

9/25: Counter-Demonstration Against the Minuteman Project at City Hall

Stand Up Against for the Rights of Immigrant Workers and Those Who Have Been Systematically Held Down, Locked Up, and Locked Out

10/2: Support Dee Allen by attending his trial, which will be preceded by a picket.

Picket: 8 a.m. in front of 850 Bryant @ 7th Street.

Trial: 9 a.m., 850 Bryant, Department 13.

The Minuteman Project will be back in front of City Hall on Sept. 25 at 11 a.m.. We demonstrate against them in solidarity with immigrant and migrant workers under attack from the Newsom administration, the SFPD and ICE. We also stand in solidarity with Lamont (Dee) Allen, who was arrested and on charged on falsified grounds the last time the Minuteman were in town. We are outraged that the City is wasting public funds on the prosecution of Mr. Allen. We are equally outraged at this City's readiness to devote increasingly scarce resources to the militarization of our streets instead of channeling those same resources into those communities whose impoverishment has been contrived to support a prosperous elite.

The rhetoric of Jim Gilchrist, founder of the so-called Minuteman Project, could be mistaken for satire by a person unaware of his hateful agenda. In an essay published at the Minuteman's website, Gilchrist attributes an endless variety of woes or ills to the presence of undocumented workers within U.S. borders - woes ranging from traffic gridlock to the deforestation to leprosy. The presence of members of the Minuteman Project on the steps of City Hall, however, squares with the priorities of the Newsom administration in ways his proponents will never openly admit. The Mayor's office implicates all immigrants as it revamps implementation of the sanctuary city ordinance and, in chorus with the Chronicle, decries the ordinance as one which protects "known felons." As a result, immigrant and migrant youths and their families now suffer escalated ICE raids and increased harassment and surveillance by the SFPD. They face forced separation from loved ones and deportation, without even the semblance of due process. Many of those whose lives are consequently in turmoil are surely reminded of the crises which prompted them to flee to the US in the first place -- crises typically fomented in furtherance of the economic and hegemonic interests of the US government, US-backed corporations, and their allies.

San Francisco has long been heralded as a bastion of progressive thought and deeds. Yet, this City sets a deplorable if typical example in its approach to addressing, or more appropriately, exasperating, issues of social and economic justice -- issues inextricably linked to the pecuniary interests of a class whose prosperity has always depended on colonization, slavery, and other genocidal

measures against Africans, indigenous peoples, and others. Mayor Newsom and his proponents need not welcome or overtly condone the upside-down rhetoric of Gilchrist in order to express their ideological consonance with Gilchrist and his followers, who merely ape the existing sociopolitical disorder. This City's political regime stands for the same status quo that Gilchrist and his group of vigilantes guard like lapdogs. Anybody who doubts this City's true priorities need only look at whose bodies fill the jail at 850 Bryant, whose communities are subject to police occupation, whose neighborhoods are rendered toxic waste dumps, and whose youths and young adults are systematically deprived of economic opportunities apart from those that the drug economy may have to offer.

We, the undersigned, stand in solidarity with the immigrants and migrants living in our midst. We stand in solidarity with the youths, the disenfranchised and the political dissidents routinely singled out by the SFPD and the Feds. And we stand in solidarity with Dee Allen, who on July 31, was arrested by the SFPD, held for nearly two days, then arraigned on trumped-up charges -- all because he had the courage to stand up for those, who like he, are made to feel the brunt of this society's hypocrisies on a daily basis. We are outraged, if not surprised, that the City is choosing to waste time and money in prosecuting Mr. Allen. We are outraged, if not surprised, at this City's readiness to devote increasingly scarce public resources to the militarization of our streets rather than channeling those same resources into the communities whose emiseration has been contrived to support a prosperous elite. And we will continue to protest and fight, just as immigrants will continue to seek control over their lives and destinies by crossing the border.

**The Gray Panthers, San Francisco Chapter * La Raza Centro Legal * The Idriss Stelley Action & Resource Center * Education Not Incarceration, San Francisco Chapter * Black & Brown Equitable Drug Policies Coalition * The Uhuru Solidarity Movement * Poor Magazine
The African People's Solidarity Committee**

DEEP NORTH

Headed to the "promised land" in droves
Attracted to bright urban lights
Like a swarm of sepia-toned moths
They arrive
In search of work
Safer homes
Altars to pray to
In search of the peace that
Living in the so-called
Bible Belt did not give them.

What kind of a god

Would allow its own children
To endure the jail cell
The slurs
Out of the mouths of babes & rednekkks
The noose that broke the neck
From a tree
Strung up
For the crime of
Being born Black
The white hoods that made their Heaven
By making innocent lives Hell?
What kind of god
Would abandon its own children
To the mercy of hate?
To doors being shut to them
Because they are descendants of the enslaved?

They arrive
With a different kind of home in their hearts.
Among the dark mass, a young
Tsalagi* woman, her Black carpenter
Husband & their 2 daughters [one a half-breed]
Leave Virginia in the dust
Headed for the "promised land"
In the shadow of the Great Depression.
The Deep North welcomes them all.

Dee Allen

W: 3.20.07

*What the Cherokee Indian tribe call themselves.

OUTLANDER

A stranger in their own land.
Outlander in every town.
A prisoner in their own land.

This is their original home, throughout known history
But they've inherited dispossession, a present in misery----
A stranger in their own land.

Lost all to a million thieving hands, as sure as strong wind wails
Outlander often take up room----inside settler's jails----
A prisoner in their own land.

False depictions bury true selves, no matter how massive

Forced to play the beaten role----victimised & hapless----
A stranger in their own land.

Left in squalour, isolated country hell
Is it any wonder why some would rise & rebel?----
A prisoner in their own land.

Perennial struggle to maintain
In the face of a heartless colonial domain.
A stranger in their own land.
A prisoner in their own land.

Dee Allen

W: 8.17.08

[For Klee, Clay & Janeda Benally.]

[Inspired by the song "NDN Alien" by Blackfire.]

SANCTUARY CITY

Come to the Land of the Golden Gate
Where sanctuary can be provided
To souls fleeing poverty which has no boundaries
Corporate reign
Over the plane
Of existence

And to White supremacist pawns
Who want them removed
Before it becomes
"A Third World slum of the North."

Dee Allen

W: 8.2.08