



THE PACIFICA CAMPAIGN
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Latest Press Release from Juan Gonzalez:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE FEBRUARY 6, 2001
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CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED FOR A FUNDING BOYCOTT OF PACIFICA RADIO'S FIVE-STATION NETWORK

A new organization is calling for listeners of Pacifica radio stations around the country to show their opposition to the current corporate takeover of the network by refusing to donate any money to Pacifica until its current board of directors resigns and is replaced by a new board that is democratically accountable to listeners, staff and the communities the stations serve.

The Pacifica Campaign, the group spearheading the boycott, was hastily founded this weekend following last week's dramatic on-air resignation by Juan Gonzalez, longtime co-host of Pacifica's national flagship news show, Democracy Now!

In his resignation, Gonzalez criticized a "clique" on the board that has "hijacked" the network. That clique, Gonzalez said, has routinely squashed free speech on the Pacifica stations, has violated the civil and labor rights of listeners and staff, and has illegally changed the non-profit network's by-laws in preparation for a possible sale of one or more of the stations.

Gonzalez, who joined with some 35 New York city activists to found the new group this past weekend, is serving as interim coordinator of the campaign.

As part of the campaign, the group will seek to pressure individual board members to resign by utilizing non-violent, direct action and by launching an educational campaign to the public that exposes the roles of the individual board members in the current crisis.

Starting today, the Pacifica Campaign will have five full-time volunteer organizers and scores of part-time volunteers working on the effort. We have

"I want to say there is, there has been a change in management, and I'm delighted to say I've been named the interim station manager of WBAI. And I'm hoping that in the coming weeks as we face a tough hill to climb that we will find the energy and the mutual respect and all the good things that we can summon up within ourselves to meet the challenges

the effort. We have also retained the services of Ray Roger's Corporate Campaign Inc., a group that specializes in mounting nationwide boycotts against anti-labor and anti-community organizations.

In the few days since Juan Gonzalez's resignation, the campaign has been flooded by thousands of e-mails and phone calls of support from Pacifica listeners who want to help.

Organizers will be contacting those listeners directly during the next few days. Meanwhile, we urge all listeners to do the following:

1) DO NOT PLEDGE ANY MONEY TO ANY PACIFICA STATION

2) IF YOU HAVE ALREADY PLEDGED MONEY, DO NOT SEND YOUR CHECK IN

3) CONTRIBUTE MONEY INSTEAD TO THE PACIFICA CAMPAIGN, OR TO THE THREE LEGAL SUITS CURRENTLY CHALLENGING THE BOARD'S LEGITIMACY, OR TO A LOCAL LISTENER GROUP IN YOUR AREA -- IN SHORT, TO THOSE FIGHTING TO REFORM PACIFICA TAX DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PACIFICA CAMPAIGN CAN BE MADE PAYABLE TO:

THE INSTITUTE FOR MEDIA ANALYSIS/PACIFICA CAMPAIGN.

THE MAILING ADDRESS IS:
THE PACIFICA CAMPAIGN
51 MACDOUGAL STREET, #80
NEW YORK, NY 10012

4) CALL YOUR LOCAL PACIFICA STATION AS

meet the challenges ahead and we'll do that. In the meantime, there is no need, there is no coup, there's just me, just me, and we are doing some changes, everything remains the same, all programs will continue as always, and as you've been witnessing, you've been here for some time, I don't think you can describe the atmosphere as being, what, no SWAT team is here, and nobody is being patted down, and no metal detectors, or anything like that, we're just making a change and we'll be OK."

-- Utrice Leid, WBAI Interim General Manager

OFTEN AS YOU
CAN AND LET THEM KNOW YOU WILL NOT GIVE
ANY MONEY UNTIL THE CURRENT BOARD OF
DIRECTORS RESIGNS

5) DO NOT COOPERATE WITH PACIFICA'S FUND
DRIVE BY
OFFERING AS PREMIUMS ANY BOOKS OR TAPES
YOU HAVE
AUTHORED OR PRODUCED.

Also, do not be confused if you hear the host of your favorite show urging you on-the-air to pledge money. Many producers and hosts are opposed to the policies of the current board of directors, but they are prevented by gag rules from voicing their displeasure and they must ask for pledges from listeners or they can be fired. It is important to keep shows like Democracy Now! on the air.

For now, we are urging producers who oppose the board to keep soliciting pledges but to "work to rule," i.e., do the minimal amount of fundraising work and with as little enthusiasm as possible.

As we reduce the money coming into Pacifica we will reduce the board's ability to continue its anti-listener policies. At the same time, we will be increasing the pressure on individual board members, until they have no recourse but to resign.

We will oust the hijackers and return Pacifica to its original mission.

Fundraising

Below is the 4 page **Concerned Friends of WBAI** letter and form to be mailed out during the February WBAI fundraising drive.

Click [here](#) to download a Microsoft Word version (49k)

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Concerned Friends of WBAI

PO Box 21711, Brooklyn, NY 11202-1711
(800) 825-0055 WBAIfriends@hotmail.com

February 2001

Dear Listeners and Friends,

As the crisis deepens at WBAI radio (99.5 FM), we are excited to learn that not only has a coalition of listener groups organized itself in New York City, but a growing movement is taking shape in Long Island, Rockland County, Westchester, New Jersey, Connecticut, and at our sister stations around the country. Concerned Friends of WBAI is joining with these efforts to return "listener-sponsored" radio to the original mission of Pacifica as envisioned by founder Lew Hill, as a progressive community radio network independent of corporate or government control.

With WBAI's Winter fund drive now underway, it is time to redouble our efforts to challenge the looming corporatization and possible sale of our station. Concerned Friends of WBAI is helping to organize economic as well as political and legal campaigns against a corrupt Pacifica National Board and the new management it has installed at WBAI. Concerned Friends is an independent organization of listeners, community members and staff dedicated to the democratization of WBAI and Pacifica.

Many of us have come to the painful conclusion that we can no longer contribute funds to WBAI under the circumstances that now prevail at the station. Furthermore, because Pacifica has now taken control of the bank accounts of the station, whatever we contribute goes directly to funding the authoritarian regime at Pacifica and the corporatization of WBAI radio. **Please join with hundreds of other subscribers in refusing to give money to WBAI/Pacifica under current conditions. An independent "Listeners' Fund" has now been established by Concerned Friends of WBAI to accept contributions.** (This fund is separate and apart from any accounts under the control of or managed by Pacifica or WBAI.)

We are asking for your financial contribution in conjunction with another part of our campaign to bring about changes in the current policies of WBAI and Pacifica: the "Listener's Pledge", which we urge you to sign and return to Concerned Friends of WBAI. At the conclusion of the Winter fund drive, these "Pledges" will become a tangible measure of listener dissatisfaction and demand for change at WBAI.

In sum, we are asking you to do the following: 1) Send a tax-deductible contribution to the Concerned Friends "Listeners' Fund"; and, 2) Sign the "Listener's Pledge". We also welcome and encourage your participation in the local and national campaigns described in the following.

Finally, we need your help in getting the word out. Please make copies of this letter and the enclosed form and share them with friends, co-workers, neighbors and family.

And, as always, stay strong and pay close attention.

Concerned Friends of WBAI

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**SIGN THE LISTENER'S
PLEDGE & GIVE TO THE
LISTENERS' FUND**
of the Concerned Friends of WBAI

At this time I choose not to contribute funds to the WBAI fund drive. However, I want to support a democratic WBAI. I hereby pledge to send additional funds directly to WBAI in the amount of \$_____ when the following demands are met:

1. Reinstate all WBAI staff fired in the Christmas coup.
2. End the lockout. Lift all bans against staff members and listeners. Remove the security guards from WBAI.
3. End all censorship. No gag-rule.
4. Support Democracy Now! Stop harassment against Amy Goodman and other WBAI producers.
5. Institute a democratic process involving paid and unpaid staff, listeners, and Local Advisory Board to determine the management of the station.
6. Include paid and unpaid staff in the WBAI collective bargaining unit.
7. Hold democratic elections for the Local Advisory Board.
8. Stop the corporate takeover of Pacifica and support the current lawsuits against the Pacifica National Board.
9. Reaffirm the original mission of Pacifica as envisioned by Lew Hill, for a progressive, listener-sponsored community radio, independent of corporate or government control.

Count me in! I support the struggle to democratize WBAI and Pacifica.
Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution of (please check one):

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$500 \$1,000+ Other _____

Please make your check payable to "Listeners' Fund", and send this form along with your contribution to **Concerned Friends of WBAI, P.O. Box 21711, Brooklyn, NY 11202-1711**

I want my contribution to support the following (check one or more boxes):

Lawsuits Against the Pacifica Board

National Corporate Campaign Project to Oust the Pacifica National Board

Local Actions, research, outreach, direct election of Local Advisory Board, media & other activities

All of the Above

Feel free to indicate dollar amounts above or, if you prefer to send funds directly to any of these projects see following page for details.

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

Please return to: Concerned Friends of WBAI, PO Box 21711, Brooklyn, NY 11202-1711

YOU CAN ALSO GIVE DIRECTLY TO THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS

✓ **Lawsuits Against the Pacifica National Board**

Wildrose@pon.net

Tax-deductible contributions to this legal fund will be divided equally among the three lawsuits against the Pacifica National Board. Make checks payable to:

"Free Pacifica Legal Action/Vanguard Foundation" Amount donated \$ _____
c/o The Vanguard Public Foundation
383 Rhode Island Street, Suite 301
San Francisco, CA 94103

✓ **National Corporate Campaign to Oust the Pacifica National Board (organized by Juan Gonzalez)**

Pacificacampaign@yahoo.com

Funds are used to organize a corporate campaign to oust the Pacifica National Board. Tax-deductible contributions for more than \$100 should be made payable to:

"Institute for Media Analysis-Pacifica Campaign" Amount donated \$ _____
51 MacDougal Street, #80
New York, NY 10012

Non tax-deductible contributions of \$100 or less should be made payable directly to "Pacifica Campaign" and sent to the same address.

✓ **Free Speech Radio News Fund (organized by striking Pacifica Reporters)**

Pnnstrikers@jgc.org

Funds support striking reporters and their weekly newscast Free Speech Radio News. Make checks payable to "Friends of Free Speech Radio" and mail to:

Freelancers' Strike Fund Amount donated Amount donated \$ _____
c/o Friends of Free Speech Radio
905 Parker Street
Berkeley, CA 94710

✓ **Concerned Friends of WBAI**

WBAIfriends@hotmail.com

Local Actions, research and projects, including direct election of Local Advisory Board, outreach, media & other activities. Concerned Friends also serves as a conduit of funds for all of the above, and has been organizing the demonstrations in support of listener-sponsored, community controlled radio! Please make checks payable to:

"Concerned Friends of WBAI" Amount donated \$ _____
PO Box 21711, Brooklyn, NY 11202-1711

In order for us to evaluate the success of this effort, please return this form to Concerned Friends of WBAI

which may come up in the course of this struggle.

- National Corporate Campaign Project to Oust the Pacifica National Board. This project, initiated by Juan Gonzalez (who resigned recently as co-host of Democracy Now!), will work on a nationwide level to oust the undemocratic clique that has hijacked the Pacifica National Board, and to replace them with a board that is democratic and accountable to listeners, community and staff. As part of the overall effort, this Project's sponsors are urging listeners to withdraw all financial support for Pacifica until these goals have been met, and to join the Campaign in actively exposing the corporate and economic interests of the union-busting clique now running the National Board.
- Democratic Election and Empowerment of the Local Advisory Board. While there are very good people on the Local Advisory Boards connected to each of Pacifica's five stations, the National Board has made decisions undermining the authority of the LABs and has proposed new bylaws that would further erode the local boards. To establish greater legitimacy, and to bring thousands of new listeners directly into the process, KPFA in Berkeley recently conducted an election among subscribers to the station to choose their Local Advisory Board. We are working toward a similar process here in New York in which we hope to create a representative, democratic advisory board and strengthen the lawsuits and other efforts to democratize Pacifica.

WEBSITES: www.savepacificanet.net | www.wbai.net | www.ringnebula.com/PNB
www.radio4all.org/freepacificanet

HOTLINES: (800) 825-0055 (718) 707-7189 (212) 465-7562

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