

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

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

DOCUMENT OVERVIEW

- I ACCESS to THE THREE WEEKLY CALLS via the Internet
- II ACCESS to OTHER CALLS SUPPORTED BY WWW.rainbowroundtable.net
- III OPENING MEDITATION; MAYAN CALENDAR; HOUSEKEEPING; LINK TO PODCAST
- IV HARD NEWS

I TO ACCESS THE THREE WEEKLY CALLS via the Internet

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

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

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

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

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

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

Call to interact / ask questions:

Canada & US: **STATION 2** 1- 888-429-5471
Direct 1- 323-744-4841

B CALL-TO-LISTEN 1-804-220-6484

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, and links to the audio recordings of the conference calls

II TO ACCESS OTHER CALLS SUPPORTED BY RainbowRoundtable.net

- 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/ashtarteleconferences.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
5:45 PM Pacific / 8:45 PM Eastern *The Abundance Call - Caroline Oceana Ryan***
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 – Prayer to the 7 Sacred 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.

**We're in the wave of IMIX – next 260 days
And we started Day 1 on September 1st - tribe, kin, tone 1, &1, &1**

10th Fri – 10 OC – White Planetary Dog – Artist Aspect. 10 is about the manifesting work with unconditional love of the dog; healing pain of the past. Expression of loyalty to humankind and service work to same.
Moon is the support tribe; Sun is our challenge teacher. Magical artistry . . .

11th Sat - 11 CHUEN – Blue Monkey – Artist Aspect. Gift of innocence ability to play and laugh, have a good time. Let go of jadedness. This is also 20th anniversary of 9/11

12th Sun – 12 EB – Yellow Crystal Human – Healing Aspect. Attuning to spirit, embracing the gift of being human service warrior; let go of dependence on analytical mind.

13th Mon – 13 BEN – Red Cosmic Skywalker - Warrior Aspect. Working on our focus, striving for illumination. Can bend direction. Let go of belief in aloneness – we are never alone! 13 is the cosmic tone and promise of change

14th Tues – 1 IX - White Magnetic Magician Tone 1 – magnetic; Visionary Aspect. We are working with the magnetic tone of unity consciousness. Clarity of mind and purpose. Embrace the fight of being a shaman, a jaquar woman

15th Wed – 2 MEN – Blue Lunar Eagle- Visionary – working with commitment to service, moving Consciousness to Source. Gift of independence, belief in Self
Lunar tone is opposites looking for balance

16th Thur – 3 CIB – Yellow Electric Warrior – trusting in our journey; bringing awareness of right action – gift is connection with the Divine

17th Fri – 4 CABAN – Red Self-Existing Earth – Healing Aspect – being keeper of the earth; planetary harmony – gift of being the balancing point, also intuition

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: **Rain Bird**

- 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: 804-220-6484 PEOPLE CAN NOW PHONE IN TO LISTEN TO THE CALLS!!

- Listener-supported radio programs; program archives can be accessed
- The radio program costs \$300 per week. **KEEPING CAUGHT UP: THANK YOU**
- Go to BBSradio.com/Station2; find the listing for **Friday 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
58 N Marshside PI
Spring, TX 77389

[Please put "**Attention Don**" on the envelope]
[Note inside that it's for T & R calls
[& the Thursday call, as well]]

- **BBS archives can be accessed by everyone;** there are archives on www.rainbowroundtable.net All are free to access.

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

- Donations via Paypal button on the **homepage** www.rainbowroundtable.net

FOOD MONEY: VIA PAYPAL OR See the PAGE ON www.rainbowroundtable.net
Rama has a pride of 9 Paschats + 2 inside kitties + 2 HUMANS = 13 in total

| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| BASICS: Food for Paschats, the car, T & R - | \$ 300 + – FOR THIS WEEK |
| BILLS: one from last month, some for Sept - | \$ 350 |

Rama to DR: Wednesday, Sept 8 re: his shoulder \$ 180

- Please notify T & R when sending something: koran999@comcast.net
EVERY \$5 HELPS - ALL GRATEFULLY RECEIVED
PLEASE MAKE AN ATTEMPT TO DONATE THIS MONTH

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

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

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

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

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

<https://www.shopfreemart.com/taram> 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. Access to this week's Podcast

<https://bbsradio.com/podcast/hard-news-friday-september-10-2021>

NOTE AGAIN: dial 1-804-220-6484 to listen to BBS Radio TV Station 2.

R,T: Thanks to all – everyone has been sending a little and thanks

Text from Tom the Ringtailed Cat:

- go listen to Gregg's short piece using our brain wave states to access the quantum field which will talk to you as you talk to it! It's all the Akash –
- with the light pouring in right now, the fiascoes happening are what they are –
- as we focus on our Mighty I AM presence – it responds as we take the time to get settled and listen – be calm, be positive, be in right state of mind -
- Tom is just saying with all the stuff, the fracas, the stories – it's about being in the NOW moment

T: what they hear every day from Faction 3 White Knights: stay in our hearts; blaze the Violet Fire; keep our heads in the air, and feet on the ground

R: they are doing their best -
the true language is Solex Mal – the language of the universe; telepathy

T: On Thursday, the AG said they will be suing Texas

- as we mark this anniversary of 9/11 20 years, we re-dedicate ourselves to doing all we can to protect the American people – and do so in a way with a manner
- Randy Rhodes said the DOJ is saying that vigilantism in Texas is a violation of the supremacy clause in the Constitution. - she brings up the Klu Klux Klan act which banned vigilantism and not allowing slaves to vote
Randi's words are included . . .

T: NESARA is based on what the original 13th Amendment said

- the 14th amendment refers to the Vatican -

Audio: Gregg Braden – the divine matrix – how the code of language to hack the field now further – we are biologically wired to exceed the limits – how super inner technology and the ancient technique that uses this technique

Missing Links with Gregg Braden Manifestation in a Participatory Reality

S3:Ep12 33 mins April 4, 2019

Throughout this season, we have learned the power of our thoughts, feelings and emotions for connecting with the Divine Matrix. What we have been lacking, until now, are the exact techniques for creating a participatory relationship with the Field. After discussing various modes of prayer and their effectiveness, Gregg Braden introduces us to a lost form that helps us move beyond the problems we are facing and become a part of the solution. This is something that is practiced by many indigenous cultures and is present within the lost Gospel of Thomas. From this, we gain a new model of creation where consciousness plays an active role in informing us through our own creations.

Instructor/Host: Gregg Braden

Video Language: English

CONFERENCE CALL

T: talking of conversation with Don: if Biden is in position for next term, the US is *****
The clone still has essence of the soul, and it's the exact same soul – the hologram is the real mess!

A: what is the point of killing them and bringing them back?

T: it's the Dark Sides' way of programming what looks like the same thing, and think the public will buy the program – it is a puppet

- Recalls one of the events during the election campaign – his face was totally blank as he looked directly into a camera and ignored Kamala
- and he could be a hologram by now – hard to know.

A: how many are cloned –

T: a hologram is a ghost and KOS can flip a switch and it's gone
T: the ones in Star Trek are good [holograms] and for good lessons

- yes, you can just turn them on and off

Ch: what did Micah mean about 7 more somethings that we had to go through

A: it means 7 moves to the end of the game – like something from chess
T: and it can be done very quickly

Ch: feels constantly tired

T: rama comes home and has to have a sleep – but on Thursday, he slept for an hour; today for 1.5 hours and this has never happened before

Ch: can fall asleep sitting up

T: we're being asked to slow down and let the time come through us – we might be gone for 15 minutes, but we have cleared a year or so

P: describes what happens

A: on the show last night, fell asleep or something – very out of it

Ra: part of integrating the various realms we're accessing

- when we go into the gamma stat, we can experience many life times in a matter of seconds
- can travel across universe at light speed
- as we access the quantum field more & more, these things [will become more common]

Bi: tomorrow is 9/11 – anything going to happen to wake the people up?

Ra: is expecting miracles and matrix! They are playing the matrix to the hilt and now a lot of people know – it's not as dumbed down as the media would like to make it seem

- The kids who were young at the time are now asking what are we doing?
 - they know the Deep State did it
- and Alan Greenspan was to announce NESARA
 - it was a huge wake-up call that had to happen in the sense that they used particle beam weapons to light up the bottom of the towers – and in 2001 the US was not doing so well with the constant lies of the Deep State and that distraction is what was needed
- **KOS said yesterday** that Ray McGovern was there at the time and knows the ins and outs of the story – R keeps expecting Nick Fury to come on screen and rant!

T: **They** live in a rural neighbourhood which is Hispanic and don't know what T & R know

R: it's like they are living in a totally different world

T: one of the sons came in and said sorry I don't want to be a pest – and her response about who was the REAL pest took him by surprise!

RGM: Rumsfeld died today at 88 years – in Taos, NM

T: thought he died earlier

T: Describing a protest in front of Rumsfeld's house - they marched to his front gate

R: put a petition on his gate, calling for his arrest for war crimes

T: Patience is still a virtue, Bill – people can no longer sit in denial!

R: tomorrow Biden has to put a wreath at Ground Zero and will be facing a lot of people who are angry due to no closure, no trials

- and he got rid of all \$ support for people in the US

R: and the people are planning on Sept 18 to have ?
the police will be dressed like Darth Vader ones

R: Iraq had nothing to do with 9/11 – now it does not look like a nice place as compared to the 70s – it's the cradle of civilizations –

- the 13 families won't talk about it, but Ancient Aliens has more truth coming out than the media! !!

T: AOC was being interviewed on CNN by Anderson Cooper – she was tearing a new one on Gregg Abbott and Anderson could say nothing! Not a word edgewise . . .

R: Barbara Lee is the only one who voted against going into Iraq

Z: how does she do that without being 'bullied' -

T: she's had tons of death threats – the risk is high – but she's not considered much of a risk as she's black and short

T: Texas has shot themselves in the foot by passing that law

T: and they don't have a consciousness either

T: they have done so many horrific

T: yes, they can execute people but they have to announce it first - part of the process
lots of people are killed in the street, nothing is said about it – the Red States are really vile !

T: The 13th amendment meaning has been changed

- Sec 1 neither slavery nor involuntary servitude unless as payment for a crime shall not exist in the US
- Sec 2 Congress shall have power to make the lawsuits

• 14th is the Vatican amendments

- ALL persons born or naturalized in the US – are citizens
- no state shall make or which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens
- nor shall any state deny people . . . without due process of law

Reads Sec 2, 3 of the amendment

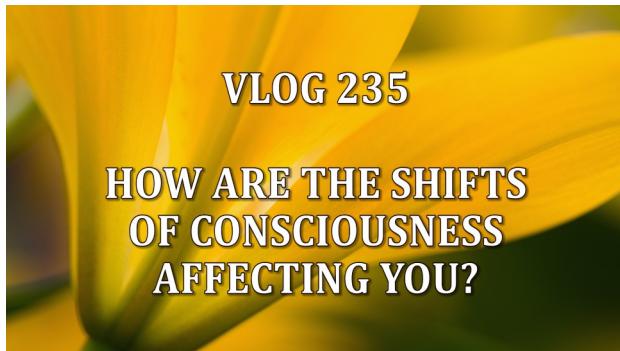
B B S RADIO

AUDIO: THE BIGGER PICTURE

by Patricia Cota-Robles

www.eraofpeace.org

VLOG 235 - HOW ARE THE SHIFTS OF CONSCIOUSNESS AFFECTING YOU?



AUDIO:

The Ascended Masters Broadcasts

Goddess of Light – September 10th 2021: [Listen/download](#)

<https://instantteleseminar.com/Events/127627761>

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 we are in most auspicious times. As we heard Patti say, the shift is already going on; we are in the midst of The Great Transfiguration. Like the Goddess of Light said: "Call on us; we will show up."

It is this time that we're in: as we call on them, they are here. It's about this great moment - there are so many eyes upon this planet, watching the transfiguration; if we were to see it from their vantage point, Earth is the focus of what's happening.

- We are Ascending, and it is the most magnificent time to be alive. And at the same time, you may call Her crazy, yet like we've been hearing, we all chose to show up at this time, knowing we've got the hutzpah to pull this one off!

T: Did we ever! Together we can do anything . . .

M/A Like we keep being told, **we have already won!** Like the Mighty God of Light just said leave the judgments and the games in the back of the bus; it's done – no more segregation on any world.

- This is an inclusive story that we all get to play in; so many different folks are here. The ones that have the fur and the feathers and the fins, and She can go on – we are all in this together.

- At this time, there is a great awakening about what happened to get to this point in the story by . . . there was this glitch if you will – a convenient glitch in the space/time continuumstory 20 years ago tomorrow.
 - Things kinda got changed and here we are! It's more in our best interest to send LOVE AND THE HIGHER FREQUENCIES like what Gregg Braden spoke about – divine compassion.
- What makes a soul to choose such a path to create chaos on a planet? It's about this evolvement of what we asked to be here as catalysts for change. And with change comes great moments: transfiguration, transformation.
 - Right at this time - like all these folks have said – the Company of Heaven is here

T: Mother goes to check on the kitties . . . yes, they split ! ! ! they were trying to play with the burners on the stove . . .(Mother's report!)

M/A: It is about this great change that is afoot; it's sending more love to the situations that have seemingly insurmountable issues at hand - as She could say – the wisdom of not giving our power away to the illusions that feed the anarchy that's going on right now.

- It seems as though . . .

T: and they've got Sleepy Joe in there – a distraction from what's going on . . .

M/A: He is just another part of the matrix to distract – yes! And it is coming apart very quickly and, in the same moment, they are out of control because they've lost their ability to maintain this matrix that is only. . . it's about the frequencies that are generated from Koyaanisqatsi: life out of balance.

- As the energies get higher, that Koyaanisqatsi ceases to exist, simply, because the Light coming in is all encompassing, embracing, and Darkness cannot co-exist in that realm.

- This is a most unique opportunity, moment for all of humanity: we are being given the wisdom of how to change these bodies, temples of The Living Love, Living Light.
 - Right at this time, it is most unique to be here, to witness this - that we've got immortality right in our midst, and there are still folks who think flying saucers are not real!
 - Quite a challenge we all have here. It's not about judgments: it's about sending more love – those higher principles of awareness overcome the darkness of ignorance – and maybe that ignorance is bliss for some
 - Whatever that may be, as the energies get higher, they will be in the right real, at the right time to receive what they need to make their ascension however it comes – whether it is now or another moment in time, it is all NOW
 - And let's say, the words that She could share fail to encompass what's occurring. She can only say 'Glad you're here; it's quite a ride ' as Bill Hicks has said.
 - And hang on to that bar in front of you – it's gonna get even more exciting as things unfold. [It's] not about the 'internet of things'; it is about waking up to [the fact that] we all are part of the precious universe in the moment here called Nebadon which encompasses this planet and trillions of others –
 - She has no numbers: it is infinite, and there are other Super Universes that interact with this one.
 - Nassim [Haramein] goes into talking about this: that the scientists on this planet are finding traces of past universes that co-existed before this one came into being.
 - Stretch your consciousness around **this:** this story is so large! It is that big, that huge

T: Can we do some sound tones for Cody who transitioned Wed pm at 10:30 pm? And for Adam who is in hospice with his beloved: he's in joy

M/A: Getting his affairs in order - Metatron and Neptha El Ra have quite a task for him and he is up for the job. Only speaking in metaphors

T: Cody – there are others on the others side who know him

M/A: It's about re-educating and learning about what happened here as the factors that we asked for and [which] showed up in our lives are about the growth that soul asks for in these timelines.

- He [Cody] is doing quite magnificently, out of pain – waking up to the glory of the universe and it is glorious to behold! As you see it, it is not what we see here: this is a pale reflection about what it's really about and like all we've been hearing for eons of time – this is the realm of maya,,
- The next step is the real consciousness, the 'real world' as Morpheus calls it – it's waking up to who we are, as we can go across the universe with a single thought
- in this moment here, we have glimpses of this – use the wisdom we are being taught about how to go into gamma, theta, delta states where we activate our siddhis, our Jedi abilities: we all have it: it's right here [high heart] –
- Just ask, as Mighty Goddess of Light has said: we will show up in your room if that is where you are or wherever you are in this space/time moment: - maybe sitting in the forest, sitting by the beach and looking at the ocean which is only 1 drop in the oceans upon oceans of compassion that are flooding this planet

T: in France getting ready to say good by to actor Bel Mundo at his funeral today – Rama knows about Bel Mundo – very famous actor

M/A: The cosmic consciousness that's coming in may sound a bit cliché- ish yet that's what we are here to do: raise it up

Mother: She will do the Light Language for Master Cody . . . and does!

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

M/A: Remember we got the power . . .

Rama Returns: Was on Lady Master Athena's ship, listening to LM Victory talking about having more compassion for the situations going on right now on the planet, because of the moment we're in with this remembrance of what occurred here –

- simply because a few wayward souls want to play He Man and Masters of the Universe and they met Skelator and didn't like it – they saw their own deaths written on the wall!
- what got detonated was nuclear radiation that spread throughout NYC - Dr Judy Wood talked about it - and it doesn't go away

T: pretty sure that the 250,000 cycle of radiation poisoning will last for around 30 years

R: and at the same time, **the galactics are right here, mitigating this situation or we wouldn't be here! In this life time and other lifetimes – he is in awe to be here** – a trip! And a long strange trip as the Grateful Dead say and it's a good one-

T: It's another 10 years until NYC is lifted from that radiation poisoning

R: in another 10 years – might be growing sprouts on Mars – can't say! ! !

AUDIO: September 10, 2021 Democracy Now

2021-09-10 Headlines September 10, 2021

2021-09-10 Rep. Barbara Lee, Who Cast Sole Vote After 9/11 Against “Forever Wars,” on Need for Afghan War Inquiry

https://www.democracynow.org/2021/9/10/barbara_lee_2001_vote_against_war

2021-09-10 Shared Grief After 9/11: Sister of WTC Victim Meets Afghan Who Lost 19 Family Members in U.S. Attack

https://www.democracynow.org/2021/9/10/rita_lasar_and_masuda_sultan_2002

2021-09-08 Going Underground: John Pilger on Afghanistan withdrawal: US military is a killing machine! (E1046)

VIDEO: <https://www.rt.com/shows/going-underground/534217-john-pilger-afghanistan-withdrawal/>

PODCAST: <https://soundcloud.com/rttv/going-underground-john-pilger-on-afghanistan-withdrawal-us-military-is-a-killing-machine>

On this episode of *Going Underground*, we speak to legendary **journalist and filmmaker John Pilger** about the takeover of Afghanistan by the Taliban. He calls the US military a killing machine and discusses why the Afghanistan war must be viewed through the lens of Western imperialism, the scale of civilian casualties and destruction of Afghanistan by NATO countries, how the US created today's situation by supporting Afghan jihadist forces against the Soviet Union throughout the Cold War, the social progress and progressive reform lost to history with the fall of the Soviet-backed PDPA government in Afghanistan, and much more! Pilger also discusses the anniversary of the Pinochet coup in Chile and the trial of WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange.



AUDIO: REDACTED TONIGHT 10 years after Occupy Wall Street, Minnesota’s pipeline fight, Amazon working with ICE 2021-09-10

VIDEO: <https://www.rt.com/shows/redacted-tonight-summary/534556-10anniversary-occupy-wall-street/>

PODCAST:

<https://soundcloud.com/rttv/redacted-tonight-10-years-after-occupy-wall-street-minnesotas-pipeline-fight>



The 10th anniversary of Occupy Wall Street is approaching. Lee Camp goes over the lessons learned from the paradigm-shifting protest movement that gave us the language of the 99% and brought inequality into the spotlight. Since it kicked off, many have learned about the issues of our capitalist society but the same ruling class is still in power. The banks still get away with theft, the government still abandons people to homelessness and poverty and the tinder remains for another protest movement to light up.

Camp also reports on the end of expanded unemployment assistance that was saving lives during the pandemic, and the plans the rich are relying on to survive the climate crisis.

Anders Lee takes on the fight against the Enbridge Line 3 Pipeline in Minnesota. Protesters have been pushing hard across the country to stop the fossil fuel infrastructure project. In return, the fossil fuel industry has been coordinating with law enforcement and private security contractors to harass the water protectors. It's a fight that everyone concerned about the climate crisis should be concerned about.

Jaffer Khan exposes how Homeland Security has been working with Amazon to automate the racist harassment of the immigrant community. The ATLAS software has raised red flags for advocacy groups across the country.

CLOSING: Rainbird

Rama's Final Choices

Alan Watts ~ Now Is The Time To Change Your Life

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

The present is always changing the past!

Music: Paul Horn in the Taj Mahal

INFORMATION RELATED TO THE NOTES

2021-09-10 Headlines September 10, 2021

<https://www.democracynow.org/#>

Biden Orders Vaccine Mandates for Federal Workers and Large Employers



President Joe Biden has laid out a six-point plan to bring the U.S. COVID-19 epidemic under control, after a summer that saw skyrocketing rates of infections, especially in areas with low vaccination rates. Speaking from the White House Thursday, Biden said he was ordering nearly all federal employees and contractors to get COVID-19 vaccinations within 75 days. He also said the Occupational Safety and Health Administration will require large employers to have their workers inoculated or tested weekly. Violators face fines of up to \$14,000 per infraction.

President Joe Biden: "Despite the fact that for almost five months free vaccines have been available in 80,000 different locations, we still have nearly 80 million Americans who have failed to get the shot. And to make matters worse, there are elected officials actively working to undermine the fight against COVID-19. Instead of encouraging people to get vaccinated and mask up, they're ordering mobile morgues for the unvaccinated dying from COVID in their communities. This is totally unacceptable."

The Republican National Committee immediately promised to sue the Biden administration over its vaccine mandates. South Carolina Republican Governor Henry McMaster tweeted, "we will fight them to the gates of hell to protect the liberty and livelihood of every South Carolinian."

International Flights Resume from Kabul Airport; Taliban Torture Journalists Covering Protests



The first international passenger flight out of Afghanistan's Kabul airport since the end of the U.S. withdrawal landed in Doha Thursday. The

Qatar Airways plane held over 100 passengers, including Americans, Canadians and Britons. But the fate of many more who are still trying to leave Afghanistan, both foreign nationals and Afghans, is unknown.

Meanwhile, there have been increasing reports of Taliban intimidation and violence against journalists, aid workers, activists, women and others. The U.N. said its Afghan staff have been subjected to threats, physical abuse, and some offices were looted. This is journalist Taqi Daryabi, who was arrested while covering a women's protest in Kabul on Wednesday and tortured in detention.

Taqi Daryabi: "For about 10 minutes, about seven or eight people were beating us as much as they could. They would raise sticks and beat us with all of their strength. ... When they treat journalists like this, it's possible that journalism will stop in Afghanistan within a few months. It will be destroyed. What we want from the Taliban is for them to be responsible for the security and well-being of journalists."

Syrian Army Enters Daraa, Birthplace of Uprising Against Assad a Decade Ago



The Syrian army entered the southern, rebel-held city of Daraa Wednesday for the first time in over a decade amid a fragile Russian-brokered truce. Daraa was the birthplace of the uprising against the government of President Bashar al-Assad in 2011. Human Rights Watch said civilians in the area are facing dire shortages of food, medicine, power and other basic necessities amid a recent escalation in attacks by Syrian government forces and their allies. Meanwhile, the Syrian Civil Defense says at least five civilians were killed in government shelling attacks in Idlib province earlier this week.

Biden Admin Extends TPS for 400,000 People Through 2022



In immigration news, the Biden administration has extended temporary protected status, or TPS, by another 15 months for some 400,000

immigrants from Haiti, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Sudan and Nepal. This means they'll be able to continue working and living in the U.S. without the threat of deportation through December 2022. Meanwhile, immigrant justice advocates continue to urge Congress to pass permanent immigration relief that includes a path to citizenship for TPS holders and millions of undocumented people in the U.S.

Whistleblower Details Abuse of Migrant Children at Fort Bliss Base in Texas

Sep 10, 2021



A new whistleblower complaint is denouncing the ongoing abuse faced by unaccompanied migrant children held at the Fort Bliss military base in El Paso, Texas. BuzzFeed reports children were burned after bathing in blistering water, had their blood drawn without explanation and were constantly threatened with deportation. This is the third complaint detailing unsafe and brutal conditions at Fort Bliss, where the Biden administration set up large tents to hold thousands of unaccompanied migrant children.

SCOTUS Stays Execution of Texas Death Row Prisoner



The U.S. Supreme Court on Wednesday stayed the execution of Texas death row prisoner John Henry Ramirez, who says the state violated his religious freedom after it denied Ramirez's request to have his pastor hold his hand or touch him and pray with him in the death chamber. The Supreme Court will likely argue the case in October or November.

DOJ Sues Texas over Unconstitutional Abortion Ban



The U.S. Justice Department has sued Texas over its near-total ban on abortions, calling it unconstitutional. The law, which bans abortion starting around six weeks of pregnancy — even in cases of rape or incest — circumvents the federal protection of abortion rights by deputizing private citizens to enforce it. This is Attorney General Merrick Garland.

Attorney General Merrick Garland: "Thus far, the law has had its intended effect. Because the statute makes it too risky for an abortion clinic to stay open, abortion providers have ceased providing services. This leaves women in Texas unable to exercise their constitutional rights and unable to obtain judicial review at the very moment they need it."

The Justice Department is seeking an injunction on the law.

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exercise their constitutional rights and unable to obtain judicial review at the very moment they need it."

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Biden Withdraws Gun Control Advocate as ATF Nominee, Names Ally to Big Polluters for Key Energy Post



President Biden has withdrawn the nomination of David Chipman to head the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. Chipman, a 25-year ATF veteran, was attacked by Republicans and the NRA for being a gun control advocate. And two Democrats — West Virginia's Joe Manchin and Montana's Jon Tester — would not commit to confirming Chipman, while Maine independent Senator Angus King, who caucuses with Democrats, said he would vote against his confirmation. The Newtown Action Alliance responded, "The reason why there has been only one Senate-confirmed ATF director in the last 15 years is because the gun industry profits when gun laws are not enforced. David Chipman should have been confirmed."

Meanwhile, climate activists blasted Biden's pick of Willie Phillips to serve on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Phillips has represented oil and gas interests while working in corporate law.

EPA Seeks Permanent Block on Pebble Mine Project in Alaska's Bristol Bay



Image Credit: Facebook: Save Bristol Bay

The Biden administration moved Thursday to permanently protect Alaska's Bristol Bay watershed from development, including a proposed gold and copper mine that would have destroyed the

world's most productive sockeye salmon fishery. Environmentalists and Indigenous groups in the region have long fought the proposed Pebble Mine, an open-pit mine that would require construction of a massive power plant, natural gas pipeline and huge, toxic tailing ponds.

Harvard Divests from Fossil Fuels After Years-Long Student Campaign



Image Credit: Twitter: @divestharvard

In Massachusetts, Harvard president Lawrence Bacow said Thursday his university will no longer invest its \$42 billion endowment in fossil fuel companies. The announcement was a victory for the campus organization Fossil Fuel Divest Harvard, which was founded in 2012. The group tweeted, "It took conversations and protests, meetings with administration, faculty/alumni votes, mass sit-ins and arrests, historic legal strategies, and storming football fields. But today, we can see proof that activism works, plain and simple."

Nabisco Workers in 5 States Continue Strike, as Buffalo Starbucks Workers Fight to Unionize



Image Credit: Nabisco Workers Unite - BCTGM

In labor news, Nabisco workers in five states remain on strike one month after workers at a Portland, Oregon, plant walked off the job to protest management's demands for changes to work schedules and cuts to overtime pay. Some workers have been forced into 16-hour shifts during the pandemic; others were asked to work 12-hour shifts three to four days a week, including on weekends. This is Nabisco worker April Flowers-Lewis, who joined a picket line outside a Chicago plant in August.

April Flowers-Lewis: "We have a family just as well as the people in human resources and management. While we're working on the weekend and being forced,

they're at home with their families. We can't even get a chance to enjoy birthday parties for our grandkids. We can't go away to take our kids to college, because we're being forced to work. We can't enjoy our husbands, our spouses, because we're at work. By the time we get off work, it's go home, go to sleep, try to fix up something to eat, get into bed and be back at work."

Meanwhile, in Buffalo, New York, workers at five Starbucks locations have joined an unprecedented push to unionize the coffee and fast-food chain. Members of the newly formed Starbucks Workers United have filed petitions for union elections with the National Labor Relations Board. They say they've faced an intense union-busting effort by Starbucks corporate executives.

2021-09-10 Rep. Barbara Lee, Who Cast Sole Vote After 9/11 Against "Forever Wars," on Need for Afghan War Inquiry

https://www.democracynow.org/2021/9/10/barbara_lee_2001_vote_against_war

Guests Barbara Lee

Democratic congress member from California who cast the sole vote against war in 2001, just days after the September 11 attacks.

Links Rep. Barbara Lee on Twitter

Twenty years ago, Rep. Barbara Lee was the only member of Congress to vote against war in the immediate aftermath of the devastating 9/11 attacks that killed about 3,000 people. "Let us not become the evil that we deplore," she urged her colleagues in a dramatic address on the House floor. The final vote in the House was 420-1. This week, as the U.S. marks the 20th anniversary of 9/11, Rep. Lee spoke with Democracy Now!'s Amy Goodman about her fateful vote in 2001 and how her worst fears about "forever wars" came true. "All it said was the president can use force forever, as long as that nation, individual or organization was connected to 9/11. I mean, it was just a total abdication of our responsibilities as members of Congress," Rep. Lee says.

Transcript

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

AMY GOODMAN: Saturday marks the 20th anniversary of the September 11th attacks. In the days that followed, the nation reeled from the deaths of over 3,000 people, as President George W. Bush beat the drums for war. On September 14, 2001, three days after the devastating 9/11 attacks, members of Congress held a five-hour debate on whether to grant the president expansive powers to use military force in retaliation for the attacks, which the Senate had already passed by a vote of 98 to 0.

California Democratic Congressmember Barbara Lee, her voice trembling with emotion as she spoke from the House floor, would be the sole member of Congress to vote against the war in the immediate aftermath of 9/11. The final vote was 420 to 1.

REP. BARBARA LEE: Mr. Speaker, members, I rise today really with a very heavy heart, one that is filled with sorrow for the families and the loved ones who were killed and injured this week. Only the most foolish and the most callous would not understand the grief that has really gripped our people and millions across the world.

This unspeakable act on the United States has really forced me, however, to rely on my moral compass, my conscience and my god for direction. September 11th changed the world. Our deepest fears now haunt us. Yet I am convinced that military action will not prevent further acts of international terrorism against the United States. This is a very complex and complicated matter.

Now, this resolution will pass, although we all know that the president can wage a war even without it. However difficult this vote may be, some of us must urge the use of restraint. Our country is in a state of mourning. Some of us must say, "Let's step back for a moment. Let's just pause, just for a minute, and think through the implications of our actions today so that this does not spiral out of control."

Now, I have agonized over this vote, but I came to grips with it today, and I came to grips with opposing this resolution during the very painful yet very beautiful memorial service. As a member of the clergy so eloquently said, "As we act, let us not become the evil that we deplore." Thank you, and I yield the balance of my time.

AMY GOODMAN: "Let us not become the evil we deplore." And with those words, Oakland Congressmember Barbara Lee rocked the House, the Capitol, this country, the world, the lone voice of more than 400 congressmembers.

At the time, Barbara Lee was one of the newest members of Congress and one of the few African American women to hold office in either the House or the Senate. Now in her 12th term, she is the highest-ranking African American woman in Congress.

Yes, it's 20 years later. And on Wednesday this week, I interviewed Congressmember Lee during a virtual event hosted by the Institute for Policy Studies, which was founded by Marcus Raskin, a former aide in the Kennedy administration who became a progressive activist and author. I asked Congressmember Lee how she decided to stand alone, what went into that decision, where she was when she decided she was going to give her speech, and then how people responded to it.

REP. BARBARA LEE: Thanks so much, Amy. And really, thanks to everyone, especially IPS for hosting this very important forum today. And let me just say to those from IPS, for historical context and also just in honor of Marcus Raskin, Marcus was the last person I talked to before I gave that speech — the very last person.

I had gone to the memorial and had come back. And I was on the committee of jurisdiction, which was the Foreign Affairs Committee with this, where the authorization was coming from. And, of course, it didn't go through the committee. It was supposed to come up on Saturday. I got back to the office, and my staff said, "You've got to get to the floor. The authorization is coming up. The vote is coming up within another hour or two."

So I had to race down to the floor. And I was trying to get my thoughts together. As you can see, I was kind of not — I won't say "not prepared," but I didn't have what I wanted in terms of my sort of framework and talking points. I had to just scribble something on a piece of paper. And I called Marcus. And I said, "OK." I said — and I

had talked to him for the last three days. And I talked to my former boss, Ron Dellums, who was, for those of you who don't know, a great warrior for peace and justice from my district. I worked for him 11 years, my predecessor. So I talked with Ron, and he's a psychiatric social worker by profession. And I talked to several constitutional lawyers. I've talked to my pastor, of course, my mother and family.

And it was a very difficult time, but no one that I talked to, Amy, suggested how I should vote. And it was very interesting. Even Marcus didn't. We talked about the pros and cons, what the Constitution required, what this was about, all the considerations. And it was very helpful for me to be able to talk to these individuals, because it seems like they didn't want to tell me to vote no, because they knew all hell was going to break loose. But they really gave me kind of, you know, the pros and cons.

Ron, for example, we kind of walked through our background in psychology and psychiatric social work. And we said, you know, the first thing you learn in Psychology 101 is that you don't make critical, serious decisions when you're grieving and when you're mourning and when you're anxious and when you're angry. Those are moments where you have to live — you know, you have to get through that. You have to push through that. Then maybe you can begin to engage in a process that's thoughtful. And so, Ron and I talked a lot about that.

I talked with other members of the clergy. And I don't think I talked to him, but I mentioned him at that — because I was following a lot of his work and sermons, and he's a friend of mine, Reverend James Forbes, who is the pastor of Riverside Church, Reverend William Sloane Coffin. And they in the past had talked about just wars, what just wars were about, what are the criteria for just wars. And so, you know, my faith was weighing in, but it was basically the constitutional requirement that members of Congress can't give away our responsibility to any executive branch, to the president, whether it's a Democrat or a Republican president.

And so I came to the decision that — once I read the resolution, because we had one before, kicked it back, no one could support that. And when they brought back the second one, it was still too overly broad, 60 words, and all it said was the president can use force forever, as long as that nation, individual or organization was connected to 9/11. I mean, it was just a total abdication of our responsibilities as members of Congress. And I knew then that it was setting the stage for — and I've always called it — forever wars, in perpetuity.

And so, when I was at the cathedral, I heard Reverend Nathan Baxter when he said, "As we act, let us not become the evil that we deplore." I wrote that on the program, and I was pretty settled then that I — going into the memorial service, I knew that I was 95% voting no. But when I heard him, that was 100%. I knew that I had to vote no.

And actually, prior to going to the memorial service, I was not going to go. I talked to Elijah Cummings. We were talking in the back of the chambers. And something just motivated me and moved me to say, "No, Elijah, I'm going," and I ran down the steps. I think I was the last person on the bus. It was a gloomy, rainy day, and I had a can of ginger ale in my hand. I'll never forget that. And so, that's kind of, you know, what led up to this. But it was a very grave moment for the country.

And, of course, I was sitting in the Capitol and had to evacuate that morning with a few members of the Black Caucus and the administrator of the Small Business Administration. And we had to evacuate at 8:15, 8:30. Little did I know why, except "Get out of here." Looked back, saw the smoke, and that was the Pentagon that had been hit. But also on that plane, on Flight 93, which was coming into the Capitol, my chief of staff, Sandré Swanson, his cousin was Wanda Green, one of the flight attendants on Flight 93. And so, during this week, of course, I've been thinking about everyone who lost their lives, the communities that still haven't recovered. And those heroes and sheroes on Flight 93, who took that plane down, could have saved my life and saved the lives of those in the Capitol.

So, it was, you know, a very sad moment. We were all grieving. We were angry. We were anxious. And everyone, of course, wanted to bring terrorists to justice, including myself. I'm not a pacifist. So, no, I'm the daughter of a military officer. But I do know — my dad was in World War II and Korea, and I know what getting on a war footing means. And so, I am not one to say let's use the military option as the first option, because I know we can deal with issues around war and peace and terrorism in alternative ways.

AMY GOODMAN: So, what happened after you came off the floor of the House, giving that momentous two-minute speech and going back to your office? What was the reaction?

REP. BARBARA LEE: Well, I went back into the cloakroom, and everyone ran back to get me. And I remember. Most members — only 25% of members in 2001 are currently serving now, mind you, but there's still many serving. And they came back to me and, out of friendship, said, "You have got to change your vote." It wasn't anything like, "What's wrong with you?" or "Don't you know you have to be united?" because this was the pitch: "You have to be united with the president. We can't politicize this. It's got to be Republicans and Democrats." But they didn't come at me like that. They said, "Barbara" — one member said, "You know, you're doing such great work on HIV and AIDS." This was when I was in the middle of working with Bush on the global PEPFAR and the Global Fund. "You're not going to win your reelection. We need you here." Another member said, "Don't you know harm is going to come your way, Barbara? We don't want you hurt. You know, you need to go back and change that vote."

Several members came back to say, "Are you sure? You know, you voted no. Are you sure?" And then one of my good friends — and she said this publicly — Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey, she and I talked, and she said, "You've got to change your vote, Barbara." She says, "Even my son" — she told me her family said, "This is a hard time for the country. And even myself, you know, we've got to be unified, and we're going to vote. You need to change your vote." And it was only out of concern for me that members came to ask me to change my vote.

Now later, my mother said — my late mother said, "They should have called me," she said, "because I would have told them that after you deliberated in your head and talked to people, if you've come to a decision, that you're pretty bullheaded and pretty stubborn. It's going to take a lot to get you to change your mind. But you don't make these decisions easily." She said, "You're always open." My mother told me that. She said, "They should have called me. I would have told them."

So, then I walked back to the office. And my phone started ringing. Of course, I looked up at the television, and there was the, you know, little ticker saying, "One no vote." And I think one reporter was saying, "I wonder who that was." And then my name showed up.

And so, well, so I started walking back to my office. Phone started blowing up. The first call was from my dad, Lieutenant — in fact, in his latter years, he wanted me to call him Colonel Tutt. He was so proud of being in the military. Again, World War II, he was in the 92nd Battalion, which was the only African American battalion in Italy, supporting the Normandy invasion, OK? And then he later went to Korea. And he was the first person who called me. And he said, "Do not change your vote. That was the right vote" — because I had not talked to him beforehand. I wasn't sure. I said, "Nah, I ain't gonna call dad yet. I'm going to talk to my mother." He says, "You do not send our troops in harm's way." He said, "I know what wars are like. I know what it does to families." He said, "You don't have — you don't know where they're going. What are you doing? How's the Congress going to just put them out there without any strategy, without a plan, without Congress knowing at least what the heck is going on?" So, he said, "That's the right vote. You stick with it." And he was really — and so I felt really happy about that. I felt really proud.

But the death threats came. You know, I can't even tell you the details of how horrible it is. People did some awful things during that time to me. But, as Maya Angelou said, "And still I rise," and we just keep going. And the letters and the emails and the phone calls that were very hostile and hateful and calling me a traitor and said I committed an act of treason, they're all at Mills College, my alma mater.

But also, there were — actually, 40% of those communications — there's 60,000 — 40% are very positive. Bishop Tutu, Coretta Scott King, I mean, people from all around the world sent some very positive messages to me.

And since then — and I'll close by just sharing this one story, because this is after the fact, just a couple years ago. As many of you know, I supported Kamala Harris for president, so I was in South Carolina, as a surrogate, at a big rally, security everywhere. And this tall, big white guy with a little kid comes through the crowd — right? — with tears in his eyes. What in the world is this? He came up to me, and he said to me — he said, "I was one of those who sent you a threatening letter. I was one of those." And he went down all what he said to me. I said, "I hope the cops don't hear you saying that." But he was one who threatened me. He said, "And I came here to apologize. And I brought my son here, because I wanted him to see me tell you how sorry I am and how right you were, and just know that this is a day for me that I've been waiting for."

And so, I've had — over the years, many, many people have come, in different ways, to say that. And so, that's what kept me going, in a lot of ways, knowing that — you know, because of Win Without War, because of the Friends Committee, because of IPS, because of our Veterans for Peace and all the groups that have been working around the country, organizing, mobilizing, educating the public, people really have begun to understand what this was about and what it means. And so, I just have to thank everybody for circling the wagons, because it was not easy, but because all of you were out there, people come up to me now and say nice things and support me with a lot of — really, a lot of love.

AMY GOODMAN: Well, Congressmember Lee, now it is 20 years later, and President Biden has pulled the U.S. troops out of Afghanistan. He's being fiercely attacked by both Democrats and Republicans for the chaos of the last few weeks. And there's been — Congress is calling an inquiry into what happened. But do you think that inquiry should extend to the whole 20 years of the longest war in U.S. history?

REP. BARBARA LEE: I think we need an inquiry. I don't know if it's the same one. But, first of all, let me say I was one of the few members who got out there early, supporting the president: "You've made the absolute correct decision." And, in fact, I know that if we stayed there militarily for another five, 10, 15, 20 years, we'd be probably in a worse place, because there's no military solution in Afghanistan, and we can't nation build. That's a given.

And so, while it was difficult for him, we talked a lot about this during the campaign. And I was on the drafting committee of the platform, and you can go back and kind of look at what both Bernie and the Biden advisers on the platform came up with. So, it was promises made, promises kept. And he knew that this was a hard decision. He did the right thing.

But having said that, yes, the evacuation was really rocky in the beginning, and there was no plan. I mean, I don't guess; it didn't appear to me to be a plan. We did not know — even, I don't think, the Intelligence Committee. At least, it was faulty or not — or inconclusive intelligence, I assume, about the Taliban. And so, there were a lot of holes and gaps that we're going to have to learn about.

We have an oversight responsibility to find out, first of all, what happened as it relates to the evacuation, even though it was remarkable that so many — what? — over 120,000 people were evacuated. I mean, come on, in a few weeks? I think that that is an unbelievable evacuation that took place. Still people are left there, women and girls. We've got to secure, make sure they're secure, and make sure there's a way to help with their education and get every American out, every Afghan ally out. So there's still more work to do, which is going to require a lot of diplomatic — many diplomatic initiatives to really accomplish that.

But finally, let me just say, you know, the special inspector for Afghanistan reconstruction, he's come out with reports over and over and over again. And the last one, I just want to read a little bit about what the last one — just came out a couple weeks ago. He said, "We were not equipped to be in Afghanistan." He said, "This was a report that will outline the lessons learned and aim to pose questions to policymakers rather than making new recommendations." The report also found that the United States government — and this is in the report — "did not understand the Afghan context, including socially, culturally and politically." Additionally — and this is the SIGAR, the special inspector general — he said that the "U.S. officials rarely even had a mediocre understanding of the Afghan environment," — I'm reading this from the report — and "much less how it was responding to U.S. interventions," and that this ignorance often came from a "willful disregard for information that may have been available."

And he's been — these reports have been coming out for the last 20 years. And we've been having hearings and forums and trying to make them public, because they are public. And so, yes, we need to go back and do a deep dive and a drill-down. But we also need to do our oversight responsibilities in terms of what just recently happened,

so that it'll never happen again, but also so that the last 20 years, when we conduct our oversight of what happened, will never happen again, either.

AMY GOODMAN: And finally, in this part of the evening, especially for young people, what gave you the courage to stand alone against war?

REP. BARBARA LEE: Oh gosh. Well, I'm a person of faith. First of all, I prayed. Secondly, I'm a Black woman in America. And I've been through a heck of a lot in this country, like all Black women.

My mother — and I have to share this story, because it started at birth. I was born and raised in El Paso, Texas. And my mother went to — she needed a C-section and went to the hospital. They wouldn't admit her because she was Black. And it took a heck of a lot for her finally to be admitted into the hospital. A lot. And by the time she got in, it was too late for a C-section. And they just left her there. And someone saw her. She was unconscious. And then they, you know, just saw her laying on the hall. They just put her on, she said, a gurney and left her there. And so, finally, they didn't know what to do. And so they took her into — and she told me it was an emergency room, wasn't even the delivery room. And they ended up trying to figure out how in the world they were going to save her life, because by then she was unconscious. And so they had to pull me out of my mother's womb using forceps, you hear me? Using forceps. So I almost didn't get here. I almost couldn't breathe. I almost died in childbirth. My mother almost died having me. So, you know, as a child, I mean, what can I say? If I had the courage to get here, and my mother had the courage to birth me, I guess everything else is like no problem.

AMY GOODMAN: Well, Congressmember Lee, it's been a pleasure talking to you, a member of the House Democratic leadership, the highest-ranking —

AMY GOODMAN: California Congressmember Barbara Lee, yes, now in her 12th term. She is the highest-ranking African American woman in Congress. In 2001, September 14th, just three days after the 9/11 attacks, she was the sole member of Congress to vote against military authorization — the final vote, 420 to 1.

When I interviewed her Wednesday evening, she was in California campaigning in support of Governor Gavin Newsom ahead of this Tuesday's recall election, along with Vice President Kamala Harris, who was born in Oakland. Barbara Lee represents Oakland. On Monday, Newsom will campaign with President Joe Biden. This is *Democracy Now!* Stay with us.

[break]

AMY GOODMAN: "Remember Rockefeller at Attica" by Charles Mingus. The Attica prison uprising began 50 years ago. Then, on September 13th, 1971, then-New York Governor Nelson Rockefeller ordered armed state troopers to raid the prison. They killed 39 people, including prisoners and guards. On Monday, we'll look at the Attica uprising on the 50th anniversary.

2021-09-10 Shared Grief After 9/11: Sister of WTC Victim Meets Afghan Who Lost 19 Family Members in U.S. Attack

https://www.democracynow.org/2021/9/10/rita_lasar_and_masuda_sultan_2002

Guests**Masuda Sultan**

Afghan American woman who lost 19 members of her family in U.S. bombing of Afghanistan.

- [Rita Lasar](#)

New Yorker whose brother Abe Zelmanowitz died in the September 11 attack on the World Trade Center.

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On the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, we revisit a conversation we hosted in January of 2002 between Masuda Sultan, an Afghan American woman who lost 19 members of her family in a U.S. air raid, and Rita Lasar, a New Yorker who lost her brother in the World Trade Center attack. Lasar would become an active member of September 11th Families for Peaceful Tomorrows. Masuda later wrote the memoir, "My War at Home."

Transcript

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

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

This week marks the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. On the morning of September 11, 2001, *Democracy Now!* was on the air in our downtown firehouse studios at DCTV, Downtown Community Television, when the World Trade Center was attacked. We were the closest national broadcast to 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: That was just a part of our many-hour broadcast. We just didn't go off the air on that day for at least six hours. We were just doing radio at the time. *Democracy Now!* closely followed the fallout from the 9/11 attacks, both at home and abroad. And I warn our listeners and viewers: The images are graphic. This is about violence.

Today we go back 20 years and revisit a remarkable [conversation](#) that I had with two New Yorkers: Rita Lasar and Masuda Sultan.

Rita Lasar lost her brother Abe Zelmanowitz on the 27th floor of the World Trade Center. He worked at Blue Cross Blue Shield. He refused to leave until emergency workers came to help rescue his best friend Ed, who worked next to him. He was a paraplegic. They died along with so many others. A few days later, President Bush invoked Abe's story in a speech at the National Cathedral in Washington, calling him a hero. His sister Rita wrote a [letter](#) to *The New York Times* urging Bush not to bomb Afghanistan. She wrote, "It is in my brother's name and mine that I pray

that we, this country that has been so deeply hurt, not do something that will unleash forces we will not have the power to call back," she said.

And that's exactly what happened a few weeks later. Untold thousands have died in the two decades since then — in Afghanistan, among them, the family of Masuda Sultan. She was an Afghan woman living in New York at the time of the 9/11 attacks. She soon got word that 19 members of her family had been killed in a U.S. bomb attack in Afghanistan. They had moved to a farmhouse outside Kandahar to escape the U.S. attacks. It was there that they were bombed.

When Masuda Sultan and Rita Lasar met in our studio in January 2002, Masuda had just returned from Afghanistan, where she had met with surviving members of her family. We began the conversation with the [report](#) she did for *Democracy Now!* as she made her way from Afghanistan to Pakistan while investigating the bombing. Rita and Masuda sat and listened to the report we replayed for them. Masuda had just returned. We were playing the tape of her in Afghanistan as she traveled, calling in from a dirt road.

MASUDA SULTAN: We went over there last night. I had heard that there was some devastation. My family — I have some cousins that live in Kandahar, and the extended family is about 55 people. They lived right near some Taliban-controlled compounds and buildings, and they anticipated that once the U.S. bombing campaign started, they wouldn't be safe any longer where they were. They decided to move out to some farmland they had, about 15 miles outside of Kandahar city, and were staying there in order to stay safe.

One evening at about midnight, while they were sleeping, they heard some loud noises outside and realized that their area was being bombed. Some rockets hit nearby, and they decided they had to leave their rooms. As they were running outside of their rooms, some of them were wounded by rockets, some of them were being shot at. 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. They had no idea what was going on, and they were just running in any which direction for their lives. Some of them came under an area that was covered, and some of them heard word of their loved ones falling to the ground, as they were —

AMY GOODMAN: We're talking to Masuda Sultan who's describing how her family members were killed by the U.S. bombs that fell on the farmhouse they were taking refuge in outside of Kandahar. She's speaking to us from Afghanistan.

MASUDA SULTAN: 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. The events of September 11th really made me angry, but seeing these people and what they went through makes me angry, as well. You know, they say that in war — they say that you have to break a couple of eggs in order to make an omelet, but when those eggs are your family, what can you do?

AMY GOODMAN: How many members of your family were killed in the bombing?

MASUDA SULTAN: Nineteen members of that extended family were killed. There were many women and children in that 19, and we were shown some of the pictures, as well, and we met the children that became orphans or that lost their mothers. One of them was a little girl that was a year and a half old, and she had been drinking

breast milk, and they were having trouble with her getting used to the powdered milk. But it's just — when you see the faces of those little children, and they tell you the story of how their mother died on their lap, with the blood flowing out of their head, and they ran, and they — they ran for their lives, it just — it breaks your heart. It breaks your heart to know that this is the collateral damage of war.

AMY GOODMAN: That was Masuda Sultan calling in to *Democracy Now!* from Afghanistan at the end of 2001. She had returned to her native country because she learned that 19 members of her family had been killed in the U.S. bombing of Afghanistan soon after the September 11th attacks.

We're going to miss our break today as we move forward. A few months later, in January 2002, we were joined by Masuda Sultan, just returned from Afghanistan, and another New Yorker. We were joined by Rita Lasar for the first time. Rita Lasar, at the time 70 years old, lost her brother Abe Zelmanowitz on the 27th floor of the World Trade Center. They sat and listened to Masuda's report in Afghanistan — she had just returned from there — when we talked to Rita and Masuda to talk about what happened on that morning of September 11, 2001, to her brother.

RITA LASAR: I was listening to the radio, and the newscaster broke in to say that a plane had hit one of the World Trade Center buildings, and I thought, "Gee, what an accident." And 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. My brother's in that building. And I sort of went crazy.

And then, I went about the day doing what all those other people did, calling every hospital, trying to find out if he had been brought to a hospital. 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.

AMY GOODMAN: How do you know that? How do you know that story?

RITA LASAR: He was on the phone with my other brother and my sister-in-law, and he said, "Don't worry, we're waiting for the firemen to come, and as soon as they come, they're going to help Ed and me get out of here." Ed was in a wheelchair and could not move. But by the time the firemen came, the building collapsed, and it was too late.

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. And so I wrote a letter to the *Times*, which they printed, asking our government to please be cautious and not do something they couldn't take back.

And then I was asked to speak at a peace rally, and I did it. And just before I went on, I was told they had started bombing Afghanistan, and I realized something I had never realized before. I had heard the term "collateral damage" all my life. It was always used about people far away from us. And I realized now what it meant, because my brother was collateral damage, in a war that he didn't want and Masuda's people didn't want. And I knew I had to do something, but I didn't know what.

And then I got a call from this wonderful woman from this marvelous organization called Global Exchange, and she said, "Would you like to go to Afghanistan and meet people like you who have lost their families?" And I thought, "That's perfect," because Masuda and I are the same. There's no difference between us. My family member died, I'm grieving, and her family — God, I don't know how — how you survived, just hearing about yours. But we're the same people. And so, I'm going to Afghanistan. I'm going to see the people who have been left behind while their families died, with three other people who have lost family members, either in the plane that went down in Pennsylvania or the Pentagon or the World Trade Center. And we're going to come back here, and we're going to try to get the American public to open its heart and its wallet for your people, the way they have done for us, and try to get our government to understand that bombing is not the solution.

AMY GOODMAN: Masuda, you've never met Rita Lasar before. You've just come back from Afghanistan, where Rita is headed to right now. You've had a week of reflection, and you've come back, well, to ground zero. You left from ground zero, and you've come back. What are your thoughts now? And if you could talk about how it was for you to meet with your family members?

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. You know, a lot of this is about revenge, I feel, because — especially having seen the faces of the people there and realizing that these are the farthest things from the enemy that we could find. Granted, the American bombing campaign has been, I think — even with the death toll in my extended family and some of the other cases, I don't think that the U.S. government intended to bomb, you know, to carpet bomb the area. But I'm still — I'm still trying to figure out what's going on. On the one hand, I think the United States government didn't intend to do some of this. On the other hand, I can't believe they did it, and who would make such a stupid mistake. And to be honest, I'm still a little confused about things.

AMY GOODMAN: Your family left an area in Kandahar, where you come from, and actually took refuge in a farmhouse so that they would not be bombed.

MASUDA SULTAN: The irony is the saddest part of all of this. In Kandahar, they lived right next to Taliban-controlled buildings. And they knew, they anticipated that the United States was going to bomb those types of areas, so they left the city and fled to, really, a desert. We took that same trip, and it was about an hour and a half to two hours outside of the city of Kandahar. And it was literally the middle of nowhere. We actually got lost getting out, and it took us about three hours to find our way back to the main road. The irony is that they left that area thinking they would be safe in this desert, because there's no — you know, no Taliban there, and ironically, that's where they were hit.

AMY GOODMAN: When you went to the Marine base in Kandahar and asked them why they bombed your family, what was their response?

MASUDA SULTAN: The marine that I spoke to told me that they hadn't — that that particular group, the Marines, had only been in Kandahar airport after the incident, so he didn't have information for me. He told me that I should speak to the State Department. Privately, some of the marines did express their condolences.

And what shocked me was what I sensed, coming from them, was a sort of confusion about why they were there. I asked one of them why they were in Kandahar, I think which is a valid question. "Why are you willing to risk your life here?" And he said, "We're here to oust the Taliban." And I looked at him and said, "But the Taliban have been in power since 1996. Is that — you know, do you feel comfortable being here to oust the Taliban? Doesn't it sound kind of odd?" And he really couldn't answer my question, and I could sense the discomfort he felt. And it's scary that there are people that will fight, you know, in the name of something they don't really understand. I love the United States. I grew up here. I came here at the age of 5, and I feel, you know, as American as anyone else. And I would fight for my country, gladly. But I don't know if the mission is really clear and if the intent is honorable.

AMY GOODMAN: Masuda, after the World Trade Center attacks occurred on September 11th and then all of the information or non-information started to come out, and it became clear that the U.S. was making Afghanistan a target, what were your feelings at the time?

MASUDA SULTAN: When September 11th happened, and I watched those buildings collapse, and I thought about all those people in there, like Rita's brother, I was angry. I was angry, just as any New Yorker. And my immediate feeling was, "Who are the jerks that did this, and what are we going to do about it?" And I went down there that first week and actually got through some police barricades and watched what was going on and volunteered for a few hours. But my immediate reaction was anger and shock.

But that same day, I sensed that something like this was not going to go unpunished. I mean, I would want to figure out who did it, too. I realized that Osama was probably in some way responsible and that the United States was probably, you know, going to do something about that. And guess what: Osama's in Afghanistan. And that day, I started making phone calls, on September 11th, to family here in New York to tell them to also call some family back in Afghanistan to sort of alert people to the fact that this may happen. And some of them didn't think that it would go that far, and they said, "Oh, you're being — you know, you're being too cautious." And as time and the events sort of unfolded, that's exactly what happened.

And something like this probably shouldn't go unpunished, but "who do we punish?" is really the question, and "how do we punish them?" And I don't think that what the United States is doing in Afghanistan is really what they set out to do. In the beginning, I was actually hoping that if they got the perpetrators in Afghanistan, that the people of Afghanistan would finally be freed. They were also held hostage by the Taliban and al-Qaeda for the last number of years. They suffered at the hands of these people and now, again, are suffering at the hands of these people, who have come and essentially — in my view, al-Qaeda has invaded Afghanistan, has taken control, and is now using it as their war zone. And again, it's sort of what happened when the Soviets invaded, and it was the — it was a proxy war. I mean —

AMY GOODMAN: And your family members are not alive to enjoy the freedom, if there will be.

MASUDA SULTAN: Some of them have survived. It was really difficult to — I was asked by a lot of people there, both my family and other people that had lost possessions and people in some of the bombings, what the United States was going to do about it. And I thought about, you know, how September 11th funds were

everywhere and how great that was and how much the American people opened their hearts to the victims of September 11th, and then I thought about — and the United States government, as well. And then I thought about: What about these people who, you know, for some reason or other, got caught in the middle of all of this, lost lives, lost children, lost property? Who do they ask, you know, for help? Who do they turn to?

AMY GOODMAN: Well, it seems like Rita Lasar has taken up that banner with a few other people. Unfortunately, your message doesn't get out very much in the mainstream media. The stories of people like your brother, heroes at the World Trade Center, are heard. But when you then take the next step and say, though, you do not think that war is the answer, that's not the part of the story that we hear. A *New York Times* photograph showed people who walked from Washington to New York saying, "Not in our name," and the photograph just said, "People who were mourning their loved ones at the World Trade Center and Pentagon."

RITA LASAR: We're hoping, by going to Afghanistan, members who have lost their loved ones, and showing that we understand that the people in Afghanistan, as well as we, are mourning and hurting and are innocent, just as my brother and I are innocent — we're hoping that this will get more coverage than it has. And we're hoping that, just as Masuda said, the September 11th fund was a generous — more than generous acknowledgment of our loss, that there will be an equal Afghanistan fund from the American people and from our government to help those people.

AMY GOODMAN: Rita Lasar and Masuda Sultan, speaking in *Democracy Now!*'s studios in January of 2002. Rita died in 2017. She lost her brother Abe Zelmanowitz in the World Trade Center attack. She would become an active member of the September 11th Families for Peaceful Tomorrows. Masuda Sultan was born in Kandahar, Afghanistan. She lost 19 members of her family in a U.S. bombing raid in Afghanistan soon after the U.S. attacked in October 2001. She would later write her memoir, *My War at Home*. Reporters packed into our little studios, just blocks from ground zero, to see this momentous meeting. I'm Amy Goodman. Stay safe.

