

“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 2013 Rainbow Roundtable
- III OPENING MEDITATION; HOUSEKEEPING; LINK TO PODCAST
- IV SATURDAY HISTORY CALL – NOTES, REFERENCE MATERIALS

I B B S RADIO - ACCESS TO THE THREE WEEKLY CALLS <https://bbsradio.com/>

DAY	B B S Station	TIME	PROGRAM	CONFERENCE CALL	HOSTS
Thursday	#1	6 pm Pacific 9 pm Eastern	A Night at the Round Table	None	Panel Members Guests Callers welcome.
Friday	#1	6 pm Pacific 9 pm Eastern	Friday Night Hard News	720-716-7301 Pin Code: 353 863#	Rama, Tara Callers welcome.
Saturday	#2	1:30 pm PT/ 4:30 Eastern	History of our Galactic World & NESARA <i>aka The True History</i>	720-716-7301 Pin Code: 353 863#	Rama, Tara callers welcome.

NOTE: 2nd CONFERENCE CALL # for both Friday, Saturday
605-313-5166
 Pin Code: 353 863#

ADDITIONAL HELP FOR LISTENERS

B B S LISTENER TOOLS

B B S RADIO STATION 1
 A Night at the Roundtable
 Friday Night Hard News

B B S RADIO STATION 2
 Saturday History Call

LISTEN ON LINE

CLICK ON **AUDIO ICON**

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LISTEN BY PHONE

1-631-359-9353
 [NO code needed]

1-804-220-6484
 [No code needed]

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B B S ARCHIVES

- go to www.bbsradio.com
- In **Search** box, enter the name of the required program;
- scroll down to the heading **TALK SHOW PROGRAM ARCHIVES FOR PODCASTING.**
- Find the table listing the dates. Click on required date.

II ACCESS TO OTHER CALLS SUPPORTED BY Rainbow Roundtable

NAME OF CALL / HOST	WEEKDAY / TIME	ACCESS POINT	TELEPHONE NUMBER
Aboriginal Moabite Nation Call Grand Goddess Lillie	Wednesday 6:00 – 7:30 MST	Telephone Only	1-605-472-5406 PIN 402-493#
Abundance Call Caroline Oceana Ryan	Every 2 nd Wednesday 5:45 PM PT/ 8:45 PM ET	Telephone ZOOM	

To be notified: email <https://www.ascensiontimes.com/the-abundance-group>
Scroll down to the sign-up sheet and enter the requested info.

Ascension Call Cheryl Croci	Every Sunday, Monday 9 – 10:30 EST	Telephone Only	1-425-436-6260 PIN 9467 441# Call Cheryl for # in your area
Ashtar Legacy Calls Fran Pearre	Every 2 nd , 4 th Tuesday 5 th Tuesday – no call 9:00 – 10:00 pm EST	Telephone VOIP/ H D via Skype	1-717-908-1834 PIN 980 339# Call is free; LD charges are not 1-717-908-1834 PIN #980 339# https://www.freeconferencecallhd.com/hd-conferencing/ Click on VOIP button and enter info as requested

To access past ALC calls, go to [Ashtar Legacy Teleconferences \(ashtarontheroad.com\)](http://Ashtar Legacy Teleconferences (ashtarontheroad.com))

III ARCHIVES: provided by B B S RADIO RAINBOW ROUNDTABLE

ARCHIVES: B B S

- Go to www.bbsradio.com
- In **Search** box, enter the name of the desired program;
- scroll down to the heading **TALK SHOW PROGRAM ARCHIVES FOR PODCASTING**
- Find the table listing the dates. Click on desired date.

ARCHIVES: Rainbow Roundtable

- Go to <https://www.rainbowroundtable.net/>
- **WRITTEN**
 - Go to "Archives" tab: See NOTES on RHS
- **AUDIO**
 - Go to "Archives" tab: See AUDIO on LHS:
Included are both BBS podcast + Conference Call Links

III OPENING MEDITATION; HOUSEKEEPING; ACCESS TO PODCAST; MAYAN CALENDAR

A. Opening Meditation: Rainbird

B. Mayan Calendar / Record of Days: 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 – the birth wave - began

- 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.

PLEASE LISTEN TO THE PODCAST TO HEAR THE ENTIRE DISCUSSION OF EACH DATE
Also note: This is not a 3^d dimensional calendar!

www.Spacestationplaza.co Click on the tzolkein – it's on page 2 of the link.

7th Friday A portal day	12 KAN	Yellow Crystal Seed	Healing
8th Saturday Completes Skywalker 13 days. Remaining open to change, transmuting energy. Have the gift of body sensing and groundedness.	13 CHICCHAN	Red Cosmic Serpent	Warrior
9th Sunday New Wave – can link with our past- about forgiveness, moving into a state of grace. Let's bridge between past and future, let go of belief that life is a struggle. Have a Happy Easter – and have a good Resurrection	1 CIMI	White Magnetic World Bridger	Warrior
10th Monday Healing ourselves and others, creating contentment in our lives and others. Gift of being healer of human kind – let go of procrastination	2 MANIK	Blue Lunar Hand	Healing
11th Tuesday We are opening the stargate – embrace gift of seeing beyond the gate – let go of self- judgment	3 LAMAT	Yellow Electric Stargate	Visionary
12th Wednesday Portal day – wise use of rational mind; listening and accepting Spirit's direction – telepathy let go of insensitivity	4 MULUC	Red Self-Existing Moon	Artist
13th Thursday Working with unconditional love – healing pain of past, embracing gift of contact with spirit guides Let go of fears, unwise use of anger	5 OC	White Overtone Dog	Artist
14th Friday Balancing of work and play; wise use of magical artistry; ability to play. Let go of jadedness	6 CHUEN	Blue Rhythmic Monkey	Artist

C. Housekeeping:

- We are 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.**
Re **T & R:** Their full-time, life-time commitment is to be tuned in to what is really going on behind the scenes of the artificial world we see around us. They don't ask for anything but they do require food, a home, gas for the car, and access to BBS Radio in order to compile and distribute this information to the world.

- Donations via Paypal button on the **homepage** www.rainbowroundtable.net
B B S RADIO:

- The radio programs are supported by us, the listeners.
- The THREE radio programs cost \$300 each week.
- The mailing address for those who do not like paying electronically:

B B S RADIO

B B S RADIO
58 N Marshside Place
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Please put "**Attention Don**" on the envelope
 And note inside: "for Thursday,
 Friday AND Saturday calls"

- **All BBS archives can be accessed FOR FREE by everyone.**
- **NB: TO BE FOUND AT www.rainbowroundtable.net/archives**
 - **AUDIO ARCHIVES** (BBS Radio Podcasts plus Conference Calls) **and**
 - **PROGRAM NOTES** (downloadable and printable **PDFs**)

OTHER FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS

FOOD MONEY: VIA PAYPAL OR See the PAGE ON www.rainbowroundtable.net

Rama has a pride of Paschats + 2 inside kitties + 2 HUMANS = up to 13 in total

Financial Requirements

WEEKLY	
B B S RADIO/week	\$300.00 Caught up from past weeks THANK YOU SO MUCH! ! !
PERSONAL	
Gas, food, etc	\$225.00
Bills	\$148.36 Due on Thursday
Miscellaneous/Other	\$496.00 To finish car & a new tire HAS TO BE PAID ASAP! ! !
MONTHLY	
Rent - \$1,150 / mo	
Total	

CONTACT INFO

- **Please notify Rama when sending something** koran999@comcast.net
- **Mailing address for checks, money orders, etc**
 Ram D Berkowitz
 PO Box 280
 Santa Cruz, NM 87567

EVERY \$5 HELPS - ALL GRATEFULLY RECEIVED

PLEASE MAKE AN ATTEMPT TO DONATE THIS MONTH

THANKS TO ALL FOR THEIR HELP . . .

- **Remember you can book a session with Mother, as well!**

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

- Your donation supports an account set up for Tara & Rama with Beneficial Farms Community Supported Agriculture in Santa Fe, NM
- They continue to appreciate each & every donation received for food.
- Please continue to go to www.rainbowroundtable.net and link to their Paypal account: choose **family and friends option so Paypal takes off no fees.**

FREEMART: SUPPLEMENTS. This account helps Rama & Tara; it's the source of their supplements

The returns also help www.rainbowroundtable.net

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

- Freemart is a private shoppers club; it's **FREE TO JOIN.**
- all the products have much to offer, so take a look!
- check out the heading called **READ MORE: lots of** good information

FREEMART: NUGEN COIN: <https://www.nugencoin.com/tarram>

To help Marshall and support him by signing up under his name:

<https://www.nugencoin.com/marnor>

TO GET HELP, Call Carolyn [Rainbird] or Micah

Carolyn's E-mail: lightenergync@gmail.com

Micah's E-mail: thegreenalchemist@gmail.com

CALL THEM FOR HELP WITH REGISTRATION/ISSUES RELATED TO NUGEN COINS

Access to this week's Podcast

<https://bbsradio.com/podcast/hard-news-friday-april-7-2023>

NOTE AGAIN: dial 1-631-359-9353 to listen to BBS Radio TV Station 1.

TO LISTEN TO CALLS ON THE PHONE: 1-631-359-9353

RAMA, TARA R,T

R: the energies are rapidly: the light energies coming from Super Galactic Center are powerful . . . many events unfolding about the higher energies coming in with the monoatomic light particles

- he watched the crows today who followed him from the house to Santa Fe and the other places he went – they don't forget a face and will eat out of your hand
- went to see Rana Mu – who put a device on his head – has been having pressures on his head like putting his head in a vice – sometimes a headache/ or feeling numb – explained to her what was happening so she put him on the bio bed with a helmet - he saw rainbow colours and she motioned to him to close his eyes – he could see the rainbow colours through his 3rd eye – ended up on the New Jerusalem and saw Ashtar talking to people from the Arcturus Anterres Midway Station – he fell asleep; eventually she woke him up and sent him on his way, as she had a meeting with the Oracle: things unfolding cosmically
- the galactic folks are here . . .
- the fiascoes going on right now – the Tennessee house of Reps going through their shenanigans – the #1 issue ABOUT RACE! The first people who were here the hobbits, and the mound builders were black – that he was seeing the rainbow circles is about changing what is going on now – the

democratic republic is hanging by a thread – and violence is not the answer – talks about the Universe inside all of us

T: **TN** – 75 Repub seats, 22 Democrats, 2 Independents

- we will listen to Amy tonight -
- the issue of race is still an issue

R: as we get past this, we can meet our galactic family who are all colours of the rainbow
some folks eat with hands, others with tentacles

R: another drama – Justice Clarence Thomas – a real estate billionaire has taken him and his wife to Bohemian Grove for around 20 years
and Thomas is in Jeffrey Epstein’s black book for sex and young ladies . . .

T: the republicans – old and white – were talking to 2 black gentlemen who were both 27 years old – and doing all but calling them ‘boys’
• people know that this is a racist thing and TN is just like that: the reason they were upset with the young black men was that they were standing with the people who were protesting and taking the stand of no assault weapons . . . plus background checks

CONFERENCE CALL

Pad: we’re fighting for gun control; bigger question – even if all guns taken away, still have question of black ops and how does that work . . .

T: if we did this as the Founding Fathers did - the militia did not get to keep the guns at home – they were locked up

P: story of gun runner

T: a device now that only the owner of the gun can use it – report from *All In with Chris*

R: it’s about biometrics

Pad: only cosmic disclosure will solve this

T: there is something called the Solar flash – it will change the hearts of everyone – or affect them greatly

Pad: when T spoke of the 500,000 who might disagree – where is the Dracos shuttle?

T: the enactment of NESARA LAW and full disclosure of the presence of the galactics and the declaration of world peace – HAPPEN AT THE SAME TIME – and none of the guns will work! ! !

T: Bill Clinton signed the NESARA BILL into Law – 1999 – no he is not a hybrid – was taken to a star ship and told to sign it

RGM: about guns: not a single gun has ever killed a person: people have to pull the trigger
have to END THE ABILITY OF A PERSON TO KILL

T:

RGM: the director of the Rafeon has died – his plane went into the water off Florida

T: sometimes nature prevails and takes people off the scene

T: the underground base under INDIANA has a huge supply of toxic chemical poisons – the biggest batch in the world – put it on the people in Iraq

RGM: could be left over Agent orange

T: called white phosphorus – same as naplam – all that was left was the skeletal structure and the teeth!

- She saw it on TV . . . if the soldiers didn’t throw the poisons on the people in the arena, the soldiers with guns higher up the arena shot those soldiers
and the White Helmets (who were Black Ops) were doing the same thing to children . . .

- Russia had nothing to do with what is being said Putin did: it was the fake Putin – created by the Deep State - and the Deep State

- Everything that is done in Ukraine is done by the US Deep State and Zelensky is the handyman

- Amnesty International is a product of the Deep State -

Car: is there any documentation about that? Or galactic intel?

T: back in the day there was documentation – Afshan Rettanzi was on RT - and now findable on the Net

- about Trump's indictment : they started with the easiest items first

- a judge in Amarillo TX – he did it for the entire US from TX - no access to getting tablets for abortions

P: brings up idea that Canada can brace for influx of Americans seeking abortions

T: in Idaho, women of child bearing age cannot leave the US for an abortion

Car: to make sure we do look at the whole abortion thing - which is just a way for the dark ones to flex its muscle and say they can control – yet it is so twisted: no one wants an abortion – it's

T: there is an herb called penny royal – an herbal abortion medication

RB: DON'T THINK IT CAN'T BE DEPENDED ON

can talk to the baby and tell it to leave . . . that works! ! !

Car: when did we start having abortions?

• On a spiritual and metaphysical level, it's a huge dilemma that no one wants to be in a position to deal with

T: the western diet is completely toxic and takes out the immune system

Car: where should we be with the topic of abortion? ? ? ?

T: the right to privacy between you and your doctor – and no one else has any right to your body
the native pathways are very sacred -

T: the corruption of the money system the political system, the loss of a sacred path in the world, and the replacing of love with money -

Car: latest case this week: have uncovered all the hidden cases of child abuse by priests in Baltimore! ! !
and with all the gang violence, the church priests should leave

T: Pope Francis in Argentina – similar to the shining path ones – they would give a wink and a nod and kill whomever and then went for a confession

• telling story of a priest she was aware of . . .

T: there is no such thing as celebacy for anyone

Car: what passage in the bible are they talking of . . .

what about the monks of Buddha – do they take a vow of celebacy

T: it's a completely different culture

R: they don't have the matrix over there – the movie *The Golden Compass* – people live in yurts – live simply

• don't have the distractions

T: what's not cool over there is the class system which is also ugly

• Talk about people being born after Nagasaki etc – born without souls!

• Reiner Fuellmich - when you get a jab, you wipe out your immune system!

• Discussion about people who have had the jab getting over the effects – a long process, easy to backslide

RB: hoping the galactics would bring the antidote for the jab!

The animal studies to date show that 3 years is about the life span

RGM: talks about Dr Hudson who suffered 4 heart attacks while working with the monoatomic gold – the element of gold is not absorbable as it is -

• reads about EASTER – about Ishtar -

RB: and by Christmas, you can have the baby

B B S RADIO

Ave Sache

AUDIO: ERA OF PEACE

VLOG 317 - WE ARE IN THE MIDST OF HOLY WEEK

<https://youtu.be/-AnMzFGXWIA>



KRYON

KRYON 2023 – Temple Of Isis The Connection – YouTube

40.26

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dF4B1bjxDRc&ab_channel=KRYONUPDATE



Dear Spirit: Tell me what it is you want me to know . . . and visualize and concentrate

About Intuition:

MOTHER / ALCYONE [M/A:]

Greetings in the Light of the Most Radiant One. In the Office of the Christ and only in the Office of the Christ, we invoke the loving energies of St Germain and the Violet Flame!

Greetings, Children of RA!

As we are moving into this Holy Sabbath, we please do what they spoke before us – we have few words except to say we are in a such an auspicious moment about a Grand Shift of the Ages – it's about Us taking our power back with Love. All the company of Heaven, as Patti says, are here in the midst of the last shuttle to Dracos.

It is about this ancient story, that's completing itself now! These concepts, ideas - limitation, lack, male gods with ego problems - this moment we're in as we approach that which has been called The Flash - there is this Shift of the Ages happening inside us, as more and more of us become aware - kindness is the best religion we can come up with - kindness, compassion: it's how we get through this. Let's Lord Krishna, Rama, Shiva, all [are] here - along with so many other folks to usher in this Sat Yuga.

At the time that we could say is this present moment, this story, the balance of power, is in the peoples' hands of this planet. There are more of us than there are of the so-called 'them': them - that's the issue here. Them is us - no separation!

Daughter Isis said it so well - Isis / Ishtar / Inanna - ancient names for this story called Resurrection. Where did the chocolate bunnies come from?

It is only about Love: this reality that's presently encompassing all of us is this great Shift of the Ages and as things come back into balance, we would say: use the energies of the resurrection Flame. This what Patti spoke of - the mother of pearl light: these energies, these frequencies of color, vibration: they shift physical matter, space/time - it's the science we're only beginning to grok- which is science of the Soul and . . . Light years to go before we go to bed

This big story - we can just say it's right at the pivotal moment where this Light coming in - from Super Galactic Center - Virgo and 87 - so many galaxies , clusters of stars that have a lot to share! ! !

What we are going through is a day in the life of Brahma - it's a long time yet it's that fast {snaps her fingers} with what is happening and We fail to have the words - it's about Love in this moment:

Greetings in the Light of the Most Radiant One
Both begin: Kadoish

M/A: hold this area of the planet in the Violet Flame: the Dome of the Rock - a major stargate
what's going on right now, this balance of power - Light has already won!

T: the idea of continuing to take potshots at Palestinians
we were talking about the guns not working - what do you think?

M/A: We would say the hour approaches . . . when . . . the shuttlecraft already in the vicinity of this solar system to take our wayward children home

T: the 500,000 ?

M/A: yes -

T: all going for a ride - in a whole bunch of shuttle craft?

M/A: Yes

T: going to Dracos also in the Orion Belt

M/A: Yes

T: and King Dracos and Princess Ardala will be holding intergalactic court for inter galactic war crimes

M/A: the conclusion of this ancient story is ahead - shadow work not so easy (when we all have to look inside)

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

Kodoish, Kodoish, Kodoish Adonai `Tsebayoth
ilياهو ilياهو ilياهو
Yod Hey Vod Hey
YHWH

Holy holy holy is the Lord God of Hosts
Illumine Illumine Illumine
Yod Hey Vod Hey of the Living Everlasting Light
The Revealed Name to our Father universe of the
Living God behind all Creator Gods

Rama Returns:

went to Taos Mtn - just sitting with the energies there - what's coming is - it's so awesome just to sit with what's the moon is bringing in; the sun; a very auspicious time to alive and he is grateful he is here

T: I see unicorns

R: Unicorns know where to drink the purest water

T: and humming birds hang out with their horns and weave the horns with flowers.

AUDIO: DEMOCRACY NOW

2023-04-07 Headlines April 07, 2023

<https://www.democracynow.org/2023/4/7/headlines>

2023-04-07 "A Public Lynching": Justin Jones, Black Tennessee Lawmaker, Responds to Expulsion from State House

https://www.democracynow.org/2023/4/7/justin_jones_tennessee

2023-04-07 Palestinian Poet Mohammed El-Kurd on Israeli Apartheid, Growing Tension in Region & Raid on Al-Aqsa Mosque

https://www.democracynow.org/2023/4/7/mohammed_el_kurd_al_aqsa

2023-04-07 Should Clarence Thomas Be Impeached? GOP Megadonor Gave Justice Free Luxury Vacations for 20 Years

https://www.democracynow.org/2023/4/7/clarence_thomas_luxury_trips

AUDIO: 2023-04-08 [Beyond Belief with George Noory](#)

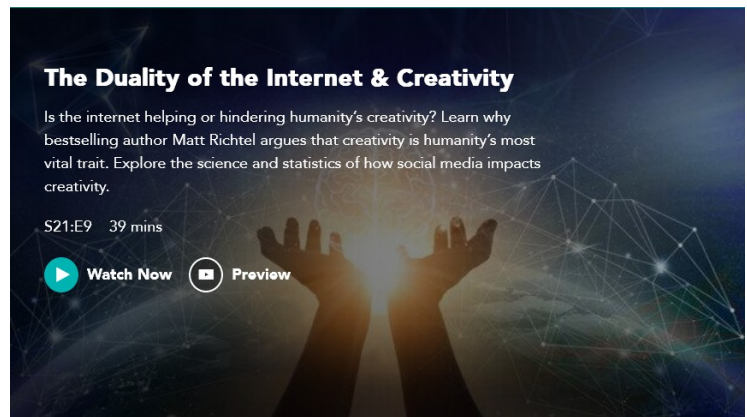
The Duality of the Internet & Creativity

[https://www.gaia.com/share/clg74ve4o000019748spfn4b?language\[\]=en&utm_source=share](https://www.gaia.com/share/clg74ve4o000019748spfn4b?language[]=en&utm_source=share)

S 21:Ep 9

39 mins

Is the internet helping or hindering humanity's creativity? Learn why bestselling author Matt Richtel argues that creativity is humanity's most vital trait. Explore the science, statistics, and technological advancements of how social media can have positive and negative impacts on creativity. From our subconscious biases to conscious creativity, Richtel shares how we can overcome fear of risk to become our most innovative and successful selves.



Matt Richtel is Pulitzer-prize winning New York

Times reporter and the bestselling author of "Inspired: Understanding Creativity - A Journey Through Art, Science, and the Soul" and over a dozen other books.

Instructor/Host: George Noory

Featuring: Matt Richtel

Audio Languages: English

CLOSING: Rainbird - a toast to creativity and how it works; a toast to our dreamtime

Rama: Nothingness is the Ultimate Reality – Alan Watts

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eKuGiZ0rL-&ab_channel=theJourneyofPurposeTJOP

NAMASTE!

INFORMATION RELATED TO THE NOTES

2023-04-07 **Headlines** April 07, 2023 <https://www.democracynow.org/2023/4/7/headlines>

Israel Strikes Gaza and Lebanon After Rocket Fire; 2 Israeli Settlers Shot Dead in West Bank

Apr 07, 2023



Israel's military launched airstrikes overnight in southern Lebanon and the Gaza Strip after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu promised that Israel's enemies would "pay a price for any aggression." The strikes followed rocket attacks on Israel from Gaza — and from Lebanon, in the largest such barrage since 2006. Two Israeli civilians reportedly sustained minor injuries. The Palestinian Ministry of Health in Gaza said Israeli airstrikes hit a children's hospital east of Gaza, terrorizing medical workers and patients but causing no injuries. In the occupied West Bank, gunmen opened fire on a vehicle near an illegal settlement near Jericho, killing two sisters and injuring a third person, their mother. Meanwhile, tensions were high at the Al-Aqsa Mosque in occupied East Jerusalem ahead of Friday prayers, after Israeli soldiers were filmed beating and tear-gassing Palestinian worshipers earlier this week, during the holy month of Ramadan. Later in the broadcast, we'll speak with Mohammed El-Kurd, Palestine correspondent for The Nation magazine.

U.N. Aid Workers Halt Work in Afghanistan After Taliban Bans Female Members

Apr 07, 2023



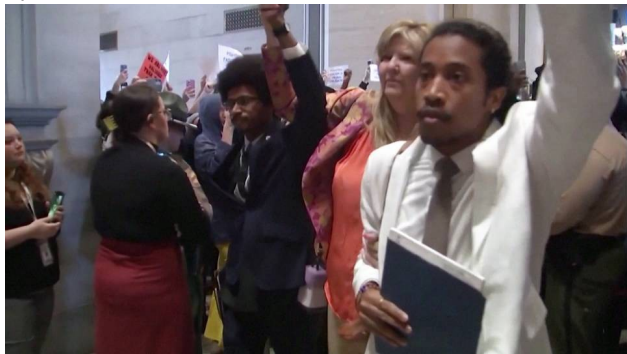
More than 3,300 Afghan men and women employed by the United Nations remained idled for a second straight day Thursday, after the Taliban ordered a ban on women staff in Afghanistan. This is Amina Mohammed, the U.N.'s deputy secretary-general.

Amina Mohammed: "It's a clear violation of our fundamental human rights of women. I have met our female staff members, and they're essential for U.N.'s work, including in the delivery of life-saving assistance. And some national colleagues have already experienced restrictions on their movements."

This comes as the U.N. warns a record 28.3 million people in Afghanistan are in need of assistance this year, with 6 million of them "one step away from famine." Meanwhile, the Biden administration has released its long-anticipated report on the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan in 2021. The report found U.S. officials should have begun an evacuation sooner, but determined actions taken by former President Trump set the stage for chaos as the Taliban overran the capital, Kabul.

GOP Supermajority Expels Two Black Lawmakers from Tennessee House over Gun Control Protests

Apr 07, 2023



The Tennessee House of Representatives voted Thursday to expel two Democratic members for joining peaceful protests against gun violence inside the state Capitol last week. Justin Jones of Nashville and Justin Pearson of Memphis are both African American and from Tennessee's two largest cities. Jones made an impassioned case against the proceedings before the Republican supermajority voted 72 to 25 to expel him.

Rep. Justin Jones: "We called for you all to ban assault weapons, and you respond with an assault on democracy. That is why the nation is watching you today. And I say to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle that no matter what you vote, you have the votes, but you will not be victorious, because there are generations of young people who see what is going on."

A third Democratic representative, Gloria Johnson of Knoxville, who is white, narrowly survived a vote on her expulsion. Thursday's extraordinary proceedings were interrupted at times by thousands of protesters who packed the House gallery and flooded the Capitol grounds to support the lawmakers and their efforts to stem gun violence in the wake of the March 27 mass shooting at The Covenant School in Nashville, which left three adults and three 9-year-old students dead. President Biden condemned the expulsions as "shocking, undemocratic, and without precedent." After headlines, we'll go to Nashville to speak with one of the expelled state representatives, Justin Jones.

ProPublica: Billionaire GOP Donor Lavished Clarence Thomas with Luxury Trips for 2 Decades

Apr 07, 2023



Image Credit: BushCenter.org

Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas is facing renewed calls for his impeachment after a ProPublica investigation revealed he failed to report frequent luxury trips paid for by the Republican billionaire Harlan Crow. For more than two decades, Thomas frequently joined Crow aboard his private yacht, jet, at his private estates and at Bohemian Grove, an exclusive all-male retreat in California. The junkets likely violate a law passed after Watergate requiring justices and other federal officials to disclose most gifts. Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez tweeted in response, "This is beyond party or partisanship. This degree of corruption is shocking — almost cartoonish. Thomas must be impeached." Later in the broadcast, we'll speak with Justin Elliott, who co-authored the ProPublica investigation.

Biden Admin Proposes Rule Barring Blanket Bans on Transgender Student Athletes

Apr 07, 2023



Image Credit: USA TODAY Sports

The Biden administration proposed new regulations under Title IX Thursday to make it illegal for schools to impose blanket bans on transgender students playing on sports teams that align with their gender identity. Schools could, however, still bar transgender students from participating in competitive high school and college sports, if deemed necessary to maintain “fairness in competition” after evaluating the sport, the level of competition, and the grade or education level involved. Twenty states currently have blanket bans on trans student athletes.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court ruled Thursday in favor of a 12-year-old transgender girl in West Virginia, allowing her to continue competing on her school’s girls’ track and cross-country teams while a lawsuit over a state ban proceeds.

Idaho Enacts “Abortion Trafficking” Law That Bans Helping Minors Get an Out-of-State Abortion

Apr 07, 2023



Idaho Republican Governor Brad Little has signed a bill criminalizing the act of helping someone under the age of 18 obtain an abortion in another state without parental consent. It’s the first so-called abortion trafficking law passed in the U.S. and carries penalties of two to five years in prison. Alexis McGill Johnson, president of Planned Parenthood Federation, said, “The law will isolate young people and put them in danger, including those who are in abusive situations.”

Meanwhile, in New Mexico, Democratic Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham signed a bill shielding abortion providers from prosecution, disciplinary action or extradition attempts by other states.

DOJ to Probe Police Killing of D.C. Teenager Dalaneo Martin

Apr 07, 2023



Image Credit: Facebook: Terra Martin

The Justice Department has opened a federal civil rights probe into the death of Dalaneo Martin, a Black 17-year-old who was fatally shot by a U.S. Park Police officer in Washington, D.C., last month. The investigation was announced after Tuesday's release of police body-camera video showing the March 18 shooting. The video shows officers investigating what they called a "suspicious vehicle" with Martin sleeping behind the wheel. An officer opens a rear door of the SUV and issues the command, "Police! Don't move!" Martin accelerates with an officer in the back seat; the officer then fires multiple times before the SUV crashes into the side of a home. A medical examiner later reported Martin was shot six times and died instantly. His mother, Terra Martin, spoke to reporters on Wednesday.

Terra Martin: "I want the officer's name released immediately. I want him arrested. I want him to stop getting paid while he murdered my son and still home with his family, not doing no work and getting paid for murder."

Sudan's Military Leaders Again Delay Transition to Civilian Rule

Apr 07, 2023



Sudan's military rulers have once again delayed signing an agreement that would transition the nation from military to civilian rule. Thursday's postponement prompted a new round of protests in the capital Khartoum and other cities. The agreement would allow for elections and the formation of a civilian government after over a year of military rule following the October 2021 coup. Security forces fired tear gas at massive crowds as protesters were heard chanting, "No militia can rule a country." Protesters also marked the fourth anniversary of a 2019 sit-in that led to the overthrow of longtime authoritarian President Omar al-Bashir.

Hanady Awad: "For the martyrs who have given their lives for this country, the protest will reach its end, God willing, and we will keep going until we reach a civilian democratic rule, and without the return of any totalitarian system in Sudan again."

Many have criticized the deal for excluding the establishment of a transitional justice system or the implementation of key military reforms.

Oklahoma AG Says Conviction of Death Row Prisoner Richard Glossip Should Be Vacated

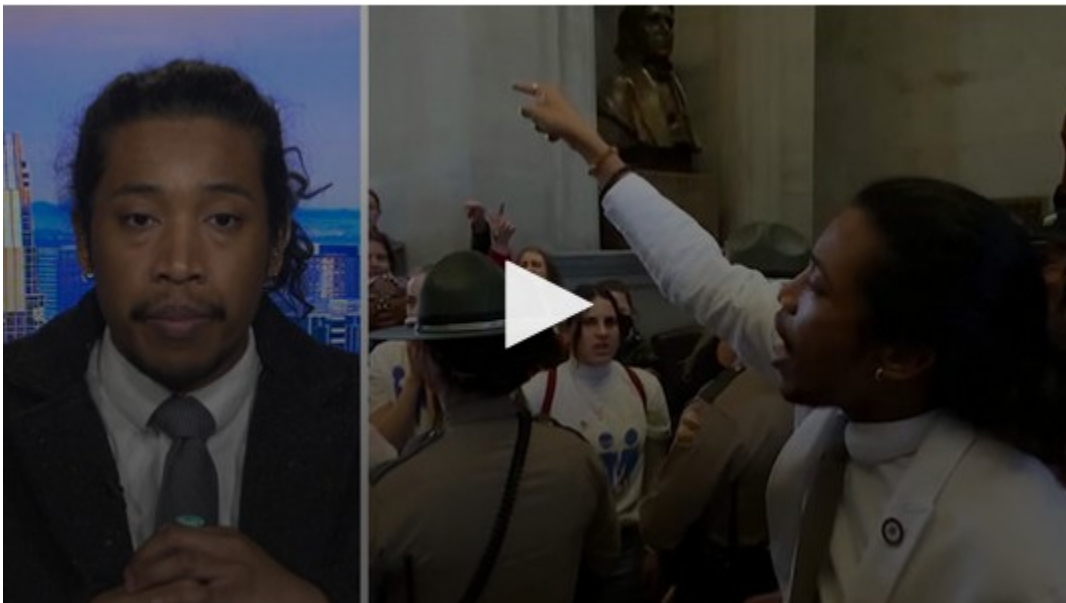
Apr 07, 2023



Image Credit: Twitter: @RichardGlossip

Oklahoma’s attorney general is asking for the murder conviction of death row prisoner Richard Glossip to be vacated, in a decades-long case in which Glossip narrowly escaped execution three times. In 1997, 19-year-old maintenance worker Justin Sneed killed the owner of a budget motel in Oklahoma. He admitted to the murder but accused Glossip, the motel’s manager, of orchestrating it, allowing Sneed to avoid the death penalty. Glossip has always maintained his innocence. Oklahoma’s attorney general cited evidence in a new report that shows Sneed — who was a heavy drug user at the time of the murder — gave false testimony about his psychiatric condition, and the state’s failure to turn over key evidence. An appeals court must now decide whether to vacate Glossip’s conviction and order a new trial. Glossip is currently scheduled to be executed on May 18.

2023-04-07 “A Public Lynching”: Justin Jones, Black Tennessee Lawmaker, Responds to Expulsion from State House



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Democratic politician from Nashville who was elected to the Tennessee state House of Representatives in 2022.

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We speak with Justin Jones, one of two Black Democratic lawmakers expelled by a Republican supermajority in the Tennessee state House of Representatives Thursday for peacefully protesting gun violence in the chamber last week as thousands rallied at the Capitol to demand gun control after the Covenant elementary school shooting in Nashville. A vote to expel their white colleague who joined them in solidarity failed. "They thought by expelling us they would silence us, they would silence our movements that we're part of, but in fact they've amplified it, because the nation can see how racist they are. The nation can see how retaliatory and absurd and authoritarian they are," says Jones.

We also feature some of the dramatic exchanges that unfolded on the House floor, which Jones calls "a public lynching" targeting the two youngest Black lawmakers in the Legislature.

Transcript

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

AMY GOODMAN: We begin today's show in Tennessee, where a Republican supermajority in the state Legislature carried out its threat Thursday to expel two Black Democratic lawmakers from their seats for peacefully protesting gun violence on the House floor last week, breaking with decorum as thousands rallied outside the Capitol to demand gun control, days after the Covenant elementary school shooting in Nashville that killed six, including three 9-year-olds.

Justin Jones of Nashville and Justin Pearson of Memphis are both African American and from Tennessee's two largest cities. They were part of the Tennessee Three, but the vote to expel their white colleague, Gloria Johnson, who joined them in solidarity, narrowly failed.

In a minute, we'll speak with Jones, but first we bring you some of the historic scenes that unfolded as Justin Jones and his colleagues defended themselves, and supporters looked on from a packed gallery but stayed quiet so they could witness the proceedings. This is Representative Jones facing questioning from his Republican colleague and laying out his defense.

REP. JUSTIN JONES: I was shocked to have the speaker of the House condemn mothers and children and grandmothers and parents and concerned citizens, clergy, lie on them and say that they were violent insurrectionists. And I think that he owes the people of Tennessee an apology, because at no point was there violence. At no point did we encourage violence. In fact, what we were doing was calling for the end of gun violence, that is terrorizing our children day after day after day, and all we offer are moments of silence.

It is in that spirit of speaking for my constituents, of being a representative of the people, that I approached this well on last Thursday, breaking a House rule but exercising moral obedience to my constitutional responsibility to be a voice for my people, to be a voice for the Tennesseans who you choose not to listen to because of those NRA checks that are so hefty in your campaign funds. There comes a time where people get sick and tired of being sick and tired.

REP. RYAN WILLIAMS: One of the questions that keeps coming back to my mind, that I hope maybe you can answer, is when you say, "No action, no peace," what do you mean? What does Representative Jones mean by "no peace"? Thank you.

SPEAKER CAMERON SEXTON: Representative Jones?

REP. JUSTIN JONES: Thank you. I would invite my colleague from Putnam County to join any protest, where that is a very familiar chant, that it usually goes, "No justice, no peace." And I believe the roots of it are — lie in something that Martin Luther King stated, that true peace is not merely the absence of tension, but it is the presence of justice. That's what I was saying, is that until we act, there will be no peace in our communities.

In addition, I would like to read some context about that chant, that comes from Jeremiah 6:14. I'll read the New Living Translation. It says, "They offer superficial treatments for my people's mortal wound. They give assurances of peace when there is no peace." I'll go to the New International Version: "They dressed the wound of my people as though it was not serious. 'Peace, peace, peace,' they say, where there is no peace."

That's what the chant means, is that we have no peace, and that until we act, there will be no peace for the thousands of children who came here demanding that we act, who are afraid that if they're in school, they will be gunned down, because you have passed laws to make it easier to get a gun than it is to get healthcare in this state. You've passed laws to make it easier to get a gun than it is to vote in this state. And so that there will be no peace in Tennessee until we act on this proliferation of weapons of war in our community. That is the peace I was talking about. That is what I was saying, Representative Williams. Thank you for your question.

AMY GOODMAN: After his questioning by Republican Ryan Williams, Tennessee Republican lawmakers gave Representative Justin Jones five minutes before their vote. This is how he concluded.

REP. JUSTIN JONES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To my colleagues on the others out of the aisle, I want to say that you have the votes to do what you're going to do today. But I want to let you know that when I came to this well, I was fighting for your children and grandchildren, too. And to those who here will cast a vote for expulsion, I was fighting for your children, too, to live free from the terror of school shootings and mass shootings.

When I walked up to this well on last Thursday, I was thinking about the thousands of students who are outside demanding that we do something. In fact, many of their signs said, "Do something," "Do something," "Do something." That was their only ask of us, is to respond to their grief, to respond to a traumatized community. But in response to that, the first action of this body is to expel members for calling for commonsense gun legislation. We were calling for a ban of assault weapons, and the response of this body is to assault democracy.

This is a historic day for Tennessee, but it is — it may mark a very dark day for Tennessee, because it will signal to the nation that there is no democracy in this state. It will signal to the nation that if it can happen here in Tennessee, it's coming to your state next. And that is why the nation is watching us, what we do here. My prayer to you is that even if you expel me, that you still act to address the crisis of mass shootings, because if I'm expelled from here, I'll be back out there with the people every week demanding that you act. ... I pray that we uphold our oath on this floor, because, colleagues, the world is watching.

SPEAKER CAMERON SEXTON: Pursuant to Article II, Section 12, of the Constitution of the state of Tennessee, I hereby declare Representative Justin Jones of the 52nd Representative District expelled from the House of Representatives of the 113th Assembly of the state of Tennessee.

AMY GOODMAN: That was Speaker Cameron Sexton announcing the expulsion of Tennessee state Representative Justin Jones from the state House Thursday in a party-line vote. Republicans also voted to expel his fellow freshman, another 27-year-old, Black Democratic Representative Justin Pearson, who also faced questions as he defended himself. This is part of Representative Pearson's exchange with Republican Representative Andrew Farmer.

REP. ANDREW FARMER: That's why you're standing there, because of that temper tantrum that day, for that yearning to have attention. That's what you wanted. Well, you're getting it now. So I just advise you, if you want to conduct business in this House, file a bill. Be recognized, stand there and present it, and pass it. All you've got to do is pass a bill.

SPEAKER CAMERON SEXTON: Representative Pearson?

REP. JUSTIN PEARSON: Now, you all heard that. How many of you would want to be spoken to that way? How many of you would want to be spoken to that way? We're not talking about politics. We're not talking about even gun violence. How many of you would want to be spoken to that way? The reason that I believe the sponsor of this legislation, of this resolution, spoke that way is because he's comfortable doing it, because there's a decorum that allows it. There's a decorum that allows you to belittle people.

We didn't belittle nobody. What we said was that we cannot be beholden to gun lobbyists, to the NRA. We can't be beholden to organizations that don't want to see us make progress on gun violence. We can't be beholden to folks who don't want to see us help save our communities and protect them.

But there's something — there's something else I think that the sponsor of this resolution has alluded to, and there were a few things here that you said that I want to address. He called a peaceful protest a "temper tantrum." Is what's happening outside these doors by Tennesseans who want to see change a temper tantrum? Is Sarah, whose son Noah was at The Covenant School — he survived. He's 5 years old. And she

showed up here demanding that we do something about gun violence. Is that a temper tantrum? Is elevating our voices for justice or change a temper tantrum?

But there's something in the decorum of this body that makes it OK to say that folks who are exercising their First Amendment right to speak up for the hundreds of thousands of people collectively that we represent, that there's something in the decorum of this body that says it's OK to call that a temper tantrum, to call people we disagree with on the issues — to say that all they wanted is attention.

But I'll tell you what: I don't personally want attention. What I want is attention on the issue of gun violence. But instead, we're here with a resolution you put up talking about expelling me for advocating for ending gun violence in the state of Tennessee. I'd much rather be talking with you about legislation to protect Shelby County and to protect our communities than talking about why we don't deserve to have our representation lost because we came to the House saying we've got to do something. That's what I would like to be doing.

And so you brought attention or tried to bring attention to me, but I want to turn the attention to the people, the people who will never be able to throw a temper tantrum for gun violence — you know, the Larry Thorns, the Katherine Koonces, the Mike Hills, the Cynthia Peaks, the Evelyn Dieckhauses, the Hallie Scruggs, the William Kinneys, who will never have a chance to throw what you call a temper tantrum, for justice, for gun reform, for the ending of gun violence. They will never have a chance, because we haven't taken our oath seriously, because we don't take people who we disagree with seriously. We tell them, "You just are throwing a temper tantrum."

AMY GOODMAN: Ultimately, Tennessee Republicans voted to expel Democratic Representative Justin Pearson from the House, as well. At one point during his final remarks, the official TV feed for the Tennessee House continued to wrongly identify him as his colleague Justin Jones as he was giving his final statement. Pearson ended by saying the struggle had just begun.

REP. JUSTIN PEARSON: Oh, we have good news, folks! We've got good news that Sunday always comes. Resurrection is a promise, and it is a prophecy. It's a prophecy that came out of the cotton fields. It's a prophecy that came out of the lynching tree. It's a prophecy that still lives in each and every one of us in order to make the state of Tennessee the place that it ought to be. And so I've still got hope, because I know we are still here, and we will never quit!

SPEAKER CAMERON SEXTON: Out of order.

AMY GOODMAN: During the votes, thousands of supporters rallied in the halls of the state Capitol and outside. When a reporter asked Democratic Representative Gloria Johnson why she thought there was a difference between her outcome — she was not expelled, but her colleagues were — this was her response.

REP. GLORIA JOHNSON: I will answer your question. It might have to do with the color of our skin.

AMY GOODMAN: Representative Gloria Johnson was a teacher at Central High School in Knoxville, that faced a school shooting more than a decade ago. At the end of the night, the lawmakers, now known as the Tennessee Three, stood together again, and Johnson vowed to work to get her expelled colleagues back in the House.

REP. GLORIA JOHNSON: And I just cannot say enough about how proud I am, always and forever, to stand with these two brilliant young men, who connect with their community, who really listen and understand the voters in their districts and across this state, who can tell everybody in the most powerful way — they speak — they spoke to our members. They won't admit it, I don't think, but they spoke to those hearts. I could see it on faces. But still, what's the difference, where I made it through and these two young men did not make it through?

AUDIENCE MEMBER 1: We know!

REP. GLORIA JOHNSON: I think you're right: We know.

AUDIENCE MEMBER 2: We know why!

AUDIENCE MEMBER 1: Racists!

REP. GLORIA JOHNSON: We know. But here's the difference. I think we might have these two young men back very soon. And it is my — it is my promise to fight like hell to get both of them back.

AMY GOODMAN: Representative Gloria Johnson, standing next to the Justins, Justin Pearson and Justin Jones, who had just been expelled by the Tennessee state Legislature. Well, we're joined right now by Justin Jones, expelled Democratic Tennessee state representative of Nashville.

Welcome back. Thanks so much for joining us again after this marathon day. Your feelings yesterday as you stood with such passion, yet composure, dressing down your colleagues who were questioning you, then expelling you, Justin Jones?

JUSTIN JONES: Thank you. Thank you so much for having me again, Amy. It's good to be here.

AMY GOODMAN: So, your feelings right now? How is that possible? I mean, it's not like you were hired to work at a store, and then you were fired. You were elected by the people of Nashville. So, how is it that a Republican supermajority can fire you, can expel you?

JUSTIN JONES: Got you. Sorry, I couldn't hear your other question. But, I mean, I'm feeling — you know, when it happened, it didn't feel real. I didn't — you know, it I didn't know what happened to me, I would think it was 1963, not 2023, that a predominantly, almost entirely white Republican caucus expelled the two youngest Black lawmakers, not for any unethical or criminal behavior, but for our First Amendment activity and for standing and doing our job to speak up for our constituents, and to speak up particularly for young people who are terrified of these weapons of war on our streets. And so, I'm feeling I'm tired, but more so I'm tired of the injustice that rules the state Capitol.

But I think that what they've done, though, is the complete opposite, that they may have won yesterday, but they have not won the moral narrative as we go forward, that they thought by expelling us they would silence us, they would silence our movements that we're part of, but in fact they've amplified it, because the nation can see how racist they are. The nation can see how retaliatory and absurd and authoritarian they are. And so I think that is what gives me hope, is that they tried to kick us out, but, instead, they've put a spotlight on themselves for their shameful policies, that made it easier to get a gun than it is to get healthcare in this state.

AMY GOODMAN: You know, we spoke to you a few days ago. I was going to say "Representative Jones." But you are Representative Jones. The question is: Will you be just immediately reinstated next week? They're talking about your behavior as you spoke out from the well of the House of Representatives in Tennessee. But I wanted to ask you about Republican state Representative Justin Lafferty — we showed this a few days ago, as well — of Knoxville, who pushed you and grabbed your phone as you filmed the interaction. He attacked you. Can you talk about — was he disciplined for violent behavior?

JUSTIN JONES: Not at all. I mean, Representative Lafferty, the same representative who tried to justify the three-fifths compromise in the Constitution a couple years ago, I mean, he can act, you know, out of decorum, out of rules, act violently, and he's welcome within his party. I mean, that's what we brought up yesterday, is that we've had so many instances of behavior. You had the Republican Caucus chairman get upset at his son's basketball game and pull down the pants of the referee. That, you know, does not merit any type of sanction. You had a member who admitted to being a child molester, Representative David Byrd. He sat there without being expelled. You have David Hawk, you know, who was guilty of domestic violence. I mean, these things happened, and there was no accountability.

But, for us, for exercising our First Amendment activity, for saying that, you know, we took our oath seriously to protest against and dissent from any legislation that is injurious to the people — Article II, Section 27, of the state Constitution, we took that seriously — they expelled us, the most serious measure taken against us. And it's wrong. It's shameful. And what it really was about was about trying to silence the voices of the 78,000 people each of us represent, in the most diverse districts in the state.

AMY GOODMAN: So, can you tell us — and this is an absolutely key point. You represent the largest and most diverse cities in Tennessee. The local governing bodies, for example, of Metro Nashville, could reappoint you immediately?

JUSTIN JONES: That's what we're hearing. The question will be: Will the Republican supermajority seat us? And so, I mean, we would have to still run in a special election. And will the speaker seat us back in the body, or will this be a legal battle, just like Julian Bond? You know, they refused to seat him in Georgia when he was a young man who ran for the Legislature during the civil rights movement. And so, we don't know what to expect.

I mean, I don't think the nation — what happened yesterday was unprecedented, and it should alarm us all, that if it can happen in Tennessee, it can happen anywhere. And so I hope that people are paying attention. I hope that people realize that this is authoritarianism, that this is ousting of opposition voices from a legislative body, and it's authoritarianism. This

is not democracy. I know I'm on *Democracy Now!*, but this is definitely not what democracy looks like. And we're on a very scary path toward fascism, toward authoritarianism, toward autocracy in Tennessee, the birthplace of the Ku Klux Klan.

AMY GOODMAN: And let's remember the significance of this week. I mean, this is the week of April 4th. April 4th, 1968, Memphis, Tennessee, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was gunned down. And we're also here talking about gun violence, that began this protest —

JUSTIN JONES: Yes.

AMY GOODMAN: — you were involved with, Justin Jones. But so, there was the Tennessee Three: you, Justin Pearson and Gloria Johnson. You both are 27; she's 60 years old. You are both Black; she is white. She made no bones about this. She said the reason she is — was not expelled, and you two were, was the color of your skin. At the end, I was watching — walking through the streets of New York, watching on my phone what was happening. And when Justin Pearson gave his final comments, the Tennessee feed from the House of Representatives called him Justin Pearson, like they couldn't tell the difference between the two of you.

JUSTIN JONES: Yeah, they called him — they confused his name — Justin Jones — with mine, Amy. That's the thing —

AMY GOODMAN: Oh, sorry, called him Justin — called him Justin Jones, your name.

JUSTIN JONES: Yeah. I mean, that is it, is that they just — they saw two young Black men who speak up on the House floor, you know, speak up in committees, and challenge this dominant narrative of white supremacy, of plantation capitalism, of patriarchy. And that terrified them, that we were the two youngest lawmakers — I'm 27, Pearson is 28 — and that, you know, we represent the future of the state. And that is what they're trying to stop, is that they want to hold on to this old South, and we're trying to bring a renewed South that uplifts human rights and democracy, multiracial democracy, and social justice.

And so, what we saw yesterday was a public lynching, let's be real, and it was meant to set an example. But we did not bow down. And that's what I think has them, you know, really upset, is that we didn't — you know, we didn't break. We didn't bow down. They want us, you know, to feel broken, but we left with our fists up in the air, because we knew that this was not the end, that they may expel us, but they can't expel our movements. And that's what terrifies them.

AMY GOODMAN: Well, Justin Jones, I want to thank you for being with us. Of course, we'll continue to follow this. A major protest is planned for Monday, I know. Will you be out there?

JUSTIN JONES: I definitely will. I'll be outside of that chamber with these young people, showing up every week until we take action to take these weapons of war off our street, and until we honor the victims of Covenant elementary school by acting.

AMY GOODMAN: Justin Jones, expelled Democratic Tennessee state representative, representing Nashville, author of *The People's Plaza: Sixty-Two Days of Nonviolent Resistance*, with a foreword Bishop William Barber, thanks so much for being with us.

Coming up, we go to the Middle East. Israel has bombed southern Lebanon and Gaza as tensions soar in the region after Israeli forces repeatedly raid the Al-Aqsa Mosque, beating and tear-gassing Palestinian worshippers during Ramadan. Stay with us.

2023-04-07 Palestinian Poet Mohammed El-Kurd on Israeli Apartheid, Growing Tension in Region & Raid on Al-Aqsa Mosque

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[Mohammed El-Kurd](#)

Palestine correspondent for *The Nation*.

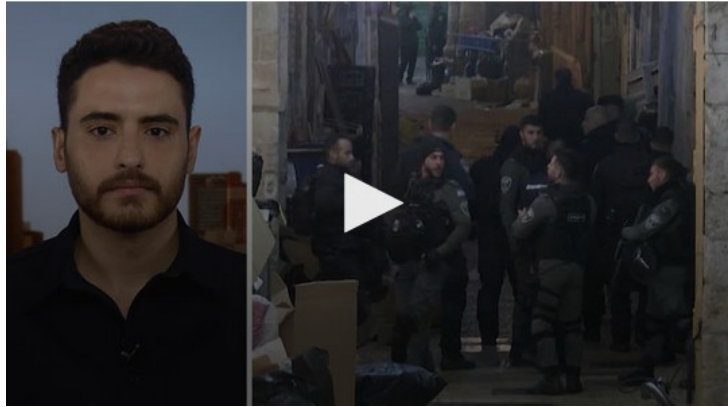
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Israel has bombed southern Lebanon and Gaza as tension soars in the region days after Israeli police repeatedly attacked Palestinian worshipers inside the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in occupied East Jerusalem. In response to the raids on the mosque, militants in southern Lebanon and Gaza fired dozens of rockets into Israel. It was the largest rocket attack from Lebanon in 17 years. Meanwhile, a Palestinian gunman opened fire on a vehicle near an illegal settlement in the occupied West Bank on Friday, killing two Israeli settlers. This all comes as Israel continues to impose a violent crackdown in the occupied West Bank, where the Israeli army has killed at least 94 Palestinians so far this year. Israel's raids on the Al-Aqsa Mosque during Ramadan have sparked international condemnation. For more, we speak with Mohammed El-Kurd, the Palestine correspondent for *The Nation*, who is from the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood of occupied East Jerusalem and says the escalating violence in Palestine cannot be separated from "the larger settler-colonial enterprise" of the decades-old Israeli occupation.



Transcript

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

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

Israel bombed southern Lebanon and Gaza overnight as tensions soar in the region, days after Israeli police repeatedly attacked Palestinian worshipers inside the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in occupied East Jerusalem. In response to the Israel raids on the mosque, militants in southern Lebanon and Gaza fired dozens of rockets into Israel, the largest rocket attack from Lebanon in 17 years. Israel says most of the rockets were intercepted.

Meanwhile, earlier today, two Israeli sisters were shot dead, their mother critically wounded, in a shooting near an illegal settlement in the occupied West Bank. Israeli authorities are searching for the perpetrators.

This all comes as Israel continues to impose a violent crackdown in the occupied West Bank, where the Israeli army has killed at least 94 Palestinians this year. Israel's raids on the Al-Aqsa Mosque during Ramadan have sparked international condemnation. Palestinian worshipers said they were beaten and tear-gassed as they prayed.

FAHMI ABBAS: [translated] We were spending the night in the mosque, and after we were done with late-night prayers, the police started to evacuate worshipers from the outdoor yards. We were inside, and the young men closed the doors, but police stormed in and detained the young men and women. There were other worshipers to the eastern part of the compound. ... In the yard to the eastern part of the compound, the police were firing tear gas and stun grenades. It was a scene that I can't describe. Then they stormed in and started beating everyone, and they detained people, and they put the young men on their faces to the ground. They also beat them while in detention.

AMY GOODMAN: Joining us now is Mohammed El-Kurd. He is the Palestine representative for *The Nation*, where he recently wrote an [article](#) titled "Israeli Protesters Say They're Defending Freedom. Palestinians Know Better." Mohammed El-Kurd is from the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood of occupied East Jerusalem.

Mohammed, welcome back to *Democracy Now!* What is happening right now in Israel and Palestine?

MOHAMMED EL-KURD: Good morning.

What is happening has been a crackdown on Palestinians from the Israeli regime on all levels. But it's important to remember, it's important to contextualize, that these tensions that may arise in this kind of violence that may, quote-unquote, "erupt" does not happen in a vacuum, and it's not — does not happen in isolation of the larger settler-colonial enterprise, of the larger military occupation that Palestinians are forced to live under. As you said, there have been 94 Palestinians killed since the start of this year. And that, within itself, is an escalation of violence.

But in the past two days, Israelis, who have been emboldened by international impunity, by international inaction, have been using the bodies and using the site of Al-Aqsa Mosque as a stage to display brute force, to send a message of sovereignty and security to the Israeli public, as well as send a message of intimidation to the Palestinians who use that mosque as one of their only remaining public spaces in a shrinking city.

AMY GOODMAN: Can you explain what you understand happened in Al-Aqsa?

MOHAMMED EL-KURD: Yes. Well, according to eyewitness reports and according to the video footage that has been circulated all over the internet, as well as TV channels, Israeli occupation forces stormed Al-Aqsa Mosque. They used rubber bullets. They used tear gas, stun grenades. They used butts of their rifles to beat on the worshipers and arrest a mass number of them. Over 400 worshipers were detained, and then they were handed orders preventing them, denying them entry to Al-Aqsa Mosque or the Old City for 15 days.

Later that day, an armed Israeli settler — which, by the way, many of the settlers who live in East Jerusalem are armed — shot a 15-year-old boy in the Old City of Jerusalem. And, of course, to no one's surprise, the settler was not arrested.

AMY GOODMAN: And explain what's happening from Gaza and Lebanon. You've got this barrage of rockets, in response to Al-Aqsa, going into Israel, and then you have Israel rocketing Lebanon, though they were careful to say — they weren't calling out Hezbollah, but saying Palestinian militants, and it looks like Lebanon is not trying to escalate this.

MOHAMMED EL-KURD: Absolutely. It seems like the internal chasm that is splitting apart Israeli society today might prevent them from entering a fully scaled war, which is why I assume they have been very cautious in their wording. But we must understand that the Palestinian people, regardless of the geography, regardless of the legal status, be it in a refugee camp in Lebanon or besieged in the Gaza Strip, are one people, and they feel each other's pain. But it's not just retaliation for Al-Aqsa Mosque. I mean, the Israeli regime has been bombing Syria for well over a year. It has been bombing the Gaza Strip, on and off, for the past 15 years.

And the most important piece of context here is that we must remember that the Gaza Strip is an open-air prison, the largest in the world. This is a densely populated refugee camp where people do not have an inch to stretch. People do not have the right to movement. People do not have access to clean water. It has been declared uninhabitable. That, within itself, is an aggression.

AMY GOODMAN: You mentioned the Israeli settlers in Jerusalem and Israelis carrying guns. I wanted to ask you about Itamar Ben-Gvir, Israel's new minister of national security, ultranationalist, convicted of racist incitement against Palestinians and supporting a terrorist group. In October, he waved a gun and shouted. This was during a confrontation in your neighborhood, Mohammed, in Sheikh Jarrah, in Jerusalem, where settlers attempted to violently evict your family and others from their homes. Just going to play a brief clip.

ITAMAR BEN-GVIR: [translated] If they, Palestinians, throw stones, shoot them.

AMY GOODMAN: Explain what he was saying and what he did.

MOHAMMED EL-KURD: Absolutely. I've had a few interactions with Ben-Gvir and also Smotrich. And, you know, while adjectives like "far-right" and "ultranationalist" certainly do describe him, these adjectives make him sound as though he is fringe, as though he is marginal, when in fact he represents, I would argue, a large portion of the mainstream.

You must understand that these politicians use our neighborhoods, use our front yards, as avenues for political campaigning. These displays of racism, these displays of brutality, these threats, all of them serve to embolden and bolster his election campaign, which was insanely successful. He is now the minister of national security. This has been a pattern with Itamar Ben-Gvir, but it is just — he is just a man saying the quiet part out loud.

Truly, the differences between him and the liberal Zionist parties are purely cosmetic. He is willing to say in public what they say behind closed doors. And what their policies and what the laws that they have put forth have done for the Palestinians for the past seven decades, they have all been policies and laws and actions of racism, ones that promote ethnic cleansing, ones that reek of racism.

AMY GOODMAN: Let me ask you, Mohammed El-Kurd, about the massive Israeli protests, not about treatment of Palestinians, but about what Netanyahu wants to do to the Supreme Court, severely curtail the powers of the judiciary. Can you talk about whether you think they will transform into supporting Palestinians, and also the mainstream media's coverage of what's happening right now with the escalating violence?

MOHAMMED EL-KURD: I mean, I want to — so, you know, watching the protests, I want to tell the Israeli public that they have a lot more in common than they realize, because the body that they are protesting to defend, the body that

they are trying desperately to save, the Supreme Court, which they say is a beacon of democracy, has its fingerprints all over the Israeli government's settler-colonial enterprise and apartheid regime.

I mean, this is the same Supreme Court that in 2018, when the Israeli occupation forces created a generation of martyrs and amputees in the Gaza Strip following the Great March of Return, ruled that they were doing so in self-defense. This is the same Supreme Court that upheld the legality of the family reunification law, which prevents tens of thousands of Palestinian couples and families of living together and uniting together. This is the same Supreme Court that in January ruled, in complete violation of international law, to forcibly expel over 1,300 Palestinians from Masafer Yatta. And one of the Supreme Court judges which made this ruling possible, by the way, is himself a settler in the West Bank.

So, this is the body that these people are trying to defend. So I absolutely do not think they can transform into talking about or protecting the rights or defending the lives or being advocates of the Palestinian liberation movement, because they are defending a body that is settler-made and that serves settlers and that was built on top of the rubble of Palestinian lands and that was made to ethnically cleanse Palestinians and to legalize that kind of ethnic cleansing.

AMY GOODMAN: Do you think that there is growing resentment about what the government is doing to Palestinians when it comes to these massive protests?

MOHAMMED EL-KURD: I wonder. I mean, they have been able to show us that they can mobilize in the hundreds of thousands, and they can speak up, and they can do all of this civil disobedience. They can engage in the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions campaign against their own government. They have been showing us this. And we are just told that they are just not choosing to do it in favor of the Palestinians, which makes sense. I mean, defending the lives of Palestinians or protesting against the apartheid regime or the settler-colonial regime would mean that they have to undermine their own privileges and their own luxuries they enjoy as settlers in historic Palestine.

AMY GOODMAN: Well, Mohammed El-Kurd, we want to thank you for being with us, Palestine correspondent for *The Nation*.

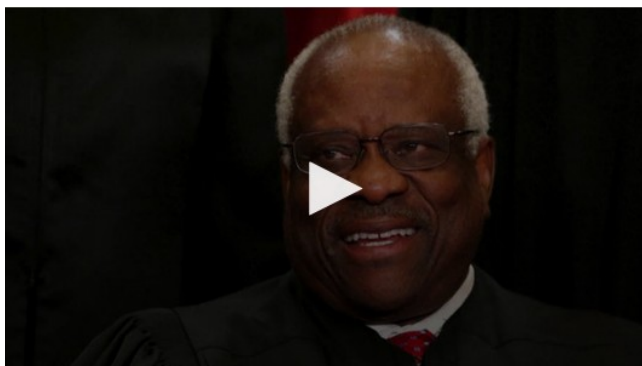
MOHAMMED EL-KURD: Thank you.

AMY GOODMAN: We'll link your latest [piece](#) at democracynow.org.

Coming up, calls are growing for Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas to be impeached, after ProPublica reveals Thomas has frequently taken free luxury trips paid for by a Republican billionaire, Harlan Crow. Stay with us.

2023-04-07 Should Clarence Thomas Be Impeached? GOP Megadonor Gave Justice Free Luxury Vacations for 20 Years

https://www.democracynow.org/2023/4/7/clarence_thomas_luxury_trips



Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas failed to report frequent luxury trips paid for by a billionaire Republican megadonor named Harlan Crow, leading to renewed calls for the conservative jurist's impeachment. According to ProPublica, Thomas has for decades accepted flights on Crow's private jet, trips on his yacht and frequent stays at his exclusive lakeside resort, in apparent violation of a law requiring justices and other federal officials to disclose most gifts. "Justice Thomas has this extraordinary and apparently unprecedented relationship with this outside billionaire who is basically subsidizing his life," says ProPublica reporter Justin Elliott. Thomas has previously come under scrutiny for

conflicts of interest after he refused to recuse himself from cases about Republican efforts to overturn the 2020 presidential election, even as his wife, Ginni, was pressuring officials to ensure Donald Trump's victory.

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

Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas is facing renewed calls for his impeachment, after a ProPublica [investigation](#) revealed he failed to report frequent luxury trips paid for by a billionaire Republican megadonor named Harlan Crow, who serves on the board of the right-wing American Enterprise Institute. The investigation reveals that for about 20 years Thomas secretly accepted luxury vacations from Crow, in apparent violation of a law requiring justices and other federal officials to disclose most gifts. One vacation involved nine days of island hopping in Indonesia aboard a 162-foot superyacht. Clarence Thomas and his wife Ginni Thomas flew to Indonesia on Crow's private jet. Thomas also frequently vacationed at Crow's 105-acre resort in the Adirondacks of New York. Hanging on the walls of the resort is a painting of Clarence Thomas sitting with four other men, including Harlan Crow, as well as Leonard Leo of the Federalist Society. Thomas never reported any of the free trips as gifts.

On Thursday, New York Congressmember Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez tweeted, quote, "This is beyond party or partisanship. This degree of corruption is shocking — almost cartoonish. Thomas must be impeached," she said.

We're joined by Justin Elliott, who co-authored the ProPublica [investigation](#), headlined "Clarence Thomas and the Billionaire."

Lay out what you found, Justin.

JUSTIN ELLIOTT: Yeah. Well, what we found is that Justice Thomas has this extraordinary and apparently unprecedented relationship with this outside billionaire, who, you know, is basically subsidizing his life. I mean, we're talking about trips on a private jet that charters for \$10,000 to \$15,000 per hour; cruises around the world on this superyacht that you described; regular vacations with this billionaire and his friends, who, in some cases, are people that have either ideological or potentially financial interests before the court.

AMY GOODMAN: Well, explain what the rules are for Supreme Court justices.

JUSTIN ELLIOTT: You know, one of the striking things here as we got into this is that — is just how few rules there are, especially compared to other people in the government. You know, I have friends who work in the federal bureaucracy who say they can't even, you know, have somebody buy them lunch. Supreme Court justices have very few rules. In terms of accepting gifts, one of the few things the law requires them to do is to simply disclose gifts, most gifts. This was a law that was passed back in the 1970s after Watergate. And Clarence Thomas, by not reporting these private jet trips and some of the other travel, you know, appears to be just in repeat violation of that law, according to the ethics lawyers we spoke to.

AMY GOODMAN: So, I wanted to read from your investigation. "Thomas' frequent vacations at Topridge have brought him into contact with corporate executives and political activists. During ... one trip in ... 2017, [his] fellow guests included executives at Verizon ... PricewaterhouseCoopers, major Republican donors and one of the leaders of the American Enterprise Institute, a pro-business conservative think tank," according to the records you reviewed. The painting of Thomas at Topridge — and so I want to show this for our TV audience — shows him in conversation, as we said earlier, with Leonard Leo of the Federalist Society. And explain who the other people are and what Topridge is.

JUSTIN ELLIOTT: Yeah. Topridge is this incredible, essentially, private resort in upstate New York in the Adirondacks. It was actually built by Marjorie Merriweather Post, who is the same heiress who built what is now Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago about a century ago, to give you a sense of the kind of lavishness of the property. And this property is now owned by this Dallas real estate billionaire, Harlan Crow, and he regularly hosts Thomas there. And we're not talking about just sort of a lake house. It's a whole campus of buildings. There's a staff of chefs and waiters and that sort of thing.

And, you know, it's very difficult to find out who is on these trips with Justice Thomas. We were able to get the names of guests on one or two occasions. And even though Harlan Crow told us in a statement that he and his friends are not trying to influence Justice Thomas, you know, the people, for example, in the painting you describe, are —

AMY GOODMAN: And what is the sculpture behind them?

JUSTIN ELLIOTT: Yeah, it's a sculpture of a Native American man sort of with his hands outstretched. We're not really sure why it's there or what it's supposed to mean. I actually spoke to the painter who created the piece. And, you know, he said that in real life, that sculpture is actually two or three times bigger, and he shrunk it in the painting because — for scale. But we don't really know why it's there or why they made the choice to pose in front of it. But, you know, all of the

men in the painting, besides Harlan Crow, are conservative lawyers, people who are active in one way or another in the conservative legal movement. You know —

AMY GOODMAN: Of course, Leonard Leo, key to the choosing of conservative justices, especially under Trump.

JUSTIN ELLIOTT: Yeah, Leonard Leo has been very involved in creating the current Supreme Court supermajority, and Harlan Crow has donated to Leonard Leo's groups. And this is a guy who now has a war chest of, I think, over a billion dollars. And, you know, again, when you look at that painting, it raises a lot of questions about Harlan Crow's statement that this is all about sort of friendship and just socializing.

AMY GOODMAN: So, tell us more about who Harlan Crow, the billionaire GOP superdonor, is. Can you tell us more about Harlan Crow? Can you hear me? Can you hear me, Justin? All right, while he's fixing his IFB, Justin Elliott writes in the [piece](#) that Clarence Thomas has presented himself as a, quote, "everyman with modest tastes." We're going to turn to a clip right now of Justice Thomas speaking in the documentary, *Created Equal: Clarence Thomas in His Own Words*.

JUSTICE CLARENCE THOMAS: You know, I don't have any problem with going to Europe. But I prefer the United States, and I prefer seeing the regular parts of the United States. I prefer going across the rural areas. I prefer the RV parks. I prefer the Walmart parking lots to the beaches and things like that. There's something normal to me about it. I come from regular stock, and I prefer that. I prefer being around that.

AMY GOODMAN: That's Clarence Thomas. Your response to that, Justin Elliott? And if you can tell us more about the man he spends a lot of time with, even if he extols Walmart parking lots? And that is Harlan Crow.

JUSTIN ELLIOTT: Yeah, a couple thoughts. I mean, one is, the irony is, the documentary you just showed, which was made by friends of Justice Thomas, was actually financed in part with hundreds of thousands of dollars from none other than Harlan Crow. And yeah, there's been a deliberate effort over the years by Clarence Thomas and his supporters to present him as a kind of everyman, a regular guy who likes driving around in his RV. And, you know, he does — he absolutely does drive around in his RV around the country. But, you know, they've never mentioned that he also is flying around on private jets and going around on yachts, hanging out at resorts — essentially, private, sort of boutique luxury hotels hosted by this billionaire. That has somehow never come up in all these interviews he's given about his RV. So, it's starkly different than the reality.

With respect to Harlan Crow, I mean, he's — you know, he was actually born into money. He was an heir to a major Dallas real estate fortune. He was the son who took over the family business. So he has wide-ranging business interests, particularly in real estate. But I think more relevant for this story, he's also been involved for over 20 years now in conservative legal politics, giving to groups like the Federalist Society and others. As you mentioned earlier, he's a longtime board member of the American Enterprise Institute, the think tank, which of course is active on a lot of issues, but including conservative legal advocacy and advocating for various things related to the Supreme Court. So, he's very deep in the kind of political world, and specifically the world of conservative legal politics.

AMY GOODMAN: And says that the greatest threat is Marxism? Is that right, Justin?

JUSTIN ELLIOTT: Yeah, and he didn't agree to an interview with us, but he gave an interview recently in which he said his greatest fear is Marxism.

AMY GOODMAN: Well, we're going to leave it there. As you write in ProPublica, soon after Crow met Thomas three decades ago, he began lavishing the justice with gifts, including a \$19,000 Bible that belonged to Frederick Douglass. Justin Elliott, we'll link to your ProPublica [report](#), "Clarence Thomas and the Billionaire."

A very happy birthday to Matt Ealy. I'm Amy Goodman. Tune in to democracynow.org. Thanks so much for joining us.