

**INFORMATION REGARDING CALLS PRESENTED AND/OR SUPPORTED BY
2013 RAINBOW ROUND TABLE**

I TO ACCESS THE THREE WEEKLY CALLS via the Internet

A BBS RADIO Go To www.bbsradio.com ; click on Talk Radio Station #2; click on "64K Listen"

Thursday: 9 pm – 12:00 pm EST **Stargate Round Table** **Host: Marietta Robert**

Friday: 9 pm – 2 am EST **Friday Night Hard News** **Hosts: T & R**

Saturday: 4:30 pm – 2 am EST **History of our Galactic World & NESARA** **Hosts: T & R**

Friday, Saturday: From **10 – 11 pm EST**, for one hour, the call moves to the Conference Call Line [PIN below] and then returns to BBS Radio.

- Use the following phone numbers to ask questions or make comments during the radio show.

530 – 413 – 9537 [line 1]

530 – 763 – 1594 [line 2 & 3]

530 – 746 – 0341 [line 4]

- **BBS Toll Free # in Canada, US** 1 – 888-429-5471 This number picks up whichever line is available.

B Conference Call: 1-213 -342-3000

Thursday PIN #	87 87 87#
Friday PIN #	23 23 23#
Saturday PIN #	13 72 9#

C Skype: **BBSradio2**

D Archives for the 3 Programs listed above:

- To access the **FREE BBS archives** for any of these programs:
 - Go to [BBSRadio.com/ Station 2](http://BBSRadio.com/Station2); scroll down; click on **Current Program Archives**
 - Scroll down to **Hard News on Friday with Tara and Rama**, and click on **"More Archives"**
 - Click on those words and you will be taken to the listing of all program archives, the latest one being at the top.
 - You can download the program to your own computer or listen directly.

- The **2013 website also has an archive section:**

<http://2013rainbowroundtable.ning.com/> look under the "Archives" tab for written notes.

II TO ACCESS OTHER CALLS SUPPORTED BY 2013 Rainbow Roundtable

A Sunday, Mondays: 9 – 10:30 EST **Cheryl Croci's Activation Calls**
By telephone only: 1 – 213 - 342- 3000; PIN 9467441#

B Tuesdays, 2nd & 4th of each month: **Ashtar on the Road**
9:30 – 11:00 pm EST Host is Fran; Susan Leland channels Ashtar & Mother Sekhmet
www.Ashtarontheroad.com

- Phone Number: 1 – 559 – 726 – 1300; PIN 163731#
- Call is free [except for long distance charges]
- Can also listen to the call via Skype

C Wednesdays: 7:00 – 9:00 EST **The Friends of The Aboriginal Moabite Nation Call**
By telephone only: 1– 712-432-0900 PIN 666238#
Replay # [good for 1 week] 1-712- 432-0990 PIN 666238#

Opening Meditation: D'Yanna

Housekeeping: Rainbird Thank you!

- BBS:**
- A listener-supported radio program; we can access program archives on BBS
 - We need **\$ 300** for this week. Many thanks for the contributions for last week.
 - Needs everyone of us to donate something, would like to hear from all on the call.
 - What we hear and learn feeds our minds and our souls!
 - Go to [BBS.com/Radio 2](http://BBS.com/Radio2); find the listing for Friday Night Hard News; find the **Paypal** button
 - BBS appreciates getting cheques through the mail – no fees taken off by Paypal
 - **NO COST TO ACCESS THE ARCHIVES** for any of the T & R PROGRAMS, or the one for Thursday night: Stargate Round Table, hosted by MariettaRobert
 - Re: archives of the other programs on BBS: the money we pay to listen to someone else's archives is put towards our BBS bill!
 - The mailing address for those who do not like paying electronically:
BBS Network, Inc.
5167 Toyon Lane
Paradise, CA 95969
 - Sending a check to BBS means all of your check is received; using Paypal incurs a fee.
- T & R:**
- They also need food & gas money this week
 - Can donate via the Paypal button on the website: www.2013RainbowRoundTable.ning.com
 - **Please notify them if you're sending something:** koran999@comcast.net
 - Rama's mailing address for cheques, Money orders: Ram D Berkowitz
1704 B Llano St, # 249
Santa Fe, NM 87505
 - **phone contact** is via MariettaRobert: 317-773-0061
or by e-mail: stargatemarietta@gmail.com
 - **Remember you can book a session with Mother, as well!**
- MR:**
- Please remember to support MariettaRobert's show, too

Hard News:

T: Obama issued some sanctions tonight – there are 30,000 Russian soldiers in Ukraine tonight

- Yanokovich is being investigated further and some pretty damning evidence has been found

Reading: this is not the time to be complaining, especially Light workers:

- There is a temporary leader in Ukraine; there only a 3 person membership in the group from the previous Parliament from which the new leader has been chosen; the group is also attached to Russia
 - This is a very subtle coup on the part of the US and of NATO which is a criminal enterprize & it has been abused a great deal: Hillary used NATO to do Benghazi
 - Britain, France and other NATO nations are part of a criminal cabal: this is annoying people with connections to Mother russia: a criminal cabal facing off a criminal cabal, as Russia is corrupt too
 - Mr Putin is not afraid of this stuff
 - Please include central Africans – where Christians are murdering Muslims!
- Pleiades: Urgent Message – Triumph Unity Activation Next 4 Days, March 7-10 2014 [SEE BELOW]**
caudexes to be activated; goal is to be in harmony, and in harmony only! To stay free from all judgment: be observer only; to hold peace, joy, bliss;

T: going to do this on etheric plane:

- breathe in Ruby Ray – leadership, love, unconditional loving presence; the giver of love, giving love in an active way doing what it takes to create
- breathe in Excaliber Blue, a Feminine, Receptive Love-the ability to receive love, to be open, gentle and understanding, and the leadership quality is to lead with wisdom, knowledge, a purity ,
- breathe in Sunshine Yellow - [Active Intelligence defined as Joy, the joy that comes from the 1st 2 being balance
- breathe in Emerald Green – centre of the heart chakra: power of thinking with your heart so the healing of the mind takes place
- breathe in orange in throat chakra – courage to speak the truth which creates the ideas for building new forms;
- breathe in 6th chakra is indigo vibration – ability to see with 3rd eye; visionary quality
- breathe in 7th is the violet ray, the crown chakra where masculine and feminine are in balance which brings the pituitary gland into active play so you can access the 7 stars above your crown.

R: the real work is here and yes, we need to be balanced – the dark side want us to be totally unbalanced!

- This is the brinkmanship game Obama and Putin are playing with the world, about the stargates and our friends who are here: as full disclosure is revealed, story gets unravelled.

Rana Mu: Putin floated \$15 M in front of Yanakovich in the last few days: **T:** Putin took it back when Y fled!

- Mr John Kerry has loan guarantees which are IOUs to the Ukraine; he was supposed to deliver them - \$1 billion; it is a dog and pony show about the failing economy here [in US]
- R brings it back to the stargates leading into the middle east, leading into Siberia, Russia, Mongolia

Randi Rhodes: had on Naomi Kelin: discussed why we entered Baghdad: it was about ziggaurats and stargates & Zero point modules, not about oil. She talked about the ziggaurats emitting a lime green beam every night, and the ships standing over them regularly to get re-charged. Iraq is a country – ancient Hanging Gardens of Babylon: it was a space port, a beautiful place – made Grand Central Station look like a country railway station. The seeds of discontent were planted by Mother's wayward children – about ancient sidereal technologies that are on line: when that story gets told, we'll be on the other side of it

T: Found Larry King live last last night on RT; he had on the Dalai Llama **Audio:** Larry King interviews the Dalai Llama - full interview to be posted on Monday

T: Harry Reid accused the Koch Bros of - charged that Charles and David Koch

Conference Call

Caller: 2 TV series to watch: Resurrection ABC on Sunday; Believe on NBC on 9pm EST Monday HQLU.com – a location to watch these series if you cannot see them at the stated times.

Question: March is moving very quickly; 11th something to happen on this day-by-day

R: so many stories going on about the huge issues; most of the fringe stories and the ones that don't get talked about and those willing to talk about news not discussed elsewhere: there are a series of craft arriving at ISS and meeting with people; there are things happening on the moon; there are things happening here, as well. The 13 families know they are in free fall – will it be a hard landing or a soft landing which is what they would like – Ben Fulford talks about the Truth and Reconciliation idea that the 13 families would like; T – Ben is not to be listened to any more!

Caller: has heard that Keith Olberman is to be on the hospitality committee for our friends – what about it?

R people have been waiting and the next shoe has to fall: they used something close to sidereal weapons to bring down the towers – Randi Rhodes will talk of these things when she gets on another radio station. Iraq was not about oil, but the stargates, as is Iran

T: until we get rid of oil, etc – Russia will cut off their gas lines to Ukraine which means also Poland, France, Germany etc – where is the free energy we have been talking about! **R:** Keshe knows when to come in!

Caller: has heard that we might just see our first galactic beings televised from the ISS – what about it? **R** all is possible – **T:** they will do nothing to violate our laws – our criminals have to be arrested first! That is #1.

Caller: How close on the arrests? **T:** Have always been arresting people since 2009 and putting them in the ship prisons since Obama was made president, as he was voted for INSIDE NESARA LAW!

Caller2: how many star brothers and sisters on the ground now? **T** a minimum of 16 million – are they with the Billion Rising Group? **NO** – that is the Vagina Monologue lady: Eva Ensler.

Caller3: the Anna Merkaba website: <http://sacredascensionmerkaba.wordpress.com>

Caller: speaks to the need for supporting T & R; **T** speaks of the younger age of many of the listeners, and the fact that some of the callers go “couch shopping” every night! Great numbers of the homeless are vets. **T:** there is an energy coming from the dark ones who are digging in their heels and becoming worse than ever, as their grip is gone! Putin is pissed off with the west as we are the criminals: McCain going to Ukraine, and Abe putting in money to kill other people – these ones want NATO to get into this, and that is why Putin is like a bear about his. Kerch is city on the SE of Crimea by the Azuz Sea – a lady from that city says she will have to move because if that bridge from Russia gets built, she will lose her right to free speech.

- Putin is worth \$70 billion, and so is Gates who DID NOT GIVE ANY OF HIS MONEY AWAY as he was told to do: when the last bunch get arrested, they will be all gone!

Caller: what Gates did do? He uploaded billions of nanites into the satellites around the planet: the only good thing he has done:he knows his time is up, as they are exiting stage left they want to make a last minute deal – and there is no deal. The deal with the devil – about the **XL pipeline** – word is he will cancel it – it seems his hands are tied and the 13 families are running the show **BUT THEY ARE NOT!** All through the south, it is painted on all kinds of doors: kill the black man in the white house!

- Rick Perry was at CPAC today: **R** brings up a comparison between Obama and Hitler and played a piece about the Thule Society which twisted the ancient stories – when Hitler went out looking for the ancient artifacts across the planet, the technology created by Rasputin – Hitler threatened the people of Tibet with destruction if they did not give him the star people's technology. Rick Perry is part of this twisted and twisting energy – **KOS** asked why would Mitch McConnell show up with a rifle in his hand and hand it to someone at the convention? We are being asked to be the change we want to see in the world: even in the wake of such violence and death - Rama had 2 cop cars pull up beside him and, as they recognized him, they asked him how he was: he told the one good cop to listen to Randi Rhodes and was told that they are told not to listen to the left, but to Rush. This one became a cop in order to support his family: **T** calls being a cop a totally immoral job – they work for the NWO.

T: tells the caller that 19 vets a day kill themselves. They were placed into a program that completely works on their minds: wants to turn them into a kind of iron man with no feelings or heart

Caller: what will happen with the gay lesbian stuff? **T** this cannot be changed: it is the way people are from birth and the Catholic church is at the bottom of it: the Christians in parts of central Africa are murdering Muslims because they are not christian and therefore cannot go to heaven. Yes, Hitler did do

experiments and figured out how to reverse the gene code so men would like men, women would like women – the result was an explosion of this in addition to the mutations that occurred naturally.

Cutting the clitoris off women was created by Abraham / Hammurabi and this is just beginning to be stopped! **CREATOR IS A SHE, CALLED SEKHMET** – and it is not a gender thing, it is about the ability to receive love – nothing exists without THE FORCE and that force is feminine, therefore Sekhmet. The Active principle is masculine and the active part of us is the masculine part of us: where will we use the feminine power we have received? We all are gods / goddesses, creators – all the divine virtues come through us as we are not our bodies. The energy of sex, of copulation is a much lower vibration than the power to give and receive love which is a much higher vibration – when we get the kundalini power, we have access to 100% of our god power.

Caller: asks about the source of information to study; **The Gnosis and The Law** is one to read/ study. Go to www.eraofpeace.com – Patti Cota Robles' website.

BBS

Mother Sekhmet:

Greetings! In the Light of the Most Radiant One; in the Office of the Christ and only in the Office of the Christ, we invoke the loving energies of St Germain and the Violet Flame

Greetings, Children of Ra!

- It is just a small thing, yet it is not a small thing: everything is connected; we are all connected, and it is about the healing of all concerned right now – yes, it is 4 days we are bringing brought into an upgrade of All That Is, as the energies increase in magnitude, in intensity; we are getting a crash course boot camp in energy as we call it – yet it not what those words mean: it is about what we heard T say – time to gird our loins with love and light; the Man with the Plan said he comes with a sword, yet the story is about peace and love, about holding the energy: use the Force only for goodness on the level of all creation coming into play, and the balance of power is moving: when the love of power is being taking over by the power of love, then we shall have peace.
- Mr Dalai Llama showed up with the old spider, Mr Larry King – quite a cosmic dance. They did a coup on 9/11 and said they would blame it on the Osama guy.
 - It is about the issues at hand where the weapons of the sun and the moon were used, and they opened up the realm where Mother gets to step in now – as Captain Pickard said, when the Prime Directive is at this level, it is time to do some fancy dancing. You heard the Pleiadians say we are here in your stratosphere; time to look up and see the magnificence of all that is, amidst the fairy dust is not fairy dust – it comes from Mordor, the land of the Nebraska Navy. Why does Nebraska have a navy in the middle of the prairies? Operation Cloverleaf – spraying us like bugs – may be useful to the Empire: All of it is just a cosmic dance: we will waken to more love!
- In this time and space, there are many facets to the stories here: it is only about love. In the next moment, as the intensity and magnitude and the energies do their cosmic dancing, like the Pleiadians said it is going to get even wilder as they play with “energy out of its time / space continuum”, that negativity about brinkmanship games and talking about phallic symbols that have no meaning:
 - ICBMs are a big deal. It is about the sexual impotence that has happened to the males on this planet – has to do with the healing that Kundalini energy, about healing that part of the goddess **in all of us** – setting aside the masks people may have had to put on to go to war; the real test to to get to the real

heart, the place inside of us, the Warrior for Peace – that is the way of the Force, not taking out men, women, animals for some enigmatic figure in an office in DC – the orders to the Universal Soldier come from You and Me, not from far way – why is that so hard to see?

- We are in the place where now is the time to discuss these issues around the fire – the 4th world is disappearing, moving into the 5th and 6th worlds, as the people with the red hats, the yellow hats, the red cloaks, the yellow cloaks – for the land of the 2nd, 3rd Mesa as well as the people of Tibet .
- The Dalai Llama came with the message about it being the time to bring things to conclusion, to finish with weapons of war – the uncomfortable dance being laid out in front of 7 billion people about the ICBMs –
 - this is why the Captain, the Admiral, the forces which never fell from grace are here – the planet if we could see it as she sees it, so enveloped, wrapped in the frequencies of the oceans and oceans of angels and then more: how could we consider pushing a button that someone in an office far away tells you to push?
 - How about a nice game of chess instead – a 5th D game of chess – it is about raising our consciousness and using the Force, the wisdom we were born with, the cells, the particles which make up this temple, this universe, interacting with trillions of other universes being called into play now –
- Peace is how we do this; love is the answer. When we have the seeds that are being sown right night, on this very night – this small rebel band of life forms have no heart, no mind, only orders from their master which is enigmatic at best – it is FEAR: False Evidence Appearing Real.
 - What have you to hide, Mr Darryl Issa, Mitch McConnell? What issues have you chosen to play with, with our ancient son, the Bright & Morning Star – there are no energies called Lucifer who has returned turned to love; there is no energy called Lucifer here: it is in the mind, the twisted program that comes from ancient war weapons and factories that are based in ancient technologies which only fiddle out
- That is why the Mahdi is here with the Admiral and the Sword of Peace – they are gathering at the place called Midgard; in that place, the realm of The Great Tree, all the elves and kingdoms called to active duty, and he shows up with his hammer and shows the way to the Light.
 - This story is completing itself, out of the land which represents the ancient Celtic kingdom: Princess Gold shaw [?] – the energy of bringing forth the wisdom and the mastery of the Green Tara – the energy which appears now: Beltane, the equinox, Wesak – the sun has returned.
 - All that has arrived, the frequency that is in his name – we come with only what we can carry to follow what he said: this is the way of peace: – it is done with love, dignity respect
- What is happening in Crimea, Ukraine is about ancient things, not reality - only IOUs and paper that is traded with each other and people killing each other over this funny paper called currency? It is the way that is unravelling in the moment - Praise, Respect, Thank and Love for these ones who have chosen to play out their karma, dharma – all of it is here for us to view.
- The ways of the peaceful Warrior, the Force of the Jedi is to use peace and love – how to walk these 4 days with love & only love is our test: judge ye not!

T: Harry Reid is bringing up the Koch Bros on the floor of the Senate!

- Mo:** it is time to bring up the transcendent master that chose to follow the dark side, who used the energy of the Vrill Mother said Mark Holden, the General Counsel for the Koch Brothers is not a nice person.
- The Kochs represent another finger of the story called the 4th Reich over here; Hitler is neutralized for all intents and purposes; the only one playing things out are the delusional life forms that think that they can resurrect an ancient empire, but the true Ayrans represented the people that came from the land of Asgard and Thor and Freya
 - the true story of this is about the Arctic Circle and coming from the land to the Great Tree of eternal life and why would you twist the ancient story into darkness? Because you are afraid of what is coming – SHE IS HERE; Nibiru is here, and it is not about invasion or extinction level events

- it is about healing the ancient story about the people from Nibiru who were lied about
- the ones who came before Mother used the technology of Nibiru for darkness; this is the answer to the ancient story: and Harry Reid knows the story – he does meditation every day. They must expose these

T: all the representatives of the Koch Bros are saying the Koch Bros are not the problem; why is Harry Reid going after the Koch Bros when we have all these other problems -yet THEY ARE the problem!

Mo: People are listening to the whisperings of Wormtongue - the energies of the moment are that the voice of Ashtar and of Sananda are being heard by the heavens, yet the people still listen to the voices of the ancient war machines: it is coming to conclusion now.

- and it is about the ancient stories coming back which are about love. The truth is about nature and nature's god; all the other forms are variations on a theme. When you look at broccoli or cauliflower and see spirals of the Fibonacci Series and the tones – these are sacred sound and light technologies which can be used for healing. They can be used for darkness yet that time has passed, and Gaia and Vywamus, The Ring Pass Not, have said “Enough!”
- The ziggurats are up to full power and everything is moving; the Atlantean grid and other things about the magic of this planet IS BACK! Yet we have these life forms are squabbling over land, and thugs with masks and ancient toys called the “firesticks” by the Aboriginal people: a good word ancient technologies that do not represent the Office of the Christ:
- how can you call yourself Christians when death spews from everything said at the CPAC convention – it is about fear and the fascination with the ancient technology that can seemingly control planets: it takes more than ancient technology and using the FEAR card to rule
- It is about being a true king in the sense or queen – the goddess is back, and she is black – she is here to free the slaves of the slavery of the mind or slavery of human trafficking – how to this hour can men, women, children, all of it – **Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace, where there is such hatred, let me sow love!**

- Greetrings in the light of the most Radiant One – Kadoish, Kadoish, Kadoish - may we stay strong in this time of so much need! **MO:** Remember who you are!

R: was drawn Mt Kalosh – if you ever saw the movie **Jumper**, it is what he experienced: one moment he was here, the next on Mt Kailosh – it was so cold; the coldness that brings you into awareness of being in an altered state. He saw ribbons of rainbows pouring out of the mtn – energy wave of rainbows coming out – the home of Shiva and R? and their son Ganash. He is most humbled when in the presence of Mt Kailosh – in 1972, did not have the gear to go up the mountain. Went to see Sai Baba – He climbed up to a llamasary 14 -15,000' – he was smoking hash at the time – does not remember: it is about healing that trauma – whatever happened in this life or others, Praise, Respect, Thank and Love the feelings – when you can heal that which is inside you, it comes into play in the outer.

T: no matter what it looks like on the outside, she can feel the energies changing

R: story on Al Jazeera “Consider This” - what if this happened here and the seeds being planted by the loony ones in CPAC come to fruition: how can we support Cruz, Bachmann, Palin and all the others when they are an accident waiting to happen.

T: brings up an article she found in a file: Sarah Palin is of the same family as Dodi and Di, Bush Jr, Rama, Al Sharpton, and others – Aug 29, 2013 “Kissenger implicated in 9/11 attack” – by Kevin Barrett. Ehud Barac was in the BBC's studios just after the trade centre was struck and just minutes after was calling for the arrest of Al Qaeda & comments on Henry Kissenger popped up

Reading: 2013, Aug 28 Henry Kissinger Implicated in 9~11 Attacks!

[SEE BELOW]

AUDIO: Democracy Now

[SEE BELOW]

2014, Mar 6 HEADLINES + Senate Rejects Obama Nominee over Legal Defense of Mumia Abu-Jamal
+ Angela Davis on Prison Abolition, the War on Drugs and Why Social Movements Shouldn't Wait on Obama + PART 2: Angela Davis on Solitary Confinement, Immigration Detention and "12 Years a Slave"

Audio: Max Keiser [\[KR571\]](#) [Keiser Report: EU Membership Market](#) **March 6, 2014**

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=IliwqNWFuFs



We discuss an EU membership market on which the more than 50% euroskeptic populations of France, Spain, Greece and UK can dump their membership burdens on to those in Ukraine and beyond who want it. We also discuss the 'sick joke' that is home ownership in Troika-occupied Greece. In the second half, Max interviews **Dmitry Orlov of cluborlov.blogspot.com** about his opinions on Ukraine and about the failed EU trade deal that led to the crisis and what the future holds for the economy.

Read more at <http://www.maxkeiser.com/#pusVHxi3T5mpE31T.99>

Reading: **When Rocks Cry Out**, Ch 33.

Closing: Rainbird

Music: A Sufi Message: This we have now!

INFORMATION RELATED TO THE NOTES

2014, Mar 7 **Pleiades: Urgent Message – Triumph Unity Activation Next 4 Days, March 7-10 2014,**



channeled by Anna Merkaba, March 6, 2014 at

<http://sacredascensionmerkaba.wordpress.com>

Dearly beloved children of the Universe,

The time has come to once again pick up your swords of love and light and connect your channels of communication with the divine to accomplish a significant task at hand. For the time has come for all of you to activate the caudexes within your sub anatomical structure which have indeed been sent to you from the Pleiades.

That which we have been in communication with you for months, is ready to activate, and as such. We ask that you once again, join forces together in a powerful unity and enter the meditative state of positivity, enlightenment, joy, bliss, harmony, understanding and peace. Disregarding what you are perceiving through your media, you are to stay focused on one goal, and one goal only, to be in HARMONY. For the times that you are entering will be tremulous, much will unfold, and much will change and as such, many more energies will be released for cleansing into your atmosphere.

And so, and thus, you are to prepare to be in harmony with all that you see, you are to stay free from judgment, you are to become the observer of all that is unfolding before you, and yet the facilitator of positive and uplifting energies.

And so, we ask that you once again to enter a meditative state for the duration of the next four of your earthly days.

Four of your earthly days. As the perceived negativity in your world escalates, you are to hold the peace, joy and harmony, bliss, freedom and peace within your spheres of understanding of life. Focus on that which is at hand, pay attention to the guidance you shall receive from your guides, for you are greatly needed yet again. For there must be a balance, a balance of power. Please understand dearly beloveds that you are immensely powerful beings who have come into these times in order to facilitate the necessary changes that earthlings have been dreaming about for eons, and as such, you must remember the training that you have received prior to your incarnations on GAIA.

Training to stay in balance, training to stay in the love, training on how to utilize the power of love and understanding, in order to influence your immediate surroundings, GAIA and the entire universe! And so, be ready dearly beloveds, for the time is NOW. Be ready. Know that the turbulence that you are about to experience is of the positive nature. Understand that even if your mind perceives it to not be so, it its! For in order for great

change to occur, in order for great light to completely anchor into GAIA, the darkness must recede and BALANCE must be restored between “darkness” and light. For all is in balance, for all is God’s will, for all is ONE and ONE is all.

Stay in your power, stay in the light, stay in BALANCE.

Hold the vision of the type of NOW you wish to experience. For the next four of your earthly days. Know that we are descending into your stratosphere, know that you are being supported, and yet understand, that YOU are the ones, the GROUND CREW that is facilitating the changes WITH YOUR ENERGIES. Doubt not your selves, and walk confidently in the direction UNITY, PEACE, HARMONY AND UNDERSTANDING FOR ALL.

That is all that we have for you now. We love you. We are with you. Goodbye for now.

Personal Note: Once again I’m reposting this from the previous times on how to keep your energy in balance...

Please do everything possible to keep your energy in balance, in peace, in harmony, in light, in unconditional love. As soon as you begin to feel that you are shifting out of balance, please find a way to re balance yourself, do whatever works for you.

A really good way that works for many instantaneously because what it does is aligns every single chakra energy point in your body, is the following:

- Stand up straight and put your palms together in a “prayer” position with your feet and legs touching each other.
- Close your eyes and begin to SLOWLY breathe in and out, 7 times.
- As you breathe in you are to think of each of the Chakra colors, and breath into the chakra corresponding to each color. So if you begin with your crown chakra breathe in the violet/purple color and feel your chakra activate by fully focusing on it, completely feeling the tingling sensation of activation and peace spread throughout that area of your body, as you breathe out think of everything that is not working for your highest good leaving your body.
- Continue to do so until you are done with all 7 breaths.
- Then lift your hands up with the palms still touching and spread them open and place your palms on the side of your legs.

That is all, you should feel your peace and harmony and balance restore!

I love you all, and am sending each one of you love, light, health, joy, balance, harmony, patience, abundance and bliss!

Pleiades – channeled by Anna Merkaba – Distant Energy Healer- Channeler – Lightworker. To book a Healing or Psychic Session with Anna and for more channeled messages to help you on your journey to self discovery visit : Sacred Ascension – Key of Life -- Discover your true self through the vibrational messages from behind the veil – <http://sacredascensionmerkaba.wordpress.com/>

2014, March 3 **Reid escalates feud with Koch brothers**



Greg Nash

By Alexander Bolton

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) on Tuesday accused the Koch brothers of unlawful business practices in an effort to portray the conservative billionaires as election-year bogeymen.

Reid charged that Charles and David Koch, who are tied for fourth place on the Forbes list of 400 richest people in the United States, violated the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, citing a 2011 report by Bloomberg Markets magazine.

"These are the same brothers whose company, according to a Bloomberg investigation, paid bribes and kickbacks to win contracts in Africa, India and the Middle East," Reid said on the Senate floor. "These are the same brothers who, according to the same report, used foreign subsidiaries to sell millions of dollars of equipment to Iran, a state sponsor of terrorism."

Representatives of the Kochs's business empire fired back quickly in what has become an escalating battle between the top Democrat in Congress and the press-shy business titans.

A lawyer for Koch Industries said the allegations in the Bloomberg article have been subsequently debunked and did not result in any legal penalty.

"Nothing has ever come of any of the allegations that Mr. Reid referred to," said Mark Holden, general counsel of Koch Industries.

"Sen. Reid's allegations are false," he added.

Philip Ellender, the president of government and public affairs at Koch Companies Public Sector LLC, said Reid was lashing out at the Kochs because of political differences.

"We are disappointed that Sen. Reid is attacking private citizens rather than the problems facing this nation. It is no wonder that Americans have lost faith in Congress," he said in a statement.

Patrick Pexton, the ombudsman for The Washington Post in 2011, at the time questioned the paper for republishing the Bloomberg report.

"I think the story lacked context, was tendentious and was unfair in not reporting some of the exculpatory and contextual information Koch provided to Bloomberg," Pexton wrote in October 2011.

It was the third attack Reid leveled at the Koch brothers on the Senate floor in the past week, and Democratic strategists say the intent is to make the Kochs the new faces of the GOP.

The Nevada Democrat, a former amateur boxer, is known for lambasting his political enemies.

In 2008, Reid said he “can’t stand” Sen. John McCain (Ariz.), who was then the GOP presidential nominee. Four years later, he repeatedly ripped Mitt Romney and, without proof, claimed the 2012 Republican standard-bearer hadn’t paid taxes in 10 years.

Reid’s salvos at the Kochs have angered Republican senators who feel he is unfairly picking on private citizens.

Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) has threatened to begin demonizing liberal donors.

Other Senate Republicans say the harshness of Reid’s jabs are a sign that Democrats feel under increasing political pressure because of millions of dollars in ads the Kochs have funded in Arkansas, North Carolina and other Senate battlegrounds.

National Republican Senatorial Committee Chairman Jerry Moran (Kan.) rebuked Reid last week for targeting the Kochs and compared him to former Wisconsin Sen. Joseph McCarthy (R). Democrats countered that Moran’s defense only showed how much the GOP political operation is beholden to the Kochs’s patronage.

Democrats used a similar political tactic in 2012 when they compensated for President Obama’s soft approval ratings by making the election more of a choice between him and Romney than a referendum on the president.

“The Koch brothers click because when you look at the policies they want to enact they are policies that benefit the wealthiest: getting rid of minimum wage, lobbying against paycheck fairness,” said a senior Senate Democratic aide.

Democrats succeeded in 2012 by painting Romney as an emissary for the wealthy elite who had little in common with ordinary voters. Romney played into the strategy by making disparaging comments about 47 percent of Americans and building an elevator for his four-car garage.

But this year — just like in 2010 — Obama’s numbers are low and there is no clear household name bogeyman. In 2010, Republicans won 63 House seats in the midterms and cut into the Senate Democratic majority.

“The dynamics in a non-presidential year are quite different. Mitt Romney was an absolutely delightful candidate to run against,” said Mike Lux, a Democratic strategist. “He represented so much what we as Democrats opposed with the 47-percent statement.

“It is always helpful in politics to personify issues to use people as the example of what’s going on with a given issue, and the Koch brothers are a great example,” he added.

“The idea is to create the impression that Republicans are getting their money from a sinister and questionable source, people who violate campaign finance laws and trade with the enemy,” said Ross K. Baker, a political science professor at Rutgers University who previously served in the Senate as a senior fellow and scholar-in-residence.

Reid has flipped to the same page of the playbook to make the November election a choice between Obama and the Koch brothers instead of a referendum on the unpopular ObamaCare law.

Last week, Reid ripped the Koch brothers as “un-American” and accused them of “trying to buy America” in separate floor speeches.

He followed up in a lengthy speech devoted to the Koch brothers Tuesday, when hearings and votes were canceled because of snow.

“What is un-American is when shadowy billionaires pour unlimited money into our democracy to rig the system to benefit themselves and the wealthiest 1 percent,” he said.

Senate Democratic aides say polling consistently shows that many voters feel they are living in a two-tiered economy that has left them behind and benefited the rich disproportionately.

Obama and Reid have embraced economic inequality as their campaign theme of 2014, and holding up the Koch brothers as the wealthy patrons of the GOP fits snugly into that strategy, say Senate Democratic aides.

Brad Dayspring, the NRSC's communications director, on Tuesday accused Democrats of hypocrisy by noting several vulnerable Democratic senators have accepted money from the Koch Industries political action committee.

"Man, the Senate Majority Leader sure is grumpy. Wonder why? Oh, right — his majority is slipping away," Dayspring wrote in a memo to reporters.

He pointed to data compiled by the Center for Responsive Politics, which tracks fundraising, showing the campaigns of Sens. Mark Pryor (D-Ark.) and Mary Landrieu (D-La.) and the leadership PAC of Sen. Mark Begich (D-Alaska) have accepted money from Koch Industries PAC in recent years.

This story was posted at 3:10 p.m. and updated at 9:18 p.m.

Read more: <http://thehill.com/homenews/senate/199857-reid-koch-brothers-broke-business-laws#ixzz2vKx8Drs1>

2013, Aug 28 **Henry Kissinger Implicated in 9~11 Attacks!**

<http://www.veteranstoday.com/2013/08/28/henryk911/>



Read Elias Davidsson's "Hijacking America's Mind on 9/11"

by [Kevin Barrett](#)

Christopher Bollyn has pointed out that Ehud Barak, chief of the Israeli military's special operations force, [apparently spent several months in the US in 2001 helping organize the 9/11 attacks](#). Barak was in the BBC's London studios just minutes after the World Trade Center was struck, blaming "al-Qaeda" and calling on the US to invade Afghanistan and Iraq. Barak's foreknowledge of 9/11, and his scripting the desired global response, makes him a prime suspect in the attacks.

But Ehud Barak wasn't the only one with that kind of foreknowledge. Henry Kissinger also popped up on TV before the World Trade Center dust had settled, reading from exactly the same script.

Elias Davidsson's brief article below nails Kissinger as another high-level 9/11 suspect. Davidsson, a German-Jewish musician and human rights expert, is the author of the new book [Hijacking America's Mind on 9/11](#).



Henry Kissinger and the events of 9/11

by Elias Davidsson, 28 August 2013

On September 11, 2001 at 12:58, CNN conducted an interview with Henry Kissinger, who was in Germany at the time.

Within three hours of the attacks Kissinger blamed “foreign terrorists” for the attacks and called for an “American integrated response” against the countries who support these “terrorists”. At the time Kissinger made these statements, no US official was supposed to know who committed the attacks. There was no foreign element known to be involved in the attacks: The four aircraft which were allegedly hijacked were domestic flights. No foreign armed forces attacked the United States. And no foreign organisation claimed authorship.

The US elite, including George W. Bush, Henry Kissinger, and others, immediately decided to blame the attacks of Al Qaeda, Afghanistan and Osama bin Laden, without waiting for evidence. On September 12, 2001, twenty-four hours after the events, the U.S. Congress adopted a resolution repeating these claims. The Congress had no factual basis. Until today (2013), the US Government has not produced any evidence linking Al Qaeda, Afghanistan or Bin Laden to the attacks of 9/11. European governments have failed to demand such evidence in order not to embarrass the U.S. government

The speed with which Kissinger claimed to know who was behind the attacks is extraordinary. A person of his stature does not jump to conclusions. This speed indicates that he knew in advance about the plans for the attacks and had already discussed with U.S. officials whom to blame when the attacks have been accomplished and what to say to mass media.

Kissinger’s connection to 9/11 can also be gauged by the fact that George W. Bush attempted to nominate him to head the 9/11 Commission. George W. Bush trusted that war criminal to manage a perfect cover-up effort. But Kissinger had to give up heading the 9/11 Commission after he revealed that among his clients was the family of Osama bin Laden.

There are reasonable grounds to suspect that Henry Kissinger was one of the main architects for the mass-murder of 9/11. For that reason it is imperative that his connection to the events of 9/11 be mentioned in any action to reveal the criminality of that person. Failing to do so would be deceptive.

<http://www.veteranstoday.com/2013/08/28/henryk911/>

Crimean Parliament Votes to Join Russia, Hold Referendum

Lawmakers in the Ukrainian province of Crimea have voted to join Russia and to hold a referendum on their decision within 10 days. The move could mark a major escalation of the crisis that exploded last week when Russian forces deployed around Crimea, far beyond the confines of their base there. The vote comes amidst new international pressure on Russia to withdraw from Crimea. NATO says it will suspend cooperation with Russia, including a joint mission destroying Syria's chemical stockpile. Top diplomats including Secretary of State John Kerry held talks with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, but the talks broke off without progress. Kerry said the two sides had agreed to keep talking.

Secretary of State John Kerry: "We agreed to continue intense discussions in the coming days with Russia, with Ukrainians, in order to see how we can help normalize the situation, stabilize it and overcome the crisis. And those intentions are intentions that are shared exactly as I have described them between Russia, the United States, the European countries and Ukrainians, who were here. All parties agreed today that it is important to try to resolve these issues through dialogue."

In an effort to bolster the new Ukrainian government, the European Union has unveiled an aid package worth at least \$15 billion.

Leaked EU Call: Opposition Behind Sniper Shootings in Kiev

In other news from [Ukraine](#), a leaked phone call has bolstered claims anti-government forces were behind sniper attacks on protesters in Kiev last month. Both sides of Ukraine's political divide blamed the other when dozens of people were killed by gunfire in the weeks before the ouster of Russian-backed President Viktor Yanukovich. But in an intercepted phone call between Estonia's foreign minister, Urmas Paet, and European Union policy chief Catherine Ashton, Paet says the sniper fire came from the opposition.

Estonian Foreign Minister Urmas Paet: "All the evidence shows that people who were killed by snipers, from both sides, among policemen and then people from the streets, that they were the same snipers killing people from both sides."

EU Foreign Policy Chief Catherine Ashton: "Well, that's — yeah."

Estonian Foreign Minister Urmas Paet: "So that—and then she also showed me some photos. She said that, as medical doctor, she can say that it is the same handwriting, the same type of bullets. And it's really disturbing that now the new coalition, that they don't want to investigate what exactly happened, so that there is now stronger and stronger understanding that behind the snipers, it was not Yanukovich, but it was somebody from the new coalition."

NATO Air Strike Kills 5 Soldiers in "Accidental" Bombing

In news from Afghanistan, a NATO air strike has killed five Afghan soldiers in eastern Logar province. NATO says the bombing was a mistake.

U.N. Panel: Assad Regime Waging War of "Starvation"

A United Nations panel on the civil war in [Syria](#) says the regime of Bashar al-Assad is waging a campaign of siege warfare and starvation against hundreds of thousands of civilians. The Commission of Inquiry says Syrians are being "denied humanitarian aid, food and such basic necessities as medical care, and must choose between surrender and starvation." The report also faults Syrian rebels for scores of extrajudicial killings. Speaking to

reporters, panel chair Paulo Pinheiro says the U.N. Security Council bears responsibility for the ongoing atrocities.

Paulo Pinheiro: "The Security Council bears responsibility for not addressing accountability and allowing the warring parties to violate these rules with total impunity. One of the most stark trends we have documented is the use of siege warfare. The denial of humanitarian aid, food and basic necessities, such as medical care and clean water, has forced people to choose between surrender and starvation."

CIA Rejects "Spurious" Claims of Spying on Senate Torture Probe

More details have emerged in the unfolding dispute over the CIA's alleged spying on a Senate panel probing the agency's torture and rendition program. Members of the Senate Intelligence Committee say CIA officials illegally monitored their staffers' work as they compiled the panel's exhaustive report on CIA torture. The report has yet to be released but reportedly documents extensive abuses and a cover-up by CIA officials to Congress. Senators and their aides say they believe the CIA monitored computers they used while conducting research at CIA headquarters. The spying apparently came to light after the CIA complained Senate staffers had taken a classified internal review that showed CIA officials had misled lawmakers in disputing allegations of torture. In a statement, CIA Director John Brennan said lawmakers are making "spurious allegations about CIA actions that are wholly unsupported by the facts." The dispute is expected to further complicate efforts to have the Senate report released. In an irony noted by critics, several members of the Senate Intelligence Committee now complaining about being spied on have been among the staunchest defenders of the National Security Agency, which they also oversee.

Senate Rejects Obama Nominee over Legal Defense of Mumia Abu-Jamal

A group of Senate Democrats has broken ranks with President Obama to block a key nominee. In a 52-47 vote, the Senate rejected the nomination of Debo Adebile to head the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division. Adebile is a widely respected lawyer who has argued before the Supreme Court on voting rights issues. The confirmation fight focused almost solely on his role in the legal defense of imprisoned Black Panther [Mumia Abu-Jamal](#), who was convicted of killing a Philadelphia police officer. Adebile was part of a team of lawyers at the NAACP Legal Defense Fund who successfully argued the trial judge's jury instructions violated Abu-Jamal's rights. Seven Democrats joined with Republicans to defeat Adebile's bid. In a statement, President Obama called the vote "a travesty based on wildly unfair character attacks against a good and qualified public servant." We'll have more on this story after headlines.

White House Extends Window for Keeping Substandard Health Plans

The Obama administration has again extended the timeline for consumers to keep health plans that fail to meet the standards of the new healthcare law. President Obama granted a one-year reprieve to the substandard plans late last year amidst anger over his failed pledge that all policy holders can keep their plans. On Wednesday, the White House extended the window to two years.

Prosecutors Drop Key Charges Against Activist-Journalist Barrett Brown

Federal prosecutors have dropped a number of key charges against Barrett Brown, an activist-journalist covering online surveillance who has spent more than a year behind bars. Supporters say Brown has been unfairly targeted for investigating the highly secretive world of private intelligence and military contractors. On Wednesday, prosecutors dropped 11 of 17 counts, including a charge for posting a weblink online to a document that contained stolen credit card data. All of the dropped charges relate to the hacking of the private intelligence firm Stratfor, which unearthed how the firm monitors activists and spies for corporate clients. The dropping of

charges came just one day after Brown's attorneys filed a motion to have the same counts dropped, arguing posting a weblink is protected by freedom of speech. Brown still faces up to 70 years in prison.

Coal Giant to Pay Record Fine for Appalachia Pollution

The mining giant Alpha Natural Resources will pay a record fine for years of pollution in the Appalachian Mountains. Alpha has been ordered to pay \$27.5 million for thousands of violations of water permits and dumping toxins into waterways. It is the largest-ever fine under Section 402 of the Clean Water Act. The company will also be forced to pay around \$200 million to upgrade facilities in five states. Around half of the violations were committed by Massey Energy, which Alpha bought in 2011.

Alabama Lawmakers OK Anti-Abortion Bills

Alabama lawmakers have passed a bill that would ban abortion after a fetal heartbeat is detected, which can happen in the earliest stages of pregnancy, around five or six weeks, before many women even know they are pregnant. The bill makes no exception for rape or incest. A similar measure passed in North Dakota has been blocked by a federal judge. The Alabama House also passed three other anti-choice bills on Tuesday: One would extend the waiting period before an abortion from 24 hours to 48 hours; a second would force women who learn their fetuses have lethal conditions and cannot survive outside the womb to wait at least 48 hours and learn about perinatal hospice options, which do not currently exist in Alabama. Another bill would dramatically increase barriers to abortion for minors, whether or not they have parental permission. If a young person seeks legal permission from a judge instead of a parent, her parents participate in the court proceedings, even if they are abusive.

Texas Anti-Abortion Law Forces Closure of More Clinics

Two more reproductive health clinics in Texas, including one that provided abortions, have shut down due to the terms of the state's harsh new anti-choice law. Pro-choice advocates predict that come September, when a section of the law requiring clinics to meet hospital-style buildings requirements comes into effect, just six abortion providers will be left in the entire state.

IRS Hearing Prompts Heated Exchange Between Lawmakers

A House hearing on alleged political targeting by the IRS has turned into a shouting match between the panel's top members. IRS official Lois Lerner refused to testify in the latest of dozens of hearings into the alleged singling out of right-wing groups for extra scrutiny. Oversight Committee Chair Darrell Issa, a Republican, adjourned the meeting after Lerner repeatedly pleaded the Fifth Amendment. In doing so, he refused to allow the panel's ranking member, Democrat Elijah Cummings of Maryland, the chance to speak.

Rep. Darrell Issa: "We are adjourned. Close it down. ... Mr. Cummings, where is your question?"

Rep. Elijah Cummings: "If you will sit down and allow me to ask the question — I am a member of the Congress of the United States of America! I am tired of this! We have members over here, each who represent 700,000 people. You cannot just have a one-sided investigation. There is absolutely something wrong with that, and it is absolutely un-American."

Rep. Darrell Issa: "We had a hearing. Hearing's adjourned. I gave you the opportunity to ask a question. You had no questions."

Rep. Elijah Cummings: "I do have a question."

Rep. Darrell Issa: "I gave you [inaudible]. You made a speech"

Rep. Elijah Cummings: "Chairman, what are you hiding?"

Congressman Elijah Cummings was speaking off mic, because the chair of the committee, Darrell Issa, had shut his mic off.

Venezuela: Tens of Thousands Mark Year Since Chávez Death Amidst Opposition Rallies

Tens of thousands of people marched in Venezuela on Wednesday to mark the one-year anniversary of the death of longtime President [Hugo Chávez](#). The commemorations faced disruption from government opponents, who have staged a series of protests against Chávez's successor, Nicolás Maduro. Thousands of people rallied against Maduro on the eve of the anniversary.

RT Anchors Criticize Ukraine Coverage on Russia-Owned Network

In media news, two anchors with Russia's state-owned U.S. news network, RT, have spoken out against Russian policy in Ukraine on air. On Wednesday, RT anchor Liz Wahl resigned during a live broadcast to protest what she called the network's biased coverage in favor of the Russian government.

Liz Wahl: "Personally, I cannot be part of a network funded by the Russian government that whitewashes the actions of [Vladimir] Putin. I'm proud to be an American and believe in disseminating the truth, and that is why, after this newscast, I'm resigning."

RT has dismissed Wahl's action as a show of "self-promotion." The resignation came days after another RT anchor, Abby Martin, also spoke out on air, calling the invasion of Crimea an act of "military aggression." In an interview with CNN, Martin told CNN anchor Piers Morgan that RT has acted no differently than the U.S. corporate media did in cheerleading for the Iraq War.

Abby Martin: "Piers, no different than every other corporate media station. I mean, we're talking about six corporations that control 90 percent of what Americans see, hear and read; the lead-up to the Iraq War, parroting exactly what the establishment said. I mean, you could reflect the exact same criticism on all the corporate media channels. So, you know, I can only speak for my show. I stayed true to my moral compass. But RT toes a perspective of the Russian foreign policy, just as the entire corporate media apparatus toes the perspective of the U.S. establishment."

State Department Issues Visa Ban over Ukraine Crisis

In breaking news, the State Department has announced a new ban on visas for Russian and Ukrainian officials who are "responsible for or complicit in threatening the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine." The move could lead to the freezing of assets and barring Americans from doing business with targeted individuals.

2014, Mar 6

Senate Race-Baiting? Dems Join GOP to Block Obama DOJ Pick Tied to Legal

Defense of Mumia Abu-Jamal

http://www.democracynow.org/2014/3/6/senate_race_baiting_dems_joins_gop

Guests

Ryan Haygood, director of the NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund's Political Participation Group.

Johanna Fernández, professor of history at Baruch College-CUNY and one of the coordinators of the Campaign to Bring Mumia Home. She is editor of the collection of Mumia Abu-Jamal's essays, *Writing on the Wall*, forthcoming from City Lights Books.

In a stunning vote, a group of U.S. Senate Democrats has broken ranks to join Republicans in rejecting President Obama's pick to head the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division, Debo Adebile. The confirmation fight focused almost solely on Adebile's role in the legal defense of imprisoned Black Panther Mumia Abu-Jamal, who was convicted of killing a Philadelphia police officer, despite Abu-Jamal's longstanding position of being not guilty. Adebile was part of a team of lawyers at the NAACP Legal Defense Fund who successfully argued the trial judge's jury instructions violated Abu-Jamal's rights. Adebile's supporters say the attacks on him mark a new form of Willie Horton politics and race baiting. We discuss the controversy with two guests: Johanna Fernández, professor of history at Baruch College-CUNY and a coordinator with the Campaign to Bring Mumia Home, and Ryan Haygood, director of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund's Political Participation Group.

Transcript

This is a rush transcript. Copy may not be in its final form.

JUAN GONZÁLEZ: A group of Senate Democrats broke ranks with President Obama Wednesday as they joined Republicans to block his pick to lead the Civil Rights Division of the Justice Department. In a 52-to-47 vote, the Senate rejected the nomination of Debo Adebile, the former acting head of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. Adebile is a widely respected lawyer who had led the group's defense of voting rights.

AMY GOODMAN: But the confirmation fight focused almost solely on Adebile's role in the legal defense of imprisoned Black Panther Mumia Abu-Jamal, who was convicted of killing Philadelphia police officer Daniel Faulkner in 1981. The NAACP Legal Defense Fund argued the trial judge's instructions to the jury violated Abu-Jamal's rights. Federal courts agreed and in 2011 ordered a new sentencing hearing for Abu-Jamal, a move that eventually took him off death row. Senator Ted Cruz was one of several Republicans who spoke out against Adebile.

SEN. TED CRUZ: The Fraternal Order of Police vehemently opposes this nomination. According to a letter written by the president of the FOP, Adebile's nomination only exacerbates the, quote, "growing division and distrust" towards local law enforcement agencies, a trend that has continued from the time now Labor Secretary Thomas Perez was leading the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division. Peter Kirsanow, a member on the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, wrote, quote, "Responsible people should agree that going out of your way to defend a convicted cop-killer long after it has become unequivocally clear that he was guilty and had suffered no violation of his civil rights disqualifies one from serving as the head of a division of the U.S. Department of Justice."

JUAN GONZÁLEZ: Republican Senator Ted Cruz, who voted against Debo Adebile's confirmation. Seven Democrats joined Republicans in opposing Adebile: Bob Casey of Pennsylvania, Joe Manchin of West Virginia, Mark Pryor of Arkansas, Heidi Heitkamp of North Dakota, Joe Donnelly of Indiana, John Walsh of Montana and Chris Coons of Delaware. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid also voted no, which, under Senate rules, allows him to bring the nomination back to the floor at a later date. Democratic Senator Dick Durbin defended Adebile's nomination.

SEN. DICK DURBIN: The Bush administration's solicitor general, Paul Clement, stated—and I quote—"I have litigated both with and against Debo and have heard him argue in the Supreme Court. I have always found him to be a formidable advocate of the highest intellect, skills and integrity." Mr. Adegbile's representation of Mumia Abu-Jamal does not mean that he lacks respect for the rule of law, and it certainly should not disqualify him for this important civil rights job. In fact, his willingness to represent an unpopular defendant in an emotionally charged case demonstrates his appreciation for the rule of law, as well as his respect for the criminal justice system. His critics have attempted to characterize him as someone who actively sought out this case, someone who disparaged the officer who was cut down in the line of duty, Officer Faulkner, and someone who was responsible for Abu-Jamal's death sentence being overturned. Each of these characterizations is wrong, inaccurate and unfair.

AMY GOODMAN: Democratic Senator Dick Durbin speaking Wednesday.

President Obama called the vote a "travesty. Obama said, quote, "The fact that his nomination was defeated solely based on his legal representation of a defendant runs contrary to a fundamental principle of our system of justice."

Well, for more, we're joined by two guests. Johanna Fernández is with us, professor of history at Baruch College, part of the City University of New York, one of the coordinators of the Campaign to Bring Mumia Home. She's editor of the collection of Mumia Abu-Jamal's essays, *Writing on the Wall*. Ryan Haygood is the director of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund's Political Participation Group.

We welcome you both to *Democracy Now!* Why don't we begin with you, Ryan? The significance of Debo Adegbile's rejection by the Democrats as well as the Republicans of the Senate?

RYAN HAYGOOD: Sure. I mean, I appreciate you having me on the show, Amy. It's really hard to overstate what the U.S. Senate did yesterday. In a shameful vote, the Senate essentially decided that being a lawyer disqualifies one from holding a legal position. More specifically, the U.S. Senate essentially held yesterday that serving this country as a public servant in the highest aspirations of the legal tradition and being one of the pre-eminent civil rights litigators in America disqualifies one—here, Debo Adegbile—from serving as the top lawyer in the Civil Rights Division for the Department of Justice.

And what's striking in watching the debate yesterday on the Senate floor is that none of the discussion was about the merits, the substance of Debo's qualifications. There's no disagreement about him being a pre-eminent civil rights attorney whose worldview and experience speak to his qualification for this position. What the Senate lacked yesterday was the political will to do the right thing and give the American people what they deserve in having a person who is eminently qualified, like Debo Adegbile, serve in the Department of Justice Civil Rights Division.

JUAN GONZÁLEZ: Well, and the amazing thing about this is, apparently, his involvement in this appeal of the death sentence was almost tangential. It wasn't even—he wasn't even a key lawyer in the case. Can you talk about who was actually conducting or involved in the case for the Legal Defense Fund?

RYAN HAYGOOD: Sure. The case was chiefly handled, expertly, by the director of our criminal justice group, Christina Swarns. Debo was overseeing all of the litigation in the Legal Defense Fund, which included this case involving Mr. Mumia Abu-Jamal. And to your point, when you focus on what was really at issue in this case, there were four federal judges, two of whom were appointed by Ronald Reagan, one of whom was appointed by George Bush, which found that there was a constitutional violation at issue in this case, involving the jury instructions, and that it was appropriate for Mr. Abu-Jamal's death sentence to be altered to life without parole. So, even when you focus on the merits of the issue at hand, you find that Debo's involvement in this case, though he wasn't primarily responsible for representing Mr. Abu-Jamal, that his involvement is actually in line

with the highest traditions of our legal profession, which is affording everyone their constitutional rights afforded to any criminal defendant.

AMY GOODMAN: His name on several of the documents because he was the acting head of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund?

RYAN HAYGOOD: That's right. That's right. As the acting head of LDF, Debo was on all of the legal briefs. In this case, he appeared on two briefs before the Third Circuit Court of Appeals and one brief before the U.S. Supreme Court.

JUAN GONZÁLEZ: And, Johanna Fernández, the significance of the ability of the lobby of police organizations around the country to essentially tar Adegbile with Mumia Abu-Jamal and the refusal to accept, by the police organizations, that the courts have already ruled, one, that the death penalty in this case was not properly administered or ruled to Mumia?

JOHANNA FERNÁNDEZ: Well, I think that we have to outline what the strategy was that was used to tar Adegbile, because this has been used historically to dismiss nominees and elected officials who are not in line with the interests of a particular section of society. So what exactly did they do? They essentially appealed to the racism of white voters by creating a target. And this target is Mumia Abu-Jamal, whom they depict as a monster, unrepentant, cop killer. And then they link him to Adegbile in order to scare Democrats from supporting him, especially in the run-up to an election. Now, I think that it's important to note that in the post-civil rights and Black Power era, the alleged killing of a police officer is synonymous with the notion of a white—a black man killing—raping, excuse me—a white man raping a white woman. And this then becomes the basis upon which a legal lynching happens. And this narrative is deployed—it's the Southern strategy. It's essentially deployed to instill fear and intimidation in a white, latently racist voter population.

And, you know, at some point we have to say that Mumia was lynched in the courts. Part of what the Fraternal Order of Police says is that the movement to free Mumia cares not about the pain of Maureen Faulkner. But part of what we have to say is that justice for Maureen Faulkner is tied to finding out who killed Officer Faulkner. One of the most important things in this case is that there was a fourth person at the scene of the crime, and that person was seen running away from the crime scene and was identified as the shooter. But that detail was suppressed at trial by the prosecution. The question is, why? We believe that Mumia is innocent and justice for Maureen Faulkner is tied to finding out who killed Officer Faulkner. Why doesn't the Fraternal Order of Police want to discover the truth in this case?

AMY GOODMAN: This is Republican Senator Pat Toomey of Pennsylvania opposing Adegbile's nomination last month. As he addressed his colleagues, he stood before an oversized photograph of Daniel Faulkner, the police officer Mumia Abu-Jamal was convicted of killing.

SEN. PAT TOOMEY: When they should have been pursuing their historic role in providing the truth and justice for American people, they were advancing neither cause. It's also important to point out that this was never a case of a criminal deserving a legal defense. OK? Criminals do deserve appropriate legal counsel in their defense. The fact is, the trial had occurred decades ago. Abu-Jamal had multiple high-cost lawyers volunteering their time. He had plenty of lawyers. He didn't need more lawyers. What Mr. Adegbile did was he decided to join a political cause. That's what he decided to do. That's what this was all about. And in my view, by doing so, he demonstrated his own contempt for—and, frankly, a willingness to undermine—the criminal justice system of the United States.

AMY GOODMAN: That was Republican Senator Pat Toomey of Pennsylvania, where Mumia Abu-Jamal, of course, is in prison. Johanna Fernández, can you talk about the campaign to oppose Debo Adegbile? What happened in the Senate? I heard a lot from the opposition in this period of time leading up to the vote; I heard

very little from groups supporting Debo Adegbile.

JOHANNA FERNÁNDEZ: So, the campaign against Debo Adegbile was initiated by the Fraternal Order of Police, and it began when they wrote a letter to the president of the United States that essentially demonized Mumia Abu-Jamal and linked Debo Adegbile to Mumia's alleged shooting of the police officer. And then they proceeded to lobby politicians, like Senator Toomey, but also the first black DA of Philadelphia, Seth Williams. Both of those, Senator Toomey and Seth Williams, ended up writing a [letter](#) to *The Wall Street Journal* filled with lies both about Mumia's case and a misrepresentation of Debo Adegbile's association with the case. It was a vociferous campaign, and it was a grassroots campaign. And this is what the right does. They actually went into the floor of the Senate about three weeks ago when an initial vote was taken, and they had literature about Mumia Abu-Jamal and Debo Adegbile filled with lies. And part of what we learn from this example is that if voices of conscience do not organize, like the right does, to present the truth and the facts of the case, they end up winning.

RYAN HAYGOOD: And I tell you, part of the reason why the Senate's vote yesterday is so tragic is because, as a practical matter, it now leaves the head of the Civil Rights Division position open at a pivotal time in American history where we're dealing with all manner of inequality, in the civil rights context, in the Stand Your Ground law context. There is the issue of the role of race in higher education. And for me as a voting rights lawyer, one of the more important issues is how do we respond to the Supreme Court's devastating decision in the *Shelby County* case last term.

What's striking about the Senate's vote against Debo yesterday is that he was one of the people who took the lead in helping to develop the record that Congress used to reauthorize this core provision of the Voting Rights Act in 2006, and it was Debo Adegbile who twice defended what Congress did before the U.S. Supreme Court, first successfully in the MUD case, and secondly, most recently, when the Supreme Court in *Shelby County* struck a core provision of the Voting Rights Act. So, the Senate—the U.S. Senate's vote yesterday was really a vote against its own interests. Last term, the U.S. Supreme Court essentially gave Congress a vote of no confidence when it struck what Congress did by striking a core provision of the Voting Rights Act, and it was Debo who was one of the chief defenders of Congress's work before the Supreme Court, two times, in some of the most important voting rights cases in our generation.

JUAN GONZÁLEZ: Well, isn't it entirely possible that the real reason behind the attempt to get him out was precisely that he would become, as head of the Civil Rights Division, a main proponent within the federal government of holding up the voting rights of African Americans and other minorities, just at the time when we have these elections coming up?

RYAN HAYGOOD: Sure, I think that's right. But I also think that there was some interest convergence here. You know, I think it's significant that Congress essentially was given the vote of no confidence by the Supreme Court and that the Supreme Court essentially said, "Look, your power to legislate around a core—a fundamental right, the right to vote, is being constrained by the Supreme Court decision." And Congress really had an opportunity to respond by working with Debo, and the Department of Justice under his leadership, to enact new voting rights legislation that would pass and that would restore what was lost in the *Shelby County* decision.

AMY GOODMAN: Senator Chris Coons of Delaware was one of the seven Democrats who voted against Debo's nomination. He said, quote, "At a time when the Civil Rights Division urgently needs better relations with the law enforcement community, I was troubled by the idea of voting for an Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights who would face such visceral opposition from law enforcement on his first day on the job. The vote I cast today was one of the most difficult I have taken since joining the Senate, but I believe it to be right for the people I represent."

And then there was Heidi Heitkamp, the Democratic senator who voted also to oppose Adegbile's nomination.

Her office sent a fundraising email that claimed, quote, "If there's one thing we should all be able to agree on, it's that every American deserves the right to vote. It's one of our most basic rights—but right now it's under attack." Ryan Haygood, your response to this?

RYAN HAYGOOD: Yeah, I mean, I don't think that could—I don't think that could be more disingenuous, right? I think it's well known by all in the civil rights community that Debo—some of Debo's most important work was in the voting rights context. He would have been one of the chief champions in this moment to ensure that voters of color, in particular, aren't made more vulnerable by the Supreme Court's decision. He would have worked with Congress to get new voting rights legislation passed—to do precisely what Senator Heitkamp was expressing to her funders. And so, her vote against him is actually a vote against doing the thing that she promises to do here in this email to her funders.

JOHANNA FERNÁNDEZ: I think that at stake here is what the Fraternal Order of Police and its allies feared. Here you had the possibility of Debo Adegbile, someone who's familiar with the case of Mumia Abu-Jamal and who's interested in issues of social justice, in the Department of Justice. What the Fraternal Order of Police feared was that, perhaps, with Debo in office, the Department of Justice might take on this case of investigating the police. One of the least-known facts in this case is that a third of the police officers involved in collecting evidence in Mumia Abu-Jamal's trial were later convicted for corruption and tampering with evidence to obtain a conviction. And in 1979, the Department of Justice conducted an investigation of the Philadelphia Police Department, the largest ever in the history of the United States, that concluded that the level of brutality and corruption in the police department in Philadelphia, quote, "shocks the conscience." That's what the Department of Justice concluded in 1979 at around the same time that Mumia Abu-Jamal was convicted. And what the Fraternal Order of Police feared, which has an office in Washington, D.C., and initiated its organization in Philadelphia, is that they might actually come down with the election and nomination of Debo Adegbile.

But the problem is not just historical in this case. The Philadelphia police is infamous for police brutality. The latest case of brutality involves Darrin Manning, a 16-year-old boy whose testicles were ruptured in a stop-and-frisk in Philadelphia. And that group of people in Philadelphia, those people who are fighting for justice for Darrin Manning, are also calling for an investigation of the police in all of Philadelphia. And if the case of Mumia Abu-Jamal enters into a conversation in the Department of Justice, it's over for the department of the police—of the police department in Philadelphia. Why? Because this is an international case. And as soon as there is any investigation, a lot of people are going to come down, including politicians, who have actually received money from the Fraternal Order of Police and who have actually run their campaigns on the execution and incarceration of Mumia Abu-Jamal. So the stakes politically are pretty high.

RYAN HAYGOOD: I think what this discussion brings to mind is that we really are in this pivotal time where there are lots of important issues in the civil rights context that must be addressed. But the Senate's vote yesterday has provided us with no head of the Department of Justice Civil Rights Division, at a time when we are upon the 49th anniversary of the Bloody Sunday march that folks know from Selma, Alabama, which ultimately resulted in the enactment of the Voting Rights Act. We're celebrating that this year after a Supreme Court decision that struck a core part of it. This weekend in Selma, Alabama, the LDF will be hosting a voting rights workshop, and our focus will really be on assessing where we are in this moment and how we can, in the voting rights context, in particular, ensure that voters of color aren't made even more vulnerable by what the Supreme Court did.

But I also think that another takeaway from the Senate votes—the Senate's vote yesterday is that there is really a chilling effect, right? So, lawyers like me who practice in the public sphere and who are civil rights lawyers were told essentially by Congress yesterday that being a lawyer will really disqualify you from a legal position, particularly in the government context. And that's what I think is the most shameful takeaway, particularly for those members of the Senate who themselves were lawyers.

AMY GOODMAN: That you would be afraid to take on difficult cases.

RYAN HAYGOOD: Absolutely. There is—

AMY GOODMAN: That it would jeopardize any kind of political career.

RYAN HAYGOOD: Right. I think that—I think that's right. I think the takeaway from yesterday's vote is that if you are interested in a career in government, you ought to tread very, very carefully about the kinds of cases you take. I think it's very true that if Chief Justice John Roberts today went before the Senate, given his *pro bono* assistance to a Florida man who was convicted of killing eight people, that he'd have a very, very steep hill to climb in getting the Senate to confirm him.

AMY GOODMAN: I want to thank you very much both for being with us, Ryan Haygood, former colleague of Debo Adebile, now director of the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund's Political Participation Group, which promotes the full, equal and active participation of black people in the democratic process. And thank you very much to Johanna Fernández, a professor of history at Baruch College here in New York City. This is *Democracy Now!* When we come back, Angela Davis joins us. Stay with us.

2014, Mar 6

Angela Davis on Prison Abolition, the War on Drugs and Why Social Movements Shouldn't Wait on Obama

http://www.democracynow.org/2014/3/6/angela_davis_on_prison_abolition_the

Guests

Angela Davis, author and activist, professor emerita at the University of California, Santa Cruz. She is the subject of the recent film, *Free Angela and All Political Prisoners*.

For more than four decades, the world-renowned author, activist and scholar Angela Davis has been one of most influential activists and intellectuals in the United States. An icon of the 1970s black liberation movement, Davis' work around issues of gender, race, class and prisons has influenced critical thought and social movements across several generations. She is a leading advocate for prison abolition, a position informed by her own experience as a fugitive on the FBI's top 10 most wanted list more than 40 years ago. Davis, a professor emerita at University of California, Santa Cruz, and the subject of the recent documentary, "Free Angela and All Political Prisoners," joins us to discuss prison abolition, mass incarceration, the so-called war on drugs, International Women's Day, and why President Obama's second term should see a greater wave of activism than in his first.

[Watch Part 2 of this interview.](#)

Transcript

This is a rush transcript. Copy may not be in its final form.

JUAN GONZÁLEZ: The struggle to overhaul the criminal justice system in the United States has reached a pivotal moment. From the Obama administration's push to reform harsh and racially biased sentencing for drug offenses to the recent decision by New York state to reform its use of solitary confinement, there is a growing momentum toward rethinking the system. But new battles have also emerged, like the fight over Stand Your Ground laws in states like Florida, where a number of recent court cases have highlighted the issue of racial bias in the court system. Marissa Alexander, an African-American woman of color who fired what she says was a warning shot into a wall near her abusive husband, is facing up to 60 years in prison at her retrial. Michael Dunn, who shot and killed an African-American teenager in a dispute over loud music in the same state of Florida, is facing a minimum of 60 years for attempted murder, but the jury failed to convict him of the central charge in the case: the murder of Jordan Davis, a case that, for many, recalled the shooting of Trayvon Martin by George Zimmerman.

AMY GOODMAN: To talk more about these issues, we spend the rest of the hour with the world-renowned author, activist, scholar, Angela Davis, professor emerita at the University of California, Santa Cruz. For over four decades, she has been one of the most influential activists and intellectuals in the United States. She's speaking here in New York on Friday at the Beyond the Bars conference up at Columbia University.

It's great to have you here, Angela.

ANGELA DAVIS: Thank you, Amy. Thank you. Thank you, Juan.

AMY GOODMAN: Do you sense progress?

ANGELA DAVIS: Well, yes. I think that this is a pivotal moment. There are openings. And I think it's very important to point out that people have been struggling over these issues for years and for decades. This is also a problematic moment. And those of us who identify as prison abolitionists, as opposed to prison reformers, make the point that oftentimes reforms create situations where mass incarceration becomes even more entrenched; and so, therefore, we have to think about what in the long run will produce decarceration, fewer

people behind bars, and hopefully, eventually, in the future, the possibility of imagining a landscape without prisons, where other means are used to address issues of harm, where social problems, such as illiteracy and poverty, do not lead vast numbers of people along a trajectory that leads to prison.

JUAN GONZÁLEZ: I'm wondering, in term—the first term of President Obama was often referred to by some through the myth of post-racial America, represented by the election of President Obama. But even he has shied away, until recently, dealing with some of the racial inequities of our system, especially the prison system. I'm wondering if you can see a movement or transformation in the president himself in how he deals with some of these issues?

ANGELA DAVIS: Well, this is his second term. He really has nothing to lose. And it really is about time that he began to address what is one of the most critical issues in this country. It's pretty unfortunate that Obama has waited until now to speak out, but it's good that he is speaking out. And I think we can use this opportunity to perhaps achieve some important victories.

AMY GOODMAN: Explain what you mean, Angela, the difference between being a prison abolitionist, how you describe yourself, and a prison reformer.

ANGELA DAVIS: Well, of course, in 1977, when the Attica rebellion took place, that was a really important moment in the history of mass incarceration, the history of the prison in this country. The prisoners who were the spokespeople for the uprising indicated that they were struggling for a world without prisons. During the 1970s, the notion of prison abolition became very important. And as a matter of fact, public intellectuals, judges, journalists took it very seriously and began to think about alternatives.

However, in the 1980s, with the dismantling of social services, structural adjustment in the Global South, the rise of global capitalism, we began to see the prison emerging as a major institution to address the problems that were produced by the deindustrialization, lack of jobs, less funding into education, lack of education, the closedown of systems that were designed to assist people who had mental and emotional problems. And now, of course, the prison system is also a psychiatric facility. I always point out that the largest psychiatric facilities in the country are Rikers Island in New York and Cook County in Chicago.

So, the question is: How does one address the needs of prisoners by instituting reforms that are not going to create a stronger prison system? Now there are something like two-and-a-half million people behind bars, if one counts all of the various aspects of what we call the prison-industrial complex, including military prisons, jails in Indian country, state and federal prisons, county jails, immigrant detention facilities—which constitute the fastest-growing sector of the prison-industrial complex. Yeah, so how—the question is: How do we respond to the needs of those who are inside, and at the same time begin a process of decarceration that will allow us to end this reliance on imprisonment as a default method of addressing—not addressing, really—major social problems?

JUAN GONZÁLEZ: And how do you see the changing public attitudes toward the war on drugs and the willingness of some states now to begin a decriminalization process and recognize drug addiction more as a health problem than as a criminal justice problem? Do you see that having some hope of sharply reducing the prison population?

ANGELA DAVIS: Yes, I think—I think it is important. But again, it's also essential to point out that people have been struggling around these issues for a very long time. And oftentimes when these new moments emerge, it is as if the legislators have come up with this idea for the very first time. And, of course, it is important that decriminalization is happening in certain states, because drugs have served—the so-called war on drugs, which, as we know, has been a war on poor communities, black and Latino communities, all over the country—that so-called war on drugs has been the major motor driving the rising prison population. So, I often point out we need to look at the corresponding pharmaceutical-industrial complex when we, you know, think about the way drugs

have served as a pretext for incarcerating such vast numbers of people of color.

AMY GOODMAN: What about the for-profit system, the for-profit prison system?

ANGELA DAVIS: Well, they're private prisons. Of course, the U.S. has given rise to this private prison industry. Corrections Corporation of America was the first private prison corporation. And now, of course, we have institutions like G4S, which is the third-largest private corporation in the entire world, third only to, number one, Wal-Mart, number two, Foxconn. And this security corporation, which has—which owns and operates prisons all over the country, which is involved in the production of the carceral technologies used in occupied Palestine by Israel, which is involved in deporting prisoners from Europe to the Global South, from the U.S. to Mexico—one begins to see how it all comes together.

But I think that private prisons are not the only indication of the thoroughgoing corporatization of punishment. Even public prisons rely on private corporations. And healthcare has been outsourced. Food production has been outsourced. The few programs that there are in prisons have been outsourced. So there is a privatization of imprisonment such that it's not possible to consider the issue of mass incarceration without looking at the important role it plays in the economy. And this means, of course, that people who have very little to do with criminal justice, with punishment, have no stakes in that, really, have stakes in the continued increase in prison populations, because it means more profit for them.

AMY GOODMAN: We're going to break and then come back to this discussion. I want to also ask you about feminism, where that plays in, as we move in on International Women's Day, March 8th, on Saturday. We're speaking with Angela Davis, the author, the activist, the professor. Stay with us.

[break]

AMY GOODMAN: "Angela," Plastic Ono Band, John Lennon and Yoko Ono singing about Angela Davis. This is *Democracy Now!*, democracynow.org, *The War and Peace Report*. I'm Amy Goodman, with Juan González.

JUAN GONZÁLEZ: Our guest today is the academic and activist Angela Davis. Her remarkable life journey is chronicled in a recent documentary, *Free Angela and All Political Prisoners*, directed by Shola Lynch.

REPORTER: Philosophy Professor Angela Davis admitted that she is a member of the Communist Party.

UNIDENTIFIED MAN 1: Hoover put her on the top 10. Everybody had a file on her.

UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN 1: Her first lecture drew 2,000 students.

FANIA DAVIS: Angela's education is now being put into practice.

UNIDENTIFIED MAN 2: Angela Davis purchased four guns.

ANGELA DAVIS: There is a conspiracy in the land. It's a conspiracy to wipe out the black community as a whole.

UNIDENTIFIED MAN 3: Well, I think she's trying to overthrow our system of government, and she admits that.

PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON: The actions of the FBI in apprehending Angela Davis, a rather remarkable story.

REPORTER: The U.S. district court judge set bail at \$100,000.

FANIA DAVIS: She knows that the movement to free all political prisoners is growing every day.

GOV. RONALD REAGAN: This entire incident was a deliberate provocation.

ANGELA DAVIS: They wanted to break me. They wanted me to respond.

UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN 2: There was enormous feeling for Angela everywhere in the world.

SALLYE DAVIS: We know that she is innocent.

RALPH ABERNATHY: We want to tell that pharaoh in Washington to let Angela Davis go free.

UNIDENTIFIED MAN 4: What they're doing to her is an exaggerated form of what happens every day to black people in this country.

PROTESTERS: Free Angela! Free Angela! Free Angela!

ANGELA DAVIS: What does it mean to be a criminal in this society?

UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN 3: They are not going to kill her. They're not going to imprison her. We're going to free her. We're going to win her freedom.

JUAN GONZÁLEZ: That was a documentary on Angela Davis. The making of that documentary, the filmmaker approached you wanting to do what?

ANGELA DAVIS: Well, she was interested in making a film about the trial. I had previously been aware of her work, because she did a wonderful film on Shirley Chisholm, *Unbought & Unbossed*. And I—

AMY GOODMAN: Who ran for president in, what, 1972.

ANGELA DAVIS: Who ran for president, the first, yes, black woman to run for president in this country. And I had been approached many times by people who wanted to do films, but I've been reluctant, because I didn't think it would be very productive to have a film primarily focused on me. And I knew Shola wanted to tell the story of the trial, and that would also mean telling the story of the campaign that developed all over the country and all over the world around the demand for my freedom. And she did quite an amazing job of retrieving archival footage. And I've often pointed out, there were things that I did not know until she made that film. I hadn't seen a lot of the archival footage because, of course, I was in jail when it was shown on television.

AMY GOODMAN: Explain what you were in prison for and acquitted of.

ANGELA DAVIS: I was charged with three capital crimes: murder, kidnapping and conspiracy. And I was acquitted on all three charges.

AMY GOODMAN: Weren't you in prison just down the road from us right here?

ANGELA DAVIS: Yes, as a matter of fact, on the way to the studio, I saw the spot where the old Women's House of Detention stood, which is right on the corner of Greenwich and Sixth Avenue, Avenue of the Americas. And, yes, the night I was arrested, I could hear the voices of people who had gathered outside to call for my freedom. I suppose that's one of the reasons it's no longer in that spot anymore. It's on Rikers Island, so that the community does not have the same kind of access.

JUAN GONZÁLEZ: And speaking of the Women's House of Detention, you've been speaking increasingly about bringing feminism within an abolitionist frame and abolition within a feminist frame. What do you mean by that?

ANGELA DAVIS: Absolutely. Well, actually, I mean a number of things by that, because feminist perspectives, I think, are really important, and not just with respect to understanding how essential it is to look at women in prison, even though women constitute a relatively small minority. One can see the way the system functions a lot more clearly by looking at the convergence, for example, of institutional violence and intimate violence. Also, looking at the particular situation of trans prisoners not only allows us to recognize that this is a group that is perhaps more criminalized than any other group—trans people are arrested and imprisoned more frequently than any other group in society—it allows us to see the role that the prison system as a whole plays in upholding the binary notions of gender in the larger society. So, feminism, it seems to me, helps us to reframe the issue of imprisonment and the prison-industrial complex within a larger context. And we see the connections with—between the personal and the political, the institutional and the intimate, the public and the private.

AMY GOODMAN: Aren't women the fastest-growing population in prison?

ANGELA DAVIS: And all over the world, women constitute the fastest-growing population in prison. But I think it's also important to point out that women are such a minority because there are other ways of punishing women in the larger society. And I like to point out that violence against women, which is the most pandemic form of violence in the world—I mean, we talk about police violence, we talk about—when we talk about racist violence, we think about street violence, Trayvon Martin and so forth, and that's absolutely important to recognize, but at the same time, the violence that happens in relationships is connected with that street violence, institutional violence and intimate violence. And when one looks at women's situation, it's important—it's essential to grasp that connection, which then allows us to have a different view on the institution that is responsible for the incarceration of so many men, and especially black and Latino men.

AMY GOODMAN: As we move into this International Women's Day, what gives you most hope?

ANGELA DAVIS: Well, I think—I always find hope in struggle. I find hope in younger generations.

AMY GOODMAN: Do you feel people have been demobilized under President Obama or are getting more active?

ANGELA DAVIS: I think we could have been much more active. And one of the problems, I think, was that after this world historical election that took place, we went home and decided that this one man in Washington would carry the ball for us, not recognizing that, actually, he was the president of the imperialist, militarist United States of America. And I think that we might have had more victories during the era of Obama's administration had we mobilized, had we continually put pressure on him, and also created the possibility for him to take more progressive stances.

AMY GOODMAN: Do you still think there's hope in the next few years?

ANGELA DAVIS: Well, I think we have to act as if there is hope.

AMY GOODMAN: On that note, we have to wrap, but we are going to [continue this conversation](#) and post it online at democracynow.org. Angela Davis, author and activist, professor emeritus at the University of California, Santa Cruz, the subject of the recent film, *Free Angela and All Political Prisoners*.

http://www.democracynow.org/2014/3/6/angela_davis_on_prison_abolition_the

PART 2: Angela Davis on Solitary Confinement, Immigration Detention and "12 Years a Slave"

http://www.democracynow.org/blog/2014/3/6/part_2_angela_davis_on_solitary

Watch our extended interview with the world-renowned author, activist and scholar Angela Davis about the significance of the Oscar-winning film, *12 Years a Slave*, the use of solitary confinement in prisons, and the global movement to challenge the expansion of immigrant detention. "If we are going to mount an effective campaign against what we call the prison-industrial complex," Davis argues, "it has to take into consideration immigration detention is the fastest-growing area of that complex."

[Click here for Part 1 of this interview.](#)

AMY GOODMAN: This is *Democracy Now!*, democracynow.org, *The War and Peace Report*. I'm Amy Goodman, with Juan González.

JUAN GONZÁLEZ: Well, the struggle to overhaul the criminal justice system in the United States has reached a pivotal moment. From the Obama administration's push to reform harsh and racially biased sentencing for drug offenses to the recent decision by New York state to reform its use of solitary confinement, there is a growing momentum toward rethinking the system. But new battles have also emerged, like the fight over Stand Your Ground laws in states like Florida, where a number of recent court cases have highlighted the issue of racial bias in the court system. Marissa Alexander, an African-American woman of color who fired what she says was a warning shot into a wall near her abusive husband, is facing up to 60 years in prison at her retrial. Michael Dunn, who shot and killed an African-American teenager in a dispute over loud music in the same state of Florida, is facing a minimum of 60 years for attempted murder, but the jury failed to convict him of the central charge in the case: the murder of Jordan Davis, a case that, for many, recalled the shooting of Trayvon Martin by George Zimmerman.

AMY GOODMAN: To talk more about these issues, the world-renowned author, activist, scholar, Angela Davis, professor emerita at the University of California, Santa Cruz. For over four decades, she has been one of the most influential activists and intellectuals in the United States. She's speaking here in New York on Friday at the Beyond the Bars conference up at Columbia University.

It's great to have you here, Angela.

ANGELA DAVIS: Thank you, Amy.

AMY GOODMAN: Can you talk about the conference on Friday?

ANGELA DAVIS: This is a conference that is happening at Columbia University. My good friend Kathy Boudin has been organizing this conference for the last three years. And as many people know, Kathy spent a quarter of a century behind bars. Kathy and I went to high school together, believe it or not, not very far from the Women's House of Detention in Greenwich Village, so we've known each other for many years. And it's very exciting that our lives have come together again around this—around these issues relating to prison abolition.

Kathy has been doing work around long-termists. And I think it's extremely important to recognize that we can't just focus our questions on people who are, quote, "innocent" or people who seem, according to the propaganda and the ideology, less dangerous, but we have to look at the damage that prison does, not only to those who are inside, but those on the outside, when people are kept behind bars for decades and decades. Of course, Eddie Conway had been in prison for 44 years, and that is just unimaginable. So, the conference tomorrow, on Friday—Friday and Saturday, actually—is going to address a range of issues, "Beyond the Bars: Breaking Through," breaking through precisely because there have been some important victories over the recent period, and how do we use those as a springboard to continue.

JUAN GONZÁLEZ: I wanted to ask you—in terms of the growing prison population, the fastest-growing sector of that population are people being detained on immigration offenses. I think the—more than 50 percent of all the prosecutions of the U.S. Justice Department last year were immigration-related, either misdemeanors or felonies. And to what degree the—this country is coming to grips, obviously, with the continued issue of having to have some kind of a 21st century immigration policy? And Europe is facing the same problems, in terms of the immigrants from Africa and other parts of the world that are coming into Europe, that we're not dealing with the other side of globalization that is resulting in immigration crackdowns.

ANGELA DAVIS: Absolutely, absolutely. And I had the opportunity to teach in Frankfurt, Germany, during the month of December, and met with a number of immigration activists. And what we talked about was the importance of creating a global movement in defense of immigrant rights, challenging the consequences of globalization and, you know, the post-colonial repression that has been instituted, literally, all over the world.

As a matter of fact, the company G4S, which, as I pointed out, is in the deportation business, is responsible for the death of a young man who was being deported from England, from Britain, to Angola, a young man by the name of Jimmy Mubenga, I think his name was. He was—he was killed on a British Airlines plane by guards who used what they called a karaoke hold, by pressing him into the front—the back of the seat in front of him to keep him from talking. So, when I was in Frankfurt, I learned about all of these horror stories happening in immigration detention facilities.

And if we are going to mount an effective campaign against what we call the prison-industrial complex, it has to take into consideration that, as you pointed out, immigrant detention is the fastest-growing area of that, of that complex. And, of course, we know that some of the most repressive immigration laws have been drafted by private prison companies precisely because they see immigrant detention as the most profitable sector of the private prison industry.

AMY GOODMAN: The prison guard lobby in California is extremely powerful, as it is in many places in the United States. I was just in Texas, and many were shocked that the prison guard lobby came out against solitary confinement in Texas because, they said, it makes prisoners more violent. And then, interestingly, in New York, New York is ending the practice of solitary confinement for juveniles.

ANGELA DAVIS: Exactly. And we know that there have been demonstrations by prisoners all over the country against solitary confinement, and especially the very, very long hunger strike in California in which prisoners stood up against this most barbarian form of punishment. And in a sense, one can look at solitary confinement as a microcosm of the whole system, solitary confinement within a prison. The prison is solitary confinement within the society. And how can one expect to create any kind of rehabilitation, which unfortunately prisons still claim that they rehabilitate, in the context of the kind of isolation that happens in these institutions? So, solitary confinement needs to be abolished, yes, but I think that is a strong argument for the abolition of imprisonment as the dominant mode of punishment.

JUAN GONZÁLEZ: I wanted to ask you about—we had talked earlier about this whole issue of what had happened to the sort of the progressive movement under Obama. We're having an interesting experiment right here in New York City now with this new progressive government, where we have a mayor, all of the—the majority of the City Council, as well as the—all the other elected officials are all progressive liberals, some even radical. And yet, the new mayor has openly espoused keeping the grassroots movement going as a pressure point. In fact, I think today there's a huge gathering of housing activists, affordable housing activists, pressing the agenda that the mayor has laid out in terms of creating more affordable housing. So there seems to be an attempt to not let the movement get co-opted or die once you get these more sympathetic officials elected. And I'm wondering if you're sensing across the country whether the grassroots movement is continuing to hold politicians to the fire in any way possible.

ANGELA DAVIS: Well, I certainly hope this works in New York. And it was good that a progressive mayor was elected. My sense has always been that one cannot necessarily count on elected officials for leadership, which is what we tend to do. The movement has to give political leadership, and hopefully that happens in New York.

I know that Ras Baraka is running for mayor of Newark, and I'm looking at that election very closely. And, of course, we unfortunately lost his father, Amiri Baraka, not very long ago, and Amiri was a very strong supporter of his son. As a matter of fact, Amiri had invited me to come to Newark some months ago. I think it was back in October where I went and spoke at an incredible, an arousing event for Ras. So, let's see what happens in Newark, as well, especially given its history, its radical history.

And it might be a trend all over the country. Who—you know, who knows? And I think we still have to do that with Obama.

AMY GOODMAN: You gave the Martin Luther King address at the Academy of Music—

ANGELA DAVIS: Oh, yes.

AMY GOODMAN: —in front of Mayor de Blasio, his wife and Bill Bratton, as well, the police commissioner. What was your message to them?

ANGELA DAVIS: Well, I don't know whether it was in front of them. I think they left before I spoke. But I saw them, but I don't think they got to see me. Yeah, and I know that some people were a bit disturbed by that fact. I had no idea that they were going to speak there, by the way. I was invited to give the Martin Luther King address.

And I think the stop-and-frisk issue, which has been so important in New York—I remember Jazz Hayden and the leadership that he gave to that movement—that cannot be resolved simply by dropping—by settling the lawsuits. And I think this is the strategy now. And I think it will be important to settle those lawsuits, but the issue of stop-and-frisk runs so much more deeply. And I think it's only grassroots progressive organizations that will have the power to chart a path towards the abolition of stop-and-frisk.

JUAN GONZÁLEZ: Well, I want to turn to a clip from the recent documentary, *Free Angela and All Political Prisoners*, directed by Shola Lynch. Here, a young Angela Davis speaks about the right to self-defense.

ANGELA DAVIS: I'm representing the Che-Lumumba Club of the Communist Party. There is a conspiracy in the land. It's a conspiracy to wipe out, to murder, every single Black Panther in America and to wipe out the black community as a whole. Brothers and sisters, this is genocide. We have to call it by its name. This is genocide.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Right on!

ANGELA DAVIS: This conspiracy to commit murder and genocide on our people forces us to exercise our constitutional right to bear arms and to use those arms to defend our community, our families and ourselves. Power to the people!

JUAN GONZÁLEZ: That was a clip from the documentary *Free Angela and All Political Prisoners*. Now, Angela, the whole issue of the right to self-defense, it's some—it's an issue that has receded in the public consciousness, even in the progressive or radical, revolutionary movement here in this country.

ANGELA DAVIS: Yes. And, of course, that was a key issue during the 1960s, the 1970s. The Black Panther Party was initially called the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense. We had Deacons for Defense. And we had Robert Williams in North Carolina, who eventually wrote a book called *Negroes with Guns*, because he argued that black people had the right to stand up to the violence of the Ku Klux Klan. I often point out that when I was

growing up, my father had guns in the house, and I saw him pull out those guns when we feared that the Ku Klux Klan was about to bomb our house. And there were many bombings in our neighborhood.

AMY GOODMAN: You grew up in Birmingham.

ANGELA DAVIS: I grew up in Birmingham. And it wasn't such a major issue. It was simply understood that we had the right to self-defense. And let me point out that now, today, there are 300 [million] guns in the U.S. There are more guns in this country than anywhere else in the world. And there's a connection between the number of guns and the number of people in prison. And certainly, that is not about the question of self-defense, which historically goes back to the era of Reconstruction, Radical Reconstruction, when black people were determined to defend the efforts to create a new society in the aftermath of slavery. And it was when the—under the Hayes-Tilden Compromise that the military was withdrawn, federal troops were withdrawn from the South, that Radical Reconstruction was dismantled. And as W.E.B. Du Bois said, democracy died then, except within the hearts of black people. So, the right to self-defense was very much connected with the effort to build democracy.

Today, the issue of gun control, it's very different. I would say, today, that everybody should be disarmed—and not only civilians: We should disarm the police, and eventually the military. You know, considering that there are enough guns in this country to kill every single—I mean, there are more—there are as many guns as there are people in this country, and it makes no sense.

AMY GOODMAN: Angela Davis, I wanted to get your take on the first time—this is 2014—that a black director has won an Oscar for Best Film, and that film was *12 Years a Slave*. Your thoughts on *12 Years a Slave*? They were presented on Sunday night, the Academy Awards. It's about a free black man, kidnapped, sold into slavery. Steve McQueen was the director, who spoke on behalf of the film.

STEVE McQUEEN: Everyone—everyone deserves not just to survive, but to live. This is the most important legacy of Solomon Northup. I dedicate this award to all the people who have endured slavery and the 21 million people who still suffer slavery today. Thank you very much. Thank you.

AMY GOODMAN: There you have it, Steve McQueen, *12 Years a Slave*, a remarkable film.

ANGELA DAVIS: Absolutely. And I am so happy to see this film. It is sparking a new conversation around the role of slavery in the history of this country. And I've often pointed out that the history of the United States of America is a history of slavery. The majority of the years since 1619 to 1865, 240-some years, and that means that there—we've only had 150 or so years without slavery. But then, if one looks at the argument that someone like Douglas Blackmon makes in his book, *Slavery by Another Name: The Re-Enslavement of [Black] Americans from the Civil War to World War II*, one realizes that the convict lease system was an even more insidious form of slavery. And it was not disestablished until the 1940s. So, I think it's good to have discussions around slavery again. It's strange that they only happen when films are released. I remember the last really major discussion in this country was back in the '70s, when *Roots* came out.

JUAN GONZÁLEZ: When *Roots* came out, yeah.

AMY GOODMAN: What is the connection between slavery and prisons today?

ANGELA DAVIS: Well, I would say that the prison-industrial complex reminds us that we live with the ghost of slavery. Punishment was used in the aftermath of slavery in order to reinstitute slavery. So the bridge is the convict lease system, when vast numbers of black people were forced into servitude, often by capitalist corporations from the North. I grew up in Birmingham, Alabama. The steel industry, the iron, the mining of iron ore, the mining of coal, which was done by companies like U.S. Steel, was done by people who were forced into servitude after having been criminalized and arrested for reasons that often amounted to talking too loud or failing to look at a white person walking down the street. So, the criminalization of blackness, which is at the core

of the vast prison population today, finds its roots in slavery and in the aftermath of slavery.

JUAN GONZÁLEZ: And then, of course, once you've got a criminal record, even after coming out, let's say, with a stop-and-frisk or a minor sentence, you now then have this criminal record, which is a cross to bear in terms of employment or opportunities to access the general benefits of the society.

ANGELA DAVIS: Exactly. That's why there are Ban the Box movements all over the country. Get rid of the box that asks, "Have you ever been convicted of a crime?"

AMY GOODMAN: And has that passed in California?

ANGELA DAVIS: California has been very good, because, of course, the—All of Us or None, which is an organization of former prisoners, former felons, has been conducting this struggle for a long time. And on the campus at NYU, there are efforts to get rid of the box, abolish the box, in student applications, student applications for admissions.

But getting back to *12 Years a Slave*, I do have some critical observations. And I think it's important, even as we applaud such a great film, to point out that it was based—that it was based on a slave narrative of someone who was free. And my question is: Would people have identified with a slave who had never been free, someone who had been denied the opportunity to get an education? Would it have been possible to create that kind of interest? And I have to say I don't think so. I think it was really only because Solomon Northup, the author of the slave narrative, had been a free man.

And then I had some issues about the representation of women. I'm always looking at that, of course. And the fact that I'm critical doesn't mean that I don't think the film is a great film. But I was—when I saw that the overwhelming majority of women were represented primarily as objects of violence, as objects of repression. Alfre Woodard, who plays the so-called "wife" of a slaveholder, is the only one who has any agency. You know, all of the other women are just suffering beings. And we know that women played amazing roles in challenging slavery. So I would have, you know, wanted to get some glimpse of that, as well.

AMY GOODMAN: Well, Angela Davis, we want to thank you for spending this extra time with us. Angela Davis, author and activist, professor emeritus at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Can anyone go to the conference tomorrow and—

ANGELA DAVIS: Oh, yes. It's open. It's open.

AMY GOODMAN: —Sunday at Columbia?

ANGELA DAVIS: And I should point out that—

AMY GOODMAN: This is the New York audience you're talking to now.

ANGELA DAVIS: —that I'm speaking. Beth Richie from Chicago, who's an absolutely amazing scholar-activist, is speaking. And my sister, Fania Davis, whom we saw in the film, who does work on restorative justice, she will also be one of the speakers.

AMY GOODMAN: What is the work she does on restorative justice?

ANGELA DAVIS: She is the executive director of an organization that is called Restorative Justice for Oakland Youth. And as an attorney, she does restorative justice work in terms of keeping people out of the criminal justice system. And her organization works in schools to attempt to teach teachers and students how to resolve conflicts and problems without punitive methods and without the use of violence. So, she and her organization teach kids how to do healing circles. And it's so wonderful to see these kids, who never knew that it was possible to deal with these problems except by fighting, asking for a circle so that they can talk it through.