



Legacies: Racism and Resistance in New Orleans Before and After Katrina

A Reader for Katrina solidarity classes and reading groups

Main Sections:

1. SOME HISTORY OF RACISM AND RESISTANCE IN NEW ORLEANS BEFORE KATRINA
2. "THEY LEFT US HERE TO DIE"
3. WHERE THERE IS OPPRESSION, THERE IS RESISTANCE
4. SOME EXAMPLES OF GRASSROOTS RACIAL JUSTICE ORGANIZING IN NEW ORLEANS AFTER KATRINA
This section can be viewed at http://cwsworkshop.org/katrinareader/view/org_listing
5. ANTI-RACIST SOLIDARITY: SOME PERSPECTIVES AND TOOLS (primarily for white activists)
6. SOME RESOURCES AND LINKS
This section can be viewed at <http://cwsworkshop.org/katrinareader/resources>

Section I: SOME HISTORY OF RACISM AND RESISTANCE IN NEW ORLEANS BEFORE KATRINA

A. Prelude

- The Tradition, poem by Assata Shakur
Assata Shakur
12/31/1987

B. A Bit of History

- History Can Guide Us: Toward a Third Reconstruction
Eric Mann
06/10/2005
- Racism and Resistance in New Orleans Before Katrina: An Only-Touching-the-Surface Timeline
Sharon Martinas, Brad Ott
Katrina Reader Team
07/25/2007

C. Some Examples of Resistance since the 1970's

- Malik Rahim on Black Panthers and Black Resistance in New Orleans (Interview)
Malik Rahim, Brice White
03/13/2000
- A Whole Lotta Peoples Is Strong: Graphics from the Louisiana New South Coalition
Louisiana New South Coalition
1992
(Ed: The pictures in this calendar give a visual snapshot of the powerful tradition of grassroots racial justice organizing in New Orleans that has been recreated in the aftermath of Katrina.)

Section II: "THEY LEFT US HERE TO DIE "

"They left us here to die, and when we didn't die, they tried to drive us out of our homes, and when we didn't leave, they said they would knock our houses down," said Mama Dee. Mama Dee is a community activist and elder who has lived her entire life in New Orleans' Seventh Ward.

(From 'Fighting for the right to rebuild New Orleans,' by Karen Shain. SAN FRANCISCO BAY VIEW. Oct. 12, 2005.)

Wade in the Water
Walidah Imarisha
Community Organizing Collective
01/01/2005

'This is criminal': Malik Rahim reports from New Orleans
Malik Rahim
Common Ground Collective
09/01/2005

Dear Incite! Friends & Supporters, plus letter from Shana Griffin
Nada Elia, Shana Griffin
INCITE! Women of Color Against Violence
09/11/2005

Displaced New Orleans Community Demands Action, Accountability and Initiates A People's Hurricane Fund
Muhammad Curtis and Becky Belcore
Peoples Hurricane Relief Fund and Oversight Coalition
09/04/2005

Hurricane Katrina: The Black Nation's 9/11!
Saladin Muhammad
09/16/2005

Blackwater Down: Fresh From Iraq, Private Security Forces Roam the Streets of an American City With Impunity
Jeremy Scahill
09/23/2005

Floodlines: Catherine Jones' Blog

Catherine Jones
10/25/2005

Looking for Common Ground
David Bacon
New Orleans Workers' Center for Racial Justice
11/27/2005

A 20-Point Plan to Destroy Black New Orleans
Robert D. Bullard
SF Bayview
02/01/2006

Bush, lies and videotape
C.C. Campbell-Rock
People's Institute for Survival and Beyond
03/08/2006

Guantanamo on the Mississippi
Jordan Flaherty
Safe Streets/Strong Communities
03/11/2006

In the Wake of the Storm: Environment, Disaster, and Race After Katrina
Manuel Pastor, Robert D. Bullard, James K. Boyce, Alice Fothergill, Rachel Morello-Frosch and
Beverly Wright
Russell Sage Foundation
05/01/2006

And Injustice for All: Workers' Lives in the Reconstruction of New Orleans
Judith Browne-Dianis (Advancement Project,), Jennifer Lai (Advancement Project), Marielena
Hincapie (National Immigration Law Center), and Saket Soni (New Orleans Worker Justice
Coalition/Advancement Project)
Advancement Project
07/01/2006

Book: "Katrina's Legacy: White Racism and Black Reconstruction in New Orleans and the Gulf
Coast"
Eric Mann
08/03/2006

Abandoned and Abused: Orleans Parish Prisoners in the Wake of Hurricane Katrina
American Civil Liberties Union: National Prison Project
08/09/2006

Finding Faith in our Darkest Hour
Xochitl Bervera
Families and Friends of Louisiana's Incarcerated Children
08/30/2006

Commissioners from African diaspora come in solidarity to New Orleans
Arlene Eisen
Peoples Hurricane Relief Fund and Oversight Coalition
09/03/2006

Dismantling a Community
Center for Community Change
10/01/2006

Book: What Lies Beneath: Katrina, Race, and the State of the Nation
South End Press Collective (editors)
01/02/2007

Proposed Resolution to Protect the Human Rights of People Struggling to Return to and Rebuild the
Gulf Coast Region
by Kimberley Richards, People's Institute for Survival and Beyond (New Orleans, LA), Monique
Harden, Advocates for Environmental Human Rights (New Orleans, LA)
07/01/2007

Feature Stories from Democracy Now! to mark the 2 Year Anniversary of Katrina
Democracy Now!
08/29/2007

BLUEPRINT FOR GULF RENEWAL: THE KATRINA CRISIS AND A COMMUNITY
AGENDA FOR ACTION
Institute for Southern Studies
08/29/2007

International Tribunal DVD
Peoples Hurricane Relief Fund and Oversight Coalition
08/29/2007

Katrina 2nd Anniversary article round up
Rahula Janowski, Heads Up Collective
08/31/2007

International Tribunal Issues Preliminary Findings: Bus, Blanco, Nagin Committed Crimes against
Humanity
Kali Akuno
Peoples Hurricane Relief Fund and Oversight Coalition
09/10/2007

WHERE THERE IS OPPRESSION, THERE IS RESISTANCE

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Dear Incite! Friends & Supporters, plus letter from Shana Griffin
Nada Elia, Shana Griffin
INCITE! Women of Color Against Violence
09/11/2005

National Anti-racist Organization Calls for U.N. Investigation of Federal Response to Katrina
People's Institute for Survival and Beyond
09/06/2005

Grassroots Movement Mobilization and Demand Statement
Malcolm X Grassroots Movement
09/13/2005

Malik Rahim and medics from SF to DC set up health clinic in New Orleans
San Francisco Bay View National Black Newspaper
09/18/2005

Momma's Mission
Trymaine D. Lee, Times Picayune
09/18/2005

Shelter and Safety
Jordan Flaherty
INCITE! Women of Color Against Violence
09/20/2005

The Partner with a Katrina Family Network
People's Institute for Survival and Beyond
People's Institute for Survival and Beyond
09/29/2005

Nothing About Us Without Us Is For Us
Peoples Hurricane Relief Fund and Oversight Coalition
10/08/2005

'ACORN Katrina Survivors Association Will Unite Displaced Residents to Work for a Just Recovery
ACORN: Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now
10/18/2005

Floodlines: Catherine Jones' Blog
Catherine Jones
10/25/2005

Demands of the Hurricane Evacuees Council/Bay Area
Hurricane Evacuees Council/Bay Area
11/01/2005

'Roadtrip for Relief.' Call for 300 volunteers to gut houses in the 9th Ward
Common Ground Collective
11/01/2005

New Orleans and Women of Color: Connecting the Personal and Political
Janelle L White, INCITE! New Orleans
INCITE! Women of Color Against Violence
11/01/2005

Update From Families and Friends of Louisiana's Incarcerated Children
Families and Friends of Louisiana's Incarcerated Children
11/13/2005

Community and Resistance
Jordan Flaherty
11/26/2005

Angry Hurricane Evacuees Sue Feds
C.C. Campbell-Rock
SF Bayview
11/30/2005

For a Former Panther, Solidarity After the Storm
Michelle Garcia
12/04/2005

Legal Victory Stops Property Demolition - People of New Orleans 9th Ward Win Restraining Order
Against City
Cassandra Burrows
12/28/2005

Fighting the Theft of New Orleans: The Rhythm of Resistance
Glen Ford and Peter Gamble
Black Commentator
01/19/2006

Clear the way back to public housing
M. Endesha Juakali
Survivors' Village
03/15/2006

Lower Ninth Ward residents win right to clean up and open MLK School
Kerul Dyer
Common Ground Collective
03/19/2006

Malik Rahim and Common Ground: Paving the way home to New Orleans
C.C. Campbell-Rock
Common Ground Collective
03/22/2006

PHRF Reconstruction Committee Field Work Group Critique of the Bring New Orleans Back
Proposal
PHRF Reconstruction Committee
Peoples Hurricane Relief Fund and Oversight Coalition
03/31/2006

Boat People
Eric Tang
04/01/2006

Dissolving Barriers: New Orleans Latino Health Outreach Project
Catherine Jones and Jennifer Whitney
Latino Health Outreach Project
06/26/2006

Rethinking New Orleans Schools
Jordan Flaherty
08/09/2006

One Year After Katrina: The State of New Orleans and the Gulf Coast
Chris Kromm and Sue Sturgis
Gulf Coast Reconstruction Watch
08/15/2006

Commemorating Katrina: More than 50 events planned to honor and heal
New Orleans Network

08/21/2006

Trying to Make it Home: New Orleans One Year After Katrina
Bill Quigley
Justice For New Orleans
08/22/2006

Confronting gender after Katrina: An Interview with Shana Griffin
Elena Everett
INCITE! Women of Color Against Violence
08/25/2006

Rebuilding Resistance: Organizing Lessons From One Year After The Devastation of New Orleans
Jordan Flaherty
08/25/2006

One Year Later - Common Ground's Accomplishments
Common Ground Collective
08/29/2006

New Orleanians Bring the Streets to Life on the Anniversary of the Great Flood
Arlene Eisen
Peoples Hurricane Relief Fund and Oversight Coalition
08/29/2006

New Orleans Call for Action!
INCITE! Women of Color Against Violence
09/16/2006

The Importance of Civil Disobedience in Post-Katrina New Orleans
Elizabeth Cook
09/17/2006

Dismantling a Community
Center for Community Change
10/01/2006

Come and Volunteer in New Orleans!
Home for the Holidays collaboration: All Congregations Together, Common Ground 9th Ward
Projects, People's Hurricane Relief Fund
Common Ground Collective
10/15/2006

Video Clip: "I Won't Drown on that Levee and You Ain't Gonna Break My Back"
Critical Resistance
10/25/2006

Community Justice: Interview with Robert "Kool Black" Horton
Jordan Flaherty with Jacqueline Soohen
Critical Resistance
12/06/2006

Amnesty for Prisoners of Katrina: A Weekend of Reconciliation and respect for Human Rights
Critical Resistance
12/09/2006

A National Call to Students - "Louisiana Winter"
Tracie L. Washington
Gulf Coast Civic Works Project
12/09/2006

Katrina Amnesty Campaign: on the Status of Prisoners and Public Safety in New Orleans
Critical Resistance
Critical Resistance
12/10/2006

Rebel Survivors: The Vietnamese of New Orleans East won a grassroots victory nobody expected
Eric Tang
01/01/2007

Common Ground Health Clinic Updates
Common Ground Health Clinic
01/06/2007

Public Housing Takes Center Stage in Post-Katrina Struggle. New Documentary Tells the Story of Those Fighting to Return Home
Crystal N. Hill
Advancement Project
01/12/2007

Occupation at St. Bernard Housing Project
Survivors' Village
01/15/2007

As Police Arrest Public Housing Activists in New Orleans, Federal Officials Try to Silence Leading Attorney for Low-Income Resid
Democracy Now!
01/31/2007

Join or Support an Incite! Delegation to New Orleans! Updated Call for Delegates
INCITE! Women of Color Against Violence
02/01/2007

Avery C. Alexander Charity Hospital in New Orleans: A timeline since its forced closure after Hurricane Katrina
K. Brad Ott
02/01/2007

To Render Ourselves Visible: Women of Color Organizing & Hurricane Katrina
Alisa Bierria, Mayaba Liebenthal
INCITE! Women of Color Against Violence
02/01/2007

A New Agenda for the Gulf Coast: What Congress can do now to confront the ongoing crisis of Hurricane Katrina
Chris Kromm and Sue Sturgis
Gulf Coast Reconstruction Watch
02/01/2007

Public Housing Residents Take Back Their Homes; Newsletter
People's Organizing Committee

02/11/2007

Katrina Survivors and Immigrant Workers Unite to Arrest Slave Owner
People's Organizing Committee
02/15/2007

No "Road Home" for Renters
Peoples Hurricane Relief Fund and Oversight Coalition
03/01/2007

The Lower 9th Ward Health Clinic Opens To Serve The Medical Needs Of The Community
Alice Craft-Kerney
Common Ground Collective
03/01/2007

Displaced Public Housing Residents Make City Council Member's Neighborhood Mixed Income
Survivors' Village
03/03/2007

New Orleans Community Spaces in Crisis
Jordan Flaherty
Left Turn
03/07/2007

Survivors Council to Open Lawless High School. Residents and Volunteers Face Down Cops and
School Officials
People's Organizing Committee
03/08/2007

Common Ground Responds to City's Attempt to Confiscate Property
Common Ground Collective
03/14/2007

PHRF makes a breakthrough on price gouging and tenant rights in New Orleans
Peoples Hurricane Relief Fund and Oversight Coalition
03/15/2007

Greetings Friends and Comrades
Survivors' Village
04/07/2007

Rep. Waters introduces Katrina Housing Recovery Legislation
ACORN: Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now
05/03/2007

New Orleans ACORN celebrates rebuilding victory
ACORN: Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now
06/04/2007

Gulf Coast Organizations: Self-Organized Events at the U.S. Social Forum
06/28/2007

Proposed Resolution to Protect the Human Rights of People Struggling to Return to and Rebuild the
Gulf Coast Region
by Kimberley Richards, People's Institute for Survival and Beyond (New Orleans, LA), Monique

Harden, Advocates for Environmental Human Rights (New Orleans, LA)
07/01/2007

Safe Streets, Strong Communities, Brochure from 2nd Annual Picnic
Safe Streets/Strong Communities
07/29/2007

Racism and Resistance: The Struggle to Free The Jena Six
Jordan Flaherty
Left Turn
08/16/2007

Day of Action Against the Red Cross
Peoples Hurricane Relief Fund and Oversight Coalition
08/20/2007

Red Cross Calls Cops on Peaceful Picketers
<http://www.peopleshurricane.org/red-cross-updates/red-cross-calls-cops-on-peaceful-picketeers.html>
Peoples Hurricane Relief Fund and Oversight Coalition
08/20/2007

International Tribunal Issues Preliminary Findings: Bush, Blanco, Nagin Committed Crimes against
Humanity
Peoples Hurricane Relief Fund and Oversight Coalition
08/29/2007

Two Years Post Katrina: Racism and Criminal Justice in New Orleans
Jordan Flaherty
08/30/2007

HUD's Wrecking Ball: Tightening the Noose Around New Orleans
Bill Quigley
09/25/2007

The Justice that Jena Demands
Xochitl Bervera
Left Turn
09/27/2007

Common Ground Community Adoption Program
Common Ground Collective
10/01/2007

Organizing Against 'Modern Day Slavery' in New Orleans
Matt Olson
New Orleans Workers' Center for Racial Justice
10/01/2007

All Dressed Up and Nowhere to Call Home
Anita Sinha
Advancement Project
10/03/2007

Pledge of Resistance in Defense of the Right to Housing in New Orleans and the Gulf Coast
Peoples Hurricane Relief Fund and Oversight Coalition

10/06/2007

Fact Sheet on HUD Demolition New Orleans
Bill Quigley
10/07/2007

African Village, 'Algiers African Heritage Celebration.' A flyer
Common Ground Health Clinic
10/14/2007

Education Versus Incarceration: A Small Louisiana town struggles to shut down a prison and build a school
Jordan Flaherty
10/14/2007

New Orleans Coming Home: A National Panel Hearing on Law Enforcement in the Reconstruction
Safe Streets/Strong Communities
10/27/2007

'Stardust & Empty Wagons,' an update from CC Campbell-Rock
C. C. Campbell-Rock
11/07/2007

Everyone has a right to come home
Michael Steinberg & Evin Casper-Futterman
11/21/2007

For the Holidays, HUD sends Bulldozers
Bill Quigley
12/07/2007

SOME EXAMPLES OF GRASSROOTS RACIAL JUSTICE ORGANIZING IN NEW ORLEANS AFTER KATRINA

This section can be viewed at http://cswsworkshop.org/katrinareader/view/org_listing
This list is a just a partial example of the grassroots organizing in New Orleans. The list does not include the majority of cultural organizations or religious institutions. Please also see the New Orleans Network directory of locally-led community and grassroots organizations.

- Editorial Notes, and some Perspectives on Grassroots Racial Justice Resistance
- ACORN: Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now
- Advocates for Environmental Human Rights
- African American Leadership Project
- Ashé Cultural Arts Center
- Citizens for a Strong New Orleans East
- Common Ground Collective
- Common Ground Health Clinic
- Critical Resistance
- Deep South Center for Environmental Justice (DSCEJ)
- Families and Friends of Louisiana's Incarcerated Children
- INCITE! Women of Color Against Violence
- Justice For New Orleans
- Kids Rethink New Orleans Schools

- Latino Health Outreach Project
- Louisiana Justice Institute
- Lower 9th Ward Health Clinic
- Malcolm X Grassroots Movement
- Moving Forward Gulf Coast
- Neighborhood Empowerment Network Association (NENA)
- New Orleans Workers' Center for Racial Justice
- People's Organizing Committee
- Peoples Hurricane Relief Fund and Oversight Coalition
- People's Institute for Survival and Beyond
- Safe Streets/Strong Communities
- Survivors' Village
- United Houma Nation

Section IV: ANTI-RACIST SOLIDARITY: SOME PERSPECTIVES AND TOOLS

Organized alphabetically by organization and author:

- Striving for Solidarity: Lessons in Anti-Racism Organizing
Anti-Racist Working Group
08/01/2007
- Hearts on Fire: The Struggle for Justice in New Orleans
Ingrid Chapman
Catalyst Project
09/06/2007
- For a Multiracial Black-Led Reconstruction Movement: the New Orleans Solidarity Program
and Hurricane Katrina and New Orleans: Organizing from the Ground Up
Annual Report 2007
Catalyst Project
10/27/2007
- Tools For White Anti-Racist Organizing
Catalyst Project
Catalyst Project
09/25/2007
- You Can't Kill the Spirit: A Forum with Three Women Organizers from New Orleans
Catalyst Project
03/09/2007
- White Antiracist Organizing in New Orleans: European Dissent after Katrina
Rachel Luft
European Dissent
06/01/2007
- From the Ground Up: Race and the Left Response to Katrina
Walidah Imarisha
Left Turn
03/01/2006
- Floodlines: Catherine Jones' Blog
Catherine Jones
10/25/2005
- Love Letter to Common Ground Clinic
Catherine Jones

- 12/01/2005
- The Work is Not The Workshop: Talking and Doing, Visibility and Accountability in the White Anti-Racist Community
Catherine Jones
10/11/2007
 - What I Wish I Knew: My Own Goals for Anti-Racist Practice
Catherine Jones
11/04/2005
 - New Orleans Stories
Fernando Marti
08/12/2007
 - Solidarity Not Charity: Racism in Katrina Relief Work
Molly McClure
01/01/2006
 - Letter from the People of New Orleans to Our Friends and Allies
New Orleans Based Activists
Left Turn
04/01/2007

SOME RESOURCES AND LINKS

This section can be viewed at <http://cwsworkshop.org/katrinareader/resources>

1. Some Grassroots Racial Justice Organizations in New Orleans
2. Some Web Resources for Information and Action
3. Some 'One Year After Katrina' Reports and Analyses. August, 2006
4. Some 'Two Years After Katrina' Reports and Analyses. August, 2007
5. General Background
 - Books
 - Some Films Videos & DVD's
 - A Few CD's
 - Some Anti-Racist Training Workshops
 - Some Curriculum Guides for K-12 Educators
 - Some Early Info from Grassroots Relief Groups
 - Some Early Katrina Timelines