DEMONSTRATION TO TAKE BACK WBAI!!!

KEEP WBAI 99.5 ALIVE AND UNDER LOCAL CONTROL!

WEDNESDAY
JUNE 17, 5-8pm
@WBAI, 120 Wall St.
(corner of South Street) Trains: 2,3,4,5 to Wall St.

For decades, New Yorkers have relied on WBAI for radio that provides real news and perspectives not filtered by corporate media. Now, exploiting a real financial crisis, the station is under attack.

Drastic changes at the station are being imposed by the Pacifica Foundation without community input or due process. In recent months, Program Director Bernard White was fired and banned from the airwaves and building, and General Manager Tony Riddle was removed. Both have been replaced with Pacifica staff from California. There is an eerie silence on the air about the changes, as staff has been warned by Pacifica Interim Director Grace Aaron that they will be removed if they discuss any topic that she deems a “risk” to Pacifica. Already, Ayo Harrington - a producer of the "On the Count" criminal justice program - has been summarily dismissed and banned without explanation. "Wakeup Call" (morning show) producers Don DeBar (news editor) and Mimi Rosenberg (Wednesday host) have been removed. All three are critics of the coup. The new management, backed by the current majority of the Local Station Board, wants to change programming to bring in more revenue. They started by chopping an hour off Wakeup Call. This is just the beginning in what will be a shift away from the issues of the disenfranchised and towards more well-heeled listeners.

Amy Goodman and Juan Gonzalez of Democracy Now! Criticize Recent Changes at WBAI

EXCERPTS:

- Regarding the broadcast of Democracy Now! at 8 AM, which shortens Wake Up Call by one hour: "This decision disturbs us deeply and we ask that it be reconsidered."
- Regarding the firing of Bernard White by the new regime: "Given Bernard's decades of dedication and devotion to BAI, the way he was treated lacked basic human consideration."

URGENT: BECOME A VOTING MEMBER OF WBAI NOW!
Go to www.wbai.org to donate at least $25 to become a member. For more details, see back.

For more info: Call 212-561-7251 or go to www.takebackwbai.org, www.justiceunity.org www.wbixradio.org or Google “takebackwbai” to find us on Facebook.

COME DEFEND THE WBAI YOU KNOW AND LOVE.
Let’s come together to rebuild the station we want.
JOIN THE COALITION TO TAKE BACK WBAI

**********COME TO NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, June 16, 6:30-10:00 PM**********
District Council 1707, 75 Varick St. (north of Canal St.), 14th floor, Manhattan (A or 1 train to Canal St.).

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 broadcast 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
Father Lawrence Lucas
Akinlabi E. A. Mackall
Esperanza Martell
Dr. James McIntosh
Ken Nash
Ralph Poynter
Lea Rizaak
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 African Arts Festival
International Support Haiti Network
Marvelous Light Crusade World Outreach Ministries
Masjid Al-Taqwah
National Association of Kawaida Organizations (NAKO)
New Abolitionist Movement
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
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www.justiceunity.org
www.wbixradio.org
www.wbaix.org
Google “takebackwbai” to find us on Facebook.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

IT IS URGENT THAT YOU JOIN THE STATION BY JULY 15
(by donating $25 or more or 3 hours of volunteer work) so that you have the right to vote in upcoming elections. To volunteer to get premiums out, call (212) 209-2800, 2826 or 2845; or contribute at www.wbai.org (and print your receipt); or mail your check/money order to WBAI, GPO Box 30540, NY, NY 10117-2112. Time must be worked, not just arranged or at least $25 received, not just mailed, by 7/15.

COME TO THE NEXT MEETING OF TAKE BACK WBAI
COALITION: Tuesday June 16, 6:30-10:00 PM
District Council 1707, 75 Varick St. (north of Canal St.)
14th floor, Manhattan (A or 1 train to Canal St.)

STAND UP AT NEXT LOCAL STATION BOARD MEETING:
Thursday, June 25, 7pm. Place to be announced (For location, call 212-561-7231 or check www.wbai.org or www.justiceunity.org)

VOICE YOUR PROTEST Email Pacifica National Board at pnB@pacificaf.org. Demand: Reinstate WBAI Management! Maintain local control of programming! Also call Grace Aaron (Interim Exec. Dir.) at (310) 286-1011 or (310) 402-4087 and LaVarn Williams (Acting General Mgr.) at (212) 209-2800 or (212) 209-2820 or (510) 333-9902

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