

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

A BBS RADIO Go To www.bbsradio.com; click on "64K Listen"

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

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

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

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

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

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

C Skype: BBSradio2

D Archives for the 3 Programs listed above:

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

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

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

II TO ACCESS OTHER CALLS SUPPORTED BY 2013 Rainbow Roundtable

A Sunday, Mondays: 9 – 10:30 EST Cheryl Croci's Activation Calls
By telephone only: 1-425-436-6260; PIN 9467 441#

B Tuesdays, 2nd & 4th of each month: *Ashtar on the Road; Ashtar Legacy Calls*
9:00 – 10:30 pm EST Host is Fran

<http://www.ashtarontheroad.com/ashtartelesconferences.html>

To access **by Phone:**

- 1 – 559 – 726 – 1300; PIN 972400#
- Call is free [except for long distance charges]

via HD Conferencing: 712-770-4160 **PIN #** 980339 [always the same]
<https://www.freeconferencecallhd.com/hd-conferencing/>

via Skype **Click on the VOIP button** and enter what they ask for:
<https://www.freeconferencecallhd.com/hd-conferencing/>

C Wednesdays: 7:00 – 9:00 EST ***The Friends of The Aboriginal Moabite Nation Call***
By telephone only: 1-712-432-0900 PIN 666238#
Replay# [good for 1 wk] 1-712-432-0990 PIN 66238#

D Every 2nd Wednesday ***The Abundance Call - Caroline Oceana Ryan***
5:45 PM Pacific / 8:45 PM Eastern 60-minute conference call with the Collective,
a group of Angelic and Galactic beings, channeled by

To be notified: email AscensionTimes@gmail.com with the message "YES to Abundance!"

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

A. Opening Meditation: Rainbird / Cimi Drum; Prayer to the 7 Galactic Directions

B. Mayan Calendar: Rainbird

- **Go to** <https://www.spacestationplaza.com> – to locate specific days & lots more information: on the home page, you can find out what your Mayan signature is; while there, look and see where the wave began: that is the birth wave
- **to learn about the Mayan Calendar, Go to** <https://www.spacestationplaza.com> which will link you further to www.lawoftime.org website for further information.

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

19th Fri – 2 MANIK – Blue Lunar Hand – healing aspect – healing ourselves and others; accepting the divinity of ourselves. Let go of distractions, procrastination

20th Sat – 3 LAMAT – Yellow Electric Star – visionary aspect; about illumination of human kind; have gift of journeying, power to see beyond the gate. Let go of diffidence, self-doubt

21st Sun – 4 MULUC – Red Self-Existing Moon – artist aspect. PORTAL DAY. Wise use of rational mind – contacting spirit guides, remembering what we're here to do Working with telepathy – lots going on with the astrology too. Let go of insensitivity, self-doubt

22nd Mon – 5 OC – White Overtone Dog – artist aspect. Working with Unconditional Love – gift of contact with spirit guide, awareness of our destiny and past lives; loyalty to human kind – let go of fears and unwise use of anger

23rd Tues – 6 CHUEN – Blue Rhythmic Monkey - artist aspect – 6 is organic balance.
balancing work and play; paying attention to clarity of mind, practicing wise use of
mind and wise use of artistry – let go of mistrust, resistance to compassion

24th Wed – 7 EB – Yellow Resonant Human - healing aspect. PORTAL DAY. Connection to
heaven and heaven to earth. **7** is the powerful midpoint.
Work with enlightenment for human kind; activity
Tune to spirit – healing energies; embrace the gift of being human servant warrior and
abundance that comes with service. Definitely have the contact with higher sources. Let go
of dependence on analytical mind

25th Thur – 8 BEN – Red Skywalker – warrior aspect. Working with focus; Striving towards self-
illumination; clarity of mind and heart.
gift of strength, ability to bend dimensions – let go of any belief in aloneness

26th Fri – 9 IX – White Solar Wizard /Magician- visionary aspect – illumination of others
Work with clarity of mind and purpose. Embrace the gift of being the shaman. Work with
integrity and in accordance with Diving Will.
Full moon in Hawaii – will be working with the full moon energy too

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

This is not a 3rd dimensional calendar -

C. Housekeeping: Rainbird

- Asking to **have more people contribute**, as some of the regular, long-term donors are stressed and stretched: **any and all small amounts are helpful and very welcome.**

- BBS:**
- Listener-supported radio programs; program archives can be accessed
 - The radio program costs \$300 per week. **Need \$300 for this week.**
We are staying caught up – thank you, thank you, thank you ! ! !
 - Go to BBSradio.com/Station2; find the listing for **Hard News Call & Paypal** button
 - BBS appreciates getting checks via the mail: no Paypal fees!
 - The mailing address for those who do not like paying electronically:
B B S RADIO [Please put **"Attention Don"** on the envelope]
1500 Pleasant Hill RD [Note inside that it's for T & R calls]
Lafayette, CA 94549 [& the Thursday call, as well]
 - **BBS archives can be accessed by everyone;** there are archives on
www.rainbowroundtable.net All are free to access.

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

FOOD MONEY: VIA PAYPAL OR See the PAGE ON Rainbowroundtable

a 2nd bobcat kitten has shown up – they all come to eat!
Rama has a pride of Paschats (8) including the rabbit !!!

BASICS: food, gas, paschat family of 8: usual stuff + \$ for bills \$ 300 + \$300

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

RENT WEEK - \$1150 DUE SUNDAY FEBRUARY 28TH

ALSO \$200 FOR A NEW MICROPHONE!!!

- Rama's mailing address for cheques, money orders: Ram D Berkowitz
PO Box 280
Santa Cruz, NM 87567

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

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

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

- Your donation supports an account set up for Tara & Rama with
Beneficial Farms Community Supported Agriculture in Santa Fe, NM

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

- They continue to appreciate each & every donation received for food.
- Please continue to go to www.rainbowroundtable.net and link to their Paypal account: click on the word CHANGE; choose **family and friends option so Paypal takes off no fees.**

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

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

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

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

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

Contact Rainbird with questions: lightenergync@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

KF Wiki

<https://www.kfwiki.org>

The free Plasma Cyclopdia of the Keshe Foundation

Keshe Foundation Store

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

Keshe Corona site

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

E. ACCESS TO PODCAST:

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

Rama, Tara: [R, T]

Thanks to all for being here

T: Good thoughts for the people in Texas

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

If you focus narrowly on the problem as you see it, you might well lose hope, but if you look at it ` from a wider perspective, it's easier to be more positive. When I decided to leave Tibet, we set out not knowing if we would live to see the following day, but I never gave up hope

R: went to the Tibetan Buddhist centre

- met 2 lamas there, recently returned from Myanmar
- They said:Wwe have seen the star ships that have landed in the mountains of Butan and Myanmar where the meet- hundreds there – meanwhile, China having an internal war with its own faction. Meanwhile

T: Randy said at one point

- Myanmar is a Buddhist country except where the Muslims live in Rohinga
- the attacks are going on against the Rohinga because the attackers are not Buddhists – they are Chinese dressed up as buddhists
- there are also refugees there who live in camps – people are killed if they get out of line

NHK News: on Myanmar today

- Myanmar protester dies after being shot – the ongoing unrest in the country threatens to get more – the protester was on life support, the first casualty in Myanmar
- Gives the name – she was 20 when she was shot in the head at the rally in the capital on Feb 9th – in critical conditions since then. Her sister said her situation was getting worse – everyone, please participate in the protests until we succeed.
- Local media said police fired at demonstrators at the rallies -
 - Hospital officials thought the bullet must have been live as it penetrated her helmet
 - Aung Sung Su Chi has been imprisoned – people want her freed

- Some people say she's been compromised – and the Chinese dressed as Buddhists means there's no power invested in her position
- The death of the protester will probably keep things going
- Today is the 25th anniversary of Democracy Now being on air
 - reviewed key stories of the time: so many war crimes described
listen and send good vibrations
- The transhuman experiment with Jeffrey Epstein and Elon Musk – Jeffrey impregnating young girls, women and microchipping the mothers AND the babies as soon as they are born
 - Natasha said the Marjory Taylor Greene [MTG] could very likely be one of the products of that transhumanist program – the ultimate idea is the creation of super soldiers
- T:** MTG made her own decision about Pelosi deserving to be executed, Pence to be hung!
 - The Proud boys ??
 - On March 4th, they intend to re-install Trump as president for the next 4 years
- R:** doesn't know how it will play out – yes, St Germain will step in – just not sure when, or how – it's insane to even think these guys would try to pull something off like this
 - The US military and the Pentagon are aligned with the Forces of Light!

CONFERENCE CALL

<https://fccdl.in/w84xbnaBU4>

Missed beginning

Discussion about events in Texas – electric grid was supposed to have been winterized – someone pocketed the money and did nothing

Caller: the electric bills in TX - \$300 last month; some of them now got a bill for \$8000!

- Solar power doesn't necessarily allow for appliances – have to have appliances that suit the form of the power being provided

T: the windmills weren't winterized as they are in Denmark, Greenland etc etc etc

- there is an eastern Grid and a western grid – and Texas is on its own so it can't be regulated by the Federal gov't
- PG&E in California was supposed to be putting lines under the ground – pocketed the money
- Texas had major events like this in 1989 and 2011 – should be been prepared this time
- The Gulf is way warmer than it's supposed to be . . .

RGM: people have taken their 'snow' in to be analyzed: same components as the chemtrails!

Z: the

T: they are not human; cut of the 12th strand of DNA on purpose

So: not smart to drop something that is not snow . . .

How do they get away with this?

T: every agency is compromised – all bought by the rich!

- Their goose is already cooked and they are desperate
 - Max Keiser: the dollar is trash
 - have sanctioned so many countries, and sanctions kill a lot of people!
 - Bit coin is replacing the dollar and Elon Musk, by investing a lot of money in bitcoin, has raised the price so high

- If DJT doesn't get that seat on March 4th – saying all over the Faction 1, Faction 2 that Trump is still insisting that the election was rigged and he's going to walk in and take over

R: asks about turning bit coin into cash – thinks it's just another bankers' game

T: that's true for the bankers – but individuals are doing fine – the bankers have no control

Z: Last night's show was a terrific job – Randy's presentation and Tara's answer to Omena was good because she tied so many things together

T: thank you – glad that Omena engaged because that afforded an opportunity to explain what they were talking about !!!

Z: amazed that Omena got a shot then Randy presented and Omena came back again

S: is the basis of things that she can't accept immortality?

Z: even tho' Tara talked about replacing people with AI

T: the 500,000 are the corporate heads and the 13 families and the Vatican

R: what P is referring to is the **500,000 on the Georgia Guidestone**

a monolithic stone in GA – supposed to be some amazing wisdom – suggests 500,000 to be left on earth

Z: the transhumanism thing with Epstein – has been sharing that info in discussion with others and no seems it's resurfacing in a more focussed way

T: Elon Musk / Epstein didn't do this for fun - goes into more detail

- the whole mindset that did the Capital thing – Marjory had no problem, on her own, to say that Pelosi and Pence should die

S: Trump has normalized bad behaviour -

R: they do all sorts of testing and go to nature for examples – watched a video of a praying mantis and then a huge parasite came out of the praying mantis and the mantis was dead.

- YUK to the story being told!

R: We stand in the vertical Keshe device first – it's a diagnostic

Working hard to get this to Arizona – the first in the world – each machine is a million Euros, and 12 are going in -

- the galactics are protecting Keshe
- ?? he's from the planet Zeus – when they tried to poison him, and the scientist said your blood is not of this world

R: when he was in university the professors came in and

- the place in Canada will be somewhere down east – land has already been purchased.

Question: If he's not human, how does this fall into . . .

R: His soul's mission is to bring peace to the planet and he's been saying this from 2011

T: The Prime Directive: in case of psychic or nuclear holocaust & ?

They will do nothing for us, but will do it through us!

Caller: we can't get rid of the cabal and they do!

T: that is **not what Nesara is about:** as we become more self aware at the highest level, we can – we do what we can at the highest level we can

- Suffering is only because we fall for the matrix

S:

- T: it can only be an all or nothing deal!** This refers to us the people – as we continue the group work and there are others doing the groups work too -
- Tells the story of someone who called her – a sewing group inspired by the Dalai Lama's message – the seamstresses are making things from scratch
 - this planet is the 33rd planet to ascend – and there are **80 BILLION planets like this in the Universe of Nebadon** -
 - there is nothing else going on but ascension!
 - There is only one San [?]
 - there are more and more people ascending than ever before!

R: brings up a US army base on Greenland – Camp Century – Project Iceworm

Z: brings up

R: What he heard about today from the 2 lamas he met:

- what is unfolding in a good way is the galactics are here in all the various places and the dark side is playing out their moves; they are pre-programmed to do that in spite of the changing energies of this timeline

Z: is there any part of the military that is willing to work with the galactics

R: there are many who would – and they also know about the changes happening with our sun

- the US space admin knows about it, and so do the people in Area 51
- 12,000 + years ago climate changes were happening and as Nibiru approached there were earthquakes and other things happening
- Nibiru's orbit is elliptical and crosses the orbits of the planets

PLEASE FILL IN THE BLANKS BY LISTENING TO THE AUDIO: LINK ABOVE . . .

B B S RADIO

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

VLOG 206 **WHAT IT MEANS FOR OUR I AM PRESENCE TO BE FULLY INTEGRATED**



AUDIO: **The Ascended Masters Broadcasts**

<https://radiantroseacademy.com/sanctuary/loving-our-planet-free/the-ascended-masters-broadcasts/>

Lady Nada – February 19th 2021: [Listen/download](#)

<https://instantteleseminar.com/Events/125415705>

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!

Indeed, it's time, time we all thank our lucky stars we're in this moment! We got the power, as Patti says – a lot happening at this time to raise it up. And it is an auspicious time to be here – wouldn't wanna have it any other way! This is the best time to be here even tho' we could call Her very crazy to say that!

- This is the moment, the time, where everything changes – and it may not look that way right now. Yet wait a couple of moments, and it all changes once again.
 - We are not dreaming: this is the reality as Patti has talked about: Lady Nada: this is a time of magic and miracles where we have the power to change our destiny, and we could say Gaia/Vyamus is directing that path because of where we are moving across the Galactic Plane.
- It is quite awesome to behold as you/we – all of us – step into our awareness first and foremost, with love: that's the key. That is the guiding principle of how this Sat Yuga, this moving about – gotta have that Love pouring in!
- Things are very much in our hands as we can shift this – there are more of us than there are of them, yet 'them' is 'us'. We could say, in spite of their own misgivings, that 'them' is being raised up in spite of their best efforts to resist.
 - So Rejoice at this time, even tho it may look totally different from the vantage point we're in on the planet. Much has to do with the frequencies we are allowing ourselves to embrace. As we lift ourselves up, it gets better even though it has many aspects to it.

T: She was telling everyone again about the galactics aren't going to let this bunch march forth on March 4th and put Drumpf the hologram back in the White House.

M/A: No, that is ridiculous.

T: saw on Thursday on DW News – saw a facsimile of Drumpf: he's a hologram now, right?

M/A: Yes! Whatever essence of that life form is left – yes, it is a celluloid image that is fading away into the dust of the old timeline and, with it – let's say – comes the conclusion of the Kali Yuga cycle.

- We are in such auspicious times and yet, it is such a moment of great transfiguration to embrace everything that happens each day. As we go through these moments, look for the bright moments in each day; it is getting lighter and better.
- The sun has returned, even thou there are many parts – the sun has returned, speaking about our sun going through its transfiguration

T: So what do you mean by that?

M/A: What she means by that is, as we could experience the light, the plasma energy, frequency pouring in at this time, it's making all the cells in each of our bodies - trillions and trillions of cells that are dancing with this light pouring in - it increases the magnitude of the change, and it is tangible to feel taste, touch, experience.
Let's say . . .

T: all the Marjory Taylor Greens . . .

M/A: they are freaking and peaking in the Light

T: Are they part of the Epstein assembly of AI beings?

M/A: she could say yes, because the story goes back quite a bit: trying to control the planet for an outcome and timeline that is not based in Love.

- That timeline has been cancelled in spite of their best efforts to keep it going with the fear and fascination of more and more chaos. This is what they feed on: loosh - it's at its end now.
- As the Light and the Love continue to pour in, these ones like Miss Green and many others are going to be experiencing most disruptions in their lives because the gaps in energy are about them embracing love, not hate. As they choose the old path, it gets more and more challenging to be here until you're not here - it's that simple!
- All the old stories gotta go - all the old dinosaurs have their dates with destiny, the setting sun. Be that as it may, send more love!
- She'd best be on her way - it's late!

T: It is - I guess perseverance, determination . . .

M/A: Chop wood, carry water, before and after enlightenment - it is not hard. It might only seem hard - let Us say -continue to use the Force and do the due diligence by being in this NOW moment and rejoicing! We have turned the tide - even though things may not look that way, it is: it has - changed.

- She will say: expect most auspicious news coming out of left field. There is much more to this little droid running around on Mars. There is a whole story that needs to be told -
 - it is about us embracing ourselves at a moment in space/time where - let's say - we've been handed the keys to the kingdom and we don't even know it!
- This story is so huge! And it is about the Love pouring in. Remember, the scene, the last little scene in that movie we call "Ghost" where Sam says 'The love you feel - it expands out - it is so huge!'
 - Enter the circle; remember we are all here at this moment. Love is the answer

Both: Greetings in the Light of the Most Radiant One! Kadoish, Kadoish, Kadoish; Adonai Sabbeoth, Kadoish, Kadoish, Kadoish; Adonai Sabbeoth . . .

Mother: . . remember who we are . . .

Rama Returns: He went to the Antarres Arcturus Midway Station. Quite a gathering of souls experiencing integration of the Light pouring in right now - it's so HUGE!

- So much Light, Love pouring in right now through all the various portals to lift us up - it's so awesome - he fails to have the words -
- He could just describe in a few listen to the Moody Blues song: The Word - listen to that on Youtube and you'll understand

T: there's enough energy, time, and love and air to breathe

R: There is indeed - yes, I'm not Mother! – just what he experienced - the waves of ecstasy, joy being at the Antarres Arcturus Midway Station – about embracing the energies coming in -
• even though it is such a crisis moment on this planet – it is changing dramatically – gotta keep the faith, as Michael Fronté says: have a little faith

T: and a little audacity

R: yes, that helps – he goes through moments and at the faces on the screen: WTF is going on here?

- Plastic snow – what do you expect from the holodeck program in the context of them being so petrified with the Light coming in – it's about embracing that part of self that, as we forgive and have compassion, it changes things for the better
- and the ones who have committed themselves to the Dark Side – he leaves it there and Mother takes up the rest of the story

2021-02-19 - 25th Anniversary of Democracy Now

R: she challenged Bill Clinton and he called her out and said she was not correct!

T: and she WAS right! !!

R: Uncle Bill and his wife gotta face Mother . . .

2021-02-19 Headlines

<https://www.democracynow.org/2021/2/19/headlines>

SEE BELOW

2021-02-19 Democracy Now! Turns 25: Celebrating a Quarter-Century of Independent News on the Frontlines

SEE BELOW

AUDIO: [Keiser Report: The global semiconductor chip shortage](#)

2021-02-18

VIDEO: <https://www.rt.com/shows/keiser-report/515890-semiconductor-chips-worsening-shortages/>

PODCAST: <https://soundcloud.com/rttv/keiser-report-the-global-semiconductor-chip-shortage>

Max and Stacy look at the worsening shortages in semiconductor chips. Max interviews Dan Collins, a businessman and entrepreneur who lived in China for 20 years. He discusses the reasons behind the chip shortages and why the US business model has left the country vulnerable.



AUDIO: Redacted Tonight US Sanctions

Lee Camp covers a GAO study on US sanctions & what it hides. He also looks at the Haitian uprising & the new TPP.

Natalie McGill on the Tampa Bay water hack. Anders Lee on the crisis in Texas, &

Closing: Rainbird

Rama's Choices: Alan Watts – Give Yourself To The Water

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XQrJyR0t67g>

Song: Ancient Love, I hear you calling; ancient Love , I hear you . . .

Music: sound of the whales

INFORMATION RELATED TO THE NOTES

2021-02-19 Headlines

<https://www.democracynow.org/2021/2/19/headlines>



Watch Headlines

Power Cuts, Freezing Temperatures Plague Millions as Texas Energy Producers Boast of Profits

Feb 19, 2021



Millions of U.S. residents endured another day with shortages of water, heat or electricity Thursday, as the death toll from winter storms rose to at least 49. More than 13 million Texans remained under a “boil water advisory,” and some 200,000 had no power, days after Texas’s power grid collapsed amid record low temperatures. The Electric Reliability Council of Texas, which operates the grid, said Thursday the state was “seconds and minutes” away from a catastrophic failure that could have led to a months-long blackout. This week’s power outages also led to big delays in COVID-19 vaccine distribution and soaring fuel prices.

During an earnings call Wednesday, executive Roland Burns of the natural gas producer Comstock Resources celebrated the winter weather disaster.

Roland Burns: “This week is like hitting the jackpot, you know, with some of these incredible prices. I mean, you know, frankly, we were able to sell at super premium prices for a material amount of production.”

On Thursday, Mexico’s President Andrés Manuel López Obrador called on Mexicans to ration electricity, after Texas shut off exports of natural gas amid the crisis.

Sen. Ted Cruz Fled to Cancún as Millions of Texans Endured Blackouts and Winter Cold

Feb 19, 2021



Meanwhile, Texas Republican Senator Ted Cruz returned to his home in Houston Thursday, a day after his family fled to Mexico to escape the blackout and winter cold. Text messages show Cruz’s wife complained the family’s home was “FREEZING” and invited others to join the family at the Ritz-Carlton in Cancún. On Thursday, Senator Cruz defended his actions as he prepared to board a flight back to Texas.

Sen. Ted Cruz: “Yesterday, my daughters asked if they could take a trip with some friends, and Heidi and I agreed, so I flew down with them last night, dropped them off here, and now I’m headed back to Texas and back continuing to work to try to get the power on.”

Senator Cruz was initially booked to stay in Mexico until Saturday. He was met by protesters calling for his resignation at Houston’s airport — and in the bitter cold outside his home.

South Africa Switches to Johnson & Johnson Vaccine in Battle Against Coronavirus Variant



In South Africa, health authorities have launched a trial campaign of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine as they battle a coronavirus variant that’s become dominant across southern Africa. The pivot to the Johnson & Johnson vaccine came after a small clinical trial showed the AstraZeneca vaccine failed to prevent most cases of mild and moderate disease in South Africa. South African officials have pledged to share unused doses of the AstraZeneca shot with other African nations.

Peruvian VIPs Secretly Received First Doses of COVID-19 Vaccine



In Peru, revelations that politicians secretly received China’s Sinopharm vaccine as early as last September — before it was even approved — have rocked the country. Then-President Martín Vizcarra was one of just hundreds who were reportedly given the shot as the country’s death toll surged.

Pfizer Says its COVID-19 Vaccine Might Not Need Ultra-Cold Temperatures



Pfizer says its COVID-19 vaccine might not need to be kept at ultra-low temperatures, and is asking the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to allow its shots to be

stored at temperatures found in common pharmaceutical freezers. If approved, the change could greatly ease distribution of the vaccine.

Meanwhile, Cuba is approaching the final testing phase for its own vaccine, Soberana 2, or Sovereign 2. Cuba has said it may offer the vaccine to tourists once it is approved.

U.S. COVID Deaths Drop in February But Still on Pace to Top Half-Million by Month's End

Feb 19, 2021



In the United States, more than 2,500 people died of COVID-19 on Thursday, with another 70,000 new cases recorded. The official U.S. death toll is on pace to top a half of a million before the end of the month. The Washington Post reports that, on average, one person died of COVID-19 every 28 seconds in January. President Joe Biden is visiting Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine manufacturing plant in Michigan today to continue his push for a proposed \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package.

U.S. to Give \$4 Billion to COVAX as Biden Tries to Repair International Ties

Feb 19, 2021



Biden will appear at a virtual summit of G7 leaders to announce the U.S. will give \$4 billion to COVAX, the international program to get vaccines to poorer countries. Former President Trump opted out of COVAX last summer.

Biden is also giving his first presidential speech aimed at an international audience. At a virtual meeting of the Munich Security Conference, Biden will focus on restoring U.S. ties with Western European allies in a united front against Russia and China.

Biden's New ICE Guidelines Continue to Target and Demonize Immigrants

Feb 19, 2021



In immigration news, the Biden administration issued new guidelines Thursday directing Immigration and Customs Enforcement, ICE, to focus apprehensions and deportations on asylum seekers and immigrants who've recently crossed into the U.S. and those who are determined to be "national security and public safety threats."

Immigrant justice advocates warn Biden's new enforcement rules continue to criminalize immigrants and asylum seekers. They also denounced the targeting of incarcerated and formerly incarcerated immigrants and refugees. In a statement, the American Civil Liberties Union called Biden's plan a "disappointing step backward," adding, "While the Biden administration rightly acknowledges that immigrants are our family members, our coworkers, and our neighbors, for now it has chosen to continue giving ICE officers significant discretion to conduct operations that harm our communities and tear families apart."

Residents Describe Harrowing November Massacre in Ethiopian Holy City



In Ethiopia, residents of the city of Axum have described a massacre by Eritrean troops last November. A deacon at the Church of St. Mary of Zion told the Associated Press as many as 800 people were killed by Eritrean soldiers who burst into the church, cornering and dragging out worshipers and shooting at those who fled. Some 3 million people have been displaced since a conflict broke out in Ethiopia's Tigray region late last year, and opposition groups say at least 52,000 people have been killed.

U.S. Open to Holding Talks on Relaunching Iran Nuclear Deal



The U.S. has said it is prepared to have talks with Iran and other parties involved in the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, from which former President Trump unilaterally withdrew. The U.S. has said it would return to the agreement if Tehran came into full compliance, though Iran has repeatedly said the U.S. must first lift all sanctions imposed by Trump. On Thursday, the Biden administration lifted travel restrictions for Iranian diplomats to the U.N. in New York City.

Israel Expanding Dimona Nuclear Facility

Feb 19, 2021

Satellite imagery shows Israel has been expanding its Dimona nuclear facility in the Negev desert. The secretive facility has played a key role in equipping Israel's nuclear arsenal.



U.S. Capitol Police Suspends 6 Officers over Actions During Jan. 6 Insurrection

Feb 19, 2021



The U.S. Capitol Police Department has suspended six officers without pay over their actions during the January 6 attack on Congress, including an officer who posed for selfies with members of Trump's mob. Another officer wore a red MAGA hat and directed rioters around the Capitol. Twenty-nine other officers remain under investigation.

New York Moves Closer to Releasing NYPD Disciplinary Records

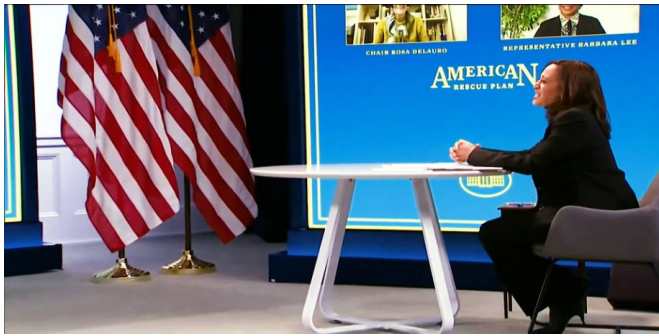
Feb 19, 2021



A federal appeals court has rejected a bid from New York police unions to keep disciplinary records from the public, after lawmakers last summer repealed the controversial "50-a" law amid the historic Black Lives Matter uprising. Advocates are calling on Mayor Bill de Blasio to release the records without delay. De Blasio said they could be released as early as next week.

Vice President Harris Calls Women's Exodus from Workforce a National Emergency

Feb 19, 2021



Vice President Kamala Harris said Thursday the 2.5 million women who had to leave the U.S. workforce due to the pandemic is a “national emergency,” as she urged support for the administration’s \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package. At a virtual event on women and the economy hosted by Harris Thursday, California Congressmember Barbara Lee addressed the issue of poverty.

Rep. Barbara Lee: “This crisis has plunged more than 8 million more people into poverty since last year, about one in seven households nationwide, including more than one in five in Latino households, and many Asian American Pacific Islander and Native American households are struggling just to secure the food that they need.”

Feb 19, 2021



Image Credit: Twitter: @GtCodeca

In Guatemala City, thousands took to the streets Thursday in a protest led by Indigenous leaders denouncing years of state violence against Indigenous communities. Protesters are also demanding the resignation of President Alejandro Giammattei. This is former presidential candidate and Indigenous leader Thelma Cabrera speaking to the crowd.

Thelma Cabrera: “The worst pandemic that exists in Guatemala is corruption. It’s the theft that operates in the three branches of government of this colonial state, this nation-state. ... Today we showed them that we are here and stronger than ever.”

2021-02-19 Democracy Now! Turns 25: Celebrating a Quarter-Century of Independent News on the Frontlines



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Democracy Now! first aired on nine community radio stations on February 19, 1996, on the eve of the New Hampshire presidential primary. In the 25 years since that initial broadcast, the program has greatly expanded, airing today on more than 1,500 television and radio stations around the globe and reaching millions of people online. We celebrate 25 years of the War and Peace Report with an hour-long retrospective, including highlights from the show's early years, some of the most controversial interviews, and groundbreaking reports from East Timor, Standing Rock, Western Sahara and more.

Transcript

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

AMY GOODMAN: Today, a *Democracy Now!* special celebrating 25 years on the air. On [February 19th, 1996](#), on the eve of the New Hampshire presidential primary, *Democracy Now!* aired for the first time on nine community radio stations.

AMY GOODMAN: This is *Democracy Now!* From Pacifica Radio, I'm Amy Goodman in Washington. Today on *Democracy Now!*, "Live Free or Die," a look at the political landscape in New Hampshire, where the Republican Revolution has taken its toll.

ARNIE ARNESEN: If you want a taste of the country after the revolution, you might as well visit New Hampshire today, because we're the state that has the most regressive taxes in the country, that doesn't have mandatory kindergarten, that doesn't invest in its infrastructure.

AMY GOODMAN: Also, the politics of race in the Granite State, and "Money Talks: Who Are the Millionaires Having Their Way in Washington?"

JEFFREY KLEIN: You need to go up to Bob Dole, now that he's on this corporate welfare line, and say, you know, "OK, that's a great — that's great that you've taken up this plank. Whose corporate jet did you fly up here on? Dwayne Andreas, the number three on the *Mother Jones* list, or Carl Lindner, the number four on the *Mother Jones* list?" You need to relentlessly expose them.

AMY GOODMAN: All coming up on *Democracy Now!* Today is President's Day, and tomorrow is the New Hampshire primary. Welcome to the maiden voyage of *Democracy Now!*, Pacifica's daily national election show. Greetings to our audiences in California, Texas, New York, Pennsylvania, Washington, D.C., Washington state, Kansas City and Colorado. In this election year, we're embarking on a nine-month journey through the country and hope to pick up community radio stations in many more states as we go, as we give voice to the grassroots.

AMY GOODMAN: And that nine-month project, well, began 25 years ago. That's right. *Democracy Now!* went on the air on nine community radio stations. It was the only daily election show in broadcasting, public broadcasting. It now airs on over 1,500 TV and radio stations around the globe.

In 1998, *Democracy Now!* documented Chevron's role in the killing of two protesters who occupied a Chevron-owned oil platform in the oil-rich Niger Delta in Nigeria. *Democracy Now!* correspondent Jeremy

Scahill and I traveled to the Niger Delta to investigate and produced the special [documentary](#) *Drilling and Killing: Chevron and Nigeria's Oil Dictatorship*. This an excerpt.

AMY GOODMAN: Until now, Chevron has claimed that its only action against the occupation was to call the federal authorities and tell them what was happening. But in a startling admission in a three-hour interview with *Democracy Now!*, Chevron spokesperson Sola Omole acknowledged that Chevron did much more. He admitted that Chevron actually flew in the soldiers who did the killing. And he further admitted that those men were from the notorious Nigerian navy.

SOLA OMOLE: I guess —

AMY GOODMAN: Who took them in?

SOLA OMOLE: What's that?

AMY GOODMAN: Who took them in?

SOLA OMOLE: Who took them in?

AMY GOODMAN: On Thursday morning, the Mobile Police, the navy?

SOLA OMOLE: We did. We did. We did. We, Chevron, did. We took them there.

AMY GOODMAN: By how?

SOLA OMOLE: Helicopters. Yes, we took them in.

AMY GOODMAN: Who authorized the call for the military to come in?

SOLA OMOLE: Chevron's management.

JEREMY SCAHILL: And so, here we have, on May 28th, 1998, Chevron flying in the Nigerian navy and the Mobile Police to confront a group of villagers who thought they were in the midst of a negotiation with the oil giant, which brings us to another admission by Chevron spokesperson Sola Omole. Again, listen carefully.

AMY GOODMAN: Were any of the youths armed?

SOLA OMOLE: I don't know. I don't know. I don't know. So I cannot say that they came armed with — there was talk about local charms and all that, but that's neither here nor there.

AMY GOODMAN: So, you don't think that they came onto the boat armed, you're saying?

SOLA OMOLE: No. No.

AMY GOODMAN: The youths.

SOLA OMOLE: Mm-hmm.

ORONTO DOUGLAS: It is very clear that Chevron, just like Shell, uses the military to protect its oil activities. They drill. And they kill.

JEREMY SCAHILL: Again, environmentalist Oronto Douglas.

ORONTO DOUGLAS: They are shooting our people for just demanding for their right.

AMY GOODMAN: *Democracy Now!* grew into a daily television show in 2001, the week of September 11, 2001, to be exact, but one of our first TV broadcasts took place in [August 2000](#) at the Republican National Convention in Philadelphia.

AMY GOODMAN: From Pacifica Radio, this is *Democracy Now!* “Breaking with Convention: Power, Protest and the Presidency.” George Bush accepts the Republican nomination for president. We’ll get reaction from Barbara Gonzalez and Jello Biafra. Also, a look at the conduct of the Philadelphia police this week and a tour through the Independent Media Center. All that and more, coming up on Pacifica Radio’s *Democracy Now!*

You are listening to Pacifica Radio’s *Democracy Now!*, broadcasting on community radio stations around the country, on public access TV stations around the country, on the internet, both live-streaming and videocasting at www.democracynow.org, in an unprecedented community-media collaboration. I’m Amy Goodman, here with Juan González, as we continue our reaction to the nomination speech of — the acceptance speech of George W. Bush for nomination by the Republican Party as their presidential candidate. Juan?

JUAN GONZÁLEZ: Yes, as I said, an amazing speech by Bush in — you know, he actually attempted, basically, to portray himself as a caring, sensitive, compassionate conservative. But the reality of the message that he was bringing, of increased military spending, of privatization of Social — of portions of Social Security accounts, of charter schools that would help to begin to tear apart the public school system rather than raise the level of the public school system throughout, I think was one that was clearly, clearly at the right fringe of American politics today.

AMY GOODMAN: On [Election Day 2000](#), then-President Bill Clinton called Pacifica radio station WBAI in an attempt to get out the vote for Hillary for Senate and Al Gore for president. While he may have intended to spend about two minutes on the phone, WBAI host Gonzalo Aburto and I kept him on the line for about half an hour, asking him about topics that weren’t being discussed in the presidential race.

AMY GOODMAN: Mr. President, are you there?

PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON: I am. Can you hear me?

AMY GOODMAN: Yes, we can.

GONZALO ABURTO: Yeah.

AMY GOODMAN: You’re calling radio stations to tell people to get out and vote. What do you say to people who feel that the two parties are bought by corporations and that they are — at this point feel that their vote doesn’t make a difference?

PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON: There’s not a shred of evidence to support that. ...

AMY GOODMAN: President Clinton, U.N. figures show that up to 5,000 children a month die in Iraq because of the sanctions against Iraq.

PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON: That’s not true. That’s not true. And that’s not what they show. ...

AMY GOODMAN: The past two U.N. heads of the program in Iraq have quit, calling the U.S. policy — U.S.-U.N. policy “genocidal.” What is your response to that?

PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON: They're wrong. They think that we should reward — Saddam Hussein says, "I'm going to starve my kids unless you let me buy nuclear weapons, chemical weapons and biological weapons. If you let me do everything I want to do, so I can get in a position to kill and intimidate people again, then I'll stop starving my kids." And so, we're supposed to assume responsibility for his misconduct. That's just not right. ...

AMY GOODMAN: Many people say that Ralph Nader is at the high percentage point he is in the polls because you've been responsible for taking the Democratic Party to the right. ...

PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON: What is the measure of taking the Democratic Party to the right? That we cut the welfare rolls in half? That poverty is at a 20-year low? That child poverty has been cut by a third in our administration? ... That the schools in this country, that the test scores among — since we've required all the schools to have basic standards, test scores among African Americans and other minorities have gone up steadily? Now, what —

AMY GOODMAN: Can I say what some people —

PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON: Let me just finish.

AMY GOODMAN: Let me just say —

PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON: Let me — now, wait a minute. You started this, and every question you've asked has been hostile and combative. So you listen to my answer, will you do that?

AMY GOODMAN: They've been critical questions.

PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON: Now, you just listen to me. You ask the questions, and I'm going to answer. You have asked questions in a hostile, combative and even disrespectful tone, but I — and you have never been able to combat the facts I have given you. Now, you listen to this.

AMY GOODMAN: That was President Clinton in a surprise call to WBAI on Election Day in 2000. The White House would later call me and say they were thinking of banning me from the White House. And I said, "But he called me. I didn't call him."

Well, when we come back, we'll continue our look back at the past 25 years of *Democracy Now!*

[break]

AMY GOODMAN: Sweet Honey in the Rock, performing "Down by the Riverside" in our old firehouse studio at DCTV in 2003. This is *Democracy Now! The Quarantine Report*. I'm Amy Goodman.

On the morning of [September 11, 2001](#), *Democracy Now!* was on the air when the World Trade Center was attacked down the street. Broadcasting on radio for over six hours, *Democracy Now!* covered the attacks just blocks from Ground Zero.

AMY GOODMAN: The latest news we have is that there have been widespread attacks that include at least three commercial jet crashes — we now believe perhaps four — three commercial jet crashes into significant buildings. In the first attack, a plane hit the North Tower of the World Trade Center in Manhattan shortly before 9:00, followed by another plane into the second tower about 20 minutes later. Both towers later collapsed. About an hour later, a plane crashed into the Pentagon, part of which later collapsed.

AMY GOODMAN: *Democracy Now!* closely followed the fallout from the 9/11 attacks both at home and abroad. In December, Masuda Sultan, an Afghan American woman, [reported](#) on *Democracy Now!* from Afghanistan about a U.S. air raid that killed 19 members of her family.

MASUDA SULTAN: They described this scene where they were running with their kids in their arms, dodging bullets left and right, while they saw balls of fire falling down to the earth. ... There were women and children running for their lives, being shot at by a helicopter hovering over their homes. And these people were not Taliban supporters. They weren't al-Qaeda fighters. They were simple Afghans trying to stay safe in their own country.

AMY GOODMAN: After Masuda Sultan came back to New York, she [came on Democracy Now! along with Rita Lasar](#), a New Yorker who lost her brother at the World Trade Center.

RITA LASAR: I live on the 15th floor and ran to my neighbor's house, and she has a clear view of downtown Manhattan. And I looked out her window and saw the second plane hit the second building. And it dawned on me: My brother works there. ...

I went down to the hospitals to see if his name was on a list. And then I realized he had died. And because he had stayed behind to stay with his quadriplegic brother — I'm sorry, friend, who couldn't get out, although he was on the 27th floor and he could have saved himself, he died.

And then President Bush mentioned him in the National Cathedral speech and cited him as being a hero. And I realized that my government was going to use my brother as justification for killing other people, and that had a tremendous impact on me. I didn't want that to happen, not in my brother's name.

MASUDA SULTAN: First of all, I want to express my condolences to Rita. I did before, but I think your brother is a hero, and you're a hero for continuing his legacy. And it's amazing to me that someone who's lost so much isn't as revenge-hungry as some of the other people that seem to want to, you know, go start bombing whoever, wherever.

AMY GOODMAN: That's Masuda Sultan and Rita Lasar in our firehouse studio. Rita died in 2017.

As we continue our *Democracy Now!* journey through the decades, on May 20th, 2002, East Timor became one of the newest nations in the world, an independent country, after decades of occupation by Indonesia. I had been reporting on the East Timorese independence movement for years. On November 12th, 1991, journalist Allan Nairn and I were there when Indonesian troops armed with U.S.-made M16 rifles opened fire on thousands of unarmed East Timorese civilians gathered at the Santa Cruz cemetery. [Click here for our [documentary](#), *Massacre: The Story of East Timor*]

JOSÉ RAMOS-HORTA: I lost one sister and two brothers.

EAST TIMORESE WOMAN: [translated] It was 10 days before I was to give birth. The army was shooting people, and they would die at our feet, but you couldn't stop to help them.

JOSÉ RAMOS-HORTA: I know families that were totally wiped out.

EAST TIMORESE MAN: Two American newsmen badly beaten: Mr. Allan Nairn and Miss Amy Goodman.

AMY GOODMAN: The Indonesian army converged in two places.

ALLAN NAIRN: Hundreds and hundreds of troops coming straight at the Timorese.

AMY GOODMAN: When they came, they opened fire on the people.

PRESIDENT GEORGE H.W. BUSH: We pride ourselves, and I think properly so, in standing up for human rights.

AMY GOODMAN: At least 271 Timorese were killed on that day. The Indonesian military fractured Allan's skull. More than a decade later, East Timor became an independent country. Allan Nairn and I returned to the capital Dili for the ceremony. Allan [questioned](#) former President Bill Clinton.

ALLAN NAIRN: In 1999, in April, the Indonesian military and their militias massacred 50 people in the rectory in Liquiçá. They hacked them with machetes. Two days later, Admiral Blair, the commander for the Pacific, your commander, met with General Wiranto, the Indonesian commander. He offered to help him in lobbying the U.S. Congress to get full U.S. military training restored. He made no mention of the Liquiçá massacre. During that same period, the Indonesian militias rampaged here in downtown Dili. They attacked the house of Manuel Carrascalão. They massacred the refugees there. Yet you continued for months with aid to the Indonesian military. Why?

BILL CLINTON: What's your question, sir?

ALLAN NAIRN: Why did you continue with aid to the Indonesian military if they were killing civilians?

BILL CLINTON: Well, first of all, I can't — I can't answer the question you asked about Admiral Blair. You'll have to ask him that, because I'm not aware of that.

ALLAN NAIRN: He was working for you. Why did you continue military aid to Indonesia?

BILL CLINTON: I understand, but — I understand that. I think, first of all, I don't believe America or any of the other countries were sufficiently sensitive in the beginning and for a long time, and a long time before 1999, going all the way back to the '70s, to the suffering of the people of East Timor. I don't think we can defend everything we did.

AMY GOODMAN: That was East Timor. Almost a year later, on February 15, 2003, millions of people around the world rallied to say no to the Iraq War. *Democracy Now!* [broadcast](#) live from a massive protest here in New York. This is actor and activist Harry Belafonte.

HARRY BELAFONTE: This is not the first time that we as a people have been misled by the leadership. We were misled by those who created the falseness the Bay of Tonkin, which falsely led us into a war with Vietnam, a war that we could not and did not win. We lied to the American people about Grenada and what was going on in that tiny island. We've lied to the American people about Nicaragua, El Salvador, Cuba and many places in the world. And we stand here today to let those people and others know that America is a vast and diverse country, and we are part of the greater truth of what makes our nation. Dr. King once said that if there is — if mankind does not put an end to war, war will put an end to mankind.

AMY GOODMAN: In 2004, *Democracy Now!* [broke the news](#) about the ouster of Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in a U.S.-backed coup.

AMY GOODMAN: From Pacifica Radio, this is a *Democracy Now!* exclusive.

REP. MAXINE WATERS: He was kidnapped. He said he was forced to leave Haiti.

AMY GOODMAN: Did U.S. security forces kidnap Haitian President Aristide? We'll speak with Congressmember Maxine Waters and Aristide's close friend, TransAfrica founder Randall Robinson.

RANDALL ROBINSON: He said tell the world it's a coup, it's a coup, it's a coup.

REPORTER: Representative Waters is claiming on Pacifica stations on the West Coast that Aristide was led away in handcuffs by U.S. marines, and claiming the marines were part of a

coup to remove him. I wonder if either one of you would gentlemen would comment on her comment or claim? Other than to smile.

DEFENSE SECRETARY DONALD RUMSFELD: I'm trying to pick the right words. If you're asking me, "Did that happen?" the answer is no.

REPORTER: But any embellishment?

DEFENSE SECRETARY DONALD RUMSFELD: I think not today.

AMY GOODMAN: Years later, *Democracy Now!* [reported](#) on President Aristide's return to Haiti from the Central African Republic to Haiti on the plane.

AMY GOODMAN: It's been an historic 48 hours. Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide has defied Washington, returning to the Caribbean. Late last night, I returned to New York after a trip that began on Saturday, when I accompanied a delegation of U.S. and Jamaican officials who set off from Miami, Florida, on a mission to escort President Aristide and his wife Mildred back to the Caribbean. On the plane, I asked President Aristide why he believes the U.S. wants him gone.

PRESIDENT JEAN-BERTRAND ARISTIDE: Those who want to invest in killing democracy, in bloodshed, they don't accept you as an elected president.

AMY GOODMAN: We move forward in this *Democracy Now!* 25-year special. Just days after Hurricane Katrina hit in 2005, *Democracy Now!* went down to New Orleans and the community of Algiers. I [spoke](#) with Malik Rahim, co-founder of the Common Ground Collective. He showed us how a corpse still remained on the street unattended, two weeks after the storm.

MALIK RAHIM: Now, his body been here for almost two weeks. Two weeks tomorrow, all right, that this man's body been laying here. And there's no reason for it. ... I mean, that's just totally disrespect. You know? And, I mean, two weeks. Every day, we ask them about come and pick it up. And they refuse to come and pick it up. And you could see, it's literally decomposing right here, right out in the sun. Every day we sit up and we ask them about it, because, I mean, this is close as you could get to tropical climate in America. And they won't do anything with it.

AMY GOODMAN: Malik, do you know who this person is?

MALIK RAHIM: No. But regardless of who it is — I wouldn't care if it's Saddam Hussein or bin Laden — nobody deserve to be left here. And the kids pass by here, and they're seeing it. I mean, the elderly. This is what's frightening a lot of people into leaving. We don't know if he's a victim of vigilantes or what. But that's all we know is that his body had been allowed to remain out here for over two weeks.

AMY GOODMAN: In September 2005, *Democracy Now!* met with Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez in his first sit-down [interview](#) in the United States.

AMY GOODMAN: Mr. President Hugo Chávez, your assessment of President Bush, of the invasion and occupation of Iraq? And do you think if it weren't Iraq, it would have been Venezuela?

PRESIDENT HUGO CHÁVEZ: [translated] Now, it is clear that the U.S. government wants that oil. That's why they planned. First they tried to get the Venezuelan oil. And, of course, the coup, they staged against us. That was an oil-motivated coup. They want to have the control over Venezuelan oil before going for the Iraq, for Iraq's oil. They failed in Venezuela, so they, rather, went to attack Iraq.

AMY GOODMAN: In 2007, then-CNN anchor Lou Dobbs was [interviewed](#) by Juan González and I on *Democracy Now!*

JUAN GONZÁLEZ: So that the question is that there is a huge disparity between the economic levels in Mexico and the economic levels in the United States. And you have properly said many times on your show that American companies are creating the problems, rather than helping to alleviate the problems. All that would be needed to do is to raise the economic level in Mexico, and the entire illegal immigration population problems would decline in this country. And not only that, but the country, if it had a higher immigration quota in connection with —

LOU DOBBS: Are you giving me instruction, or are you telling me what we agree upon?

JUAN GONZÁLEZ: No, we don't agree. We don't agree, because you are demonizing illegal immigration as a separate issue. ...

LOU DOBBS: How in the world can you use my name and "anti-immigrant" in the same breath?

AMY GOODMAN: When we hear comments like —

LOU DOBBS: You hear —

AMY GOODMAN: — a third of the — from you — we've played them, so we can't refute the videotape, Lou.

LOU DOBBS: Have you looked, Amy —

AMY GOODMAN: We can't refute — a third of prisoners are —

LOU DOBBS: Yes. And we discussed that?

AMY GOODMAN: — are illegal immigrants —

LOU DOBBS: Have we discussed it?

AMY GOODMAN: No, a third of prisoners are illegal immigrants, not true. Seven thousand leprosy cases in the last three years because of illegal immigrants —

LOU DOBBS: Christine Romans misspoke —

AMY GOODMAN: — not true.

LOU DOBBS: — we said that. And that's as straightforward as we can put it.

AMY GOODMAN: And you made an announcement on your show —

LOU DOBBS: Absolutely.

AMY GOODMAN: — and you will say it here —

LOU DOBBS: Absolutely.

AMY GOODMAN: — that it is not true. Illegal immigrants are not responsible for 7,000 cases of leprosy over last three years.

LOU DOBBS: Not over the last three years.

AMY GOODMAN: That's Lou Dobbs on *Democracy Now!* in 2007. Fox Business recently dropped his show after he and the network were sued for spreading lies about the 2020 election.

Well, on [September 1st, 2008](#), *Democracy Now!* producers Sharif Abdel Kouddous, Nicole Salazar and I were among the journalists arrested during a police crackdown at the Republican National Convention in St. Paul. As the riot police came at Nicole shouting "On your face!" she shouted back "Press! Press!"

NICOLE SALAZAR: Watch out! Watch out! Press!

POLICE OFFICER: Get out of here! Move!

NICOLE SALAZAR: Where are we supposed to go? Where are we supposed to go?

POLICE OFFICER: Get out of here!

NICOLE SALAZAR: Dude, I can't see! Ow! Press! Press! Press!

POLICE OFFICER: Get down! Get down on your face! On your face!

NICOLE SALAZAR: I'm on my face!

POLICE OFFICER: Get down on your face!

NICOLE SALAZAR: Ow! Press! Press!

AMY GOODMAN: That was Nicole Salazar screaming as the riot police took her down, bloodying her face. As Sharif Abdel Kouddous told the riot police to calm down, they kicked him twice in the chest, threw him against a wall and arrested him, as well. When I got the call on the convention floor about what had happened, I raced outside to the corner of 7th and Jackson, where the riot police had formed a line, having fully contained the area. I asked to speak with a commanding officer to get Sharif and Nicole released.

AMY GOODMAN: Sir?

POLICE OFFICER: Ma'am, get back to the sidewalk.

DENIS MOYNIHAN: Release the accredited journalists now!

AMY GOODMAN: Sir, just one second. I was just running from the convention floor.

DENIS MOYNIHAN: You are violating my constitutional rights. You are violating their constitutional rights.

POLICE OFFICER: Sidewalk now!

AMY GOODMAN: Sir, I want to talk to your superior —

POLICE OFFICER: Arrest her?

AMY GOODMAN: Do not arrest me!

POLICE OFFICER: Come on.

AMY GOODMAN: Do not arrest me!

POLICE OFFICER: Hold it right there. You're under arrest. Stay right there. Back up. Back up.

POLICE OFFICER: Everybody, you cross this line, you'll be under arrest, so don't do it.

CROWD: Let her go! Let her go!

AMY GOODMAN: Sharif, Nicole and I would sue the St. Paul and Minneapolis police. When we come back, we'll have more on our 25th anniversary special in a moment. Nicole Salazar has just won a major producer award at Sundance for producing a series called *Philly D.A.* Stay with us.

[break]

AMY GOODMAN: "People Have the Power," Patti Smith, performing live at Riverside Church in 2016, marking *Democracy Now!*'s 20th anniversary. Michael Stipe was in the audience, of R.E.M., and he jumped up on the stage and joined her. To see all of the full shows that include these excerpts, you can go to democracynow.org.

Yes, this is *Democracy Now!*, democracynow.org. I'm Amy Goodman, as we continue to look at 25 years of *Democracy Now!* We turn to the Egyptian revolution that ousted President Hosni Mubarak in 2011. *Democracy Now!*'s Sharif Abdel Kouddous was [on the ground in Cairo](#).

SHARIF ABDEL KOUDDOUS: We're on the edge of Tahrir Square. There are many rocks and stones that have littered the ground here. Army tanks are stationed, but they just stood by as Mubarak's thugs came in on horseback and camel and attacked crowds. There's many wounded here in slings. They are bandaged.

Here's a child. He's about 5 or 6 years old. He's being fed yogurt by his mother. He's bruised on the side of his face. I asked his mother what happened to him, and she said, "He's a revolutionary. He's fighting for his future."

AMY GOODMAN: Mubarak resigned one week after Sharif Abdel Kouddous's report. As we move on right now, we're moving on to talk about September 21st, 2011, *Democracy Now!* [broadcasting live for six hours](#) from the grounds of the prison in Georgia where Troy Anthony Davis was executed. We were the only news outlet to continuously broadcast live from the prison grounds.

AMY GOODMAN: From Georgia's death row prison in Jackson, this is a *Democracy Now!* special broadcast. We are just an hour from the scheduled execution of Troy Anthony Davis, an execution the whole world is watching.

MARTINA CORREIA: And I just would like to say that, you know, I've been battling cancer for 10 years. And I'm — I don't have cancer, but I'm reaping some of the effects of the medicine. Several months ago, I couldn't — I was doing fine. And after that, I couldn't get up out of the chair. But I'm here to tell you that I'm going to stand here for my brother today.

[with crowd] I am Troy Davis! You are Troy Davis! We are Troy Davis!

KRISTEN STANCIL: The court-ordered execution of Troy Anthony Davis has been carried out. The time of death is 11:08 p.m. At this time, the media witnesses will be coming out to give their firsthand account of what happened during the execution.

AMY GOODMAN: Again, prison official sharing the news that Troy Anthony Davis was executed at 11:08. That was the time of death. I'm standing with...

WESLEY BOYD: Wesley Boyd. And I'd like to say this has been a travesty of justice. And I'd like to tell the — America ought to be ashamed of yourself. And God help America. And if you're alive in America, please don't come to Georgia. Don't come to Georgia. Don't buy any Georgia pecans. Don't buy any Georgia peaches. Don't buy any trade with Georgia. The whole world, don't buy anything with Georgia. God bless America. God bless Troy Davis.

AMY GOODMAN: In July of 2014, Israel launched a massive, 50-day assault on Gaza, in July, ultimately killing more than 2,200 Palestinians, the majority of them civilians, including more than 500 children. An Israeli gunboat shelled a group of Palestinian children on a Gaza beach, killing four of them. *Democracy Now!*'s Sharif Abdel Kouddous was in Gaza, where he [spoke](#) with the boys' families.

SHARIF ABDEL KOUDDOUS: I also met with the mother today of Mohammed, the 11-year-old who was killed. She said he was a child that loved the sea. He had seven — he has seven sisters. His father ruined his back about 10 years ago fishing, and they were waiting for him to grow and become the family breadwinner. And there was just deep, deep tragedy and sorrow in the house.

AMY GOODMAN: On August 9, 2014, in Ferguson, Missouri, Darren Wilson, a white police officer, fatally shot unarmed African American teenager Michael Brown. The shooting sparked mass protests, became a key moment in the Black Lives Matter movement. In the aftermath of the shooting, *Democracy Now!* [traveled](#) to Ferguson.

AMY GOODMAN: So, tell me your name, and tell me what your sign says. And what do you think?

RONA: My name is Rona. And my sign is "Negro Spring." The same as the Arabs fought for their rights, for their civil rights, to oust their corrupt government, we're fighting for our civil rights, our human rights. We would like, as an end result to this, one of the end results, for there to be a law. Police officers should not be allowed to hide behind a badge when they commit a crime. When we commit a crime, we have the penalties. They should have penalties. It's not fair. They should not be treated like extra special humans.

PROTESTER: What do we want?

CROWD: Justice!

PROTESTER: When do we want it?

CROWD: Now!

AMY GOODMAN: In July 2015, *Democracy Now!* [interviewed](#) all three co-founders of the Black Lives Matter movement: Patrisse Cullors, Opal Tometi and Alicia Garza. This is Alicia.

ALICIA GARZA: The Black Lives Matter movement has to, by its very nature, be intersectional, because of the complexities of who Black people are in this country and throughout the world. There is nothing separate about wages from Black life and the survival of Black people than police violence and police terrorism. We even still have a situation in this country where we have Black workers who are not covered by federal labor protections, like domestic workers and farmworkers. So we certainly can't just look at the issues of police violence. Police violence is the tip of the iceberg when it relates to the conditions overall of Black people across the globe.

AMY GOODMAN: In 2015, *Democracy Now!*'s Nermeen Shaikh and I and the team were in Paris for the historic U.N. climate change summit. While in France, we traveled an hour and a half north to the city of Calais, site of the largest [refugee camp](#) in France. Six to seven thousand people were camped out in makeshift tents in what was known as "The Jungle."

MAJD: My name is Majd. I'm from Syria. I'm here, like everyone. I'm a refugee, escaped from the war. ... Everyone is fighting in my country, yes. So, I escaped from the war. I don't want to be dead for nothing.

AMY GOODMAN: We're just back from Majd's tent, where he lives with two other men. And we're now on the street of, well, makeshift restaurants. There's a barbershop. This is the Kabul Café. And right here, as we're going in, is a map of the whole camp.

SIKANDAR: My name is Sikandar. ... I'm from Afghanistan.

AMY GOODMAN: The map of this camp, it's like a map of the world, or a part of the world.

SIKANDAR: Yeah.

AMY GOODMAN: It's a map of where refugees are from. Most of these countries have been bombed by the United States.

SIKANDAR: I really didn't think about it. The map of The Jungle is looking like the map of the world.

AMY GOODMAN: Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, Sudan.

SIKANDAR: Yeah, yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah. It's true. I didn't think about it, but, yeah, it's true.

SIDIQ HUSAIN KHIL: My name is Sidiq Husain Khil, and I am from Afghanistan.

NERMEEN SHAIKH: So, what do you think the U.S. should be doing now?

SIDIQ HUSAIN KHIL: You know, U.S. is just increasing the war. Actually, U.S. don't want to finish the war. It's their game. It's the game of George W. Bush, Obama and all the European Union. They don't want to finish that.

AMY GOODMAN: Moving on to 2016, *Democracy Now!* traveled to the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation in North Dakota to [document](#) the historic Indigenous uprising against the Dakota Access pipeline.

WATER PROTECTOR 1: Criminals! You guys are criminals! Go get your money somewhere else!

WATER PROTECTOR 2: Yeah, you! Yeah, you!

AMY GOODMAN: We're standing at the construction site of the Dakota Access pipeline. It looks like there are at least three bulldozers that are, to people's surprise, at this moment, actually bulldozing the land. There's a helicopter above. There's security here. And hundreds of people have been marching up, when they heard that the construction site is actually active right now.

WATER PROTECTOR 3: It's not too late to go home!

WATER PROTECTOR 4: Yeah, that's what you're doing to it!

WATER PROTECTOR 5: You're raping our mother!

AMY GOODMAN: People have gone through the fence — men, women and children. The bulldozers are still going. And they're yelling at the men in hard hats. One man in a hard hat threw one of the protesters down. And they're marching over the dirt mounds. Some of the security have dogs.

WATER PROTECTOR 6: Amy Goodman, this guy maced me in the face.

LAURA GOTTESDIENER: Why don't — can you show us the label?

WATER PROTECTOR 7: Look, it's all over my sunglasses. Just maced me in the face. Dog bit him right now.

VICTOR PUERTAS: Threw the dog on me. This [bleep] threw the dog on me. Look at this. Look at this. You threw the dog on me. No, you did it on purpose, man.

AMY GOODMAN: Let me see. Let me see.

VICTOR PUERTAS: Over there, with that dog. I was like walking. Threw the dog on me and straight, even without any warning. You know? Look at this. Look at this.

AMY GOODMAN: That dog bit you?

VICTOR PUERTAS: Yeah, the dog did it, you know? Look at this. It's there. It's all bleeding.

AMY GOODMAN: Ma'am, your dog just bit this protester. Your dog just bit that protester. Are you telling the dogs to bite the protesters?

WATER PROTECTOR 7: She keeps sicking them after people.

AMY GOODMAN: The dog has blood in its nose and its mouth.

Why are you letting their — her dog go after the protesters? It's covered in blood!

WATER PROTECTOR 8: Stop!

AMY GOODMAN: Only a few hours before the attack, we [sat down](#) with Standing Rock Sioux tribal historian LaDonna Brave Bull Allard.

LADONNA BRAVE BULL ALLARD: I don't understand why we are expendable in America. I keep telling people, we do our best. We have always been here. This is our land. Why should we fight to live on our own land? Why should we have to do that over and over again? ... So we have no choice. We have to stand. No matter what happens, we have to stand to save the water.

AMY GOODMAN: We posted the video of the DAPL guard attack on the Indigenous water protectors, and over around 24 or 48 hours, there were 14 million views. North Dakota issued an arrest warrant for me. We returned for the arraignment, but they would ultimately drop the charges, though hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of Indigenous people were arrested over the months of that protest.

In late 2016, *Democracy Now!* became the first foreign television news crew to get into [occupied Western Sahara](#) in years.

AMY GOODMAN: We're in occupied Western Sahara, in Laayoune, the capital of what many call Africa's last colony. Morocco occupied Western Sahara more than 40 years ago, in 1975.

Western Sahara, where peaceful protesters, led by women, are beaten in the streets. Thousands have been tortured, imprisoned, killed and disappeared while resisting the Moroccan occupation.

SULTANA KHAYA: [translated] He jabbed right at my eye with his baton. I was yelling at him, "Hey, you Moroccan! You pulled out my eye!"

AMY GOODMAN: Where natural resources are plundered, from phosphates to fish.

HMAH HAMA: [translated] I say that our damnation comes from the natural resources we have here. If it wasn't for these natural resources, Morocco would never have invaded Western Sahara.

AMY GOODMAN: Where a massive wall divides a people, the Sahrawi, the native population, denied a vote for self-determination.

ELGHALIA DJIMI: [translated] If we don't speak out, especially us, as victims who have suffered all of this, if we don't speak out and defend our cause, this problem will remain.

AMY GOODMAN: In the days after Donald Trump's inauguration in 2017, *Democracy Now!* closely covered the growing protest movement, from the historic Women's March to protests over Trump's Muslim ban. This is *Democracy Now!*'s Nermeen Shaikh at [JFK Airport](#).

PROTESTERS: Let them in! Let them in! Let them in! Let them in! Let them in! Let them in!

NERMEEN SHAIKH: We're outside New York City's John F. Kennedy Airport, outside Terminal 4, where thousands of people have gathered to protest the Trump administration's executive order, which has prevented many people from seven Muslim-majority countries from entering the United States, more than 10 of them here detained at Terminal 4. Thousands of people here are chanting "Let them in!" "This is what democracy looks like!" and "Refugees welcome here." Let's talk to some of the people here.

MOUMITA AHMED: My name is Moumita Ahmed, and I'm here today because, as a Muslim woman, I find this ban extremely just personal to me, because I have family members who are on visa, and now they're — they are at risk of not being able to leave or enter the country.

PROTESTERS: No hate! No fear!

AMY GOODMAN: In 2018, *Democracy Now!* [traveled](#) to the Delta Conservation Camp, a jail an hour north of San Francisco, to meet the prisoners who were fighting California's devastating wildfires.

AMY GOODMAN: We begin today's show with the hidden heroes on the frontlines of California's raging climate-fueled wildfires: prisoner firefighters. They make a dollar an hour but are rarely eligible to get jobs as firefighters after their release. According to some estimates, California saves up to \$100 million a year by using prison labor to fight its biggest environmental problem. The *Democracy Now!* team traveled to the Delta Conservation Camp, about an hour north of San Francisco, to a low-security prison where more than a hundred men are imprisoned.

MARTY VINSON: My name is Marty Vinson. I'm 25 years old, and I came to this camp about mid-July of this year.

AMY GOODMAN: You're risking your life here.

MARTY VINSON: It's exactly what's going on. Everything we do, you know, no one's really promised to come back.

AMY GOODMAN: And how much do you make?

MARTY VINSON: A dollar an hour.

AMY GOODMAN: When you're fighting a fire.

MARTY VINSON: When you're fighting a fire, a dollar an hour. When you're on typical grade, you make \$1.45 a day.

AMY GOODMAN: Some have called it slave labor. What do you think of that?

MARTY VINSON: I don't really want to call the work slave work, but I feel like it's their whole mentality and what they're thinking about at the end of the day. No matter whether we're incarcerated or we're free, we're getting paid a dollar an hour.

AMY GOODMAN: We were surrounded by guards as he spoke. In 2018, the *Democracy Now!* team [reported](#) from the U.S.-Mexico border in Texas.

AMY GOODMAN: We're broadcasting from Brownsville, Texas, along the U.S.-Mexico border. Behind me, the border wall, that stretches, in sections, all the way through California. This Rio Grande Valley is the epicenter of the Trump administration's "zero tolerance" policy that's led to the forcible separation of more than 2,000 children from their parents.

People who are at the Keep Families Together rally here in Brownsville have now walked forward to enter the federal courthouse here in Brownsville, where so many migrants have been taken, so many migrants who have been separated from their children. They're demanding to go inside. Police are here, security of the Department of Homeland Security. We'll see what happens.

JULIE MADRIGAL: My name is Julie Madrigal. We're here to request access to the court hearings that are taking place. So, that's the main reason we're here. We want to be allowed into the hearings at this moment.

PROTESTERS: If they don't get it, shut it down! If she don't get it, shut it down! If he don't get it, shut it down!

JUANITA VALDEZ-COX: We're about to enter the federal courthouse to see the treatment of the children and the parents, to see — because Trump has said that the parents can't — they won't be separating the children, but Trump also said that they shouldn't even have court or lawyers or judges.

PROTESTERS: *iSí se puede! iSí se puede! iSí se puede!*

AMY GOODMAN: In December 2018, *Democracy Now!* traveled to Poland for the U.N. climate summit, where I spoke with then-15-year-old Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg in her first broadcast [interview](#) in the U.S.

GRETA THUNBERG: Because what we do now, future generations can't undo in the future. We are deciding right now how we want our future to look like.

AMY GOODMAN: And when did you decide climate change was the issue you wanted to devote your life to?

GRETA THUNBERG: I mean, I have read a lot about it. And one thing that I found very scary is tipping points, that once we reach tipping points, then there's no going back. Then we start a chain reaction beyond our control. And that is very scary. And so that I thought, instead of worrying about how future might turn out, you should try to change it while you still can. So that's what I wanted to do.

AMY GOODMAN: And we end our 25th anniversary special with the words of Angela Davis, speaking in [June 2020](#).

ANGELA DAVIS: This is an extraordinary moment. I have never experienced anything like the conditions we are currently experiencing, the conjuncture created by the COVID-19 pandemic

and the recognition of the systemic racism that has been rendered visible under these conditions because of the disproportionate deaths in Black and Latinx communities. And this is a moment I don't know whether I ever expected to experience.

AMY GOODMAN: Those are just some of the highlights from the first 25 years of *Democracy Now!*, kicking off our 25th anniversary year. We will be playing excerpts and posting on social media and our website, democracynow.org many of the programs we want to highlight.

We want to thank the hundreds, if not thousands, of people who have helped us over these 25 years. What an honor it has been to work with all of you. With my colleague Juan González and Nermeen Shaikh, we thank all of you for being with us for 25 years. I'm Amy Goodman. Wear a mask. Wear two. Stay safe. Thank you so much.