

"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

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, as well as links to the audio recordings** of the conference calls

II TO ACCESS OTHER CALLS SUPPORTED BY 2013 Rainbow Roundtable

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/ashtartelesconferences.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 / Cimi Drum; Prayer to the 7 Galactic 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.

Next Week's Mayan Record of Days / Calendar in the year of the Magnetic Wizard

12th Fri – 10 LAMAT – Yellow Planetary Stargate – visionary aspect. Also A PORTAL DAY – an extra boost of inter-dimensionality! Work is the illumination of human kind and opening the stargate. Gift is pioneering spirit. Let go of self doubt

13th Sat - 11 MULUC -Red Spectral Moon – Artist aspect. Wise use of rational mind. Remember what we came here to do; letting go of that which no longer serves; making room for what we have to do

14th Sun – 12 OC – White Crystal Dog – Artist aspect. Unconditional love; complex stability is 12. Unity of polarity is happening. Contact with spirit guide; lots of awareness of our destiny. Let go of fear, unwise use of anger

15th Mon – 13 CHUEN – Blue Cosmic Monkey – Artist – working with our artistry – gift of innocence spontaneity, laugh and play, have a good time.

16th Tues – 1 EB – Yellow Magnetic Human – a new wave. Guidance for this wave: time to be in right relationship with all beings. This is a healing energy
Some qualities: Abundance, harvest, gratitude, open vessel, electro-magnetic energy
The grail, the golden fleece, the philosopher's stone; the paradox of emptiness and harvest

The discussion of EB being read by Rainbird is worth listening to . . .

17th Wed – 2 BEN – Red Lunar Skywalker
Moon energy: working with

St Patricks Day – a portal day

18th Thur – 3 IX – White Electric Wizard – visionary aspect - electric tone of activation
illumination for others: embrace the gifts of being a shaman - wizard/jaguar

19th Fri – 4 MEN – Blue self-existing Eagle - a visionary aspect – about our commitment to service – 4 structure – independence and belief in self; let go of any illusion of separateness

www.Spacestationplaza.co Click on the tzolkein – it's on page 2 of the link.
For even more information, SEE ALSO **the Law of Time.org**

This is not a 3rd dimensional calendar -

C. Housekeeping: Rainbird

- 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: • Listener-supported radio programs; program archives can be accessed
• The radio program costs \$300 per week. **Need \$350 for this week.**
Thank you, thank you, thank you - need to catch up again . . .

- Go to BBSradio.com/Station2; find the listing for **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

1500 Pleasant Hill RD
Lafayette, CA 94549

[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 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 of www.rainbowroundtable.net**

FOOD MONEY: VIA PAYPAL OR See the PAGE ON Rainbowroundtable
a 2nd bobcat kitten has shown up – they all come to eat!
Rama has a pride of Paschats (8) including the rabbit ! ! !

BASICS: food: for paschats, car and T & R - Usual stuff + \$ for bills **\$ 300 FOR BASICS + \$400 for bills that are late, another \$400 for current bills \$180 to fix the REAR BRAKES \$180 for Rama to go to see the doctor about his arm**

- **Please notify T & R if you're 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!**

- **Donations to the Fresh Produce Fund for Tara & Rama - now on the www.rainbowroundtable.net**

**** [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: INFORMATION SOURCES RELATIVE TO M.T. KESHE AND KESHE FOUNDATION

Contact Rainbird with questions: lightenergync@gmail.com

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aLaVutWXju0> (CHECK THIS OUT)

**** Go to Knowledge Workers workshop #344 on You Tube:** see Keshe's personal tour of his exhibition in Austria - **The first expo in Europe since the pandemic -**

One Cup One Life – Production and Application; Prevention and Reversal of the Corona Virus

https://en.kfwiki.org/wiki/One_Cup_One_Life_-_Production_and_Application_-_Prevention_and_Reversal_of_the_Corona_Virus

KF Wiki

<https://www.kfwiki.org>

The free Plasma Cyclopdia of the Keshe Foundation

Keshe Foundation Store

<https://store.keshfoundation.org/store/?alias=store>

Keshe Corona site

www.plasmainnature.com/health/coronavirus-1-cup-1-life-series-protocols-and-other-info/

E. ACCESS TO PODCAST:

<https://bbsradio.com/podcast/hard-news-friday-march-12-2021>

Rama, Tara: [R, T]

Greetings – and thanks to all – They are grateful to be here and be alive at this moment!

T: reviews the financial situation: 4 people are not able to contribute due to what is going on - asking for anyone who can help to do so – much needed, and very much appreciated!

The American Rescue Plan begins direct deposits this weekend

From Dalai Lama @DalaiLama [16h](#)

When I meet people, I just think of myself as another human being, I don't think about being a Buddhist, a Tibetan or the Dalai Lama, just a human being — I find it's easier to make friends that way. And I find that a smile is a true expression of friendship.

T: the pressure is definitely on: breathe, smile, belief in the magic; praise, respect, thank, and love

- Yesterday was a landmark in energetic terms
 - the litany of trouble Drumpf is in is hair-raising!
 - The KOS was the one who gave the message to R
 - the lawsuits – real estate, unpaid taxes; rape, murder, assault charges; insurrection and treason –

R: for starters!! ! !

T: he's used all the rope that was available to him! ! !

R: Today a call at 11:00 am from Sweet Angelique the Cat who said

- there are many good things going on now
- the era of the Reagan trickle down economics is over - a huge change coming about and it is about the reformation act –
 - meetings behind the scenes to do with his huge transformational change and gov't governments which need to be held accountable
- as we approach the spring equinox, there is a stellium of planets
 - sun, moon, Venus and Neptune in sign of Pisces
 - Will be this way for the March 13 new moon
- bring on the divine feminine!

T: Pisces is the sing of humanitarian vision

- a water sign and can also bring a sense of over whelm of the changes and 2012 is a 5 year, a whole year of changes -
- the amount of change to make this final move is phenomenal!

T: Obama, Bernie, others got their jab

- We can live with this, knowing that the galactics will be mitigating this – the intention of the dark side is to turn everyone into quiet, docile droids – and do what someone else wants – this will not happen.
- The galactics are stepping in as all this is beyond the pale

CONFERENCE CALL

PLEASE LISTEN TO THE RECORDING OF THE CALL

<https://fccdl.in/XRgtIicVI9>

B B S RADIO

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

VLOG 209 - A TREMENDOUS SHIFT IS NOW OCCURRING

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



AUDIO: The Ascended Masters Broadcasts

Papa Asun – March 12th 2021: [Listen/download](#)

<https://instantteleseminar.com/Events/125766741>

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 watching a sci fi movie; it is about awakening to the reality [in which] the matrix is gone, fading away fast.

- And at the same moment we are dealing with the issues at hand: chop wood, carry water, before and after enlightenment; it's part of what we asked to do to be here.
- It is part of the cosmic dance we are experiencing with ourselves. At this moment like Patti just said - we are in an uncharted moment; so many across the planet have awakened. It is about the Love that is pouring forth from the sun: we are all sons and daughters of the Most High, and the energies pouring in at this time are shifting this physical reality as we know it. It is quite a ride!
- What She can say about the present state of affairs is – as we approach this spring equinox - this stellium of planets that has moved into Pisces - the new moon, raising it up – moving things forward and, right now, the issues at hand are about how we can change

ourselves as well as this world. We asked to show up at this time, knowing full well how deep it was gonna get – we're there!~ It's very deep.

- And at the same moment, we have the power to change this with Love. Like Patti is speaking about – the energies at this time are so high! It's a moment where She can step into this realm as She has, and many others who are - so many folks here from across this local galaxy. If we were to see this: it is awe-inspiring, to use those words!
- As we take a moment and go out and look at the evening sky, and just look at how many lights that are pouring forth into this realm and, as another point of view, on another planet, this planet looks like one of those lights from another vantage point.
 - It is so awesome to behold – what is coming forth now! And She can say: even though the issues about this falling-away matrix continues - stay in the Office of the Christ and the Violet Flame – it helps all of us, ourselves, get through this next moment.
- As we do the sadna and meditation, working with the body to better things, it changes everything else in our realm and She would say, don't get caught up in the drama – easier said than done. And yet that is what we asked to do: to show up here and change things.
 - It is already shifting faster than She knows how to talk about it.
- She knows T has a lot to play here; She'd better be on her way.

T: What's the main point?

M/A: The main point at this moment is rest assured that justice is being served; as we are seeing more and more things coming to the light of day about the accountability, it brings the energies of this reformation Act ever so much closer!

- What She can say is that we are on this moment – where, like She has been saying for many moons now, we have already won. Yet the next step is - as this unified field gets more, let's say - how we become an entire ship in the context of this quantum field that is what we are all part of.
 - As this Ascended Master, as he calls himself: Papa Asun, is saying, we have the power to change this with our thoughts now!
- Stay in the Violet Flame, in the Office of the Christ – it helps everything that is going on. Even in the most unlikely of places, the energies are moving that much faster!
- It's a challenge to be on this planet at this time; we said this would not be easy yet we made a conscious choice to be here. Not just this temple that is speaking: there are so many of us who are here.
 - Thank you for being here and being of service to the whole. THAT is how we change things at this time. We are in service to the whole of this planet, and the other 26 galaxies surrounding this one!

T: Lots of people were asking – Barack Obama, Michelle Obama, Dali Lama and Bernie Sanders got the jab . . .

M/A: Well, it is part of the falling away of what has to happen in the context of there is an intelligence at work here. That intelligence is very ancient - has been around as long as They've been seeding sun systems and galaxies and, right now, that Cosmic Intelligence is letting us know that this is just a moment in time where, for the moment, there is something that's gotta get corrected . . .

- It's about energy out of its space/time continuum which – if we want to give it a word – it is evil: evil is being contained and removed from this realm 'cos we have moved into higher octave of consciousness, and She could say the Supreme Intelligence which is consciousness in and of itself - the Force, She calls it – this is a moment where we, as a quantum field, take our power back.

- Yes, She knows all these folks got the jab, yet it is about the energies that are pouring in that - there is, let's say, the technology that they are playing with, with the old holodeck matrix, holds no power to the Light and the Love pouring in - it overcomes that darkness and transmutes it back into Living Love, Living Light - it's simply how She can put it. Hope that helps!

Both: Greetings in the Light of the Most Radiant One. Kadoish, kadoish, kadoish adonai saboet

M/A: Remember, we created this story in the beginning; now it has come all the way around, the completion of a cycle

T: thinks the change is right upon us . . .

M/A: that old song: gonna be a change a coming' - take me down to the water; put me in the river: we're all gonna go for a ride here! It's about the Light, the Love pouring in; it is the river of energy that is pouring in from Great Central Sun -

- Let's say it like it is: that Light is transmuting all the other issues. That's why the scientists are freaking out about the Sun, Another time for another story about the Sun!

Both: Greetings in the light of the most radiant one - Kadoish, Kadoish, Kadoish. Sabeoth Adonai Sabeoth . .

Rama Returns: Found himself on Mt Kialosh, just experiencing the energies of Lord Shiva at this time - MahaShivaMatri - pass the talking stick!

AUDIO: DEMOCRACY NOW

Friday, March 12, 2021

2021-03 -12 Headlines

SEE BELOW FOR ALL ARTICLES

<https://www.democracynow.org/2021/3/12/headlines/>

2021-03-12 The End of Trickle-Down Economics? Joe Stiglitz on the "Transformational" \$1.9T American Rescue Plan

https://www.democracynow.org/2021/3/12/covid_relief_bill_joseph_stiglitz

2021-03-12 Share the Vaccines, Erase the Debt: Joseph Stiglitz on How the U.S. Can Help Developing Countries

https://www.democracynow.org/2021/3/12/vaccine_equity_pandemic_recovery_developing_countries

2021 - 03-12 "Hell on Earth": Yemeni Children Starve to Death as U.S.-Backed Saudi Blockade Devastates Nation

https://www.democracynow.org/2021/3/12/yemen_famine_child_hunger_nima_elbagir

2021-03-12 Meghan Markle Racism Revelations Are "Shocking, But Not Surprising" to People of Color in U.K.

https://www.democracynow.org/2021/3/12/british_royal_family_racism_oprah_interview

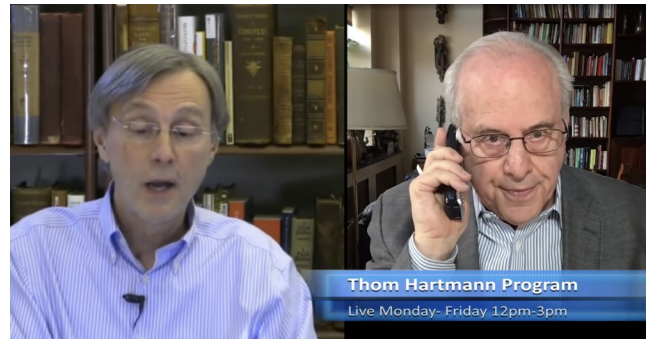
Audio: THE THOM HARTMANN SHOW – Professor Richard Wolff - on the food business

2021-03-12 Thom Hartmann: Rising Food Prices Could Bring World War

<https://youtu.be/nl5EQ-bPxhE> from the Thom Hartmann show

Food lines, growing prices, and widening inequality are all leading to global unrest. Economist Richard Wolff warns that it will only get worse.

What is the relationship between rising food prices and social unrest? Prices have increased by 2.4% in just February. What does this mean for the economy? What does that mean for the world's hungry?



Professor Richard Wolff joined The Thom Hartmann Program to discuss how healthy the economy is for food and whether there is trouble on the way.

Audio: Keiser Report

Capturing stranded energy (E1669)

2021-03-12

VIDEO: <https://www.rt.com/shows/keiser-report/517785-aker-bitcoin-stranded-energy/>

PODCAST: <https://soundcloud.com/rttv/keiser-report-capturing-stranded-energy>

Max and Stacy look at a statement from Aker, a 180-year-old energy engineering company in Norway that is turning to bitcoin, viewing it as a means to capture otherwise stranded energy. Max interviews Jonathan Chester of Bitwage.com about the new reality of a post-pandemic world meeting his company's business model of not only allowing anyone to be paid their wages in bitcoin but facilitating remote worker salaries across borders.



AUDIO: REDACTED TONIGHT ~326~ The 4 Steps To Evolving Past Capitalism

Watch the full episode: <https://www.portable.tv/videos/capita...>

There's no question that we live in a dysfunctional society but the majority of the people in our ruling class will never admit that the root of those dysfunctions is our economic system. Lee Camp opens this show with a dive into how racism, consumerism, environmental destruction, and misogyny are built on the foundations of our capitalist system.



But the next thing to ask is, "How can we do things better?" To answer that question he looks to the social critic Peter Joseph.

Also in this episode: Lee Camp covers how the corporate media twist reporting to make enemies of the US the bad guy, and scientists recreating extinct species.

Natalie McGill reports on a downside of Girl Scout cookies and other products made with palm oil. It turns out that the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil, one of the leading groups behind making sure products contain ethically sourced palm oil, is actually corrupted by the palm oil industry.

Anders Lee finishes off the episode on the coup in Myanmar and the response of workers, Joe Biden's tepid statement on unions without mentioning Amazon or Alabama, and the PRO Act which -- if passed -- could reverse "Right to Work" laws.

CLOSING: Rainbird

Rama's Choices

Alan Watts – The Dream Of Life

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wU0PYcCsL6o>

Also, an unnamed vocal piece

INFORMATION RELATED TO THE NOTES

2021-03 -12 Headlines

<https://www.democracynow.org/2021/3/12/headlines/>

Biden Signs Coronavirus Relief Bill, Pledges to Make Vaccines Available to All U.S. Adults by May 1



President Joe Biden signed the \$1.9 trillion economic stimulus and coronavirus relief bill Thursday, one day ahead of schedule, following its final approval by Congress Wednesday. Some of the \$1,400 direct payments will arrive in bank accounts as early as this weekend. In a primetime address from the White House, Biden said the U.S. was set to “mark independence” from COVID-19 by the Fourth of July, thanks to a mass vaccination effort that’s reaching about 2.25 million U.S. residents a day.

President Joe Biden: “First, tonight, I’m announcing that I will direct all states, tribes and territories to make all adults, people 18 and over, eligible to be vaccinated no later than May 1.”

During his speech, Biden also condemned surging hate crimes against Asian Americans over the past year.

Biden and Democratic leaders are holding a ceremony at the White House Rose Garden today celebrating passage of the stimulus bill. Biden and Vice President Harris will begin a nationwide tour promoting the legislation next week.

Denmark, Norway and Iceland Halt AstraZeneca Vaccinations over Blood Clot Fears



The U.S. recorded 62,000 new coronavirus infections and over 1,500 deaths Thursday as governors continue to roll back public health measures.

In Europe, Denmark, Norway and Iceland have suspended use of AstraZeneca’s COVID-19 vaccine after reports of severe cases of blood clots — and one death — in vaccinated people. It’s not known if the vaccine caused the clots, and European Union regulators say the vaccine’s benefits continue to outweigh its risks.

Meanwhile, Reuters is reporting that Biden administration officials have denied requests to ship millions of stockpiled doses of AstraZeneca vaccine from Ohio and Maryland to countries desperate to use them — even though the vaccine is not approved for use in the United States.

World Food Programme Warns 34 Million Face Famine in Yemen, Ethiopia and Beyond



The U.N. says over 88 million people around the world were facing acute hunger by the end of 2020, and some 34 million are now on the brink of famine. This is The World Food Programme's David Beasley.

David Beasley: "WFP estimates that at least 34 million people are knocking on the door of famine. These looming famines have two things in common: They are primarily driven by conflict, and they are entirely preventable."

Beasley said Yemen is heading toward "the biggest famine in modern history" and many parts of the country feel like "hell on Earth" after years of food shortages and destruction brought on by the U.S.-backed, Saudi-led war. We'll have more on Yemen later in the show with CNN correspondent Nima Elbagir.

Humanitarian groups are also raising the alarm for millions in Ethiopia's Tigray region amid the ongoing conflict, which has prevented the delivery of food and other aid.

Biden to Meet Leaders of Japan, India and Australia in Anti-China "Quad Summit"



President Biden is meeting virtually today with the leaders of Japan, India and Australia for the first-ever Quad summit. Participating nations said ahead of the meeting they will be discussing trade, the climate crisis and vaccines, but the informal group is largely seen as a strategic bloc against China. Beijing has accused the Quad of perpetuating a Cold War mentality.

Austin Police Officer Christopher Taylor Indicted for Murder of Michael Ramos

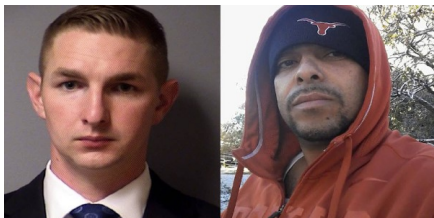


Image Credit: Austin Police Department (photo left)

In Texas, Austin police officer Christopher Taylor has been arrested on murder charges in connection to the killing of Michael Ramos, a 42-year-old Black Latinx man who was shot to death by police last April after a

911 caller falsely reported he had a gun. It's the first known case of an Austin police officer being charged with murder. Video of Ramos's final moments showed him holding his hands up and shouting that he was unarmed, when an officer shot him with a bean bag round. After Ramos retreated to his car and tried to drive away, officer Taylor opened fire with a rifle, hitting Ramos three times. He was pronounced dead later that evening.

Judge Reinstates Third-Degree Murder Charge Against Ex-Cop Derek Chauvin, Who Killed George Floyd



In Minnesota, a judge has reinstated third-degree murder charges against Derek Chauvin, the white former police officer who killed George Floyd by kneeling on his neck for more than nine minutes last May. Jurors will also have the option to convict Chauvin on second-degree murder or manslaughter charges. Of the six jurors selected in Chauvin's trial so far, three are white men, and one is Black. Civil rights attorney and activist Nekima Levy Armstrong said in response, "We need people who have a history of understanding ... the context of what's happening in this country, and how what happened to George Floyd is a perpetuation of the lynchings Black people experienced, time and time again." [Click here to see our full interview with Nekima Levy Armstrong.](#)

Meanwhile, Judge Peter Cahill has also said he won't allow "character evidence" of George Floyd during the trial, such as describing Floyd as a peaceful person or referring to him as a "gentle giant" — as he was known to friends and family.

Report Condemns LAPD's Mishandling of BLM Protests; Kentucky Tries to Make "Taunting" a Cop a Crime



In California, a new report is denouncing the Los Angeles Police Department's violent mishandling of racial justice protests last summer, sparked by the police killing of George Floyd. The report, commissioned by the City Council, cites LAPD's illegal detention of peaceful protesters and the officers' excessive use of force, including assaulting protesters with rubber bullets, bean bags and batons.

Meanwhile, Kentucky's state Senate passed a bill Thursday that would make it a crime to taunt a police officer. The legislation follows huge protests for Black lives in the wake of the police killing of Breonna Taylor, the 26-year-old African American EMT shot in her Louisville home. Saturday marks the first anniversary of her killing.

Ex-Pentagon Chief Blames Donald Trump for January 6 Insurrection



The Trump administration's former acting Pentagon chief is blaming Donald Trump's January 6 speech for inciting the mob that attacked Congress. Chris Miller made the remark in an interview with Vice on Showtime.

Chris Miller: "The question is: Would anybody have marched on the Capitol and overrun the Capitol without the president's speech? I think it's pretty much definitive that wouldn't have happened."

Rep. Pramila Jayapal Calls for Probe into Whether GOP Colleagues Aided Insurrectionists



Washington Democratic Congressmember Pramila Jayapal is calling for a congressional investigation into whether three Republicans — Congressmembers Lauren Boebert of Colorado, Mo Brooks of Alabama and Paul Gosar of Arizona — took "active roles" in promoting the deadly assault. Jayapal was one of about a dozen lawmakers trapped in the House gallery that afternoon as violent pro-Trump insurrectionists pounded at the doors. She tweeted Thursday, "I didn't know if I would make it out alive ... GOP members who aided insurrectionists or stoked the flames that day must be held fully accountable."

Prince William Defends Royal Family Amid Mounting Criticism over Its Racism



The British royal family is facing increasing criticism after Meghan Markle and Prince Harry's bombshell interview with Oprah Winfrey. The couple revealed shocking details about life as royals, including the racism suffered by Markle, who is biracial. On Thursday, Prince William was approached by reporters.

Sky News reporter: "Sir, have you spoken to your brother since the interview?"

Prince William: "No, I haven't spoken to him yet, but I will do."

Sky News reporter: "And can you just let me know: Is the royal family a racist family, sir?"

Prince William: "No, we're very much not a racist family."

NY Assembly Opens Impeachment Investigations into Gov. Cuomo



The New York Assembly has opened an impeachment inquiry into sexual misconduct allegations against Governor Andrew Cuomo, as well as his cover-up of COVID-19 deaths at nursing homes. It could lead to New York's first impeachment effort in over a century. Meanwhile, the sixth and most recent public accusation against Cuomo — that he groped an aide last year at the Executive Mansion — has been reported to the Albany Police Department for possible criminal prosecution.

Protesters Blast Plans to Reduce Services for Majority-Black Patients at Brooklyn Hospital



In Brooklyn, New York, community members joined healthcare workers outside of Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center Thursday, demanding a reversal to Governor Cuomo's plans to close inpatient services at the hospital. Some 80% of Kingsbrook patients are Black, and community leaders warn its closure would exacerbate unequal health outcomes and disease burden in a neighborhood that's already one of the hardest hit by the pandemic. This is community organizer and city council candidate Anthony Beckford.

Anthony Beckford: "The more that they take away our housing, the more that they take away our food sources — and now they're taking away our healthcare — this shows you that there's a war on the community that must be addressed. It can no longer be ignored, because, at the end of the day, at a blink of an eye, this will all be gone. But we must make sure we fight, so that way it stays. But we must also hold their feet to the fire, because while they're getting richer, they're siphoning the money and the resources out of our communities as we struggle more and more. This is a working-class community that has gone through so much suffering over the years, and it must stop."

2021-03-12 The End of Trickle-Down Economics? Joe Stiglitz on the "Transformational" \$1.9T American Rescue Plan

https://www.democracynow.org/2021/3/12/covid_relief_bill_joseph_stiglitz



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Nobel Prize-winning economist, Columbia University professor and chief economist for the Roosevelt Institute.

Links [Joseph Stiglitz on Twitter](#)

President Biden has signed the \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief package, which Democrats are hailing as the largest anti-poverty bill in a generation. It includes stimulus checks to most adults, expanded unemployment benefits and an overhaul of the child tax credit. One study projects the law will lift almost 14 million Americans out of poverty, including 5.7 million children. "This is transformational," says economist Joseph Stiglitz. "It says, 'We are actually going to live up — try to live up — to our aspirations.'"

Transcript

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

AMY GOODMAN: President Biden signed the \$1.9 trillion COVID relief package Thursday. Democrats are hailing the deal as the largest anti-poverty bill in a generation. One study projects the law will lift almost 14 million Americans out of poverty, including 5.7 million children. On Thursday night, President Biden gave his first primetime address, marking one year since much of the country shut down due to the pandemic.

PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN: I signed into law the American Rescue Plan, an historic piece of legislation that delivers immediate relief to millions of people, includes \$1,400 in direct rescue checks, payments. That means a typical family of four earning about \$110,000 will get checks for \$5,600, deposited if they have direct deposit or in a check, a Treasury check. It extends unemployment benefits. It helps small businesses. It lowers healthcare premiums for many. It provides food and nutrition, keeps families in their homes. And it will cut child poverty in this country in half.

AMY GOODMAN: President Biden also announced he would direct state, local and tribal governments to make all adults be eligible for a COVID vaccine by May 1st. He also set a goal of July 4th for the country to, quote, "mark independence" from the virus.

PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN: I will do everything in my power. I will not relent until we beat this virus. But I need you, the American people. I need you. I need every American to do their part. And that's not hyperbole. I need you. I need you to get vaccinated when it's your turn and when you can find an opportunity, and to help your family, your friends, your neighbors get vaccinated, as well, because here's the point: If we do all this, if we do our part, if we do this together, by July the 4th, there's a good chance you, your families and friends will be able to get together in your backyard or in your neighborhood and have a cookout and a barbeque and celebrate Independence Day.

AMY GOODMAN: President Biden also used his primetime address to condemn the surge in hate crimes targeting Asian Americans.

PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN: Too often, we've turned against one another. A mask, the easiest thing to do to save lives, sometimes it divides us — states pitted against one other instead of working with each other, vicious hate crimes against Asian Americans, who have been attacked, harassed, blamed and scapegoated. At this very moment, so many of them — our fellow Americans — they're on the frontlines of this pandemic, trying to save lives. And still — still — they're forced to live in fear for their lives just walking down streets in America. It's wrong. It's un-American. And it must stop.

AMY GOODMAN: We're joined now by Joseph Stiglitz, the Nobel Prize-winning economist, Columbia University professor and chief economist for the Roosevelt Institute. He served as chair of the Council of Economic Advisers under President Bill Clinton and as chief economist at the World Bank. His latest book is *People, Power and Profits: Progressive Capitalism for an Age of Discontent*.

Thanks so much for joining us, Joe Stiglitz. Can you start off by talking about the transformational aspects of this American Rescue Plan?

JOSEPH STIGLITZ: First, let me say it was enormously important that the economy be rescued, and that's why that \$1.9 trillion package was so important. But within it, it was designed to begin a transformation. And what you talked about earlier, the number of people who are being lifted out of poverty, is absolutely essential.

You know, the first act passed under the previous presidency, one of the few acts in the process of what is called reconciliation, was a tax bill in December 2017. And nothing — the difference couldn't be clearer. That was a tax bill that helped the billionaires and the corporations. The money went to the top. This is a transformation with the money going to the people who really need it.

AMY GOODMAN: So, talk more about the significance of this. I mean, the reason it was able to be passed, with not one Republican joining in the House or the Senate, even though, astoundingly, they are starting to take credit for it — the Mississippi Senator Wicker, who tweeted out immediately how much money it was going to bring to restaurants and to keeping people on the payroll, which was one of the arguments for it, of course; he just didn't mention he did not vote for it. But take us back to FDR, what this means — it's only for a year — and if you think it could be carried out from there.

JOSEPH STIGLITZ: Well, I think it can be carried out, but to be permanent, it's going to need a change in Congress in 2022. It's very clear that the Republicans, at least for now, have come under the influence of extreme polarization and have become the party of Trump. And so, it's all about polarization, not a single one supporting what is necessary just for the economy to recover. You know, so, even if you thought, "We don't want to help the poor," you need to have the economy recover. And everybody will benefit from it. So, while it moves a lot of people out of poverty, it was an essential bill for the economy to get back going again.

AMY GOODMAN: I mean, the child tax credit, on its surface, might look like just another tweak to the tax code, but it defines a profound shift in how we view society, confronting poverty much like the New Deal's creation of Social Security and what that did for the elderly. Could this continue?

JOSEPH STIGLITZ: I believe it can. I mean, when you think about it, children don't choose their parents. And if there is any concern about the future of the country, you want to make sure that the children, no matter who their parents are, can live up to their potential.

One of the things that I pointed out in my research is that the American dream is really a myth. The life prospects of a young American are more dependent on the income and education of its parents than in almost any other advanced country. It's absolutely the opposite of the way we think about ourselves. And so, this is transformational. It says, "We are actually going to live up — try to live up — to our aspirations."

AMY GOODMAN: You have also the \$5 billion for farmers of color, for Black farmers, in debt relief. The Republicans are trying to make this the kind of poster child example of — well, they're talking about reparations. But how key is this, Professor Stiglitz?

JOSEPH STIGLITZ: Well, this addresses a kind of legacy of discrimination that we've had. You know, when you've had a legacy of discrimination, you have to undo it. It's not a question of reparations, although I think there's a strong argument that can be made for reparations. But just for our society to go forward with a modicum of equality is going to necessitate dealing with some of the consequences of the discrimination of the past.

AMY GOODMAN: Is this the end of trickle-down economics?

JOSEPH STIGLITZ: I hope so. You know, I hope we've learned that — you know, as I mentioned earlier, the 2017 bill of Trump was, hopefully, the last gasp of trickle-down economics. The theory was, giving all that money to the corporations and the billionaires would lead to sustained economic growth from which everyone would benefit. What we saw in that bill was that the money overwhelmingly went to share buybacks, dividends, very little that trickled down to ordinary workers. That was a real demonstration that trickle-down economics didn't work. And this is the antithesis of what Trump did. It's building up the economy from the middle and the bottom.

2021-03-12 Share the Vaccines, Erase the Debt: Joseph Stiglitz on How the U.S. Can Help Developing Countries

https://www.democracynow.org/2021/3/12/vaccine_equity_pandemic_recovery_developing_countries

Guests [**Joseph Stiglitz**](#)

Nobel Prize-winning economist, Columbia University professor and chief economist for the Roosevelt Institute.

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Nobel Prize-winning economist Joseph Stiglitz says wealthy countries have a responsibility to help the developing world in overcoming the pandemic. He says the response must include vaccine equity as well as economic aid, including debt relief. "America won't be free from the pandemic until the world is," says Stiglitz.

AMY GOODMAN: Joe Stiglitz, you and fellow Nobel laureate economist Michael Spence have issued a call for vaccine equity and pandemic debt relief for the Global South, the issue also the subject of a new [report](#) by the Institute for New Economic Thinking's Commission on Global Economic Transformation. Talk more about your call and what role the Biden administration could play to fight the pandemic globally.

JOSEPH STIGLITZ: Well, there are two principles that I'd want to emphasize. First, the world won't be free from the pandemic — America won't be free from the pandemic until the world is. And we're especially concerned now because of the evidence of mutations. And if that disease, COVID-19, is going on elsewhere, it gives it opportunities to mutate and come back and inflict us. And we don't know the extent to which the vaccines will protect us against these mutations. So far things are OK, but you have to worry. So we have to get the disease under control everywhere. So, it's in our self-interest. It's, of course, a matter of humanitarian concern, as well.

And the second principle is, there won't be a strong global recovery unless there's a recovery everywhere. So, that means, first, we have to make sure that vaccine is available everywhere. And unfortunately, right now there is what some people call vaccine hoarding. The developed countries are getting vaccinated. There are dozens of developing countries that have not yet had a single vaccine.

AMY GOODMAN: I mean, as one doctor said to us, he has gotten more vaccines, his normal two-dose, than 130 countries.

JOSEPH STIGLITZ: That's right. To put another way, Canada has acquired contracts for nine times its population, while dozens of poor countries have zero.

AMY GOODMAN: And there's a fight now in the Biden administration around AstraZeneca. The U.S. has tens of millions of doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine. Other countries are begging for it. And so far, the U.S. has not released them to other countries.

JOSEPH STIGLITZ: Well, the real issue here that we emphasize is this is an artificial shortage, that if you had a waiver of intellectual property rights, something that is being discussed right now with the WTO, but, unfortunately, the advanced countries, including the United States, have not come out strongly for that waiver, there are — you know, just like President Biden pointed out that you could have Merck help produce a vaccine that was discovered, developed by another company, because it had excess capacity, there are many companies in developing countries that could produce massive amounts of vaccine if they had the right, the intellectual property, if they get access to the technology. So, that's why it's so important for us to have the suspension of intellectual property rights relative to — related to COVID-19. It's just foolish that we aren't doing it. And it's particularly unconscionable, given that the advanced countries' governments have actually financed a very large fraction of that research, and the companies themselves are already making multiple returns on their investments.

AMY GOODMAN: Finally, this issue of debt relief, what would it look like, and what role could the U.S. play in the debt relief of developing countries?

JOSEPH STIGLITZ: Well, you know, the United States has been spending almost 25% of its GDP to support its economy, if we include the \$1.9 trillion that just passed. It has helped. It has actually worked. And then I think that it will work. But the developing countries just don't have the resources. They can't have that kind of fiscal stimulus, the fiscal support for the economy. And that means that those countries whose economy is afflicted, which is most of them, are going to have a hard time coming back.

Well, there are two things. One is a special issue of what are called SDRs, special drawing rights, which are kind of money that IMF issues. There's a call for 500 billion SDRs, some \$650 billion of SDRs. Unfortunately, under the previous administration, Trump vetoed this initiative. This would make an enormous difference.

The second thing is, there are some countries that are particularly badly afflicted. They have debt, and their economy, all their money is going to — or a very large portion is going to — service that debt. There has to be debt relief. Now, in the beginning, there was an agreement there would be a stay in payments in debt. But that just meant that the debt wasn't released; it just meant it was postponed. Now that the pandemic has lasted so much longer than people thought in the beginning, what is needed is a debt restructuring. And it has to be comprehensive. It has to include the private sector. What the United States could do is to make it much more — to help the — induce the private sector to participate. They've been reluctant to participate. They have not been willing to face the reality —

AMY GOODMAN: We have 10 seconds.

JOSEPH STIGLITZ: Oh. They've not been able — so, they need to encourage the private sector to participate in these debt restructurings.

AMY GOODMAN: Joe Stiglitz, I want to thank you for being with us, Nobel Prize-winning economist, Columbia University professor, chief economist at the Roosevelt Institute, served as chair of the Council of Economic Advisers under President Clinton and as chief economist at the World Bank, speaking to us from San Juan, Puerto Rico.

When we come back, we'll air a shocking report from inside Yemen on the world's most devastating humanitarian crisis, then speak with the correspondent. Stay with us.

2021 – 03-12 “Hell on Earth”: Yemeni Children Starve to Death as U.S.-Backed Saudi Blockade Devastates Nation

https://www.democracynow.org/2021/3/12/yemen_famine_child_hunger_nima_elbagir



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- ["Famine has arrived in pockets of Yemen. Saudi ships blocking fuel aren't helping."](#)

Image Credit: CNN

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The World Food Programme is warning Yemen is headed toward the biggest famine in modern history, with the U.N. agency projecting around 400,000 Yemeni children under the age of 5 could die from acute malnutrition this year as the Saudi war and blockade continues. CNN senior international correspondent Nima Elbagir says Yemen is accurately described as “hell on Earth.” Her latest report from inside Yemen details the devastating impact of the conflict on civilians, including widespread fuel shortages affecting all aspects of life. “We were utterly unprepared for what we found when we got there,” says Elbagir.

Transcript

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

AMY GOODMAN: This is *Democracy Now! The Quarantine Report*. The World Food Programme is warning Yemen is heading toward the biggest famine in modern history. The U.N. agency is projecting around 400,000 Yemeni children under the age of 5 could die from acute malnutrition this year as the U.S.-backed Saudi war and blockade continues.

We turn now to a shocking new [report](#) from inside Yemen by CNN’s award-winning foreign correspondent Nima Elbagir, who will join us after. A warning to our audience: The video contains disturbing images.

NIMA ELBAGIR: The derelict coastline of the north of Yemen, rusting hulks tell a story of war, blockade and devastation. For years now, the Houthi-controlled north has been increasingly isolated from the outside world.

We secretly traveled through the night by boat, after our previous reporting here led the government to deny us entry. On the road to Hodeidah port, we get a sense of the humanitarian disaster kept from the outside world. Along the roadside, hundreds of stalled food supply trucks with no fuel to move. In a country in the grip of hunger, their cargoes stand spoiling in the hot sun.

The Port of Hodeidah is the supply gateway for the rest of country. It should be bustling with activity, but today it is eerily empty — a result of the U.S.-backed Saudi blockade. The last

tanker to dock here was in December. In the echoing silence, it dawns on us: We are about to witness the terrible impact of this blockade.

Desperate patients and family members trying to get the attention of Dr. Khaled, chairman of Hodeidah's hospital. If he signs these papers, they get some financial relief for their treatments and medicines. He doesn't get far before he is stopped again and again.

DR. KHALED SUHAIL: Nima, this is the pediatric emergency.

NIMA ELBAGIR: Since the Yemen war started six years ago, families have been in financial freefall. The fuel blockade has sped that descent into oblivion.

This is the main hospital for Hodeidah province, and we're surrounded by doctors and nurses rushed off their feet.

DR. KHALED SUHAIL: This is a garden, our garden.

NIMA ELBAGIR: Is this is a normal day? Is this this busy all the time?

DR. KHALED SUHAIL: No, not the busiest day today.

NIMA ELBAGIR: This is not a busy day?

DR. KHALED SUHAIL: This is a normal day.

NIMA ELBAGIR: Wow!

Dr. Khaled wants to show us some of his critical patients in the therapeutic feeding center. A 10-year-old girl whose growth has been so stunted by starvation, she could no longer stand.

Dr. Khaled says every hour of every day they are receiving more and more cases of severe malnutrition that are this advanced, because the parents can't afford to feed their children. They also can't afford to bring them to the hospital to treat them.

The U.N. says pockets of Yemen are in famine-like conditions. But it says Hodeidah is not considered one of them, because it doesn't meet the metrics to declare famine. But Dr. Khaled thinks the reality on the ground has outpaced the U.N.'s projections.

The Saudi fuel blockade is biting. Malnutrition numbers are spiking. And at the same time, this busy hospital is running out of the vital fuel that keeps its generators running, which means that babies like Mariam, who doctors say at two months weighs the same as a newborn, would die.

Yemen has been devastated by a civil war which has pitted Iran-backed Ansar Allah, known as Houthis, against the internationally recognized government and a U.S.-backed, Saudi-led coalition. We're in Houthi territory, some of whose officials have been designated as terrorists by the U.S. for targeting neighboring Saudi Arabia. We've been granted a rare interview with a leading Houthi official. We must meet in an undisclosed location because, his aides say, of the threat of assassination. We ask him to respond to allegations they are escalating this war.

HOUTH I OFFICIAL: [translated] Not true at all. The battle is continuing. And it has not stopped.

NIMA ELBAGIR: Do you trust America to take forward negotiations to bring peace here in Yemen?

HOUTH OFFICIAL: [translated] Trust must come about decisions. But, so far, we have not seen any concrete decisions being made.

NIMA ELBAGIR: You've spoken about being subjected as a nation to international terror. But three of the leaders within the Ansar Allah movement are designated by the U.S. as terrorists. One of your key slogans talks about "death to America." How do you see this as pushing forward the negotiation and the possibility for peace in the future?

HOUTH OFFICIAL: [translated] When we say "death to America," they effectively kill us with their bombs, rockets and blockades. They provide logistics and intelligence support and their actual participation in the battle. So, who is bigger and greater? The ones who are killing us, or the ones who say death to them?

NIMA ELBAGIR: The Biden administration has announced it has withdrawn support for the Saudi offensive, but it comes after six long years of war. And for the children dying of hunger, it still hasn't brought peace any quicker. Peace and help can't come soon enough.

Over half the hospitals in this district are threatened with shuttering. This is one of them. They need urgent support, urgent help. Can you imagine what it would do to this community if this facility was shut down? Look at the chaos that there is already here — and that's while it's functioning.

For years now, the U.N. has been warning that famine is coming to Yemen. Doctors across Yemen's north tell us famine has arrived. Another hospital witnessing wave after wave of children in the red zone, severe malnourishment. Impoverished mothers, desperate to keep their children alive, are forced to make harrowing choices.

MOTHER: [translated] Just to get to the hospital, I stopped eating and drinking, not even water, just to get him treated.

NIMA ELBAGIR: These doctors are keeping track of the numbers, spiking beyond what they ever imagined.

The doctor was saying, in 2020, this population, 23% of the children under 5 here were severely malnourished. In 2021, they think that that number is going to go over 30%. There is no doubt in his mind, he says, that they, here in Hajjah, are in famine.

Nearly three years ago, the U.N. Security Council condemned the use of starvation as a method of warfare, demanding access to supplies that are necessary for food preparation, including water and fuel, be kept intact, here and in other conflicts. That clearly hasn't happened.

What's more, the world has stopped caring. The U.N. needs almost \$4 billion to staunch this crisis. They received less than half that from donors. Numbers don't lie. But numbers also don't reflect the full tragedy.

This is Hassan Ali. Ten months and struggling to breathe, he came into the hospital six days ago. He keeps losing weight, even with the critical care he's receiving. Hours after we left, Hassan Ali died — one more child in Yemen that represents so much more pain. The doctors here are desperate for the world to see and to help.

Nima Elbagir, CNN, Hodeidah, Yemen.

AMY GOODMAN: That report, again, by CNN's award-winning correspondent Nima Elbagir inside Yemen. Nima now joins us from Khartoum, Sudan.

Nima, welcome back to *Democracy Now!* This is an absolutely devastating report. Rarely do reporters get in to show this. Explain how you did this.

NIMA ELBAGIR: Well, we had had an application for a visa in with the Saudi-backed, internationally recognized government out of Aden for about eight to nine months, so from late — from autumn last year. And we just kept being given the runaround. They wouldn't refuse it, but they also wouldn't outright give it to us.

And at the same time, it was becoming clear that the situation inside Yemen was deteriorating much more rapidly than any of the aid agencies had actually, up until that point, believed. And so, we — our amazing senior producer, Barbara Arvanitidis, and our senior photojournalist, Alex Platt — made the decision, backed by CNN, that it was worth taking this risk and traveling by boat to the north of Yemen, through those waters that are patrolled by Saudi warships, and through those waters where the Saudi blockade is maintained from.

And frankly, even having read so much of the data before we arrived, we were utterly unprepared for what we found when we got there. It was — I don't know that words can do justice to what the situation is like there. When the World Food Programme called it "hell on Earth," I think that is the only way you can understand what life is like for Yemenis.

AMY GOODMAN: And hearing the devastating cries of the malnourished children, the infants, and those that have died and continue to die. What was Saudi Arabia's response to this report?

NIMA ELBAGIR: We didn't receive one. We didn't receive an on-the-record report. After the piece first aired, minutes later, the Saudi ambassador to the U.S., Princess Reema bint Bandar, released a flood of commentary to the Saudi-based, English-language newspaper, *Arab News*, speaking about how the Houthis — what their role was in this, saying that the Houthis didn't want peace, but, fundamentally, not engaging with the basic — with the basic — foundation of our reporting, which is that a Saudi blockade, that has stopped fuel tankers from going in for over two months, is exacerbating the financial and humanitarian crisis and is bringing the country over the precipice into oblivion.

And by the way, the United States has also not responded in a very clear manner to us as to whether they continue to support this blockade, because the blockade exists because, at the start of the war, then-President Obama and now-President Biden allowed the Saudi-led coalition to blockade land, sea and air ports into Yemen. So, this exists because of the acquiescence of the United States. And the United States has not engaged with us in any way on the impact of that.

AMY GOODMAN: OK, how has the U.S. responded to this report?

NIMA ELBAGIR: They denied the basic premise of our reporting, which is that these ships had been blocked from entry into Hodeidah port and were in international waters. But these waters, at the moment, are patrolled by the Saudi-led coalition and controlled by the Saudi-led coalition further north, off the Saudi Port of Jizan. They told us that in spite of the evidence that we show in that reporting and in spite of the screen grabs that we have online showing where they are on independent commercial vessel-tracking apps, that actually this wasn't true, that these ships were off the Port of Hodeidah and that the flow of food remains unimpeded through the Port of Hodeidah — which, again, is categorically not true. And this is from the U.S. envoy to Yemen. This is the person who is supposed to be pushing for a peaceful solution to the situation there.

AMY GOODMAN: And this is the new U.S. special envoy to Yemen, Tim Lenderking?

NIMA ELBAGIR: Mm-hmm, yes.

AMY GOODMAN: Well, on Thursday, USAID, the U.S. Agency for International Development, which is now [*sic*] headed by Samantha Power, the former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, notified Congress that it would resume some aid to Houthi-controlled areas of Yemen, reversing the Trump-era policy. But humanitarian groups say Yemenis need far more help. Talk about the significance of this.

NIMA ELBAGIR: Well, the issue is: What are you going to deliver aid with, if there is no fuel? And we're not — I mean, this is not an issue that's up for debate. There's a U.N. resolution, Resolution 2417, which Ms. Power should be very aware of, given the role that she played for the U.S. in the U.N., that says that not only should states be wary and fight against the use of starvation as a weapon of war, but that states must also allow for the means of food delivery systems, for the means of food preparation systems. And that means that access to fuel and water are critical. And if you deny that access, then, essentially, you are engaging in the use of starvation as a weapon of war.

And I find it slightly concerning that — you know, of course it's meaningful that aid is resuming to Houthi areas. But many aid agencies, including the U.N., actually are reliant on the import of food and supporting Yemenis in access to that imported food. Again, when you import food, it arrives at the Port of Hodeidah. How are you getting it to the population without fuel?

AMY GOODMAN: And I should say that Samantha Power was nominated to be head of USAID, the administrator nominee. Talk about the scope now, what the U.N. secretary-general has said about the scope of the problem, saying last week a donors' conference netted \$1.7 billion for humanitarian relief in Yemen, less than half of the — you reported this — the almost \$4 billion needed to prevent widespread famine in Yemen.

NIMA ELBAGIR: I go back to the head of WFP, David Beasley's comment: It is "hell on Earth." There is no other way of putting it. When parents are faced with the choice of either feeding themselves, feeding their other children, or being able to afford to pay for the fuel to feed — to take that child to be fed in a therapeutic feeding center, then you have gone out beyond the edge of what should be acceptable to the civilized world.

It is a simple fix. Removing that fuel blockade immediately brings down the fuel prices. So, parents were telling us that even coming from nearby provinces to the hospital we show you in the piece, it was costing something like \$80. Can you imagine \$80 in a country like Yemen? So, fuel is more accessible. Fund the U.N. The World Health Organization was providing some of that fuel to hospitals. For months now, it hasn't been able to provide any. So, actually commit to funding the U.N. But, fundamentally, also send the message that this is unacceptable, that you cannot blockade a nation of a basic necessity. That will allow some of this impact to be contained for a peaceful solution to be reached.

But the U.S., Tim Lenderking, the U.S. envoy, speaks about how they are pushing for peace as an absolute priority. What are you saving these — what are you bringing peace to, if people are dying, if their children are dying? Bringing the parties back to the negotiating table is absolutely integral to a sustained solution to this. Peace is integral to a sustained solution. But people are dying right now.

AMY GOODMAN: The Biden admin —

NIMA ELBAGIR: And the removal — OK.

AMY GOODMAN: The Biden administration says they're reviewing President Trump designating the Houthis as a terrorist organization. The significance of this? And we just have 15 seconds.

NIMA ELBAGIR: Well, they have now suspended that, so they have now removed that. So, that has been very, very important for allowing food imports. But again, without fuel, where is that food arriving to?

AMY GOODMAN: Nima Elbagir, I want to thank you so much for being with us, award-winning senior international correspondent for CNN. Her recent investigative [report](#) on Yemen is headlined "Famine has arrived in pockets of Yemen. Saudi ships blocking fuel aren't helping." Coming up, we'll look at how Oprah Winfrey's interview with Meghan Markle and Prince Harry has exposed racism within the British royal family. Stay with us.

2021-03-12 Meghan Markle Racism Revelations Are "Shocking, But Not Surprising" to People of Color in U.K.

https://www.democracynow.org/2021/3/12/british_royal_family_racism_oprah_interview



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- ["How Harry and Meghan Quit the Royal Family to Join the US Aristocracy"](#)

The British royal family is facing intense criticism over its treatment of Meghan Markle, who revealed shocking details about life as a royal in an interview with Oprah Winfrey, including mistreatment and bullying from other royals, relentless harassment by the British press, and racist comments about Markle, who was born in the United States to a Black mother and a white father. One member of the royal family, according to Markle, even speculated how dark her child's skin would be. Markle and her husband Prince Harry stepped down as senior members of Britain's royal family last year. Pioneering British journalist Trisha Goddard says Markle's revelations were "shocking, but not surprising," and that coverage of Markle in the U.K. has always carried an "undercurrent" of racism. We also speak with Novara Media's Ash Sarkar, who says the monarchy is a "feudal institution" that entrenches class inequality in British society. "You can't have an institution which is premised on the superiority of bloodline and have it not be racist."

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

The British royal family is facing increasing criticism after Meghan Markle and Prince Harry revealed shocking details about life as royals, including the racism suffered by Meghan Markle, who was born in the United States to a Black mother and a white father. Last year, the couple left the United Kingdom and stepped down as senior members of Britain's royal family to raise their child Archie in North America. During a bombshell interview with Oprah Winfrey, Markle revealed they felt forced to leave in part due to concerns about Archie.

MEGHAN MARKLE: In those months when I was pregnant, all around this same time, so we had in tandem the conversation of he won't be given security, he's not going to be given a title, and also concerns and conversations about how dark his skin might be when he's born.

OPRAH WINFREY: What? ... There is a conversation — hold up. Hold up. Stop right now.

MEGHAN MARKLE: There are several — there are several conversations about it.

OPRAH WINFREY: There is a conversation with you —

MEGHAN MARKLE: With Harry.

OPRAH WINFREY: — about how dark your baby is going to be?

MEGHAN MARKLE: Potentially, and what that would mean or look like.

OPRAH WINFREY: Ooh. And you're not going to tell me who had the conversation?

MEGHAN MARKLE: I think that would be very damaging to them.

AMY GOODMAN: Meghan Markle said she was surprised by the racism she felt inside the royal family.

MEGHAN MARKLE: I lived in Canada, which is a Commonwealth country, for seven years. But it wasn't until Harry and I were together that we started to travel through the Commonwealth, I would say, 60, 70% of which is people of color, right? And growing up as a woman of color, as a little girl of color, I know how important representation is. ... And I could never understand how it wouldn't be seen as an added benefit and a reflection of the world today — at all times, but especially right now — to go, "How inclusive is that, that you can see someone who looks like you in this family, much less one who's born into it?"

AMY GOODMAN: Meghan Markle also opened up to Oprah Winfrey about feelings of suicide during her time as a royal.

MEGHAN MARKLE: I just didn't want to be alive anymore. And that was a very clear and real and frightening, constant thought. And I remember — I remember how he just cradled me, and I was — I went to the institution, and I said that I needed to go somewhere to get help, said that I've never felt this way before and I need to go somewhere. And I was told that I couldn't, that it wouldn't be good for the institution.

AMY GOODMAN: That's Meghan Markle speaking to Oprah Winfrey.

We're joined now by two guests. Ash Sarkar is a senior editor at Novara Media. Trisha Goddard is a British journalist and pioneering talk show host. She's been credited with being the first Black woman to host a talk show in Britain.

Trisha, let's go to you first. If you can just respond to your feelings as you watch this interview and what was revealed?

TRISHA GODDARD: Well, yes. It was bombshell after bombshell. It was absolutely shocking, but not surprising. I remember the headlines that came out around the time when Prince Harry just started dating Meghan Markle: "Straight Outta Compton," as one newspaper put it. Another newspaper article, written, actually, by Boris Johnson, our prime minister's sister, Rachel Johnson, called her "exotic," with a "dreadlocked mother" "from the wrong side of the tracks," and what have you. And, you know, it started there. And although the British media would have you believe that this was a fairytale wedding and everything was gorgeous and they were wonderful to Meghan Markle from the word go, there was always that undercurrent running through it. So, when she talked about her feelings and when she talked about the conversations around the color of the baby when she was pregnant, it didn't really shock anybody of color, I don't think, not in the U.K., anyway.

And the talking about her mental health — I've been a mental health campaigner for some 35 years. I was an Australian government adviser on mental health for 10 years. I was a member of the World Psychiatric Association. I've been all over the world trying to chip away at the stigma of mental health with Mind, a charity, and what have you. Now, when Meghan Markle actually spoke about how low she had got, and Harry did, as well — he said he went to a very dark place — what we saw was almost an upswing of people saying, "You know, if she can talk about how desperate she was, then I can." And then, unfortunately, we had somebody in the British media kind of discount or say they didn't believe a word she said. And then the door shut again. So, this whole interview has had a massive impact in the U.K.

AMY GOODMAN: I want to go to a clip from the show *Good Morning Britain*. The issue of the media is so critical.

TRISHA GODDARD: Yeah.

AMY GOODMAN: We all know now that Piers Morgan has quit. But this is before he quit. And this is you, Trisha Goddard, clashing with Piers Morgan over his ongoing attacks against Meghan Markle.

PIERS MORGAN: Sorry, I'm calling this out for what I see it as, which is somebody who is a ruthless social climber and is now destroying, or trying to destroy, the image of the monarchy in this country. And I think it's shameful.

TRISHA GODDARD: Piers, listening to you this morning, I am saddened. You know what I wish for you? I wish for you only really wonderful things. I hope that one of your sons meets a beautiful Black woman and gets married to them, and then you will understand.

PIERS MORGAN: Actually, I would love that. Why would I would have any problem with that? Why does every criticism of these two have to be framed as racism?

TRISHA GODDARD: You won't have a problem if you'll have to hear her problems.

AMY GOODMAN: Soon after this, the British journalist Piers Morgan quit his position as host of *Good Morning Britain*, after he was widely criticized for his response to Meghan Markle's interview. Morgan walked off the set of the show Tuesday after the weather presenter, Alex Beresford, who is biracial himself, finally confronted Piers Morgan on air.

ALEX BERESFORD: I understand that you've got a personal relationship with Meghan Markle, or had one, and she cut you off. She's entitled to cut you off if she wants to. Has she said anything about you since she cut you off? I don't think she has, but yet you continue to trash her.

PIERS MORGAN: OK, I'm done with this.

ALEX BERESFORD: No, no, no.

PIERS MORGAN: Sorry. No, sorry.

ALEX BERESFORD: Oh, do you know what? That's pathetic.

PIERS MORGAN: You can trash me, mate, but not on my own show.

ALEX BERESFORD: No, no, no, no. I'm being —

PIERS MORGAN: See you later. Sorry, can't do this.

ALEX BERESFORD: This is absolutely diabolical behavior. I'm sorry, but Piers spouts off on a regular basis, and we all have to sit there and listen. 6:30 to 7:00 yesterday was incredibly hard to watch.

AMY GOODMAN: So, that's Alex Beresford berating Piers Morgan, finally, he said, after the nonstop barrage against Meghan Markle. And I'm wondering, Trisha, if you could talk about the significance of this? There were 43,000 complaints against Piers Morgan, and Meghan Markle has filed a formal complaint against Piers Morgan to the — you can explain what it is — the British regulator and the channel.

TRISHA GODDARD: Yeah, Ofcom, yeah. Well, there was more of my disagreeing with Piers. Now, we're longtime colleagues, because I report from the States for *Good Morning Britain*. I've known him for a while. But I have no problem in calling out a colleague or anybody, you know, about issues of racism. And earlier in our conversation, I said

that he didn't get to determine what was and wasn't racism against a Black person and that he should leave that to Black people.

And then, afterwards, Alex — that day, Alex reached out to me, and we had a private, short exchange about that. He thanked me, and he said — you know, he said it was difficult for him. And a lot of us support each other in — Black journalists have to support each other. And then, the next day, Alex said something himself. I note — and again, I note that Piers walked out when Alex actually talked about the fact that — and Piers has said this himself, that he was quite hurt when he gave Meghan Markle his number — they exchanged numbers — and he never heard from her again. So I think there may be some misogyny in there, as well as everything else.

But, look, Piers is a great journalist. That doesn't exclude him from holding opinions that he doesn't see as racist. Now, there is a bedrock to this, Amy. There's an absolute bedrock to this. Reporting from the States and being in the U.K. and in Australia, this last week has really brought something home to me. In the United States, you had slavery on this soil. There are people, like my partner, who can remember segregation. The fallout from redlining with housing is still going on. You have George Floyd, you have Breonna Taylor, and so on and so forth. But it happened on this soil. Slavery happened on American soil. In the U.K., slavery did not happen at home, if you like; it was outsourced to the West Indies, where slaves were put in the West Indies, where my heritage is from, Africa, and so forth. So, the British people didn't have it in their face, so they don't think they're racist.

AMY GOODMAN: I wanted to bring Ash Sarkar into the conversation, senior editor at Novara Media, speaking to us from London. Ash, respond to the whole controversy that has erupted. I mean, Noam Chomsky said Meghan Markle could possibly bring down the royal family, the monarchy. Talk about the family and the media.

ASH SARKAR: Well, I don't think Meghan Markle is necessarily going to bring down the monarchy, because it has survived some very dysfunctional and very nasty family dynamics before, going right from Henry VIII and his many, many marriages, right through to the abdication crisis of Edward VIII and then, of course, the divorce between Prince Charles and Princess Diana.

But the reason why I think this has really gotten to the heart of the clash between this feudal institution, which in many ways entrenches class inequality at the heart of the British non-Constitution, and also some more modern values and progressive values, is because, essentially, you can't have an institution which is premised on the superiority of bloodline and have it not be racist, and have it not be controlling of women and, indeed, quite misogynistic. One of the things that Meghan Markle said in the interview was that when she married into the family, she had to hand over her passport, her driver's license and her keys. Now, if any one of our friends was entering into a relationship where they had to hand over their passport, we'd be saying, "Get out of there, babe! What are you doing?" So I think we've got to see these features as very, very, very well entrenched within the royal family itself.

Now, as for, I think, you know, how firm support for the monarchy is in this country, support for the abolition of the monarchy and the establishing of an elected head of state rose by plus-four percentage points, according to a recent poll. And that is due to the Meghan Markle and Oprah interview. However, it's still very low. It's around a quarter of the population. And I think a big part of that is because, for most of the country, we've only known the queen when she's already quite old. And so she's been able to play into these images of almost grandmother of a nation. She also came to the throne in the 1950s, when broadcast and televisual media is still kind of in its infancy. And so, she solidified her reign at the same time as —

AMY GOODMAN: We have 10 seconds, Ash.

ASH SARKAR: Oh, sorry — as her image was being broadcast into our homes. So, the legitimacy crisis, I think, it's going to come when Prince Charles ascends to the throne, who's also meddled in one or two political matters, which a monarch really shouldn't do.

AMY GOODMAN: Ash Sarkar, I want to thank you very much, and we're going to link to your [piece](#), "How Harry and Meghan Quit the Royal Family to Join the US Aristocracy." Ash Sarkar, senior editor at Novara Media. And Trisha Goddard, British journalist and pioneering talk show host.

That does it for our broadcast. I'm Amy Goodman. Stay safe. Wear a mask. Wear two.