Message to the Grassroots

Voice of the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement (MXGM)

February 2009

Chokwe Lumumba

For Jackson, MS City Council
Building a New Jackson, Building a New South, Building Self-Determination!

The Malcolm X Grassroots Movement (MXGM) is taking a bold step to advance the cause of New Afrikan Self-determination. Building off the experiences of developing the Freedom Party in Selma, Alabama and the Reconstruction Party in New Orleans, Louisiana, MXGM co-founder, Chokwe Lumumba, is running for City Council in Jackson, Mississippi. The aim of this run is to implement a program of progressive social and economic change that will not only improve the lives of New Afrikan people in Jackson, but also empower Black and other oppressed people throughout the Kush District (the Mississippi Black Belt) and the Deep South by advancing a new social and economic agenda and strengthening their self-organization.

"*The People's Platform*"

So, what is this new social and economic agenda? As we are all too well aware, we are facing extremely trying economic and social times. With the economy in freefall and capitalism in deep crisis, MXGM believes that we have an agenda and an approach that can adequately address this crisis and transform the future of Jackson and the Southern region. Our agenda as expressed through the campaign's "People's Platform", is centered on the following four points:

1. An economic, social, and cultural human rights based approach to solve the economic crisis afflicting the city and state. We will use this approach to stop evictions, foreclosures, mass unemployment, and hunger.
2. Economic growth and job creation that brings Jackson into the forefront of the struggle to create a Green economy and increase employment opportunities.
3. Create job training programs and a better educational system that supports the real needs of our youth.
4. Public safety and an end to police misconduct.

To explore the full Platform visit **www.electlumumbaward2.com**.

Be a part of the change

Help us build this movement for genuine development and self-determination in Jackson. You can do this by:

1. Donating your money where your interests and aspirations lie. You can make an electronic donation at www.electlumumbaward2.com or make a check out to the "**Committee to Elect Chokwe Lumumba**". Mail the check to: **440 N. Mill Street, Jackson, MS 39202**.
2. Throw a fundraiser for the Campaign to Elect Chokwe Lumumba in your city or region. To conduct a fundraiser please email **electlumumba@gmail.com** or call **601.353.5566** to obtain the information and materials you need.
3. Spread the word. Pass the news to your family, friends, co-workers, and congregants; ask them to make donations, promote the Peoples Agenda, and raise media attention for the campaign and its agenda for change in your local and regional media outlets.

MXGM
Malcolm X Grassroots Movement

Why New Afrikans should stand in solidarity with Palestine

There are liberation struggles all over the world that New Afrikans should not only care about, but stand in active solidarity with. International Solidarity, as defined by Mozambiquan freedom fighter Samora Machel, "...is not an act of charity. It is an act of unity between allies fighting on different terrains toward the same objectives. The foremost of these objectives is to aid the development of humanity to the highest level possible."

The Palestinian struggle for self-determination, national liberation, and the right to return is one of the most fundamental of these liberation struggles. Three of the generally shared objectives between the New Afrikan and Palestinian liberation struggles are:

1. **Realizing the right of return for our peoples**. For Palestinians this entails returning the largest population of refugees in the world to their ancestral homeland. For New Afrikans its most clear expression entails the return of more than 500,000 of our people to their homes in New Orleans and the Mississippi Gulf Coast region.
2. **Riding ourselves of our common enemies: US imperialism and Zionism**. US imperialism ruthlessly subjects both peoples to exploit our labor, lands, and resources for the benefit of the US ruling class, the imperial state, and the decadent over-consumption of US society. Zionism is a reactionary form of (European) Jewish nationalism dependent on US imperialism. As a settler-colonial project, Zionism has colonized Palestine and is engaged in an ongoing process of dispossessing its people. In relation to New Afrikan people, the American Zionist lobby dictates "foreign' and domestic policy to institutions like the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), which are supposed to represent and protect New Afrikan interests (in 2002 the Zionist Lobby funded the removal of two CBC members, Cynthia McKinney and Earl Hilliard, who challenged their agenda).
3. **Attaining genuine self-determination**. Along with the First Nations in the US, Puerto Rico, Hawaii, Aztlan, Northern Ireland, the Basque country, etc., New Afrika and Palestine remain two of the worlds dozen or so remaining colonized nations. Although neo-colonial arrangements have been imposed on New Afrika and Palestine, the genuine aspirations for self-rule, democracy, and economic development remain to be fulfilled and are still being bitterly and valiantly fought for by both peoples.

The Palestinian struggle for self-determination and national liberation is but one of the critical freedom struggles of our time. Some of the other critical freedom struggles New Afrikans should be compelled to support are to end the third US occupation of Haiti, the decades long US blockade against Cuba, the numerous struggles against neo-colonial rule and imperialist domination of the peoples and nation of Afrika (Zimbabwe, the Congo, the Sudan, Somalia, etc.), and Asia (the subjected peoples of India, the Philippines, Iraq, Afghanistan, etc.), and the struggles against US lead reactionary counter-revolutions in Bolivia and Venezuela.

After the Invasion: Build the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Campaign against Israel

People of conscience all over the world are asking themselves and others, what can we do to stop the genocidal assault on Gaza? Although it sometimes seems that the Israeli military – financed by at least $3 billion a year of US dollars—is unstoppable, there is plenty we can do to weaken the Zionist Project.

We can and must build a genuine anti-imperialist movement that, over the long term, cuts Israel from its US imperialist benefactor. Until now, in the political mainstream and, indeed, among too many progressives, U.S. political and financial support for Israel has been virtually unquestioned. It is our responsibility to add another 25% to the 41% of people in the US who oppose Israel's genocidal assault on Gaza; and to deepen their understanding so they not only reject the latest Israeli atrocity. Rather they reject the entire Zionist project, that is, the continued colonial occupation of Palestine.

We must intensify the international campaign of Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS). The center of BDS must be to target corporations, investment entities, and other institutions that financially and politically support the Israeli government, particularly the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF). This movement must also seek to challenge and eventually end all US aid and material support to the

IOF and intelligence forces, illegal settlements in Jerusalem and the West Bank, subsidies to settlers, and the construction and maintenance of the illegal apartheid wall and related infrastructure. Further, it should also seek to isolate a number of African, Arab, Asian, and Latin American governments that are complicit in the dispossession and inhumane deprivation of the Palestinian people, such as the Egyptian, Turkish, and Jordanian governments via their self-serving collaboration with Israel and the US government to negate Palestinian self-determination.

To understand these proposals, we must put this invasion in its proper historic and strategic context. This latest assault on Gaza is not just an attempt to eliminate Hamas, i.e. Harakat al-Muqawama al-Islamiyya, or the Islamic Resistance Movement, it is first and foremost an assault on the Palestinian people and the peoples' movement for national liberation. It is simultaneously an assault on the other forces of resistance to the Zionist, western imperialist, and neo-liberal projects of domination and absorption in West Asia and North Africa (i.e. the Middle East). These forces include Hezbollah in Lebanon; the Islamic Brotherhood, trade unions, and reemerging left and civil society in Egypt; the broad array of resistance forces to the US occupation of Iraq; and the Ba'athist government in Syria and the Islamic government in Iran and their varying acts of defiance to US and Israeli domination of the region.

The heroic Iraqi resistance to the US occupation starting in 2003, Hamas' surprising electoral victory in 2006, and Hezbollah's stunning defeat of the Israeli army in July-August 2006, all seriously challenged the domination of US and Israel in the region. Despite the overwhelming asymmetry that remains between the imperialist forces and the forces of resistance in the region, the forces of resistance as the record shows, have made some significant gains.

The assault started on Saturday, December 27th, 2008 is a blatant attempt to permanently erase these gains. US and Israel aimed to establish the terms of what the US and Israeli' hope(d) to be the final surrender of the Palestinian people of their right to national self-determination. This, they hope, is the final strategic phase in the 60-year plus war of Zionist colonial aggression against the Palestinian people. The Zionist objectives are: 1) to ethnically cleanse Gaza by annihilating its entire infrastructure and rendering it uninhabitable, 2) to commit politicide against Hamas, and 3) to force the Palestinian people to accept terms of surrender which will utterly negate their human rights, specifically the right to return and to national self-determination.

By giving Israel the green light for the Gaza invasion, US imperialism is seeking the specific interests of Israel, US imperialism is also seeking to accomplish several additional objectives: 1) consolidating a fully compliant Palestinian authority, 2) isolating Hezbollah, 3) tightening the noose on Syria and Iran, 4) fortifying the neo-colonial rule of the client Arab regimes, particularly Egypt and Saudi Arabia, and 5) reconsolidating its strategic military positioning relative to Africa (particularly the Horn region to address fundamental crises in Somalia, Sudan, and the Central African Republic) and Central Asia (to address the crises in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and the Central Asian Republics).

The timing of the invasion reveals a great deal about the critical shift in US and Israeli thinking. Two critical factors determined the timing of this invasion – neither of which have anything to do with the bogus claim that Hamas broke what was basically a one-sided "truce" with Israel. The first factor is the relative stabilization of the Iraqi occupation in 2008. Although the peoples' resistance in Iraq is far from being pacified, the surge and buyoff strategies have weakened it considerably. This weakening has created more operational space and capacity for the US to inflict uncalculated pain on non-compliant forces should the need or desire arises. Secondly, the transition in the US chain of military command between President George W. Bush and President Elect Barack Hussein Obama affords US imperialism a considerable degree of flexibility - tactically, legally, and potentially, morally. Although crushing Hamas was to be one of the parting legacies of the Bush regime, the strategic aim was for Obama to finish what Clinton started and Bush advanced in consolidating the process of Palestinian negation initiated with the Oslo Accords.

It is our responsibility to put as much pressure as possible on Obama to force him to disavow the ongoing crimes against humanity committed by Israel. Obama, unlike many of his predecessors, has the opportunity to recognize the rights of the Palestinian people to real self-determination. He must start by cutting the $3 billion in annual aid provide to Israel, or be similarly charged for crimes against humanity for the death and dispossession this aid sponsors against the Palestinian people.

And this is where we come full circle. Although undoubtedly the present situation looks bleak, it is not hopeless. An international solidarity movement, directed by the multi-facetted Palestinian movement, built on firm anti-imperialist principles, and focused on a dynamic, but strategic Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions campaign can help stem the tide of US and Israeli imperialism and end the ongoing cleansing occurring on our watch.

Justice for Oscar Grant, Adolph Grimes, and Robbie Tolan

Oscar Grant
Executed by Bay Area Rapid Transit Police in Oakland, CA

Between December 31, 2008 and January, 1st, 2009 police forces throughout the US Empire went on a killing spree, executing two Black men and critically wounding a third. Oscar Grant, a 22-year old father, was executed by Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) police while handcuffed and shot in the back in cold blood leaving a New Years Eve party. Adolph Grimes, was executed by the New Orleans police who shot him 14 times, including 12 times in the back, in front of his home after leaving a New Years Eve celebration. Robbie Tolan was critically shot in the back by police in Bellaire, Texas, a suburb of Houston, in a clear case of "racial profiling" for a suspected robbery.

The centuries of white terror, police occupation and murder of New Afrikan people must end. And only WE can end it! We will only stop the terror by organizing ourselves, our people and our communities to seize self-determination and rid ourselves of these occupying forces and the various forces that support them.

Adolph Grimes
Executed by New Orleans Police

Justice Now! Build the Peoples Self-Defense Campaign

The system that murdered Oscar Grant and Adolph Grimes and attempted to murder Robbie Tolan must be resisted, changed and dismantled. To this end, the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement invites all justice loving people to join us in raising the following demands:

1. The Federal Department of Justice (DOJ) must intervene in all three cases and charge all the officers involved in the Grant and Grimes murders and Tolan shootings with murder.
2. The Obama administration must create a special commission in the DOJ to systematically eliminate all "racial profiling" policies, practices, and operational procedures in all the law enforcement agencies throughout the country.
3. The Obama administration must usher in legislation that makes "racial profiling" a hate crime and a punishable human rights violation.

To join us in advancing these demands visit **www.mxgm.org**.

Robbie Tolan
Shot by Police in Houston Suburb

Malcolm X Grassroots Movement
Self-Determination, Self-Respect, Self-Defense!

Six Principles:
Self-determination – Human Rights – End to Genocide – End to Sexist Oppression – Freedom for our Political Prisoners and POW's – Reparations

Contact us at info@mxgm.org or 877.248.6095

Free the Land!

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