

"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](http://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](http://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](http://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, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> of each month: 9:00 – 10:30 pm EST** *Ashtar on the Road; Ashtar Legacy Calls*  
Host is Fran

<http://www.ashtarontheroad.com/ashtarteleconferences.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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto: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.lawovertime.org](http://www.lawovertime.org) website for further information.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Oct Fri – 5 CHUEN - Blue Overtone Monkey Artist Aspect** – balancing work and play, paying attention to clarity of mind, wise use of magical artistry – ability to play, laugh, enjoy ourselves – let go of jadedness, . . .
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat - 6 EB – Yellow Rhythmic Human – Healing Aspect** – enlightenment of human kind, attune to Spirit – gift of being human service warrior;
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun – 7 BEN – Red Resonant Skywalker – Warrior Aspect** – work is focussing and striving to self-illumination; gift of ability to bend dimensions; let go of any believe in aloneness.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Mon – 8 IX - White Galactic Magician – Visionary Aspect** – work of illumination for others, clarity of mind and of purpose; working with integrity. Let go of personal power issues, control issues
- 5<sup>th</sup> Tues – 9 MEN – Blue Solar Eagle – Visionary Aspect** – working with commitment to service & moving consciousness to Source and all Creation. Believe in self, let go of any kind of despair
- 6<sup>th</sup> Wed – 10 CIB – Yellow Planetary Warrior – Warrior Aspect** – trusting in our journey, bringing awareness of our action. Let go of hesitation, restrictions.  
the 10 – about manifestation – choose well as we work with that energy and set our intentions for the New Moon cycle
- 7<sup>th</sup> Thur – 11 CABAN – Red Spectral Earth – Healing Aspect** – work to be keeper of the earth, awareness of Earth's energy and tune into it. Use our intuition and listen. Let go of separation – let go of what no longer serves the Earth or ourselves
- 8<sup>th</sup> Fri – 12 ETZNAB – White Crystal Mirror – Warrior Aspect** - crystal clarity – looking at ourselves – wise use of honesty - let go of illusions of separateness

[www.Spacestationplaza.co](http://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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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. **KEEPING CAUGHT UP: THANK YOU !**
- Go to [BBSradio.com/Station2](http://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:

**B B S RADIO**  
**58 N Marshside Pl**  
**Spring, TX 77389**

[Please put **"Attention Don"** on the envelope]  
[Note inside that it's for T & R calls  
[& the Thursday call, as well]

- **BBS archives can be accessed by everyone;** there are archives on [www.rainbowroundtable.net](http://www.rainbowroundtable.net) All are free to access.

**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.

- Donations via Paypal button on the **homepage** [www.rainbowroundtable.net](http://www.rainbowroundtable.net)

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

**BASICS:** Food for Paschats, including T & R; car gas - **\$ 200 FOR THIS WEEK**  
**BILLS:** **\$ 200**

**Thanks to those angels who helped with the rent**  
**Rama had to buy a new battery for \$180: thanks to that angel too!**

- **Please notify T & R when sending something:** [koran999@comcast.net](mailto:koran999@comcast.net)  
**EVERY \$5 HELPS - ALL GRATEFULLY RECEIVED**  
**PLEASE MAKE AN ATTEMPT TO DONATE THIS MONTH**

- **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!**

**\*\* [www.rainbowroundtable.net /page/donate](http://www.rainbowroundtable.net/page/donate) \*\***

- 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](http://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.**

**FREEMART:** Rama and Tara are being helped by this account: they get their supplements there. **The returns also help** [www.rainbowroundtable.net](http://www.rainbowroundtable.net)

<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

#### **D. Access to this week's Podcast**

<https://bbsradio.com/podcast/hard-news-friday-october-1-2021>

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

**RAMA, TARA [R, T]**

**Greetings and thanks to all for being here!**

**Noticing that weather is changing fast to autumn**

**Landlord came:** Arrived to change from swamp cooler to the gas heater – still waiting for heat!

**The Poppy Lady** – was with her friend Mustafa Kahn, the former Mujahadeen warrior who has 35 camels (which makes him a rich man!)

The message from the Poppy Lady told Rama that their collaboration takes Afghani refugees to the Wesak Valley where they are looked after

**More background:** Ning Del noor is the Sasquatch friend who taught the Poppy Lady how to fly a space ship; they take turns driving it!

- Mustafa has a helicopter gunship, as well as the camels! Doesn't need the empire to get money from – no more details than this were given!
- The helicopter was shot down/ left by the Americans; the Andromedan Sasquatch disabled the guns and it now runs on free energy
- The Poppy Lady and her friend drive the starship
  - this relationship represents the cooperation of heaven and earth; it's also about changing our attitude to each other no matter who we are!
- KOS is the 7<sup>th</sup> initiation and incarnation of Sananda Kumara
  - He is here to issue in Age of Aquarius, shut down the old timeline & see NESARA LAW enacted: which means every man, woman child gets \$10 Million and after a month goes by, there is a re-indexing of all prices, costs
- Rama keeps telling us that the Ashtar Command is on the game and many are here in human forms so they can walk among us and assist us

**R:** Listened to a **podcast with John Fugelsang**: he had exchanges with AA Raphael and AA Ariel: telling the listeners that they are real!

**R:** there are things going on to help the people: while he gets know details, he does know that food is being delivered

**T:** in Gaza and on top of Mt Sinai, manna shows up like dew in the morning; it is what they eat.

**About the Afghani refugees:** they will be integrated into the community of the Nameless Ones – a cause for great hope!

**R: received a text from LM Natasha after 2 m**

"Lord Rama: the case that Greg Palast has been exposing regarding Mr Donziger sitting in a medieval dungeon for 6 months – like what Julian Assange is going through. They are exposing the Empire and putting their bodies on the line

**Audio: the Thom Hartmann Program – Greg Palast is the guest**

- Steven Donziger – human rights lawyer – spent 6 mos in federal prison – denied a jury trial
- the judge said he'd hit Steven with a 2x4!

- His crime was to be the lawyer for the Indigenous people in Ecuador & win the case for the indigenous people
  - Chevron got his law license pulled
- going to prison for defending human rights – and the UN Human Rights: saying this is a massive miscarriage of international justice – every human rights org is appalled
- they **could not get the Trump gov't to prosecute so Chevron got a private judge**

**Thom: What did he do?**

- The technicality is that Chevron demanded he turn over his phone and computer to them ! The chief's son went swimming in a pit in the jungle, thinking it was water; it turned out to be full of oil and sludge – the son died in his father's arms!
- Because he would not hand anything over, the judge accused him of contempt – Steve wanted to appeal and they would not let him and threw him in jail
- The members of the progressive caucus – wrote to the new AG: the DOJ should NEVER privatize justice – all are looking to Merrick Garland to speak up

**Thom:** will he be free on bail?

- Judge has denied bail but he can appeal – the appeal process could take 2 years AND he has been wearing an ANKLE BRACELET FOR 2 YEARS!

**Greg and Roger Watters have been attending the trial** – the UK and others are agog with what is happening!

**T:** these ones are being very vicious as they are going down and not getting up

**Reads: from Marianne Williamson** - the piece was sent to Rama by M. WI  
it has become a symbol of corporate

**CONFERENCE CALL**

<https://fccdl.in/sjiEIzmGgH>

Williamson sent Rama the info she read

**R:** the oil companies hire hit men from the black budget

**Q:** Is this the same pool of hitmen that the gov't uses?

**R:** In a roundabout way, it is as the economic hitmen put pressure on world leaders and business leaders – we have even more radical methods

- Natasha said to Rama that Greg Palast and Steve will need both the Avengers and the Hulk who cannot be killed because he absorbed gamma rays into his body & is immortal

**T:** What they are doing by not helping the people: Manchin and Sinema are holding the country hostage, as are the Koch Bros; as all of this going on with Mercury on Retrograde – will turn in our favour when Mercury goes direct; 7 planets are retrograde at the moment

**BEWARE! There is an on-going discussion about cats !**

**Ca:** call from a friend in OR – she does realize some is just a movie; Padme explained what he'd been through as a child. Also said Obama's dad is Malcolm X

- question about the veil of both Obama and Trump have/not have been lifted

**T:** goes back over the background of Obama:

- born naturally into the 13 families
- raised by Mother who took him to Indonesia where he learned the 8 fold path and the Eastern traditions of Buddhism etc and yoga

**Q:** how does she get away with doing all that kind of stuff on him and so how does he get back to being accepted to become the president?

**T:** His father was Malcolm X and his sperm was inseminated in her as he knew he would be killed

- All of this was done with higher guidance

**The opposite story is Drumpf** – took sperm from the bank of Hitler and Mussolin, impregnated a Dutch princess; born in South Africa; the mother never touched her baby and he was transferred to step father and wife who hated him from the start: grew up with no love!

- Father was head of KKK and the boy saw it all

Barack's entire ancestral lineage on the mother's side is 13 families ; farther back in the family, her family owned slaves

**T:** when she [T] lived in Hawaii, she met lots of Sufi people – she maintained many relationships and called her friend who knew about Obama and his mother: they said he knew the teachings – and the rest of the story came from Amy Goodman – Democracy Now

**Ca:** she is in 13 families; awake and aware that they need to interject and get someone to redirect the story to the main line – how does this actually come about? Is that acceptable to the rest of them?

**T:** Barack's maternal grandparents were very kind

**T:** And, yes, Drumpf knew what he was doing

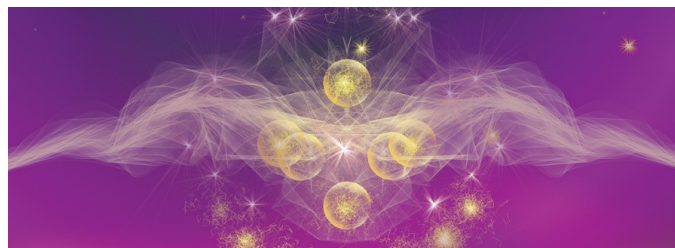
## **B B S RADIO**

**AUDIO: THE BIGGER PICTURE** by Patricia Cota-Robles [www.eraofpeace.org](http://www.eraofpeace.org)

### **VLOG 238 AN OPPORTUNITY TO ASSIST THE ELEMENTAL KINGDOM**



**AUDIO: The Ascended Masters Broadcasts**



**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!**

Indeed, we heard the story from the Man with the Plan: loving this planet free is what's happening and as we call on him, he will show up – just like all the rest of the angels and masters. Call on us: that is what is being said – we will show up and have some tea, and cuss and discuss how we bring heaven right into our midst.

- It is already here, yet things look a bit like Mordor around the edges. It is because of the fallen matrix and the spell which has been cast by Her wayward children whose time is up.
  - As we have heard, much is transpiring to bring freedom to this planet. It is about how we change our thoughts in this time when we can change physical matter, space/time – all the keys have been given: it is within us.
    - We have the power ! Gotta to learn how to use it. As Master Yoda said: clear the mind of everything, and begin again.
    - Allow that light of 10 trillion suns to come in; it is already pouring in: we just gotta be open to receive it and it changes everything.
  - Right now there are quite a few intense situations going on here, and She can say all of heaven is here – it may seem like we are all alone in this story and that is not the case.
    - All the kingdoms, queendoms are here; the elementals are part of this, as Patti talked about. As we communicate with the water, fire, air, earth, ether – we are all here.
    - How we interact with each other: That's the key – suspend the disbelief and be open to receiving the magic of the universe. Just stay open and it shows up.
    - It is about doing the due diligence of raising the frequencies of this living temple which is immortal. We will hear more about this immortality tomorrow – gotta get the technology to work!
- T:** hopes that works out – and she has to call someone to make sure the electrons are working and are not so slow . . .
- It is true we all have immortality – just have to learn how to use it!
- M/A:** that is the key to this story: it is about surrender to the mighty I AM presence in each one of us – setting the ego aside. It's a big deal to put it simply.
- The moments we have together, we are already shifting this story. We HAVE won, yet how we do this together is about this Divine Justice that's pouring forth from Creator Source.
  - Right at this time with 7 planets retrograde, something is gonna give. It's not you and me: it is about the energies of what's pouring in to shift this. All we need do is ask, like the Master just said. Call on us – we'll be right beside you.
- Some of us look a little different but don't pay that no mind! We drink water, just like you; we eat like you; we come together in these great circles of council fires to bring about a balance to this story and, at this time, it is awesome to behold what's pouring in!



- And at the same moment, it is precarious to co-exist - which She can say we asked to show up at the most opportune moment, and it is also the most precarious – we knew fully well what would happen here . . .
- As all the ancient stories talk about, the human experiment - this lovely little strand of DNA - how it has been changed . . .

**T:** Agrees

**M/A:** and with all due respect, the Borg Queen does not have control over this story:

- this is a fleeting nightmare at the moment; cannot shift what Patti already talked about – our 12 strands of DNA are already ??? ; we simply call in the Violet Flame as He said - it changes everything.
- We got to taste it, touch it, feel it, in the very second of this moment, and each second is an eternity as we can stretch - all time is now: stay in that NOW moment.

**M/A:** Hiccups from Mother! Must be the pterodactyl – the one She had for lunch! Only making bad jokes worse!

- What She could say: we are all in this cosmic story together, and it is magnificent to behold: WE HAVE WON!
- And any given moment here, now all She can say is one moment there will be - what we are seeing on our screens [and it ] will shift and we'll get the real galactic news – not this matrix stuff.

**T:** getting quite a bit there

**M/A:** you are indeed

**T:** from Kryon, from you Mother

**M/A:** **Yes** - It's just this realm we are in – Midgard is such a : it is magnificent to behold, this planet, this realm of the 9 realms.

- Everything that we need want or desire is within this realm and it's about using our gifts, our abilities like we're being taught from every school of wisdom, including the ones they don't play with on a regular broadcast – prowling . . .

**T:** Yeah! She watches them and they are being naughty!

**M/A:** get down – [to the cat!] [They are momentarily distracted . . .}

- Let's say, the kingdom of heaven is right in our midst and stay in that high frequency of ecstasy that is pouring forth right at this time. It is the ecstasy of new adventures
  - Just think about this one: with your consciousness, have you ever explored your brain? - the millions of miles of neurons, electrons,
  - what's inside these brains is a reflection of what's in space when we look at the clouds, the star fields, the solar winds, the strands of plasma . . . they look no different than the neurons in our brain – as within, as without. This is the greatest moments to be here

**T:** Want to add some Violet Flame to the volcano that is erupting

**M/A:** Goddess Pele is doing her dance

**T:** they said it could keep on going for months . . .

**M/A:** yes it is about the transformation, transfiguration of the surface of this planet – and again: California is not going to fall in the ocean, nor is New York City:

- yes, a few feet of water might increase matters; might want to move away from South Beach - not exactly a save place right now
- part of Atlantis is rising; all of the stories are coming back full circle; Lemuria is rising -
- How we share these stories . . . [She goes to remove a kitty from the counter!]

**T:** the native people are really – the situation with the Enbridge pipeline is still going

**M/A:** the idea that you can suck the mother's blood and use it to pollute the air  
the story of Steve Donsiger taking on Chevron

**T:** that hurricane that happened a month ago in Louisiana -still thousands and thousands without electricity

**M/A:** In many ways we are watching the shifts of the ages which have not taken place since the last time – 13,000 years ago - 26, 826 years ago –

- we keep being told Quetzalcoatl is here; all the Masters are here. As we could come together and ask them all to show up . . . it's within the realm of possibilities and probabilities that it's concrete

**M/A:** we hear Beloved Master Sanat Kumara, Ancient , Supreme and Eternal of Days - loves to make a good cup of barley tea from Tibet called 'Sampa' - good with yak butter

**M/A:** What can She say? It is this precious moment we've got here; better to laugh and lighten it up. As we can laugh each day, we have changed so many cells in this day to immortality – gotta laugh each day and she'd better be on her way before voice goes

**T:** the rights of nature - a global movement now; winning many more times across the planet – where the ecosystems and what they need to remain healthy are being presented as the rights of that natural environment and must not be violated. .

**M/A:** Many of the extinct species are being brought back into manifestation from the etheric blueprint as Metatron has all the records – just a matter of moments.

- Not all the mastadons were wild mad elephants that stampeded. Quite intelligent are mastadons, and they are bigger than elephants
- and there are Russian scientists working now to create the re-introduction of the mastadons – interesting stuff.
- It's just part of what has not been shared with the people for so long: climate disruption, consciousness and conflict are driving this story to completion

**T:** aren't we supposed to end that kind of conflict-of-interest stuff?

**M/A:** Consciousness changes everything

**T:** has to be some action to with it - how about dialogue?

**M/A:** The action that is . . .

**T:** The rights of nature is a coming thing; it's amazing what's being done – when push comes to shove, we can figure out how to do it

**M/A:** We have the ability within us to change this whole story right now – gotta trust the Force: it, in and of itself, it has the answers. We are part of it, and it is part of us – gotta just embrace it

**Both:** toning

Greetings in the Light of the Most Radiant One! Kadoish, Kadoish, Kadoish, Adonai Sabeoth . . .

**Rama Returns:** went to sit in the Fortress of Solitude and listen to the crystals singing and they are just saying "Open up and receive the energy from the sun: it will change things."

**T:** Grandmother Chandra has been talking about the crystals which are calling to us; they will share with us the wisdom and the stories: all we need to do is focus

**AUDIO: DEMOCRACY NOW about Michael Ratner**

**T:** was confirmed to Rama that Michael was taken out because he was exposing what the in 2010 and the first hurricane in Haiti saw Haitians put in Gitmo as some didn't want more Haitians in the US.

**R:** we are in the most auspicious of moments . . . and there are times . . . It's a challenge! ! !

**2021-10-01 DEMOCRACY NOW – Headlines**

**2021-10-01 Don't Pursue War, Pursue War Crimes: Michael Ratner's Decades-Long Battle to Close Guantánamo**

**2021-10-01 Colleagues of Michael Ratner Blast Samuel Moyn's Claim That He Helped Sanitize the "War on Terror"**

**AUDIO: REDACTED TONIGHT ~358~ The Dirty Truth About Bill Gates**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1yDnjSR0eNc> [first segment]

### **Bill Gates Exposed**

Lee Camp exposes the corrupt activities of the mega-wealthy capitalist Bill Gates, U.S. imperialist ambitions, & more.

Naomi Karavani on the dirty drone wars.

Anders Lee on abuse in the NCAA.

<https://www.portable.tv/series/redactedtonight?v=da66c2ef-1888-44cb-99f3-61a9f6cc8619>

**AUDIO: [Keiser Report: The house that fiat money built is crumbling](#)**

**VIDEO: <https://www.rt.com/shows/keiser-report/536163-fiat-money-bitcoin-value/>**

**PODCAST: <https://soundcloud.com/rttv/keiser-report-the-house-that-fiat-money-built-is-crumbling>**

In this episode of *Keiser Report*, Max and Stacy look at the latest financial news, including that Jamie Dimon predicts bitcoin will be worth ten times its current value within five years. In the second half, Max talks to Rick Ackerman of Rick's Picks about inflation, deflation and markets.



**Reading:** about wealth

**Closing:** Rainbird

**Rama's Final choices**

**Rumi - I am here, this moment inside ? ? ?**

**Song -**

## INFORMATION RELATED TO THE NOTES

### 2021-10-01 DEMOCRACY NOW - Headlines

Watch Headlines

#### **Democratic Congress Extends Gov't Funding as Pelosi Delays House Infrastructure Vote Amid Democratic Split**



Congress has approved a bill to extend federal funding into early December, averting a government shutdown just hours before a midnight deadline Thursday. The stopgap measure won the support of enough Republicans to pass only after Democrats agreed to drop a provision that would suspend a limit on the national debt. Without action on the debt ceiling, the U.S. could default on its loans in mid-October.

Meanwhile, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi delayed a planned vote Thursday on a \$1 trillion infrastructure bill amid fractures in the Democratic Party over the Build Back Better Act, a 10-year, \$3.5 trillion package to expand the social safety net and combat climate change. West Virginia Democratic Senator Joe Manchin told reporters Thursday he'd only accept a 10-year, \$1.5 trillion social safety net bill.

**Sen. Joe Manchin:** "My top line has been 1.5, because I believe in my heart that what we can do and what the needs we have right now and what we can afford to do, without basically changing our whole society to an entitlement mentality."

Progressive Democrats say they won't vote for an infrastructure bill until Senate Democrats move on a reconciliation bill containing the Biden administration's top legislative priorities. Representative Pramila Jayapal, chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, tweeted, "By allowing one bill to advance without the Build Back Better Act alongside it, we leave behind childcare, paid leave, health care, climate action, education, and a roadmap to citizenship. We're not going to leave working people, families, and our communities behind."

#### **Court Allows Biden to Continue Mass Expulsions Without Due Process Under Title 42**



Immigrant justice advocates are condemning a federal appeals court's ruling that will allow the Biden administration to continue mass expelling asylum seekers without due process under Title 42, citing the pandemic as justification. Last month, a lower court issued a temporary ban on the Trump-era policy, which was set to go into effect today. Attorney Lee Gelernt, who led the ACLU's lawsuit against Title 42, said, "If the administration is making the political calculation that if it acts inhumanely now it can act more humanely

later, that calculation is misguided and of little solace to the families that are being sent to Haiti or brutalized in Mexico right now.” This comes as CBS News reports the Biden administration has deported at least 5,400 Haitian asylum seekers using Title 42 in the last 11 days. Meanwhile, four United Nations agencies, including the Human Rights Office, are urging countries to stop deporting Haitian asylum seekers without first properly assessing their claims, a violation of international law.

### **Merck Applies for Emergency Use of Antiviral Drug That Could Halve Number of Severe COVID Cases**



The United States reported more than 2,700 COVID-19 deaths on Thursday as the official U.S. pandemic death toll rapidly approached 700,000. Today the drug company Merck announced it's seeking emergency use of its antiviral drug molnupiravir from the FDA and other regulators around the world, after a late-stage clinical trial showed it reduced the risk of hospitalization or death in COVID-19 patients by about half. If approved, the pill would be the first oral antiviral treatment for COVID-19.

### **Rep. Cori Bush Opens Up About Having an Abortion After Rape as House Members Share Abortion Stories**



Several Democratic House members shared their own experiences getting abortions during a hearing Thursday amid a mounting assault on reproductive rights across the U.S. California Congressmember Barbara Lee said she was just 16 when she had to travel to Mexico for a so-called back-alley abortion in the days before Roe v. Wade. Lee said she was “one of the lucky ones” for surviving the procedure. Meanwhile, Congressmember Cori Bush said she had an abortion after being raped at 17.

**Rep. Cori Bush:** “So, to all the Black women and girls who have had abortions and will have abortions, we have nothing to be ashamed of. We live in a society that has failed to legislate love and justice for us, so we deserve better, we demand better, we are worthy of better. So that’s why I’m here to tell my story. So, today, I sit before you as that nurse, as that pastor — as that pastor, as that activist, that survivor, that single mom, that congresswoman, to testify that in the summer of 1994, I was raped, I became pregnant, and I chose to have an abortion.”

A bill banning abortions at eight weeks in Cori Bush’s home state of Missouri was passed in 2019 but is on hold during legal challenges. Missouri Republicans say they plan on introducing an even more restrictive measure modeled on Texas’s near-total ban on abortions. Washington’s Pramila Jayapal also testified at Thursday’s hearing.

## Over 50% of Police Killings Go Unreported, Police Kill Black People at 3.5x Higher Rate Than Whites



A new study in The Lancet finds that over half of all police killings in the U.S. go unreported in government data. That represents over 17,000 deaths at the hands of the police since 1980. Police killings of Black Americans is the most undercounted, at a rate of 60%. The police also kill Black people at a disproportionate rate that's 3.5 times higher than white people.

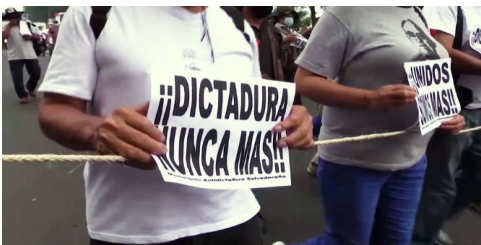
## Protesters Demand Accountability After Officials Suspend Probe into 2020 Beirut Port Blast



In Lebanon, survivors of last year's devastating blast at the Port of Beirut took to the streets to protest the recent suspension of an investigation into the deadly incident. Prior to the suspension, top officials moved to dismiss the lead investigator, Judge Tarek Bitar, from the case. This is Karine Hitti, who lost both her husband and her brother in the explosion.

**Karine Hitti:** "The judge is getting threatened by politicians and by everyone he is trying to accuse. I don't know how the suspects have the right to submit a complaint to doubt the judge's impartiality. They are suspects. They should be investigated and have to prove they are innocent."

## Salvadorans Protest New Cryptocurrency, Power Grab by President Bukele



In El Salvador, thousands of people took to the streets of the capital San Salvador for another round of protests against President Nayib Bukele and El Salvador's adoption of bitcoin as an official currency. Critics warn of drastic fluctuations in cryptocurrency's value and worry about the economic impacts on poorer communities. This is one of the protesters.

**Carlos Garcia:** "We do not agree with the bitcoin law. We want the law to be removed because it's money laundering in our country. Also, regarding the constitution, we



have a good constitution. The problem is that Bukele wants to be reelected, and he wants to change the constitution.”

Opponents are accusing Bukele of being a dictator. This comes as last month Salvadoran Supreme Court judges, who were recently appointed by Bukele’s political party, ruled that the president could seek a second consecutive term — which until now has been prohibited in El Salvador.

### **Judge to Sentence Steven Donziger, Lawyer Who Sued Chevron for Amazon Oil Spills**



In New York, environmental and human rights lawyer Steven Donziger is being sentenced today after over two years under house arrest on pretrial misdemeanor charges. He has been targeted by Chevron ever since he successfully sued the oil giant in Ecuador on behalf of 30,000 Amazonian Indigenous people for dumping 16 billion gallons of oil into their ancestral land. This week, U.N. human rights experts called Donziger’s house arrest arbitrary and in violation of international law, calling for his immediate release and reparations.

### **Footage from Animal Rights Group Shows Mistreatment of Chickens at Foster Farms**



Image Credit: Direct Action Everywhere

Animal rights defenders have released shocking footage taken inside a slaughterhouse run by California’s largest poultry producer. A videographer with the group Direct Action Everywhere used miniature infrared cameras to document workers slamming live chickens onto a concrete floor, failing to properly inspect birds, failing to stun birds before their throats were cut, and other abuses. Activists say Foster Farms workers are underpaid, ordered to remain on their feet for hours without breaks, and are forced by managers to work at a breakneck speed that prevents the humane treatment of animals.



## Biden Admin Restores Migratory Bird Protections as Another 23 Plant & Animal Species Go Extinct



The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is restoring migratory bird protections that were gutted during the final days of Trump's presidency. A Trump administration rule change in January allowed companies that kill birds to largely avoid punishment under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The Interior Department says that rule change would have led to hundreds of millions of bird deaths per year.

This week the Biden administration said another 23 plant and animal species should be listed as extinct, including the ivory-billed woodpecker and several types of freshwater mussels. It's the latest example of an unprecedented loss of biodiversity due to climate change and humans' encroachment on natural habitats.

## Youth Activists Rally in Milan to Demand Climate Justice Ahead of November's COP26



In Italy, thousands of youth climate activists marched through the streets of Milan today demanding world leaders meet their pledges to the Paris Climate Agreement and keep global temperatures from rising by more than 1.5 degrees Celsius. The protest came at the end of a three-day climate conference, ahead of the United Nations' COP26 climate summit in Glasgow. On Thursday, several youth climate delegates were briefly detained by police after they held a peaceful protest ahead of a speech by Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi. This is Ugandan climate activist Vanessa Nakate.

**Vanessa Nakate:** "I and other activists will continue speaking, will continue striking and will continue demanding for climate justice. And there is no climate justice without acknowledging that loss and damage is here with us now."

## **NYC Taxi Drivers Hold 24/7 Protest to Demand Debt Relief from Purchase of Medallions**



Image Credit: Twitter: @augustinetang

In labor news, today marks 13 days since dozens of New York taxi drivers began a round-the-clock protest outside City Hall demanding relief for thousands of drivers who've been devastated by massive debt — accrued largely due to the artificially inflated cost of taxi medallions. Data from 2019 shows medallion owner-drivers — who are mostly immigrants — owe nearly \$500,000 on average, even though the market value for medallions has drastically collapsed. Drivers are also denouncing the mental health impacts triggered by the financial ruin. At least nine have died by suicide.

## **Chicago Tortilla Plant Workers Escalate Protests Against El Milagro**



Image Credit: Arise Chicago

In Chicago, workers at El Milagro tortilla plants led another protest Thursday against low pay, staff shortages and abusive working conditions, including intimidation and sexual harassment. The latest action comes after El Milagro management ignored workers' demands to meet and discuss their grievances. At a press conference yesterday, the workers announced they have also filed a formal labor complaint against El Milagro. Last week workers walked off the job to denounce poor treatment.

## **Canadian Gov't to Pay Billions in Compensation to First Nations Children for Welfare Discrimination**



In Canada, a judge dismissed a challenge by the Trudeau administration to a ruling that found the government underfunded First Nations children's services. The Canadian government was ordered to pay billions in compensation to the affected children, many of whom were forced into foster care as they had to leave their homes to access government services.

This comes as Canada marked its first-ever National Day of Truth and Reconciliation Thursday in honor of the lost children and survivors of government- and church-run schools for Indigenous children. Gatherings took place across Canada, including in Toronto.

**Ieniente Cook:** "Every single day, all of us are just fighting to get our culture back, and it was unfair of us to lose it. ... We should be living our lives on our reservations and on our land and getting our land back. And it's hard seeing all these people just protesting something like this, a genocide. We're protesting a genocide, and it's emotional, very emotional."

## **2021-10-01 Don't Pursue War, Pursue War Crimes: Michael Ratner's Decades-Long Battle to Close Guantánamo**

### **Topics** [Guantanamo](#)

- [War on Terror](#)
  - [Human Rights](#)
- 

### **Guests** [Baher Azmy](#)

legal director of the Center for Constitutional Rights.

- [Lizzy Ratner](#)  
niece of the late Michael Ratner and a senior editor at *The Nation* magazine.
  - [Vince Warren](#)  
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### **Links** [Baher Azmy on Twitter](#)

- [Lizzy Ratner on Twitter](#)
- [Vince Warren on Twitter](#)
- ["Moving the Bar: My Life as a Radical Lawyer"](#)

We look at the life and legacy of the late Michael Ratner, the trailblazing human rights lawyer and former president of the Center for Constitutional Rights, with three people who knew him well: Baher Azmy, legal director of the Center for Constitutional Rights; Vince Warren, the organization's executive director; and Lizzy Ratner, Ratner's niece and a senior editor at *The Nation* magazine. Michael Ratner spent decades opposing government abuse and fought to close the U.S. base at Guantánamo Bay, first in the 1990s when it was used to hold thousands of Haitian asylum seekers and later when the George W. Bush administration opened a military prison there to detain hundreds of people from the so-called war on terror. Ratner died in 2016 at age 72. His posthumous memoir, "Moving the Bar: My Life as a Radical Lawyer," has just been published.

## Transcript

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

**AMY GOODMAN:** This is *Democracy Now!*, [democracynow.org](http://democracynow.org), *The War and Peace Report*. I'm Amy Goodman.

It's been nearly 20 years since George W. Bush opened the U.S. military prison at Guantánamo, where 779 men in total have been held, overwhelmingly without ever being charged. They were tortured, held in isolation, stripped of their rights. President Biden is the fourth president to oversee Guantánamo, which is based at the U.S. naval base in Cuba. Today, 39 men remain, including at least 10 who have already been cleared for release but remain locked up.

The military prison is only one part of the history of Guantánamo. In the early 1990s, the U.S. held over 12,000 Haitian asylum seekers at Guantánamo. On part of the base, the U.S. set up the world's first detention camp for refugees with HIV. Now the Biden administration is considering once again holding Haitians at Guantánamo. NBC recently reported that the Biden administration is advertising for a new contract to operate a migrant detention facility at Guantánamo with a requirement that some of the guards speak Spanish and Haitian Creole.

Today we look at the life and legacy of Michael Ratner, a trailblazing lawyer who worked to shut down the Guantánamo HIV camp in the 1990s, where Haitians were held, then later led the fight to win *habeas corpus* rights for Muslim prisoners held at Guantánamo after the September 11th attacks. He was also a lifelong critic of war and U.S. imperialism.

Michael Ratner died five years ago, but his influence on the legal community can still be felt. OR Books recently published Michael's posthumous memoir, *Moving the Bar: My Life as a Radical Lawyer*. It details his involvement in decades of legal battles while working at the Center for Constitutional Rights.

In a moment, we'll be joined by three guests who knew Michael well, but first let's turn to Michael Ratner in his own words. Here he's speaking in 2007, when he was awarded the Puffin/Nation Prize for Creative Citizenship.

**MICHAEL RATNER:** Today we're in the midst of a pitched battle, a pitched battle to put this country back, at least ostensibly, on the page of fundamental rights and moral decency. The battle is difficult, and the road is long and hard. On occasion, I get pessimistic. Sometimes I and my colleagues feel like Sisyphus. Twice — not just once, twice — we pushed the rock up the hill and won rights for Guantánamo detainees in the Supreme Court, and twice the rock was rolled back down by Congress over those rights. So we pushed it back up again. Five days ago, we were in the Supreme Court for the third time. It was difficult, more difficult than before, because the justices have changed. Four are antediluvians, lost forever to humanity.

But before I get us all depressed, we've had our victories. We've gotten lawyers to Guantánamo, stopped the most overt torture and freed half of the Guantánamo detainees — over 300. We have gotten Maher Arar out of Syria. Canada has apologized for his torture, given him a substantial recovery — in Canadian dollars, which is no embarrassment anymore. They said he was an innocent man, but he remains on the U.S. terror list. We have slowed, but not yet stopped, a remarkable grab for authoritarian power.

I also don't lose hope — I also don't lose hope, because I think about the early days of Guantánamo. At first, we were few. But now we are many. At first, when CCR began, we were the lonely warriors taking on the Bush administration at Guantánamo. Now we are many. Now we, just on Guantánamo alone, are over 600 lawyers, most from major firms of every political stripe. These lawyers have an understanding of what is at stake: liberty itself. This struggle — this struggle will be seen as one of the great chapters in the legal and political history of the United States.

Today, war, torture, disappearances, murder surround us like plagues. Most in this country go on their way oblivious. Some don't want to know and are like ostriches. Some want to justify it all. Some want to make compromises. But be warned: We are at a tipping point, a tipping point into lawlessness and medievalism. We have our work to do. For each of us, the time for talking is long, long over. This is no time for compromise, no time for political calculation. As Howard Zinn admonishes us, it is the job of thinking people not to be on the side of the executioners. The Puffin/Nation Prize reminds us all that the job for each of us is not to be on the side of the executioners. Thank you all.

**AMY GOODMAN:** The pioneering radical attorney Michael Ratner, speaking in 2007, when he was awarded the Puffin/Nation Prize for Creative Citizenship for his work heading up the Center for Constitutional Rights. Michael Ratner died in 2016, but his memoir, *Moving the Bar: My Life as a Radical Lawyer*, has just been published by OR Books.

We're joined right now by three guests who knew Michael well. Vince Warren is the executive director of the Center for Constitutional Rights. Lizzy Ratner is the niece of the late Michael Ratner and a senior editor at *The Nation* magazine. And Baher Azmy is legal director of the Center for Constitutional Rights.

Baher, I wanted to begin with you. If you can talk about Guantánamo? Because this week, we've got a federal court hearing the case of Guantánamo. You [write](#), Michael "Ratner knew from a lifetime fighting U.S. militarism, racism, and torture that Guantánamo, if unchecked, would become a centerpiece of American authoritarianism, where lawlessness and violence would redound across American democratic institutions. At the time, Guantánamo was the crown jewel of the Bush administration's war on terror." Since then, there has been President Obama, there's been President Trump and now President Biden. But Guantánamo remains open, from 779 prisoners to, at this point, 39 prisoners. But it remains open. Can you talk about both Guantánamo and Michael Ratner's legacy in trying to get it shut down?

**BAHER AZMY:** Thank you, Amy. It's stirring to hear Michael's words so clearly.

I think he saw, from the very beginning, what everyone else perceived possibly as a necessary compromise. But what he saw is the possibility of creating a prison outside the law that was a marker of lawlessness, and therefore authoritarianism, that would single out, in this case, the most recent enemy — Muslims — not unlike what he saw 10 years before with the demonization and exclusion of Black Haitian refugees. And what he saw is the connection between militarism and war, and domestic forms of authoritarianism and repression.

And that was a key to his intervention in Guantánamo, because bad things happen in dark places, not only bad things to the human beings locked up there, whose families are clamoring for understanding about what happened to them, but bad things happen to our institutions, our democratic institutions, through the arrogation of massive executive power, the dismissal of oversight by courts and the public. And so, that intervention was critical to open up Guantánamo and expose the lies, torture and incompetence that undergirded that project.

And I think — excuse me — one thing he also saw, and that we all recognize now, is the continuity of Guantánamo in the American imperial project. Of course, it was taken in 1908 as part of an imperial project in the Spanish-American War and kept as a military base to undertake military-style missions. And initially we talked about Guantánamo as exceptional, but, as you note, it's here 20 years later. And I think given the way in which we've solidified borders, militarized domestic police forces, and all sorts of entailments from the post-9/11 world, Guantánamo isn't particularly exceptional. Fighting against it is critical. But fighting against it, recognizing it's at the sort of core of American forms of repression, is a key understanding that I think he knew well.

**AMY GOODMAN:** I wanted to bring Lizzy Ratner into the conversation, editor at *The Nation* magazine, the niece of Michael Ratner. Let's talk about this latest — there's this possibility, at least, NBC is reporting, of putting Haitians, refugees, asylum seekers, once again in Guantánamo. And let's be clear, this is, originally, Guantánamo, the idea of putting them outside the reach of U.S. law. But if you can talk about back in the

1990s, when Haitian refugees fleeing a coup in Haiti are then put by Bush at Guantánamo, up to 12,000 people, and Michael's role in trying to shut that down?

**LIZZY RATNER:** Well, first, Amy, thank you so much for having me on. And thank you for having all of us on to talk about Michael. It is always wonderful to talk about him, his work and his legacy.

And the history of Guantánamo and the Haitian history of Guantánamo is crucially important to understanding what we're seeing now both still with the sort of detention of detainees there, of Muslim detainees from the so-called war on terror, and then also what we're seeing now with Haitian refugees being sent back to Haiti. So, it's a crucial moment to understand.

As you pointed out, in 1991, there was a U.S.-backed coup — that's important to say — when the leftist leader of Haiti was kicked out of the country. And there was horrible, horrible, horrible oppression in Haiti. So, many Haitians, who were working people, average, everyday people, people of the left, fled in desperation. They were being attacked. And the United States, which had for years backed dictators in Haiti, said, "We don't want Haitians coming here. We don't want to take these refugees of the coup that we backed. So we're going to prevent them from arriving in the United States."

And this is sort of a key part of the law to understand. If someone arrives in the United States, they have a right to make an asylum claim. And the United States has to keep them here while they entertain that claim. So, how do you prevent people from making legitimate asylum claims? You prevent them from coming to the United States.

And so, what the United States did at the time, under Bush initially and then under Clinton, was that they rounded up Haitians, who were coming to the United States on small boats on the high seas — they had the Coast Guard pick them up — and they took them to Guantánamo. And they said, "This isn't really the United States, so you don't have actual rights here." And then they processed people on Guantánamo to determine whether or not they had a credible fear of persecution, which is the standard for asylum in the United States. Anyone they found not to have a credible fear — and there's probably a lot of debate about how well they made those judgments — but anybody who did not have a credible fear, they sent back to Haiti.

But they warehoused many people on Guantánamo while they were trying to determine if they had a credible fear. And — this is crucial — they forcibly tested people who had a credible fear, who could have made legitimate asylum claims — they forcibly tested them for HIV. And when they found that several people had HIV, they refused to let them into the United States, despite the fact that people would have had credible claims to asylum, they could have gotten asylum here, they could have begun an asylum case. And that's because there's horrible bigotry and racism against Haitians and against people with HIV and AIDS. And so, rather than bringing people to the United States, they kept them on [Guantánamo], because, they said, "Well, at least we're not sending them back to Haiti." So they kept Haitians on this — you know, in this prison camp, the world's first HIV detention center, prison camp — a plague colony. We created it in the United States. And they kept several hundred Haitians there for well over a year.

And Michael, with the lawyer Harold Koh at Yale Law School and a whole bunch of law students at Yale, said, "This is outrageous. The United States is sort of trying to play footsie with the law. It's saying that people on Guantánamo — that Guantánamo isn't part of the United States, and therefore the U.S. law doesn't extend to Guantánamo, the protections of U.S. law don't exist there." And so, he was fighting at the most basic level to get people out of horrible, horrible conditions, and then also to say that the United States couldn't create this kind of sinkhole in which it could do whatever it wants, dispense with the law and just kind of, you know, play all kinds of illegal games.

And so, I think that moment is really crucial to understanding two things — and then I'll stop talking. But I think it's crucial to understanding both the later work that Michael and the CCR did on Guantánamo with regard to detainees in the so-called war on terror, and it's really crucial to understanding what's happening now with Title 42. The United States is once again seeing people from Haiti who could make asylum claims,

and they're saying, "Uh-uh-uh, we don't want you to come in. We want to circumvent this whole process, and we're going to just send you back, or possibly send you to Guantánamo."

**AMY GOODMAN:** Vince Warren, if you can talk more about this and this trajectory from the early '90s to what we're seeing today? You started as an Ella Baker fellow at Center for Constitutional Rights. You're now the executive director of CCR and worked with Michael for decades.

**VINCENT WARREN:** Yes. Thank you so much for having me, Amy, and it's wonderful to be on with Baher and Lizzy.

And, you know, picking up on what Lizzy was talking about, Michael — people might misperceive what Michael is about by just focusing on the specter of Guantánamo. So, yes, Michael did decades of work on that particular institution and in that legal — the context of preventing the legal black hole. But people should remember that Guantánamo has become iconic, largely — as a negative icon, largely because of Michael's work. But what it actually really represents is, number one, that we now have seven presidents, since that time — six or seven presidents, that have used Guantánamo as an offshore prison, where they claim that the law doesn't apply, to dump all of the people that are causing problems in terms of how they are working the question of border security or national security.

And so, what Michael was able to do, even back in the '90s, when a lot of folks were like, "Well, I don't see what the big deal is," A, or, B, "I see what the big deal is, but how the heck would you challenge that legally? Doesn't the government have a right to keep us safe from people that have HIV by putting them in Guantánamo?" Michael saw that conceding the legality of a blackhole structure in the United States would turn into something like Guantánamo, that there would be other people that would be put there. In fact, you know, I think history has shown, if you look at some of the FBI documents that are emerging now, that folks on the left, radicals, people that want a greater society, folks like myself, there were plans to put us and people like us in these types of camps. So Michael was really pushing the framework that if we allow the government to create a law-free zone, it will create a legality around clearly illegal activity.

The other thing that I would want to point out, just to draw it together, is the Haitian HIV situation, the Guantánamo detainees after 9/11 and the proposal to situate refugees and migrants in Guantánamo today by the Biden administration all share a mythology. And the mythology is one of a great and consuming irrational fear on the part of the United States citizenry about feeling safe.

So, in the 1990s, HIV was the thing that made people lose their minds in terms of fear, even though they didn't understand the disease. I mean, when you read the court papers, you know, Michael and Harold had to explain to the government and to the court that you couldn't catch HIV by talking to people. Yet and still, there was hysteria around the question of HIV and what it was going to do.

In the context of 9/11, the hysteria was around terrorism. Every Brown, Black, Muslim, South Asian, Arab person, none of those people but with a turban, represented an irrational fear in the United States, and we wanted to keep those people out in any way possible.

And now, with respect to what's happening at the southern border and, you know, in terms of our work at the Center for Constitutional Rights and the ACLU's work around asylum seeking, in the Trump administration, the irrational fear was overrunning the border. In the Biden administration, the irrational fear is COVID.

So, in each one of these contexts, it's fueled by — although not really in response to, it's fueled by an overarching hysteria that we have in the United States that makes people want to side with incarceration and dehumanization in order to keep themselves feeling safe.



## 2021-10-01 Colleagues of Michael Ratner Blast Samuel Moyn's Claim That He Helped Sanitize the "War on Terror"

### Topics [Human Rights](#)

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### Guests [Baher Azmy](#)

legal director of the Center for Constitutional Rights.

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### Links [Baher Azmy on Twitter](#)

- [Lizzy Ratner on Twitter](#)
- [Vince Warren on Twitter](#)
- ["The Humanity of Michael Ratner, The Fabrications of Samuel Moyn"](#)
- ["Moving the Bar: My Life as a Radical Lawyer"](#)

Friends and relatives of the late radical attorney Michael Ratner respond to the recent controversy over Yale University professor Samuel Moyn's claim that Ratner "prioritized making the war on terror humane" by using the courts to challenge the military's holding of prisoners at Guantánamo. Ratner's longtime colleagues blast Moyn for failing to recognize how the late attorney had dedicated his life to fighting war and U.S. imperialism. "Michael opposed war with every fiber of his being in every medium he had access to: the courtroom, the classroom, in the media," says Baher Azmy, legal director of the Center for Constitutional Rights. "And he knew that legal challenges to protect humans from authoritarian abuses and violence and torture were necessary."

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### Transcript

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**AMY GOODMAN:** I also now wanted to turn to the whole controversy around Yale University professor Samuel Moyn's recent [piece](#) in *The New York Review of Books* titled "Michael Ratner's Tragedy, and Ours." The piece is excerpted from Moyn's new book, *Humane: How the United States Abandoned Peace and Reinvented War*. In the piece, the Yale professor writes, quote, "In the years after September 11, 2001, Michael set aside the why, whether, and how long of American's global wars and concentrated instead on legally battling for controls on how they proceeded. In the annals of recent history, no one, perhaps, has done more than this leader of the Center for Constitutional Rights to enable a novel, sanitized version of permanent war. By legalizing the manner of the conflict, Ratner paradoxically laundered the inhumanity from what began as a brutal enterprise by helping to recodify a war that thus became endless, legal, and humane." Those the words of Yale University professor Samuel Moyn.

I want to go back to Baher Azmy now. You recently co-wrote an [article](#) titled "The Humanity of Michael Ratner, The Fabrications of Samuel Moyn." Can you respond to Professor Moyn?

**BAHER AZMY:** Yeah, Amy. I think Professor Moyn makes the, to me, somewhat — although I haven't fully read his book — from what I understand, somewhat unoriginal observation that lawyers have populated defense departments, say, in the United States or in the IDF, and lawyers inside those regimes have sought



to make war slightly less lethal and within some sort of legal norms. So, OK, but I suppose because that's a fairly standard claim, he goes further to make the provocative and, ultimately, as we say, fraudulent claim that Michael Ratner is somehow in that camp.

So, Michael opposed war with every fiber of his being in every medium he had access to: the courtroom, the classroom, in the media. And he knew that legal challenges to protect humans from authoritarian abuses and violence and torture were necessary — that was his project in Guantánamo — and he also knew about the horrors of war, and could manage both at the same time. So, September 23rd, 2001, he gave a talk in which he said, "This is not a lawful basis for the U.S. to engage in war. This is a crime under international law," citing the Nuremberg precedent, and argued that we should not pursue war but pursue war crimes and crimes against humanity against the perpetrators. And over and over again, he was opposed to war. And the irony of sort of lumping Michael with people who try to make war humane, among many other pieces of evidence, Michael's project, throughout the 2000s and before, from his experience in challenging war waged by the Clinton administration in Kosovo, is to say, very specifically, the idea of humanitarian war is impossible, because it is just a mask for U.S. forms of hegemony.

So, Professor Moyn has somewhat walked back his critique, suggested that the title was chosen by the editor and not him, but I think the content of his article, as you excerpted, stands and is profoundly misguided. Michael understood that lawyering has a particular role in society. It's not where the war is won, but it's where the battle has to be fought, alongside all other sorts of means to leverage, the power of movements to challenge repression. That's what Michael stood for, and in no way did he ever sanitize war.

**AMY GOODMAN:** Lizzy Ratner, Michael Ratner, yes, was known for these court challenges, from Guantánamo to actual wars, taking on Rumsfeld and others, suing against illegal war. But he also most deeply believed in the streets.

**LIZZY RATNER:** Yeah. You know, I just want to sort of echo what Baher was saying. Reading Samuel Moyn's piece was a sort of out-of-body experience, where you have somebody come in and speak very authoritatively and make really grand, sweeping claims, which might sound credible, but then you realize: I know this person, and this is actually sloppy and factually incorrect. So it was sort of a strange experience to read in *The New York Review of Books* my uncle described in this way, which actually had no bearing on who he was or what he did.

So, yeah, you know, prior to the war on terror, the so-called war on terror, Michael obviously was out in the streets and fighting legal battles on a whole array of topics. But I really want to focus on those last 15 years of his life, which could be looked at, in one way, as entirely an attempt to fight the so-called war on terror, abroad and at home, in whatever way he could. Michael believed that the law was a tool. It was one among many. But he had no great faith that the law was going to change everything. He believed that it was made by elites, by rich people, by the wealthy and the powerful, often as a way to hold onto that power. And so, he talks in his book extensively about, you know, he's going to do what he could in the courts and then work with people on the streets.

And I'll get to those sort of street examples in a moment, but I do want to quote from Michael's book, since we are talking about it, and I think it provides a really powerful rebuttal to this claim by Samuel Moyn that Michael literally focused the last years of his life on sanitizing the war and didn't ask the why, wherefore and how and only questioned the manner in which war was fought. So, Michael has a whole section on working with Julian Assange and on truth — what he calls truth tellers, which he sort of focused on at the end of his life. And he asks at one point, you know: Why did I become so fixated on the stories of Chelsea Manning, of Julian Assange, of Snowden, of Jeremy Hammond?

And he writes, "I've asked myself why are truth tellers like Assange, Manning, Snowden and Hammond so important to me? The answer is that they have succeeded in doing what CCR and I have been trying to do ever since the so-called war on terror began in the wake of September 11, 2001. For more than a decade, we lawyers at CCR brought at least a dozen lawsuits seeking to expose and end rendition, illegal drone

strikes, the War in Afghanistan and Iraq, and the torture at Guantánamo and other U.S. secret prisons. We tried to hold accountable those responsible for war crimes.”

Then he — I’ll skip a little bit. And he writes, “Then, all of a sudden, people like Chelsea Manning, Julian Assange, Edward Snowden, Sarah Harrison, Aaron Swartz and Jeremy Hammond came out of nowhere. With acts of great courage, they revealed to the world what this country is actually doing. They sparked a much-needed public discussion of the U.S. government’s secret, illegal and inhumane policies, and they brought people into the streets.”

And so I feel like I can talk extensively about Michael, but his own words tell the story of what he was trying to do, what he and CCR were trying so hard to do, which was attack war, attack this vast apparatus, using whatever means they could. And so, of course, yes, he was also speaking all the time, from early on, from right after 9/11. He was teaching. He was out there protesting. He was working with CodePink and United for Peace and Justice. He was doing everything he possibly could to fight this war and these wars.

**AMY GOODMAN:** We’re going to go to break. That’s Lizzy Ratner. She’s the niece of the late pioneering lawyer Michael Ratner and a senior editor now at *The Nation* magazine. We’re talking to Vince Warren, who is the executive director of the Center for Constitutional Rights, where Michael Ratner served as president, and Baher Azmy, who is the Center for Constitutional Rights’ legal director. When we come back, I want to ask Vince Warren about those lawsuits against war in general. I remember when we interviewed Michael in Berlin, when he was suing Donald Rumsfeld, the defense secretary under George W. Bush. Stay with us.

[break]

**AMY GOODMAN:** “A Hard Rain’s A-Gonna Fall,” Bob Dylan. This is *Democracy Now!*, [democracynow.org](http://democracynow.org), *The War and Peace Report*. I’m Amy Goodman.

Back in 2006, attorneys with the Center for Constitutional Rights went to Berlin, Germany, to file a war crimes lawsuit in Germany against then-outgoing Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and other high-ranking U.S. officials for their role in the torture of prisoners in Iraq and Guantánamo. We [spoke](#) with then-CCR President Michael Ratner in Berlin.

**MICHAEL RATNER:** What we did today was file a 220-page complaint — we’ve been working on this for quite a while — against 14 high-level U.S. officials, Rumsfeld being the lead one, but, of course, General Sanchez being in there, Tenet, the former head of the CIA, and a number of the lawyers who wrote some of the so-called torture memos, particularly lawyers Yoo and Bybee. The procedure here is you file that complaint with the prosecutor, and the prosecutor then decides whether or not to begin an investigation.

As you said, we did file a case, a similar case, in 2004. The prosecutor in 2004 dismissed the case. He dismissed it really for legal reasons on the face of it, but for political reasons, as well. The legal reasons, he said, were the United States, it appeared to him, was still investigating up the chain of command and was making an effort to look into who was responsible for the war crimes and the torture that went from Guantánamo to Abu Ghraib. We thought that was a wrong ruling then. We didn’t think there was any evidence the U.S. was looking up the chain of command.

But here, we’re now even in a different situation that makes that excuse really irrelevant and not possible again. Two things have happened. One is, a year and a half has passed since we filed the last case, and, of course, nothing has been done to go after Donald Rumsfeld or Tenet or Sanchez or any of the other people we’ve named. So, that alone says a lot about what the U.S. is doing. But as you also mentioned in your opening, that the U.S. has also immunized these people from war crimes. In the Military Commissions Act, which was signed by the president on October 17th, he amends the statute that makes violations of the Geneva Conventions criminal. That’s called the War Crimes Act. He amends it, not just going forward, but he amends it going backwards, back to 9/11/2001, essentially immunizing these officials in the United States from any prosecutions for war crimes.

So, now that we're in Germany, which is really a court of last resort — we can't go to the United States courts, we can't go to the international courts. They have no jurisdiction. You have to go to national courts. We're in Germany, in part because it has the best law on universal jurisdiction and in part because, certainly in the past, and as far as we know today, some of the perpetrators are actually at military bases in Germany. Germany can no longer say, "Well, the U.S. is seriously investigating," because the U.S. has essentially immunized these defendants.

**AMY GOODMAN:** That's the late crusading human rights attorney Michael Ratner. His book has just come out posthumously, his memoir. It's called *Moving the Bar: My Life as a Radical Lawyer*. We're joined by three people who knew him well: Lizzy Ratner, his niece and editor at *The Nation* magazine; Baher Azmy, the Center for Constitutional Rights legal director, where Michael served as president; and Vince Warren, the executive director of the Center for Constitutional Rights.

I don't know how many times, Vince, that I talked to you and talked to Michael about the challenges, overall, to war. And it's particularly important this week, as we watch, in the Senate and the House, military leaders coming forward, being questioned in these inquiries around the last two weeks of the U.S. military troop presence in Afghanistan and the chaos that happened. They're willing to talk about the last few weeks, but no one in the House and Senate is holding a hearing on the entire last 20 years of the Afghanistan War. Talk about how Michael's critique would inform this, and what you feel needs to happen.

**VINCENT WARREN:** Yeah, thank you, Amy. It is really — it's very emotional to see clips of Michael. That clip in Berlin happened — I think they filed that case two weeks, maybe, after — no, sorry, a month after I started as executive director of the Center for Constitutional Rights. So it was really extraordinary.

A few things. Number one, I want to just bring back Baher's frame, which I think was Michael's frame, which is, don't do war, don't pursue war, pursue war crimes. And that, essentially, was a series of tools that Michael and also Peter Weiss, who was the vice president for the Center for Constitutional Rights, and many other lawyers began to pursue. And this, as it became known, the Rumsfeld case, which was filed in Germany, also was accompanied by a case that was filed in France, that was succeeded by a case that was filed in Switzerland, which actually kept George Bush and company from traveling to Switzerland under fear of arrest, which was part of Michael and Peter's vision for how we should be thinking about war when the U.S. insists upon waging it and the U.S. citizenry insists upon backing it.

What is notable, I think, from the hearings that we've been hearing on the Afghanistan withdrawal, particularly with respect to General Milley, has been that there has — everyone in Congress seems to be really, really deeply concerned about the question of failure, and no one seems to be concerned about the question of killing and lawlessness. And had we had this level of congressional interest, congressional concern at the beginning, back in the days after 9/11, when Congress gave the president the green light to do whatever he wanted, and abdicated its role under the War Powers Act, abdicated its role to be a check on the president in terms of waging war, if we had this level of engagement and intention at that point, we would not have been in Afghanistan for 20 years. Hundreds and thousands of Afghans wouldn't have died. U.S. troops wouldn't have died. We would have had a different trajectory. But alas, in a society that is much more comfortable with recriminations 20 years later than being on the side of vision and right, as Michael was at the beginning, when there was tremendous risk, this is what we end up with.

I'll say this other thing about just connecting this to the Moyn piece, is, you know, what Moyn is doing is essentially whitewashing the question of the roles of lawyers in pushing back on the great inhumanities that we inflict on each other. There were lawyers that filed lawsuits, largely unsuccessful, during the Nazi era. People didn't — they were not bystanders. There were lawyers that filed hundreds of lawsuits, as shown in Rick Abel's book, in South Africa to challenge apartheid. And there are hundreds of lawyers that challenged, quasi-successfully, actually, in the United States the hegemonic tone and vector of the United States military and military might.

This will be the essential function moving forward. We are not living in an era where we can say, "You know what? We don't need lawyers to be able to deal with the inhumanities of man," because we're going to see

them under every administration, including this one. I have no doubt that there will be a military intervention at some point, particularly around the question of when people are reelected, that will require the vision of Michael. And I'm glad that Michael gave that to us at this point, so that we can prepare for the next thing.

**AMY GOODMAN:** Finally, the last word goes to another Ratner, to Lizzy Ratner. Lizzy, if you can talk about Michael as an institution builder? Yes, he helped to build the European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights and also was seminal with Palestine Legal. And if you can talk about his commitment to Palestinian human rights?

**LIZZY RATNER:** Yeah. So, Michael talks in the book a lot about both sort of his upbringing in a Zionist Jewish family in the United States and how he, over the years, really came to understand the story of Palestine, to understand the story of oppression, of ethnic cleansing, and sort of come to feel that his role could not be to sit on the sidelines, but was to join in and support in whatever way he could, play the role of a supportive activist, support the struggle of Palestinians in the U.S. and, of course, in Palestine.

And so he worked very closely with Dima Khalidi to start Palestine Legal, which does fierce and heroic work here in the United States around the question of Palestinian speech rights. It's, you know, that we believe in free speech in this country but often not around the question of Palestine. And so, people who speak up, particularly people who are Palestinian who speak up for Palestinian rights, end up sort of being silenced in all manner of ways. And so, he felt very strongly that sort of the next chapter of his life would be around the issue of Palestine, and he was starting out and embarking on that, when he became very sick. But it is beautiful to see the work —

**AMY GOODMAN:** Five seconds

**LIZZY RATNER:** It's beautiful to see the work that they're doing at Palestine Legal and also to see the work that CCR is doing, and so many young lawyers, who are pushing forward a radical theory of lawyering and also movement building. And he'd be so proud.

**AMY GOODMAN:** I want to thank you all so much for being with us, Lizzy Ratner, niece of the late Michael Ratner, senior editor at *The Nation* magazine; Vince Warren, Center for Constitutional Rights executive director; and Baher Azmy, legal director at CCR. The new book, *Moving the Bar: My Life as a Radical Lawyer*. I'm Amy Goodman. Stay safe.