

JOIN THE COALITION TO TAKE BACK WBAI

Current Demands of the Coalition to Take Back WBAI:

1. Reinstate Tony Riddle as WBAI General Manager and Bernard White as WBAI Program Director
2. No gag rule- reinstate producer Ayo Harrington and any other removed staff.
3. Keep the transmitter under WBAI's control.
4. Safeguard WBAI's historic autonomy.

Coalition to Take Back WBAI

(list in formation)

Pam Africa

Stanley Aronowitz

Father Luis Barrios

City Councilmember Charles Barron

Tony Gronowicz

Fred Ho

Akinlabi E. A. Mackall

Esperanza Martell

Dr. James McIntosh

Ken Nash

Ralph Poynter

Lea Rizack

Nayo Joy Simmons & Brenda Walker

of Operation P.O.W.E.R. (People Organizing
& Working for Empowerment & Respect)

Lynne Stewart

Valerie Van Isler

Tim Wise

ACT UP/ New York

Alberto Lovero Bolivarian Circle of NY

Anti-Racist Alliance

Asia Pacific Forum

CEMOTAP (Committee to Eliminate Media Offensive
to African People)

December 12th Movement

FIST - Fight Imperialism Stand Together

Free Mumia Abu-Jamal Coalition

International Action Center

International Support Haiti Network

Marvelous Light Crusade World Outreach Ministries

Masjid Al-Taqwah

National Association of Kawaida Organizations (NAKO)

New York Coalition for Neighborhood School Control

Pakistan USA Freedom Forum

Peace Health Center

People's Institute for Survival and Beyond

ProLibertad (Freedom Campaign for Puerto Rican

Political Prisoners)

Queers for Peace and Justice

Resistance in Brooklyn

Rockland County Immigration Coalition

Roots Revisited

S.E.E.D.S., Inc.

Sisa Pakari Labor Center - Queens

Working People's Voice Publication



FOR MORE INFO:

Call 212-561-7231

www.justiceunity.org

www.wbixradio.org

EXCERPTS FROM PRESS RELEASE:

The Coalition charges that the takeover, presented as an effort to rescue the station from its serious financial crisis, is actually the result of a seven-year-long, vitriolic and often racist campaign by local board members affiliated with the Alliance for Community Elections (ACE) and former station broadcasters to remove the progressive African American leadership of the station and diminish the multi-cultural range of programming, in favor of a programming strategy geared to attracting more well-heeled listeners. "The actions of this clique threaten to destroy the station's long-held position as the strongest progressive voice for disenfranchised communities in the New York media market," said Lisa Davis, a local board member and activist in the Coalition.

Bernard White, addressing the grounds given for his suspension prior to his May 19 termination, rejects the claim that his programming decisions had failed to attract sufficient audience to support the station. "According to the Arbitron rating system, which is now under FCC investigation for undercounting people of color, who comprise a large segment of our audience, the total aggregate of our listeners has increased in recent years," White said. He went on to note that traditional media are experiencing fierce competition for listeners as cyberspace develops alternative communications media. "Combine this phenomenon with a tumbling economy, a dramatic increase in rental costs and the overall cost of doing business," White added, "and it is easy to see that the ACE group is opportunistically selecting WBAI's programming as the reason for our economic shortfalls."