

To All Who See the Urgent Need to Stop the Trump/Pence Regime: A Vision for September 5 & 60 Days of Struggle

Presentation by Coco Das drawn from <https://refusefascism.org/2020/08/26/vision-statement-from-refusefascism-org-september-5th-and-60-days-of-struggle/>

September 5 is a beginning – launching 60 days of non-violent struggle of many kinds
We bring alive the “both/and moment” we are in. Black Lives Matter and Trump/Pence Out now. Vote -- and defend the right to vote-- and get in the streets, educate and mobilize, unite and debate. (RefuseFascism as a movement does NOT take a position on the elections, per se. We do not advocate as a group how anyone should vote.)

We are getting people on a mission, as this battle for the future intensifies and more and more people find what the regime is doing to be intolerable – people need to play the biggest role they can. This is not a time for “Either/Or,” my struggle, not yours. We will be crushed if we do not put our differences aside and drive this regime out and more than that humanity will be crushed. Why should anyone around the world suffer because of what we allow to pass here?

THIS REGIME IS FASCIST. IT MUST GO. IT MUST GO. IT MUST GO.
This is an objective fact.

60 days of struggle means building up to daily non-violent mass protest in October.

September 5 must orient, organize and mobilize hundreds and thousands of people prepared to build this non-violent movement in many different ways through the next 60 days – aiming for the time as soon as possible where everyday people will be standing against the regime actively in the streets. For Refuse Fascism’s (RF’S) point of view we are looking to inspire and unleash a dynamic where this movement goes far beyond the reach of RF – and in which the stand of RF: *In the Name of Humanity, We Refuse to Accept a Fascist America!* takes root and Refuse Fascism itself grows into a force that reaches and plays a crucial role in leading masses to demand Trump Pence Out Now.

What could this look like concretely ?

September should see people all over organizing vigils, town halls, salons, plastering their city with signs and posters saying Trump/Pence Out Now, outdoor concerts, videos, writing, artwork – giving a sense that we are uniting, we are organizing, we are determined, we are preparing to struggle with all we’ve got AND like the Bob Dylan song the waters around this fascist movement are rising to subsume it – that we are rising. We bring everything that we have in our favor – the love of humanity, the love of language and art, the majority of people – against their hatred and cruelty.

We will be in the streets in September as we’ve always been – calling our own protests around particular outrages and joining with others – another person was killed by police in LA, another in DC – these horrors are going to accelerate and we will have to act and keep making the links between these events and this fascist movement led by Trump & Pence.

We are developing a pledge to resist that is aimed at uniting the sentiments of the diverse swaths of humanity that should be part of and have an interest in removing this regime from power. WE are aiming to get prominent voices signed on to this pledge, publishing it and making it a signpost of the moment we are in. the Niemoller quote that was written before it was too late and that inspired people to change the course of history.

September is about unleashing creativity – unleashing passionate intensity – giving people the tools to run with this and letting it get out of our control.

September is about continuing to bring to people a visceral sense of what fascism means for the people – who has already been swallowed up by it and they are just getting started. Someone suggested bringing pictures of these people – the protesters who have been run over, the children that have died in concentration camps, the victims of the El Paso shooting and Tree of Life synagogue victims, the Black people being gunned down by the police that are being encouraged to use more brutality – make people look at their faces and confront what is happening.

September is about going to every organized force that is preparing to hit the streets on election day and struggling with them to start earlier. Networks of Faith leaders writing statements and open letters demanding removal of the regime, calling people into the streets. Networks of writers, musicians using their talents to convince people of the need to drive out this regime through protest and voting – not just waiting for an election that is being stolen.

And very important – September is about finding the youth who are going to lead their generation to fight for their future – We need youth organizers on a national level who can get on Tiktok, Instagram, Telegram, form a national youth leadership core, and communicate to youth in fresh language and passion. This is their future, this is their life. We need to find the Greta Thurnbergs of this movement. We need to find the Fred Hamptons of today.

SO THAT BY OCTOBER WE ARE IN A SITUATION WHERE protests happen day after day JUST LIKE THEY DID IN JUNE AND JULY BUT IN DIRECT OPPOSITION TO THIS FASCIST REGIME AND WHAT IT'S BRINGING DOWN ON THE MASSES OF PEOPLE. Protests that make visceral the demand that Trump and Pence Must Go.

RefuseFascism does not see that all, or even most of these would be called by RF – but that unity is built on the basis of the growing determination of people to stay in the streets and refuse to accept this illegitimate regime. No one can say that this can't lead to a situation where Trump is driven out before the elections – but short of that, sustained protests in October can and must lead to a situation where on Election Day people don't just vote against Trump in big numbers but there are mobilized people/forces prepared to oppose – with massive, sustained non-violent protest – the fascist forces we know the Trump regime is planning to unleash.

THIS VISION STATEMENT IS A VERY IMPORTANT TOOL FOR THE 60 DAYS OF STRUGGLE. EVERYONE SHOULD TAKE THE LAST PARAGRAPH OF IT TO HEART.

Humanity all over the world, and the survival of the planet depends on what we do. Will it be said, when facing an American fascism, in the most powerful country in history, armed with nuclear weapons which it brandishes, that people here could not put aside their differences to stop a great horror? Or, will this time history tell that people rose, as many acting together, and stopped a great horror?