

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

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

#### **DOCUMENT OVERVIEW**

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

#### **I TO ACCESS THE THREE WEEKLY CALLS via the Internet**

**A BBS RADIO** Go To [www.bbsradio.com](http://www.bbsradio.com); click on "64K Listen"

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

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

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

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

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

**Call to interact / ask questions: Canada & US: **STATION 2** 1- 888-429-5471**  
**Direct 1- 323-744-4841**

**C Skype: BBSradio2**

#### **D Archives for the 3 Programs listed above:**

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

#### **E Archives, written and audio, also exist on the rainbowroundtable website:**

[www.rainbowroundtable.net](http://www.rainbowroundtable.net) - look under the "Archives" tab for **written notes which include links to the entire podcast, as well as links to the audio recordings** of the conference calls

#### **II TO ACCESS OTHER CALLS SUPPORTED BY 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto: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](http://www.lawoftime.org) website for further information.

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

**18<sup>th</sup> Fri – 4-4-4 – Kan – Seed Healing aspect** – tone guide is the Sun, Ahau: our openness to life. All about self-determination, timing, harmony seeking; The gifts: possibilities, perpetual of continuation; let go of stagnation, hesitation, lack of self confidence / trust  
We set our intentions for the next 260 days / 9 months

**19<sup>th</sup> Sat - -5-5-5 CHICCHAN - Red Overtone Serpent** – warrior aspect. Remaining open to change, distinguishing between body and soul. Powerful for transmuting energies. Gifts are motivation to change, Letting go of body issues, listening to ego

**20<sup>th</sup> Sun – 6-6-6 CIMI – White Rhythmic World Bridger** - linker of worlds – warrior aspect. working with forgiveness, moving into a state of grace; do the good work of transmutation; let go of ego, belligerent behaviour, belief that life is a struggle  
Rhythmic tone – equality; receptivity to balance which is a dynamic thing;

overcome the tendency to quarrel

- 21<sup>st</sup> Mon – 7-7-7 MANIK – Blue Resonant Hand - Solstice day too**, and the rare conjunction between Jupiter and Saturn. Healing: about healing ourselves and others; creating heaven and peace with this energy; acceptance of being the healer of self and others; let go of procrastination; it's midpoint of winter according to the Celtic way
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Tues – 8 LAMAT – Yellow Galactic Stargate - an 8-8-8 day: visionary aspect -** illumination of human kind – opening of the stargate - working with the energy of humans – we have the power to see beyond the gate – let go of dissonance, self-doubt
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Wed – 9-9-9 MULUC – Red Solar Moon – artist aspect:** wise use of rational mind and about accepting spirit's direction. Remember our task and that Universal mind is our mind! Telepathy is open and available. Let go of self-doubt – this moon will ignite our connection to spirit – pay attention! ! !
- 24<sup>th</sup> Thur – 10-10-10 OC – White Planetary Dog- artist aspect –** unconditional love; between Solstice and Christmas, embracing the manifestation of unconditional love; accepting the awareness of destiny, past lives  
let go of fears, unwise use of anger
- 25<sup>th</sup> Fri – 11-11-11 CHUEN - Blue Spectral Monkey –** about creating joy, play, laughter – pay attention to clarity of mind, wise use of magical artistry  
Letting go of what no longer serves us – the vision quest! A vision quest usually means the death of something – and not necessarily the body! ! !

Lots of gratitude for all the support we are getting from the Universe! ! !

[www.Spacestationplaza.co](http://www.Spacestationplaza.co) Click on the tzolkein – it's on page 2 of the link.  
For even more information, SEE ALSO **the Law of Time.org**  
**This is not a 3<sup>rd</sup> dimensional calendar -**

**C. Housekeeping: 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](http://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.Rainbow Roundtable](http://www.Rainbow Roundtable) too. 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 2013 Rainbow Roundtable**

**FOOD MONEY:** VIA PAYPAL OR See the PAGE ON 2013 Roundtable

**BASICS:** food, gas – usual stuff + \$ for bills **\$ 200 + \$300**

- **Please notify T & R if you're sending something:** [koran999@comcast.net](mailto:koran999@comcast.net)  
**EVERY \$5 HELPS - ALL GRATEFULLY RECEIVED**

- 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](http://www.rainbowroundtable.net)**

**\*\* [www.rainbowroundtable.com/page/donate](http://www.rainbowroundtable.com/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](http://www.rainbowroundtable.net) and link to their Paypal account – click on the word CHANGE; choose **family and friends option so Paypal takes off no fees.**

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

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

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

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

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

Contact Rainbird with questions: [lightenergync@gmail.com](mailto: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](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.keshefoundation.org/store/?alias=store>

#### **Keshe Corona site**

[www.plasmainnature.com/health/coronavirus-1-cup-1-life-series-protocols-and-other-info/](http://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-october-23-2020>

**HARD NEWS      TARA, RAMA:      T, R •      •      •**

**T:** still working on grokking that Christmas week is the day after tomorrow! ! !  
has to check out whether or not a Canadian astrologist will be guest next Thursday night !  
• Friday night is a question mark  
• Saturday is a go!

- The story is upbeat - **Message from the Dali Lama: Dec 18**  
As those of you who are going to fulfill a vision for a happier, more peaceful future in this world, you need to learn to live each day in a more meaningful way; you need to sharpen your human intelligence through study yet you also need to develop a warm heart.

#### **Rama Speaking: Call from Tom the Cat Friday morning**

Lord Rama: there are many things going on; all of them are good: the fallen matrix continues to collapse – rumours of martial law, interruptions of the delivery of goods and services are

- reports connected with the patriots, yet all of these are connected to Faction 1, Faction 2 still continuing to resist all normalcy

**R:** they are still claiming the orange beach ball won the elections

**T:** and there is no credence to Biden as he stole the election from Bernie Sanders

**R:** quite a twisted timeline need Dr Who who knows how to fix timelines – and the new doctor is a woman!

**T:** the Dr on Star Trek: Dr Beverly Crusher – Guinan worked in 10 forward; not a doctor! (Whoopi Goldberg!)

From **Tom the Cat:** As we approach this winter solstice; Jupiter and Saturn so close as to look like one star: this will be visible Monday night - this has not happened in this close proximity since the 1600s !

- stay in the light of the most radiant one and blaze the Violet Fire!

**Reading:** Robynne LaPlante – Miracles happen as you believe **SEE BELOW**  
on Dec 21<sup>st</sup>, she was in Sedona – sunsets are the message of hope, and the promise that the Light will return

- Bill Moyers contacted Rama, sent an article, and said “Well here it is! NESARA NOW!”
- Can we finally stop marching to disaster?

### **Reading: Dec 17, 2020 Rebecca Gordon from Tom Dispatches**

**Tomgram**  
17, 2020

Rebecca Gordon, **All-War-All-the-Time?**

Posted on December

Hmmm... let me see if I’ve gotten this straight. In his last days in office, Donald Trump is “ending” America’s forever wars (as he long promised he would do) by leaving 2,500 American troops in Afghanistan, a similar number in Iraq, and continuing the air war across parts of the Greater Middle East and Africa. Take Somalia, where American troops have periodically been stationed since 1993. The latest secretary of defense, Christopher Miller, actually visited that country as November ended to thank the more than 700 U.S. troops involved in training and advising Somali forces there. He promised to withdraw “virtually all” of them (which, of course, is not quite the definition of “all”). An early December Pentagon statement simply said that, in response to the president’s orders, “a majority” of those troops would be pulled out early in 2021. Most of them will evidently simply be “repositioned” to neighboring Kenya to bulk up U.S. forces there. It’s from Kenya, itself increasingly embattled, that most U.S. drone and other airstrikes against al-Shabaab, the al-Qaeda-linked Islamist rebels in Somalia, are being carried out.

In fact, on December 10th, the U.S. launched two such airstrikes against an al-Shabaab stronghold in Somalia. And General Stephen Townsend, the head of U.S. Africa Command, insisted that “we will continue to apply pressure to the al-Shabaab network. They continue to undermine Somali security and need to be contained and degraded... We’re repositioning, but we will maintain the ability to strike this enemy.” And keep in mind that the U.S. has launched more airstrikes in Somalia this year than in the Bush and Obama years combined.

In other words, the odds are that, after being “ended” by Donald J. Trump, America’s forever wars will, in some form, prove once again to be ongoing and so head for their third decade, even if in different forms and possibly even different countries. How appropriate today, then, that TomDispatch regular Rebecca Gordon returns to the subject of those never-ending wars and the military that goes with them to consider just what all-war-all-the-time really means to a country being felled by a pandemic. *Tom*

### **CONFERENCE CALL**

**<https://fccdl.in/w1O1IQlpkM>**

**P:** asking about the Mayan Calendar: it’s a galactic way of telling time and would be wonderful to see a 13 moon calendar

**T:** the Keshe technology showing us a new paradigm in science – that we have a new way of being so don't really . . .

**P:** about meeting author Michael Wiens, of book on humming birds, : **Jewel of the North** - and learning of flowers most loved by hummers - bee balm; delphiniums; salvia

**RGM: about videos taking off**

a nurse dropped to the ground due to the vaccine received: Youtube was taken down

**Ca/PA:** the big holdup at Pfzers – what the hell is in it? How does that affect humans? Then rolling that out in volume and people react to it – and they are not legally culpable ! Will people notice, is the question . . .

**RGM:** a Sars Covid soup as a prevention against covid

**Ca/CA:** people saying the nurse had fainting spells! Out and out lying . . .

P: always to be blamed on pre-existing conditions

**Ca/CA:** those who know, know; rest will say it's not true! And they don't want to know – including friends and family . . .

- Talk about lies on top of lies on top of lies -

**RGM:** as energies build to the 21<sup>st</sup> – we need to keep balanced!

And in the vaccine there is sugar – aka “white death”

**RB:** Keshe product of CUP ONE neutralizes covid

**Caller/So:** Boran – a homeopathic company from France: a formula to take in October and it comes out only at end of October when the flu season comes; taken regularly - get no flu or only mild version

**R:** talks of the mindset being important, too

**Caller/So: take 2 pellets / week** from October to April: 2 pellets per week. If the season is expanded, keep on taking it.

**Ca/ Pa:** D Cal – the freemart product has boran [go to Freemart site to check this out: <https://www.shopfreemart.com>]

**RGM:** the boron used to be in the dirt we ate as kids

**RB:** spinal column fluid is 40% boron

**Ca/Pa:** the dr from northern MN –

- Asks about boron in a homeopathic format vs the Freemart one: difference?

Homeopathy is the only thing that has any resemblance to the GANS technology

**T:** the less of what you have makes it more potent in homeopathy – and that helps us to align in a different way – not more of everything as in the western mindset.

**R:** tooth is much better: using Thieves oil – created by Young Living

**CA:** rinsing with hydrogen peroxide for sore teeth – spit it out; rinse with water – kills everything and rinse with water - DON'T SWALLOW IT!

**Ca/Pa:** it alkalizes the mouth

- the Kangen machine - makes alkaline and acidic water – soak an open wound in acidic water; do something else with the alkaline
- A link to the information, sent by the caller

<https://www.bing.com/search?q=Kangen+Water&form=APIPH1&PC=APPL>

**T:** in the hydrogen peroxide – 1 – 11 parts of water for food grade peroxide

**Ca:** yes, is aware: regular hydrogen peroxide from the store also works . . . .

**RGM:** Sivet coffee – from Indonesia – the animals are kept in optimum health – they eat partially ripened coffee cherries, then they poop them out

**Ca/PA:** \$50 cup of sivet coffee in Morocco !

About the machine above – if you drink a lot of coffee, have to start at a low #

Discussion of how to use the water from that machine . . .

**Ca/Pa:** caller has 3 machines

**RGM:** the machine produces hydrogen-rich water

**AS YOU CAN SEE, YOU WILL HAVE TO LISTEN TO THE CONFERENCE CALL ! ! !**

## **B B S RADIO**

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

**VLOG 197 A RARE GRAND CONJUNCTION AND THE SOLSTICE**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2kQiMOLJSLo&feature=emb\\_title](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2kQiMOLJSLo&feature=emb_title)





## **The Ascended Masters Broadcasts**

**Grandmother Anna – December 18th 2020: [Listen/download](#)**

**<https://instantteleseminar.com/Events/124628331>**

**Mother Sekhmet / 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!**

Things are moving extremely fast! It's about the changing of the guard – this new age coming in. . . . like never before. Last time around, we had a Golden Age, we did not have the orbit we have now - closer orbit to the sun.

- Things are shifting very rapidly now; it is about Nature and Nature's god and all the kingdoms, queendoms. They are all saying we can do this with Love; that's the test.
- At this time – like Grandmother Anna spoke of – send more love to the plans of mice and men! They have lost their shirts and their shorts, so to speak! It is about the changing of this story to one of expansion, generosity, kindness, love; Jupiter bringing in what's needed here: a change in the wind.
- Expect us! That is what She can say – all kinds of events are unfolding. Where we go from here – like all the stories, messages, keep being said: at a certain point . . . . noise on the tape

**T:** asks Mother if she is in the spirit [of Christmas] – doesn't seem like it .

**M/A:** It is about this great transformation that is going on right now on this planet: how the kachinas – red star kachina, blue star kachina – the great purification of this planet is taking place and all the old stories – gotta let it go! Expect miracles – we sound a bit crazy at this point . .

**T:** Yes, you do - a bit daft, you might say

**M/A:** as Master Yoda would say "Out of nothingness comes the Force" and it changes entire galaxies and sun systems! It's right at this time: because we have lived so long in a simulated reality, things don't look like they're changing - yet they have radically changed and gonna change some more in the next couple of weeks or so.

- It is about the grand experiment called The New Atlantis, her and now, as St Germain unfolds his story. Let's just say, there is a cleaning of the House, of the Senate – and like She

has said in the past: time to start over and change how things are – it is a magical journey we're on

- It is like Joseph Campbell, Bill Moyers used to talk about: this Hero's Journey – hasn't gone anywhere; we are right in the middle of it, coming to the conclusion.
- it is about the Ascension which is assured: how we move through these energies – that's the key! And She can say with lots of respect – **we have made it!**
- **Yet the best is yet to come** – where we do not have to talk in this funny voice through this temple: She can be Herself as it were.
- All the kingdoms, all the queendoms, all the various realms are coming forth now; it is this quickening that has happened as this solstice approaches and what unfolds is this upliftment of this Age of Aquarius and, right now, it may seem the furthest thing from reality – and it is not: it is right in our midst. **All we need do is listen to the music of the spheres**
- We know you all got miles to go before we sleep: better be on Her way!

**T:** A very short and sweet report!

**M/A** It is ALL happening: Grandmother Anna spoke of St Nicholas showing up with his bag of magic – not of toys.

- The real toy is us – we've been toys for the black side for far too long: the story has changed. Goddess is here along with the other gods and goddesses of the ancient stories – how we come together and set aside the double-bladed axe and the chain mail and listen to the sound coming in: the sound of one hand clapping.
- Greetings in the Light of the Most radiant one – She knows we have a lot to play

**T:** if we are going to be on Christmas – don't know

**M/A:** Magic is afoot – we shall see

**Both:** kadoish, kadoish, kadoish adonai Sabeoth , , ,

**M:** Remember . . . .

**Rama Returns:** was in one of the shuttle bays of LM Athena's ship, The Dove. Great activity going on people are at the ready for when things pop, so to speak!

- He wishes he knew the hour and he doesn't, so he has to be here now; be love now!
- Passes the talking stick - it is share this time of this holy season of the Christ child returning and the energy of the Prince of Peace: all he is saying is give peace a chance!

**AUDIO: DEMOCRACY NOW – December 18, 2020**

**2020-12-18 Headlines** <https://www.democracynow.org/2020/12/18/headlines>

**2020-12-18 Evictions Are Violence: Millions Could Lose Homes Amid COVID Pandemic If Federal Moratorium Expires**

[https://www.democracynow.org/2020/12/18/pandemic\\_housing\\_evictions\\_moratorium](https://www.democracynow.org/2020/12/18/pandemic_housing_evictions_moratorium)

**2020-12-18 Winona LaDuke: Deb Haaland's Nomination for Interior Sec. Is "Important Step" for Native Americans**

<https://publish.dvlab.com/democracynow/360/dn2020-1218.mp4?start=1523.0&end=1830.0>

**2020-12-18 The Pandemic Pipeline: Land & Water Defenders Continue Resistance to Enbridge Line 3 in Minnesota**

<https://publish.dvlab.com/democracynow/360/dn2020-1218.mp4?start=1830.0&end=2622.0>

**2020-12-18 CIA-Backed Afghan Death Squads Massacred Children Inside Religious Schools in Campaign of Terror**

<https://publish.dvlab.com/democracynow/360/dn2020-1218.mp4?start=2622.0>

**THE PROGRAM ENDED EARLY DUE TO TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES**

## INFORMATION RELATED TO THE NOTES

### 2020-12-18 Miracles Happen When You Believe

<https://www.whitewolfjourneys.com/weave-the-web/miracles-happen-when-you-believe/>

by [Robbyne LaPlant](#)



On December 21<sup>st</sup> for those who follow the earth religion, the wheel turns and we say goodbye to 2020. What a year it has been. Even though my life was dramatically redirected this year and I am still unable to return to my heart home in New Zealand, I am grateful for the time it has given me to look deep within and discover what I needed to change. I am grateful for the incredible encounters I have had in the red stone elders and the animal allies who have chosen to share their wisdom. I am so very grateful for the beautiful souls who are part of our spiritual family and want to acknowledge each of you.

We have a grand opportunity to now come together as a global community to focus on love. Just love at the moment when the Grand Conjunction occurs. Jupiter and Saturn align at 0 degrees in Aquarius on the 21<sup>st</sup> and will create in the sky what many call the Christmas Star. I have included a guided audio meditation with the ocean crystal singing bowl. A moment of pause to first shift our individual energy fields and then join together to awaken the rainbow serpent and send love to the earth mother.

This is what we were born for. We have a moment in time to join together as one brilliant point of light in prayer and meditation. Millions around the world are gathering to hold the vision of a kinder, gentler world.

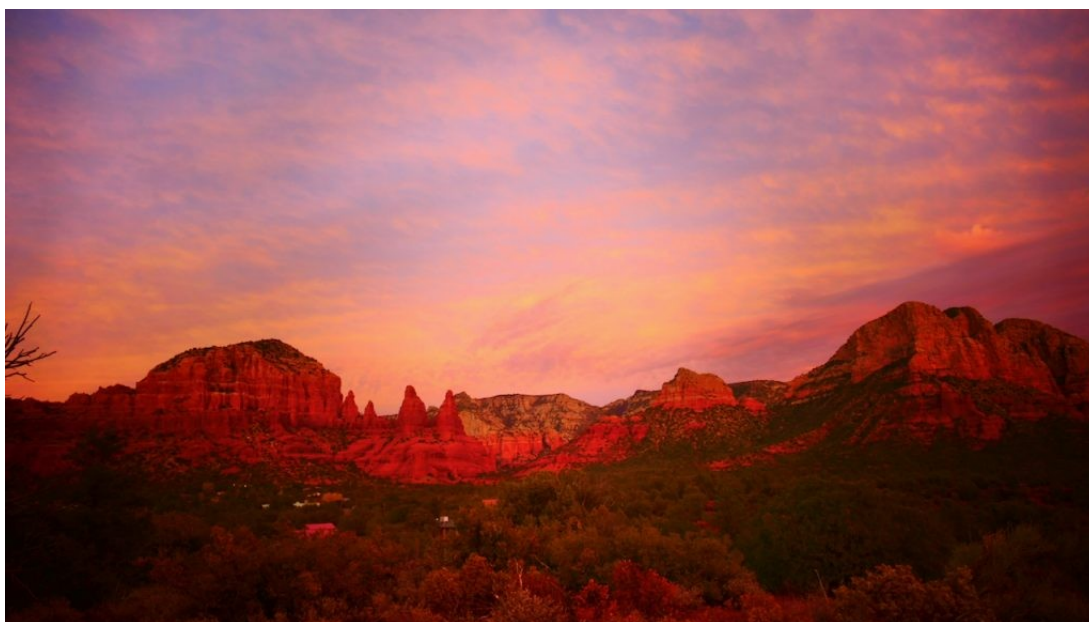


Everyone's soul light is important and will make a difference. Be part of the change and the grandness of creating a kinder, gentler world. We can diffuse the judgment, anger, hate and fear that exists in the 3D experience to cosmically raise our vibration. You can join together at the exact moment when the elders will be activating the rainbow serpent energy in Uluru, Australia at 9:04pm or whenever you have a moment.

The meditation is created in two parts, the first to clear your energy field so you are vibrating as pure love, the second part to send focused intentions of love to create a kinder and gentler reality.

### **Go TO ORIGINAL TO FOLLOW THE MEDITATION**

Sunsets are the message of hope and the promise that light will return. After last night's sunset in the red stones of Sedona, my heart is filled with hope.



Kia Kaha, Be Strong, Be love and together we will create a new and beautiful reality, Robbyne

### **U.S. Has Second-Worst Day of Pandemic as L.A. Logs Two COVID-19 Deaths Per Hour**

The United States has logged its second-worst day of the pandemic after shattering records just one day earlier. On Thursday, the U.S. recorded over 233,000 new infections and nearly 3,300 deaths.

Intensive care units in Southern California and other parts of the state report they've run out of ICU beds. On average, two people are dying of COVID-19 each hour in Los Angeles.



Meanwhile, lawyers representing patients at Southern California's largest psychiatric hospital are demanding the release or transfer of hundreds of people amid a massive outbreak that's sickened nearly 700 patients and killed 10. The lawyers describe the state-run Patton State Hospital as a "tinderbox" for COVID-19.

### **FDA Panel Recommends Emergency Use of Moderna's COVID-19 Vaccine**

On Thursday, a panel of vaccine experts recommended the FDA grant emergency use authorization to Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine for people 18 and older. Final FDA approval could come as early as today.

This comes as governors around the U.S. report their states are receiving significantly fewer doses of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine than planned. A spokesperson said Pfizer has millions of doses in cold storage in its warehouse but is awaiting instructions from the Trump administration on how to distribute them.



As we go to broadcast, Vice President Mike Pence, second lady Karen Pence and Surgeon General Jerome Adams are being publicly vaccinated. The White House says President Trump won't be vaccinated until it's recommended by his medical team.

### **U.S. Unemployment Claims Surge as Lawmakers Haggle Over Pandemic Relief**

Lawmakers continue to haggle over a \$900 billion stimulus bill, with talks likely extending past tonight's midnight deadline to avoid a government shutdown. White House aides reportedly talked President Trump out of insisting on stimulus checks for as much as \$2,000 as part of the relief package, saying it would "blow up negotiations." The bill in its current form is expected to include one-time payments of just \$600.

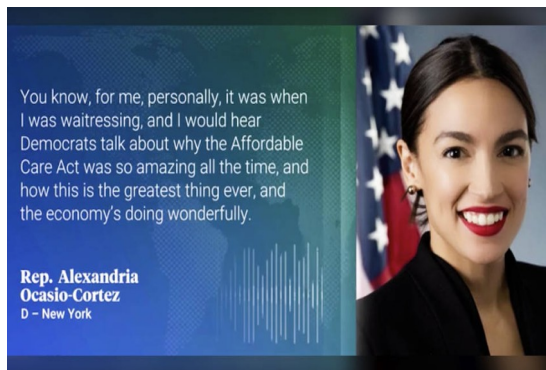


This comes as new figures show another 885,000 people filed new claims for unemployment benefits last week — the highest weekly level in three months. Nearly half a million more people filed for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance, a federal aid program for part-time and self-employed workers.

### Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez Calls for New Democratic Party Leadership

New York Congressmember Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez is calling for new leadership in the Democratic Party, which she says will help ensure progressive gains like Medicare for All. She made the comments in a recent interview on the podcast “Intercepted.”

**Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez:** “You know, for me, personally, it was when I was waitressing, and I would hear Democrats talk about why the Affordable Care Act was so amazing all the time and how this is the greatest thing ever, and the economy is doing wonderfully. And frankly, it is the same trick that Trump pulls, which is, you know, people touting the Dow as a measure of economic success, when we’re all getting killed out here. And so, you know, do we need new leadership of the Democratic Party? Absolutely. But how do we ensure that when we shift, we don’t even move further to the right?”



### Biden Nominates Deb Haaland to Become First-Ever Native American Cabinet Member

President-elect Joe Biden has nominated New Mexico Congressmember Deb Haaland to become secretary of the interior. If confirmed, Haaland will be the first Native American to serve as a Cabinet secretary. Haaland’s nomination was backed by progressives, as well as more than 120 tribal leaders, who sent a letter to Biden last month urging him to select her for the post. Haaland responded in a statement, “As our country faces the impacts of climate change and environmental injustice, the Interior has a role and I will be a partner in addressing these challenges by protecting our public lands and moving our country towards a clean energy future.” We’ll have more on Deb Haaland’s historic nomination later in the broadcast.



### Biden Taps North Carolina’s Top Environmental Official Michael Regan to Head EPA

President-elect Joe Biden is nominating North Carolina’s top environmental official, Michael Regan, to lead the Environmental Protection Agency. If confirmed, Regan would become the first Black man to head the EPA. He previously worked at the agency under Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush.



### **Rep. Cedric Richmond, Top Biden Adviser, Tests Positive for COVID-19**

Congressmember and incoming Director of the White House Office of Public Engagement Cedric Richmond has tested positive for the coronavirus, two days after he appeared at an event in Georgia with Joe Biden. Biden reportedly tested negative for the virus Thursday. Richmond and Biden interacted outdoors for less than 15 total minutes, and both wore masks throughout the event.



### **28 Children from Haiti, Central and South America to Be Deported with Their Families**

In immigration news, advocates say 28 children and their families are scheduled to be deported this morning, including a 4-year-old girl with a broken arm in need of surgery. The families are from Central and South America, and Haiti. Their attorneys argue the families were never given a fair chance to seek asylum in the U.S. and that the parents had refused to be separated from their children as they fought their cases.



### **344 Kidnapped Schoolboys Have Been Freed in Nigeria**

In Nigeria, local officials say 344 schoolboys who were abducted last Friday from their school in northwestern Katsina state have been freed. Details about the mass kidnapping are still unclear. Boko Haram initially claimed responsibility, but a state official now says they were not involved.



### **Billionaire Sackler Family Refuses to Apologize for Fueling Deadly Opioid Epidemic**

On Capitol Hill, members of the billionaire Sackler family refused to apologize Thursday as House lawmakers grilled them over their role in fueling the devastating opioid epidemic. The Sacklers own Purdue Pharma, the maker of OxyContin. The company pleaded guilty last month to three criminal charges, including bribing doctors to write more prescriptions for the highly addictive drug. Sackler family members have not been criminally charged. This is Massachusetts Congressmember Ayanna Pressley addressing David Sackler.



**Rep. Ayanna Pressley:** "We do not need another failed war on drugs. What we need is a reckoning and accountability for drug companies who put profits over people and rob us of lives and freedom of our loved ones. You have created a nationwide epidemic. Four hundred and fifty thousand people have died. Let me be clear: People struggling with addiction are not criminals."

Your family and Purdue Pharma, you are the criminals. You are the ones who disregard your duties to society, and you should be ashamed of yourselves.”

Thursday’s hearing came as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported the U.S. had more than 81,000 overdose deaths over the past year — the highest number ever recorded and nearly 20,000 more than last year.

### **Federal Death Row Prisoner Contracts COVID-19 Weeks Before Planned Execution**

Death row prisoner Dustin John Higgs has contracted COVID-19 ahead of his scheduled execution on January 15. Higgs is among over 300 prisoners in the federal prison in Terre Haute, Indiana, who have tested positive for coronavirus — including prisoners on death row. A guard working on the unit also tested positive. Higgs’s attorney said the outbreak is likely due to the rushed executions carried out by the Trump administration during the pandemic. So far this year, 10 people have been put to death by the federal government — the most since 1896.



### **Google Faces Third Major Antitrust Challenge as Dozens of AGs Launch Lawsuit**

Dozens of attorneys general from across 35 states have launched an antitrust lawsuit against Google, accusing the tech giant of anti-competitive actions that protect the company’s general search monopolies, depriving consumers of choices. The lawsuit filed Thursday is one of three antitrust cases against Google.

### **Google Employees Demand Company Reinstate Researcher Who Was Fired for Calling Out Bias in AI**

Google employees are demanding senior leadership reinstate prominent Black researcher Timnit Gebru, who alleged she was fired earlier this month after arguing tech companies should do more to ensure gender-biased and racist language are not exacerbated by artificial intelligence systems.



### **NYC Council Passes Bill to Protect Fast-Food Workers from Being Fired Without Cause**

In labor news, the New York City Council passed legislation that protects fast-food workers from being fired without a valid reason. Councilmember Adrienne Adams authored the bill.

**Councilmember Adrienne Adams:** “Before the pandemic, fast-food workers performed dangerous and physically demanding work. But now as essential workers, their jobs have become more dangerous, putting their health and families’ health at risk. In exchange, they are often faced with impossible choices: endure hostile working conditions, leave, or be fired and face financial struggle without a job. Just cause legislation is about giving working families economic stability and security. And most importantly, this is about treating workers with respect and dignity.”



## 2020-12-18 Evictions Are Violence: Millions Could Lose Homes Amid COVID Pandemic If Federal Moratorium Expires

[https://www.democracynow.org/2020/12/18/pandemic\\_housing\\_evictions\\_moratorium](https://www.democracynow.org/2020/12/18/pandemic_housing_evictions_moratorium)

<https://publish.dvllabs.com/democracynow/360/dn2020-1218.mp4?start=658.0&end=1523.0>

### Topics [Housing](#)

- [Coronavirus](#)
- 

### Guests [Tara Raghuveer](#)

director of KC Tenants, a tenants' rights organization in Kansas City, and director of the national campaign Homes Guarantee.

- [Kathryn Leifheit](#)  
researcher at UCLA's Fielding School of Public Health.
- 

### Links [Tara Raghuveer on Twitter](#)

- [Kathryn Leifheit on Twitter](#)
- ["Expiring eviction moratoriums and COVID-19 incidence and mortality"](#)

<https://publish.dvllabs.com/democracynow/360/dn2020-1218.mp4?start=658.0&end=1523.0>

Image Credit: Facebook/KC Tenants

Millions across the U.S. could be forced from their homes in the middle of the pandemic if Congress does not extend the federal eviction moratorium that is due to expire at the end of December. Congress is expected to push the moratorium back by one month, to January 31, in the \$900 billion stimulus bill being debated in Washington, but such an extension would only be a temporary fix to a much wider problem. The U.S. Census Bureau reports that one-third of U.S. households are behind on rent or mortgage payments and will likely face eviction or foreclosure in the next two months. We speak with UCLA researcher Kathryn Leifheit, who says the lifting of state eviction moratoriums this summer led to 430,000 new COVID infections and 10,000 deaths. "We think these deaths are preventable, and they could have been prevented had those moratoriums been kept in place," says Leifheit. We also speak with tenant rights activist Tara Raghuveer, who says the federal evictions moratorium "wasn't good enough to begin with," but allowing it to expire would leave "millions of families vulnerable to eviction within the first 20 days of the next year."

---

### Transcript

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

**AMY GOODMAN:** As U.S. hospitalizations from COVID-19 hit another record high, we begin today's show looking at the crisis of evictions and how millions across the country could be forced

to leave their homes in the middle of the pandemic if Congress does not extend the federal eviction moratorium that's due to expire at the end of the year. Congress is expected to extend the moratorium by one month, to January 31st, in the \$900 billion stimulus bill currently still being debated in Washington. But this is just a temporary fix. The U.S. Census Bureau reports one-third of U.S. households are behind on rent or mortgage payments and will likely face eviction or foreclosure in the next two months. Meanwhile, many have already faced eviction despite the national moratorium.

New [research](#) finds more than 400,000 COVID-19 cases and nearly 11,000 deaths resulted from evictions, after many states allowed eviction moratoriums to expire over the summer.

The co-author of this research joins us now in Los Angeles, California, the new epicenter of the pandemic. Kathryn Leifheit is a researcher at UCLA's Fielding School of Public Health. And in Kansas City, we're joined by Tara Raghuveer, director of KC Tenants, a tenants' rights organization in Kansas City, director of the national campaign Homes Guarantee.

We welcome you both to *Democracy Now!* Tara, let's begin with you in Kansas City. Lay out the national problem that we're seeing here — record deaths, record hospitalizations, record infections around the coronavirus. And this federal moratorium on evictions is due to end at the end of this year, in just a few weeks.

**TARA RAGHUVVEER:** It's important to realize that the federal moratorium that's due to end wasn't good enough to begin with. It didn't come until September, and that was months after people in places like Kansas City had been evicted and forced to the streets in the middle of a global pandemic. The CDC moratorium only covers one type of eviction, and those are evictions for nonpayment of rent. It leaves a lot open to local interpretation, and it puts the burden on tenants to apply for that protection. So the CDC moratorium was not good enough. But the CDC moratorium allowed to expire at the end of the month leaves hundreds of thousands, millions of families vulnerable to eviction within the first 20 days of the next year.

**AMY GOODMAN:** And explain the difference between federal evictions and other evictions. How is it — what does federal apply to?

**TARA RAGHUVVEER:** So, the CDC moratorium applied, ostensibly, to every property in the country and was available for any tenant who needed protection. Previously there was only eviction protection for buildings that got some kind of federal financing, but in September the CDC went further than that.

The problem, though, was that the federal moratorium left a lot to local interpretation. So, here in Kansas City, for example, the presiding judge of our circuit court decided that he was still going to allow landlords to file evictions, and the judges were still going to hear evictions, and they were still going to issue eviction judgments for those cases where the tenant hadn't gotten the right information to protect themselves under the CDC moratorium.

**AMY GOODMAN:** So, you recently tweeted out, Tara, "If people get checks but we don't #CancelRent, those aren't stimulus checks, they're an industry bailout." Explain.

**TARA RAGHUVVEER:** The tenants in the streets, the tenants in their homes have been demanding rent and mortgage cancellation since March, because tenants were always clear that in the face of unprecedented public health and economic crisis, they should not be responsible for what is the

largest bill for every American family across race and class lines. But months into the pandemic, tenants are still being held responsible for their rent payment.

And the fact is that the rent eats first. That is to say, if a family gets a check, whether it's for \$600 or \$1,200, that money goes first to their landlord. So that does not stimulate the economy. That does not put food on the table. That does not help their family survive this traumatic moment. All that does is enrich the property owner to whom they owe their rent.

**AMY GOODMAN:** In November, members of KC Tenants were detained by police when they tried to halt the eviction of a woman from her apartment in Raytown, Missouri, who said she had nowhere else to go.

**LANDLORD:** Get off the property. The police are coming.

**KC TENANTS ACTIVIST 1:** Why are you evicting someone in a pandemic?

**KC TENANTS ACTIVIST 2:** All evictions are an act of violence! All evictions are an act of violence! All evictions are an act of violence! All evictions — ow!

**POLICE OFFICER:** Stop! Stop. Stop.

**AMY GOODMAN:** Last week, hundreds of protesters marched here in New York, in Brooklyn, to the housing court, demanding an end to evictions and to cancel rent.

**PROTESTERS:** We are the tenants! We are the tenants! The mighty, mighty tenants! The mighty, mighty tenants! Fighting for justice! Fighting for justice! Cancel rent! Cancel rent!

**AMY GOODMAN:** So, those are sounds from the streets of Brooklyn. And, of course, that first eviction was right around the issue in Kansas City involving your group, KC Tenants. If you can talk about what that eviction was all about? Often specifics capture people's attention more than the mass numbers, which is horrifying. And also, even the people throwing people out, like those who are brought in with sheriffs, you see them online weeping and saying, "I'm taking out this person's furniture, and I'm probably next."

**TARA RAGHUVeer:** That's right. So, Amana, whose eviction we disrupted in Raytown, Missouri, is a cancer survivor. She was living by herself. She wasn't even behind on her rent. She was being evicted because the property manager was basically sick of her abuser showing up and causing trouble at the apartment complex. She's a domestic violence survivor, and she was basically evicted for calling for support in her domestic violence case. And it was true, she had nowhere to go that night.

So we showed up to execute this kind of blockade as a way of both supporting Amanda and showing her solidarity, but also exposing the fact that sheriff's evictions are still happening right now, because the fact is, for a lot of people who aren't impacted by these types of events, there is the ability to ignore that our state is sanctioning this kind of violence. So we wanted to put that on blast, and I think we effectively did so.

And tenants across the country are taking matters into their own hands, shutting down eviction court, shutting down these — or, blockading these types of evictions that sheriffs are executing, as a way of saying that, you know, if we don't have justice, we won't allow for any peace.

**AMY GOODMAN:** Kathryn Leifheit, you did this major national [study](#) at UCLA linking the lifting of eviction moratoriums to an increase in COVID-19 cases and deaths. Explain what you found.

**KATHRYN LEIFHEIT:** Right. So, to understand this relationship between evictions and COVID in this context of a pandemic, we looked at eviction moratoriums that were implemented and then lifted at the state level. So, 44 states — or, 43 states and the District of Columbia implemented an eviction moratorium between March and September, and then 27 of those states went on to lift the moratorium over the summer.

So what we did is we compared the states that had lifted their moratoriums to those that kept their moratoriums in place, and we found that the states that lifted their moratoriums had 430,000 more COVID cases and over 10,000 more COVID deaths. So, we think these deaths are preventable, and they could have been prevented had those moratoriums been kept in place.

**AMY GOODMAN:** Explain more explicitly the connection.

**KATHRYN LEIFHEIT:** Right. So, when people get evicted, often they have limited options about where they go next. You know, these things happen very quickly, and they're violent, as Tara has been explaining. So people often move in with friends or family, if they have that option. If not, they might enter a homeless shelter. And both of those things increase your number of household contacts. They increase crowding. And we know that household transmission and crowding are two of the main mechanisms that drive up COVID transmission. And it's important to note that this doesn't only increase COVID risk for folks who get evicted, but for the entire community.

**AMY GOODMAN:** The study wasn't peer-reviewed, but you decided to get it out even in advance at that. Why?

**KATHRYN LEIFHEIT:** Right. So, we thought that this was such urgently needed evidence for advocates and policymakers. The study is awaiting peer review, but we wanted to make sure that policymakers had these numbers in hand as they're making decisions about rent relief and whether or not to extend state and national eviction moratoriums.

**AMY GOODMAN:** You know, it's interesting. I don't know how many people picked up on — this federal moratorium was issued by the CDC, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which really underscores the connection between evictions and public health, Kathryn.

**KATHRYN LEIFHEIT:** Yes, that's right. So, I did my dissertation looking at links between eviction moratoriums and chronic health outcomes, so things like birth outcomes when pregnant moms experience eviction, or food insecurity, cognitive development, lead poisoning for children. So we've been talking about eviction as a public health problem for a while. But then to have the CDC come out in the context of the pandemic and say that this was their rationale for the moratorium was really powerful.

**AMY GOODMAN:** And we have to wrap up soon, but I do want to ask you which communities are most impacted.

**KATHRYN LEIFHEIT:** Right. So, Black and Latinx communities are disproportionately burdened by evictions. And, of course, those are the same communities that are getting battered by COVID. So we really worry that these evictions could potentially broaden disparities that are already wide in COVID cases and deaths.

**AMY GOODMAN:** And your response to Joe Biden choosing Congressman Fudge to head the HUD, Housing and Urban Development? What you think needs to be the new policy around housing, and particularly how it affects children?

**KATHRYN LEIFHEIT:** Right. So, of course, affordable housing isn't a new problem, and we already had a housing affordability crisis before this pandemic. So, we need to do everything we can to make sure that folks have safe, affordable housing, so that people are not just one crisis or economic shock away from losing their homes.

**AMY GOODMAN:** And, Tara Raghuveer, as we wrap, if you can talk about the difference that these actions have made when people come out? I mean, we're talking about in these next days, this federal moratorium on evictions is scheduled to end. But even with it in place, so many people are being evicted. What do you think is the most effective response?

**TARA RAGHUVVEER:** For us, the most effective response here in Kansas City and in the tenant movement across the country has been to take radical direct action to shut down every instance of evictions. So we've been disrupting the remote eviction hearings in court, and we've been showing up for blockades. We've been training others to do the same. And as far as we're concerned, especially in a state like Missouri, where our governor, where our judges are not listening to tenants, do not care about working people, the only thing we have to do is take action, take collective action, and shut down the rotten systems that are keeping our people in such pain.

**AMY GOODMAN:** Tara Raghuveer, director of KC Tenants. Kathryn Leifheit, researcher at UCLA's Fielding School of Public Health, and we will link to your [report](#) at [democracynow.org](https://democracynow.org).

This is *Democracy Now!*, [democracynow.org](https://democracynow.org), *The Quarantine Report*. When we come back, an historic nomination: first Native American to head the Interior Department. We'll get response from Indigenous leader Winona LaDuke. Stay with us.

## 2020-12-18 Winona LaDuke: Deb Haaland's Nomination for Interior Sec. Is "Important Step" for Native Americans

<https://publish.dvllabs.com/democracynow/360/dn2020-1218.mp4?start=1523.0&end=1830.0>

### Topics [Native American](#)

- [Joe Biden](#)
- [Environment](#)

---

### Guests [Winona LaDuke](#)

Native American activist with the Ojibwe Nation and executive director of the group Honor the Earth. She lives and works on the White Earth Reservation in northern Minnesota.

---

### Links [Winona LaDuke on Twitter](#)

President-elect Joe Biden has picked New Mexico Congressman Deb Haaland to become secretary of the interior. If confirmed, Haaland will be the first Native American to serve in a Cabinet position. Haaland's nomination was backed by progressives, as well as more than 120 tribal leaders, who sent a letter to Biden last month urging him to select her for the post. "That was a very, very important step for the Biden administration," says Winona LaDuke, executive director of Honor the Earth, rural development economist and Native American activist. "Indian people know how to take care of this land."

---

### Transcript

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

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

President-elect Joe Biden has nominated New Mexico Congressman Deb Haaland to become secretary of the interior. If confirmed, she'll be the first Native American to serve in a Cabinet position. Haaland's nomination was backed by progressives, as well as more than 120 tribal leaders, who sent a letter to Joe Biden last month urging him to select her for the post.

Haaland responded in a statement, quote, "As our country faces the impacts of climate change and environmental injustice, the Interior has a role and I will be a partner in addressing these challenges by protecting our public lands and moving our country towards a clean energy future," she said.

Journalist Julian Brave NoiseCat tweeted, "After four years of fossil fuel executives and lobbyists opening up Native lands and sacred sites to industry tycoons, the next Secretary of Interior will be a Laguna Pueblo woman who went to Standing Rock in 2016 and cooked for the people," unquote.

Deb Haaland's appointment comes as the struggle against the Enbridge Line 3 pipeline continues in Minnesota after construction began two weeks ago. Indigenous and environmental activists have been holding daily protests against the project, which would carry tar sands oil from Alberta, Canada, to a terminal in Superior, Wisconsin, cutting through Indigenous territory and running under more than 200 streams. On Monday, 22 water protectors were arrested in the freezing cold at a Line 3 construction site.

Well, for more on Deb Haaland's historic nomination and the ongoing resistance at Line 3, we're joined in Sandy Lake, Minnesota, by Winona LaDuke, executive director of Honor the Earth and rural development economist. She is the author of the upcoming book, *To Be a Water Protector*. Winona lives and works on the White Earth Reservation in northern Minnesota.

Winona, welcome back to *Democracy Now!* Can you start off by talking about the significance of Deb Haaland to be the first Native American to head the Interior Department, if approved by the Senate — not to mention to be a Cabinet member, as far as we know? You are a longtime supporter of her, back to when she ran for Congress.

**WINONA LADUKE:** I just want to say one thing: [ululation]. That would be an affirmation from all of us over here in Indian Country.

You know, that was a very, very important step for the Biden administration. You know, Indian people know how to take care of this land. And Deb Haaland comes from Laguna Pueblo, which has one of the largest uranium mining histories in this country. And I just want to really — you know, the Anaconda uranium mine destroying so much of their territory.

Really grateful for this and this new — this vision that we're going to have. There's a lot of work to do to undo what the Trump administration has done. And we are really, really grateful that the Biden administration has taken these steps.

**AMY GOODMAN:** And can you talk about what Deb Haaland stands for — she is a congressmember from New Mexico; she talked immediately about sustainable development — and what the Interior Department does?

**WINONA LADUKE:** Well, the Interior Department is kind of like the "Great White Father" of Indian people. And so, mines and Indians are both in the same department. And what's happened is, is that the Interior Department and the federal government has basically given away so much of the land, water and resources of Indian Country under the Trump administration and previous administrations. And so, you know, let's just say the public lands and the Native lands should be protected for the public and the Natives, not necessarily some mining corporations.

Deb's history here with a vision that she and other leaders have had in Washington with a just transition and the Green New Deal is exactly what we need in this country. We don't need any more fossil fuels. We're done. We're done. What we need is the vision and a just transition.

**AMY GOODMAN:** And who has run the Interior Department before? I mean, what have been the policies before? And what are the pressures she'll be under? Many have talked about Joe Biden's Cabinet being largely still from corporate establishment America, and certainly Deb Haaland comes from a very different place.

**WINONA LADUKE:** Yeah, I mean, I'm sure that Deb can stand up to the challenges, and she'll have a lot of support. I mean, I think that we should be done with appointing corporate heads to run parts of our government. They have enough influence already.

And so, in this moment in time, you have vast territories of lands that she is going to be able to look at and really provide some redress from what the Trump administration has done, basically deconstructing any environmental regulations we had and any protection of "public lands" that we had. You know, so significant prior to this, all white males in this position. And so we're really grateful that the new administration has seen the merits of the championship of the environment and of Native people of someone like Deb Haaland.

## 2020-12-18 The Pandemic Pipeline: Land & Water Defenders Continue Resistance to Enbridge Line 3 in Minnesota

### [Watch Full Show](#)

<https://publish.dvllabs.com/democracynow/360/dn2020-1218.mp4?start=1830.0&end=2622.0>

[Pipeline Native American](#)

---

### Guests [Winona LaDuke](#)

Native American activist with the Ojibwe Nation and executive director of the group Honor the Earth. She lives and works on the White Earth Reservation in northern Minnesota.

---

### Links [Winona LaDuke on Twitter](#)

Image Credit: Keri Pickett

Indigenous and environmental activists have been holding daily protests against the construction of the Enbridge Line 3 pipeline, which would carry tar sands oil from Alberta, Canada, to a terminal in Superior, Wisconsin, cutting through Indigenous territory and running under more than 200 streams. Winona LaDuke, director of the group Honor the Earth, says the project's approval amid a historic slump in oil prices and accelerating climate crisis make it unsound on economic and environmental grounds. "This is the end of the fossil fuel era," LaDuke says. "The industry is ending, and there's certainly no reason to approve a new tar sands pipeline."

---

### Transcript

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

**AMY GOODMAN:** And the significance of her going to Standing Rock? Which brings us to Enbridge 3 and what this is all about, these very similar struggles. And if you can make the connections? Back in 2016, I was with you at Standing Rock covering what you were doing. You pitched your tent there. And Deb Haaland was there also.

**WINONA LADUKE:** Yes, she was. A lot of people came to Standing Rock and were politicized, because it's this moment in time that we realized that the rights of corporations have superseded the rights of people. And the question is, you know, let us protect our water.

The Standing Rock DAPL battle came after our successful defeat of Enbridge in the Sandpiper, a fracked-oil pipeline that Enbridge wanted to put through our territory. You know, after that project was canceled in 2016, the company picked up, purchased 28% of the Dakota Access pipeline and proceeded to ram a pipeline through — really bad idea — you know, in North Dakota, and was faced with all of the water protectors.

And so, what we've seen is that this is the end of the fossil fuel era. I mean, the fact is, is that the price of oil was — I think, was at minus-\$38 a barrel in the spring. I mean, that was in even my economics class. And then you had this reduction in oil consumption, the crashing of the tar sands industry — I mean, company after company is bailing out of the tar sands — and the closure of refineries in the United States. And so, we're at this point in time where the industry is ending, and there is certainly no reason to approve a new tar sands pipeline. You know, it's like the last tar sands pipeline at the end of the fossil fuel era.

So, we are sitting here in northern Minnesota, and we have been standing against Enbridge's proposal, you know, for seven years. The Anishinaabe, all — you know, 70,000 people came out and testified against this pipeline. For seven years, we've been saying this is a bad idea. It was a really bad idea when it was initially proposed. And now in 2020, with both the price of oil, the state of climate disaster we are in, and the projections in the future for, you know, moving towards electric cars, there is no need for this pipeline. There wasn't a need before, and there's not a need now, certainly.

And yet Enbridge is trying to shove it through. We call this the pandemic pipeline. I mean, Governor Walz from Minnesota — really remarkable decision — approved all of the permits for the Enbridge Line 3 pipeline. A day later, Governor Whitmer of Michigan withdrew the easements for the Enbridge pipeline project underneath the Straits of Mackinac, citing the public trust doctrine, you know, saying that the interests of the people in the state superseded the interests of a Canadian multinational corporation. Really a stark comparison, because we're sitting here in northern Minnesota, 65-, 66-year-old women are getting arrested, minus-2 degrees out there, to protect our water. You know, all kind of people are getting arrested. All kind of people are coming up here. And it's a pandemic.

You know, what we see is, Walz approved 4,200 workers coming in from out of state. These are pipeline workers from other failed projects, like the Keystone XL, you know, all the other failed pipeline projects. They're coming in from Texas. They're coming in from Utah, from Wyoming, from Michigan, to put in a pipeline that nobody wants. And it's really brutal up here. So, you know, what we see is an opportunity for change.

**AMY GOODMAN:** I want to go to Shanai Matteson, one of the protesters who came out Tuesday for a demonstration outside an Enbridge Energy office in Minnesota.

**SHANAI MATTESON:** My name is Shanai, and I came over here from northern Aitkin County, where Enbridge is already getting ready to drill beneath the Willow River and the Mississippi River. And that's where my family has been for five generations. It's the place where my grandma was born. And it really hurts to see how much destruction has been done in just the last two weeks. So I'm standing here in support of and in allyship with the Native-led movement to stop Line 3, but also because I am tired of my people being lied to, you know, that these are the good jobs, destroying the place that we come from.

**AMY GOODMAN:** So, that's Shanai Matteson, one of the protesters at a Tuesday action. Earlier this month, an Anishinaabe woman named Dawn Goodwin sat in front of a machine that was brought in to clear trees for construction. If you can also describe that scene and the various direct actions and protests that are taking place? You described the action of the Minnesota governor. He is a Democrat.

**WINONA LADUKE:** Yes, that's right. And, you know, for some reason, Tim Walz thought this was a good idea, the end of all this conflict. You know, this is like blood oil, when you've got people getting arrested, it's minus-2 degrees, you've got all this brutality occurring in the north — and in the middle of a pandemic, where you import all these workers, and you only got four ICU beds in the county. So much conflict. In the end of it, he's going to have 23 jobs. What a poor decision he's made.

You know, what we really want is the opportunity for a just transition. You know, in Minnesota, we're going to be fighting over rocks and pipes for the rest of our lives, you know, and rocks and pipes for the rest of our lives and for the next 20 years, unless we come up with a better plan, one that could bring local jobs. And that's what Shanai is talking about, because all people have been given here is project proposals by multinational corporations, and it's really time for far more vision than that. You know, across the line, there are people opposing this pipeline, and we are just getting started.

In addition to that, our tribes all filed, along with citizens' organizations, appeals for every step of the process, including the certificate of need and the route permit that was issued by the state of Minnesota. I mean, they don't have a spill plan for Lake Superior. They couldn't meet the water quality standards. And

their need projections were based on what Enbridge wished need would be, not the reality of a decreased demand for oil.

You know, so here we are, standing here and watching the crunching of our forests. These giant machines called a feller buncher, they rot — they drive through and just destroy and consume forests in this pathway of death that Enbridge is bringing here to northern Minnesota. You know, so we were sitting there praying at our lodge, and Dawn seeing that machine coming, and she was just so upset with it. You know, she sat, and she just sat and was crying and was shaking. And then she's praying. And the next thing you know, Dawn Goodwin has stopped a machine. And that machine has not restarted. That machine has not restarted on the banks of the Mississippi River, where our people still stand.

**AMY GOODMAN:** So, I wanted to also ask you about another issue. This has to do with sports news. The Cleveland Indians baseball team has announced it's changing its name after years of protests from Native American advocates and fans. I wanted to ask you about the whole issue. Interestingly, the team was named over a hundred years ago for a Native American player. That had not been recognized. But Indigenous groups have been fighting for decades. The Indian Psychologists' Association put out a letter saying, "This demeans us." This, of course, follows the removal of the name of the Washington national team, as it's referred to now — its former name will not go mentioned. Talk about this movement and what it means to you.

**WINONA LADUKE:** I think it's really a reclaiming of our right to define who we are, not having someone else say who we are. You know, being a mom, being a grandma, you know, you see these kids, and all of a sudden they see this big sign for Indians has nothing to do with them. You know, it has really been an appropriation of who we are, and making a lot of money off of Native people for all these years and a lot of disparaging chants and such things. You know, we're done. We're done.

And, you know, it's an interesting year. I mean, we've all been here. And in my life, I didn't expect to see so many statues falling. How many years did we try to get those Columbus statues to fall? Many years. They're all down. And then here, the names are going, too.

So, the social movement of justice and people's right to say who they are is surging. And I'm really just grateful to this transition in names and being able to move forward. You know, I've got some questions about sports teams in general, you know, but let's leave us out of it. And let's affirm Native people for who we are. And how about a little bit more respect in general? Like, how about our water? How about our land? How about our language? How about our sacred sites? That'd be good. You don't need to chant about me. You just need to — let's just talk about what justice looks like.

**AMY GOODMAN:** Winona, you were a Green Party candidate for vice president, along with Ralph Nader, when he was running for president. As you look at the incoming administration shaping up and the battle going on in Congress right now — you have Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez calling for new Democratic leadership — what do you want to see? What have you been concerned about in this lame-duck period, in this transition period? And what do you feel needs to happen, this on the fifth anniversary of the Paris Climate Agreement?

**WINONA LADUKE:** Well, it's obvious that the Trump administration has been trying to shove through every bad idea possible in their final days. And we've seen that, you know, most of those are being challenged in court, and the rest of them will be challenged, as well, because what Trump has done is just make a mess, you know, a worse mess than ever.

But what we really need is new leadership. I mean, the fact is, is that what we've seen is a bunch of guys looking at the playbook that was written in the last century. In a time of climate disaster, the fact is, is that you don't need any more fossil fuels. What you need is a just transition. We need to make things in this country that matter, instead of import everything from someplace else. We need to rebuild kind of a manufacturing sector in this country, so that we have real jobs for real people here, that is based on justice and not based on huge amounts of toxic contamination.

You need to build a renewable energy sector. I mean, I sit here in northern Minnesota, and the irony of it is, is you're looking at pipes moving, and right behind them are wind turbine parts moving. And they're coming in to the port of Duluth, the furthest-inland port, because they all get imported from overseas, from Europe and from China. We don't make wind turbine parts in this country. We import them, by and large, from overseas. And so, you see these small rural roads in the north full of pipelines and full of wind turbine parts.

And I'm like, let's just move on. Time to move on. Let's quit fighting over rocks and pipes, and let's move into something where we have an economy that's not based on conflict. That's the opportunity for this administration; that's the opportunity for the Walz administration — to move on, to make a just transition, to build an economy based on peace, respect and justice. That's what we want.

**AMY GOODMAN:** And, Winona, last question, in this time of the pandemic. We just have 20 seconds. But it has ripped through Native America. Can you talk about the situation?

**WINONA LADUKE:** Yeah. I mean, my community itself has lost some people, and more and more of us are getting lost. We're the highest-risk people, you know, in Minnesota, are Native people. And we just want — you know, we are doing our best to stay safe. And we didn't appreciate the 4,200 workers that Governor Walz brought into our communities. You know, now is the time to stay safe, stay isolated and prepare for spring, because spring will surely come, when we will plant new seeds, you know, of hope, justice and food for our people.

**AMY GOODMAN:** Winona LaDuke, we thank you so much for being with us, executive director of Honor the Earth. I'm looking forward to your upcoming book, *To Be a Water Protector*.

When we come back, we go to Kabul, Afghanistan. A shocking new exposé reveals CIA-trained and -funded Afghan death squads have targeted Islamic religious schools, killing boys as young as 8 years old. We'll speak with the reporter. Stay with us.

## 2020-12-18 CIA-Backed Afghan Death Squads Massacred Children Inside Religious Schools in Campaign of Terror

<https://publish.dvllabs.com/democracynow/360/dn2020-1218.mp4?start=2622.0>

### Guests **Andrew Quilty**

Australian journalist and photographer based in Afghanistan.

---

### Links **Andrew Quilty on Twitter**

- ["A U.S.-Backed Militia That Executes Children May Be America's Exit Strategy from Its Longest War"](#)

A shocking exposé in *The Intercept* reveals CIA-backed death squads in Afghanistan have killed children as young as 8 years old in a series of night raids, many targeting madrassas, Islamic religious schools. In December 2018, one of the death squads attacked a madrassa in Wardak province, killing 12 boys, of whom the youngest was 9 years old. The United States played key roles in many of the raids, from picking targets to ferrying Afghan forces to the sites to providing lethal airpower during the raids. *The Intercept* reports this was part of a campaign of terror orchestrated by the Trump administration that included massacres, executions, mutilation, forced disappearances, attacks on medical facilities, and airstrikes targeting structures known to house civilians. "These militias ... were established in the very early days of the Afghan War by CIA officers, many of whom had been brought back into the fold after the invasion of Afghanistan in late 2001 who had previously been working in Afghanistan during the 1980s," says reporter Andrew Quilty. "This network of militias was set up and appear to be entirely under the control of the CIA but made up entirely of Afghan soldiers."

---

### Transcript

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

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

A shocking [exposé](#) out today in *The Intercept* reveals CIA-backed death squads in Afghanistan have killed children as young as 8 years old in a series of night raids, many targeting madrassas, Islamic religious schools. In December 2018, one of the death squads attacked a madrassa in Wardak province, killing 12 boys, the youngest 9 years old. The killers are believed to be from a CIA-trained and -funded paramilitary unit known as 01.

The United States played key roles in many of the raids, from picking targets to ferrying Afghan forces to the sites, to providing lethal airpower during the raids. *The Intercept* reports this was part of a campaign of terror orchestrated by the Trump administration that included massacres, executions, mutilation, forced disappearances, attacks on medical facilities, and airstrikes targeting structures known to house civilians.

*The Intercept* has documented 10 night raids that resulted in at least 51 civilian deaths in the months leading up to the peace talks with the Taliban. The campaign of terror appears to have been timed to force the Taliban to the negotiating table. The 01 death squad all but vanished earlier this year, after the U.S. and Taliban signed the Doha Agreement. Earlier this week, General Mark Milley, chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, met with Taliban negotiators in Qatar for unannounced talks.

We go now to Kabul, Afghanistan, to speak with the journalist Andrew Quilty, Australian reporter and photojournalist who has been based in Afghanistan for many years. His new [piece](#) is just out, titled “The CIA’s Afghan Death Squads.”

Andrew, welcome to *Democracy Now!* Tell us what you found. And describe the boy, the young man, 12 years old, Bilal, and the horror he described.

**ANDREW QUILTY:** Thanks for having me, Amy.

Yeah, you’ve given a great synopsis there of what me and *The Intercept* found in our reporting over several months, this year and last. Bilal, who was one of the survivors and one of the witnesses of the worst raid of the 10 that we documented in great detail, was, as you said, 12 years old. And he was one of about 25 young Islamic school students who stay overnight in these madrassas because they live too far away to go back and forth each day.

So, on this night — in fact, it was two years to the day that this raid occurred, and he was there with, as I said, 25 other students. They had eaten a basic meal of beans and bread and gone to sleep, when at about 10:00 or 10:30 at night they started hearing the buzz of drones overhead. And soon after that, a number of soldiers burst through the door. They had detonated an explosive device to enter the building. And soon after that, a couple of soldiers burst into the room where he was staying with about another 10 boys.

And they dragged the two oldest-looking boys out of that room, took them into another room, along with 10 other older-looking students. But as you already discussed, some of them were as young as 8 or 9 years old. And minutes after that, he and another boy, who were in the madrassa, described hearing multiple gunshots from what they described as several different weapons. And what they discovered early the next morning, when people from the village came to their rescue after the raiders had left the site and left the village, was that those 12 boys that had been taken out of the several dormitories had been massacred in a room.

Bilal and five other witnesses from that night, including another boy who survived the massacre and four other villagers who either saw or heard the events of the night, described hearing or seeing Americans or English speakers amongst those who committed the raid.

**AMY GOODMAN:** So, talk more about — and, I mean, you’ve delved deeply into this massacre and others — the connection between the Afghan forces that are carrying this out, who they are, and their U.S. backers.

**ANDREW QUILTY:** It’s a very shadowy organization and very difficult to find out information. But from all the reporting I’ve done and others have done over the years, we understand that these militias, this network of militias — and there’s about six or seven of them throughout the country — were established in the very early days of the Afghan War by CIA officers, many of whom had been brought back into the fold after the invasion of Afghanistan in late 2001, who had previously been working in Afghanistan during the 1980s, when the CIA was helping to fund the mujahideen against the Soviet occupation at that time. So, this network of militias was set up and appear to be entirely under the control of the CIA but made up entirely of Afghan soldiers. They are better trained, better paid, better armed than their conventional force counterparts in Afghanistan.

And it’s actually not often that you hear about them. Often the only time you do hear about them is when atrocities like those that we have documented in Wardak in the last couple of years make headlines. And in fact, it’s very rare that they do make headlines, because the places that these militias tend to operate are deep in Taliban-controlled territory, where often there’s very limited access to communications and media. And often the information that does come out is denigrated as propaganda, which the Taliban are well known for using.

But it’s been in more recent years, in fact, since the Trump administration started to undertake peace talks with the Taliban regime in Doha, Qatar, that these militias have come back to the fore and been extremely active in certain parts of the country, and in particular in Wardak province, which neighbors Kabul. You can drive to the capital of Wardak from where I’m sitting right now in an hour.

**AMY GOODMAN:** I want to turn to Mike Pompeo speaking in 2017. At the time, he was the head of the CIA, before becoming secretary of state.

**MIKE POMPEO:** We can't perform our mission if we're not aggressive, vicious, unforgiving, relentless — you pick the word. Every minute, we have to be focused on crushing our enemies.

**AMY GOODMAN:** And this is President Trump speaking about Afghanistan in 2017.

**PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP:** We are not nation-building again. We are killing terrorists.

**AMY GOODMAN:** So, there you have it, Pompeo and Trump in 2017. And it makes me think about what you write in your [piece](#): "The prevalence of boys among those killed in Wardak indicates that 01" — that unit that did the massacre — it makes me think that 01 "was trying to eliminate not only existing enemies, but potential future foes as well." Talk more explicitly about what Trump and Pompeo are doing right now, and at this point when Milley has just met with the Taliban in Qatar.

**ANDREW QUILTY:** What they're doing right now, well, they're coming to, potentially, the end of their involvement in Afghanistan, something that President Trump had campaigned on back in 2016. And from all my reporting, it's my understanding that Trump wanted to get out, as we all know, of Afghanistan, get his forces out of Afghanistan, by the end of his term, in a four-year term. A four-year term, in the context of a 20-year war, is not a lot of time at all. And as it's often said, it's much easier to get into war than get out of one.

So, the way I see it is that Trump wanted to exert maximum force in a minimum amount of time to coerce the Taliban at the negotiating table and put them in a position where they had to concede to their terms in the negotiating process. So, while these raids were going on and while the Taliban were being pummeled all over Afghanistan and being pressured at the negotiating table, yeah, you had this strange contradiction of the rhetoric of peace in Doha, in all the public pronouncements and public rhetoric, contradicted by what was going on on the ground in Afghanistan, which was far from — far from this rhetoric, as I say.

What the peace talks led to in February this year was the signing of what's known as the Doha Agreement, which was a — it wasn't a peace deal, but it was an agreement that was hoped would lead to a peace deal down the track. It mandated the timeline for withdrawal of American forces, and that is coming up to end, in theory, in April or May next year.

Now, since then, since the February signing of the Doha Agreement, it was hoped [inaudible] by the American government and the Afghan government that it would coincide with a decrease in violence in the country. That has not occurred. So it seems as though Trump's theory that pummeling the Taliban into submission has not worked. And in fact, the Taliban seem to be as strong now as at any other time in the war, this at a time where they can see the end of the road for the American involvement in the country, and certainly an opening, a greater opening than they've ever witnessed before, to regaining the power that they had in the late '90s and 2001.

**AMY GOODMAN:** I just want to express how important it is to be speaking to you in Kabul. You have been doing this work for, what — this one investigation for about 18 months. Internet access is not easy. The threat that journalists face, like you, and particularly Afghan journalists? One TV broadcaster, she was just gunned down, assassinated with her driver recently. And also, what questions you want to see answered right now, coming out of this investigation? And finally, the kind of pressure the president, Ashraf Ghani, is under for working with the U.S. government, at a time when, while we have not heard about 01, certainly in Afghanistan they know about these shadowy forces, the people themselves, because of the number of raids and massacres, and word gets around?

**ANDREW QUILTY:** Look, strangely enough, I think the questions that I want answered would also be the questions that the president of Afghanistan, Ashraf Ghani, and his national security adviser and his Cabinet

would want answered. And that is: Who on Earth controls these units who are operating in their country without their permission?

I spoke to the national security adviser here, and he was at a loss to explain how these units operated, let alone who controls them. He did admit that the CIA were in control of them. But beyond that, there doesn't seem to be [inaudible] understanding or correspondence with their Afghan counterparts.

These units, just to go back to a little bit about how they operate and how little oversight there is, they're paid in U.S. dollars in cash, so they're not even — the Afghan government isn't even aware of who is making up the numbers in their units, whereas with their conventional forces, all the units are paid through an electronic system, which is backed up by biometric data, which none of the members of these units have to undertake.

You mentioned the risk to journalists here. And yeah, it's been something that has come about particularly in recent months. In Kabul and other provincial capitals, you've seen —

**AMY GOODMAN:** We have 10 seconds.

**ANDREW QUILTY:** — a big increase — a big increase in targeted attacks, many of which are targeting journalists and human rights activists.

**AMY GOODMAN:** Well, Andrew Quilty, we want you to stay safe. Thank you so much. Australian photojournalist based in Afghanistan. We'll link to your *Intercept* [exposé](#) at [democracynow.org](http://democracynow.org). I'm Amy Goodman. Wear a mask. Stay safe.