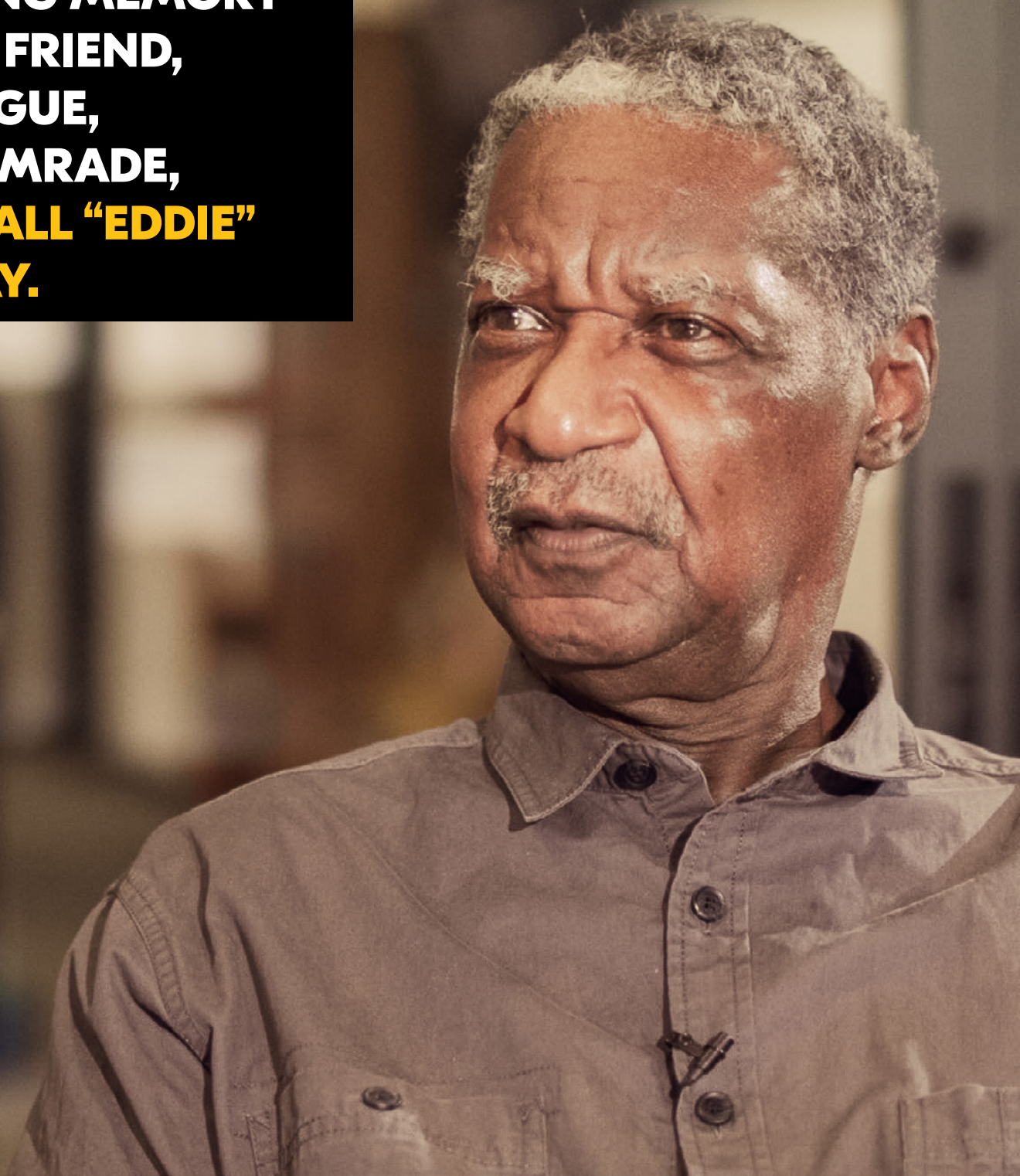




**IN LOVING MEMORY
OF OUR FRIEND,
COLLEAGUE,
AND COMRADE,
MARSHALL "EDDIE"
CONWAY.**



**ON FEBRUARY 13, 2023,
MARSHALL “EDDIE” CONWAY—
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER AT
THE REAL NEWS NETWORK
AND A FORMER POLITICAL
PRISONER WHO WAS UNJUSTLY
INCARCERATED FOR NEARLY 44
YEARS—PASSED AWAY.**

REST IN POWER, EDDIE.

**MAY OUR WORK HONOR YOUR
MEMORY.**

FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR...

Our Editor-in-Chief Maximillian Alvarez heard something amazing from one of our contributors—a labor journalist recently interviewed Vince Q., a worker in Philadelphia who was helping lead the very first attempt to unionize a Home Depot store. Home Depot is a massive, notoriously right-wing corporation—how did Vince decide he could rally his coworkers in a David and Goliath fight with very long odds of success? **Vince told us he learned what it means to take a stand in your workplace and personally commit to fighting for justice because he is an avid listener of Max's podcast, Working People.**

El Paso teenager Adzari H. was at home when she got the call. Adzari's cousin was physically assaulted by her own father and had called the police. She asks Adzari to be present as a witness, to document her statement. Adzari rushes down the street with her father and sister, and films on her cell phone. Unfortunately, as is too often the case, the police arrive and make a horrible situation worse, threatening Adzari for “interfering with their investigation” and demanding that she stop recording. She refuses, and stands up for her rights, asking the officers for their names and badge numbers. By the end of the afternoon, everyone the victim called on to support her would be arrested. After her release, Adzari sends her footage to Police Accountability Report's Taya Graham and Stephen Janis who build one of their weekly segments around it. **Interviewing Adzari, they tell her that it is remarkable that at her age she**

knew her rights so well and how to exercise them, and ask her, how is that? And she tells them—she and her dad watch The Real News Network's Police Accountability Report every week.

Stories like these exemplify why The Real News Network is a critical and important voice in the independent media ecosystem. From our staff journalists and contributing reporters, to our show hosts in front of the camera and the studio crew behind it, to the people doing the critical backend work that keeps our nonprofit newsroom running—we all get up in the morning because we know that we have a real impact on real people's lives.

If you are already someone who supports our work as a donor, please know that you make these real-life impacts possible. (And if you're not—**let's fix that!**)

The Real News Network makes media because we believe that the future is worth fighting for—and because engaged, rigorous journalism is an important weapon in that struggle. If you agree, we hope the stories in this 2022 Impact Report will inspire your continued commitment to our journalists and reporters as well as the movements and changemakers they cover.

**In solidarity,
John Duda, Executive Director
The Real News Network**



**SHOWING UP
FOR RAILROAD
WORKERS**

Back in February, almost no one was talking about what was happening to America's railroads, where brutal cost-cutting measures and inhumane scheduling policies were helping owners extract record profits. Our Editor-in-Chief Maximillian Alvarez was one of the few journalists who was paying attention, reporting on the initial legal skirmishes **blocking a strike** at BNSF, and doing **deep-dive interviews** with current and former workers highlighting the exploitative and dangerous policies that had been imposed on rail workers.

As these workers organized, holding rallies in the key freight depots of the rural Midwest, The Real News' labor correspondent Mel Buer (now our Associate Editor), was there, on the ground, helping **amplify the story of growing worker resistance** in reports that local railway union leaders told us played a key role in catalyzing more organizing.

Finally, when the simmering crisis reached a boil with the possibility of the entire rail system screeching to a halt this September, we had already built **the relationships with workers** who trusted us to help them **tell their own story**—and to push back against corporate media narratives framing the conflict as simply one about wages or that rushed to declare the crisis averted before the union membership even saw, let alone voted, on the proposed settlement with the railroad corporations.

Even though the Biden administration eventually stepped in to block the strike and impose an unfair contract, the workers' fight continues—and our media continues to make a difference for this fight. As Ron Kaminkow, General Secretary of Railroad Workers United, the inter-union, cross-craft solidarity caucus behind much of the 2022 organizing, put it in a message to our Editor-in-Chief Max Alvarez, “We will be eternally grateful to you my brother and The Real News for the role you played in getting this whole momentum catalyzed.”

OUR MODEL: SOLIDARITY JOURNALISM

By creating content that:

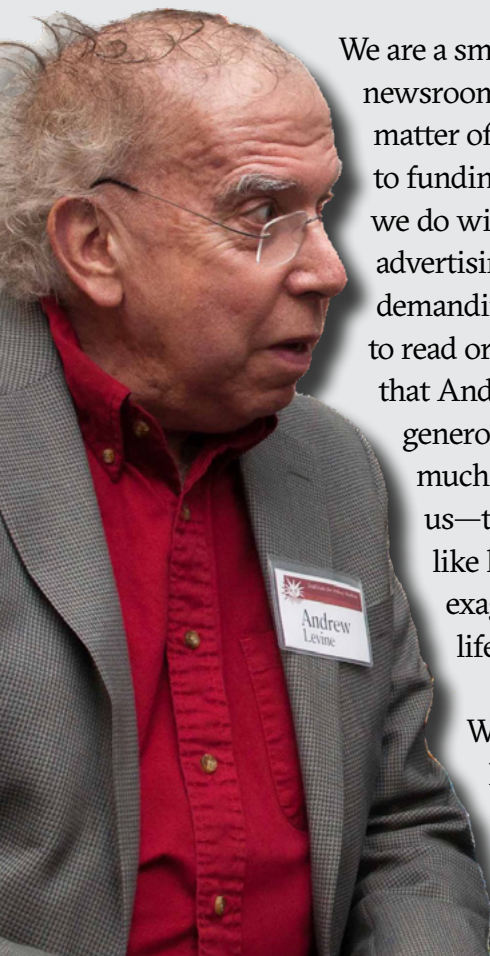
- **tells stories that need amplifying**
- **provides clear, accessible, and actionable analysis**
- **understands our audience to be the (potential) protagonists of the fight for a better world**
- **draws connections between movements**
- **and encourages a sense of empowerment and commitment, rather than cynicism and despair**

Our work:

- **creates pathways for people to engage in organizing for change and building collective solutions.**

REMEMBERING ANDY LEVINE (1944-2021)

Last spring, we were surprised—and deeply honored—to learn that Andrew Levine, a former professor of Philosophy at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the University of Maryland, a creative inheritor of the Marxist intellectual tradition, and a TRNN member, had bequeathed a significant portion of his assets to our nonprofit news organization upon his passing.



We are a small and scrappy newsroom, committed as a matter of political principle to funding the left journalism we do without relying on advertising and without demanding subscription fees to read or view it. That means that Andrew's incredibly generous gift was that much more meaningful to us—the support of people like him is, without exaggeration, the lifeblood of our work.

We wish we could have thanked Andrew for this

gift—the largest of its kind we have ever received. In an important and nontrivial sense, we are now in his debt—a debt that will be repaid in and through our work as media-makers and rabble-rousing reporters, stewarding the resources he entrusted us with on his passing to the best of our ability. We hope that we are able to do so in a way that honors his memory, and accords with his dedication to rigor, political clarity, and, as Marx once put it, “ruthless criticism of all that exists, ruthless both in the sense of not being afraid of the results it arrives at and in the sense of being just as little afraid of conflict with the powers that be.”

As we remember Andrew's life and legacy, we also remember the tenacity and intellectual commitment necessary to do the work he did, against the grain of an academic system many of us know all too well, to keep a space open for serious consideration of left political economy during the dismal decades when the American ruling class thought it could bury that project under a supposed end of history. We hope that we can pay tribute to that spirit—and to Andrew's memory—in our work.

Bequests, like the one left by Mr. Levine, make a transformative difference for the work of a nonprofit newsroom like ours.

If you'd like help exploring how to make a legacy gift to TRNN, please reach out to our Director of Development Julianne Simitz at julianne@therealnews.com.

THE CHRIS HEDGES REPORT

In 2022, The Real News Network became the YouTube home of The Chris Hedges Report.

Every Friday, Pulitzer-prize winning journalist and author Chris Hedges talks in-depth about the frontlines of today's social movements— with guests like Cornel West, Noam Chomsky, Medea Benjamin, and Vijay Prashad.



RATTLING THE BARS



Rattling the Bars, our weekly look at the organizing that is challenging the prison industrial complex, was started by TRNN Executive Producer and former Baltimore Black Panther Marshall “Eddie” Conway—who passed away in February 2023. We are committed to honoring Eddie’s memory by continuing the work he started here at TRNN.

Taking Eddie’s place as host of the show is **Mansa Musa**, who organized alongside Eddie behind bars while serving his own 48+ year prison sentence. Mansa has brought this unique and hard-won perspective on mass incarceration to discussions of the political economy of prison labor and rural prisons, LGBTQ incarceration, human rights violations endemic in American prisons, the fight to free aging political prisoners, and more.



POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT

Taya Graham's and Stephen Janis' weekly **Police Accountability Report** has become a force to be reckoned with on YouTube—now with eight videos that have been viewed more than a million times each. One, **highlighting police abuse of power during an LA traffic stop**, has reached 3.7 million

views and counting—and, as we learned recently, is helping public defenders push back against the notoriously violent Los Angeles Sheriff's Department.

Taya and Stephen's work standing up for the victims of police violence continues to have a meaningful impact, even years after publication. A case in point: their early, on-the-ground reporting on the killing of 19-year-old Anton Black, who died in police custody on Maryland's Eastern Shore in 2018, was **recently highlighted** by NBC's *Dateline* in a special report by Lester Holt on Anton's family's continued fight for justice.



In a survey of Police Accountability Report viewers in February 2022, The Real News asked whether our show had inspired them to take action in their community. 61% of respondents indicated that it had!

“By filming any chance I get and make sure all police should now know they have accountability. Which is something they should all be aware of since taking the job but in reality they have been working with impunity for far too long. Now this nation is screaming for change. It’s screaming loud too.”

“I’ve introduced family members to your reports. Your comprehensive approach really pulled the blue tinted glasses off me and my family.”

“It has taught me to video record every interaction with the police and to file police misconduct complaints (if necessary) I also learn from your programming some of my rights as a citizen in regards to some of the things that I

am not required to do or say when being questioned by law enforcement.”

“Yes, as a veteran soldier, I have talked to other veterans in my neighborhood to insure [sic] someone is present while any type of police investigation is happening.”

“Started doing public record requests for police complaint data.”

“Recording any police encounter I see, and voting for leaders in my community who believe in police accountability, reform, and defunding.”

“I started attending local civilian review board meetings to hold them accountable.”

“Every time I see anyone pulled over I stop and record. I will not leave until they are back on the road.”

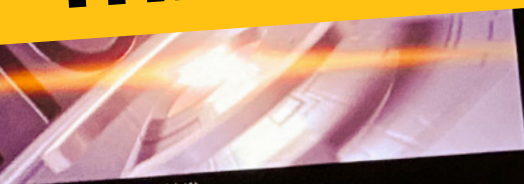
2022 BY THE NUMBERS

Our videos were watched over 27 million times—our best year ever on YouTube.

We added more than 160,000 subscribers to our YouTube channel.

And we grew our number of monthly sustaining donors by over 25 percent.

FIGHTING BACK AGAINST THE RISE OF THE RIGHT



M/E PROGRAM (1)



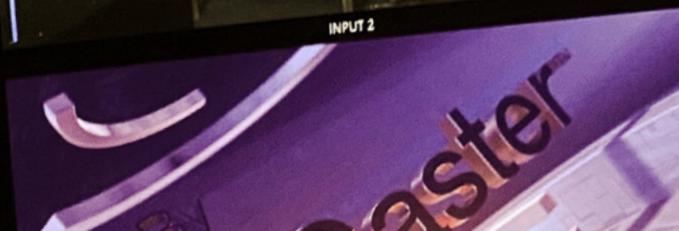
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PREVIEW (INPUT 8)



INPUT 2



PREVIEW



PREVIEW

The far right is on the move—in the US and abroad. How should grassroots movements and progressives respond?

In **The Rise of the Right**, a special series of in-depth interviews with leading activists and left intellectuals, Marc Steiner and new TRNN board member Bill Fletcher, Jr. explore the terrifying rise of the right—and what we can do to fight back.

DEFENDING DEMOCRACY

Leading up to the 2022 US midterm elections, The Real News Network completed an 18-part special series that focused not on providing superficial horse race-style coverage of candidates and polls, instead covering the work of grassroots organizers who know that elections can be opportunities to build community power, even when the national

Democratic party often lags far behind on truly addressing the needs of its ostensible base. With the support of Solutions Journalism Network and other generous funders, we explored the tactics and strategies that can cut through partisan fog and racial bias to build alignment around shared values and salvage the promise of democracy from right wing and neoliberal wreckage.



BATTLEGROUND BALTIMORE



WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING....

“Your dedication is an inspiration that **feeds courage as much as hope for all of us!** Solidarity is real through our hard work and love.”

“Keep up the great work. **If we are going to get through this loveless period, it will be because of you.**”

“**I so love you all and your work.** Max’s reporting on RWU and labor issues and Taya’s coverage on cop violence and violations are outstanding. Thanks for all you do.”

“After extensive work in print journalism that now barely exists **you are the future...**”

“I love your real news! You nail it every time without fail. What I’ve learned through your reporting is invaluable and also given me **courage to stand up for my rights.**”

“Thank you for **talking about things the media won’t talk about.**”

“Keep **nipping at the heels of the corporate military establishment,** thanks.”

“Keep up the superb job. **The world is a better place** because of your amazing work. You people are awesome.”

“**Love what you guys are doing.** Keep up the focus on the growing unionization efforts in the US.”

“So refreshing to have **such wonderful coverage of important topics.** So glad we cut the cable!”

“I think of the Real News as **an important alternative** to main stream corporate sponsored media.”

OUR WORK IN BALTIMORE

Our team continued to deliver not just on national and international stories, but on stories that matter in our hometown.

TRNN reporters Stephen Janis and Taya Graham completed and premiered **Tax Broke**, a full-length documentary investigation, years in the making, into Baltimore’s unsustainable and inequitable system of public subsidies for private development.

We covered **a surge** in local grassroots energy around **labor organizing** and shined a light on **police misconduct** and state-sanctioned **violence.**

And we secured funding for two projects launching in 2023: **Baltimore P.O.W.E.R.**, a fellowship program in partnership with Just Media and Scripps Howard Fund for emerging journalists from the communities affected most by our broken carceral system, and a multi-part investigative series from Brandon Soderberg in partnership with Northwestern University’s Medill School of Journalism that will offer a deep, data-driven dive into the supposed correlation between Baltimore’s police spending—the most per capita in the US—and improved public safety.

WORKERS OF THE WORLD



With the support of Bertha Foundation, we launched our new Workers of the World vertical covering international labor struggles in 2022, with the goal of producing media that can help make solidarity as transnational as capital.

In our first story, we followed Kooper Caraway, a US labor leader from South Dakota, on a solidarity visit to the frontlines of the strike at the massive Nagaworld casino in Cambodia.

There, he sat down for in-depth interviews with union leaders, getting an in-depth look at the really awful levels of repression these organizers, almost entirely women, are facing from the company, its billionaire owner, and the complicit state authorities.

After it aired, UN observers stepped in to increase oversight of what was happening on the picket lines, and the violence and repression the strikers had been facing on a daily basis stopped—although with the recent re-arrest of union leader Chhim Sithar, profiled in our reporting, the struggle is far from over.

BRAZIL ON FIRE

In partnership with NACLA and independent, Latin America-based journalist Michael Fox, The Real News Network launched its first narrative podcast series, **Brazil on Fire**.

In six deeply reported episodes, full of on-the-ground audio, Fox tracked the rise of Brazilian right-wing demagogue Jair Bolsonaro in the lead up to his historic electoral loss to former president Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva—and followed up through that election's violent and chaotic aftermath.



**In addition to our thousands of grassroots donors,
The Real News Network recognizes the following
individuals and organizations for contributing
leadership-level gifts of \$1,000 or more, annually:**

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**Many thanks for your investment in media-making that makes a difference;
we look forward to earning your continued support in 2023 and beyond.**

We invite all individuals, foundations, unions, and other
noncorporate funders to join our Solidarity Circle.

Please contact Director of Development Julianne Simitz
at julianne@therealnews.com for more
information or [join today](#).

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