

IMMIGRANT LIBERATION IS BLACK LIBERATION

PANGEA QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER, JULY 2020

The U.S. immigration and criminal justice systems are two branches of one carceral system. It's a system that is working as it was designed: to maintain the economic, political and racial hierarchy in place since this nation's founding, by dehumanizing Black and brown lives, and thereby rationalizing the use of state violence.

Black liberation and immigrant liberation are not just intertwined; they are one struggle against the same system. In the words of Lisa Knox, managing attorney at Centro Legal de la Raza, "If you're here for immigrant liberation, and you're here in solidarity with Black folks, you got it wrong. Immigrant liberation is black liberation. We need to be centering Black folks and Black immigrants in our work...We're all one and together in the struggle - not just in solidarity with each other."

Pangea stands for the abolition of the carceral system that criminalizes, harasses, oppresses, banishes, and murders our people. Today, and every day, we implore our community to learn, to march, to give and to advocate. La lucha sigue!



1972

BOBBY SEALE AND CÉSAR CHAVEZ
For more on the history of Black and brown political unity, see this [resource](#) created by [Siembra NC](#).

LISA KNOX READS A
STATEMENT BY ORGANIZERS
INCARCERATED IN THE MESA
VERDE DETENTION CENTER
AT THE ILWU'S WEST COAST
PORT SHUTDOWN.



2020

JUNETEENTH
OAKLAND, CA

ALL ROADS LEAD TO ABOLITION

REGARDLESS OF WHETHER STATE-SANCTIONED VIOLENCE IS HAPPENING IN IMMIGRATION DETENTION FACILITIES OR IN MAXIMUM-SECURITY PRISONS; TO PEOPLE WHO ARE BLACK OR BROWN; OR BECAUSE YOUR ANCESTORS WERE FORMERLY COLONIZED OR ENSLAVED; ABOLITION IS A SINGLE FIGHT WITH A COMMON GOAL: FREEDOM, IRRESPECTIVE OF WHERE YOU WERE BORN OR THE COLOR OF YOUR SKIN.

THROUGHOUT HISTORY, THIS GOAL HAS UNIFIED THE STRUGGLES OF ALL PEOPLE WHO, AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER, HAVE BEEN UNWANTED AS MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN POLITY. IT SHOULD COME AS NO SURPRISE THAT THE SAME MASS REMOVAL TECHNIQUES OUR GOVERNMENT USED AGAINST NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES AND BLACK AMERICANS AFTER ENSLAVEMENT LAID THE FOUNDATION FOR THE MODERN DEPORTATION MACHINE.

THIS REALITY IS AT THE CORE OF THE INTERRELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE BLACK LIVES MATTER MOVEMENT AND THE IMMIGRANTS' RIGHTS MOVEMENT. COMPARE THE HARASSMENT, ASSAULT, AND MURDER THAT BLACK PEOPLE IN THE U.S. FACE AT THE HANDS OF THE POLICE TO THE VIOLENCE THAT DRIVES MANY IMMIGRANTS TO THIS COUNTRY. SOME BLACK AMERICANS WOULD QUALIFY AS REFUGEES IF THEY DIDN'T ALREADY LIVE HERE.

FREEDOM REQUIRES AN END TO NOT ONLY THE CRIMINALIZATION OF IMMIGRATION STATUS, BUT AN END TO THE CRIMINALIZATION OF PEOPLE. IF WE KNOW THAT THIS COUNTRY WOULD BE SAFER WITHOUT ICE, WE MUST ALSO BELIEVE IT WOULD BE SAFER WITHOUT THE POLICE. IF WE HAVE WATCHED IMMIGRATION DETENTION TEAR FAMILIES APART, CAUSE SPIRITUAL AND MENTAL DECAY, AND TORTURE PEOPLE TO DEATH, WE MUST KNOW JAILS AND PRISONS ARE NO DIFFERENT.

JULY 2020

PROMOTORES

“IT’S TIME TO UNITE”

Promotores meeting, San José, CA, 2020

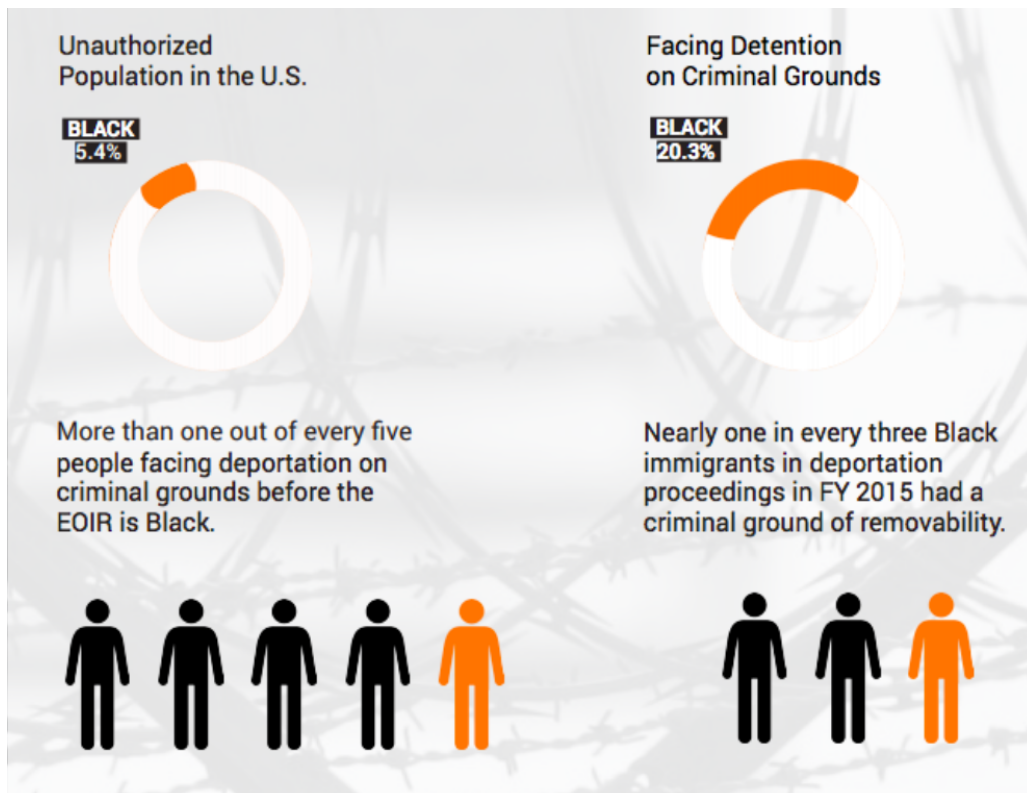


THE *PROMOTORES* ARE A COLLECTIVE OF DIRECTLY-AFFECTED IMMIGRANT COMMUNITY MEMBERS WHO ADVOCATE FOR THEMSELVES, THEIR FAMILIES, AND THEIR COMMUNITIES. FOLLOWING THE MURDER OF GEORGE FLOYD, THE *PROMOTORES* STOOD WITH THE MOVEMENT FOR BLACK LIVES BY PARTICIPATING IN PROTESTS, ORGANIZING A CALLING CAMPAIGN TO ELECTED OFFICIALS, AND INVITING OTHER IMMIGRANT COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO JOIN THEM. *PROMOTORE* ANASTASIA ABARCA IN SAN JOSÉ, CA, SAYS, “THE RIGHTS OF BLACK AND LATINX PEOPLE ARE NOT BEING RESPECTED. THE POLICE KILLED ANDRES GUARDADO, WHO DID NOT COMMIT ANY CRIME. BUT EVEN IF HE HAD DONE SOMETHING, THAT IS NO JUSTIFICATION FOR KILLING HIM. WE HAVE BEEN ORGANIZING SEPARATELY, BUT IT’S NOT ENOUGH. IT’S TIME TO UNITE. I DREAM OF A WORLD WITHOUT RACISM, VIOLENCE, AND INJUSTICE.”

THE JAIL TO DEPORTATION PIPELINE

THERE ARE BETWEEN 4 AND 5 MILLION BLACK NONCITIZENS IN THE UNITED STATES. THE GOVERNMENT'S TREATMENT OF THIS POPULATION IS WHERE WE SEE THE MOST PERNICIOUS EFFECTS OF THE CARCERAL SYSTEM. DUE TO RACIST POLICE PRACTICES, BLACK PEOPLE ARE ARRESTED AT APPROXIMATELY 2.5 TIMES THE RATE OF WHITES. ONCE BOOKED, IMMIGRANTS ARE HIGHLY VULNERABLE TO BEING DETAINED BY ICE. THE CRIMINAL LAW ENFORCEMENT SYSTEM, WHICH TARGETS BLACK PEOPLE DISPROPORTIONATELY, BECOMES A FUNNEL INTO THE IMMIGRATION DETENTION AND DEPORTATION MACHINE. BLACK IMMIGRANTS MAKE UP ONLY 7.2% OF THE TOTAL NONCITIZEN POPULATION IN THE U.S., YET THEY MAKE UP 20.3% OF IMMIGRANTS FACING DEPORTATION ON CRIMINAL GROUNDS

RICARDO, AN AFRO-CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY MEMBER, SAYS, "I WAS BORN IN JAMAICA, AND I NEVER EXPERIENCED SERIOUS RACISM UNTIL I CAME TO THE U.S. WHEN I WAS IN ICE DETENTION, THAT'S WHEN I REALIZED THAT IT'S SERIOUS. I WAS ASSAULTED BY A WHITE OFFICER, WHILE FIVE OTHER OFFICERS JUST LOOKED ON. IT'S AN INHUMANE WORLD FOR INCARCERATED PEOPLE. I REALLY HAVE TO CREDIT THE BLACK LIVES MATTER PROTESTERS FOR PUSHING PEOPLE TO REALIZE THAT IT'S TIME WE TREATED EVERYONE AS HUMANS. THE STRUGGLE IS ON BOTH SIDES, INSIDE AND OUTSIDE."



GRAPHIC FROM THE STATE OF BLACK IMMIGRANTS, 2020.

JULY 2020

DETAINED IMMIGRANTS STRIKE FOR BLACK LIVES

IN JUNE, IMMIGRANTS INCARCERATED AT THE MESA VERDE DETENTION CENTER (BAKERSFIELD, CA) LAUNCHED A HUNGER STRIKE IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE MOVEMENT FOR BLACK LIVES. THE GROUP STATES THEY, “STAND AGAINST THE SYSTEM WHICH TOOK THE LIVES OF GEORGE FLOYD, BREONNA TAYLOR, TONY MCDADE, AND SO MANY BLACK PEOPLE.” WHILE THE GROUP BEGAN THEIR STRIKE IN APRIL TO DEMAND STRONGER COVID-19 PREVENTION, THEY NOW DRAW INTERSECTIONS BETWEEN THE BLACK LIVES MATTER MOVEMENT AND THE COVID-19 THREAT, CALLING FOR GOVERNOR NEWSOM TO PROTECT THE LIVES OF DETAINED BLACK AND BROWN IMMIGRANTS. THE GROUP ALSO LIFTS UP THE LIVES OF FELLOW DETAINEES CHOUNG WOONG AHN AND CARLOS MEJIA, WHO DIED IN DETENTION DUE TO ICE’S NEGLIGENCE. ONE HUNGER STRIKER STATES:

“WE STAND UNITED IN PROTEST AND FIGHT FOR CHANGE. WE WANT TO END RACISM AND RACIST POLICE. WE WANT THE POLICE TO STOP MURDERING BLACK PEOPLE. WE WANT THE POLICE TO STOP ARRESTING AND ACCUSING PEOPLE OF COLOR. WE WANT THE POLICE TO STOP CAGING AND DEPORTING IMMIGRANTS. WE WANT THE BLACK AND BROWN PEOPLE TO BE FREE.”



WATCH A VIDEO MESSAGE FROM THE MESA VERDE HUNGER STRIKERS BY CLICKING ON THE PHOTO.

DACA: A VICTORY, BUT THE WORK IS NOT DONE

IN SEPTEMBER 2017, THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION RESCINDED THE DEFERRED ACTION FOR CHILDHOOD ARRIVALS (DACA) PROGRAM, WHICH HAD ALLOWED CERTAIN IMMIGRANTS TO WORK, STUDY, AND LIVE IN THE UNITED STATES. IN JUNE 2020, THE SUPREME COURT RULED AGAINST THE ADMINISTRATION, STATING THAT DACA MUST CONTINUE FOR NOW. WHILE THIS DECISION BROUGHT RELIEF TO THOSE WHO HAVE DACA AND THOSE HOPING TO APPLY, IT IS NOT PERMANENT, NOR IS IT THE END OF THE STRUGGLE FOR A WORLD IN WHICH ALL PEOPLE CAN LIVE WITHOUT FEAR OF DEPORTATION. DACA PROTECTS ONLY ABOUT 800,000 OUT OF OVER 10 MILLION UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS. A REAL SOLUTION WILL REQUIRE THE ABOLITION OF ICE, POLICE, AND THE CARCERAL SYSTEM THAT TERRORIZES BLACK AND BROWN COMMUNITIES IN OUR COUNTRY.

VALERIA SUAREZ, A PANGEA CLIENT AND ORGANIZER WITH CALIFORNIA IMMIGRANT YOUTH JUSTICE ALLIANCE (CIYJA) STATES, “[P]EOPLE WHO DON’T QUALIFY FOR DACA ARE THE MAJORITY OF THE UNDOCUMENTED COMMUNITY. THE STATE IS NOT PROTECTING US, [SO] WE NEED TO PROTECT EACH OTHER, AND PROTECTING EACH OTHER LOOKS LIKE DEFUNDING THE POLICE AND ABOLISHING ICE SO WE AREN’T AFRAID TO BE ON THE STREETS.”

LET'S TAKE ACTION

WE ARE COMMITTING OURSELVES, AND CALLING ON OUR COMMUNITY TO COMMIT WITH US, TO TAKE CONCRETE ACTION IN SUPPORT OF BLACK LIBERATION. BELOW ARE A FEW IDEAS. EMAIL US WITH OTHERS.

ANNETTE, BIANCA, CECILIA, CELINE, EDWIN, ESPERANZA, ETAN, GLADYS, JEHAN, LUIS ANGEL, MARIE, MARIEL, NILOU, PETE, ROXANA, SEAN, VICTORIA, AND XIMENA

DONATE:

- Anti-Police Terror Project is a Black-led, multi-racial, intergenerational coalition based in the Bay Area that seeks to build a replicable and sustainable model to eradicate police terror in communities of color.
- The East Oakland Collective is a member-based community organizing group invested in serving the East Oakland community by working towards racial and economic equity.
- South Bay Black Coalition is a collective of Black parents and students in Santa Clara County who are organizing "Brave Spaces" to come together, build community and shares ways to safely address the discrimination, micro aggression and racism they experience every day.
- Black Alliance for Just Immigration (BAJI) educates and engages for immigrant rights and racial justice with African Americans and Black Immigrants, in Oakland, LA, NYC, Atlanta, Miami and DC.
- African Advocacy Network (AAN) serves African and Afro-Caribbean immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers throughout the Bay Area.
- The Village in Oakland works to serve and support 30 curbside communities (aka homeless encampments).
- Essie Justice Group harnesses the collective power of women with incarcerated loved ones to end mass incarceration's harm to women and communities.
- The Okra Project is a collective that seeks to address the global crisis faced by Black Trans people by providing them home-cooked, healthy, and culturally specific meals and resources.

LET'S TAKE ACTION

LEARN MORE:

[A Guide to Allyship](#)

[These Books Can Help You Explain Racism and Protest to Your Kids](#)

[Gold Chains: The Hidden History of Slavery in California](#)

["The Case for Reparations," by Ta-Nehisi Coates for The Atlantic](#)

DO SOMETHING:

[Email your local officials](#) demanding they defund your local police

[Share 12 Things to Do Instead of Calling the Cops](#)

[Sign the petition](#) for justice for **Chrystul Kizer**

[Sign the petition](#) for justice for **Dion Johnson**

[Sign the petition](#) for justice for **Dreasjon Reed**

[Sign the petition](#) for justice for **Emerald Black**

[Send an email](#) for justice for **Tony McDade**

[More here](#)

Special THANK YOU to Annette and Misha for making this edition possible. The youth are our future!