

Peoples' Senate at a Glance

- The distinguished international panel of jurists that heard testimony and reviewed documents introduced at the October 2021 International Tribunal on US Human Rights Abuses Against Black, Brown, and Indigenous Peoples found the USA "Guilty of Genocide."
- And yet we must do more than simply celebrate the International Panel of Jurists' guilty verdict. Our job now is to organize a meaningful resistance to this genocide, rooted in the Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities themselves.
- There are many ongoing and vital organizing efforts across the country, many local, some focused on single issues, others broader. All could be assisted by a network linking the various efforts, informing the many forces of the work of others and amplifying the voices of all.
- Thus the Spirit of Mandela Coalition—which organized the International Tribunal—is calling for the formation of a Peoples' Senate that can help to construct a network to link these efforts and, in the best case, become a platform through which the struggles of each might become the struggle of all—speaking out against genocide and other abuses with a collective voice and developing a program of action to address various issues/struggles that can unite and strengthen our collective voice. The Peoples' Senate, over time, will be working to provide a model for an alternative to existing governance, show how a body might work that truly represents the people and strives to put decision-making in their hands.
- The goal of the Peoples' Senate is four-fold:
 - a) Help publicize and promote all of the local work that everyone is already doing,
 - b) Make links between groups whose efforts are presently on parallel tracks and might be developed moving forward as collaborative efforts,
 - c) Develop new initiatives that can unite us on a national and international scale,
 - d) Elect a Peoples' Senate, bringing forward the leadership of Black, Brown and Indigenous communities and providing an arena for discussion, exchange, and developing solutions to the problems faced by all.
- Our vision is a Senate which will be a representative body of the peoples and their organizations, elected by local meetings or gatherings based on geography, or on constituency, or on groups of people engaged in common work. It will then meet on a national level to discuss how this goal of developing a united struggle might be pursued. Election meetings can be regular meetings of already established groups or collectives, or they may be ad-hoc caucuses created specifically for the purpose of electing senators.
- The project at this point is in its formative stages. We need more individuals and groups to get involved to help us think through and implement an organizing plan.

If you or your organization would like to participate, or just want more information, please be in touch with us. peoplessenate@spiritofmandela.org