

Common Ground in New Orleans: Creating a Just and Sustainable Future

A Report from MALIK RAHIM of Common Ground

**Thursday October 26 7 pm
First Churches
129 Main St., Northampton, MA**

New Orleans resident/
Common Ground organizer Malik Rahim
will give a first-hand report on
New Orleans one year after Katrina.



SEPT. 5, 2006 WAS THE 1ST ANNIVERSARY OF COMMON GROUND RELIEF
- AN ORGANIZATION THAT LIVES ITS MOTTO, "SOLIDARITY NOT CHARITY."

This past year Common Ground distributed food, water, clothing, and other necessities to poor people in the 9th and Lower 9th Wards of New Orleans. Thousands of students and other volunteers came to work in solidarity - gutting houses, creating community gardens, starting a women's shelter, creating tutorial programs, and more, all under the leadership of the people whose lives have been most affected.

Malik Rahim, a lifelong resident of New Orleans, former Black Panther, Green Party member, and former candidate for public office met with friends in his kitchen last year as it became apparent that there was no government social contract post-Katrina.

They resolved to find solutions to the devastation of so many lives,
and COMMON GROUND was born.

Common Ground's mission: to provide short term relief for victims of hurricane disasters in the gulf coast region, and long term support in rebuilding communities affected in the New Orleans area. Common Ground is a community-initiated volunteer organization offering assistance, mutual aid and support. The work gives hope to communities by working with them, providing for their immediate needs and emphasizes people working together to rebuild their lives in sustainable ways. More info at <http://www.commongroundrelief.org/>

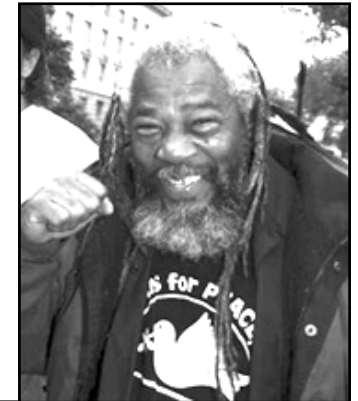
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