

THE
#SUGARLAND95

Swatara Olushola, National Black United Front Dec. 2019

BURIED IN *SUGAR*





Slavery By Another Name

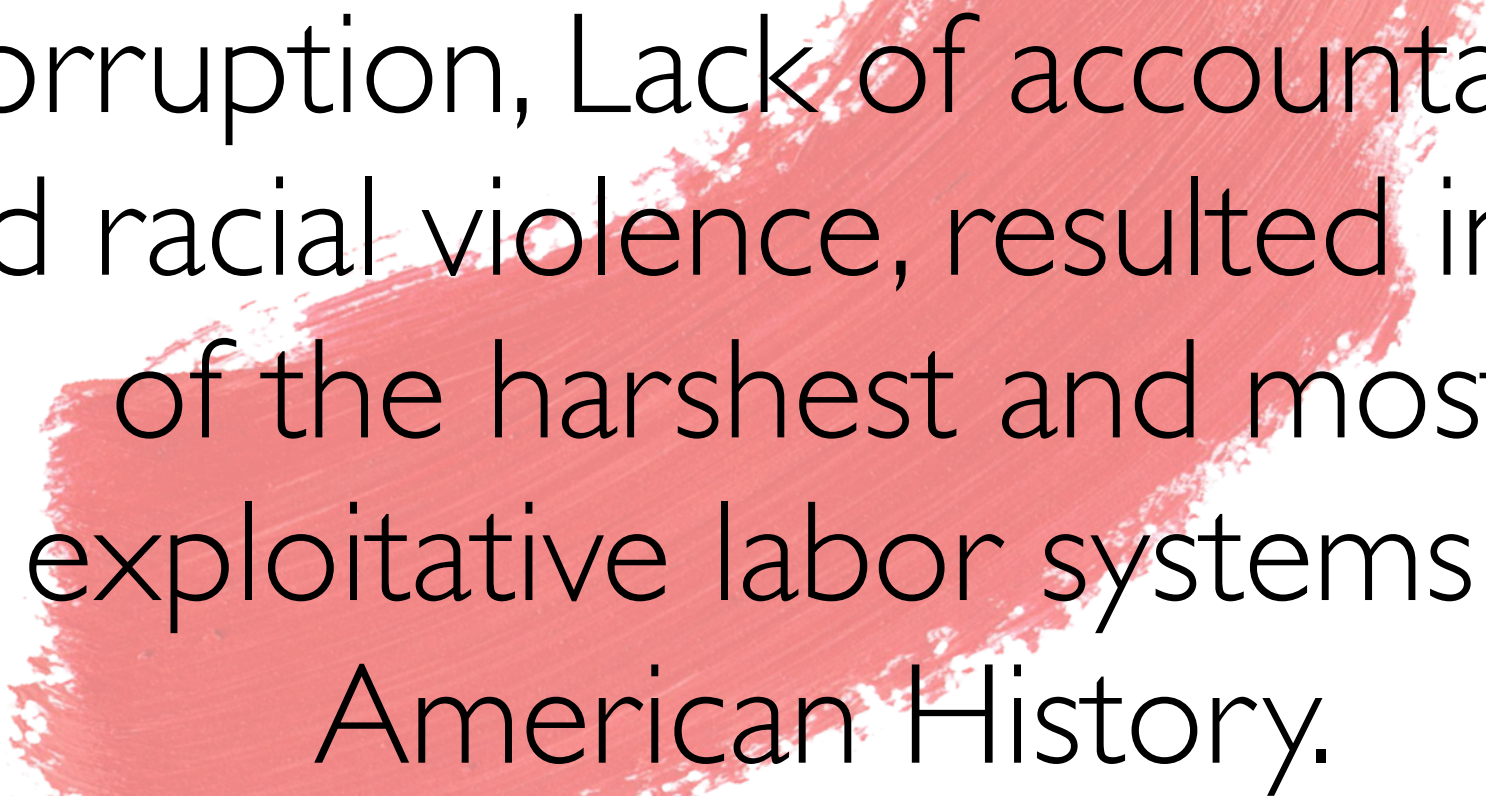
BLOOD MONEY:

Convict Lease System:

Black Men, Women, Children, and Elders could be imprisoned indefinitely in Southern States for Crimes Such as:

- Vagrancy
- Riding the Rails
- Loitering
- Changing Jobs
- Gambling
- Talking Too Loud in Public



A large, textured red brushstroke is positioned behind the text, extending from the top right towards the bottom left. It has a rough, painterly appearance with varying shades of red and some white highlights.

Corruption, Lack of accountability,
and racial violence, resulted in one
of the harshest and most
exploitative labor systems in
American History.

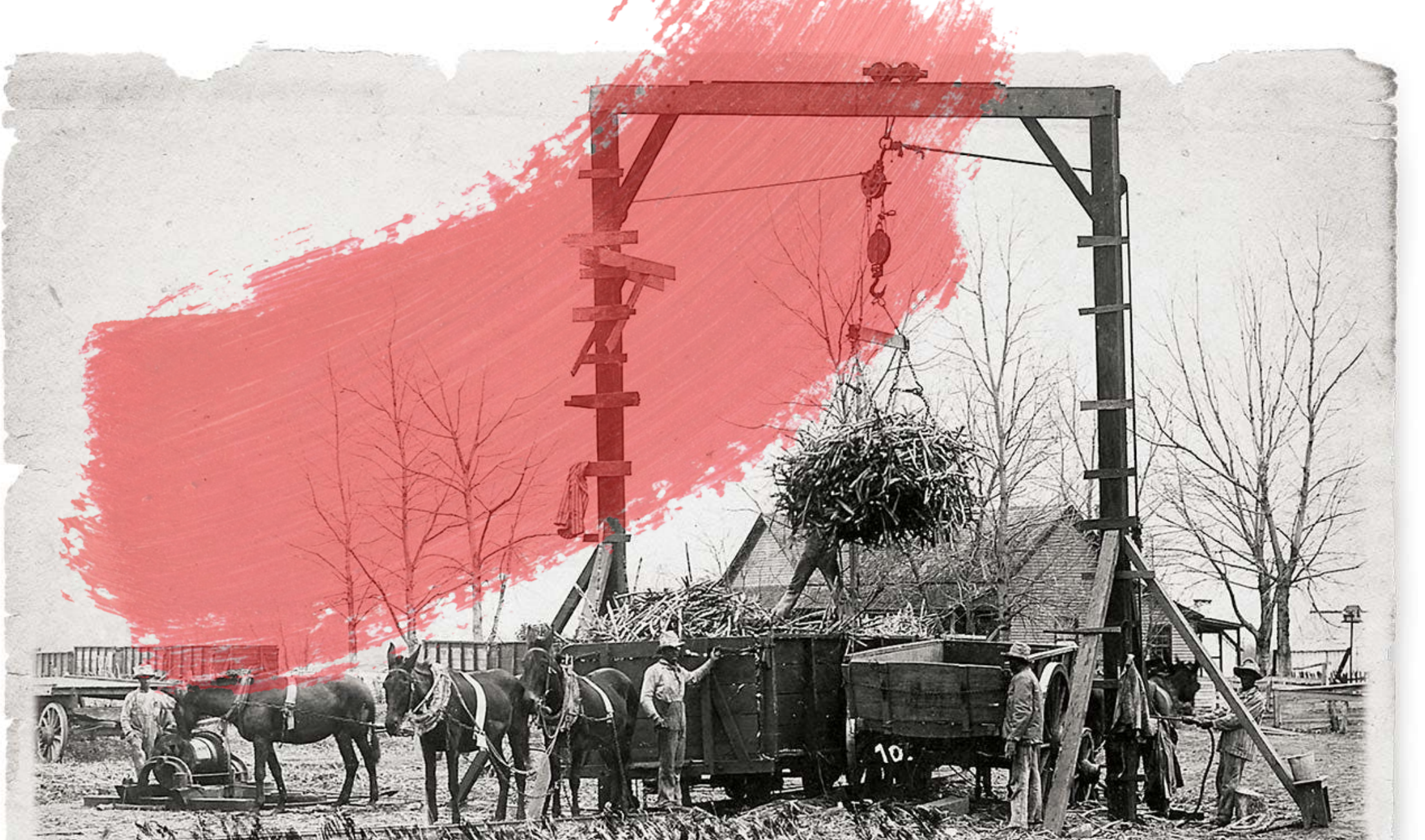
In 1823 Stephen F. Austin acquired Fort Bend County through a Mexican Land Grant. He and the settlers massacred the native Karankawa People to control the fertile flood plain of the Brazos River.

The Acquisition





...SLAVERY WAS REPLACED BY
CONVICT LABOR...



Victims of the Texas Convict Lease System Unloading a cane car at the Imperial Sugar Mill sometime around 1900



Imperial Sugar's Corrupt History

1838- Matthew, Samuel, and Nathaniel Williams started one of the first sugar plantations in Texas on property in what is now Sugar Land that had been granted to their family by Stephen F. Austin himself.

1865- Civil War ended. Williams plantation was one of the few to survive the depression that followed Civil War. It was then purchased by Edward H. Cunningham and Littleberry A. Ellis.

1878- Cunningham and Ellis signed a contract with the State of Texas to Lease its entire Prison Population.

1906-1908- The plantation was purchased by Isaac H. Kempner of Galveston and William T. Eldridge of Eagle Lake, who formally Incorporated as the Imperial Sugar Company.

1910- Texas Legislature ended the Convict leasing System.

1914- All prisoners were back under complete control of the state.

1930- Renamed the Central State Prison Farm

1909-2011- The farm operated Continuously.

IMPERIAL SUGAR MAKES \$230,000,000 IN ANNUAL REVENUE



CHANGING MARKERS

CHANGING STREET MARKERS in Sugar Land are, left to right, Mrs. J. B. Fowler, 123 Eldridge Road; Sugar Land Mayor T. E. Harman, III Goenther Street; and I. H. (Denny) Kempner III, grandson of the founder of Imperial Sugar Company, Stanley Trojanowski, head of Sugar Land's streets and maintenance department is holding the new street marker for Kempner Street. The City of Sugar Land officially changed the name of old "Sugarland Street" to "Kempner Street" in honor of the sugar firm's founder, the late I. H. Kempner, Sr., who died July 31, 1967.

Street named in honor of I. H. Kempner Sr.

The late I. H. Kempner Sr., founder of Imperial Sugar Co., was accorded special recognition last Friday when citizens of Sugar Land named a street in his memory.

In special ceremonies, what has been known as "Sugarland Street" was officially renamed "Kempner Street" and new markers were placed at each thoroughfare crossing.

Supervising the changing of street markers were Sugar Land Mayor, T. E. Harman, Mrs. J. B. Fowler, the city's unofficial historian, and I. H. (Denny) Kempner III, Mr. Kempner's grandson and secretary-treasurer of Imperial Sugar Co.

"The Sugar Land City Council voted unanimously in a recent meeting to change the name of the street and we have now completed that action," Mayor Harman said. "It is certainly appropriate and very fitting that we name one of our

principal streets after the man who did so much for the advancement of our community. "No one really knows how Sugarland Street got its name. In fact, as far as records show, it was never given an official name until our recent action," the mayor said.

Sugar Land has frequently paid tribute to its leading citizens by naming streets in their honor.

Kempner founded Imperial Sugar Co. in 1906, and was active in the firm's operations until his death on July 31, 1967. The present Imperial sugar refinery stands on the spot where the first sugar was made in Texas on the old S. M. Williams plantation in 1843. The company is marking 1958 as the 120th anniversary year of cane sugar production at Sugar Land.



COMPANIES THAT CURRENTLY PROFIT FROM CONVICT LABOR

Just A Few Corporations Exploiting Prison Labor



Prisons are Profitable. Please Help Us Keep Them Full



FORT BEND INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT AND THE #SUGARLAND95

- » 2011- FBISD Purchased the land that was once known as the Central State Prison Farm.
- » 2017- Mr. Reginald Moore, former Fort Bend prison guard, researcher, founder of the Texas Slave Descendants Society and Old Imperial Farm Cemetery Caretaker, lobbied the Texas Historical Commission.
- » Oct. 2017- The THC contacts FBISD on behalf of Mr. Reginald Moore, to warn them that graves were likely in the land they'd purchased. Construction was not halted by the district.
- » Oct. 2017- FBISD begins construction on the James Reese Career and Technical Center
- » Oct. 2017- FBISD Hires GOSHAWK archaeological firm. Goshawk stays on site from Oct 2017-Jan. 2018, just in case graves are found.
- » FEB. 18, 2018- Three bone fragments were discovered by a construction worker on site. Construction was not halted by the district.
- » Apr. 2, 2018- FBISD reported the discovery to the county clerk.
- » Apr. 5, 2018- FBISD halts construction only on the East Wing of the building.
- » Jun. 2018- FBISD filed a motion with the court to exhume the remains, as a step toward their ultimate goal of getting the remains off of the property so they could continue to build their school over the burial site as planned.



- » July 2018- Forensic reports confirmed the remains were those of African descent. 94 males and one female who died between 1878 and 1910. Chains and other items found with them indicated they were victims of Convict Leasing.
- » July 2018- Local Coalition for the Sugarland 95 as formed by the National Black United Front Houston Chapter, consisting of communal descendants, historians, activists, African Spiritualists.
- » July 2018- Delegation Members Kofi Taharka, Ifa Chief Omilana Fagbenro, and Activist Deric Muhammad met with FBISD Superintendent to formally present him with our questions, concerns, and demands, in writing.
- » August 2018- The Delegation visited and toured the gravesite(in the middle of the exhumation process) to honor our ancestors and show gratitude to Mr. Moore for the years of work he put in regarding Convict Labor.
- » Sept. 2018- the City of Sugarland formed a Task Force consisting of about 2 people of AFRICAN descent out of a 25 member task force.

THE NATIONAL BLACK UNITED FRONT's CONCERNS AND DEMANDS



- » INTELLECTUAL CONTROL should be transferred to properly credentialed and experienced scholars of African Ancestry
- » Use of precedence already put in place via the AFRICAN Burial Ground in New York and the AFRICAN-AMERICAN historic context document authored by Black archaeologists including Fred McGhee of AUSTIN Texas.
- » ROBUST DESCENDANT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT including full and complete DNA Analysis , consultation with interested parties on comprehensive burial plans.
- » Establishment of CONVICT LEASE MUSEUM paid for in whole or part by the State of Texas and the Imperial Sugar Company
- » FULL AND COMPLETE REPARATIONS for the descendant community

FBISD AND THE SUGARLAND 95 Cont

- » Nov. 2018- FBISD files a motion in the 434th District Court to have the remains removed from their property.
- » Jan. 2019- The City of Sugarland disbands the task force and FBISD forms an advisory committee consisting of the exact same members.
- » Feb. 2019- Fort Bend County Commissioners entered into negotiations with FBISD in an effort to keep the remains where they were originally found and take control of the cemetery. FBISD ultimately usurped the County and, without notice or warning, backed out of a \$100,000,000 deal to maintain the land and memorial.
- » June 2019- The attorney general granted the Texas Historical Commission the authority to give FBISD the authority to extract genetic materials for isotope analysis and DNA sequencing.
- » August 2019- The partially built, James Reese Career and technical center opens for classes.



THE GOOD FIGHT

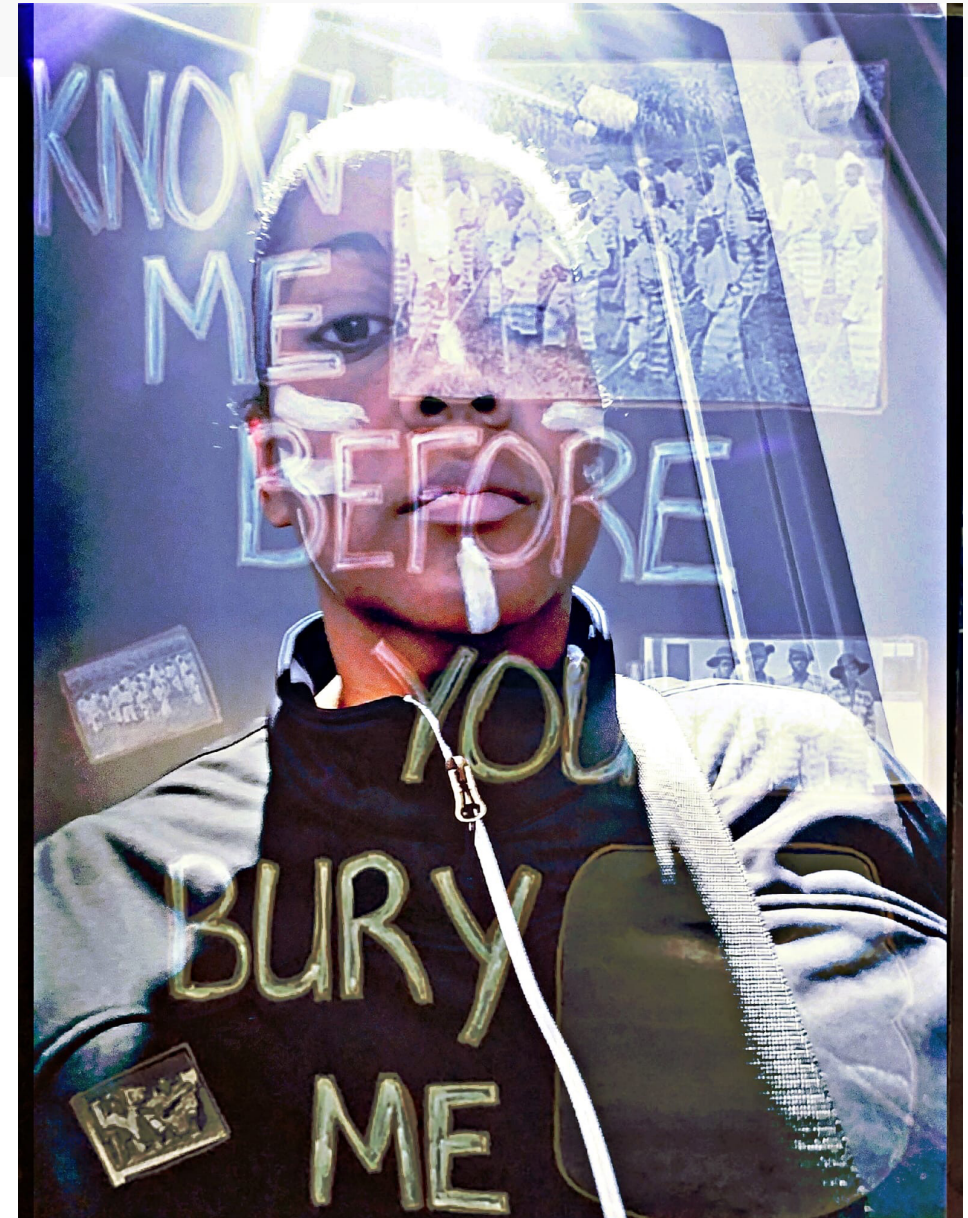


Sugarland 95 COALITION AT THE
SEPTEMBER 2018 COURT HEARING

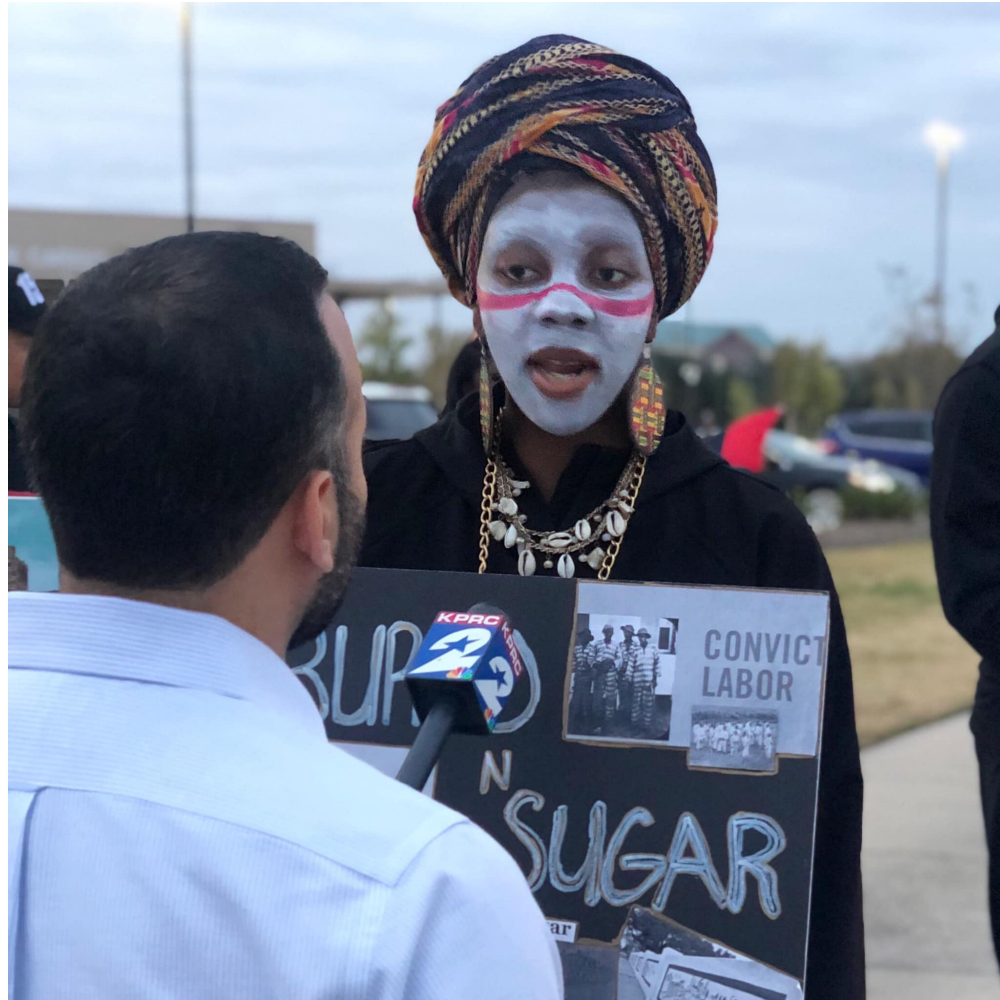
THE GOOD FIGHT



NBUF HOUSTON CHAPTER MEMBERS
PROTESTING THE RECENT GROUND
BLESSING CEREMONY ATTEMPTED BY FBISD
11/2019



THE GOOD FIGHT



COALITION PROTEST OUTSIDE OF JAMES REESE CAREER AND TECH CENTER 11/2019



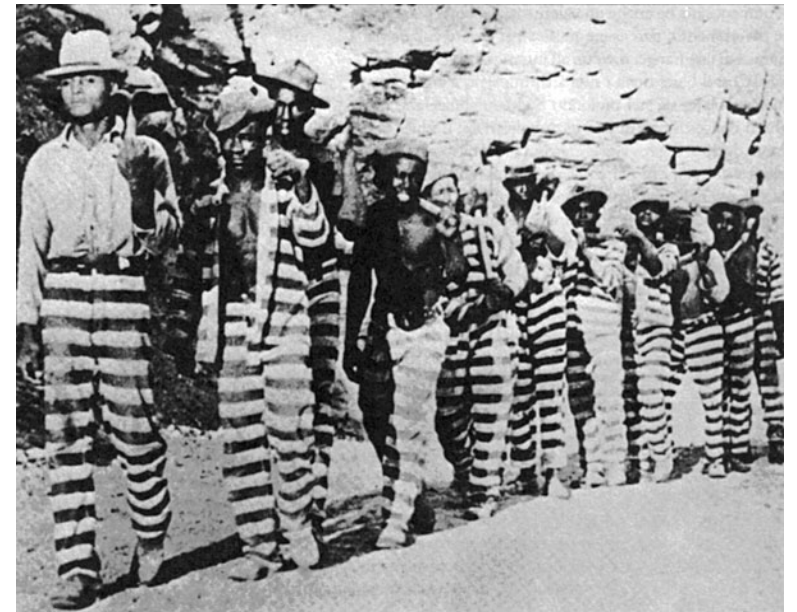
EMPTY SUGARLAND 95 GROUND BLESSING SHAM ORGANIZED BY FORT BEND ISD 11/2019

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

- » THE SUGARLAND 95 NEED LEGAL REPRESENTATION TO FIGHT FBISD IN COURT!
- » SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT THE #SUGARLAND95 ON SOCIAL MEDIA! TAG FBISD.THEY HATE BAD PRESS!
- » CALL THE DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT 281-634-1000 ASK FOR SUPERINTENDENT CHARLES DUPRE OR PRESIDENT JASON BURDINE @fbisd @superdupre ON TWITTER
- » IT WILL TAKE A UNIFIED EFFORT TO HOLD THE RESPONSIBLE PARTIES ACCOUNTABLE:
- » FORT BEND ISD
- » IMPERIAL SUGAR COMPANY
- » STATE OF TEXAS
- » TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
- » AND FORT BEND COUNTY

OUR ANCESTORS NEED US!

- » ONLY WE CAN ENSURE OUR ANCESTOR'S LEGACIES ARE NOT BURIED UNDER THE SOIL SOAKED IN THEIR BLOOD!
- » WITH THE STRENGTH OF OUR ANCESTORS AS OUR FOUNDATION WE CAN STAND STRONG AND FIGHT AGAINST THIS SYSTEM THAT CONTINUES TO OPPRESS AFRICAN PEOPLE !
- » WE WILL BE VICTORIOUS ASÊ!!!!



Swatara Olushola

The National Black United Front

