

RAZA PRESS AND MEDIA ASSOCIATION PARTICIPATES AT THE U.S. SOCIAL FORUM **ANOTHER WORLD IS POSSIBLE - ANOTHER U.S. IS NECESSARY**

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Over 10,000 social justice activists from throughout the United States gathered in Detroit for the second United States Social Forum (USSF). Held under the theme of "Another World Is Possible, Another U.S. Necessary", from June 22 to 26, 2010, the USSF took place at the Cobo Hall in downtown Detroit, MI,

to broaden its scope of activities and to inform on events and news that are of importance to the Raza community. The USSF gave the RPMA an opportunity to cover and learn from a large event with different political perspectives and spaces of struggles. It also gave the RPMA an opportunity to unite with other Raza-based media workers and organizations (i.e. Pan Left and Telesur).

Another reason for the presence of the RPMA at the USSF was

Radio Free Aztlán. The podcast shows covered immigrant rights, movement art, and other issues of importance to La Raza. The RPMA also recorded live from events taking place in the streets of Detroit with a segment called "Voices Of The USSF."

The RPMA team gained a tremendous amount of experience as it was able to record on a wide range of topics and produced five podcasts (i.e. English and Spanish). The USSF gave the RPMA an



Organizers of the USSF described the gathering as "a movement building process" of individuals and groups committed to social change. Organizers did not consider it a conference, but rather a space to come up with "peoples" solutions to the economic and ecological crisis facing the US Empire.

A wide range of people and organizations attended the USSF. A majority of them were organizers/activists from different types of social movements, from "Green" activists to members of many of the socialist parties that exist within and outside of the borders of United States.

The participation of the Raza Press and Media Association's (RPMA) at the USSF was based on the aims and goals that have been developed at its general meetings. Agreements that call for the RPMA

to connect to a city that is home to the second largest Mexican/Latino population in the Midwest. A city, which has a long history of being a center of struggle not just for African Americans, but Raza as well. The primary goal of the RPMA was to give a voice to the colonized people living in the US Empire and las Americas.

The RPMA was represented by a small team of members who were able to utilize different means of media to report on some of the important issues that were raised and discussed at the USSF. The members of the team were Jose Moreno, Luis Moreno, and Francisco Romero. They worked side-by-side with Roberto Reyes from Radio Free Aztlán, a project of the XDC (Xicano Development Center-based in Lansing, MI).

Part of the RPMA reporting included a joint podcast show with Ra-

portunity to utilize many different media skills such as blogging, facebook, video/youtube, podcasts, and twitter.

While the RPMA thought there were too many workshops and panels, it felt that generally speaking, the USSF 2010 was a successful and valuable experience as it was able to bring over 10,000 organizers/activists together to discuss the key issues facing colonized and oppressed people within the US Empire.

The RPMA team concluded that it should continue to cover events such as the USSF as it enables members to utilize and fine tune its media skills, have access to other media workers, and unite with social justice activists struggling to bring about a new and better world.