



Union del Barrio Oxnard honors Raza Revolutionary Ernesto Bustillos March 2, 1951-March 26, 2012

A few weeks ago, the struggle for self-determination and the liberation of Raza and oppressed peoples around the world suffered the loss of our courageous leader Ernesto Bustillos. Companero Neto, as many knew him, joined the movimiento as a teen. From an early age he questioned the poverty and oppression experienced by his family and community and knew a better reality could exist for his people. Compa Neto studied the teachings of revolutionaries such as Emiliano Zapata, Ernesto "Che" Guevara, Marcus Garvey among others, and was able to make critical connections among current conditions to a long history of oppression imposed by colonialism, imperialism and capitalism.

Motivated by a profound love and respect for his community and armed with a critical consciousness developed from the teachings and theories of the Cuban Revolution, V.I. Lenin, Huey P. Newton and others, he picked up the banner of struggle. During the peak of the Chicano Power Period, Companero Neto dedicated himself full force to the struggle taking on leadership roles in many groups including the Brown Berets de Aztlan, MEChA, the Chicano Park Steering Committee and the Committee on Chicano Rights.

As the years passed, the struggle for self-determination and liberation suffered many attacks and repression. While others retreated, "graduated from the movement," or sold out to become neo-colonial puppets of the system, he continued to develop ideologically and politically. Companero Neto, along with veterano activists, recognized more than ever the need to bring unity and direction to the struggle for the liberation of Raza communities in the Southwest United States, what we recognize as Occupied Mexico, and formed Union del Barrio on August 29, 1981.

The vision of Chairman Neto and fellow founding members was to create an "organization of organizers" that could struggle from the barrio to the university to the workplace and everywhere Raza was present. He studied the victories and limitations of the worldwide struggles against colonialism

and capitalism and was able to connect them to our humble struggle within the belly of the beast. Chairman Neto, always leading by example, laid the foundation for many of the projects and actions that we continue to organize today. Some examples of that work our the Raza Rights Coalition, Chicano Mexicano Prison Project, Raza Press and Media Association and even the work of our Base Ricardo Flores Magon here in Oxnard.



Locally, the need to organize and struggle is greater than ever, as the attacks on Raza have become more inhumane and frequent. Migra continues to terrorize our communities by stealing our cars and separating families. Police criminalize our communities to justify the imprisonment and murder of innocent youth. State and local agencies, often lead by neo-colonial puppets, continue to cut funding to education and social service programs. YA BASTA!

As we take this time to reflect on Chairman Neto's life of struggle, we cannot help but admire his tireless dedication and love for justice. He has inspired countless individuals to follow in his footsteps and also dedicate their lives to the struggle. Just as Che said, "a true revolutionary is guided by deep feelings of love." Chairman Neto was a true revolutionary and found energy to struggle from his deep rooted love and respect for his family, friends and community. Base Ricardo Flores Magon is honored to have had the opportunity to learn and struggle side by side with him. He taught us to always be brave and humble and remember as militantes our commitment is to the community. Although Chairman Neto is no longer physically present, his spirit lives within each of us and he will continue to be present at every march, protest and activity we organize. In honor and respect for Chairman Neto, we must continue to carry the banner of struggle he picked up decades ago until Raza self-determination and liberation is achieved.

Ernesto Bustillos PRESENTE Ahora y Siempre

VOZ DEL PUEBLO

Es el boletín de Unión del Barrio en Oxnard Califazt-lán. Representa la opinion colectiva y perspectiva de Unión del Barrio en esta ciudad.

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Auto-Determinación y Liberación Mexicana

Unión del Barrio reconoce que el pueblo mexicano en ambos lados de la "frontera" sufrimos de inseguridad política, económica y social desde que el gobierno de los Estados Unidos robo la mitad de nuestro territorio nacional en 1848.

Desde ese año hemos sido victimas del gobierno norteamericano: nuestra mano de obra es explotada; miles de nuestros jóvenes están en las prisiones y miles más están en los frentes de las guerras imperialistas impulsadas por este país; el sistema educativo nos niega una educación equitativa y relevante; nuestros derechos humanos y civiles han sido limitados casi en su totalidad y cada año miles de nuestros hermanos y hermanas pierden la vida al tratar de cruzar la frontera ilegítima, en busca de una vida mejor. Frontera que se impuso para prevenir la entrada del mismo pueblo la cual su territorio fue arrebatada.

Reconocemos que California, Colorado, Arizona, Tejas, Utah, Nuevo México y Nevada constituyen Aztlán-México Ocupado. Es el territorio que geográfica y políticamente le pertenece al pueblo mexicano y que fueron usurpadas por el imperio Norteamericano en la guerra de 1846-1848 contra México.

Creemos que el pueblo Mexicano en Aztlán -Mexico Ocupado, tiene que auto-determinar nuestro propio futuro. La auto-determinación se define de la siguiente manera - el poder de:

1. Interpretar colectivamente nuestra historia
2. Controlar económicamente nuestro destino
3. Avanzar el desarrollo social de nuestro pueblo al promover nuestra cultura, la educación y nuestro idioma
4. Desarrollar de forma independiente el carácter y la dirección de nuestra orientación política
5. Controlar las instituciones políticas que hacen las leyes que nos gobiernan.

¡ÚNETE A UNIÓN DEL BARRIO!

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Public Libraries, Corporate Profits

Corporate America seems to find endless ways to drain the working class of local resources and public services only to enrich itself. The outsourcing of libraries is just the newest trend in California. Private, for profit corporations like Library Systems and Services (LSSI) are quite literally preying on public libraries. As workers, we are familiar with the concept of outsourcing of jobs overseas in which corporations make more money by paying lower wages and where labor laws are few or non-existent. For jobs that cannot be shipped out the country, corporate America is encroaching on the public sector through privatization or outsourcing of public services, including public libraries. Private companies promise that they can deliver the same amount or sometime better service than the existing public libraries for less cost. Cash strapped cities see outsourcing as a way to save money in a depressed economy.

But what is really the cost of outsourcing to private companies? For the public library workers, the impact is economic. When a public library is outsourced, the existing public library employees are laid off and all of the existing staff positions cease to exist. The former public employees are welcome to apply for the newly created non-union staff positions with lower wages and fewer benefits. In essence, most are able to apply for the very same positions they previously had but for less compensation and less job security. Also at stake is a loss of local control and income. Outsourcing public library services means that public funds and

local control are now being handed over to private, for-profit corporations (most of which are not headquartered in our state). Let's not forget that the goal of private corporations is to make profit; these library-servicing companies are in the business of making money. And their business wouldn't be growing at such an exponential rate if it weren't profitable. So the question is, who is getting rich and at whose expense?

The profit that these companies make will not (unlike the income of those unionized public library workers) be spent here in our community. The private corporation will not shop at our local stores, purchase food from our neighborhood grocery store, or pay our city's sales taxes. When



a library is outsourced, the public funds are shipped off to another state to enrich some other community at our expense.

It is the librarians who choose the books that sit on

library shelves. Librarians aim to choose books that will ultimately meet the needs of the community that they serve. These books, purchased with public funds to be housed in public spaces, belong to all of us, and are now at the mercy of corporate employees.

It is working class communities and children who visit public libraries. For those who cannot afford access to other types of educational tools and media, the public library has served as an equalizer by offering resources to these communities. The outsourcing or privatization of public libraries is just another example of how our capitalist society does not value education or critical thinking for working class people. Public libraries should be directly accountable to the people they serve. Libraries are, and should remain, pillars of democracy.

Organization and Resistance: *From Campaign to Collective, the Colectivo Todo Poder al Pueblo unites and advances in local grassroots barrio resistance to raids, deportations, checkpoints and Poli-Migra collaboration*

A year ago and a half ago, in the summer of 2010, Base Ricardo Flores-Magon of Unión del Barrio in Oxnard, called for a meeting inviting local community to participate in the planning for a "grassroots organizing campaign to uphold and defend our rights against Migra/ICE raids and deportations." The objective for that initial meeting was to overview our proposal for a Todo Poder al Pueblo-Defend Our Rights Campaign and a general vision, goals and objectives. Those in attendance reviewed a short document we presented. The meeting was part of a kick-off to the campaign by marching on Sunday, August 29, 2010, in commemoration of 40 years of the Chicano Moratorium of 1970 and to continue to hold high the principles of self-determination.

The call for the Defend Our Rights Campaign came right during the height of the mass protests taking place against Arizona's SB-1070, the "Show me your papers" legislation that codified racial profiling in the state of Arizona. Many of us from Unión del Barrio in Oxnard and our close allies had anticipated that rather than anti-migrante legislation, detentions, and deportations decreasing, the reality would be the opposite. We seen that the spread of mass-deportation plans, such as Endgame and through programs such as the now infamous "Secure Communities" and 287 (g), along with an increase in work-site "silent raids" through E-Verify and "employer sanctions" (read as worker sanctions) would actually increase, backed and funded by the Obama administration which had already abandoned any real efforts at his promised so-called "immigration reform" which has now led to a historical record-breaking mass deportation of over 1 million people. Obama, is the Deporter-in-Chief of the 1950's "Operation Wetback" of our century.

Immediately after the kick-off march on

August 29th, the forces that united with the initial call to action then began to organize weekly outreach sessions of passing out Know Your Rights brochures in the barrios. The meetings led to a discussion about establishing a coalition, a network, or some type of more organized formation rather than being in an "organizing space" within the campaign. This led to a revisiting of original language Unión del Barrio had presented, to include the language that incorporated the enriched version which outlined the general consensus of all of those forces that had been an integral part of moving forward the goal of building independent community power and resistance. This independent formation, the Colectivo Todo Poder al Pueblo (CTTPP) was established, as a consensus-based body of organizers, activists, and community that united along with the basic principles of unity outlined (For entire Mission Statement of the Colectivo, please visit: todopoderalpueblo.com):

"The Todo Poder al Pueblo Collective calls for an immediate end to ICE raids, deportations, police/migra collaboration, the theft of our cars at sobriety/driver's license checkpoints and other tactics that threaten the livelihood and security of our families, neighbors, co-workers, and communities.

- Documents and permanent residency rights for all: the right to work, higher education, drivers' licenses and public benefits.
- An immediate end to raids and deportations.
- No to new "Bracero"/Guest Worker programs (modern indentured servitude).
- Workers must have the unconditional legal right to organize.
- No to the militarization of the border and our communities."

Since the founding and the adoption of this local platform of struggle, CTTP has intensified all political actions, media and propaganda operations, fundraising and sustainability as an independent resistance collective. The CTTP has organized a series of fundraisers, community forums, actions, and has passed out over 15,000 Know Your Rights

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EDITOR
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Raza Self-Determination & Mexicano Liberation

Unión del Barrio believes that Mexicanas and Mexicanos living both in México and in the "Southwest United States" suffer from political, economic and social insecurity because the United States Government stole our land in 1848.

Since that year our people have been the victims of a system which exploits our labor, keeps a disproportionate number of our people in prisons, stereotypes us through the media, falsifies our history, denies us a relevant/productive education and militarizes the imposed border in order to keep out the very same people from which Aztlán (northern México) was stolen.

We recognize California, Colorado, Arizona, Tejas, Utah, Nuevo México, and Nevada as constituting Mexico Ocupado. It is a geographical and political territory belonging to the Mexicano people. These lands were taken by armed force by the U.S. government, during the Mexican-U.S. war of 1846-1848.

We believe that Mexicanos in Aztlán-México Ocupado must self-determine our own destiny. The means to this end is the advancement of Mexicano self-determination. Mexicano self-determination is best defined as the power to:

1. Collectively interpret our history
2. Economically control our destiny
3. Advancing our social development by self directing our culture education and language
4. Independently develop the content, character and direction of our political orientation
5. Controlling the political institutions that make the laws that govern us

JOIN UNIÓN DEL BARRIO!

For feedback, comments and critiques, please direct those to:

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Voz del Pueblo is a member of the
Raza Press and Media Association

website:
<http://razapressassociation.org>
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continued **Organization and Resistance** >

brochures since August of last year as part of our effort to flood the streets with the information needed to defend our rights. The CTPP led a street-level agitation and action campaign against the intensified amount of police checkpoints in the city of Oxnard by protesting right in front of the placas checkpoints with signs diverting drivers away from their dragnet.

This campaign was kicked off in July 2011 and is part of an overall state-wide effort to expose the profiteering and abuse of the so-called DUI checkpoints as part of an overall broad dragnet intended to terrorize, criminalize working-class and migrant communities. The CTPP struggled to expose the Arizona-style tactics of surprise and un-announced checkpoints imported into our neighborhoods, some during work weekdays, a new and unprecedented program by the new chief of police of the city of Oxnard, Chief Jeri Williams, formerly of the Phoenix Police Department. In July of 2011, the CTPP published the Statement of Position (see website) that denounced the abuse at police checkpoints:

"The Todo Poder al Pueblo Collective does not condone reckless driving or DUI, but it is obvious that the checkpoints are not effective tools against drunk drivers; instead they are meant to generate profits from the theft of vehicles belonging to working-poor and migrant communities in Ventura County

and throughout the state of California.

Existing policies damage our community while making others rich: statewide data shows that nearly \$40 million in profits have been generated by towing and impound fees alone. In Oxnard, there is an extra \$241 charge for the police to release the vehicles taken from us. Forced to pay over \$1,500 in fees (ransom) due to the 30-Day Impound hold, many residents are forced to leave their cars in the impound yard, where they are later sold."

This was part of series of statewide actions that led to the passing of AB-353, which set new guaranteed rights at checkpoints for unlicensed drivers, limiting the police from towing cars from workers .

The next phase of the CTPP struggle is to push for a local ordinance that demands that AB-353 rights for unlicensed drivers to also be applicable at general traffic stops, not just at checkpoints, where over 90% of the impounds (theft) of our community's vehicles are being stolen by the Oxnard Police Department. The CTPP has now also joined the Southern California Immigration Coalition in the statewide campaign to pass legislation that would give access to all residents, con o sin papales.

La lucha sigue! Todo Poder al Pueblo! All Power to the People!

For more information, visit or contact the Colectivo Todo Poder al Pueblo: todopoderalpueblo.com , poder805@riseup.net or call (805) 3-AVISO-3



Upcoming Events

Chicano Mexicano Prison Project: 14th Annual Conference on Raza Prisoners and Colonialism

Breaking the Chains Towards Raza Liberation: Free the Oppressed

Saturday June 9, 2012 12pm-5pm

Cafe on A 438 South A St Oxnard Califas 93030

Principios de Unidad de Unión del Barrio:

Quienes Somos:

- I. Desde Alaska hasta Chile - Somos un Pueblo Sin Fronteras
- II. Esta es ¡Nuestra América!-Somos Naciones Indígenas
- III. Nuestra Lucha Es Por La Liberación Nacional Y Se Basa en La Lucha de Clase - Somos Internacionalistas
- IV. El Materialismo Dialéctico e Histórico forma la base de nuestras tácticas y estrategias.

Lo Que Queremos:

- I. Auto-Determinación, Liberación Nacional, y Unidad Continental
- II. Democracia Participativa y Socialismo
- III. La Liberación Absoluta e Inequívoca de las Mujeres
- IV. Emancipación Ambiental
- V. Un Partido Revolucionario para la Liberación del Pueblo

Para una explicación amplia de estos puntos, visite nuestro sitio web y descargue el documento completo: www.uniondelbarrio.org

Unión del Barrio Points of Unity:

Who We Are:

- I. From Alaska to Chile: We Are One People Without Borders
- II. This is ¡Nuestra América! - We Are Indigenous Nations
- III. Ours is a National Liberation Movement Rooted in Class Struggle - We are Raza Internationalists
- IV. Dialectical and Historical Materialism Form the Basis of Our Strategies and Tactics

What We Want:

- I. Self-Determination, Liberation, and A Unified Nuestra América
- II. Participatory Democracy, and Socialism
- III. The Absolute and Unequivocal Liberation of Women
- IV. Environmental Emancipation
- V. A Revolutionary Party for Raza Liberation

For an expanded explanation of each point, visit our website and download our complete Political Program, www.uniondelbarrio.org

¡Concientización, Organización, Acción, Liberación!