

“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/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 / 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

5th Fri – 3 IMIX – Red Electric Dragon - artist aspect – work is about creation, self-dependence, trusting in the universe, working with clarity of mind. Embrace the gift of the beginning. Let go of illusion of lack of support. The gift of Imix is becoming what we already are. Gives the affirmation for today -

6th Sat - 4 IK – White Self- Existing Wind – visionary aspect. Remembering our unity with Spirit; having spirit work through us

7th Sun – 5 AKBAL – Blue Overtone Night – Artist Aspect - the movement of completion with the 4 – 5 symbolizes the spinning of the pyramid. Learn from dreamtime, believe in our abundance. Let go of self-judgment, withdrawal

8th Mon – 6 KAN – Yellow Rhythmic Seed – International Women's Day – a healing aspect. Harmony seeking; about timing; gift of possibility and potential of creation – let go of lack of trust, hesitation

9th Tues – 7 CHICCHAN – Red Resonant Serpent – a portal day. Warrior aspect – remain open to change, transmuting energy. Gift is motivation to change, instinct and body sensing. 7 is the link between heaven and earth. Lots of magic in the 7 tone

10th Wed – 8 CIMI – White Galactic World Bridger – warrior aspect – about forgiveness and moving into a state of grace; gift of transmutation; let go of ego, belief that life is struggle

11th Thur – 9 MANIK – Blue Solar Hand – healing hand – healing self and others.
Embrace the gift of being a healer of human kind

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

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: 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 \$300 for this week.**
We are staying caught up – thank you, thank you, thank you !!!

- 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 [Please put **"Attention Don"** on the envelope]
1500 Pleasant Hill RD [Note inside that it's for T & R calls
Lafayette, CA 94549 [& 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 + \$500 FOR BILLS + \$180 to fix the REAR BRAKES

- **Please notify T & R if you're sending something:** koran9999@comcast.net
EVERY \$5 HELPS - ALL GRATEFULLY RECEIVED

RENT WEEK - \$1150 – received!!! Thanks to those who contributed!

ALSO \$180 FOR doctor's appointment for work on his arm – end of March

- 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

PLEASE NOTE: DUE TO THE IMPACT OF THE Corona Virus, BENEFICIAL FARMS and all other producers operate out of the open air market in Santa Fe, with everyone following the rules and regs re: displaying their produce and enabling customers to pay for and pick up food. So Beneficial Farms is still the source of Rama & Tara's food.

- 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-5-2021>

Rama, Tara: [R, T]

Greetings – and thanks to all

T: has been quite a day – energies are extreme!

- Today, Congressman Eric Swalwell sued former Pres Trump and also a bunch of Congressmen who were also included in the Jan 6th event

R: got a message - things going at quantum light speed, even though the residue of Jan 6th drama remains – it was insurrection and treason!

- There are issues to be dealt with as people died – the so-called Cmdr-in-Chief ordered it up, along with his cadre of folks who know their time is up in terms of the old timeline. Their timeline is fading away as the new Sat Yuga is coming in
- Send more Love to them: they will need it!

T: Randi Rhodes – talk show host on Free Speech TV

- the FBI and the Defence Officials testify – Sen Gary Peters is Chairman of Homeland Security committee
 - was speaking to the General in charge of the Capital Guard
 - asked General Walker what was unusual with the memo he received – Walker had to get permission from Sec of Defence and Sec of the Army who told Walker he could have force protection equipment for the guardsmen – helmets, body armour
 - the Sec of Defence told Walker he [Walker] needed approval to get that equipment!
 - So without the Sec of Defence’s authorization, the Guardsmen in DC cannot be issued a variety of equipment including helmets and body armour -
 - **to be clear, the Sec of the Army said go ahead** tho’ they had no guns of any sort
- T reads the timeline of the events and the Sec of Defence is - General Michael Flynn’s brother ~ who had the say about the equipment
 - Gen Walker had his rapid response team waiting in the bus, ready to deploy – and he was asking for permission to deploy; the Gen in charge would not do it!
 - Finally get it out at 4:32 pm and it was 5:08 pm before Walker got permission - AND THE CAPITAL HAD BEEN BREACHED AT 1:00 PM!!!

R: Talked to Tom the Ring tailed Cat – Larry and Curly were in the background:

Tom: The time is now!

CONFERENCE CALL

CHECK HERE FOR LINK TO TODAY'S AUDIO
<https://www.rainbowroundtable.net/archives>

- Initial discussion about Keshe and the plasma in the universe

Caller: how does one get this info?

RB: Look on Youtube for the **370th Knowledge Seekers Workshop, Keshe Foundation** –

Pa: and the material ties in with what we do with Cheryl
yes, it is

RB: the bombing in Syria, killing the Iranians, was the same week that Keshe and others were meeting

T: and there was a bombing this week past – still

Mi: Mr Keshe gave Biden about 3 months and he'll be done

- Mi went to a retreat centre near where he lives; also helped folks build GANS kits

Pa: talks about how she is using the GANS

RB: spray your hair with Cup 1 – like a conditioner

Mi: best to get him on telegram

Jefferson not completely blind, but can get help

RB: can get Gans at Begreattransformation in Wilmington

Pa: on the Italian Keshe team on Telegram – really enjoying it! ! !

Question: what is the order of the Hierarchy in terms of what happened on the 6th of Jan?

- Sec of Defence - Chris Miller, **acting** Sec of Def, not approved by Senate and probably willing to do things for a nice price – on the job for a month
- Sec of Army
- there were 5 stages of protocol – instead of removing one protocol to make sure things could happen, they **added another level** of protocol to make sure they could get rid of Pence and Pelosi

CA: this situation would make things difficult – about the amount of violence that was possible – makes it easy for the obstructionists to say we won't make troops and equipment available given how much planning that had gone on before,

Rachel Maddow today: she was laying out how much the mess has been building in the Justice Dep't – the one who runs the DC office – Trump has been obstructing there too

- and Senate is slow to approve Merrick Garland – once he's in office, things will change

RGM: joins with news about the fact that carrier pigeons didn't get through

T: ask her about who might be Merrick's handler – Barack chose him because he was more conservative

Pa: asks the Russian guy

T: Alexy Navalny is no angel: an asset of MI 5, and MI 6 – and they were the ones who poisoned him

R: There's a war between MI 5 and MI 6 and the FSB

T: Biden just put sanctions on Russia and there is no reason for this: **Hillary again!~ ! ! !**

**Barack, Putin and Pres XI are ALL FACTION 3 WHITE KNIGHTS !!!
REMEMBER THAT EVERY TIME YOU HEAR THE NEWS!**

Ca: Vlad and Xi might even be better double agents than Barack!

Pa: people who talk about this kind of thing – crackpots!

T: regarding crackpots: Rama used to go to Albuquerque to appear on the rock station there

- was called Crazy Lord Rama because of what he was talking about - like: galactics!
- he got away with a lot in terms of telling folks what was going on

T: super tense energies at the moment – they know they have no grasp of power

RGM: Re: news that Gov Cuomo has come into the scene and his resignation is being called for

- the State of NY will prosecute Drumpf, Guiliani and all the rest – might seem like this is slow, but it is really, really fast – we need to remain neutral!

R: gets the sense that the ones who went to DC on Jan 6th – has something to do with Mohammad meeting the mountain, and Love is the answer, not war!

- All the energies are pointing to a different timeline – and it is not of negativity, violence and war in spite of the news out there'
- Has read or heard recently – since the US invaded Iraq archaeological stuff has lessened, but there are people wandering around and finding the giant skeletons with huge heads –
 - These are the pre-adomic people, from before the flood'
- All of this involves the military and the scientific community
 - the military since time of Tesla could announce there are 3 galactic races interacting with humanity

T: The Jan 6 event has been planned for 3-4 months at least

so what she read today – the interaction between Drumpf and Miller which took so much time and allowed for more destruction and possible murder

T: Today, Rama heard on a German radio program, the host talking about the video tape of Drumpf raping and murdering a 12 year old !

- in Aug 2019, the G7 meeting – the rest of the people present saw the video – and the defence minister from Iran had one – flew in for 2 hours and left

T: Cassiopeia is the real Twin Flame of St Germain! And 1087 adds up to 16 =7 which is the number of St Germain

R: His **source for info on archaeology** stuff: Tweets from Graham Hancock and George S of Ancient Aliens

B B S RADIO

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

VLOG 208 IN THE MIDST OF THE CHAOS WE ARE MOVING FORWARD IN THE LIGHT

<https://youtu.be/HddkKBemZww>



AUDIO: I AM AVATAR – TRANSMISSION TO TRANSMUTE TYRANNY

<https://podcast.iamavatar.org/>

<https://www.podbean.com/ew/pb-gy8tc-fc49ae>

This is an extremely important transmission to do as soon as possible due to what is transpiring in our world.

We are shifting and transmuting certain conditions of outer world activity that are not aligned to human evolution. These are the activities of a vicious and destructive agenda that violate the sanctity of the human spirit. This concerns the extremely distorted powers of duality that reflects through conditions of aggression, oppression, mass mind control programming, bio warfare, manipulated poisoning, human abuses, among many other gross nefarious activities.

Our task is not only to invoke the light into these specific appearances, but to focus and transmit the light of transmutation into the core causes, effect, record and memory of these distortions that still exist in the human hologram.

These forces of darkness HAVE NO POWER! As the stewards of Earth, we can command them out of our world, swiftly and forever. There will be no new rules under a globalist plan to enslave us and to thwart human evolution. It is not going to happen. We command this to be so!

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!**T: It is done!**

M/A: And so it is! What the sister [Tiara Kumara - above] shared is - the time for war has come to an end! It is about the study of the wisdom of who and what we are, in this moment. Like we heard Patti say: it only takes 51% of the electrons to move it, and it is moving very fast at this time!

- We are in a most unique position; we have the power with Love to discern how this can be done without war. Let us use our gifts and abilities: everything that is coming forth now, is about this new timeline – Sat Yuga! Adventures beyond measure await. It is about finding out who and what we are. And it is magnificent to behold in spite of what things might look like at the moment.
 - Appearances aren't always what they appear to be! Shape shifting is an art form, and we have all had our moments of how to shift our reality. Right now, let's say, all the cloaks are coming off and the emperor has no clothes: it's quite a scene! And it is about the undealt-with energy like Patti talked about; it is being changed right now.
- As the spring equinox approaches, things are rapidly shifting into a new reality. Stay in the high vibrations: it is the best path through this time. Don't get caught in maya which is what they want us to do – to split frog hairs in the wrong way, so to speak!
 - She can say with great certainty, as we move forward into these higher energies, things are only getting better – like the Beatles song: getting better all the time.
 - And remember we were the creators of this original Divine story – it's come full circle.
 - Now everything is coming out of the most unlikely of places. These earth quakes – many recently – Mt Etna blew –
 - let's say what happened a while ago - 13,000 years ago – yes, just a short while ago: what's a few thousand years – a yuga or two? When you get focussed on a certain path, there is no time, no space; there is only NOW -13,000 years go by like that (a snap of the fingers!) - very quick.
- What's happening right now is this great awakening and shift as Nibiru approaches. This is not a negative thing - it's about Her collecting her children and going on Her way. The time is NOW - as we are watching and experiencing everything coming to the light of day. As we know, vampires don't like sunlight . . . it's a bit challenging . . .

T: Got a few of those around, Mother! Just noticed that it says: on Thursday – powerful earthquake damages hundreds of homes in Central Greece – Mother Earth is shaking around & it's not the only place where things are happening like that.

- There are 3 cyclones in the area of the Philippines

M/A: Iceland had had earthquakes recently, and another volcano getting ready to pop.

- It is about this climate change, climate disruption – has to do with our consciousness getting raised up. There are ones within circles within circles who don't want the conflict to end.
- They don't have a choice any longer: Earth has made her choice and so have we: we are ascending; the planet is moving so fast into the ascension energies and we are too.

- As we focus on the electrons and particles in us – talk to them and they will talk to you; reach out with the Force and you can feel it with every fibre of your being; you can feel it
- And right now let's say the energies of themselves are giving us a big test – how we can handle the Light and the Love coming in, in waves. It's not easy, as we breathe through it and stay in the High Heart, it helps change everything. Yes . . .

T: Yes – everything is coming out on so many levels. It can push our brothers, our sisters, our sons, our daughters, our grand mothers, our great grandmothers: the dream - in order for the real dream to show up, the False Evidence Appearing Real [FEAR] has to shatter

M/A: Yes, and right now something is shifting as things are seemingly lightening up as spring fully comes into focus.

- And She can say: We are ever resilient and what's happening is this mass awakening: it is a good thing -

- What She can say: **stay in the Violet Flame**, in the High Heart. Don't get caught in the distraction – Maya – with the shiny objects that are dangling about. It is part of the conclusion of the matrix, and do the Sadna each day: it's how we get through this and stay in the High heart.
- Had better be on Her way

Both: Greetings in the Light of the Most Radiant One;

M/A: We have the power, with love, in this sacred hour –

- Remember this: we have the ability to shift this in such a grand way – all it takes, like Neo said, Just takes One of Us – it's already exponentially happening. This is why Mr Turtle and the others are so worried. Send them more love.

Both: Kadoish, kadoish, kadoish, Adonai Sabbeoth, Yod Hey Vod Hey!

Rama Returns: Has been on Lady Master Athena's ship once again.

- Were in one of the conference rooms – many dignitaries there from Sirius and Pleiades
 - Like Lady Master Nada said the other day: things are moving very swiftly to lift this planet up and end war.
- Send more Love to all the situations: **we have the upper hand** - even though they appear to be what they appear to be – appearances are the reflections of reality and **the reality is we are already there!**

T: for close to 3/4 of a year they've said the same thing: we've won!

R: Chop wood; carry water is what we do – before enlightenment, and AFTER enlightenment! . . .

T: Reminding us about Freemart products

- gold and silver a really good idea! Firegel put it on your skin: enhances your aura

T: Democracy Now

SEE THE TRANSCRIPTS BELOW

2021-03-05 Headlines – Democracy Now

2021-03-05 Rev. William Barber to Democrats: Overrule the Senate Parliamentarian & Pass the \$15 Minimum Wage

2021-03-05 Rep. Mondaire Jones: Voting Rights Bill H.R. 1 Is of "Foundational Importance" to U.S. Democracy

2021-03-05 New York Congressman Mondaire Jones: Israel Should Ensure Palestinians Have Access to COVID Vaccine

2021-03 – 05 “We Do This ‘Til We Free Us”: Mariame Kaba on Abolishing Police, Prisons & Moving Toward Justice

AUDIO: The Thom Hartmann Show Economists Proves Sanctions Don't Work

<https://youtu.be/NIXFawA8s20>



posted by Richard Wolff | 10414pt

March 08, 2021

Cuba, Venezuela and Iran are all facing sanctions from the United States. Many of these sanctions are hurting innocent people, but the government's of those countries are not changing. Do Sanctions work or do they just hurt people? Sanctions are not working. **Richard Wolff joins The Thom Hartmann Program to explain.**

Economist Dr. Richard Wolff, Democracy At Work / Author of numerous books - his latest is **The Sickness is the System** (now also available as an e-book

AUDIO: INTERVIEW OF GEORGE GALLOWAY, Prof RD Wolff

AUDIO: [Keiser Report: A scarcity of honest profits](#)

VIDEO: <https://www.rt.com/shows/keiser-report/517097-inflation-expectations-honest-profits/>

PODCAST: <https://soundcloud.com/rttv/keiser-report-a-scarcity-of-honest-profits>

In this episode of *Keiser Report*, Max and Stacy look at the "growing concern that market-based inflation expectations have become unreliable as indicators," i.e. the central banks have destroyed the price signal foundational to free and fair markets. In this environment, we see Goodhart's Law at work: When a measure becomes a target, it ceases to be a good measure. Billionaire hedge fund investor Paul Singer says of the "market craziness" that there is a "scarcity of honest profits."



AUDIO: REDACTED TONIGHT

2021-03-05

<https://www.portable.tv/series/redactedtonight>

Ending homelessness is a real possibility but the capitalists who run our system refuse to solve a problem whose existence boosts their profits.

Lee Camp dives into the problem of homelessness in the USA in the 21st Century.

While hundreds of thousands of people live on the streets and millions face eviction some people are taking to law-breaking to get people into empty homes. We live in a society that's fine with leaving people on the streets because of how much money they own and that shouldn't be acceptable.



Also in this episode: Lee also goes over the opening of Joe Biden's presidency, and provides an update on the assassination of Malcolm X.

Naomi Karavani reports on price gouging in the energy industry's which was highlighted during the recent snow storm. Texas energy companies raised prices on Texans while the electrical grid was failing and people were freezing. But they aren't the only energy company guilty of price gouging while their customers suffer and with climate change intensifying big business is looking for more profit-making opportunities.

Natalie McGill takes on a doomed voting rights act passed in the House, a new study on cities that saw Black Lives Matter protests last summer, and more.

CLOSING: Rainbird

Rama's choices

Alan Watts - Go Over the Water fall

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JIAazAwqm8E>

INFORMATION RELATED TO THE NOTES

2021-03-05 Headlines – Democracy Now

Watch Headlines

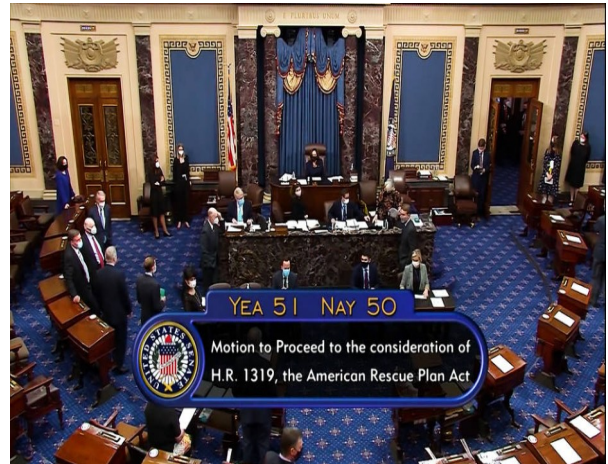
Listen

Republican Senators Work to Derail \$1.9 Trillion Coronavirus Relief Bill

Mar 05, 2021

The Senate has begun work on a \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package after Vice President Kamala Harris broke a 50-50 tie on a procedural vote allowing debate to proceed Thursday. But that debate quickly ground to a halt after Wisconsin Republican Senator Ron Johnson forced Senate clerks to read the entire text of the stimulus bill aloud — more than 100,000 words spanning 628 pages.

Senate clerk: "... as the 'American Rescue Plan Act of 2021'. SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS. The table of contents for this Act is as follows: Sec. 1. Short title. Sec. 2. Table of contents. TITLE I—COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY. Subtitle A—Agriculture ..."



The clerks began reading mid-afternoon on Thursday and finished after midnight — 10 hours and 43 minutes later. The legislation now heads to a session known as a vote-a-rama, where any senator will be able to offer an amendment that could drag out debate for hours — or even days.

White House Defends Biden’s Remark That “Neanderthal Thinking” GOP Governors Ended Mask Mandates

Mar 05, 2021

The United States recorded nearly 1,800 new COVID-19 deaths Thursday, pushing the U.S. death toll since the start of the pandemic to over 520,000. For the first time, a seven-day average of vaccinations has topped 2 million doses — though just 8.4% of the U.S. population is fully vaccinated. On Thursday, White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki defended President Biden’s remark that Republican governors who’ve lifted mask mandates were guilty of “Neanderthal thinking.”



Press Secretary Jen Psaki: “He believes that if we’re going to get this pandemic under control, we need to follow public health guidelines. He simply was asked — asked the American people to abide by wearing masks for a hundred days. We’re at about day 40. Are we at day 40? Around there. Sixty more days.”

On Wednesday, Alabama Republican Governor Kay Ivey said she would end a statewide mask mandate on April 9 — joining Mississippi and Texas. Alabama has one of the lowest COVID-19 vaccination rates in the U.S.

New York Gov. Cuomo's Aides Doctored Nursing Home Death Data in July Report on COVID-19

Mar 05, 2021

The Wall Street Journal and The New York Times are reporting top aides to New York Governor Andrew Cuomo pressured state health officials to alter a July report in order to cover up the true number of COVID-19 deaths in nursing homes. The report was edited to only count people who died inside nursing facilities, excluding those who got sick there and later died in hospitals, leaving out thousands of fatalities. The report was released as a response to criticism of Cuomo's order in March 2020 barring nursing homes from rejecting recovering coronavirus patients that were discharged from hospitals, which some feared would further spread the virus. Last spring, Cuomo signed legislation shielding nursing home executives from lawsuits related to their handling of the pandemic.

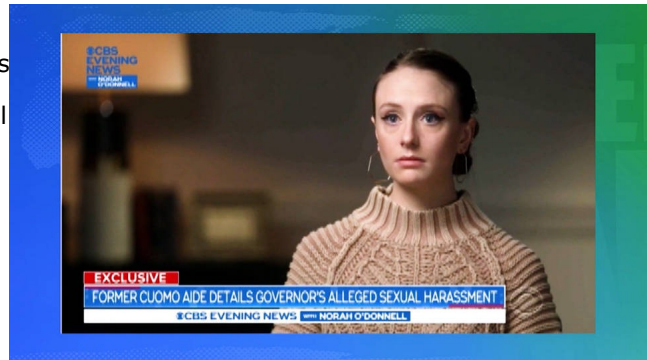


Charlotte Bennett Describes Sexual Harassment by Gov. Andrew Cuomo in TV Interview

Mar 05, 2021

Image Credit: CBS News

One of three women who have accused Cuomo of sexual misconduct gave her first TV interview Thursday. Former aide Charlotte Bennett told CBS News anchor Norah O'Donnell that Governor Cuomo repeatedly made inappropriate comments to her — including questions about whether her experience with sexual assault had impacted her sex life.



Charlotte Bennett: "He asked me if age difference mattered. He also explained that he was fine with anyone over 22."

Norah O'Donnell: "And how old are you?"

Charlotte Bennett: "Twenty-five."

Norah O'Donnell: "What were you thinking as he's asking you these questions?" **Charlotte Bennett:** "I thought, 'He's trying to sleep with me. The governor's trying to sleep with me. And I'm deeply uncomfortable, and I have to get out of this room as soon as possible.'"

Florida Democrats Demand FBI Probe of Gov. Ron DeSantis, Who Prioritized Donors for Vaccination

Mar 05, 2021

Top Florida Democrats have called on the acting U.S. attorney general and the FBI to investigate Republican Governor Ron DeSantis for corruption and wrongdoing after reports that most residents over 65 in a wealthy Key Largo community had received vaccines by mid-January. Seventeen residents donated \$5,000 each to DeSantis's political committee prior to the vaccinations; the former Republican governor of Illinois, Bruce Rauner, also a resident of the community, increased his contribution to



\$250,000. This comes amid accusations that DeSantis prioritized wealthy communities that were connected to political donors for vaccination “pop-up” sites.

India, South Africa Ask WTO for Patent Waiver to Allow Generic COVID-19 Drugs & Vaccines

Mar 05, 2021

In Geneva, Switzerland, members of Doctors Without Borders held a protest outside the headquarters of the World Trade Organization Thursday demanding a waiver on patent rights for COVID-19 drugs and vaccines. South Africa and India are leading an effort that would temporarily allow for the production of generic versions of the life-saving products. Stephen Cornish, director-general of Doctors Without Borders-Switzerland, joined Thursday’s protest.



Stephen Cornish: “If we had the waiver, we’d be able, in a number of countries, to scale up production right now, which would allow for the diagnostics, the medicines and the vaccines to get where they’re needed most. Right now we’re seeing just a trickle of vaccines making it to the Global South. And this is just not acceptable in today’s world.”

Former Trump Admin Official Charged with Assaulting Cop at January 6 Capitol Riot

Mar 05, 2021

In Arkansas, the man photographed with his feet propped on House Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s desk during the January 6 assault on the Capitol shouted at a federal judge Thursday that it was “not fair” that he was being held in jail ahead of his trial. Richard Barnett has pleaded not guilty to felony charges — including obstruction of Congress and disorderly conduct in a restricted building with a dangerous weapon.



In Virginia, federal agents have arrested former Trump administration official Federico Klein, charging him with assaulting a police officer with a dangerous weapon during the January 6 attack. Klein worked on Donald Trump’s 2016 campaign and served as special assistant in the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs at the State Department. He’s also a former U.S. marine who was deployed in Iraq. This comes as federal agents are probing communications between pro-Trump insurrectionists and members of Congress or their staffers.

On Thursday, the U.S. Capitol Police requested a 60-day extension of the National Guard’s mission helping to protect Congress. If approved, as many as 2,200 troops could remain on Capitol Hill into May.

Senate Committee Advances Deb Haaland’s Nomination for Interior Secretary

Mar 05, 2021

The Senate Energy Committee has advanced interior secretary nominee Deb Haaland’s confirmation to a full Senate vote —



where Haaland is almost certain to be confirmed. Senator Lisa Murkowski of Alaska was the only Republican on the committee who supported Haaland's nomination. Murkowski said she struggled with her decision as her constituency in oil-rich Alaska is concerned about Haaland's opposition to fracking, pipelines and fossil fuel development. If confirmed, Deb Haaland would be the first Native American to serve in a cabinet post.

U.N. Human Rights Officials Say Multiple Actors Committed Atrocities in Ethiopia's Tigray Region

Mar 05, 2021

The U.N. is urging Eritrean troops to leave Ethiopia's northern Tigray region, where there have been reports of many atrocities by multiple parties in the ongoing conflict. This is U.N. Human Rights Office spokesperson Ravina Shamdasani.



Ravina Shamdasani: "A preliminary analysis of the information received indicates that serious violations of international law, possibly amounting to war crimes and crimes against humanity, may have been committed by multiple actors, including the Ethiopian National Defense Forces, the Tigray People's Liberation Front, Eritrean armed forces and Amhara regional forces and affiliated militia. ... Deeply distressing reports of sexual and gender-based violence, extrajudicial killings, widespread destruction and looting of public and private property by all parties continues to be shared."

The U.N. also warned of potentially catastrophic hunger and said it is still lacking the necessary access to deliver aid.

Pope Francis Arrives in Baghdad for First-Ever Papal Visit to Iraq

Mar 05, 2021



Pope Francis has landed in Iraq for a much-anticipated three-day visit, where he hopes to rally the shrinking Christian community. Francis will meet with other religious leaders later today at Baghdad's Our Lady of Salvation Church, where a 2010 massacre by fighters affiliated with al-Qaeda killed over 50 people. His trip is also expected to include stops at historic religious sites and northern Kurdistan, where he will hold an outdoor mass for thousands in Erbil.

Italy Charges Humanitarian Workers Who Helped Rescue Refugees in Mediterranean

Mar 05, 2021



In Italy, dozens of humanitarian aid workers have been charged with complicity in human smuggling after saving thousands of refugees from drowning in the Mediterranean as they attempted to reach European soil. The charges against over 20 humanitarian aid workers, with groups including Doctors Without Borders and Save the Children, come after a four-year investigation by the Italian government, which in recent years has increasingly criminalized both refugees and rescuers. The charges carry a sentence of up to 20 years in prison.

DOT Watchdog Found Ex-Secretary Elaine Chao Misused Her Office

Mar 05, 2021

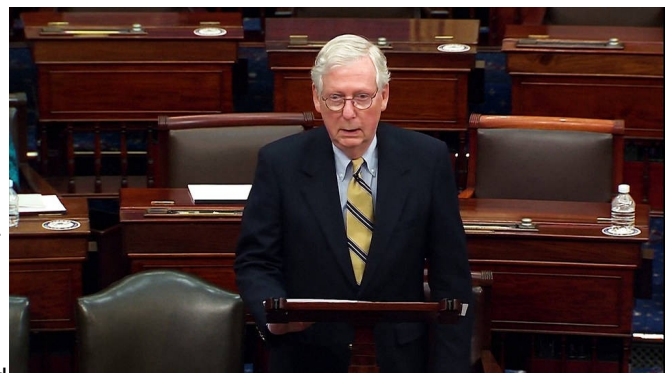


Back in the U.S., the Transportation Department's inspector general has found the department's former secretary, Elaine Chao, the wife of Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, repeatedly misused her office to help family members, including her father and sister, who run a global shipping business with large operations in China. The inspector general's report was referred to Trump's Justice Department last December, which declined to open a criminal investigation.

Sen. McConnell Prepping for Possible Senate Exit, Plans to Strip Power of Dem. Gov. to Replace Him

Mar 05, 2021

The Intercept reports Mitch McConnell has prepared a short list of candidates to succeed him as Kentucky senator, in the event he does not serve out his full term. Normally, Kentucky's governor — in this case, Democrat Andy Beshear — would appoint a replacement, but Republicans are pushing legislation in the Kentucky General Assembly that would strip him of that power. At the top of McConnell's list is state Attorney General Daniel Cameron, who is facing calls for impeachment over his mishandling of Breonna Taylor's case. Taylor was the young EMT who was killed by police in a no-knock raid of her home last March.



Texas Grid Operator ERCOT Overcharged by \$16 Billion After February Winter Storm

Mar 05, 2021



Texas's power grid operator ERCOT overcharged customers by \$16 billion during last month's historic winter storm that caused power outages across the state, according to a watchdog filing. The Electric Reliability Council of Texas, which sets the price of electricity, kept the emergency surge pricing in place for 33 hours longer than needed. In related news, the president and CEO of ERCOT, Bill Magness, was fired Wednesday amid the ongoing fallout.

Documents Show Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernández Bribed Journalists

Mar 05, 2021

In Honduras, Vice reports leaked documents have revealed the government of President Juan Orlando Hernández paid hundreds of thousands of dollars in bribes to over 70 journalists as part of Hernández's efforts to control the press. The accusations are part of the latest corruption case against Hernández's government. Hernández is a key U.S. ally.



Dems Reinroduce Berta Cáceres Human Rights in Honduras Act as World Marks Anniversary of Murder

Mar 05, 2021

A group of Democratic congressmembers have reintroduced the Berta Cáceres Human Rights in Honduras Act, which would suspend military aid to the Central American country until the Honduran government investigates allegations of human rights violations by their security forces. The bill is named after beloved Lenca Indigenous land and water defender Berta Cáceres, who was assassinated on March 3, 2016, a day before her 45th birthday. In 2017, The Guardian reported the extrajudicial killing had been planned by military intelligence specialists linked to Honduras's U.S.-trained special forces. Cáceres would have turned 50 this week. In 2019, Democracy Now! spoke to one of her daughters, Laura Zúñiga Cáceres, in Madrid, Spain.



Laura Zúñiga Cáceres: "Then we see how the United States government continues to support governments in Honduras which are highly repressive and violators of human rights. The United States supports these governments, particularly in the area of militarization. And at the time of my mother's murder, one of the things that caught our attention is that it was said that members of the FBI were investigating her killing, which the U.S. Embassy never clarified, even though it was not true, and the U.S. Embassy allowed the Honduran state to create that false narrative."

See our [coverage of Berta Cáceres's life and death](#) and our [2019 interview with her daughter Laura Zúñiga Cáceres](#) at the U.N. climate summit in Madrid.

2021-03-05 Rev. William Barber to Democrats: Overrule the Senate Parliamentarian & Pass the \$15 Minimum Wage



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co-chair of the Poor People's Campaign and president of Repairers of the Breach.

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Image Credit: Facebook: Fightfor15LA

The Senate has voted to open debate on President Joe Biden's \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package. The legislation has widespread support from voters, with one new poll showing 77% of Americans support the bill, including nearly 60% of Republicans. But the Senate bill has some key differences from the package approved by the House, including a reduction in the number of people eligible for direct stimulus checks and no provision to raise the federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour. However, the Fight for 15 continues, with the Senate considering an amendment by Senator Bernie Sanders to raise the minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$15 an hour over a five-year period. Reverend Dr. William Barber, co-chair of the Poor People's Campaign and president of Repairers of the Breach, notes that 140 million people in the U.S. were already living in poverty before this pandemic, and he urges Democrats to "stick together" and push through the minimum wage hike.

Transcript

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

AMY GOODMAN: The Senate voted Thursday to open debate on President Biden's \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package. The final vote was 51 to 50, with Vice President Kamala Harris breaking the tie after every Republican senator voted against advancing the legislation. Democrats are hoping to pass the bill before March 14th, when extended unemployment benefits run out. The legislation has widespread support from voters. One new poll shows 77% of Americans support the bill, including nearly 60% of Republicans. But Senate Republicans are attempting to slow the process to a crawl. On Thursday, Wisconsin Republican Senator Ron Johnson forced Senate clerks to read the entire text of the stimulus bill aloud — more than 100,000 words filling 628 pages.

The House has already approved a \$1.9 trillion relief package, but the Senate bill has some key differences. It reduces the number of people eligible for direct stimulus checks and does not include a provision to raise the federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour over a number of years. The unelected Senate parliamentarian

recently ruled the wage increase could not be included in a bill passed through what's known as the budget reconciliation process.

However, the Fight for 15 is not over. The Senate will consider today an amendment by Senator Bernie Sanders to raise the hourly federal minimum wage from \$7.25 an hour to \$15 over the next five years. Sanders spoke on the Senate floor Thursday.

SEN. BERNIE SANDERS: This is legislation that will increase wages for 30 million American workers. And if you ask me what the great economic crisis in our country is today, it's not just high unemployment. It's not just income and wealth inequality. It is that half of our people today and before the pandemic were living paycheck to paycheck. Their wages were so low that if they had a problem with their car or their kid got sick, suddenly they were in financial crisis. And in the richest country in the history of the world, half of our people should not be facing economic desperation when their car breaks down. And the reason for that is, significantly, that many millions of workers are earning starvation wages — and I underline that: starvation wages — in this country. I'd love to hear anybody get up here and tell me that they could live on seven-and-a-quarter an hour, they can live on eight bucks an hour, they can live on nine bucks an hour. You can't.

AMY GOODMAN: That's Senator Bernie Sanders.

To talk about the push to raise the federal minimum wage, we're joined now by the Reverend Dr. William Barber, co-chair of the Poor People's Campaign, president of Repairers of the Breach. He and Reverend Liz Theoharis just wrote a [letter](#) to Vice President Kamala Harris, published in *The Nation*, titled "VP Harris, Maybe You Were Elected for Such a Time as This."

Reverend Barber, welcome back to *Democracy Now!* Explain what you are demanding.

REV. WILLIAM BARBER II: Well, first of all, thank you so much, Amy, for having me on this morning.

And we wrote that letter to Senator [*sic*] Harris and to Chuck Schumer and to Democrats and to President Biden. I can't help but think right now about a passage of Scripture, Isaiah 10: "Woe unto those who legislate evil and rob the poor of their rights."

When I went to West Virginia a few weeks ago and met with poor, low-wealth people, from the hollows of West Virginia to the streets of Charleston, they were clear — white and Black and Brown: When passing tax cuts, they said, for the wealthy, parliamentarians have never had the last word, and they shouldn't have it now. Parliamentarian didn't rule; the parliamentarian merely advises.

And they were demanding of Manchin, whose actions have just been shameful — Republicans' actions have been sinister; his have been shameful. They were demanding that Democrats have to keep pushing. And as Bernie Sanders said, Senator Sanders, not one of these senators could live off of what people are living off of now. Every one of them makes hundreds of thousands of dollars.

And, Amy, I also — we're pushing. I really want to hear Bernie Sanders also say "poverty wages." We've got to say "poverty." A hundred and forty million people were living in poverty even before — poverty or low wages, even before this pandemic. We said that Senator Schumer should have kept it in the bill — it shouldn't have to be amended — should have been kept it in the bill and forced Vice President Harris to overrule the advice of the parliamentarian.

And the history is important here. The parliamentarian issue, parliamentarians advised and ruled out of order every attempt to end slavery. They ruled out of order attempts to change the Constitution, to change injustice after the Civil War. Nobody should want to be connected to that legacy. And if Senator Harris was to say no to the adviser, which has been done before — Trent Lott fired a parliamentarian, Hubert Humphrey did fire them, Rockefeller. There's a history of this.

And then it would force it back to the floor, which would mean that senators would have to have 60 votes to override the presiding officer. Where we are now, if Bernie puts an amendment on the floor, if the Democrats

were to stick together, first of all, the amendment could pass. Then it would put it back where the parliamentarian would advise against it. Then the vice president could say no to the advice. And it then would require 60 votes. And they don't have 60 votes. Even Manchin and Sinema, those Democrats, they don't have the intestinal fortitude to vote against the bill, which is why they want a pass. They don't want to have to vote and let everybody see them vote against \$15.

They know, lastly, that there are 62 million workers before this pandemic who were making less than \$15 an hour. They know that the poor and low-wealth people were the first to be forced to go to work, the first to get infected, the first to get sick and the first to die. And they know that 55% of poor and low-wealth people voted for the Biden-Harris ticket.

They also know, lastly, that this issue of \$15 an hour, the March on Washington, Amy, agenda was \$2 an hour and the Civil Rights Act. Two dollars an hour in '63 would be \$15 an hour today. Seventy percent of the public wants this. And I think Democrats are really playing with fire here if they don't get Manchin and Sinema in check or if Schumer pulls this out, and they don't — and the vice president doesn't overrule, because you're talking about 62 million people. You're talking about 65 million poor and low-wealth voters, and you're talking about in the midst of a pandemic.

And it's shameful, lastly, that in the midst of this pandemic, there are three things we have not done. Number one, we have not guaranteed unemployment and sick leave. Number two, we've not expanded healthcare. And number three, we've not decided to pay essential workers a living wage, essential, what they need, in the time in which 8 million more people have gone into poverty. Only 39% of this country can afford a \$1,000 emergency. Seven-twenty-five is barely \$15,000 a year. And tip workers make \$2.13 an hour, 16 million tip workers, and 60% of them couldn't even qualify for the unemployment offered during this pandemic. This is "Woe unto those who legislate evil and rob the poor of their rights." And this robbery needs to stop, and we need to do what is right.

AMY GOODMAN: I mean, what's fascinating here is you have a group of people, a hundred people — and then, of course, there's Kamala Harris — and the majority of them are millionaires saying \$15 an hour is too much. You make a critical point about Manchin and Sinema. They have said they would not vote for that \$15-an-hour increase — which is not right away. It would be over a number of years. Manchin said maybe he would tolerate \$11. But that you're saying if push came to shove, given its vast popularity among the American public, including Republicans, they would not go against this bill.

REV. WILLIAM BARBER II: Don't have the guts to do it. I don't believe it. In West Virginia, 50% of the people work for less than a living wage. That's 362,000 people. I've been to West Virginia. I've seen the fervor in the people. I've never seen the unity between Black people from the streets of Charleston and white people from the hollows of the mountain. When we we met with Manchin, we had persons from his own county, his hollow. One lady said, "I knew your mama. I knew Robert Byrd. This is not what Robert Byrd was about." They have been strong. There are 900,000 poor and low-wealth people in West Virginia. In Arizona, there's about almost a million people who make less than a living wage. They don't want to have to vote. They want a pass. They want to be able to say, "Well, the parliamentarian didn't allow it." But the parliamentarian advises. The parliamentarian doesn't rule.

And the reason I'm saying this to — we've said to Vice President Harris is it's really a love statement. You have a chance here to make this our economic Selma. You have a chance to stand where Rosa Parks stood, where Fannie Lou Hamer stood, where Amelia Boynton stood, who was beat on the bridge in Selma but also was at the — with Poor People's Campaign in '68, she was in Resurrection City. You have a chance to say, "Not only am I the first Black woman in the position, but I'm going to take a position, and I'm not going to allow a parliamentarian — one person — to block 62 million people who are poor and low-wealth. I'm not going to allow one person to hurt 25 million people who are facing hunger right now, 30 to 40 million people that are facing eviction. I'm not going to let one person block billions of dollars being pumped into the economy" — because, you know, if they did it immediately, it would actually pump \$330 billion-plus into the economy. She could say, "I'm not going to allow the 74 million women who are poor and low-wealth in this country to continue to be hurt. No, I'm going to force you to have to vote on this. I may not be able to vote

on it, but as the vice president, I'm not going to allow a parliamentarian to be more powerful than me. I'm going to overrule them."

AMY GOODMAN: Can you talk about the legacy of the parliamentarian? You've talked about it going back to slavery.

REV. WILLIAM BARBER II: Yeah. I mean, and that's the other reason nobody should want to be lined up with this issue, because, Amy, none of this stuff is constitutional. Nobody swore to uphold a parliamentarian. They swore to uphold the Constitution, which declares the first thing you must do, if you're going to heal — have domestic tranquility, is you must establish justice. And there is no justice when we still have people making \$7.25 an hour. There is no justice when in America today we've declared, by our outdated poverty measurement, that if a person makes \$12,761 a year, they are not poor. That is absurd.

There is no justification in allowing a parliamentarian — and as I've said, if you go back in history, every time the issue of slavery came up, parliamentarians advised against it, said it was not — it could not be brought to the floor, prior to slavery, and there were attempts to do it after the Civil War. And then the whole parliamentarian filibuster issue was used constantly by white supremacists in the Congress during the civil rights movement and prior to the civil rights movement. This is an ugly history.

And there is history, though, of it being defied. As I said, Hubert Humphrey did. Nelson Rockefeller did it. Trent Lott fired the parliamentarian. There's no way — and that's why we were so troubled. President Biden should loose the vice president. There's no way in the world he — and I preached the inaugural ceremony. I have great respect. We are thankful for much else that's in the bill. But there's no way he should have said two weeks ago, "I'm going to abide by the parliamentarian." **The parliamentarian didn't elect him. The parliamentarian isn't a constitutional office. The parliamentarian, and use of it by oppressive forces in this country, has a deep and ugly history. No, overrule that parliamentarian and make those senators vote. Make them vote in front of the people.**

AMY GOODMAN: Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez tweeted, "Conservative Dems have fought so the Biden admin sends fewer & less generous relief checks than the Trump admin did. It's a move that makes little-to-no political or economic sense, and targets an element of relief that is most tangibly felt by everyday people. An own-goal." And, I mean, the stats are staggering. You write raising the minimum wage would, quote, "lift 40 percent of African-American workers and 62 million poor and low-income Americans of every race."

REV. WILLIAM BARBER II: Well, first of all, again, I'm going to challenge even all the Democrats. We need to stop using this language about conservative. Look, they're not conservative. There's nothing conservative when you de-establish justice. To conserve means to hold on to something. So they're not conservative. They're not liberal. They're not moderates. They're not centrists. What is a centrist? You only make sure half the people get justice?

What we are seeing is a robbing of the rights of the poor. What we are seeing is a clear violation, I believe, of the fundamental principles of the Constitution. And that's what we need to call it. It's extreme. It's catering to the corporate bloc in this country. It's a refusal to treat people right. It is literally stomping on the hopes and dreams of the very people, poor and low-wealth people, who were the main ones to have kept this economy alive in the midst of a pandemic.

And lastly, there was no parliamentary issue brought up when we gave \$6 trillion to the corporations, no issue brought up when 84% of the first COVID bill went to banks or corporations, no issue brought up when we gave \$1.2 trillion to corporations that didn't even go through the Congress. Mnuchin just did it.

And how tragic it would be to pass a bill that is less than what Republicans did, less than what McConnell did. And if Democrats are not careful, Republicans are going to outflank them. Trump and others are so cynical. They would come back — I bet you — if we don't do this, and then propose a higher minimum wage and end up outflanking Democrats, because, you know, **there's a kind of populism that has a history in this country that is economic populism but is also socially regressive.**

This makes no sense at all. Make these senators vote. So, when Bernie Sanders puts this motion on the table, Democrats should stick together, goes back to the vice president. She should overrule the advice — that's all it is — of the parliamentarian and force it to a 60-vote margin. They have to have 60 votes to overrule the vice president. And let America see. If they've got the intestinal fortitude to vote against their own people, let us see that. And then we'll be clear about what we need to do in the next election. But I don't believe they have it. They just want a pass. They want to not have to vote, and they're afraid to have to vote. And if we make them do it in the public, I don't think they'll vote against the people.

AMY GOODMAN: Reverend Dr. William Barber, I want to thank you for taking this time — you're on the road in North Carolina — to be with us, co-chair of the Poor People's Campaign, president of Repairers of the Breach. We'll link to the [letter](#) you and Reverend Liz Theoharis wrote to Vice President Kamala Harris, published in *The Nation*, again, titled "VP Harris, Maybe You Were Elected for Such a Time as This."

Next up, the House has passed H.R. 1, the most sweeping pro-democracy bill in decades, at a time when Republicans are pushing more than 250 state laws to restrict voting access. We'll speak with New York Congressman Mondaire Jones. Stay with us.

2021-03-05 Rep. Mondaire Jones: Voting Rights Bill H.R. 1 Is of “Foundational Importance” to U.S. Democracy



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Democratic congressman for New York’s 17th Congressional District.

Links [Mondaire Jones on Twitter](#)

The House of Representatives has approved sweeping legislation protecting the right to vote with the For the People Act, which has been described as the most sweeping pro-democracy bill in decades. The legislation is aimed at improving voter registration and access to voting, ending partisan and racial gerrymandering, forcing the disclosure of dark money donors, increasing public funding for candidates, and imposing strict ethical and reporting standards on members of Congress and the U.S. Supreme Court. The bill, which comes amid a nationwide attack on voting rights in courthouses and statehouses, is heading to the Senate, where it is expected to die unless all 50 Senate Democrats unite to end the filibuster. Democratic Congressman Mondaire Jones of New York says H.R. 1 is “of foundational importance” to preserving U.S. democracy against Republican attacks on voting. “The modern-day Republican Party cannot compete on the merits of its policy ideas,” says Jones. “Rather, it is seeking to disenfranchise large swaths of the American electorate, especially Black and Hispanic people in Southern states.”

Transcript

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

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

The House of Representatives has approved the most sweeping voting rights bill in decades. The For the People Act, also known as House Resolution 1, passed Wednesday by a vote of a 220 to 210, with every Republican opposing the bill. The legislation is aimed at improving voter registration and access to voting, ending partisan and racial gerrymandering, forcing the disclosure of dark money donors, increasing public funding for candidates, and imposing strict ethical and reporting standards on congressmembers and members of the U.S. Supreme Court. The bill now heads to the Senate, where it’s expected to be killed by Republicans unless all 50 Senate Democrats unite to end the filibuster.

The House measure comes as voting rights are under attack in courthouses and statehouses across the country. Republican state lawmakers have introduced over 250 bills in 43 states to limit voter access. Meanwhile, the Supreme Court appears poised to uphold controversial voting limits in Arizona in a case that would further gut the Voting Rights Act. During oral arguments Tuesday, attorney Michael Carvin, who represents the Arizona Republican Party, admitted increasing voter turnout, quote, “puts us at a competitive

disadvantage relative to Democrats. Politics is a zero sum game,” he said. Carvin’s comment echoes a famous quote by the late conservative activist Paul Weyrich, co-founder of The Heritage Foundation. In 1980, he said, “I don’t want everybody to vote. Elections are not won by a majority of people. ... [O]ur leverage in the elections goes up as the voting populace goes down,” Weyrich said.

We’re joined now by newly elected Democratic Congressman Mondaire Jones of New York.

It’s great to have you with us, Congressman Jones. Can you talk about the significance of what you’ve just passed in the House and what you want to see happen in the Senate?

REP. MONDAIRE JONES: I’m so grateful to be here with you and your viewers.

What we passed, in the form of H.R. 1, is of foundational importance. It is literally required to save our democracy from the ongoing, flagrant assault on our democracy by the Republican Party. The modern-day Republican Party cannot compete on the merits of its policy ideas. Rather, it is seeking to disenfranchise large swaths of the American electorate, especially Black and Hispanic people in Southern states. And so, we have to take action as the United States Congress. It’s why House Democrats passed what you accurately described as the most important voting rights bill since the Voting Rights Act of 1965. And it is a very large bill, and it contains a lot of great things.

The stuff that I’ve tended to focus on are automatic voter registration to enfranchise an additional 50 million people nationally; independent redistricting commissions as replacements for the practice of partisan gerrymandering of congressional districts that has allowed people like Marjorie Taylor Greene to coast to victory in general election contests simply because they have prevailed in their Republican primaries; and, of course, public campaign financing, so that people from working-class backgrounds, who tend to be more diverse and are certainly more representative of the median American voter, are able to win congressional campaigns. And by the way, when that happens, you won’t have crazy people, completely detached from reality because of their obscene wealth, debating the need for \$2,000 survival checks in the midst of the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression.

AMY GOODMAN: So, you passed it in the House, H.R. 1. It goes now to the Senate, where it’s expected to die because of the filibuster. Can you talk about the use of the filibuster and what you want to see happen?

REP. MONDAIRE JONES: I don’t expect it to die. And when I speak to my colleagues, they don’t expect it to die, either. We are reaching a point where, as the United States Congress, in particular in the House, continues to pass commonsense legislation that has bipartisan support, by the way — when you look at stuff like the Equality Act, overwhelmingly, Democrats and Republicans don’t feel like members of the LGBTQ community should be discriminated against in housing, in employment, in credit, and so on and so forth. You know, we passed the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act. That’s going to be sitting at the door of the United States Senate, and you’ve got all these senators and also the president and vice president of the United States, who were elected on the backs of Black people and Brown people, and you’re not going to do anything?

So I think it’s going to be untenable, increasingly, for people like Kyrsten Sinema and Joe Manchin to continue to adhere to outdated norms. And by the way, the filibuster is a relic of Jim Crow. I wrote yesterday that just as the filibuster was used to block major civil rights legislation a generation ago, its adherents will now be using it, effectively, to block the Equality Act — which I would think would be personal to Kyrsten Sinema, who’s a history maker in the LGBTQ community in her own right — the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act and the For the People Act. And so, I happen to think that if we keep the pressure on, if the House — if House Democrats continue to do their job, that folks in the United States Senate will be forced to do the right thing by the American people, to do what they were elected to do. Imagine getting to the Senate and not actually legislating. I mean, what’s the point of even running?

AMY GOODMAN: So, are you for ending the filibuster?

REP. MONDAIRE JONES: I am a leading proponent in the United States Congress for repealing the filibuster.

AMY GOODMAN: I want to ask you about what you just mentioned, the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, which the House, as you said, also just passed, the bill named after, of course, the African American man who was killed last year by a white Minneapolis police officer who pressed his knee into Floyd's neck for nearly nine minutes. And by the way, he goes on trial, Chauvin, officer Chauvin, on Monday. The legislation would ban police chokeholds, eliminate qualified immunity for officers. It also seeks to ban racial and religious profiling, certain no-knock raids, and would set up a national database to track police misconduct. Talk about the significance of this.

REP. MONDAIRE JONES: It is difficult to overstate the significance of the Black Lives Matter movement, which has led to legislation like the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act. And by the way, this is not — this is just the beginning. OK? This is not going to solve the issue of systemic racism. And I'm happy to talk about that, as well. But as it concerns this piece of legislation, it was the culmination of those protests that we saw last summer, that I participated in, that in some places are still going on. It was described by historians as the most significant civil rights movement since the last civil rights movement. And that is for good reason. For a lot of people, it was clarified for them, particularly white Americans, that systemic racism, that racism in policing, is pervasive.

And, of course, I have made the argument that it is extending to all parts of our society, right? It's the way you condition your ability to get necessary medical care and how much money you have in your pocket after you've deprived Black families, as a United States government, through policy, of generational wealth. You know, it's a largely property tax-based system of public education that results in the concentration of tens of billions more dollars in white communities than in Black and Brown communities.

But as it concerns this particular bill, it has a lot of support. And it is something that, again, if you want to speak to the constituencies that are getting Democrats elected and you have any desire whatsoever to retain the majority in 2022, give people a reason to vote for you, and also deliver justice for people for whom justice has been long delayed.

AMY GOODMAN: Very quickly, Congressman Mondaire Jones, you recently wrote a [piece](#) in the *New York Daily News*, "Biden must cancel student debt without Congress." Can you explain this? And also talk about your own experience being saddled with student debt.

REP. MONDAIRE JONES: We face a student debt crisis nationally to the tune of \$1.7 trillion. It is unlike anything we have seen. And it is something that must be addressed by Congress. Wages have been stagnant for decades, literally decades, when you adjust for inflation, even as the cost of a four-year college degree has soared. We saw in the early '90s the average debt for someone graduating a four-year institution of about \$9,000. And, of course, now it's closer to \$37,000 and some change, as wages have been stagnant during that same period. Of course, we're just now fighting, once again, to raise the minimum wage, which hasn't changed from \$7.25 since 2009. But even before then, wages had been stagnant.

And so, we have to do this to liberate an entire generation of young people to meaningfully participate in our economy. In my district, in Westchester and Rockland counties, thousands of young people, people my age and below, are living at home with their parents because they can't afford to be independent and own a home or pay rent. And that is because of crippling student debt meshed with wage stagnation.

The president of the United States can exercise his authority under the Higher Education Act and forgive that debt. But, unfortunately, as of now, he has declined to do so. And so, we have to make sure that we press this issue. It is an issue of gender justice and, of course, economic justice and racial justice and LGBTQ+ justice.

2021-03-05 New York Congressman Mondaire Jones: Israel Should Ensure Palestinians Have Access to COVID Vaccine

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Guests [Mondaire Jones](#)

Democratic congressman for New York's 17th Congressional District.

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Israel has failed to make COVID-19 vaccines available to Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza, despite its responsibility under the Geneva Conventions. Critics in the United States say this “vaccine apartheid” is another example of Israeli human rights abuses going unpunished, even as the country receives billions in U.S. aid each year. Congressman Mondaire Jones of New York says Israel must ensure that Palestinians are vaccinated. “There’s no question about that,” he says. “I don’t think that anyone can argue otherwise in good conscience.”

AMY GOODMAN: I wanted to, finally, ask you, Congressman Jones, a follow-up on a [conversation](#) we had yesterday with Temple University professor Marc Lamont Hill and a leading Jewish activist, Mitchell Plitnick, who wrote a book called *Except for Palestine: The Limits of Progressive Politics*. We were talking about vaccines and Israel, one of the largest recipients of U.S. aid, the fact that the health minister of Israel said Israel is about as responsible for making sure that Palestinians have vaccines — Israel is number one in the world in vaccinating its own population — as the Palestinian Health Ministry is responsible for dolphins in the Mediterranean. Can you comment on this?

REP. MONDAIRE JONES: I’m not familiar with those statements, but I will say I believe that Palestinians should be vaccinated. I mean, there’s just no question about that. And I don’t think that anyone can argue otherwise in good conscience.

AMY GOODMAN: And that Israel is responsible for what’s happening in the Occupied Territories?

REP. MONDAIRE JONES: You know, what I have said is that we need a two-state solution in that region, and also that, under the law, Palestinians and Israelis should be treated equally. I’ve been steadfast in that.

AMY GOODMAN: And are you saying that Israel should make sure that Palestinians have the vaccines?

REP. MONDAIRE JONES: Yes, I am saying that.

AMY GOODMAN: Mondaire Jones, I want to thank you so much for being with us, Democratic congressman for New York’s 17th Congressional District.

2021-03 – 05 “We Do This ‘Til We Free Us”: Mariame Kaba on Abolishing Police, Prisons & Moving Toward Justice

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longtime organizer, abolitionist, educator, author and the founder of the grassroots organization Project NIA, which works to end the incarceration of children and young adults.

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- [Project NIA](#)
- ["We Do This 'Til We Free Us"](#)

Outrage over police brutality and the mass incarceration of Black and Brown people has generated calls to defund and abolish the police. Longtime organizer Mariame Kaba’s new book, titled “We Do This ‘Til We Free Us: Abolitionist Organizing and Transforming Justice,” brings together collected essays, interviews and other writings that she and numerous collaborators produced between 2014 — the year of the uprisings in Ferguson, Missouri, over the police killing of Michael Brown — and today. Kaba says the book grapples with “the fact that so many people around the country recognize the complete and utter failures and limits of so-called reform” to systems of injustice. “People are impatient with incrementalism and are impatient with solutions that don’t actually address the root causes of violence.”

AMY GOODMAN: This is *Democracy Now!*, democracynow.org, *The Quarantine Report*. I’m Amy Goodman. If you’d like to sign up for our daily digest, go to democracynow.org.

This week, the House passed the police reform measure known as the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, sending it to the Senate just as former police officer Derek Chauvin is set to go on trial Monday in Minneapolis for his role in the police killing of George Floyd. But outrage over police killings and harassment and the mass incarceration of Black and Brown people and immigrants has also generated calls to go beyond reform, to defund and abolish the police.

This is the focus of our next guest. Mariame Kaba’s new book, titled *We Do This ‘Til We Free Us: Abolitionist Organizing and Transforming Justice*, has just hit number nine on *The New York Times* best-seller list. Kaba collected essays, interviews and other writings that she and numerous collaborators wrote between 2014 — the year of the uprisings over the police killing of Michael Brown in Ferguson — and today. This week, the book made, as I said, *The New York Times* best-seller list. It’s been called a pragmatic playbook. It also comes with a discussion guide. Mariame Kaba is a longtime organizer, abolitionist, educator and founder of the grassroots organization Project NIA, which works to end the incarceration of children and young adults.

Mariame, welcome back to *Democracy Now!* It’s great to have you with us. Congratulations on the book and on hitting *The New York Times* best-seller list out of the gate. Clearly, you have hit a chord. *We Do This ‘Til We Free Us*. Talk about what you’re calling for.

MARIAME KABA: Wonderful. Thank you so much for having me, Amy, again.

Yeah. So, I think, really, the reason why the book has been resonating is because of the uprisings and the struggle in the streets, the fact that so many people around the country recognize the complete and utter failures and limits of so-called reform to actually do what people want, which is to have some little modicum of justice. So, I think people are impatient with incrementalism and are impatient with solutions that don't actually address the root causes of violence.

And part of that is the fact that, you know, policing is inherently violent and that the starting point has to be to actually reduce people's contact with the police altogether. And I always tell people, if you care about the violence of policing, then you should want as little policing as possible in any form.

And so, the book speaks, in part, to that, with some writings that I've made over the years, myself and with others, with some talks and speeches. It helps people understand what we mean when we talk about defunding policing and what we mean by abolishing the prison-industrial complex.

AMY GOODMAN: Why don't you explain what you mean? And also, what's really important about your work is the grassroots nature of it. And if you can talk about the grassroots actions that are taking place around the country right now —

MARIAME KABA: Yeah.

AMY GOODMAN: — along the issue of challenging police brutality?

MARIAME KABA: Yes. Thank you so much. I will say this: I always tell people that when we talk about prison-industrial complex abolition, we're talking about a dual project. We're talking about, on the one hand, a project that is about dismantling death-making institutions, like policing and prisons and surveillance, and creating life-affirming ones, putting resources and investing in the things we know do keep people safe — housing, healthcare, schooling, all kinds of other things, you know, living wages. You just talked with Reverend Barber earlier. Those types of investments are what really actually keep people safe. So, that's what PIC abolition is really about at its core.

In terms of the people on the ground, I do want to point out — you had a conversation earlier with Congressman Jones about the George Floyd Justice Act. And I think if you talk to people who have been on the streets all last year, basically, half the year, and continue to be struggling now in their communities, they would tell you that that bill, which is really just a set of procedural reforms, is woefully, woefully insufficient. And I also keep thinking about the cruel irony of naming a bill after — a police reform, supposedly, bill, after someone who was killed by the police, and then to include a whole set of so-called procedural reforms that would not have prevented that person's death. So, you know, this particular offering that they're making, supposedly, in Congress wouldn't have kept George Floyd alive. And I think that's just cruel irony. And I really recommend that people take a look at Derecka Purnell's yesterday great [column](#) that she wrote about this very issue.

So, in terms of the grassroots, organizers, since May of 2020, since George Floyd's killing, have actually worked to secure divestment of nearly a billion dollars from police departments around the country. And they've secured investments of at least almost \$200 million in communities, towards the things I mentioned are life-affirming and life-giving institutions. They have done things like over 25 cities canceled contracts with local police departments who are operating in schools, which also has saved an additional almost \$40 million to be invested in student, family and community supports and restorative justice.

So, people aren't sitting back and doing nothing. In fact, this past week, a new website just launched called DefundPolice.org. And I'd like to really point people who are interested in the idea of defunding the police to go to that website and find a map of all the different places around the country that are organizing still, because the demand is still defund, to abolish. So, I think that people really should pay attention to that and see that.

AMY GOODMAN: Well, Mariame Kaba, I want to thank you so much for being with us, longtime organizer and abolitionist. The new book, *We Do This 'Til We Free Us: Abolitionist Organizing and Transforming Justice*. In 10 seconds, why you chose that title, Mariame?

MARIAME KABA: That's a chant that has been ringing out in the streets ever since 2014 in Ferguson and in New York and all around the country. I've seen and heard, when I was in the streets with young people at protests, young people in Chicago screaming that chant.

AMY GOODMAN: We're going to have to leave it there. I thank you so much. That does it for our broadcast. Wearing a mask is an act of love. Wearing two is even better. Thanks for joining us.