

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, **organized** citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." **Margaret Mead**

<https://leandroherrero.com/the-missing-word-in-the-famous-margaret-mead-quote/>

DOCUMENT OVERVIEW

- I ACCESS to THE THREE WEEKLY CALLS via the Internet**
- II ACCESS to OTHER CALLS SUPPORTED BY WWW.rainbowroundtable.net**
- III OPENING MEDITATION; MAYAN CALENDAR; HOUSEKEEPING; LINK TO PODCAST**
- IV HARD NEWS**

I TO ACCESS THE THREE WEEKLY CALLS via the Internet

A BBS RADIO Go To www.bbsradio.com; click on "64K Listen"

*** Thursday: *A Night at the Round Table* Hosts: Panel Members**
6 pm Pacific / 9 pm Eastern

*** Friday: *Friday Night Hard News* Hosts: Tara & Rama**
6 pm Pacific / 9 pm Eastern

One Hour conference Call: 1-641-741-1704 Access Code: 353 863#

*** Saturday: *History of our Galactic World & NESARA* Hosts: Tara & Rama**
1:30 pm Pacific / 4:30 pm Eastern

One Hour conference Call: 1-720 716 7301 – Access Code: 353 863#

Call to interact / ask questions:

Canada & US: STATION 2 1- 888-429-5471
Direct 1- 323-744-4841

B CALL-TO-LISTEN 1-804-220-6484

C Skype: BBSradio2

D Archives for the 3 Programs listed above:

- Go to *BBSRadio.com*; in first column, LHS, **FIND TALK SHOW**
- Enter *Friday Hard News*, press the GO button. You'll be taken directly to **Hard News on Friday**; click on "**Archives**" which takes you to the listing of all program archives, the latest one being at the top.
- You can listen directly or download the program to your own computer.
 - To listen directly, click on the arrow on the black bar.
 - To download, go to **Episode MP3 link**. Then **right click** on the name '**hardnewsonfriday including the date**' and the drop down menu appears. Click on '**save link as**'

E Archives, written and audio, also exist on the rainbowroundtable website:
www.rainbowroundtable.net - look under the "Archives" tab for **written notes which include links to the entire podcast, and links to the audio recordings** of the conference calls

II TO ACCESS OTHER CALLS SUPPORTED BY RainbowRoundtable.net

A Sunday, Mondays: 9 – 10:30 EST *Cheryl Croci's Activation Calls*
By telephone only: 1-425-436-6260; PIN 9467 441#

B Tuesdays, 2Nd & 4th of each month: 9:00 – 10:30 pm EST *Ashtar on the Road; Ashtar Legacy Calls*
Host is Fran

<http://www.ashtarontheroad.com/ashtarconferences.html>

To access **by Phone:** • 1 – 559 – 726 – 1300; PIN 972400#
• Call is free [except for long distance charges]

via HD Conferencing: 712-770-4160 **PIN #** 980339 [always the same]

<https://www.freeconferencecallhd.com/hd-conferencing/>

via Skype Click on the **VOIP button** and enter what they ask for:
<https://www.freeconferencecallhd.com/hd-conferencing/>

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 wk] 1-712-432-0990 PIN 66238#

D Every 2nd Wednesday 5:45 PM Pacific / 8:45 PM Eastern *The Abundance Call - Caroline Oceana Ryan*
60-minute conference call with the Collective,
a group of Angelic and Galactic beings, channeled by

To be notified: email AscensionTimes@gmail.com with the message "YES to Abundance!"

III OPENING MEDITATION; HOUSEKEEPING; ACCESS TO PODCAST; MAYAN CALENDAR

A. Opening Meditation: Rainbird – Prayer to the 7 Sacred Directions

B. Mayan Calendar: Rainbird

- **Go to** <https://www.spacestationplaza.com> – to locate specific days & lots more information: on the home page, you can find out what your Mayan signature is; while there, look and see where the wave began: that is the birth wave
- **to learn about the Mayan Calendar, Go to** <https://www.spacestationplaza.com> which will link you further to www.lawoftime.org website for further information.

6th Fri – 1 MEN – Blue Magnetic Eagle – a new wave begins. Visionary Aspect – working on our commitment to service; as we move consciousness to Source we are able to re-connect with all creation – let go of the illusion of separateness. Eagle energy is committed to service; we express through our dreams

7th Sat – 2 CIB – Yellow Lunar Warrior – Warrior Aspect. This is where we trust in our journey and trust in right action. Let go of restrictions, hesitation.

8th Sun – 3 CABAN – Red Electric Earth – Healing Aspect – we have an awareness of Earth's energies – being in planetary harmony; trust our intuition. LIONS GATE DAY. ALSO NEW MOON , so we are setting our intentions – include that we are healers of the earth.

9th Mon – 4 ETZNAB – White Mirror – Warrior Aspect – Skrying and seeing. Let go of illusions of separateness, fear, abandonment

10th Tues – 5 CAUAC – Blue Storm Warrior Aspect – PORTAL DAY. Gift of possibilities; let go of addiction to fear

11th Wed – 6 AHAU – Yellow Rhythmic Sun – completing the 12th Unial. Healing Aspect – work is rising to Christ Consciousness, transmitting energy to others. Let go of any limitation or separation

12th Thur – 7 IMIX – Red Resonant Dragon – Artist Aspect. Beginning the last unial that takes us to the end of the Tzolkein. Creation, trusting the Universe – gift of being the Source of Creation – let go of any illusion of lack of support

13th Fri – 8 IK – White Wind – Visionary Aspect – co-creation of heaven on earth; remembering our connection to Spirit – let go of any judgment of others

www.Spacestationplaza.co Click on the tzolkein – it's on page 2 of the link.

For even more information, SEE ALSO **the Law of Time.org**

This is not a 3rd dimensional calendar -

C. Housekeeping: Rain Bird

- Asking to **have more people contribute**, as some of the regular, long-term donors are stressed and stretched: **any and all small amounts are helpful and very welcome.**

BBS: 804-220-6484 PEOPLE CAN NOW PHONE IN TO LISTEN TO THE CALLS!!

- Listener-supported radio programs; program archives can be accessed
- The radio program costs \$300 per week. **Need \$ 300 to catch up**
Thank you, thank you, thank you ! .
- Go to BBSradio.com/Station2; find the listing for **Friday Hard News Call & Paypal** button
- BBS appreciates getting checks via the mail: no Paypal fees!
- The mailing address for those who do not like paying electronically:

[Please put "**Attention Don**" on the envelope]

[Note inside that it's for T & R calls
& the Thursday call, as well]

- T & R:** Their full-time, life-time commitment is to be tuned in to what is really going on behind the artificial world we see around us. They don't ask for anything but they do require food, a home, gas for the car, and access to BBS Radio in order to compile and distribute this information to the world.

- FOOD MONEY:** VIA PAYPAL OR See the PAGE ON www.rainbowroundtable.net
Rama has a pride of 9 Paschats + 2 inside kitties + 2 HUMANS = 13 in total

- **Rama's mailing address** for cheques, money orders: Ram D Berkowitz
PO Box 280
Santa Cruz, NM 87567
- **Remember you can book a session with Mother, as well!**

- Your donation supports an account set up for Tara & Rama with Beneficial Farms Community Supported Agriculture in Santa Fe, NM
- They continue to appreciate each & every donation received for food.

- Please continue to go to www.rainbowroundtable.net and link to their Paypal account: click on the word CHANGE;
choose **family and friends option so Paypal takes off no fees.**

<https://www.shopfreemart.com/tarram> a/c # 7000

- all the products have much to offer, so take a look!
- Freemart is a private shoppers club; it's **FREE TO JOIN**.

Also, check out the heading called **READ MORE** for the good information it has

<https://bbsradio.com/podcast/hard-news-friday-august-6-2021>

NOTE AGAIN: dial 1-804-220-6484 to listen to BBS Radio TV Station 2.

HARD NEWS: Rama, Tara [R,T] • •

R, T: Greetings to all! And thanks for being here!

R: It's hot in the kitchen! Mother is cooking up a storm!

• **Got to talk today to a very high Lama who is close to his Holiness**

- His Holiness is having an audience with ambassadors from Sirius, Andromeda, Pleiades
- the intergalactic are 10-15 million years ahead of us so they know how to protect themselves! It's about First Contact, Full Disclosure – this is one of the ways of getting things done – His Holiness knows how to bring people together

• **Short text from The Poppy Lady** – the Taliban took a small city; the CIA is in bed with the Taliban – opium is the cash crop; don't want to put an end to that cash crop

- the NDAA – National Defence Authorization Act – means everyone is an enemy of the state unless you can prove otherwise

• *Heard the song Magical Mystery Tour* – and out of left field comes

- His Holiness who is also not in his own country – occupied by China since 1949 & His Holiness escaped
- in 1949 Israel became a state of the US and in 1948 was the Roswell Incident
- Aug 12 is the Montauk experiment in Philadelphia

they put a force field around the USS Eldridge, and they went from the 3rd D to 5D and the people time travelled to Philadelphia

- in the meantime, the other people on the ship were going crazy as they could not handle the energies

as Lions Gate is here, things will pop!

Message from the Dalai Lama

[Dalai Lama](#) @DalaiLama · [16h](#)

Education today needs to include principles such as compassion and non-violence. What's more, since we are missing something if we are physically fit, but full of anger and anxiety, we need to learn about emotional hygiene, tackling destructive emotions to find peace of mind.

Reading: from Tania Gabrielle

8:8:8 the Finger of God

SEE BELOW

T: These folks are getting exposed for not being nice people

R: have watched insurrection and other things – has seen Korea - never declared a war only a "police action"

T: our role in this shifting daily action is to help others and to move to the higher path and leave the rest alone!

Reading: Canadian Court Victory declares the Virus is a hoax

what we know about it is that Covid-19 is a cover story for dark activities, led by Dr Fauci

- a 16 year old has just died; being a younger person used to mean wouldn't be affected too much - this 16 year old died within a very few hours from the variant

Reading: 2021-07-15 There are still some wonderfully caring people out there.
Some really wonderful stories..... **SEE BELOW**

This makes the heart swell –

- the story of the 2 year old in Nigeria and the Danish volunteer
- story of the fire fighter who went to the grad of a girl he rescued
- a groom on his wedding day saved a boy from drowning
- In 1969 when blacks couldn't swim with blacks, Mr Rogers and a black policeman soaked their feet together in the same little pool . . .

CONFERENCE CALL LINK TO CONFERENCE CALL <https://fccdl.in/2EQYpbkK7R>

**THE CONFERENCE CALL CAN BE ACCESSED BY THE FORMER PHONE # -
1 605-313-5166, pin 353 863#**

R: the dimensions are shifting and changing faster that he can keep up: has his moments of being in and out . . .

Ca/Me: Marilyn Monroe did much to help Della Reese – told the night club if they hired Della Reese, MM would sit in the front seat every night of the show – and after that Della Reese had no problem getting a gig

- Describes what happened during the Montauk situation as caller was working with Art Bell at the time
- Discussion about the back story of the project by 2 of the callers
 - Al Bielek was on the Art Bell show several time

Bi/AZ: is this going to be the strongest Lions Gate ever?

T: yes

Bi/Az: his son was born on Aug, when Nixon resigned – has 1 son + wife's kids – 3 boys+ 1 Girl

T: there is no way the *:~*: energies won't change things

PLEASE LISTEN TO THIS CALL – GOT TO BE REALLY VERY INTERESTING ! ! ! !

B B S RADIO

AUDIO: **THE BIGGER PICTURE** by Patricia Cota-Robles www.eraofpeace.org

VLOG 230

NEW LIGHT FROM THE 5TH-DIMENSIONAL LION'S GATE



Audio: **Energy as Information – Gregg Braden – Missing Link**

2021-08-02 Gregg Braden - Fractal Code of the Simulated Reality = Repetitive Patters in Our Lives

[Gregg Braden Official](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9GsGi96KBn8)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9GsGi96KBn8>

Gregg Braden - If our universe operates like a giant computer, can we rewrite the programming to alter our experience? Discover how to work with the fractal codes of energy that influence all biology, emotions and relationships by examining indigenous cultures and spiritual traditions.

Gaia Exclusive MISSING LINKS Anniversary Re - Release 2021

Audio: **?**

MOTHER / ALCYONE [M/A]

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!

This is a most unique moment in this current timeline that is merging into a new timeline – already happening. Old time line falling away and with it, great shifts in how we live, move, have our Being. With this Lions Gate opening at this time, it is about the energies coming in from our Sun Sol that is moving up in octave with Helios and Vesta, all the way up. As

the energies increase, it is about this Divine Government that's coming about as We The People take the power back as Patti just talked about

- Great shifts that have happened as humanity has been lifted up like never before. This particular time on this planet, this space/time moment – like we just heard – Gregg Braden talking about with Stephen Hawking how small . . .

T: A million trillion times smaller than an inch – what is that?

M/A: And space is not empty; it is so full of life, it is ridiculous, and we're worried on this planet, so to speak, the life forms that are playing with the false game at this time; we can just say: Eris doing her thing – discord - along with Pluto, Neptune, Uranus – lots of shifts in the wind

- there are stories out there between mid-August to Sept 18th – just throwing arbitrary dates out there: not giving dates. In fact, She likes Turkish dates! It's about this period of what's happening as this lion's gate opens up new energies with this new moon
- Dark Side would like to play with it, create such a fiasco of chaos – yet the tables have been turned. It is about the light from the sun; things are happening much faster than our scientists are realizing. The solar cycle is much quicker than they thought; therefore the solar flares are a little more active. And it is, with the solar flares, creates an opportunity for light frequencies to pour into this realm that lifts us high and, at the same time, the dark side is SOL. She'll keep it clean!
 - It is about their twilight – the twilight of the so-called old gods of the old timeline: these ones who have been here since the grand experiment began. Time for them to be on their way with Her, and we will be meeting up with King Dracos and Princess Ardala to determine their fates as it were.
- Right now there is such a shift in the wind: the people of earth no longer want war. The rest of the galaxy and our neighbours do not want war. The issue at hand is this small group of life forms who think they have it in the bag. And they don't.
 - What's happening is the Light pouring in is changing our very nature of what we know about the creation of life, and these frequencies go much higher than anything they can create in a lab.
 - That is why She says fear not; whatever they are playing with, the sun has the answers and it is in us: called the gold dust, the melanin. Gotta talk to your cells, our cells, the DNA, the RNA
 - There is a higher path, higher frequency that is aligned with these light code frequencies that are pouring in from the sun, and the old rebel band of life forms that She lovingly calls her "wayward children" don't want us to find out what is coming
- what is coming is a shift,; it is a huge shift that is about the revealing of Nibiru as it comes by this solar system, this planet called Gaia/Vywamus –
 - **it is not about extinction level events;** She'll say it again: it's about climate disruption, consciousness and conflict
 - If we can get our act together, like His Holiness said: getting the consciousness in line with the divine order of the wisdom here. As there is – like John Lennon said in the song: when there is nothing to kill or die for, peace on earth -
 - **Now is the time.** We have the abilities to shift this story – our part of it - we created this story.
 - As Gregg talks about the simulation: we each, since we are creator gods and goddesses of the Most High, we each had a little part in getting that spoon,

stirring the pot, getting it just right - the simulation - and each one of us knows how far it goes. As Gregg said, there is a limit

- we are at that point where the singularity happens now. She cannot give dates yet it is NOW and it involves the sun, and the light pouring forth from the sun is shifting our very nature of how we interact with life – gotta hug the trees.

T: That's true . . .

M/A: gotta drink some water. You grok this story: the snow flake, the water, Dr Emoto - you talk to the water, talk to your blood - the cells

- when you have snow flakes of infinite beauty and grace, things shift and they shift very, very fast. No more war; no death. Infinite bliss, it's what's happening in spite of the best efforts of Miss Marjorie Taylor Green and a few other folks.
- Just send them more love; they have an inkling of what's coming and they may not like it, yet it is about what must be done.
- Which is when we will hold the ones responsible for what happened –
 - the last time around [when] this cosmic moment happened, when there was an issue about white vs all the colours of the rainbow – the rainbow bridge is what's here –
 - it is part of how this completion of the cycle is – that all the portals are opening, no matter what you look like or where you come from or what species you are: all are welcome.
- As Gaia/Wyamus said: This is a garden; let's do this with love and balance.

Greetings

T: Mother. Before you go: we were talking a bit about the atrocities of the empire over time, and got to the place where

M/A: the ocean of blood, yes

T: how many have they killed 1980 – 2000 - 2 billion of us; first hearing it was shocking;

- now it's only 2 years and it's 4-4.5 billion of us!
- And now they have a whole line of the variants where the next one is lethal, and more young people are getting it and dying more quickly. Before, young people would get it early, and get it less severely and would get through it – now that doesn't seem to matter. . .
- I know you said the dark side is fading away . . .

M/A: You can see them exposing themselves so greatly every single day in the context of how can you wash away oceans of blood and just say 'There was a peaceful crowd of people on Jan 6th ?

- war is war. No matter where it is in the universe, it ends here and now. That's the story

T: Drumpf has been an example of a president who has boldly and brazenly promoted violence

M/A: It is about the fear of what's about to happen to that side of the Force who have made choices. The sun shines on everyone; it doesn't make choices

- **We** make choices of how we change this story with our thoughts: that is why in the ashrams, in the halls of study, in the sacred temples of Shamballa - watch your thoughts, watch your words – cos it is instant: you say the wrong thing, you are out of your body and [there's] not any one doing it, but yourself
- We are that powerful – we can be that magnificent and we can be that ugly!

T: and we can be that dumb!

M/A: Yes. It is about aligning the thought processes where there is – like what Kryon talks of: cognize the moment of what you have before you - the keys to the kingdom: this temple is what we've got and how we make it immortal is loving it even more.

- It is a choice. This may sound like BS but this is the truth – this is the immortality right here: we have the power to change this physicality [our temples] right in this moment: it is about the power of NOW
- It is about the grace that comes of allowing all things to stop and just be in this NOW moment and everything else - whether it's going on or not – we're in this NOW moment: that's all there is and it can last for one second or for how many lifetimes, we cannot count!
- we make that choice about how to change that as we have the power to change this destiny for ourselves and change things with love: it's a big deal!
– as we get to that place of raising the consciousness to shift the physical space / time reality
- This is what the folks talking about - how **we got it** and we, in this NOW moment, we can change this and they are deathly afraid of how much power we've got – why do you think they're trying to kill you?

M/A: oh the angel lost her head

T: That has to do with them – that's not funny!

M/A: one of our angels lost her head!

T: asks Mother to explain

M/A: it's a miniature cherub **T:** and the kitties did something naughty – **M/A:** gotta get out the crazy glue

T: she was asking: you've said a million times they are going to do this all at once or not at all - are we not at the point that they don't get away with any more of this stuff?

M/A: We can't tell you anything but we can tell you, there are good folks in this process of the so-called justice system takes a higher octave and moves into divine government with Lady Master Nada's guidance and the other Ascended Masters who sit on the wise councils of elders on the solar tribunal on Saturn.

- Right now this is a kangaroo court, yet it can be brought to the balance of Divine Justice, Divine Government; this involves Beloved Ascended Master St Germain, Serapis Bey, Lord Lord Lanto, Lord Kuthumi - these divine wisdom teachers, wisdom keepers, have set forth ways in which we can change physical space/time reality and She will say once again - the emerald tablets of Thoth are much more than we have any idea, even though it was changed, translated - there is wisdom in there about the ancient story of how this shifts
- right now, no accident that we're talking about this, as Sirius - Orion's belt - lining up over the Giza Plateau – all the players are in place. We must do what We must do – take our children back to where this story began

M/A: Greetings in the Light

T: and no more than 2 o's' in soon, right?

M: Might even say it's one O - banter about the # of o, and suns, sons . . .

Both: Greetings in the Light of the Most Radiant One. Kadoish, Kadoish Kadoish Adonaie Sabeoth

M/A: as we approach this new moon, expect Magic and Miracles

T: it's both new moon and lions gate on the same day! ! ! This coming Sunday - new kind of church . . . Earth is our church

Rama Returns: Went to Lady Master Athena's ship, getting a treatment on his arm.
• She said it's [rash on his hands] about the light frequencies coming in and drink more water – hears 'calamine lotion' too

T: calamine lotion was used when she had measles as a kid - measles is part of the virus situation – we are kinda experiencing here

R: Basta! In answer to Tara's question: that lawyer got bought out – it's all about the money! Sex is never sex! Money is never money – it's about something else

R: having these bodies – about the mission !!!

AUDIO: DEMOCRACY NOW!

A BIT INTENSE – BEAR WITH IT; BLAZE THE VIOLET FIRE . . .

2021-08-06 DEMOCRACY NOW Headlines August 06, 2021

2021-08-06 Remembering Richard Trumka: Union Leaders Reflect on Death of AFL-CIO Head & Labor Movement Challenges Ahead

https://www.democracynow.org/2021/8/6/labor_leader_richard_trumka_death_legacy

2021-08-06 A Cycle of War Crimes: Today's Crisis in Afghanistan Grew Out of 20 Years of U.S. War

https://www.democracynow.org/2021/8/6/afghanistan_taliban_us_withdrawal

2021-08-06 A Cycle of War Crimes: Today's Crisis in Afghanistan Grew Out of 20 Years of U.S. War

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AUDIO:

2021-08- 07

Redacted Tonight: The eviction moratorium, Nina Turner's loss, the opioid epidemic

VIDEO: <https://www.rt.com/shows/redacted-tonight-summary/531401-eviction-moratorium-nina-turner-loss/>

PODCAST: <https://soundcloud.com/rttv/redacted-tonight-the-eviction-moratorium-nina-turners-loss-the-opioid-epidemic>

Lee Camp takes a look back at how Congress played economic brinkmanship with the eviction moratorium over the past week. Millions of people were threatened with eviction without the moratorium. If it weren't for Representative Cori Bush and the people who slept at the Capitol with her, evictions would be in full swing right now. But the extension of the eviction moratorium is just a temporary fix for a problem that requires a radical solution – guaranteed housing. Camp also reports on Joe Biden's corporate-friendly infrastructure bill, Nina Turner's electoral loss in Ohio after dark money flooded in to her opponents, and more.

This week, *Redacted Tonight* introduces our newest correspondent Jaffer Khan. Khan reports on a story of intrigue from the Pentagon. Nuclear secrets were leaked through an online test preparation website. The incident exposes the absurdity of the US defense industry and its bloated budgets.

Anders Lee looks into the newest way in which the US is letting billionaires get away with murder. The Sackler family made major profits from an opioid boom in the US. The opiate crisis devastated counties across the US and the Sacklers will pay a relatively small fine for their active role in the opioid epidemic.



AUDIO: Economic Update -

2021-08-02

Economic Update: Best Years of U.S. Lie in its Past

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dp724UbMtrQ>

PODCAST:

https://hwcdn.libsyn.com/p/c/f/f/cff7a373f19de936/Econ_Update_2021.07.29.S11E28.mp3c_id=108177065&cs_id=108177065&expiration=1628903085&hwt=2380bf6829ffcaee7171d22bce2040ca

[S11 E28] Best Years of U.S. Lie in its Past On this week's show, Prof. Wolff talks about Chipotle Mexican Grill blaming its price increases on its workers, economist Arthur Laffer's claims that many poor, minority workers "not worth \$15/hour." and false claims that lower taxes help economic growth while higher taxes hurt it.



On the second half of the program, Wolff interviews August H. Nimtz, Jr. on today's crisis of a declining U.S. capitalism, its impacts and implications. *

AUDIO: The Thom Hartmann Book club **Capitalism A Ghost Story by Arundhati Roy**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YuxipoYYSO0>

Thom reads from **Capitalism A Ghost Story** by Arundhati Roy.

From the poisoned rivers, barren wells, and clear-cut forests, to the hundreds of thousands of farmers who have committed suicide to escape punishing debt, to the hundreds of millions of people who live on less than two dollars a day, there are ghosts nearly everywhere you look in India. India is a nation of 1.2 billion, but the country's 100 richest people own assets equivalent to one-fourth of India's gross domestic product.

Capitalism: A Ghost Story examines the dark side of democracy in contemporary India, and shows how the demands of globalized capitalism has subjugated billions of people to the highest and most intense forms of racism and exploitation.

A VERY SHORT READING: 9th dimensional Arcturlan Council

" . . . you are the leaders; you are the ones doing the heavy lifting . . . "

Closing: Rainbird

no turning back from the path we are on! ! !

Rama's Final Choices

Rumi Poem (English) – Emptiness

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C5qYfcBpqbI>

Enya Water shows the hidden Heart 432 Hz

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n2D35UBTZtk>

INFORMATION RELATED TO THE NOTES

2021-08-02 LEO New Moon - 8:8 Finger of God [Aug 8]

Tania Gabrielle <newsletter@taniagabrielle.com>



The exciting **New Moon in Leo on 8.8** with a rare "Finger of God" formation instills your HEART with tremendous COURAGE.

(This is the final Star Codes podcast I recorded in my old home.)

8.8 Leo New Moon [Aug 8] Astrology Numerology Forecast

<https://youtu.be/km-5hkxk3SQ>

(In a couple of days you'll receive a special episode on the 8:8 Lion's Gate!)

This New Moon in Leo is **sandwiched between two full moons in Aquarius** – sign of our new age, which explains why so much is shifting, in flux and unexpected.

Leo governs the Heart, and a powerful **90° square** from the Sun and Moon (New Moon) to **Uranus** symbolizes tremendous change and upheaval.

Your heart is beautifully poised to lead you through these times.

The square to Uranus activates the ruling planet of Aquarius, **making thrilling breakthroughs and brilliant AHA moments a normal occurrence.**

Everything is the way it is, *and everything is in constant change.*

Nothing stays the same.

This is the reality.

- What you choose to do while you are on the river of life directly impacts the experience of being on the river, *but it doesn't impact the river itself.*
- Just as with life, the river is constantly moving and so is the scenery while traveling down the river.

Every moment is a new moment, a new experience.

Discover how your enthusiasm and passion are ignited, and how the **infinity number 8** infuses you with strength, inner authority and confidence.

[Watch the exciting LEO NEW MOON on 8.8 forecast here!](#)

Love and Blessings,

Tania Gabrielle

2021-07-15 There are still some wonderfully caring people out there.
Some really wonderful stories.....

Some months back in Nigeria one naked and dying 2-year abandoned child was seen being fed by a lady charity-worker from Denmark - Anja Ringgren Loven, that pic went viral in social media. She later adopted that child and named him Hope. Today, Hope looks like this:



This retired firefighter showed up to the graduation of a girl he rescued 17 years ago from her crib during a house fire.





In 1969, when black Americans were still prevented from swimming alongside whites, Mr. Rogers decided to invite Officer Clemmons to join him and cool his feet in a pool, breaking a well-known color barrier.



Her Boyfriend Is In The Army And
Couldn't Make It Back In Time For Prom.
So Her Boyfriends 2 Year Old Brother
Took Her In His Place 🥺💕



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On a train in China I saw a little girl
watching me.
I had glitter on my cheek and asked her
parents if I could put some on her too
After 20 mins of playing her **parents**
told me she was mute severely
disabled and that this was the first time
she'd ever smiled.
My heart is so full.



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**LOWE'S EMPLOYEES COME TO THE RESCUE OF
DISABLED VET WITH BROKEN WHEELCHAIR**



**THEY REPLACED THE BROKEN PARTS AND TOLD ME, "WE'RE
GOING TO MAKE THIS CHAIR LIKE NEW." I KEPT THANKING
THEM AND ALL THEY COULD SAY WAS, "IT WAS OUR HONOR."**



This little girl with Down syndrome got up from her seat during a papal audience and went towards Pope Francis during ministration.

The security guards quickly moved in to take her back to her mother.

The Pope stopped everyone and said to the girl, "come sit next to me." The girl then sat down near him and the Holy Father continued to preach while holding hands with the little girl.



Almost 5,000 people queued for hours in the rain at a swabbing event in Worcester, to get tested to see if they were a match to help save the life of a five-year-old boy fighting a rare cancer after parents asked for help.

Watch Headlines**Dixie Fire Grows to Become Sixth Largest in California History**

Aug 06, 2021

In California, powerful winds and dry conditions have caused

several wildfires to explode in size, including the massive Dixie Fire, now the sixth largest in California history. The fire, north of Sacramento, almost completely burned downtown Greenville and has consumed an area larger than Los Angeles. Six of the largest 10 wildfires in California's history have happened since 2020. Elsewhere in Northern California, officials shut down a hydroelectric power plant at Lake Oroville after the reservoir reached a record low level amid a searing drought.

Greek PM Blames Climate Change as Thousands Flee Wildfires Near Athens

In Greece, thousands of people have fled their homes on the outskirts of Athens as firefighters from across Europe joined crews battling blazes that are threatening the Greek capital. One fire nearly reached the Ancient Olympia archaeological site, where the Olympic Games were held for over a millennium. Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis blamed the fires on climate change.

Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis: "Unfortunately, the worst is yet to come, and the night ahead seems menacing. ... We are talking about unprecedented conditions following many days of heat waves, which have transformed the whole country into a powder keg."

Scores of other fires are raging in Turkey, Italy, the Balkans, Albania, Romania, Ukraine and Russia. On Monday, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is set to release its first assessment in eight years. The report from the Nobel Peace Prize-winning agency is expected to contain dire warnings over soaring temperatures, rising seas and extreme weather.

Study Warns Atlantic Ocean Current Could Collapse, with Devastating Impact on Climate

Aug 06, 2021

A new study in the journal Nature finds human activity could soon cause a crucial Atlantic Ocean current system to collapse, with devastating impacts on the global climate system. Researchers found the ocean currents that carry warm water from the tropics to the North Atlantic have already been destabilized by the climate crisis. A complete collapse would dramatically change rainfall patterns around the globe, lower temperatures in parts of Europe while raising them elsewhere, and would dramatically raise sea levels in the eastern United States.

Biden Restores Tailpipe Emissions Standards, Promotes Switch to Electric Vehicles

President Biden on Thursday restored tailpipe emissions standards set under the Obama administration — and later canceled by President Trump. Biden also set a goal of making half of all cars and light trucks sold in the U.S. by 2030 be electric vehicles. Biden made the announcement surrounded by executives and labor leaders of the auto industry.

President Joe Biden: “Beyond the devastation to the lives and livelihoods and the health of our very planet, when I hear 'climate,' I think 'jobs,' good-paying union jobs. I wanted the world to see there was a consensus that all — that we’re at an inflection point in world history. If we act to save the planet, we can also come out of it better.”

Democratic Bill Would Tax Big Polluters \$500 Billion to Pay for Climate Damage

Aug 06, 2021

Congressional Democrats have drafted legislation that would tax major polluters to compensate for the impacts of catastrophic climate change. The Polluters Pay Climate Fund Act would raise \$500 billion over a decade by taxing companies like Chevron, Shell and ExxonMobil based on the percentage of their global emissions. The fund would help pay for green energy research and to help communities adapt to a warming planet.

U.S. Coronavirus Cases Hit Six-Month High with Over 100,000 Daily Infections

U.S. coronavirus infections have surged to a six-month high, with an average of more than 100,000 daily cases. In Florida, the Memorial Healthcare System has suspended elective surgeries and has set up beds for COVID-19 patients in conference rooms, an auditorium and a cafeteria. Florida now faces its worst surge of the pandemic. Even so, Republican Governor Ron DeSantis has refused to reverse his ban on mask mandates, calling vaccinations, social distancing and masking an "individual choice."

New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy will require all K-12 students to wear masks when school returns this fall, reversing his decision last June to drop a mask requirement for schools. On Thursday, Governor Murphy shouted down anti-vaccination protesters who heckled him during a public appearance in Union City.

Gov. Phil Murphy: "These folks back there have lost their — you've lost your minds. You are the ultimate knuckleheads. And because of what you are saying and standing for, people are losing their life. People are losing their life, and you have to know that."

Africa COVID-19 Deaths Surged by 80% in Last Month as Delta Variant Spread

The World Health Organization warned Thursday the fast-spreading Delta coronavirus variant has led to an 80% increase in COVID-19 deaths across the African continent over the last month.

Dr. Phionah Atuhebwe: "The third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in Africa is still raging at full force. After a slight dip in cases last week, COVID-19 cases are surging again, rising by 19% to nearly over 278,000 this last week."

Globally, COVID-19 cases are continuing to rise, with an average of over 600,000 confirmed cases per day.

U.N. Security Council Meets on Afghanistan as Taliban Offensive Sparks Humanitarian Crisis

Aug 06, 2021

The United Nations Security Council is holding an emergency session today to discuss the crisis in Afghanistan. This comes as Taliban fighters are attempting to seize three provincial capitals. On Wednesday, a U.N. spokesperson said the fighting has left thousands of Afghans trapped or fleeing for their lives.

Stéphane Dujarric: “We’re deeply concerned about the safety and protection of people in Lashkar Gah, in the south, where tens of thousands of people could be trapped by the fighting. Our humanitarian colleagues also tell us that in Helmand and Kandahar, there are reported increased civilian casualties, destruction or damage to civilian houses, as well as to critical infrastructure, including hospitals.”

Nicaraguan Police Arrest Another Candidate Challenging President Ortega

In Nicaragua, authorities have arrested another candidate in November’s presidential election as President Daniel Ortega continues to crack down on his opposition. Berenice Quezada, who was Miss Nicaragua in 2017, has been placed under house arrest. Quezada is the running mate of right-wing presidential hopeful Oscar Sobalvarro, a former commander for the U.S.-backed Contras — which have been accused of brutal human rights violations fighting the Sandinistas during the Nicaraguan revolution in the 1980s.

New Guatemalan Anti-Corruption Prosecutor Accused of Protecting the Corrupt

Aug 06, 2021

In Guatemala, a new anti-corruption prosecutor has been appointed following the abrupt firing last month of Juan Francisco Sandoval, who was forced to flee the country. The new appointee has been accused of prosecuting Guatemala’s political opposition and of protecting the corrupt elite. This comes as protests continued across the country this week demanding the resignation of right-wing President Alejandro Giammattei and Guatemala’s attorney general. [Click here to see our recent coverage of the protests in Guatemala.](#)

Texas Governor Orders Special Legislative Session in Latest Attempt to Pass Voter Suppression Bills

Back in the United States, Texas Republican Governor Greg Abbott has ordered a new special session of the state Legislature in a renewed effort to pass draconian voter suppression legislation. In response to a previous effort last month, almost every Democratic representative in the Texas House fled the state to Washington, D.C., denying the Republican majority a quorum. Texas Democrats are reportedly debating whether to leave the state once again ahead of Saturday’s special session. Today is the 56th anniversary of the signing of the federal Voting Rights Act.

Richard Trumka, Longtime Head of AFL-CIO Labor Federation, Dies at 72

AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka died of a heart attack on Thursday at the age of 72. Trumka had led the nation's largest labor federation since 2009. Richard Trumka was a third-generation coal miner from Pennsylvania. At the age of 33, he became the youngest president of the United Mine Workers of America, where he helped organize strikes against Peabody Coal and the Pittston Coal Company. He also led union efforts to oppose apartheid in South Africa and backed a boycott of Royal Dutch Shell, which had been called by the National Union of Mineworkers in South Africa. We'll have more on Rich Trumka's life and legacy after headlines.

Justice Department to Probe Excessive Force, Abuse and Discrimination by Phoenix Police

Aug 06, 2021

Image Credit: Twitter: @JoKnight273 The Justice Department's Civil Rights Division has opened an investigation into allegations of abuse, excessive force and discrimination by the Phoenix Police Department. Attorney General Merrick Garland said Thursday the probe will also focus on accusations that Phoenix officers retaliated against protesters and brutalized unhoused people and people with disabilities.

ACLU Sues to Overturn Texas Order Restricting Travel by Asylum Seekers

Aug 06, 2021

The American Civil Liberties Union has filed a federal lawsuit challenging Texas Republican Governor Greg Abbott's executive order restricting some asylum seekers to traveling only with law enforcement officials, and directing state troopers to stop vehicles suspected of transporting migrants. The ACLU denounced the policy as illegal and inhumane and warned it will create the "perfect storm" for racial profiling. A federal judge earlier this week temporarily blocked the executive order — until next week, when another hearing is scheduled.

Biden Administration Will Outfit Thousands of Border Agents with Body Cameras

Aug 06, 2021

The Biden administration says it will soon require thousands of border agents to begin wearing body cameras. Immigrant justice advocates have long demanded the practice to improve accountability, after dozens of fatal shootings involving border agents and mounting allegations of abuse against migrants, asylum seekers and others.

Hiroshima Marks 76th Anniversary of U.S. Nuclear Attack

Aug 06, 2021

Today marks 76 years since the United States dropped the world's first atomic bomb on the Japanese city of Hiroshima, killing an estimated 140,000 people. During a ceremony today at the site of the blast, Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga vowed Japan would work with other nations to promote nuclear disarmament. But he did not mention the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which Japan has not signed. Democracy Now! visited the Hiroshima Peace Memorial in 2014 and spoke to a survivor of the bombing. [Click here to see our coverage.](#)

2021-08-06 Remembering Richard Trumka: Union Leaders Reflect on Death of AFL-CIO Head & Labor Movement Challenges Ahead

https://www.democracynow.org/2021/8/6/labor_leader_richard_trumka_death_legacy



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former executive vice president for the AFL-CIO and the first African American to ever serve as an executive officer in the AFL-CIO's history.

- [José La Luz](#)
veteran labor organizer, campaigner and educator.

Image Credit: Kevork Djansezian/Reuters

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Richard Trumka, the longtime president of the AFL-CIO and one of the most powerful labor leaders in the United States, has died of a heart attack at the age of 72. Trumka's death has prompted an outpouring of tributes from fellow labor figures, activists and lawmakers, including President Joe Biden. Trumka was a third-generation coal miner from Pennsylvania who, at the age of 33, became the youngest president of the United Mine Workers of America. He continued climbing through the ranks of organized labor for the rest of his life, fighting campaigns against apartheid in South Africa, racism within the labor movement and anti-union rules across the United States. He was elected president of the AFL-CIO, the country's largest labor federation, in 2009. "We were broken by the news," says Arlene Holt Baker, former executive vice president for the AFL-CIO and friend of Trumka's. "He's the brother in our movement who fought in so many ways for what was right." We also speak with veteran labor organizer José La Luz, who says Trumka's main challenge was fighting the erosion of worker power. "What we have witnessed in the past few decades is a massive distribution of wealth from the bottom to the top," says La Luz. "This remains a fundamental challenge for whoever is going to take up the mantle."

Transcript

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

AMY GOODMAN: We begin today's show looking at the life and legacy of AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka, who died of a heart attack Thursday at the age of 72. He had led the nation's largest labor federation since 2009. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer announced Trumka's death Thursday.

MAJORITY LEADER CHUCK SCHUMER: I rise today with some sad, some horrible news about the passing of a great friend, Rich Trumka, who left us this morning. The working people of America have lost a fierce warrior at a time when we needed him most. Just yesterday, Rich was lending his support to the striking miners in Alabama. Following in his father's footsteps, he worked in the mines. He went to Penn State, earned his law degree, didn't practice, didn't go to some fancy place, went right to work for the United Mine Workers, which he led for so many years, and then he became head, first secretary-treasurer, in AFL-CIO. He had, in his veins, in every atom of his body, the heart, the thoughts, the needs of the working people of America.

AMY GOODMAN: The Reverend William Barber of the Poor People's Campaign paid tribute to Richard Trumka by saying, quote, "We have lost a dear friend and brother in the struggle for justice. ... He never separated the fight for economic and labor rights from the fight for voting rights and civil rights. He knew they are simultaneous fights," Barber said.

Richard Trumka was a third-generation coal miner from Pennsylvania. At the age of 33, he became the youngest president of the United Mine Workers of America, where he helped organize strikes against Peabody Coal and the Pittston Coal Company. He also led union efforts to oppose apartheid in South Africa and backed a boycott of Royal Dutch Shell, which had been called by the National Union of Mineworkers in South Africa. Richard Trumka would go on to serve as secretary-treasurer of the AFL-CIO. In July 2008, he made headlines when he denounced racism within organized labor and called on all workers to vote for Barack Obama.

RICHARD TRUMKA: There's not a single good reason for any worker, especially any union member, to vote against Barack Obama. And there's only one really, really bad reason to vote against Barack Obama, and that's because he's not white.

AMY GOODMAN: In 2009, Richard Trumka was elected president of the AFL-CIO after the retirement of John Sweeney. This is Trumka speaking in 2018 after the Supreme Court issued a major anti-union ruling eviscerating the power of public sector unions in the case *Janus v. AFSCME*.

RICHARD TRUMKA: All over our country right now workers are organizing, and they're striking as we haven't seen in years. Fifteen thousand workers in April, in one week, joined the union. And that's on top of the 262,000 new members who joined our ranks last year. And the optimistic to be even more optimistic, 75% of them were under the age of 35 — our turn's coming — and despite the fact that too many of our labor laws have been written to undermine the freedom to organize. Now, new research from MIT shows a 50% increase in the number of nonunion workers who would vote to join a union tomorrow, if given the opportunity. Tens of millions of workers are ready to experience the transformational power of collective bargaining. And in many cases, all that stands in the way is a rigged system. ...

Let me be clear: The Supreme Court is on the wrong side of history. What they did flies in the face of where America is headed, where workers want to go and where workers need to go. And it shows exactly how out of touch they are with the real America that's out there. *Janus* or no *Janus*, workers are demanding a voice. We're standing up, and we're speaking out for a better life. We're demanding a fair share of the wealth that we help create. We're marching, and we're organizing, and we're bargaining. And we simply will not allow a corporate-controlled Supreme Court to stop us from doing our job.

AMY GOODMAN: AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka speaking in 2018. He died Thursday at the age of 72.

To talk more about his life and legacy, we're joined by two guests. Arlene Holt Baker served as the executive vice president for the AFL-CIO from 2009 to 2013. She was the first African American to ever serve as an executive officer in the AFL-CIO's history. We're also joined by José La Luz, a veteran labor organizer, campaigner and educator. He's been a workers' rights activist for decades.

We welcome you both to *Democracy Now!* Arlene Holt Baker, you worked side by side with Richard Trumka for years. Can you talk first about the reaction to his death and what you feel it's important for people to understand about Richard Trumka's legacy?

ARLENE HOLT BAKER: Well, good morning, Amy. I am happy to be here to talk about my brother, Richard Trumka, so happy to also be here with my brother José La Luz.

The reaction and — it has been devastating for us. I think you heard it in the emotion of Senator Schumer's voice. We were broken by the news. But if you knew anything about Rich Trumka, it could only bring a smile to your face, because he's the brother in our movement who fought in so many ways for what is right.

My own reflection is, you know, you start to think about the last time you saw him or spoke to him. And I thought about the last time I actually saw Rich, and it was on Facebook, because he was doing a speech at the AFL-CIO where he had welcomed the Texas delegation to come. And he stood with them as he talked about the right to vote. And he talked about the John Lewis Voting Rights Act and For the People Act. And then he connected all of that to the PRO Act, which is the right for workers to organize.

And Rich truly believed, as all of us in the labor movement believe, that you can't have the denial of voting rights and suppress the votes of anyone and not have a strong labor union, without destroying your democracy. Rich understood that democracy was on the line. So, I thought, you know, Rich, the last time I heard him, he was giving the same message that I've heard him give so many years. It was about empowering workers and empowering our communities.

AMY GOODMAN: Let's go to a bit of that speech that you're describing, Arlene, the speech Richard Trumka gave in Washington, D.C., in July.

RICHARD TRUMKA: And we cannot afford to let any of our agenda, from democracy in the workplace to democracy at the ballot box to investment in our people, fall victim to a procedural tool conceived in segregation. It's become clear that one of two things must be pushed aside: the filibuster or the hopes and aspirations of the American people.

AMY GOODMAN: That speech, Richard Trumka gave in July. Arlene Holt Baker, talk about your rise with him. In 2009, we played in the introduction here that speech he gave addressing the labor movement and addressing the issue of racism within the labor movement, as he was campaigning for Barack Obama to become the first African American president of the United States. Then you became the first African American executive within the AFL-CIO, becoming the executive vice president for the federation. Talk about that time.

ARLENE HOLT BAKER: Well, I have to reflect back, Amy, to 1995, when the New Voice team of John Sweeney, Linda Chavez-Thompson, the first woman, Latina woman, to be elected, and Rich Trumka, the secretary-treasurer of the AFL-CIO, ran on a ticket in 1995 talking about inclusion and diversity and a new voice for workers around this country, understanding the importance of diversity in the labor movement. I was very, you know, honored, because, in 2007, I was appointed by John Sweeney to serve out Linda Chavez-Thompson's term when she decided to step down from her position. And I served in that position.

But it was in 2009 through 2013 that I served alongside Rich Trumka as his executive vice president. And during that period of time, history was also made, because we know so many things were happening in the country, particularly the election of Barack Obama. We were pushing for that. But Rich Trumka understood that you could not be silent, you could not be silent when it came to race. And his boldness when he stepped out and he spoke to a convention in 2008 and put it all on the line, that says that if you are not willing to vote for this man, who certainly has supported workers' rights and everything we believe in, it only can be chalked up to racism. The boldness, the willingness to speak truth to power no matter where it was, and to speak truth to our unions.

The other piece of this I think that's important is that Rich understood that the diversity of the labor movement, the labor movement had to be reflective and must be reflective of our membership. And that's women and young people and people of color. So on that team also was Liz Shuler, the first secretary-treasurer of the AFL-CIO, a young woman. So, the Rich Trumka team was a team representative of the future of the labor movement, if we were going to continue to grow and be empowered, but, most importantly, to empower working people. It was a wonderful, exciting time. And it was wonderful to be on the side and standing with Rich Trumka as we continued to forge a path that included diversity, inclusion and, my god, organizing.

AMY GOODMAN: I want to bring José La Luz into this conversation, veteran labor organizer, campaigner, educator. He's been a workers' rights activist for half a century on the mainland United States, in Puerto Rico

and through the Western Hemisphere. José La Luz, can you describe your response when you heard the news of Rich Trumka's sudden death yesterday? And can you talk about his legacy?

JOSÉ LA LUZ: Indeed. Thank you for having me, Amy. You know, first of all, my deepest condolences to his wife Barbara and his son Richard and his grandchildren.

This has been a significant loss for American workers, no doubt. And I think it's important to take a moment to understand who was, in fact, Richard Trumka as a trade unionist. You know, he came out of the mine workers. He was a reformer in the mine workers. This is the union that had been led by John L. Lewis, you know, the founder of the CIO, that organized the mass industries in America. But it was also the union that became infected with corruption — Tony Boyle, who ordered the execution of Jock Yablonski, and, you know, the emergence of the rank-and-file caucus known as the Miners for Democracy. Trumka came out of the reform tradition, the militant reform tradition of the mine workers, which is the reason why he led that strike against the Pittston Coal mine company.

And so, when he was elected as part of the slate of the New Voice slate, as my friend and sister Arlene was talking about, in 1995, those of us who see ourselves as reformers, as militant reformers in the trade union movement, had a lot of hope for this coalition that came together around John Sweeney, Richard Trumka and Linda Chavez-Thompson, in terms of dealing with this fundamental challenge that the American labor movement has, and that is, how to build power for workers, how to build political power, how to build economic power, how to become a very strong force for a profound transformation in society. And so, Trumka was, in fact, a reformer and a visionary. And in that sense, you know, this is a great loss.

But much has been left undone. And now his legacy must be lifted up by whoever emerges as the leader or the new team of leaders of the only labor federation in this country to deal with this challenge of how to build powerful workers, when in fact what we have witnessed in the past few decades is a massive distribution of wealth from the bottom to the top, workers losing power, you know, political power and power in society. And so, this remains a fundamental challenge for whoever is going to, you know, take up the mantle and try to live up to the legacy of Brother Trumka.

AMY GOODMAN: Where do you think the labor movement and the AFL-CIO needs to go now? What do you think, José La Luz, that the AFL-CIO needs to gain more strength for workers?

JOSÉ LA LUZ: One, you know, the challenge of organizing. When you represent only 10% of the labor force, I mean, it's hard to envision being able to exercise a lot of power. I mean, the labor movement must grow. And this means that the resources have to be allocated, have to be invested in organizing. And there has to be massive campaigns that are coordinated among different unions that are done by industries, because one of the weaknesses of the American labor movement has to do with the fact that it's not organized industrially like it is in many other advanced capitalist countries across the Atlantic, in Europe and even in other countries. So, the question of organizing by industries is going to require a new architecture for the American labor movement, and the federation has the lead in terms of that.

And in terms of political action, you know, there is a need to develop a new strategy that's far more independent from the Democratic Party. I mean, it's important to realize that there are elements in the Democratic Party that are supported by corporate donors and really don't have a very serious commitment to empower workers and the working class. On the other hand, there are people within the Democratic Party who see themselves as working-class advocates, who fight for the rights of workers and to build power for and by workers.

And so, you know, this will be one of the challenges that the new team that takes over the rein in the labor federation is going to have to wrestle with, not to mention the challenge of trade and development. I mean, we're dealing with a globalized work. There is a need to develop alliances across borders, and immediately, you know, the question of building strong alliances with Canadian workers up north, with Mexican workers down south, to deal with the fact that we continue to witness runaway capital, which impacts jobs in this country. But the question is: How do we develop a strategy that raises the standard of living for workers in

McAllen, for workers in Matamoros and for workers in Toronto? And so, that requires an alternative economic development trade strategy. And those of the challenges that I see ahead for the new team emerging at the helm of the labor federation.

AMY GOODMAN: Before we go, Arlene Holt Baker, I wanted to ask you about the PRO Act. That's the Protecting the Right to Organize Act, which did pass the House, which sits in — I mean, the Democrats do control the Senate — still sits in the Senate since March. Richard Trumka was a major advocate of this act. Can you talk about its importance?

ARLENE HOLT BAKER: It is critically important. It's so important, because workers want to organize. There's no question about that. They want to have a voice at work. And the PRO Act will make it possible for workers to do so without being intimidated, harassed, fired, and the company would be penalized for that. So the PRO Act is critically important now.

We have to have workers be able to freely have a voice on their job. If they aren't able to do that, they will not be able to reach the economic conditions that they so need in order to survive. Power, yes, it comes from the ground up, from workers. But unless they have that voice on the job, free of intimidation, harassment, and free of having to sit in captive audience meetings held by their employers, they will not be able to fully see the potential of their worth.

So, the PRO Act is critically important. As I indicated earlier, that was one of the last things I heard Rich talking about, connecting voting rights and voter suppression and the PRO Act together, because we must empower workers' voices on the job, we must continue to empower the voter in this country, so that we can be sure that our democracy holds strong. So, the PRO Act is critical to us.

And I would say to the senators, all of the senators who are listening, it's not enough for you to just talk about and give accolades to Richard Trumka. If you really want — if you really want to show how much you truly care about Richard Trumka and the workers that he cared so much about, I would say pass the PRO Act. Pass it now, Senate. And I would say pass the John Lewis Voting Rights Act and the For the People Act now. Enough talking. That's what Rich would say. Rich would say, "Enough talking," because the word Rich would want to give you, that workers, we are never, ever, ever going to back down.

AMY GOODMAN: Arlene Holt Baker, executive vice president for the AFL-CIO from 2009 to 2013. She was the first African American to ever serve as an executive officer in the AFL-CIO's history. And I want to thank José La Luz, veteran labor organizer, campaigner and educator.

Coming up, we go to Afghanistan, where the U.S. is ramping up airstrikes as the Taliban tries to seize a number of provincial capitals. Stay with us.

2021-08-06 A Cycle of War Crimes: Today's Crisis in Afghanistan Grew Out of 20 Years of U.S. War

https://www.democracynow.org/2021/8/6/afghanistan_taliban_us_withdrawal



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contributing writer to *The New York Times Magazine* and contributing editor at *Rolling Stone*.

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As the United Nations Security Council holds an emergency session to discuss the crisis in Afghanistan, we speak with Polk Award-winning journalist Matthieu Aikins, who is based in Kabul. The Taliban have been seizing territory for months as U.S. troops withdraw from the country, and the group is now on the verge of taking several provincial capitals. "In the 13 years I've been working here, I've never seen a situation as grim," says Aikins.

Transcript

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

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

We turn now to Afghanistan. The United Nations Security Council is holding an emergency session today to discuss the ongoing crisis in the country. This comes as Taliban fighters are attempting to seize three provincial capitals: Kandahar, Herat and Lashkar Gah. The Taliban has also taken responsibility for a major attack Tuesday outside the home of Afghanistan's defense minister in Kabul that killed eight people, though not him. On Thursday, the European Union condemned the recent Taliban offensive and demanded, quote, "an urgent, comprehensive and permanent ceasefire," unquote. In recent days, the United States has stepped up airstrikes targeting the Taliban in an effort to support the Afghan military. This all comes as the United States is on pace to withdraw its ground troops by the end of August.

We go now to Kabul, where we're joined by the journalist Matthieu Aikins. He is a contributing writer for *The New York Times Magazine*. In 2013, he won a Polk Award for exposing U.S. war crimes in Afghanistan. He has a book coming out on refugees in February.

Welcome to *Democracy Now!*, Matt. It's great to have you back. Matthieu, if you could start off by describing the situation on the ground as, what, I believe the U.S. now says they've pulled out 95% of their troops?

MATTHIEU AIKINS: Thank you, Amy. It's always a pleasure.

Well, in the 13 years I've been working here, I've never seen the situation as grim. Kabul has been quiet for the last few months. That was shattered a couple days ago with this massive suicide attack. The provinces are falling to the Taliban. There's a number of provincial capitals that are encircled. Just today, this afternoon, in fact, we had news that the Taliban have taken over Zaranj, which is the capital of Nimruz province in the southwest of the country. It's a strategic province in terms of its borders with Iran and Pakistan. And the Taliban have entered the city. We are seeing images of that now, and it's the first time that they've seized a provincial capital since the fall of Kunduz in 2015, when the government was able to take it back with U.S. help, including troops on the ground. So, it's a very significant moment, and the bad news just seems to continue.

AMY GOODMAN: Can you talk about who the Taliban are?

MATTHIEU AIKINS: The Taliban are a rurally based insurgency. I mean, at this point they're setting up an alternative government to the Afghan state in their territories. They want to establish an Islamic system, an Islamic emirate. They claim to be fighting to be removing foreigners from their country, foreign troops, foreign occupation. So they call themselves the mujahideen, which is the same name, of course, that was used by fighters against the Soviet occupation in the 1980s.

AMY GOODMAN: So, talk about the areas of the country that they have control of, and talk about Kabul and also the significance of this latest attack that the Taliban has taken responsibility for outside the defense minister's home.

MATTHIEU AIKINS: Well, up until now, the Taliban have largely controlled rural areas. And that really has to do with a split between Afghanistan's cities and its countryside. The cities have benefited a lot more from the last 20 years of foreign military and development presence, whereas the countryside, they've borne the brunt of the violence, and they haven't really benefited as much from development. So, you've seen this rural-urban split. The Taliban have captured a lot of these districts.

Now they're trying to encircle cities, and it's going to be a much harder battle for them, because they have less support there, and the government now has fallen back upon its centers, where they have less problems about logistics. They're also getting support from American airstrikes, which have been stepped up in recent days. I think one reason is because American troops are largely out of the country now, so there's less targets for the Taliban to retaliate against. Instead, what they're going to be doing is they're going to be hitting the cities. They're going to be hitting government targets in the cities, like the defense minister's house, which was hit by a massive suicide bombing, as well as a member of Parliament next door. Apparently there was a hundred people meeting in that parliamentarian's house, and it was, you know, very lucky that they were able to actually escape onto the roof, where there was a sort of bridge to a neighboring house. So only eight people were killed, but it could have been an incident with much higher casualties. And we're likely to see more of that as the Taliban start to retaliate and bring pressure on the internationals and the government in response to these airstrikes.

AMY GOODMAN: So, the U.N. is meeting now to deal with this issue. The U.N. warned, in a new [report](#) that civilian casualties in Afghanistan in the first half of 2021 reached record levels, including a sharp increase in killings and injuries since May, when the international military forces started pulling out. “[W]ithout a significant de-escalation in violence,” the report says, “Afghanistan is on course for 2021 to witness the highest ever number of documented civilian casualties in a single year” since the U.N. records began. So, can you talk also about the effect of the U.S. air attacks? They say they’re supporting the Afghan military. They’ve intensified recently. And are they going to end by the end of August?

MATTHIEU AIKINS: Well, so far, the Biden administration has not said whether they’re going to end by the end of August. They’re reserving that right.

And these airstrikes are happening now inside of cities, because the Taliban are inside cities. They’re in the outskirts of many of these provincial capitals. So they’re striking buildings. They’re striking heavily populated areas, a lot of civilians, so there are undoubtedly going to be heavy civilian casualties as a result of this urban combat, also on the side of the Taliban, who are, after all, responsible for these offenses into cities. So, the blood of a lot of civilians are going to be on their hands, as well. The fact of the matter is, is if these provincial capitals fall, it might also be quite bloody. It’s a kind of a no-win situation, I think maybe similar to what the U.S. faced in Iraq, where airstrikes were necessary to hold back the advance of insurgents from capturing major cities.

But at the end of the day, there’s very little leverage that the international community or the U.S. has on the Taliban. We’ve been bombing them, assassinating them, sanctioning them for 20 years. So, as long as they’re winning, capturing territory, they have no incentive to come to the bargaining table. So, probably we’re going to see brutal, bloody fighting until there’s a stalemate of some sort that persuades both sides to talk. And I’m afraid we’re quite far away from that. And we’re going to see increased civilian casualties and also a massive wave of displacement. There’s going to be Afghan refugees who are going to be leaving, who are leaving already in heightened numbers for neighboring countries. And ultimately, some of them are going to try to reach Europe.

AMY GOODMAN: And what will happen with them?

MATTHIEU AIKINS: Well, you know, it’s sad to say, because I covered the major wave of displacement of people who were crossing in rubber rafts across the Mediterranean in 2015, ‘16. They were walking across mountains and deserts to get there. And since that refugee crisis, what we’ve seen is these countries have actually hardened their borders. They’ve built fences. They’ve built walls. They’ve built concentration camps, with the support of the European Union, just like the U.S. has fortified its southern border. So, the way is going to be a lot harder, a lot more brutal for these people who are fleeing this disintegration of their country.

AMY GOODMAN: You’ve reported extensively on U.S. war crimes committed in Afghanistan, in the longest U.S. war in history. Can you talk about the legacy of the U.S. invasion and what the United States military leaves in Afghanistan?

MATTHIEU AIKINS: Well, I think the military was very focused on short-term solutions. You know, there was this adage that we didn’t fight, you know, a 20-year war; we fought 20 one-year wars. With each new troop rotation, people were looking to make solutions that would last to the

end of deployment. So, it's kind of no wonder that things are falling apart so quickly, because nothing was made to last really. And so, that's one legacy.

The other is that there have been quite brutal human rights abuses and extrajudicial killings committed by Afghan security forces. In Kandahar right now, the Taliban have captured areas like Spin Boldak. They are definitely carrying out extrajudicial killings. There's been evidence. I've heard that from my sources. Many of the people they're targeting are former members of the government security forces, police belonging to General Abdul Raziq, a commander that I reported on, whose men were engaged in documented extrajudicial killings. So, this cycle of violence, this cycle of war crimes is continuing, it's accelerating. And I fear that in the coming months and years that we're going to see as a return to the kind of open, widespread massacres and violations of rights that we've seen in previous years during the civil war.

AMY GOODMAN: Although we say U.S. troops are out of Afghanistan within weeks, in fact, thousands of mercenaries will remain there, and other what the U.S. calls support staff. Is this war just going to become much more secret and much more — even less accountable than it is?

MATTHIEU AIKINS: I think that the U.S. role in this war is definitely going to become more secret and less accountable, because it's going to be largely carried out by the CIA and special operation forces that are operating under secret, covert authorities. So we're going to know less about it, certainly. And at the same time, though, I think that it's going to become a much more of Afghan war. There's not going to be the same presence that we had before. So, it's very difficult to say what the U.S. will be doing, because we're not going to have a lot of visibility on it. It's going to be a much smaller role, but significant nonetheless. I mean, don't forget that they're bankrolling the Afghan government, paying their salaries. And without that, there would be an even faster collapse of the Afghan security forces.

AMY GOODMAN: And what do you think that the U.S. media — of the U.S. media portrayal of what's happening in Afghanistan right now? What's missing, Matthieu?

MATTHIEU AIKINS: I think that there is a lack of recognition that what we're seeing now is the consequence of 20 years of bad decisions, of ignoring corruption, human rights abuses. And for all the violations of human rights, the murders, the massacres that the Taliban are undoubtedly carrying out, the violence that they're inflicting on Afghan civilians, the suffering that their offensive is bringing, the threat that they're going to pose to civil society activists, freedom of speech, media — all of which is absolutely real and very condemnable — it is the result of 20 years of violence inflicted on the Taliban in the rural areas, 20 years of interlacing the media and the civil rights, civil society here with this military presence, so that they've become kind of indistinguishable in the eyes of the Taliban. And so, what we're seeing now is the result of two decades, and it's going to be very difficult to turn that ship around. We're going to be witnessing some very awful things, but we should try to keep the context in mind while still condemning them.

AMY GOODMAN: Well, Matthieu Aikins, I want to thank you very much for being with us, speaking to us from Kabul, Afghanistan, contributing writer to *The New York Times Magazine*.

Coming up, we will speak with human rights and environmental lawyer Steve Donziger. He took on Chevron for polluting the Ecuadorian Amazon. Today marks year two, two years since he's been under house arrest. You'll find out why. Stay with us.

2021-08-06 Steven Donziger, Lawyer Who Sued Chevron over Amazon Oil Spills, Marks 2 Years Under House Arrest

https://www.democracynow.org/2021/8/6/steven_donziger_house_arrest_chevron



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Links [Steven Donziger on Twitter](#)

Image Credit: Amazon Watch (photo right)

Protests across the United States are calling for the immediate release of environmental and human rights lawyer Steven Donziger, who has been held under house arrest in New York for two years after being targeted by the oil giant Chevron. Donziger sued the oil giant in Ecuador on behalf of 30,000 Amazonian Indigenous people for dumping 16 billion gallons of oil into their ancestral lands. Ecuador's Supreme Court ordered Chevron to pay \$18 billion a decade ago, a major victory for the environment and corporate accountability. But Chevron refused to pay or clean up the land, and instead launched a legal attack targeting Donziger in the United States. A federal judge in July found Donziger guilty of six counts of criminal contempt of court after he refused to turn over his computer and cellphone. In an unusual legal twist, the judge appointed a private law firm with ties to Chevron to prosecute Donziger, after federal prosecutors declined to bring charges. "This is a broader threat to our society," says Donziger. "We cannot allow in any rule-of-law country, or any country, private prosecutions run by corporations."

Transcript

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

AMY GOODMAN: This is *Democracy Now!*, democracynow.org, *The War and Peace Report*. If you'd like to get our Daily Digest, you can get it emailed by texting the word "democracynow" — one word — to 66866. That's "democracynow" to 66866.

Protesters are rallying in several cities today to call for the immediate release of environmental and human rights lawyer Steven Donziger, who's been held under house arrest in New York for two years, after being targeted by the oil giant Chevron.

The case stems from Donziger's role in suing Chevron on behalf of 30,000 Amazonian Indigenous people for dumping 16 billion gallons of oil into their ancestral land in the Ecuadorian Amazon. Ten years ago, Ecuador's Supreme Court ordered Chevron to pay \$18 billion. The landmark ruling was seen as a major victory for the environment and corporate accountability.

But Chevron refused to pay or clean up the land. Instead, Chevron launched a legal attack targeting Donziger. Last month, a federal judge found Donziger guilty of six counts of criminal contempt of court, after he refused to turn over his computer and cellphone. In an unusual legal twist, the judge appointed a private law firm with ties to Chevron to prosecute Donziger, after federal prosecutors declined to bring charges. Today marks two years — 730 days — since Steve Donziger has been on house arrest.

Steve Donziger joins us from his New York home. We welcome you back to *Democracy Now!*, Steve. If you can start off by speaking about the trial that just took place? We talked to you right before the trial. You've since gone to trial and been found guilty. But talk about who prosecuted you and what the courtroom and the trial were all about.

STEVEN DONZIGER: Thank you, Amy, for having me.

You know, it wasn't a trial as trials are commonly understood. There was no jury. The judge, who had already locked me up pretrial — I'm the only lawyer in American history ever locked up pretrial on a misdemeanor. I want to emphasize: This is a misdemeanor case, a petty crime case. And I assert my innocence, but even if I were guilty, it's a very minor case. No one's ever been locked up pretrial but me. So the same judge who locked me up now for two years — I haven't, you know, been sentenced to anything — is the judge who denied me a jury and alone decided my supposed guilt or innocence.

It was intended, really, to be sort of a show trial, where a decision that had previously been made by the Chevron prosecutor — the judge, Judge Preska, allowed a private law firm, Seward & Kissel, which has Chevron as a client, to prosecute me, after the government refused to prosecute me. It was all just precooked. And you kind of felt it watching it in the courtroom. During the trial, Judge Preska was reading the newspaper during witness testimony. All the main witnesses were Chevron lawyers. They testified that Chevron had paid them, Chevron private lawyers from a second law firm, Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher — Chevron had paid them \$1,300 an hour and more to help the other Chevron private prosecutor try to convict me. It was all kind of run by Chevron.

And the dangerous part about this, beyond the fact that my liberty has been deprived and I've been unable to work and help my clients in Ecuador and work, do my human rights work, is that this is a broader threat to our society. I mean, we cannot allow in any rule-of-law country, or any country, private prosecutions run by corporations. It's just extraordinary. You know, if this were run by a normal prosecutor, the case never would have happened, or at a minimum I never would have been locked up prior to trial.

AMY GOODMAN: Well, I mean, the federal prosecutors refused to prosecute you, is that right?

STEVEN DONZIGER: That's exactly right. You know, what happened was, underneath all of this is the fact that I worked on a team of lawyers for years to hold Chevron accountable for the Amazon Chernobyl, this massive, deliberate dumping of cancer-causing oil waste down in Ecuador, where Indigenous groups have been decimated. And Chevron wanted that trial held in Ecuador's courts. And we fought for eight years against Chevron, won this big judgment in 2011.

And rather than pay the judgment, they decided to try to demonize me and try to criminalize lawyering, criminalize human rights lawyering.

They've had this planned for 10 years. We know for a fact — and they've admitted it — that way back in 2010 they went to the SDNY, which is the federal prosecutor in Manhattan, seeking to prosecute me for this supposed fraud in Ecuador, which is just hogwash. And they refused to prosecute me then. And, you know, I kept going, along with other lawyers, to try to enforce the judgment against Chevron that we had won in Ecuador, which, by the way, has been affirmed by six appellate courts in Ecuador and Canada. I mean, this is a real judgment.

And they then went back to this U.S. federal judge, Judge Lewis Kaplan, who's a former tobacco industry defense lawyer, and got him to demand I turn over my computer and cellphone and electronic devices to Chevron. Again, no one's ever heard of such a thing in the middle of a litigation. When I appealed that order, he then charged me with criminal contempt of court for appealing the lawfulness of his own order. No lawyer in American history who's appealed a civil discovery order in this fashion has ever been charged with criminal contempt but me. You know, no lawyer charged with any criminal contempt in New York has ever been held pretrial. And the longest sentence ever given a lawyer convicted of this supposed crime is 90 days of home detention. And I've now been over eight times that amount in my home.

So, what's really driving this, Amy, is, I believe, Chevron and its judicial allies want to, you know, A, protect Chevron from having to pay the liability to the people of Ecuador that the company poisoned, and, B, they want to send a larger message to lawyers and the legal profession and environmental defenders and water protectors that you're not allowed to do this work, at least not at this level. You will be attacked, and we'll throw everything we can at you. And, by the way, Chevron has used 60 law firms and 2,000 lawyers to target me.

AMY GOODMAN: So, you were sentenced to six months in jail, six months more?

STEVEN DONZIGER: Yes. So, Judge Preska, who's driving this, has set a sentencing date for October 1st. You know, I'm very fortunate, because there's a massive amount of support, as you acknowledged in the opening to this segment, growing around the world. We have rallies today in 15 cities around the world demanding my release, including Seattle, San Francisco, L.A., New York, Boston, Toronto, Tel Aviv and Quito, among them, Melbourne. So, you know, we are building a movement to not only demand my release and to protect the freedom of me and my family, but also to protect this idea that you can do corporate accountability lawyering and not be attacked by right-wing judges and corporations that can take over the public machinery of the prosecution.

You know, this is a serious issue. Like, having a corporation prosecute someone and have the power to deprive someone of their liberty in the United States can't happen. This is the first time. And, of course, if they get away with it with me, this, I believe, is a part of the playbook of the fossil fuel industry to do this to other activists and lawyers.

AMY GOODMAN: Well, Steve, we want to thank you for being with us. Six members of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, including AOC, Cori Bush, Rules Committee Chair Jim McGovern and others, Jamie Raskin, have called for the DOJ to review everything that's happened to you. Steve Donziger, human rights lawyer, who successfully sued Chevron in Ecuador for dumping oil and toxic waste in the Amazon. He's been under house arrest for two years today. That does it for our show. I'm Amy Goodman. Stay safe.