

From ProtestObama.org | Original Article

This letter is a call for active support of protest to [Michael Moore](#) , [Norman Solomon](#) , [Katrina van den Heuvel](#)

, [Michael Eric Dyson](#)

, [Barbara Ehrenreich](#)

, [Thomas Frank](#)

, [Tom Hayden](#)

, [Bill Fletcher Jr.](#)

, [Jesse Jackson Jr.](#)

, and other high profile progressive supporters of the Obama electoral campaign.

With the Obama administration beginning its third year, it is by now painfully obvious that the predictions of even the most sober Obama supporters were overly optimistic. Rather than an ally, the administration has shown itself to be an implacable enemy of reform.

It has advanced repeated [assaults on](#) the New Deal safety net (including the previously sacrosanct Social Security trust fund), jettisoned any hope for substantive [health care reform](#)

, attacked

[civil rights](#)

and

[environmental protections](#)

, and expanded a

[massive bailout](#)

further enriching an already bloated financial services and insurance industry. It has continued the

[occupation of Iraq](#)

and expanded

[the](#)

[war in Afghanistan](#)

as well as our government's

[covert and overt wars](#)

in South Asia and around the globe.

Along the way, the Obama administration, which referred to its left detractors as “[f***ing retarded](#)” individuals that required “[drug testing](#),” stepped up the [prosecution of federal war crime whistleblowers](#), and [unleashed the FBI](#) on those protesting the escalation of [an insane war](#).

Obama’s recent announcement of a federal worker pay freeze is cynical, mean-spirited “[deficit-reduction theater](#)”. Slashing Bush’s plutocratic tax cuts would have made a much more significant contribution to deficit reduction but all signs are that the “progressive” president [will cave to Republican demands](#) for the preservation of George W. Bush’s tax breaks for the wealthy Few. Instead [Obama’s tax cut plan](#) would [raise taxes for the poorest](#) people in our country.

The election of Obama has not galvanized protest movements. To the contrary, it has [depressed and undermined them](#), with the White House playing an active role in the discouragement and [suppression of dissent](#) – with disastrous consequences. The almost complete absence of protest from the left has emboldened the most right-wing elements inside and outside of the Obama administration to pursue and act on an ever more extreme agenda.

We are writing to you because you are well-known writers, bloggers and filmmakers with access to a range of old and new media, and you have in your power the capacity to help reignite the movement which brought [millions onto the streets in February of 2003](#) but which has withered ever since. There are many thousands of progressives who follow your work closely and are

waiting for a cue from you and others to act. We are asking you to commit yourself to actively supporting the protests of Obama administration policies which are now beginning to materialize.

In this connection we would like to mention a specific protest: the civil disobedience action being planned by [Veterans for Peace](#) involving [Chris Hedges](#) , [Daniel Ellsberg](#) , [Joel Kovel](#) , [Medea Benjamin](#)

,
[Ray McGovern](#)

, several armed service veterans and others to take place in front of the White House on Dec. 16th.

Should you commit yourselves to [backing this action](#) and others sure to materialize in weeks and months ahead, what would otherwise be regarded as an emotional outburst of the “fringe left” will have a better chance of being seen as expressing the will of a substantial majority not only of the left, but of the American public at large. We believe that your support will help create the climate for larger and increasingly disruptive expressions of dissent – a development that is sorely needed and long overdue.

We hope that we can count on you to exercise the leadership that is required of all of us in these desperate times.

Best Regards,

[Sen. James Abourezk](#)

[Michael Albert](#)

[Rocky Anderson](#)

[Jared Ball](#)

[Russel Banks](#)

Thomas Bias

[Noam Chomsky](#)

[Bruce Dixon](#)

[Frank Dorrel](#)

[Gidon Eshel](#)

[Jamilla El-Shafei](#)

[Okla Elliott](#)

[Norman Finkelstein](#)
[Glen Ford](#)
[Joshua Frank](#)
[Margaret Flowers M.D.](#)
[John Gerassi](#)
[Henry Giroux](#)
[Matt Gonzalez](#)
[Kevin Alexander Gray](#)
[Judd Greenstein](#)
[DeeDee Halleck](#)
[John Halle](#)
[Chris Hedges](#)
[Doug Henwood](#)
[Edward S. Herman](#)
[Dahr Jamail](#)
[Louis Kampf](#)
[Allison Kilkenny](#)
[Jamie Kilstein](#)
[Joel Kovel](#)
[Mark Kurlansky](#)
[Peter Linebaugh](#)
[Scott McLarty](#)
[Cynthia McKinney](#)
[Dede Miller](#)
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[Paul Street](#)
[Sunil Sharma](#)
[Stephen Percy](#)
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[Len Weinglass](#)
[Cornel West](#)
[Sherry Wolf](#)
[Michael Yates](#)
[Mickey Z](#)
[Kevin Zeese](#)

Please [sign](#) the Open Letter to the Left Establishment.