being convinced by these “leaders” that there is hope if they will just put their faith in Obama and the Democratic Party. There is very little discussion addressing more important issues, like the militarization of the border, the

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

FROM PAGE 3: "IMMIGRATION REFORM" SPIN
terrorism by police in our communities, and the union-busting slave labor program disguised as a "Guest Worker Program."

We are being told that this is the "best we can expect" and that "militant tactics and rhetoric" no longer work to achieve our ends. Confronted with this statement we need to ask the following important question: What evidence is there that the tactics of selling out to the Democratic Party or Republican Party, in some cases, has ever worked for us? In recent years, *Raza* has played a key role in getting presidents elected. We have marched in record numbers, more than at the height of the Chicano Power Period. Our community has listened to our leaders as well as to the Spanish-language media and dressed in white with American flags so not to offend the gringos. If this is the correct tactic and the results are more "Hispanic" elected officials than ever, a "Black" President who is supposed to be our friend, why then are there more deportations, more militarized borders, and our *gente* catching hell out on the streets?

VENDIDOS AND POVERTY PIMPS: THE ONLY "WINNERS"

If past initiatives and partial "legalization" of our people are any indication, the Hispanic *vendidos* stand to be the only winners in our community. Immigration reform is always a cottage industry for neighborhood shysters, con artists, and for non-profit agencies who obtain contracts to prepare paperwork, conduct English Classes, and provide a variety of training workshops to applicants. Millions of dollars have gone and will go to these brokers to "legalize" our people. The Hispanic Democratic Party hacks will again be rewarded with staff positions as they impress their bosses with our community buy-in. But what do our people get in return? The ability to come out of the shadows and onto a "path to citizenship" that takes 13 years to reach and another ten years to achieve. In the end, this process provides no guarantee that it will not lead to deportation. For those "lucky" enough to stay, will inherit a militarized community to be intimidated on a daily basis with the threat of deportation. Rather than providing a secure future, it creates instead a docile labor force afraid to organize in its own defense. We need to expose this injustice and bring the debate back to where it belongs.

WHO IS MORE WORTHY TO STAY ON THEIR OWN LAND

Totally absent is the historical analysis of how absurd it is for us to be begging to stay in our own land. More absurd is the idea that some of us are more worthy to be considered and that by so doing would be giving the oppressor the power to decide. This is what we see with "Deferred Action," the "Dream Act" and other such initiatives that are intended to pit us into a competition over who has more value. Not only are they pitting sectors of our people against each other but they are setting up a type of lottery for us to fight over. We hear the idiotic rhetoric about how some are "here through no fault of our own" and forcing a wedge between them and the *Raza* migrating here to escape poverty caused by trade pacts such as the North American and Central American Trade Agreements imposed by U.S.-led capitalists.

This rhetoric categorizes those youth in question as "Americans" or that "want to be Americans" disguises the danger that they must do their "penance" by joining the imperialist war-machine to go kill other oppressed peoples. This becomes the system's insurance policy against rebellion and brainwashes our youth to be loyal to the system that oppresses them and not convinces them to not join the Movimiento for self-determination that defends them. The ultimate irony is that these are the potential future FBI, migra, and police who will be attacking our community, or *vendido* brokers who can be paraded as those that have "made it." The system keeps setting the terms, rules and parameters of the struggle.

THE "LEFT FORCES" WHO HAVE GIVEN UP ON STRUGGLE

In a recent piece, entitled "The Death of the Chicano Left," published online on Counterpunch, Rudy Acuña's central thesis was that there is no real significant "left voice" attempting to stop the excesses of the new "immigration reform" being debated in Congress. He makes special mention of the "Guest Worker" program and that there is no force to protect labor rights and other human rights guarantees. He also discusses that liberals don't want to rock the boat and cites some strong examples of this including the lack of a fight from most "prominent immigrant rights" forces on issues such as border militarization and ICE raids, which even under the most "progressive" versions of "reform" will continue unabated. In fact, more and more, forces who once defined themselves as "leftists," "indígena," or "progressive" are going along with the program. We hear from them of how we have to move "beyond identity politics" and "protect the children" and other such nonsense that justifies not taking a stand against colonialism. This approach compartmentalizes our struggle and places the "immigration struggle" as a pragmatic humanitarian venture, instead of an integral part of an

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

PLATFORM: UNITED FRONT FOR JUSTICE AND DIGNITY

Who are we?

The United Front for Justice and Dignity is a statewide network formed with the purpose of community education and the defense of working-class and immigrant communities across California. We are labor organizations, students, individuals, and grassroots cultural, political, and community groups that have united to fight for a humane and just immigration reform that won't compromise our basic dignity, civil rights, or social protections. Our efforts aim to uplift the aspirations of our communities in obtaining positive change that truly progresses our living-conditions.

Perspective

Through deceptively-named organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce's "Essential Workers Immigration Coalition" and the bipartisan, Fortune 500-based "Partnership for a New American Economy," both Wall Street and the Democratic/Republican Parties are promoting what they call "sensible Comprehensive Immigration Reform" (CIR). However, these versions of CIR will involve increased militarized enforcement, continued detentions and family separations, the continuation of Poli-Migra partnerships and information-sharing programs (S-COMM, 287g), employer sanctions via E-Verify, and a tortuous "path to citizenship" that involves crippling expenses and years spent "in line."

For Wall St. or the "1 percent", the main interest in immigration reform is the introduction of "managed migration" schemes that allow those sections of the economy built on a

base of criminalized migrant labor to be formally replaced with "guest worker" programs in the fields of agricultural, service, hospitality, and science/technology/engineering/mathematics ("STEM"). Under such schemes, future migrant workers in these industries will be subject to a regime similar to the notorious "Bracero Program" of indentured servitude, with grave repercussions for workers' rights.

Despite a lack of honest consultation with our families and communities, many have endorsed these "devil's bargain" forms of immigration reform. Unconditional and premature endorsement of the impending versions of CIR dictated by the Obama administration and Congress can only result in major disservice to our communities, and a dishonor to the sacrifices and contributions of countless organizations and individuals in our legacy of struggle.

Our movement must be driven and led by the community itself. History and experience have demonstrated how unity and organization can transform situations of passive acceptance, allowing us to defend ourselves from positions of strength and take initiative in the fight for a dignified future—this purpose is what has brought us together and these are our demands:

We Demand

- Documents and permanent residency rights for all: the right to work, higher education, drivers' licenses and public benefits for all.
- An immediate end to raids and deportations.
- No to getting in the back of the line.
- No to new "Bracero"/Guest Worker

programs (modern indentured servitude).

- Workers must have the unconditional legal right to organize.
- No to the militarization of the border and our communities.
- No to E-Verify & Secure Communities [S-COMM].I;
- No to military service 'option/backdoor draft' for Dreamers

YES to a just and humane immigration reform that eliminates the terror and anxiety in our communities, and respects the human rights of undocumented workers, families, and youth.

Join us!

The United Front for Justice and Dignity is a community-based, action-oriented network fighting for the interests of both immigrants and non-immigrants alike. Reaching beyond our communities, we invite all honest forces to join us as we build this United Front in defense of our human rights and basic dignity.

Members/Endorsing Orgs:

Ángeles Sin Fronteras – Calexico-Mexicali [binational], BAYAN USA (Southern California), Colectivo Todo Poder al Pueblo – Oxnard, Comité por la Democracia en México / Committee for Democracy in Mexico, El Organizador / The Organizer – Central Valley, Frente de Mexicanos en el Exterior (FME)/ Front for Mexicans Living Abroad, Hermandad Mexicana Latinoamericana, Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) – Sacramento, Labor Council for Latin American Advancement – Sacramento AFL- CIO (LCLAA), Mexican American Political Association (MAPA), Organizacion de Trabajadores Agricolas de California (OTAC) – Stockton, Pan-African Perspective & The African Observer, Peace and Freedom Party, Raza Press and Media Association, Socialist Organizer, Unión Cívica Primero de Mayo, Yo Soy #132 – San Diego

overall indigenous people's land liberation struggle. As we have stated many times before, there are more *marchas* and less *conciencia* than ever before.

Distinctions must be made. There are those that do not know better and erroneously put their faith in the system. There are those who support the tactics of assimilation, either because they do not know our true history, or because some are understandably desperate to get status so as not suffer deportation. Although this ahistorical view must be struggled against, we must commit to share and debate information through political education and exchange of ideas with these sectors of our community.

Then there are those who know better. We question their intentions because they ultimately stand to gain from their opportunism or because they pretend to be left and progressive but will not rock the boat. We find that most are those who have given up on struggle and that must be exposed and denounced in the strongest of terms. We must also expose the dishonest forces who use the masses of our people as a human shield excuse saying that the "people are afraid" and not "ready" for a more radical approach. In most cases, it is not the people who are afraid but they as individuals that are afraid to lose their jobs or favor with the Democratic Party.



THE SPANISH SPEAKING MEDIA AS DISINFORMATION PIMPS

We have repeatedly denounced the English-language U.S. media and its disinformation role and their pro-racist, colonialist, imperialist perspective on all matters. However, what has not been discussed enough is the equally strategic role the Spanish-language media is playing, especially in spinning the issue of "immigration reform", socializing our people to accept occupation and persuading us to see ourselves as foreigners on our own land.

Televisa, Telemundo, TV Azteca (or Azteca America), Univision, and others through their talking-head reactionary anchors and reporters promulgate the vendido accommodation and assimilation messages. These outlets

FROM PAGE 4: "IMMIGRATION REFORM" SPIN

transmit the messages of oppression and impose the capitalist, colonial values on our community through their news casts that attack any left forces in Latin America and their white racist, sexist, and class-based programming. Some actually think that a *payaso* like Piolin or a right-wing talking head like Jorge Ramos of Univision would be able to report our struggle accurately. Is it any wonder then, that we have members of our community who will not miss an "immigration" mobilization but belong to Neighborhood Watches, denounce Fidel Castro and Hugo Chavez, support "our" troops, think Iran and Democratic (North) Korea are "threats to the world," and are proud that they have children who aspire to be in law-enforcement or the military? Does it surprise us that many of our gente oppose deportations but think there should be more prisons and tougher sentencing for so-called gang members? There are not enough activists advocating for serious political education and consciousness-raising. As a community we are mobilizing but must ask ourselves, for what?

WHAT IS TO BE DONE

It is puzzling and frustrating to see forces in the struggle downplay the need to advance an independent media force with the capacity to publish our own newspapers, *Movimiento* books, journals, etc. The argument is that "our marches are on the news; we don't need to worry about journalism." This is the fatal error which has led to there being more mobilizations and less *conciencia* than ever before.

As to the topic of this article, 'immigration reform', we must address this question and call it for what it is. It simply cannot be called an "immigration struggle" because we are NOT immigrants on our own land. We have to take the struggle from the pragmatic level and inject some strident and ideologically-based rhetoric that the current activists tell us is best seen in Chicano Studies Symposia or on the History Channel. We must return to identity politics and create a culture of *conciencia*. Only then can we have real discussions on reform initiatives, their repressive amendments and take on a serious discussion on occupiers on our land. When that becomes the center of our community's discussion on "immigration" we will be able to build a real physical defense of our communities. To achieve this, it is indispensable that we build an independent Pro-Raza Liberation, Anti-Capitalist and Anti-Imperialist Press. The root of our contradiction is our lack of consciousness and in the final analysis we will not be able to defend our community's rights without raising our revolutionary consciousness.

**ESTA ES MI TIERRA!
ESTA ES MI LUCHA!**



© Gonzalo Rios Photography.

youth such as Oscar Grant in Oakland and Manuel Diaz in Anaheim, to the Occupy movement's demands for political representation for the "99%" (the overwhelming mass of common people), to the migrant justice movement's impatient demands for immediate legalization. The outspoken popular perception of "rogue" LAPD officer Chris Dorner as a modern-day folk hero is just one of many signals indicating the defiant undercurrent that seethes within communities across the U.S.

Increasingly, it's become clear that a common thread binds these disparate social movements and phenomena: the recognition and rejection of the unrestrained force and brutality utilized by the police. Police aggression and the militarization of civilian life, long an intolerable burden for working-class Raza and African communities, now plagues a large cross-section of U.S. society. Trigger-happy "peace officers" (many of whom were recruited from the ranks of formerly enlisted armed forces personnel) have organized themselves into associations and unions that hold unchallenged political sway, legitimizing and protecting their ability to act in a manner that utterly

negates our rights. Our communities have fallen in the cross hairs of a campaign of extra-judicial killings by police that claim, on average, between one and two lives per day.

Faced with these grim realities, families and grassroots forces from across the state united to build the April 27 conference in the agricultural community of Oxnard, California. The purpose was clear: the time had come to qualitatively improve the level of inter-regional collaboration, formulate a common strategic vision, and fight for the fulfillment of our communities' urgent demands for justice.

The conference began with a family panel, which drew in the participation of the survivors and relatives of victims of extra-judicial killings such as Teresa Ramirez, mother of Robert Ramirez (Oxnard), Becky and Claudia Limón, the sisters of Alfonso Limón, Jr. (Oxnard), Cephus 'Uncle Bobby' Johnson, uncle of Oscar Grant (Oakland), Damian Ramirez, close friend of Michael Nida (Downey), Genevieve Huizar, mother of Manuel Diaz (Anaheim), Rosemary Dueñez, mother of Ernest Dueñez (Manteca),

FROM PAGE 1: OXNARD CONFERENCE

Cindy Mitchell, sister of Mario Romero (Vallejo), and Tara Mahoney, sister of Michael Mahoney (Oxnard). Many of these families met each other for the first time, and their grief and power resonated throughout the conference hall.

The workshops represented the diversity of practical resistance tasks that forces across the state have undertaken. These included presentations on best practices in neighborhood copwatch activities and direct actions, "know your rights" trainings, legal advice for families pursuing wrongful death claims against police departments, skill-sharing and advice for media operations workers, the formation of community medic collectives, the development of community self-defense capabilities, and information on the fight against civil gang injunctions.

Keynote speakers included Nation of Islam Minister Keith Mohammad of East Oakland's Muhammad Mosque #26, who played a key role in the fight for justice for the family of Oscar Grant, who was brutally slain in 2009 by BART police officers in Oakland. Cruz Reynoso, the first Chicano Associate Justice of the California Supreme Court and professor emeritus of law at UC Davis, also spoke on matters of judicial bias, police brutality, and the importance of our keeping up the fight. Alex M. Salazar, a former officer with the LAPD Ramparts Division, revealed his own insights on the impacts of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) amongst officers and the racism engrained in the culture of police agencies.

In a concluding keynote address, independent community journalist Thandisizwe Chimurenga noted the importance of networking across geographical and cultural boundaries, and the need for persistence:

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© Gonzalo Rios Photography.

United in Struggle: Many of the family victims of police terrorism had met each other for the first time at the Oxnard conference

"Your families are needed in the movement, and the movement is needed in your families. You have a responsibility to have as much clarity as possible, to get it and to give it, about the nature of this struggle that you now find yourself in. That means that you have to study; you have to read and analyze and discuss with folks who have been doing this work for years; you have to travel outside of your immediate communities; and you have to travel outside of this country to see firsthand that you are not alone in having lost a loved one to police – to the violence of the state; that you are not alone in organizing to extract justice from the police and system that employs them."

The conference ended with breakout sessions where attendees held a dialogue on the specific goals and activities that participants could undertake in the coming year. The Conference resolved to: a) foster the organizational development crucial to continuing our fight on the statewide level; b) deepen a collective perspective; c) **consolidate our array of media and communications tools**; d) further implement tactics that have yielded practical results in the

fields of base-building and leveraging change, and e) further coordinate statewide activities, mobilizations, and conferences.

This included calls to challenge the Police Officers' Bill of Rights (POBOR), a notorious document that protects the ability of individual officers to act with impunity, and a call-out to converge on Sacramento for events such as 2013's October 22 National Day of Protest to Stop Police Brutality, Repression and the Criminalization of a Generation, and 2014's National Crime Victims' Rights Week, an event that ignores the plight of victims of police brutality.

Upcoming statewide mobilizations in the immediate term include a Thursday, July 11 protest against the National Gang Conference in Anaheim, and a Statewide Unity March Against Police Brutality, also set to take place in Anaheim, which will take place on Sunday, July 21, 2013. This action will commemorate the 1-year anniversary of the brutal slaying of Manuel Diaz at the hands of Anaheim Police officers.

The conference was immediately followed by a family-led vigil from Downtown Oxnard's Plaza Park the

Colonia barrio, where Alfonso Limon, Jr. was shot to death on October 13, 2012 in a so-called "incident" involving nine cops while he was out for a jog. Two of those same cops were among the seven implicated in the June 23, 2012 homicide of Robert Ramirez. The 805 Weekend of Resistance concluded with families participating in a rally and unity march through Oxnard the following day, Sunday, April 28, 2013.

As Thandisizwe Chimurenga concluded:

"This is not an easy fight. This is not a quick fight. At times this may be a bitter and ugly fight, but it must be a fight in collective fashion. In numbers we have strength, we have power, and we will have victory.

A Luta Continua – The Struggle Continues – E Vitoria e Certa – Victory is Certain – We Will Conquer Without a Doubt – The People United Will Never Be Defeated.

and oppressed communities that are raising a clenched fist and yelling until it echoes through the corner of every barrio "YA BASTA." The theme interwoven in this issue is critical, having that we live in a time not only of mass repression and Raza Resistance, but of mass disinformation and vendido politics disguised as "mobilization." Just as the Prison Industrial Complex makes a killing off of killing and imprisoning us, the Non-Profit Industrial Complex fattens its budgets by pretending to act as go-betweens, but in reality are acting as the scouts for the forces of repression who criminalize our community. It is nearly impossible as the media acts uncritically like ride-alongs and reports the so-called news from the perspective of the goons who occupy our barrios. We have yet to see anyone report the news on police repression from the side of the repressed, and can only watch as our "leaders" clamor for us to not do things that provoke the police to beat us, much like telling a victim of rape not to provoke the rapist!



Media as a tool of information warfare & the conquest of Raza minds

The injustices and the struggle are showcased in this issue of Guerrilleros is a call to recommit or redouble our efforts. We cannot let the "Spanish Speaking Media" continue to be the "voice" that confuses our community. It is time to challenge ideologically the paradigm of oppression, and to build a struggle that is again militant and uncompromising. Red and Black and the clenched fist have to replace white and the Flag of the Oppressor, not only in our demonstrations but in our attitude towards struggle. We must combat laziness, liberalism, and the excuse that the "people aren't ready for radical talk." We have to wage the ideological struggle with this Beast, and the only way to do that is to build a strong, independent, liberation-minded Raza Press.

The Raza Press and Media Association calls on Raza Journalists and activists to join, to write, and to support the work of the RPMA. Ours is a life-time struggle, and as it was put so eloquently and prophetically by our founder, Ernesto Bustillos "until we drop dead."

**Por una Prensa
Comprometida al Pueblo,
Hasta la Victoria Siempre!**

Unleash Your Voice

BY ALONI BONILLA

Editor's Note:

The following is a testimony of a young compañera, Aloni Bonilla, student, activist, daughter, y parte de nuestro pueblo who was brutally attacked and wrongly incarcerated by the California Highway Patrol. We print this testimony to illustrate in this issue of Guerrilleros de la Pluma that none of us is exempt from Police/Migra Brutality. We also print this to emphasize that the only solution is organization. We must break the isolation the system imposes on us to make us think there is nothing we can do in the face of their repression. Finally, as the Raza Press and Media Association, we publish our compañera's story because we have to expose the true conditions of our community and the brutality we face and that all of us could face daily.

*Por Aloni y por nuestro pueblo...
JUSTICIA - NO JUSTICE, NO PEACE!*

A peace officer with a badge has gone out of his line of duty. The acts of California Highway Patrol – Baldwin Park Division Officer Jose A. Ramirez include excessive force and falsifying his report. Ramirez later fabricated the alleged violations and contradicted his testimony in court. The surveillance video of the assault was subpoenaed by the defendant to show proof of the lies the officer had reported. On March 7, 2013, the video evidence was excluded from the jury trial on the basis that it is not clear and biased against the officer's testimony. The 23 year old victim of police brutality paid a private attorney who was incompetent during her trial. Since there was no video to show the jury she testified to the assault done by Officer Ramirez but the jury still found her guilty of three enhanced misdemeanors. She served 17 days in L.A. County Jail and owes \$15,000 in court fines and attorney fees. It has been over a year since the initial arrest. Currently, the case has been turned over to the Los Angeles Superior Courts appellate division.

It was the day that changed the course of her entire life. Ms. Aloni Bonilla, a student at California State University, Los Angeles decided to meet with her classmate before her 8:00 a.m. final on March 21, 2012. She was alone and it was past midnight. She was headed westbound on the I-10 freeway where a California Highway Patrol vehi-



Aloni Bonilla: 120-lb., 5'3", 23-yr. old student assaulted by a pig. A photo of Aloni Bonilla's eye, which is heavily bruised and swollen, showing the physical aftermath of the assault. The text describes the incident: she was pulled over on a highway closure and an officer asked her if she was under the influence of drugs or alcohol. She responded that she was not. The officer conducted a field sobriety test and a preliminary alcohol screening, which she failed. The text also notes that the surveillance video of the assault was excluded from the trial.

Two males, Officer Ramirez and Bernadino, arrived at the scene at approximately 1:30 a.m. Ramirez approached Bonilla and asked: "Are you under the influence of any drugs and/or alcohol?" Bonilla said: "No." The officer conducted the Field Sobriety Test and used the Preliminary Alcohol Screening device. According to Bonilla, she felt nervous since four male officers were watching her but she felt confident that she performed well on the field and screening test. However, she was told that she did not pass the test

SEE NEXT PAGE

and was then arrested for further investigation. To get an accurate alcohol and drug sample, Bernadino drove Ramirez and Bonilla to the nearest station to take another breathalyzer test. The machine couldn't capture a sufficient sample. At 3:00am, Bonilla was driven to Queen of the Valley Hospital for a blood sample. Ramirez walked her in the hospital and checked her in with the nurses. Bernadino stayed in the vehicle. She remained handcuffed and was seated at a desk chair near the entrance of the hospital. Bonilla was then uncuffed at 3:15am to sign the consent for a blood test. The nurses then walked away and did not return for about 15 minutes. Bonilla asked Ramirez: "If my blood shows no alcohol/drugs, will I still be going to jail?" Ramirez responds: "I'm asking questions here, not you!" He further insulted her by saying: "I will be writing in the report that you admitted to drinking, so you're going to jail anyway." She responds: "Excuse me, I never admitted to drinking." He replies: "You can deny it all you want. I know you've been drinking and that's exactly what I'll be writing in my report." Bonilla states: "Well, I'm going to get a lawyer since you are going to do whatever you want." Condescendingly he replies: "That's what they all say, but no one actually gets a lawyer." She says: "Well... I will." He steps towards the desk chair where Bonilla is seated and leans over saying: "Who do you think you are? Who do you think the people will believe...you or me? I'm not the one who was drinking and driving on the road!" Bonilla, frightened by his tone and angry facial expressions said: "I can't believe you're that type of officer."

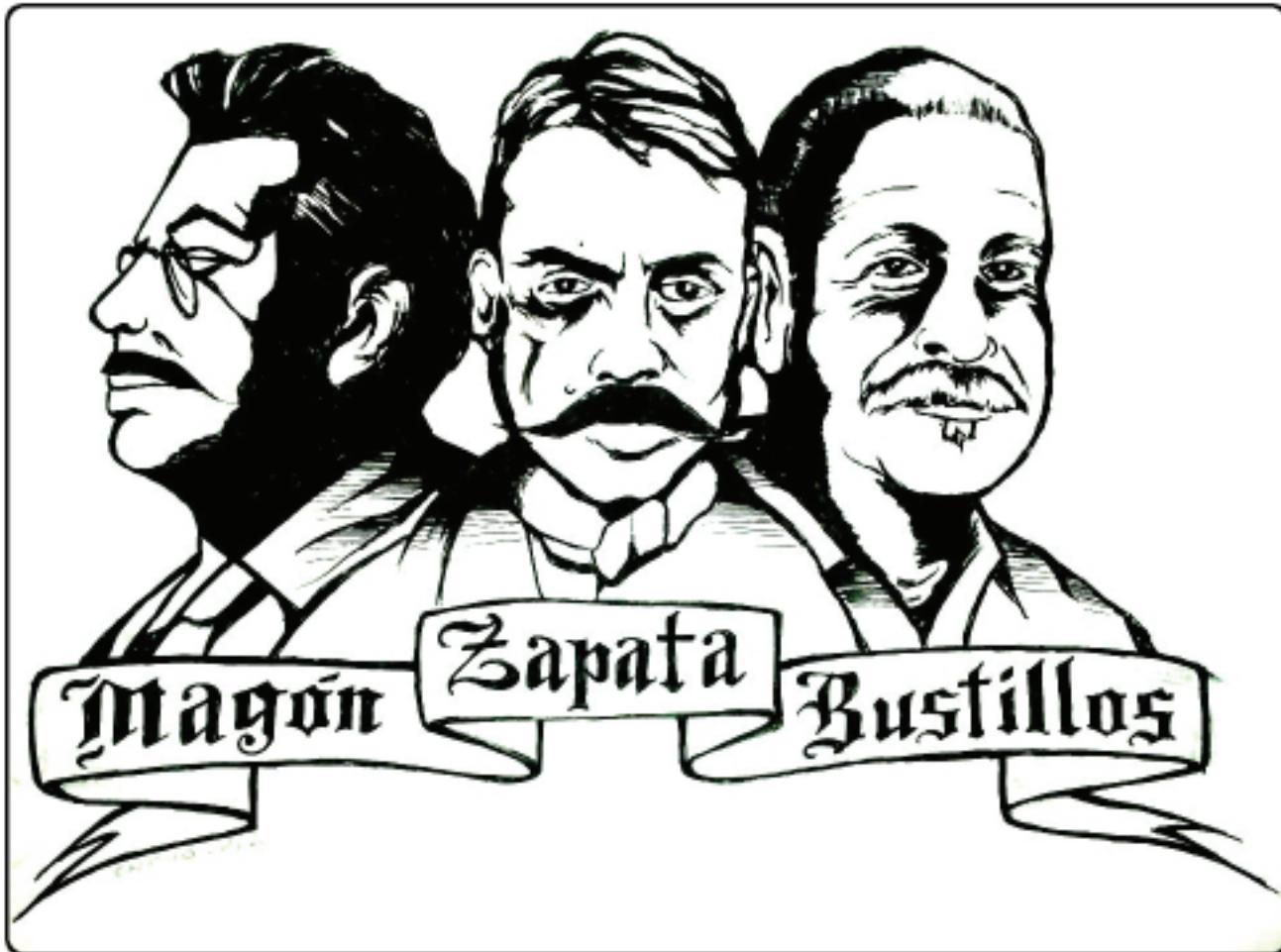
He then grabbed her by the arm and pulled her off the chair. Turning her around, he puts her in a control hold, and slams her against the wall. Her face hit a mounted object and the left side of her face was immediately red and swelling. He then turned her away from the wall, forced her to her knees and then flat on the ground. While on the ground, the 220 pound officer drilled his knee in her back. Aloni was not given the opportunity to provide a blood sample and was not given medical attention to her left eye. Aloni screamed for help from the nurses as they walked away. Bernadino took over and put Bonilla in the front passenger seat of the police vehicle. As Ramirez approached Bonilla, in fear that she may be attacked again, her right knee jolted up in a fetal position as to protect the right side of her face. The front of her shoe hit the top of windshield and cracked the windshield edge. He pulled her out of the front passenger side of the vehicle and tied her hands to her feet behind her back. She was then carried into the back seat of the same vehicle, laid down with her upper and lower body strapped down to the seat. Bernadino then drove to the Lynwood Detention Center. Since the officers were not familiar with procedures, they were unable to book her since they did not have a medical release for Bonilla's injuries. Ramirez made a few calls on his cell phone after being denied Bonilla's entry to Lynwood Detention Center. She was finally taken to yet another hospital to receive medical attention and later released.

Ramirez, writes that Ms. Bonilla was explicit and out of control. Ramirez' testimony is that Bonilla, who is 120 lbs 5'3" tall, resisted by standing up out of her chair, waived her hands screaming, and attempted to head-butt him and got injured in the process. His testimony differs from the surveillance video that was excluded from the trial (now on YouTube). Officer Ramirez has been transferred to East Los Angeles Division and remains free from any investigation for his unlawful procedures.

I am Aloni Bonilla, this is my story. I did nothing to this officer to be assaulted and injured. I am taking a stand to reveal the actions of Ramirez. The jury that heard my trial believed the accusations and lies of the officer that testified. I was convicted of three misdemeanors: DUI, Resisting Arrest, and Vandalism and was incarcerated for 17 days. There are laws in place preventing me from pressing any charges against this officer since I have been convicted of resisting arrest. However, I have appealed the decision of the court on the basis that I had an incompetent attorney and the surveillance video should have been shown to the jury. This case is still open and I will not give up. I've had to trust in God, family and community to receive the strength it takes to pursue true fairness and justice. It was extremely important for me to heal from the physical and psychological trauma in order to not be overwhelmed by the systematic injustice. .

"There are law enforcement agents who possess aggressive behavior, gain a mindset of tremendous power, and commit justified homicide. What happened to me cannot be compared to a life that is taken by a police officer. However, we must report all acts of police violence so the families of the victims are able to remove and/or punish unlawful officers. If these acts of violence are not reported, communities struggle to rise against the repression when law enforcement goes on unpunished. Many people experience similar abuse and corruption but are overwhelmed with fear. I encourage all those who have been victimized to unleash your voices, take a stand against police brutality and mobilize within your communities! "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."

- Martin Luther King, Jr.



"We must combat liberalism, individualism, parochialism, and uphold collectivism, accountability, and personal sacrifice. We can't let those who live off our movement off the hook, no matter if they are our friends."

- ERNESTO BUSTILLOS, RPMA FOUNDER, 1951-2012

RPMA

Reading List

THE STRUGGLE IN BLACK AND BROWN: AFRICAN AMERICAN AND MEXICAN AMERICAN RELATIONS DURING THE CIVIL RIGHTS ERA

By BRIAN D. BEHNKEN

MANUFACTURING CONSENT: THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF THE MASS MEDIA

By EDWARD S. HERMAN AND NOAM CHOMSKY

THE HIDDEN 1970s: HISTORIES OF RADICALISM

By DAN BERGER

BLOWOUT!: SAL CASTRO AND THE CHICANO STRUGGLE FOR EDUCATIONAL JUSTICE

By MARIO T. GARCIA

STATES OF DELINQUENCY: RACE AND SCIENCE IN THE MAKING OF CALIFORNIA'S JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

By MIROSLAVA CHÁVEZ-GARCÍA

THE MAKING OF CHICANA/O STUDIES: IN THE TRENCHES OF ACADEME

By RODOLFO ACUNA

CHICANO STUDENTS AND THE COURTS: THE MEXICAN AMERICAN LEGAL STRUGGLE FOR EDUCATIONAL EQUALITY

By RICHARD VALENCIA

RACISM ON TRIAL: THE CHICANO FIGHT FOR JUSTICE

By IAN HANEY LÓPEZ

QUIXOTE'S SOLDIERS: A LOCAL HISTORY OF THE CHICANO MOVEMENT, 1966-1981

By DAVID MONTEJANO

MIGRA!: A HISTORY OF THE U.S. BORDER PATROL

By KELLY LYTLE HERNANDEZ

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A Call for Articles on Raza Press, Media, and Popular Expression for the Upcoming Issue...

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:

The Raza Press and Media Association is the only national group of progressive journalists working towards winning justice, peace, and freedom for all Mexicano-Latinos (Raza). We meet on a regular basis, have an organizational structure, principles of unity, objectives, and we consistently published journal, Guerrilleros de La Pluma.

In response to the continuing and growing assaults on the right to information and freedom of expression, especially as it relates to Raza and other oppressed nationalities and peoples within the current borders of the United States, the Raza Press Association (formerly known as the Chicano Press Association) is making another call on Raza (students, journalists, community activists, and academicians) active in the field of media (journalism, radio, TV, popular art, spoken word, computer information, etc.) to submit articles related to the question of The Role of Raza Press, Media, And Popular Expression In Our Struggle For Democracy, Justice, And Self-determination.

The articles must address the historical/current onslaught on progressive and alternative thought. We see this fascist-racist attack coming down both "within the belly of the beast" from FBI, Police, Mainstream Media, Christian Right, Vendidos, etc., and externally from the CIA, Military Industrial Complex, Global Capitalism, and so forth.

A major objective of these attacks on progressive thought is a conscious racist-capitalist effort to eliminate all programs which were initially developed for the purpose of advancing the educational and cultural development of the Raza community; for example: Chicano Studies, Ethnic Studies, Progressive Publications and Programs at Colleges and Universities, Raza Cultural Celebrations at elementary and high schools, Centro Culturales, and Bilingual/Multicultural Education.

Selected articles will be published in the Guerrilleros de la Pluma. Issues of Guerrilleros de La Pluma are distributed widely. Copies are circulated at political actions, colleges, libraries,

and conferences; they are mailed Raza prisoners and a subscribers list; the journal is also posted online (Internet). Literally thousands of people read the journal.

CRITERIA FOR ARTICLES:

- (1) articles must be between 3 and 5 pages (no longer please), typed and doubled space (Fonts 10 or 12 points). If you submit a research type working paper, when quoting, or referring to data, use footnotes or endnotes and a bibliography for documentation purposes. Writing styles that could be use are the following; Chicago, APA, and MLA.
- (2) send your articles via e-mail (newswire@razapressassociation.org) or on a floppy disk/CD (i.e. MS Words, etc.) to the following address:

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