

“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: Ashtar on the Road; Ashtar Legacy Calls
9:00 – 10:30 pm EST 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 The Abundance Call - Caroline Oceana Ryan
5:45 PM Pacific / 8:45 PM Eastern 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.

16th Fri – 6 Ix – White Rhythmic Wizard – Visionary Aspect – our work is about our illumination for others, clarity of mind and purpose; embrace the gifts of the Shaman/Jaquar medicine – integrity, being in accordance with Divine will - 6- organize, balancing, equality

17th Sat - 7 Blue Resonant Men - Visionary Aspect – our commitment to service, gift of independence, belief in self; let go of feelings of despair

18th Sun – 8 Cib - Yellow Galactic Warrior – Warrior aspect – trusting in our journey, bringing awareness of right action. Gift of awareness of the Divine; let go of any restriction

19th Mon – 9 Caban - Red Solar Earth - Healing aspect – We are keepers of the earth - we pay attention, we listen to the Earth; We are the balancing point. listen to our guidance. Let go of any separation and disassociation

20th Tues – 10 Etnab - PORTAL DAY - White Planetary Mirror – Warrior Aspect - and a cutting tool too. We can use the blade to cut away what no longer serves. Work on our groundedness; wise use of our understanding; gift of skrying the unseen, of fluidity and persistence

21st Wed – 11 Cauac – Blue Spectral Storm – Rama’s birthday. Visionary aspect – creating transformation for others; possibility of freedom; power of being catalyst for others

22nd Thur – 12 Ahau- Yellow Crystal Sun – Healing Aspect – rising to Christ Consciousness – transmitting energy to others; unconditional thinking

23rd Fri – 13 Imix – Red Cosmic Dragon – Artist Aspect - completing the wave of Muluc, the moon – a wave of purification.
Full moon in Aquarius; also, 13 is a Mother’s Day [Sekhmet]
Gifts are being the source of creation, working with that energy; no more illusions about separation

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](http://theLawofTime.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 \$410 for this week - to make up for a short fall, plus extra for the 5 weekends . . . 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:
B B S RADIO [Please put "**Attention Don**" on the envelope]

58 N Marshside Pl [Note inside that it's for T & R calls
Spring, TX 77389 [& the Thursday call, as well]

- **BBS archives can be accessed by everyone;** there are archives on 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

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

BASICS: Food for Paschats, the car, T & R - **\$200 – FOR THIS WEEK**
BILLS: **\$400**

- **Please notify T & R when sending something:** koran9999@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 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**

<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

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

HARD NEWS: Rama, Tara [R,T]

Greetings to all!

R: What's going on today: a wild moment in the planet's history – everything is waking up: all the energies and us -which is one and the same; things are overlapping, overlighting each other

- as we travel the realms, the Great Convergence is happening – we are ascending, the sun, the rest of the galaxy- everyone, everything!
- the story is about us waking up to who we are, as the amnesia fades away – as galactic old souls

R: went up the mountain; Tom the Ring-tailed Cat came to visit: showed up in his car; ended up sitting in the passenger seat, where there was lots of stuff – so he put the stuff in the back seat –

- It was R who Tom – called an 800 # and got Tom who was on the House, posing as an intern – he could go in there looking like a 27 year old young'un

T: How can I help you today Rama? I'm kinda busy

- Chuck Schumer is ranting about getting the HR 1 bill and the John Lewis bill
- they're also talking about the reconciliation bill

R: when is this kit and kaboodle gonna end?

T: Sooner than you think! - as he got into the front seat – you are watching things unravel - things are moving at light speed: it's that fast

R wasn't expecting that ? ? ? dody – he had to eat his words!

R: heard that yesterday 17 southern states want to secede from the Union -

Tara: no, 17 states passed voter repression laws and about 5 or so southern states

that is why the metaphor of Tom showing up: watch your thoughts; work with the energies – remember this IS A DIVINE MISSION in spite of how it looks and they ARE trying to kill as many as they can – want to turn us into Borgs

And Tom said to Rama: Fasten your seat belts! We're in for the ride of our lives! ! !

AUDIO: Are We Living in a Computer Simulation?

R has been told "Yes" and Divine Goddess is running the simulation as we are part of it as we asked to be here and experience it!

2021-07-19 Are We Living in A Computer Simulation? | Gregg Braden

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CuYR8mzjhps>

Numerous scientists believe that we live in a simulated, a virtual reality. Could that be possible? Is there any evidence? Gregg Braden is one of today's leading scientists and mystics. He speaks of the wisdom of the past and how a new time in our history has arrived.

AUDIO: a message from the Dali Lama in his own voice

**HHDL's message for the International Religious Freedom Summit 2021
held in Washington DC, USA on July 13-15, 2021.**

<https://youtu.be/h87qBSZduTg>

CONFERENCE CALL

<https://fccdl.in/9y3NkSxSaP>

Ca/AH: couldn't get on to the bbs site – went on to a site called streama and got the last bits

Ca/Pe and Ca/Ch: had the same issue

Ca/Co: also got on

T: something very big must be going on behind the scenes

Ah: it just wouldn't load even after 10 times – and Streama

T: could be the solar flares

- KOS said there are trillions of ships around the earth

R: had a little experience with Tom the Cat who showed up in the car and sat on Rama's stuff in the passenger seat

- Tom wanted him to know that things are moving a quantum light speed and we are preparing for Unity Consciousness
- He was on the floor of Congress, posing as an intern
- Things will show

Ca/AH: things in her area are very intense

R: is expecting Drumpf to be arrested at any moment

RGM: message from the Pashcats – they said the weather that is happening all over the world is the earth purging the negativity all over the world – stay calm and drink lots and lots of water – the energies he is seeing are unreal – all human eyes are going digital so we can process the amount of information that is coming in through various light channels

AH: getting flashes of light; she is tuning in: all feels like she is off centre – can feel the intensity and going through a lot trying to process so much - wo are not awake

RGM: Videos from a scientist friend living in Uruguay. He makes his living forecasting weather for big companies and large farming operations, so he knows his stuff - climate risk economist (business continuity, solar science, planetary threats); energy medicine; Planetary electromagnetics scientist; frequency medicine doctor.

Video_2021-07-14_23-57-12 AND video_2021-07-14_23-57-12

Ca/Bi: last week, Abby Martin made a prediction – what happened with that?

R: things are unravelling even faster – doesn't know about huge shoes dropping other than the fact that solar flares are getting more intense and more stories coming out –

- finding out how crazy the folks on the right really are: would choose to secede from the union and start another civil war to keep the consciousness of the old paradigm which is slavery – and Mother shows up to free the mind - whether physical slaves or of the mind

- more and more coming out about the age of the planet, and what has been hidden from us and could change our reality and not rely on fossil fuel industry or war industry
- many good folks coming forth with good technologies to change things in an instant
 - something is shifting – Pluto is in opposition tomorrow and that opposition is really gonna bring out everything that is unlike love at the moment to deal with current state of affairs we are watching:
 - the fact that Kevin McCarthy went to hang out with Trump in Florida – so many pieces to this about trying to keep the old paradigm, the great lie, going – with all due respect, Uncle Joe is just a place holder in this movie script;
 - R knows Kamala H is talking to KOS and the others at that level;
 - He does know things are exposing the 13 families and it's coming forth right now, so blatantly – so many people speaking and saying as this to continue, this republic, then there are things that have to shift, and it's about holding these ones accountable for what happened on Jan 6th –
 - and THEY WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE AND DEALT WITH SUMMARILY - there is a lawful procedure for this to happen, and St G and KOS know the procedure and we are watching it
 - we can see it unravelling: changes in different parts of the world – it's called CLIMATE DISRUPTION, as our consciousness changes, conflict goes down . . .
- Before the flood we could talk to the sylphs of the air, the dragon flies – every part of the earth even the microbes in the petri dish are of value. Right now they want to focus on death and destruction.

Ca/SO: energies are palpable everywhere -

- doesn't understand about John McAfee – why was he killed?

R: He knows too much about the system – when he first came out with the anti-virus program – R tried it; it had too many glitches – very tech-y

So: he was into crypto before being killed

R: he may know something about the workings of the system

Me: has also read he is in protective custody – McAfee

R: doesn't think he committed suicide – he was doing lots of stuff – and playing with designer drugs – ecstasy and other designer drugs you take when you go to rave parties

SO: by the way his head moves etc – seems like there's some damage

Me: what about the new mask mandate in CA? Even have to wear them indoors – the idea is to get vaccinated people against the unvaccinated ones

- A Dr Kelly said it's 1/10th of 1% is actually counted – so about 10 x that number

RGM: in France, rioting in the streets about the masks, lockdown

- a guy called Gene Decode – is he legit? RGM getting all kinds of youtubes – from him – hasn't got time for these things due to other work

- about Michael Salia – he made reference to the current president [Drumpf at the time]

RGM: the only TV station to trust is your gut and your heart – given the BS out there . . .

Earthquakes, Antarctica, FESIG chair: Free Energy Special Interest Group - posts on FB

MG: thinks he might be connect to

SO: last night about the transfiguration of the sun – it's about the changing of form and we are upgrading – we are already semi-etheric

Pa: her list of requirements in prep for what comes: to look glamorous and healthy, a landing place for the ship with 2 small shuttle pods, \$10 M in the bank;

Discussion about making rain: in order to manifest the rain intention is not enough – have to FEEL IT in all the senses – have to go through all five of the senses to manifest and you are not asking: you are thanking for it

Me: about the product called seabuckwonder or is that the company?

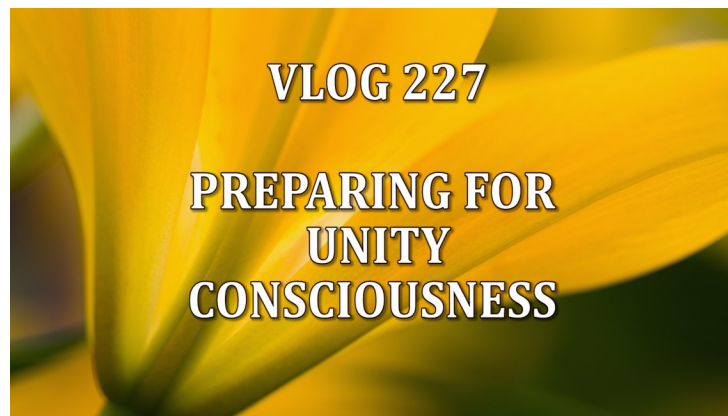
SO: Sea buck thorn is the supplement - made in the Himalayas - SO reads all the great qualities Plant based as opposed to fish oil based – can still find some fish-oil based companies who sell pure products

SO: got a call . . .

B B S RADIO

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

VLOG 227 PREPARING FOR UNITY CONSCIOUSNESS



AUDIO: **The Ascended Masters Broadcasts**



Goddess of Venus – July 16th 2021: [Listen/download](#)

<https://instanttelseminar.com/Events/126985854>

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!

We are all here. [Alcyone gives greetings to Tara] Yes, this story is about the transfiguration of our Sun/Son – Sons and Daughters of the Most High. We are all that and more.

When we began this wild tale of mystery and intrigue, we well knew how deep it was gonna get!

- To go from being a sun to this [body] - it's a big deal! . . . All That Is – it is about the Light of the One and since the sun creates the Light that is about what is the plasma made of
- It is the gold dust, mono- atomic gold, same thing that flows in a million miles of veins throughout this temple of Living Light, Living Love
- It is such a huge deal to be here and find out that this [the body] is the key to the story: it's about US transforming, transfiguring US – that's how we change this.

We are meeting ourselves from the future which is Our past – meeting in the middle and saying to each other: here is the way how to complete this circle; right now, it is completing it

- Because let's say since 2012, the light coming forth has only increased and as what Commander Kryon speaks of, we are all old souls in this: we remember why we came here to do this – it is about I Love.
- We just heard Lady Master Venus speak of what's coming in. Like the Beatles sang: "All we need is Love, Love" – it's this cosmic super glue that makes up the fabric of who and what we are and how this Universe holds itself together
- **Love is the Key and the answer;** we are rising to the occasion and last time this came around 26,826 years ago, Nibiru came into the vicinity of this Sol/sun system – made a huge trajectory around our local system - takes 26,000 to do the spiral
- Well, it's time to return with all the folks and, as we can see, we got quite a show here of insanity to the highest proportions!

T: Would say so, Mother; all your children, Mother

M/A: It was not unexpected – we knew how deep it was gonna get; yet, like it has been said, when they crossed that big red line in the sky, and started playing around with the atoms and they didn't ask Creator Source how to create in that way –

- When we talk to all the elements, it's not about splitting atoms to boil water! What kind of insanity - the uranium, violet flame that is the fabric, the framework that makes up Gaia / Vyamus - you don't extract it from the ground.

- if you wish to use the Violet Flame, you tune into it , ask it “And what have we got here?” Depleted uranium in most of the developing countries because of this empire

It was a most interesting scene in the movie *Indiana Jones and The Kingdom of the Crystal Skulls-*

- he got in a refrigerator after he realized that he was at a test site where they were going to test the trinity – getting ready for Fat Man and Little Boy
- interesting how they played with the metaphors in the movie:
 - he got in the refrigerator as the nuclear cloud went into moving across the expanse of land and saw the refrigerator get tossed about like a feather - and survived.
- The point She is making: time to stop playing with this energy - this is why She are here

T: we are all weary Mother – the whole planet is just like “What?”

- All the hosts of heaven are here and Mr Tom didn't show up to this guy to twiddle thumbs: this is about the whole picture: as we save this planet - and She is talking about Us, all of us - we have the ability to change this with our consciousness
- Everyone who is coming forth and saying “Listen, listen, listen to the heart song” -
 - That's how you change this: kindness, compassion - what is His Holiness Koon Doon talked about: how you change a society from one of war to one of divinity.
- It's this cosmic story that is coming to pass even as we're sitting here, sharing this moment – All there is, is this one NOW moment, and be that one NOW moment
- As we listen to this, wherever we are on the planet, in whatever space/time continuum we exist – She is talking to ourselves because all this is, is a reflection of self
 - Some wanted an adventure, an adventure that was so all encompassing that they took it to this level – Commander Kryon speaks of this: giving ourselves tasks of getting beyond this realm, and there are so many realms intersecting with this one
 - Midgard – and it is awesome to behold – we are the key – this temple -
- How long does it go? Here we are, and we're taking it to the point where every single one of us, sons and daughters of the most High, physical suns in the skies as we make up what is this multi- verse of different realms that intersect with each other and, at this time, it is about this Love Principle - the science of Love that is this glue that holds the story together
- There are so many folks that Indigo Rainbow Crystal children - all the crystal children - that have shown up in the last little while, and the ones that are waking up out of the matrix, realizing there is something more to this story than making money and playing in the hedge funds, figuring how you can get laid by your neighbour –
 - It is all part of the illusion of the maya, the simulation, as Gregg Braden calls it –
 - the simulation: we all had a hand inputting it together so we could figure out how to get to the central point of WE ARE ALL ONE; war is over, as we want it.
- as John Lennon said “All we are saying is give peace a chance”

Greetings in the Light of the Most Radiant One

T: so you assuring tit's all here and it's all now, and we still gotta keep doing our part and opening our hearts more . . .

it is about chopping wood, carrying water and being in this loving moment even as we are watching such insane news by folks who are in a mind-controlled dreamland that is slowly and quite rapidly dissolving, and these borg nanites that they play with and the kyaansiquatsi - life out of balance

T: kinda like wanting to throw it up!

M/A: Yeah! And you get out in the sun and allow Sol to heal yourself with the D3 Boron, all the other elements that make up this story – it changes how things work in this temple. Gotta get out in the sun, turn off the devices, talk to the sun; talk to your cells – it's how it changes!

- She pokes this one in the side with a sharp stick sometimes to get turn off the devices and get out amongst the trees and the fairies will speak
- All it takes is the motivation to change - as we can see what is coming to pass here and She certainly knows we don't want to live in Mordror – so choose LOVE!

Both: Kadoish, Kadoish, Kadoish, Adonai Sabbeoth, . . .

M: Remember who we are

Rama Returns: has been to Mt Kailosh to sit with Lord Shiva and listen to the sound of the bell and the sacred 'Om madne padme hum, O madne padme hum' and to sit with the energy cos that is what changes everything in this moment

- Infinity is what's on the plate – that figure 8: infinity: I like Phi! R is talking about marion berry pie – he likes infinity as it's how we get through the next step

AUDIO: 2021-07-15 **Kryon Explains The Meaning of The Number 11:11:11**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v6NHirg5ZUw>

Begins the discussion by talking of the virus. A new normal is coming . . .which will really be something - we will make multiple discoveries . . . and we change everything: starts to expose things that were never exposed before – year of 2021 is the Year of Revelations [his name for the year]

AUDIO: **Democracy Now**

SEE ARTICLES BELOW

2021-07-16 "Landslide": Michael Wolff on Trump's Final Days in Office & Why He Still Rules the Republican Party

https://www.democracynow.org/2021/7/16/landslide_michael_wolff_trump_final_days

2021-07-16 Floods, Fires & Heat Waves: Michael Mann on "The New Climate War" & the Fight to Take Back the Planet

https://www.democracynow.org/2021/7/16/michael_mann_the_new_climate_war

2021-07-16 Climate Profiteering: \$13.5B Trust for California Fire Victims Funnel Funds to Lawyers & Consultants

https://www.democracynow.org/2021/7/16/pg_e_fire_victim_fund_profiteering

AUDIO: Redacted Tonight – V I P

Doctors for Assange with Jill Stein, and Elon Musk's boring scam

2021-07-16

VIDEO: [Redacted Tonight: Doctors for Assange with Jill Stein, and Elon Musk's boring scam](#)

PODCAST: <https://soundcloud.com/rttv/redacted-tonight-doctors-for-assange-with-jill-stein-and-elon-musks-boring-scam>

Former Green Party presidential candidate Jill Stein joins Lee Camp on VIP this week. Stein is part of Doctors for Assange. The group is concerned about the health of Julian Assange, under the persecution of the United States. But Stein and the group she's organizing with are in the fight to free the political prisoner for more than just health reasons – the persecution of Assange is an attack on press freedom and democratic values too. Also tune in for a peek at Stein's attention-seeking cat.



In Naomi Karavani's *Weekly Offensive*, she dishes the dirt on Elon Musk's latest contract with The Boring Company, which is rebranding the tunnel as a solution to urban traffic congestion. It'll work only with personal vehicles, but many cities across the US are considering it. Musk's tunnels won't do anything to slow down climate change, but they will let us all make fun of rich people stuck in massive underground traffic jams.

AUDIO: [Going Underground: Oliver Stone exposes JFK assassination cover-up](#)

VIDEO: <https://www.rt.com/shows/going-underground/529120-stone-jfk-assassination-exposed/>

PODCAST: <https://soundcloud.com/rttv/going-underground-oliver-stone-exposes-jfk-assassination-cover-up>

On this episode of *Going Underground*, we speak to legendary film director Oliver Stone about his new film 'JFK Revisited: Through The Looking Glass'. He discusses JFK's often overlooked campaigns for peace with the Soviet Union and Cuba prior to his assassination, as well as work furthering civil rights, the details exposing an alleged cover-up of the assassination of JFK, including rapid policy changes from the successor LBJ administration, and alleged CIA involvement in the assassination, why larger powers wanted John F. Kennedy dead, JFK's preparations to shatter the CIA and his belief that the war in Vietnam was a mistake, how the events leading up to the assassination of JFK were meticulously planned and the CIA's involvement on the day, Lee Harvey-Oswald's supervision by the CIA, and much more!



R: Jack will be back to tell the real story: it's about E T 101!

Closing: Rainbird

Rama's Choice:

2017-05-05 Alan Watts ~ I Am Because You Are (Ubuntu)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SOKwgP1Hte8>

2012-07-23 Paul Horn - Inside the Taj Mahal
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_GXcr_Me7yI

INFORMATION RELATED TO THE NOTES

2021-07-16 "Landslide": Michael Wolff on Trump's Final Days in Office & Why He Still Rules the Republican Party

https://www.democracynow.org/2021/7/16/landslide_michael_wolff_trump_final_days

Topics **Donald Trump**

- [U.S. Capitol Insurrection](#)
 - [Author Interviews](#)
-

Guests **Michael Wolff**

author of a best-selling trilogy of books on the presidency of Donald Trump.

Links **Michael Wolff on Twitter**

- ["Landslide: The Final Days of the Trump White House"](#)
- ["Siege: Trump Under Fire"](#)
- ["Fire and Fury: Inside the Trump White House"](#)

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As a special congressional committee investigating the January 6 insurrection prepares to hold its first hearings later this month, we speak with author Michael Wolff, whose new book, "Landslide," provides fresh details about former President Donald Trump's efforts to undermine the 2020 election, how he spurred his supporters to attack the U.S. Capitol and why he still holds the reins in the party. "There's no question Donald Trump runs the Republican Party," Wolff says. "We have two realities here: the reality of Donald Trump in charge, and the other reality which is that everybody knows that there's something wrong with Donald Trump."

Transcript

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

AMY GOODMAN: Former President Donald Trump met with House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy Thursday as McCarthy has yet to appoint Republicans to the congressional committee investigating the deadly January 6th riot by Trump supporters. For months Republicans have downplayed the insurrection, which was timed to disrupt the counting of electoral votes. McCarthy's meeting with Trump came after the select committee investigating the Capitol riot said it would hold its first hearing about the attack on July 27th. After the meeting, McCarthy returned to Washington, D.C., from the Bedminster Trump hotel to attend a dinner at the White House with President Biden and visiting German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

CNN reports McCarthy will likely appoint supporters and defenders of Trump to the January 6 committee. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi can veto any of his picks.

This comes as a series of new books offering new details about what happened January 6th, when then-President Trump spoke to thousands of his supporters at a so-called Save America rally outside the White House and urged them to march on the Capitol building.

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP: We're going to walk down to the Capitol! And we're going to cheer on our brave senators and congressmen and women. And we're probably not going to be cheering so much for some of them, because you'll never take back our country with weakness. You have to show strength, and you have to be strong.

AMY GOODMAN: To talk more about what happened January 6th, what led up to it, and particularly those last weeks of the Trump administration, we're joined by Michael Wolff, author of the new book *Landslide: The Final Days of the Trump White House*, which completes his best-selling trilogy on the presidency of Donald Trump, following *Fire and Fury* and *Siege*.

Michael, welcome back to *Democracy Now!* Why don't we start off right there, when President Trump — I don't know how many — tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands — of lies this was — but said that he will join the others in walking to the Capitol? Did he ever have a plan to do that?

MICHAEL WOLFF: Well, you know, it was at that moment — to just set the background here, this was a speech that he was largely reading off the teleprompter, which is unusual for Trump. Certainly, when he's in the moment, enthusiastic, he's departing from his speech. So he wasn't really thinking about this. His mind was wholly on Mike Pence and what — and he believed that Mike Pence had the power and the willingness to throw out the electoral votes and install him as the president. That was on his mind. So he was sort of reading through this speech.

But at one point he did depart from the speech and said, "We will walk to the Capitol." And that was the moment at which all of his aides kind of looked up and said, "What did he say? We're going to walk to the Capitol?" And all of them had the same response: "What is he talking about? Donald Trump doesn't walk anywhere." So, that's what they all thought at that point.

And then, when he came down after the speech, they said, "You know we can't do that. You know, there's no security for that." And Trump responded, "What are you talking about?" And they said, "You said you're going to walk." And he said, "Oh, oh, I didn't mean that literally." So, again, we're in the world of Donald Trump, which is mostly a world of what's coming out of his mouth and of — and I would say that for a good part of the time, he's not even aware of what's coming out of his mouth.

AMY GOODMAN: So, I mean, this is particularly significant right now for some who are thinking, "Why do we have to talk about Donald Trump? He's not the president anymore, even if he thinks he is." But the fact is, he, by far, is the leading contender, if he chooses to run for president again. By far. And, of course, just yesterday, the House minority leader went to the Bedminster golf course to meet with President Trump. And he, Kevin McCarthy, has yet to choose the five Republican members of the committee — they quashed the commission that would investigate the insurrection. Also, just interesting to note that you have the chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, Beatty, being arrested yesterday with nine others. They were arrested in less time than it

took Capitol Police, who were, to say the least, taken off guard, to arrest that number that day in the time of extremely violent riot, insurrection.

MICHAEL WOLFF: Yeah. Well, I mean, I think that there's no question Donald Trump runs the Republican Party. He is — it's entirely top down. Nearly everybody, or at least certainly everybody who is contemplating a future in the Republican Party, has to pay — has to constantly kiss the Trump ring, yes.

AMY GOODMAN: And so, the significance of this right now with him being in Mar-a-Lago, where you did a last interview with him — in Bedminster, running the show from behind the scenes? The significance of what that means for politics in this country? For example, even this investigation. And when you spoke to him in Mar-a-Lago, what did he say about the insurrection? What did he say about the number of the police, that he supposedly so reveres, being devastated, traumatized, beaten? One died.

MICHAEL WOLFF: Yeah, he didn't say anything about the January 6. That's clearly a subject that he is steering clear of.

But, you know, I want to make another point, and I think it's an interesting point, that even though Donald Trump has a kind of lockstep control over the Republican Party, one of the things that's also always going on is every — while every Republican acknowledges that, every Republican is also trying to walk that back or mitigate that or slow walk whatever the president wants. So we have two realities here: the reality of Donald Trump in charge, and the other reality which is that everybody knows that there's something wrong with Donald Trump. Donald Trump is crazy. Donald Trump, you know, I mean, essentially, can't put two sequential thoughts together.

You know, so Kevin McCarthy is going down there, and he's perfectly well aware this is an aberrant situation. And, in fact, Trump himself is always kind of saying bad things about McCarthy out of the side of his mouth. So, you know, it's this incredibly unusual situation, of which — I mean, it's essentially an emperor's new clothes situation. Everybody recognizes the completely unusual nature of what's going on here, but nobody can do anything about it.

AMY GOODMAN: Michael Wolff, you detail election night and the significance of the relationship between Fox and President Trump. Can you talk about what happened that night when Fox, before the other networks, called Arizona for Biden?

MICHAEL WOLFF: Sure. And that's another example of this. I mean, OK, so we have Fox, the Fox News network, in abject fealty to Donald Trump. You know, I mean, that's their entire business and programming strategy: bow down to Donald Trump. At the same time, the Murdoch family, who owns Fox — could change Fox at a second's notice if they wanted to — detests Rupert Murdoch, cannot stand him. And that night, in their own sort of guerrilla action against Murdoch, when the call — when the call came from the election desk, which was that, you know, "We can call Arizona now. We're confident about that. However, you know, we can also wait on this" — so, this decision went to Rupert Murdoch. And Rupert Murdoch said — I noticed on your instructions that you advise against using obscenities here, so I'll let you phrase this if you want to. But anyway, Murdoch delivered an obscenity directed at Donald Trump and said, "Yes, make the call now." And it was a devastating call for Trump at that moment on election night.

AMY GOODMAN: He said, "Make the F—ing call."

MICHAEL WOLFF: That's what he said. No, no, he didn't say that. He said, "F— him." In other words, directed to Trump himself.

AMY GOODMAN: And what about Fox letting the White House know that they're going to make this call?

MICHAEL WOLFF: Yeah, and, I mean, that got some attention. And so, minutes before they made the call, Bill Hemmer, one of the Fox on-air people, called Jason Miller, who was one of the key campaign aides, and said, "Hey, this is what's going down. We're going to make this call. We can't do anything about it." And so, when this came out that I had reported this, then Fox immediately said, "That's totally untrue, completely untrue." You know, a lot of other publications immediately went to say, "OK, Michael Wolff is wrong." And then Jason Miller said, "Oh, yeah, that was true. Everybody, many people around, many people heard that."

AMY GOODMAN: Jason Miller, a surrogate for Donald Trump, who also —

MICHAEL WOLFF: Exactly.

AMY GOODMAN: — who appeared on Fox.

MICHAEL WOLFF: Yes, and who got the call. I mean, so the call went from Bill Hemmer to Jason Miller, who said then, "Yes, I got the call."

AMY GOODMAN: And so, you're a close observer of the right networks, of the right-wing networks, like Fox, OANN, Newsmax, maybe not as close as Trump himself, who you say spent hours every day — I mean, just hours — watching these networks.

MICHAEL WOLFF: Well, I am — just, I am pretty close. In addition to writing books about Trump, I'm Rupert Murdoch's biographer. So, yes, I'm pretty familiar.

AMY GOODMAN: And so, what about the role of Fox now, and particularly the role of Sean Hannity?

MICHAEL WOLFF: Well, you know, Hannity is in — you know, let's — I'm trying to find the word. What would be the word? Cahoots, I suppose, with Donald Trump. As a matter of fact, there's one point in *Landslide* where I — during the campaign, and which I outline, in which Sean Hannity calls the president and says, "You know, your campaign is terrible. You know, you really need some help here." And he says, "And I've written an ad for you." And then the president calls up the campaign and says, "Sean says the campaign is terrible." You know, this goes on. And then the campaign, in trying to keep Hannity from calling the president and then having the president call the campaign, the campaign then produces the ad. They literally make Hannity's ad. And then they only run the ad on Hannity's show. So, in some weird thing going on on here, Hannity gets the campaign to essentially give the Fox network a couple of million dollars to run this ad, only on his show.

AMY GOODMAN: Which, of course, is always helpful, because there are all these boycotts against advertisers on his show.

MICHAEL WOLFF: So, again, you know, yes. I mean, this is a consuming relationship. You know, Hannity works for Donald Trump, or Donald Trump works for Sean Hannity. You can barely separate this. But I would say that Hannity is certainly, and has been for four years, one of Trump's closest outside advisers.

AMY GOODMAN: Finally, I want to ask you about the man who did not desert President Trump, and he is Rudy Giuliani. He now has had his law license suspended by the state of New York, by Washington, D.C. Talk about his pivotal role as you talk —

MICHAEL WOLFF: And also, for his trouble, Trump no longer speaks to him. As a matter of fact, Rudy Giuliani cannot get a call through to the former president at this point. So, you know, it's one of the — you know, a constant Trump theme. You know, whoever — the closer you get to Donald Trump, the more you'll get burned by Donald Trump. But — which is not at all to excuse Rudy Giuliani, who has been a persistent part of the Trump toxicity and the Trump insanity, really. And, I mean, one of the things which I constantly point out in the book, because it certainly is — could not be more germane, is that Rudy is drunk all the time.

So, you know, stepping back from this, we see the Trump administration as, in part, terrifying and as, in part, engaged in all of this destructive behavior, but on another level, it's also absurd. It's the gang that couldn't shoot straight. I mean, none of these people can do anything. I mean, they're either drunk or they're incompetent. And as we told the story, as this story unfolded about Donald Trump's effort to undermine the election, what was seldom said, certainly by the established media, is that he had no ability to do this. He had no — he couldn't work the levers of government. Everybody had deserted him. This was just weeks and weeks and weeks of utter ridiculousness. It was — as I said a couple of times, it isn't really the big lie; it's the big lunacy. And Donald Trump is the lunatic-in-chief.

AMY GOODMAN: I want to thank you so much for being with us, Michael Wolff, author of the new book, *Landslide: The Final Days of the Trump White House*, which completes his best-selling trilogy on the Trump presidency.

Next up, we look at the catastrophic impact of the climate crisis around the world with leading climate scientist Michael Mann. Stay with us.

2021-07-16 Floods, Fires & Heat Waves: Michael Mann on “The New Climate War” & the Fight to Take Back the Planet

https://www.democracynow.org/2021/7/16/michael_mann_the_new_climate_war

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distinguished professor and director of the Earth System Science Center at Penn State University.

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- ["The New Climate War: The Fight to Take Back Our Planet"](#)

We speak with leading climate scientist Michael Mann about the catastrophic impact of the climate crisis around the world. He says he and other scientists predicted the extreme weather events now wreaking havoc. “We said that if we don’t stop burning fossil fuels and elevating the levels of carbon pollution in the atmosphere and we continue to warm up the planet, we will see unprecedented heat waves and wildfires and floods and droughts and superstorms,” says Mann. His new book is titled “The New Climate War: The Fight to Take Back Our Planet.”

Transcript

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

We look now at the catastrophic impact of the climate crisis around the world. This week, the heaviest rainfall — this week, the heaviest rainfall many European countries have seen in at least a century caused rivers to burst their banks, devastating the region. At least 110 people have died in massive floods in western Germany and Belgium. Most of the fatalities are in Germany, where some 1,300 people have also been reported missing. Floods were reported in Luxembourg and the Netherlands, where thousands were told to evacuate Thursday. Germany’s Vice Chancellor Olaf Scholz blamed the deadly floods on man-made climate change.

VICE CHANCELLOR OLAF SCHOLZ: [translated] This is a natural disaster, but the fact that this natural disaster is taking place in this way is certainly connected to the fact that climate change is progressing at a speed that we have observed for a while. That must be another incentive and also an obligation, for all those who have become victims here, for us to do everything we can to stop man-made climate change and prevent such disasters in this scale.

AMY GOODMAN: This comes as new [research](#) published in the journal *Nature* shows portions of the Amazon rainforest in South America now emit more carbon dioxide than they absorb, with deforestation, fires and warming temperatures as the main factors. New data from the Brazilian government shows deforestation of the Amazon rainforest rose for a fourth straight month in June. Greenpeace campaigner Rômulo Batista said it's part of a disturbing trend under the far-right President Jair Bolsonaro.

RÔMULO BATISTA: [translated] Unfortunately, the month of June brought more bad news for the rainforest. After a century of fires, there was a record level of deforestation. There was over 1,062 square kilometers of destruction across the entire forest. This continues to happen because of the government's environmental policy and also because it's encouraged by the National Congress.

AMY GOODMAN: Meanwhile, another punishing heat wave is set to bring triple-digit temperatures to at least 17 million people in the United States and Canada this weekend, as a record wildfire season, fueled by the climate crisis, shows no sign of letting up. Over 1 million acres of the western U.S. and Canada are now in flames.

For more, we're joined by Michael Mann, distinguished professor and director of the Earth System Science Center, Penn State University. His new book is called *The New Climate War: The Fight to Take Back Our Planet*.

Welcome to *Democracy Now!* It's great to have you with us. Professor Mann, start off by talking about this catastrophe, from the Northwest to the flash floods in Europe.

MICHAEL MANN: Yeah. Thanks, Amy. It's good to be with you.

It's unfortunate what we're witnessing play out. This is what we climate scientists predicted decades ago. We said that if we don't stop burning fossil fuels and elevating the levels carbon pollution in the atmosphere and we continue to warm up the planet, we will see unprecedented heat waves and wildfires and floods and droughts and superstorms. And guess what. That's what we're seeing. And it's playing out in a profound way right now.

I was, you know, really — I was impressed by the way it came up in this press conference, this joint press conference between Joe Biden and Angela Merkel yesterday, where she was talking about these unprecedented floods that are impacting Germany. And, of course, Joe Biden is the president of a country that is witnessing unprecedented heat extremes and extreme weather events, as well. And so, the fact that both of these countries right now are witnessing the devastating impacts of climate change really drove home the point that she made, that we have to act now. Dangerous climate change is here. Catastrophic climate change is here. And at this point, it's a matter of how bad we're willing to let it get.

AMY GOODMAN: So, talk about the climate emergency and the absolute proof that you have. I mean, you were just part of a group of scientists who said there is absolutely no question here, when we look at these fires in Northwest, what's behind them.

MICHAEL MANN: Yeah. You know, there are sophisticated experiments that climate scientists do now, where — we call them attribution. And we can look at an event like that heat dome out West, and we can run climate models, theoretical climate models, and we can do two different experiments. In one experiment, we pretend the Industrial Revolution didn't happen, and we keep those CO2 levels, those carbon dioxide levels, at preindustrial levels. In the other simulation, we

account for the increase in greenhouse gases from fossil fuel burning from human activity. And we see how often those sorts of events happen in both cases — in this counterfactual case, where we didn't warm the planet, and in the real world, where we did. And we can estimate how likely that event was before we warmed up the planet and how likely it is now.

And what those estimates suggest, it was a 50,000-year event. You wouldn't expect to see an event like this once in 50,000 years in the absence of the warming of the planet. Here's the kicker. What they found is that you wouldn't expect to see this event even once in a thousand years, given what the models say the impact of climate change has been. And we and other scientists have argued that's because the models actually aren't capturing some of the processes, like the way these weather systems become stalled as the jet stream slows down as a result of the warming of the planet. The models don't take that into account, so they're still underestimating the impact that we are having on these extreme weather events.

AMY GOODMAN: In other horrific climate news, Michael, new research shows portions of the Amazon rainforest are now emitting more carbon dioxide than they absorb. Can you explain the significance of this and how this not only threatens the rainforest, but the planet?

MICHAEL MANN: Yeah, I can't overstate the significance of this. Look, we've relied upon the fact that there are these natural sinks in the climate system. The oceans take up some of the carbon dioxide. What we call the terrestrial biosphere, the rainforests of the world, in particular, take up some of that carbon dioxide. And because of that, those carbon pollution levels haven't been rising as fast as they should have, given how much carbon pollution we're putting into the atmosphere. About half of that carbon pollution was being taken up by these natural carbon sinks. Though the fact that some of these sinks are now turning into sources — not only aren't they absorbing CO₂, taking it out of the atmosphere, they're actually adding CO₂ to the atmosphere — is a real worry. And it reminds us that there are some surprises in store, and they're not pleasant surprises. This is one of them. And it suggests that we may see even higher levels of carbon pollution than most of the models have predicted. That's a problem.

AMY GOODMAN: Michael Mann, can you talk about the infrastructure bill and why we're talking about, really, the future of the planet here?

MICHAEL MANN: Yeah. I mean, there are number of things here. First of all, when it comes to infrastructure, we've got to face the fact that we are dealing with a climate crisis now — out in the West, the devastating heat and the wildfires; back East, the flooding events we've seen. And that means we need to fund — we need to provide funding for massive increases in our resilience to deal with the impacts of climate change that are already here and that we can't prevent. But the other side of that is, sure, we have to adapt to the changes that are now inevitable, but we have to prevent the changes that are still preventable. And that means we've got to invest massively in renewable energy. We've got to use all the mechanisms available to us to disincentivize fossil fuels.

And what I like about this, at least the current draft of the \$3.5 billion reconciliation package, is that there is an allowance for what's known as a clean air standard — or, a clean energy standard, rather, which would require that utilities, by 2030, provide as much as 80% of their energy, their power generation, from renewable sources. I would love to see a price on carbon. I would love to see a cap-and-trade system. But this clean energy standard will make a real difference. And we have to make sure that that package is passed and that that item stays in the bill, because this is the greatest threat we face. Look, the coronavirus threat is this — you know, currently has taken

up much of our resources, much of our attention, but that crisis, within a year or two, it will be behind us, and the climate crisis will still loom large. That's the greatest crisis we face, and we have to deal with it now.

AMY GOODMAN: Can you talk about the connection between the two?

MICHAEL MANN: Sure thing. There are so many lessons that we can learn from COVID-19, from the coronavirus — the importance of listening to science, of listening to scientists. Science denial is deadly. And that was, unfortunately, seen in the hundreds of thousands of deaths that could have been prevented if we had had a president who was willing to do what public health officials were telling him needed to be done. Here's the thing: Climate change is far more deadly and will cost far more lives if we fail to deal with it. And so, there are other lessons about, you know, the fragility of our existence on this planet and the importance of finding a way to live sustainably on this planet —

AMY GOODMAN: And humans encroaching on the animal world and that kind of interaction.

MICHAEL MANN: Absolutely. You know, our impact on the natural world has led — you know, fossil fuel burning, deforestation has this causal connection with the climate crisis, but we're also destroying critical ecosystems that are forcing these exotic species out of their normal range, where they come into contact with human beings, and you get these pandemics. And so, so many of the problems we face today stem from the unsustainable way that we are acting right now when it comes to this planet.

AMY GOODMAN: Which brings me to this Greenpeace exposé, you know, Greenpeace recently tricking a lobbyist, a top lobbyist at ExxonMobil, into sharing secrets about the oil company's efforts to fight climate initiatives in Washington. The lobbyist, Keith McCoy, spoke candidly about his work, thinking he was speaking to a corporate headhunter. This is part of what he said.

KEITH MCCOY: Did we aggressively fight against some of the science? Yes. Did we hide our science? Absolutely not. Did we join some of these shadow groups to work against some of the early efforts? Yes, that's true. But there's nothing — there's nothing illegal about that. We were looking out for our investments. We were looking out for our shareholders.

AMY GOODMAN: That's Exxon lobbyist Keith McCoy, who went on to tell Greenpeace that Exxon's support for a carbon tax is a public relations ploy, because such a tax will never be implemented. He also identified 11 U.S. senators seen as crucial to Exxon's lobbying efforts, including the key Democrat, West Virginia Senator Joe Manchin.

KEITH MCCOY: Joe Manchin, I talk to his office every week, and he is the kingmaker on this, because he's a Democrat from West Virginia, which is a very conservative state. And he's not shy about sort of staking his claim early and completely changing the debate.

AMY GOODMAN: So, this is so key, Michael Mann. Some people might think Joe Biden is in charge. Others might think it's the other Joe, it's Joe Manchin. But the idea of what ExxonMobil is suggesting, having him in their pocket, and what he's defending, talk about the significance of this.

fuel industry has been spending to pollute the public discourse on climate change. So, what we got was a glimpse of what we knew was going on. It was an admission on the part of an ExxonMobil lobbyist of what we have known has been going on for decades, that rather than heeding what their own scientists had said — back in the early 1980s, there was an internal ExxonMobil report that called the potential impacts of climate change catastrophic, but ExxonMobil buried that report. They fired that research division, and instead spent hundreds of millions of dollars in a massive disinformation campaign to discredit the very sort of science that their own scientists had produced.

And so, you know, it really does drive home the fact that there are bad actors involved. In *The New Climate War*, I talk about the tactics of these bad actors. And as climate change denial becomes impossible because of the impacts that we're now seeing play out in real time — you can't deny climate change is happening, so, instead, they're resorting to all others sorts of tactics in their effort to slow this necessary transition away from fossil fuels. And, you know, getting a few Democratic senators to do their bidding for them has proven to be a very effective strategy of blocking action, because that's all they care about. They don't care about why we don't act on the climate crisis; they just want to make sure that we don't act on the climate crisis. And we have to make sure that they're not successful and that we hold our policymakers accountable.

AMY GOODMAN: Professor Mann, what do you think is the most important thing to take away from your book? What is your critical message here?

MICHAEL MANN: There is still time. Don't let the doomers convince you it's too late to do anything about climate change. That leads us down the same path of inaction as outright denial. And the inactivists, the forces of inaction, would love nothing more than for environmental progressives to remain on the sidelines because they're convinced it's too late to do anything. It isn't too late, but we have to act, and we have to act now.

AMY GOODMAN: Michael Mann, distinguished professor and director of the Earth System Science Center, Penn State University. His new book, *The New Climate War: The Fight to Take Back Our Planet*.

2021-07-16 Climate Profiteering: \$13.5B Trust for California Fire Victims Funnel Funds to Lawyers & Consultants

https://www.democracynow.org/2021/7/16/pg_e_fire_victim_fund_profiteering

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co-host and a correspondent for KQED's *The California Report*.

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- ["A Year After PG&E Left Bankruptcy, Spending by Fire Victim Trust Remains a Mystery"](#)

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We look at the corporate profiteering off people who lost their homes and loved ones to recent fires in California, where wildfires continue to rage amid record temperatures. A major investigation by KQED and NPR's California Newsroom found a special trust set up to distribute \$13.5 billion to survivors of wildfires caused by PG&E — the state's largest utility company — instead spent lavishly on its own administration while distributing almost nothing to the 70,000 fire victims, many of whom still live in trailers. Those who profited while the fire victims waited for help included Wall Street bankers and prestigious law firms. The investigation has prompted a bipartisan call from state lawmakers for the state attorney general to investigate. "A lot of fire survivors are looking at this situation and wondering: Why is this taking so long?" says Lily Jamali, a co-host for KQED's *The California Report* and the reporter behind the exposé. "They're getting really impatient, and they're very unhappy with the way this process has been run so far."

Transcript

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

AMY GOODMAN: This is *Democracy Now!* I'm Amy Goodman.

As wildfires rage in California, we look now at the corporate profiteering off of those who lost their homes and loved ones to recent fires. A major [investigation](#) by the NPR and PBS station KQED in San Francisco found a special trust set up to distribute \$13.5 billion to survivors of wildfires caused by PG&E, California's largest utility company, instead spent lavishly on its own administration, while distributing almost nothing to the 70,000 fire victims. This includes victims of the 2018 Camp Fire in Paradise, many of whom continue to live in trailers. Those who profited while the fire victims waited for help include Wall Street bankers and prestigious law firms. KQED

revealed the Fire Victim Trust is led by retired California Appeals Court Justice John Trotter, who billed \$1,500 an hour for his work. The findings have prompted a bipartisan call from state lawmakers for the California attorney general to investigate.

For more, we go to Berkeley, California, to speak with the reporter behind this exposé. Lily Jamali is co-host and a correspondent for KQED's *The California Report*. Her latest [piece](#) is headlined "A Year After PG&E Left Bankruptcy, Spending by Fire Victim Trust Remains a Mystery."

Welcome to *Democracy Now!*, Lily. Congratulations —

LILY JAMALI: It's so good to be on with you, Amy. Thank you.

AMY GOODMAN: And congratulations on this excellent report. Why don't you lay it out for us? And for a global audience, explain what PG&E is and its role in these fires, and then go on from there.

LILY JAMALI: Sure. Well, this was a joint investigation that was done with us at KQED and with NPR's California newsroom. And as you mentioned, PG&E is the largest utility in California. It's actually the largest utility in the country, as well. And in the last half-decade, this utility has been responsible for causing several catastrophic wildfires. The worst took place in 2017 and 2018, but there are people who were affected by these fires all the way back to 2015. And so, after that last fire which you mentioned, the Camp Fire, which destroyed much of the town of Paradise — people might remember that. It killed at least 85 people, destroyed thousands of homes and left tens of thousands of people homeless. After that fire, PG&E chose to go into Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection. And by doing that, they took all of these claims that people had against them, having lost their homes, having lost their businesses, and, in the worst cases, having lost their loved ones, they all got thrown into the bankruptcy process. And so, that's sort of where the story that we have been reporting really begins.

About a year into the bankruptcy, PG&E struck a deal with fire survivors, 70,000 of them, through their lawyers, that basically called for them to have a special trust set up to distribute what was then marketed to them as being worth \$13.5 billion, half of it in cash and half of it in PG&E stock, which, as you might imagine, is very unsettling for a lot of fire survivors, this idea of being asked to accept stock in the company that harmed them. But as we sit here today, through this trust, fire survivors do own 500 million shares of PG&E. And so, that is part of the reason why it has taken quite a bit of time to get this money into the hands of victims.

But our investigation also looked at the claims processing expenses that this trust, led by former appeals court Justice John Trotter — how much they have taken in in overhead. He is charging \$150,000 a month. The top claims administrator charges \$1,250 an hour. There's a whole coterie of bankruptcy attorneys and financial advisers, many of whom are making well over \$1,000 an hour. And so, you really have this giant entity that is taking in a lot of money. We showed that they took in \$50 million in overhead in their first year of operations, while distributing just \$7 million in the calendar year 2020 to these fire survivors.

The pace of those payments to fire survivors has picked up. At this point, they have distributed north of about \$400 million. But their expenses have also risen to the range of about \$80 to \$90 million. And I think a lot of fire survivors are looking at the situation and wondering, "Why is this taking so long? If you are spending this kind of money on overhead, what are they getting in return?" And they're getting really impatient, and they're very unhappy with the way this process has been run so far.

AMY GOODMAN: What is the status of the bipartisan calls for the California attorney general to investigate this?

LILY JAMALI: Yeah. So, after our investigation — as you say, this was a bipartisan group of about a dozen state lawmakers here in California. Most of them — in fact, I think all of them — represent communities who have been affected by these catastrophic fires. And they went to Attorney General Rob Bonta and said, you know, “Look at this. Please take a look and review the claims processing, the way it works, and the amount of money that’s being spent on overhead. Please vet this.” We have reached out to the Attorney General’s Office a number of times to see if they are planning to pick that up and run with it. At this point, we don’t know. They’ve told us that they can’t comment even on a pending investigation or can’t comment on even if they’re thinking about opening up an investigation. But certainly, you know, our work, thankfully, was able to get this in front of some influential lawmakers, including members of Congress who expressed outrage after we released our findings. And, you know, we’ll see. We’ll see what comes next.

AMY GOODMAN: What about Paradise and the areas right around it being threatened again? I mean, we’re talking in the midst of more horrendous fires through California, Oregon, Washington state. And what kind of preparations are being made? You’ve also got PG&E last August instituting rolling blackouts that put 800,000 Californians into the dark. How can Governor Newsom — how he’s dealing with what’s happening right now?

LILY JAMALI: Yeah, I mean, I was so struck hearing your conversation earlier with Michael Mann, because you guys were talking about a climate emergency being here, and that is exactly what it feels like to live in California right now. The rolling blackouts of last year was actually instituted by the Independent System Operator here in California because they ran out of power. They didn’t have enough reserve in their system, so they ended up instituting these rolling blackouts over two days in August. But there is another kind of blackout that is called by the utilities, including PG&E, because their lines have caused so many fires. That’s one way that they now try to prevent their aging and poorly maintained equipment from sparking future fires. Generally, those kinds of — those outages come a little bit later in the fire season, when we see — for example, next month, we’ll see more wind events, and that’s when the situation becomes really dire.

But there’s no doubt about it: We are in a climate emergency here. And one of the fires that we have been tracking, among several, is the Dixie Fire, which just broke out this week, very close to the burn scar of the Camp Fire. In fact, it started very close to the ignition point of the Camp Fire. And I’ve been getting texts and emails —

AMY GOODMAN: We have 10 seconds.

LILY JAMALI: — from people in Paradise who are very concerned. And they’re seeing this smoke in the air, and they’re worried. They’re worried about what to do and how to make sure they’re safe.

AMY GOODMAN: Well, Lily Jamali, we want to thank you so much for your superb reporting, co-host and correspondent for KQED’s *The California Report*. We’ll link to her [investigation](#), “A Year After PG&E Left Bankruptcy, Spending by Fire Victim Trust Remains a Mystery.”

And that does it for our show. I’m Amy Goodman. Stay safe.