



ethecon Foundation Ethics & Economics
Fundación Ética & Economía Foundation Ethics & Economics

November 19, 2011 **International ethecon Blue Planet Award**

**International ethecon Blue Planet Award 2011
for the civil and human rights activist
Angela Davis / USA**



Cover photo

The photo shows Angela Davis during a rally in the USA.



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Publisher
ethecon
Foundation Ethics & Economics
Ahrenshooper Str. 73
D-13051 Berlin / Germany
Phone +49 - (0)30 - 22 32 51 45
eMail info@ethecon.org

Chairman of the Board of Directors
Dipl. Kfm.
Axel Köhler-Schnura (Founder)
P.O.Box 15 04 35
40081 Düsseldorf / Germany
Schweidnitzer Str. 41
40231 Düsseldorf
Phone +49 - (0)211 - 26 11 210
Fax +49 - (0)211 - 26 11 220
eMail aks@ethecon.org
Internet www.ethecon.org

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” Yes, I dream of a better world.

Why would I dream of a worse one?”

Otto Piene
Artist who created the trophies of the
International ethecon Blue Planet Awards
from 2006 until 2009

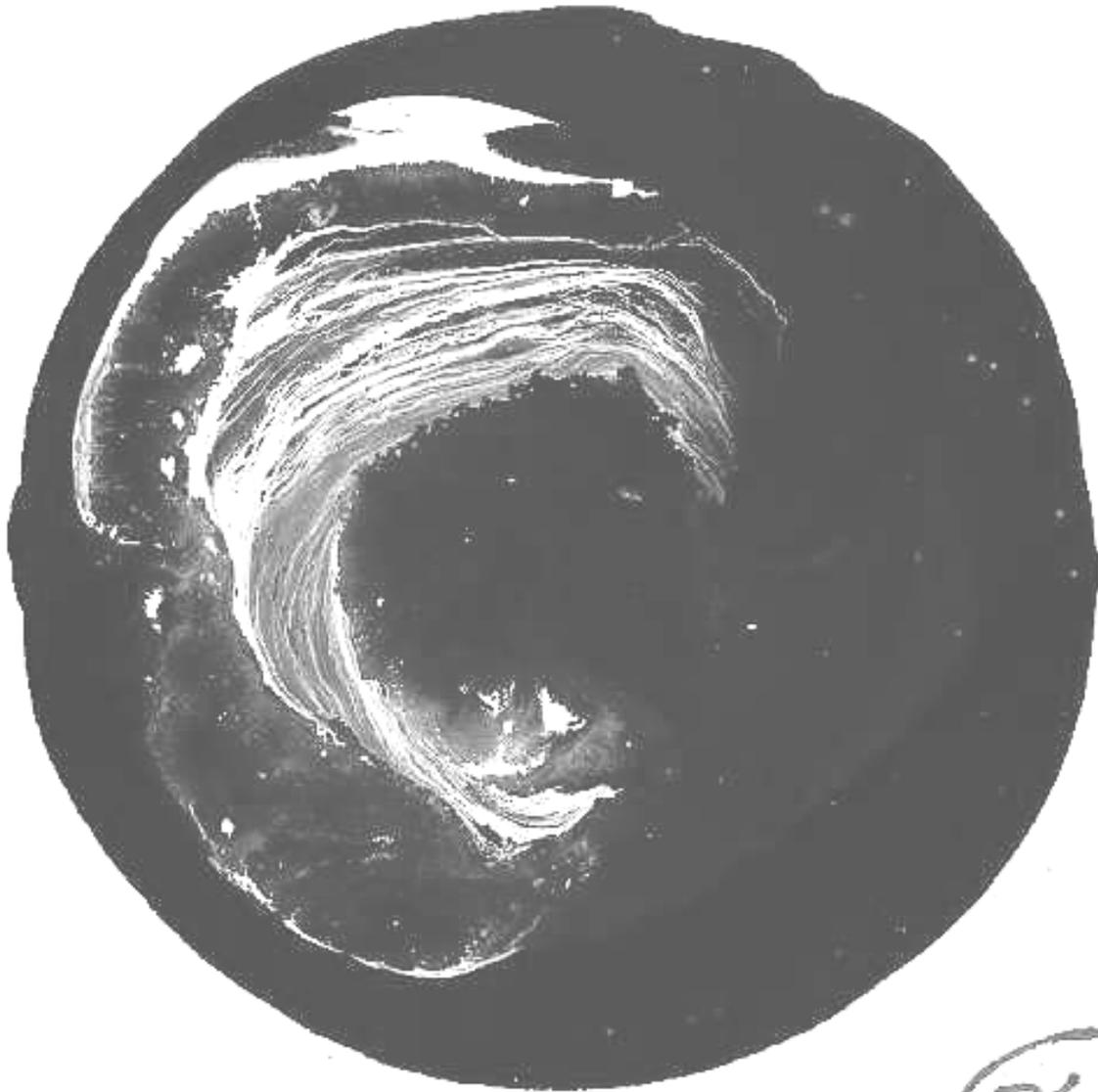




International ethecon Blue Planet Award 2011
for the civil and human rights activist
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Piense

¡El planeta azul debe mantenerse verde!

Keep the Blue Planet green!

Der Blaue Planet soll grün bleiben!

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for the civil and human rights activist
Angela Davis / USA

Axel Köhler-Schnura¹

**The International ethecon Blue Planet Project²
and the two International ethecon Awards³**

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear friends,

Since 2006 ethecon – Foundation Ethics & Economics has bestowed two international awards annually. Today we are here to present the awards for 2010.

What are these awards? What are the ethecon awards all about?

In order to answer these questions, I must expand a bit.

My fellow founders of ethecon, the sustaining members, donors and of course myself, along with Mrs. Rehmann, both of us founding sponsors of ethecon, established the foundation in 2004. As individuals who are not willing to sit back and watch fundamental ethical principles be trampled upon, who resolutely take a stand against the fact that profit is increasingly the sole motivating force in our society and in managing the environment - for the sole purpose of making the rich richer, to the detriment of mankind and society with the risk of complete human, social and ecological ruin. We are looking at the social and ecological destruction of the planet caused by the disintegration of fundamental ethical principles on the part of those responsible for the economy.

The idea to encourage efforts to save and preserve ethical principles and respectively to pillory those who have contempt for the same, matured in our founding year 2004. There are and have been many awards honouring "achievements" in various areas of society, but far too few prizes acknowledging resistance against the abuse and ruin of ethics and morals, and the subsequent environmental destruction, war and exploitation.

Our idea coincided with the art cycle "Blue Planet" created by the artist Otto Piene. Otto Piene – born in 1928 – is one of the major artists of the 20th century. Art connoisseurs well know that together with

¹ Axel Köhler-Schnura, Dipl.Kfm., Düsseldorf/Germany, born in 1949, married, four children (one deceased); studied business administration, sociology, computer science, various languages: Until 1976 economic sociology research within the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft/DFG (German Research Institute). After that various positions in private industry, the last position in the executive management of a polygraphical company. Since 1988 owner of companies in the field of ecology. Substantially involved in the founding of organizations as Dachverband der Kritischen AktionärInnen (Association of the Critical Shareholders), Pestizid Aktionsnetzwerk (Pesticide Action Network Germany/PAN) and the Coordination gegen BAYER-Gefahren (Coalition against BAYER-Dangers/CBG). Active as a volunteer on the board of Edition Kunst gegen Konzerne (Edition Art against Corporations), the Alternative Savings and Solidarity Fund ProSolidar and the international network of the Coalition against BAYER-Dangers. Founding donor and chairperson of the board of directors of the International ethecon Foundation Ethics & Economics; formerly in the German Coordinating Circle of the European Social Forum. Frequent publications. Awarded with the Business Crime Award 1998, the Prize for Civil Courage 2000 and the Henry Mathews Award in 2011; in 2008 nominated for the Alternative Nobel Prize. (Quoted from inter alia Who's Who/Edition for Germany an Wikipedia/Germany)

² Detailed information about the International ethecon Blue Planet Project in the form of a brochure may be ordered free of charge from ethecon.

³ Speech on the occasion of the bestowal of the two International ethecon Awards 2010 on November 20, 2010 in Berlin

Heinz Mack and Günther Uecker he founded the epochal ZERO-Kunst (the art group ZERO) and is the creator of Sky Art.⁴

Piene's message in his blue planet cycle: "Keep the Blue Planet green!" His creed is as simple as it is amazing: "Yes, I dream of a better world. Why would I dream of a worse one?"

With their main focus on an international award, Piene and ethecon launched the "International ethecon Blue Planet Project". During the ensuing discussions it became apparent that it is not enough to acknowledge ethically and morally sound actions intended to bring about a better world. It is equally important to condemn misdeeds and dealings which violate and ignore ethics and morals and which are therefore responsible for the ruin of our "Blue Planet." The idea of two complementary prizes was born: the international ethecon-prizes, the positive "Blue Planet Award" and its negative counterpart, the "Black Planet Award".

The two awards are an entity, two sides of the same coin. Together they mirror the status of the ethical principles that define our world. At the same time they illustrate a vision of ethical and moral principles which make possible a world without exploitation and oppression. They denounce ruthlessness, greed, war and environmental destruction; pursue the ideas of solidarity, freedom, environmental protection and justice; call for resistance, change and commitment in the interest of these ideals; strive for a sustainable future for our world.

One prize commends commitment to the preservation and rescue of the "Blue Planet" and points out prospects and possible actions, the other condemns the desecration of our world, points out the imminent dawn of a "Black Planet" and exposes complacency and ignorance.

Together, the two international ethecon awards show one thing: there are grounds for hope. Or, in the words of Piene: "More light, more green!"

As a matter of principle, the international ethecon prizes are awarded only to individuals and not to institutions. This is to counteract the increasing systematic anonymization of decision-making for, in a positive as well as a negative sense, it is always individuals who carry responsibility. Especially in the case of negative developments, personal responsibility is gladly hidden behind the facade of institutions and excused by alleged practical constraints which serve as grounds for decisions.

Another important feature of the "Black Planet" trophy is that it is not a valuable piece of art. Instead, it is a cheap disposable product, created by a teenager. Because it is the younger generation whose future is being destroyed. It is the intention of ethecon to show young people that there are adults who

⁴ More about Otto Piene and his work may be found in the brochure "The International ethecon Blue Planet Project" (may be requested free of charge from ethecon).



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take responsibility for their welfare, who care about their future and who make all efforts necessary to assure that the planet is not left to our children and grandchildren as a barren desert.

The international ethecon prizes are awarded annually, within a ceremony open to the public, like today. We invite as many socially active personalities as possible to take part. At today's ceremony members of the Anti-Castor (nuclear transport) movement are present, as well as Stuttgart21 (a controversial construction project) activists; we have statements from Greenpeace, Amnesty International, Pro Asyl and other groups from Germany and abroad.

The recipient of the "International ethecon Blue Planet Award" is invited to attend the ceremony and has the opportunity to give a short speech. After a statement by an ethecon representative, explaining the reasons for the choice of the recipient, he or she is then presented with the award. As a guest of the foundation we also offer him or her the possibility to co-operate with the foundation or within our network. The bestowal of the "International ethecon Blue Planet Award" is documented in a dossier, which is translated into three languages and distributed internationally.

The process differs for the "International ethecon Black Planet Award": during the ceremony the bestowal is simply announced. The award winners are informed by means of an open letter circulated internationally in three languages. The detailed justification statement is published in a brochure, which is also distributed in three languages throughout the world. Within six months the recipients are presented with the award during a public demonstration, staged as sensationally as possible. Included in this protest gathering are as many individuals and organisations from international social movements as possible.

It is a telling fact that, as a rule, the individuals "honoured" with the international ethecon Black Planet Award" disdain the trophy. Not one of these censured persons has personally accepted the award and thereby stood up to public criticism. Up until now, only once – in the case of Peter Brabeck-Letmathe, Liliane de Bettencourt as well as other executives and major shareholders of the food industry giant Nestlé in 2006 – was the trophy voluntarily accepted by the recipients. And then by a representative of the press department in front of the main gate to the corporate headquarters in Switzerland. We have no knowledge of what happened to it after that.

In the case of the bestowal of the International ethecon Black Planet Award 2009 onto the major shareholders and executives of the Taiwanese chemical and genetic engineering firm Formosa Plastics Group we were witnesses to the destruction of the trophy by security forces, who in a very angry and demonstrative manner threw the award into the rubbish bin.

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear friends,

"ethecon – Foundation Ethics & Economics" is a grass-roots foundation within the world-wide anti-corporate and anti-globalisation movements for environmental protection, peace and justice and sustained by activists against corporate power, exploitation, war and environmental destruction. It is connected to world-wide networks and committed to the principles of international solidarity.

The "International ethecon Blue Planet Project", with its two international ethecon prizes, sees itself accordingly as a symbol of this solidarity and these principles. This is expressed not only through the nature of the project and the awards and through the character of the award recipients, but also in the selection procedure for the annual prizes.

The award winners are not selected by the foundation boards alone, but rather in a process of international solidarity. Each spring, thousands of individuals and groups who work actively throughout the world in the fight for peace, justice and environmental protection are asked to suggest award nominees. Later, the names of the award winners and information about the bestowal ceremony are conveyed back to these critical groups.

The integration of the foundation in international movements for peace, environmental protection and justice may be clearly seen in the increasing participation of other groups in the presentation "ceremony" for the "International ethecon Black Planet Award", the networking among these groups becoming consistently better and better. The award is presented in the recipient's city of residence, accompanied by visible protests staged by an increasing number of activist groups. The public flogging of the "Black Planet Award" recipients has become more and more effective through the power and energy of these international movements. In Taiwan, for example, the "International ethecon Black Planet Award 2009" was the object of widespread media coverage for weeks. The defaming of the executives of Formosa Plastics was reported without exception by all the regional media at least twice.

The selection of the annual award receivers on these basic principles, the annual bestowal ceremony in the course of a conference with varying themes pertaining to our responsibility for the preservation of a liveable world, the presentation of the "International ethecon Black Planet Award" - accompanied by international publicity actions - this is the essence of the "International ethecon Blue Planet Project".

When the Blue Planet Award was born in 2005, we needed an accompanying trophy. Otto Piene agreed to cooperate with us and starting in 2006 he created a new trophy each year, the "International ethecon Blue Planet Award", as a valuable and unique glass and wood sculpture.

That is, until the year 2009. Then he asked us – having in the meantime reached the age of 82 – to be relieved of this role. In the person of Katharina Mayer, the great photographic artist and Becher pupil, born in 1958, we found someone who will worthily continue the Blue Planet Project, founded by ethe-



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con and Piene. We are proud to have Katharina Mayer on our team. We will learn more about her later in the programme.⁵

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear friends,

I know we are all curious about this year's award winners, but also about Katharina Mayer, who will speak to us today about the new "International ethecon Blue Planet Award" trophy. In this spirit I wish all of us an engrossing afternoon.

Thank you very much.

⁵ More about Katharina Mayer and her work may be found in the brochure International ethecon Blue Planet Project (may be requested free of charge).



**Excerpt from the statement justifying the bestowal
of the International ethecon Blue Planet Award 2011
on Angela Davis**

“ethecon sees in Angela Davis' active opposition to racism, exploitation and oppression, in her fight against injustice and the death penalty as well as in her continuing engagement for humanism and peace, an extremely valuable ethical contribution to the rescue and the preservation of our Blue Planet.

For this outstanding accomplishment in the interest of mankind, ethecon – Foundation Ethics & Economics presents Angela Davis with its International ethecon Blue Planet Award 2011.”

Berlin, September 01, 2011⁶

**The well-known refugee- and human rights activist Elias Bierdel/Austria,
International ethecon Blue Planet awardee 2010, writes on the bestowal
of this year's International ethecon Blue Planet Award on Angela Davis/USA:**

“The fight against injustice, oppression and discrimination demands total commitment. (...) For Angela Davis is by no means simply a symbolic figure in the historical civil rights movement, but rather, above all, a strong woman who has dedicated her whole life to this mission.”

⁶ The ethecon Foundation has deliberately chosen September 1st as the date for the announcement of the winners of the two annual International ethecon Awards. September 1st is World Peace/Anti-War Day in Germany.

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Life and work of Angela Davis⁷

Angela Yvonne Davis was born into an Afro-American family on January 26, 1944 in Birmingham, Alabama. Her mother worked as teacher and her father ran a gas station.

She grew up with two brothers and a sister in the post-war period marked by the beginning of the Cold War⁸ between the USA and the socialistic Eastern Bloc. The industrialized nations of the West under the leadership of the USA tried to politically isolate the Soviet Union and the other socialistic countries and to strangle them economically. In the US this led to the hysterical anti-communism of the McCarthy era⁹. Innumerable artists, politicians, scientists and scholars were accused of spying.

Angela and her family lived in Birmingham, Alabama, a southern state. Although slavery was abolished there in 1865, racial segregation and discrimination were still ever-present in daily life. Afro-Americans were hounded and murdered. Segregation existed in all areas of society and politics. Women and men who worked to end segregation suffered repressions, regardless of their race. They were threatened and often killed by the Ku-Klux-Klan¹⁰, a secret society with fascist ideals and methods. Their crimes usually remained uninvestigated, the murders unpunished. In the South the Ku-Klux-Klan was able to do as it pleased, as the majority of the white population agreed with its objectives and applauded its crimes.

The Davis family lived in the section of Birmingham known as "Dynamite Hill", named for the frequent bomb attacks on Afro-American residents. Angela Davis experienced the inhumane consequences of segregation in her own neighborhood.

⁷ Unless otherwise noted, the information in this article has been taken either from Angela Davis' autobiography: (Davis, Angela: An Autobiography), from the book by Klaus Steiniger, a German journalist who followed the life and work of Angela Davis (Steiniger, Klaus: Angela Davis. Eine Frau schreibt Geschichte. Berlin 2010), from the book about Angela Davis in the series „Bibliothek des Widerstands“ (Baer, Willi et. al. (Editors): Angela Davis. Hamburg 2010) including the documentations "Angela Davis - Eine Legende lebt" by Christel Priemer und Ingeborg Weber from 1998 as well as „Portrait of a Revolutionary“ by Yolande DuLuart from 1972; or from the biography by Katherine E. Horsely (Angela Davis, www.fembio.org/biographie.php/frau/biographie/angela-davis).

⁸ Cf. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cold_war. This conflict between the Western powers and the Eastern Bloc began at the end of World War II in 1945 and lasted on into the 1980s. It was fought with almost all available devices except direct military actions between the two super powers, the USA and the Soviet Union. In several countries, however, especially in the so-called Third World, proxy wars took place, in which the various war parties were supported militarily by their respective friendly super power. A prime example is the Vietnam War (1965 - 1975), in which American troops fought with anti-communist South Vietnam against the communist North. About three million people were killed, among them two million civilians.

⁹ Cf. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/McCarthy_era. With the help of the FBI under J. Edgar Hoover, republican senator Joseph McCarthy had all Americans investigated and prosecuted who he suspected to take part in „un-American activities.“

¹⁰ Cf. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ku_Klux_Klan. The Ku-Klux-Klan was founded in 1865 by whites in Southern USA as a secret society with the goal of reinstalling slavery. This group is responsible for innumerable murders and acts of violence against Afro-Americans and anti-racist whites.

Segregation was legally abolished in the USA in 1964¹¹, a year after the "March on Washington"¹², one of the high points of the civil rights movement, at which Martin Luther King¹³ gave his famous speech "I have a dream"¹⁴.

A strong sense of Afro-American identity was instilled in Angela by her grandmother, whose own parents had been slaves. Angela's parents were members of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People¹⁵. She often accompanied her dauntless, politically active mother at political events and demonstrations.

Angela tried to found an integrated study group for Afro-American and white youth. However, the group was harassed by the police and eventually disbanded. These experiences helped her to build a pronounced sense of justice and to develop political awareness.

Angela Davis was a gifted student. At the age of 15, she was given a scholarship by the American Friends Service Committee to attend Elisabeth Irwin High School in New York City. This program was established by Quakers to enable female Afro-American students from the South to attend non-segregated northern schools. Here she came in contact with Marxism for the first time and joined a group of communists. She became aware of the concept and consequences of class society and gradually recognized capitalism as the cause of exploitation and segregation.

After high school she enrolled in the renowned Brandeis University in Waltham, Massachusetts, again with the aid of a scholarship. She graduated magna cum laude¹⁶ with a major in French literature in 1965.

While enrolled in Brandeis she spent the academic year 1963/64 in Paris, studying at the famous Sorbonne University. There she not only expanded her knowledge of French literature, but learned even more about politics. She came into contact with students from the French colonies in Africa, who gave her deep and authentic insight into contemporary racism and the principles behind imperialistic exploitation.

¹¹ Cf. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civil_Rights_Act_of_1964. The Civil Rights Act declared segregation in public institutions for illegal. The Voting Rights Act gave Afro-Americans the same rights as white voters.

¹² Cf. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/March_on_Washington_for_Jobs_and_Freedom The march on Washington took place on August 28, 1963. More than 250,000 people gathered in Washington, D.C. And demanded the end of racial discrimination in the USA.

¹³ Martin Luther King Jr. was an Afro-American Baptist pastor and civil rights activist in the USA. He is one of the most important figures in the fight against social oppression and racism. For a long time he was the most famous speaker of the American civil rights movement. It was under his leadership that it became a mass movement. In 1964 he was given the Nobel Peace Prize. He was seen more and more as a public enemy and was murdered in 1968, allegedly as a victim of a racially motivated act. However, evidence leading to FBI involvement has been found.

¹⁴ This speech is one of the most important speeches during these Washington demonstrations. It is a milestone in the history of the Afro-American civil rights movement in the US.

¹⁵ NAACP, a civil rights organization, cf. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NAACP>.

¹⁶ Cum laude = with honour, magna cum laude = with high honour, summa cum laude = with highest honours.

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In September 1963 the Ku-Klux-Klan of her home town Birmingham carried out a bomb attack on the 16h Street Baptist Church, a church well-known to Angela. Four young Afro-Americans died. Two of them Angela knew personally. This act upset her deeply and strengthened her resolve to defy racism and the political system behind it.

After returning home from France and consulting with the well-known West-German Professor Herbert Marcuse¹⁷, who taught at Brandeis and later called Davis the most gifted student he ever had, Angela began studying philosophy. Encouraged by Marcuse, she went to Frankfurt/Main in 1965, where she studied philosophy and sociology at the University of Frankfurt. Among her teachers were Theodor Adorno, Max Horkheimer, Jürgen Habermas and Oskar Negt¹⁸. During her time in Frankfurt she joined an anti-Vietnam War movement and took part in the activities of the SDS, Socialist German Student Union (Sozialistischer Deutscher Studentenbund¹⁹), which played an important roll in the German Student Movement in the 1960s. However, because at home the conflict between the Afro-American civil rights activists and the repressive government authorities was rapidly escalating, Angela Davis returned to the US in the summer of 1967.

She enrolled in the University of California at San Diego where she joined the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC)²⁰. She also joined the Black Panther Party (BPP)²¹, a civil rights and self-protection movement founded in 1966. Due to the fact that a large number of Afro-Americans had become victims of acts of violence and armed attacks often ending in death, the BPP armed itself within the limits of the US gun laws and organized the protection of Afro-American neighborhoods and leaders.

As Angela did not agree with the chauvinism of the male-dominated BPP and as she wanted to realize political ideas that went beyond racial issues, she became a member of the Che Lumumba Club, an Afro-American youth section of the Communist Party USA (CPUSA) in Los Angeles.

¹⁷ Herbert Marcuse was an important German-American philosopher, political scientist and sociologist. His philosophy shows the strong influence of Karl Marx, although he viewed Marx more critically in later years. He emigrated to the USA via Switzerland and Paris after the Nazi takeover in 1933. In 1954 he became a professor at Brandeis University in Waltham, Massachusetts, in 1964 at the University of California in San Diego. In 1965 he accepted a visiting professorship at the Free University (Freie Universität) in Berlin. His writings belong to the most important works of Critical Theory and in the 1960s they served as standard works in the German Student Movement.

¹⁸ Theodor Adorno, Max Horkheimer, Jürgen Habermas and Oskar Negt taught at the Institute for Social Research in Frankfurt and were representatives of the „Frankfurt School“, a group of philosophers who further developed the theories of Hegel, Marx and Freud. They were also representatives of the „Critical Theory“, which was first established in Frankfurt as a separate line of thought. The core of this theory is the critical discussion of the social and historical conditions of theory development. The criticism of societal interrelations is thereby connected with the claim to permeate and clarify conceptually the totality of societal conditions and the necessity for their change.

¹⁹ Cf. http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sozialistischer_Deutscher_Studentenbund.

²⁰ The SNCC was founded in 1960 at a meeting of Afro-American and white students initiated by Martin Luther King. It was one of the most important organizations of the civil rights movement.

²¹ Cf. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_Panther_Party.

In 1968 she received her master's degree in philosophy. Because she had taken a trip to Cuba²² and was a member of the CPUSA, acting on the wish of reactionary then-governor, Ronald Reagan²³, the Board of Regents of the University of California fired her from her position as assistant professor of philosophy at the University of Los Angeles (UCLA) before she even started. Mass protests by students, faculty and administration as well as her own successful lawsuit lead to her reinstatement. Public interest was so great that almost 2,000 people attended her inaugural lecture.

A ruthless hate and smear campaign was started against Angela Davis. She and her faculty received threatening letters and phone calls demanding that „the red nigger“²⁴ disappear from UCLA. As a result she was fired once again. The ostensible reasons were her uncompleted dissertation and, above all, her support for the „Soledad Brothers“.

In the spring of 1970 George Jackson, who was a member of the Communist Party, and his friends Fleeta Drumgo and John Clutchette were accused of murdering a guard from the Soledad prison in retaliation for the murder of three Afro-American inmates. At this time George Jackson had already been in prison for ten years for the presumed participation in the theft of 70 dollars. He had been given the inconceivable sentence of „one year to life“. Because he had continued his political education in prison and was therefore a threat to the repressive prison authorities, he was denied early release for good conduct. The officials saw the murder charge as a means to keep him and his comrades quiet.

After reading about the Soledad brothers in the newspaper, Davis was so infuriated that she decided to work with a solidarity committee for their acquittal and release. She met the families of the accused and then, one day in court, she met the accused themselves. She soon developed a close and extremely caring relationship with George Jackson.

After Angela received several assassination threats, members of the Che Lumumba Club took it upon themselves to take over her protection. She procured several legal weapons²⁵ for her own security. At this time the university's security service was on heightened alert due to frequent bomb warnings. They accompanied her all over campus and checked her car regularly for hidden explosives.

One of the friends who watched over Angela was George Jackson's younger brother, 17 year-old Jonathan Jackson. Without consulting with Angela, he made a desperate attempt to save his brother from the death penalty. On August 7, 1970, he burst into the San Rafael court house where his brother's trial was taking place. He gave his brother and the two other Afro-American inmates, who were to serve

²² Up until today travel to Cuba is restricted or even illegal for US citizens, simply because Cuba is a socialist country.

²³ Ronald Reagan was an actor before he joined the Republican Party. He was extremely anti-communist. He called in the National Guard to deal with the protests against the war in Vietnam. In 1980 he became president of the USA and was in office for eight years.

²⁴ Cf. Steiniger, I.c., page 22.

²⁵ The 2nd amendment to the US constitution prohibits congress from limiting the ownership and carrying of weapons. The article was passed in 1791. Since then there have been frequent debates about the interpretation of these so-called gun laws.

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as witnesses, weapons and took the judge, the prosecutor and three female jury members as hostages. As the getaway car pulled away, it was fired on by about one hundred policemen without regard for the safety of the hostages. Jonathan Jackson, the judge and two of the prisoners were killed immediately. The third inmate, Ruchell Magee, the prosecutor and one of the jury members were severely injured. The weapons used in this desperate act belonged to Angela Davis. Jonathan Jackson had taken them without her knowledge.

Governor Reagan and President Richard Nixon saw a golden opportunity to finally get rid of Angela Davis. She was immediately put on the FBI's list of the 10 most wanted criminals, although she was nowhere near the scene of the crime and had nothing to do with its planning.

Angela went into hiding as it was likely that she would be shot if caught by the Los Angeles police, known for their extreme racism then and today. On October 13, 1970 she was arrested by the FBI in New York and later sent to a California prison. The charges were abduction, murder and conspiracy. For each one she could have received the death penalty.

Angela Davis considered herself as a political prisoner and her trial as a political tribunal. She defended herself brilliantly. It was, however, international solidarity that decided her case. A powerful campaign was formed under the slogan „Free Angela.“ Millions upon millions of people throughout the whole world fought for a year and a half to save her life. John Lennon from the Beatles, the Rolling Stones and many others dedicated songs²⁶ to her. Stars such as Aretha Franklin, Sammy Davis Jr. and Quincy Jones gave solidarity concerts²⁷ in her name. As a result of this immense national and international pressure, the court had to acquit Angela Davis on all counts in 1972.

While she was in prison, the love of her life, George Jackson, was gunned down during an alleged escape attempt. The two other Soledad brothers were cleared of the charge of murder at the end of their trial.

After her acquittal, Angela Davis taught at various Californian universities. Her political engagement is expressed in her continuing fight against political justice, against the „injustice and racism behind prison walls“ and against the death penalty. In 1980 and 1984 she was the KP USA's candidate for US vice president²⁸. Currently she is working for the release of the five Cubans known as the „Miami 5“²⁹, and the Afro-American civil rights activist and journalist Mumia Abu-Jamal³⁰. She also worked³¹ to free Afro-American Troy Davis³², whose death sentence was based on racial motives.

²⁶ Cf. list of songs and a documented text by John Lennon in this dossier.

²⁷ Cf. *junge Welt* („young World“) from June 19/20, 2010.

²⁸ Cf. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Angela_Davis.

²⁹ "To fight for the freedom of these noble Cubans is a duty for all the forces that stand against terrorism in any part of the world. It is to struggle for the cause of so many other prisoners who, like them, are condemned to unjust sentences in US prisons, and who we cannot forget." Angela Davis in Walker, Alice / Morejón, Nancy et. al.: *Letters of Love and Hope. The Case of the Cuban Five*. 2005.

³⁰ For example, on October 4, 2003 in Paris she accepted the medal representing Mumia Abu-Jamal's honorary citizenship in his name.

From 1992 until her retirement Angela Davis was a professor for History of Consciousness at the University of California in Santa Cruz. She has an honorary doctorate from the Lenin University in Moscow and the University of Leipzig and is an honorary citizen of Magdeburg, a city in the former GDR. In 1979 she was the recipient of the Lenin Peace Prize.

In connection with the political disputes that occurred during and after the breakdown of various socialistic countries in 1989/1990, Angela Davis left the CP USA in 1991. Together with other leftists, she founded the Committee of Correspondence for Democracy and Socialism (CCDS). She still considers herself a communist and is a member of the board of this left wing social-democratic organisation.

Angela Davis continues to be politically active in many areas. She is one of the founders of the National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression and is on the board of the National Black Women's Health Project. She has been a member of the National Political Congress of Black Women since the middle of the 1980s, She is furthermore a speaker of the American Campaign to End the Death Penalty.

She is particularly concerned with the prison-industrial complex³³. In words and deeds Davis exposes exploitation and repression based on gender, race and class in the US and throughout the world. In times of globalization she criticizes the increasing privatizing of prisons. She castigates companies such as the Corrections Corporation of America (CCA) that make huge profits by brutally exploiting prison inmates. Other giant companies involved are IBM, Microsoft, Boeing und Motorola³⁴.

She is one of the founders of the grassroots movement „Critical Resistance“³⁵ whose goal is the elimination of exploitation in prisons and the implementation of a humane legal system. On an international level she is active in „Sisters Inside“³⁶, an organization based in Queensland, Australia that supports female prison inmates.

³¹ Cf: San Francisco Bay View from Sept.12.,2011, <http://sfbayview.com/2011/angela-davis-stop-the-execution-of-troy-davis-set-for-sept-21/>.

³² Cf: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Troy_Davis. Troy Davis was accused of killing a white policeman in 1989. However, there were no finger prints, no weapon, no DNA tests and no confession. Seven of the nine witnesses recanted their original testimony, originally given under police pressure, one witness was mentally ill, the last one – the main witness – was a suspect himself and had been the first to bring up the name of Troy Davis in connection with the crime. Davis claimed innocence up to the end. His execution was postponed several times. Finally, in spite of doubts about his guilt, in spite of world-wide protests and pleas for pardon, he was put to death on September 21, 2011 in Georgia. This could be one of the worst miscarriages of justice in US history. (Since the reintroduction of the death penalty in the USA, 138 inmates originally sentenced to death have been pardoned after proven innocent. Cf: <http://www.thenation.com/article/163522/killing-troy-davis>.)

³³ Cf. Davis, Angela: Are Prisons Obsolete? 2003.

³⁴ Cf: Angela Davis' lecture in the television documentary „Angela Davis – A Living Legend“ by Christel Priemer and Ingeborg Weber, 1998 in Baer, Willi et. al. (Editors): Angela Davis, Hamburg 2010.

³⁵ Cf. http://www.democracynow.org/2010/10/19/angela_davis_on_the_prison_abolishment. In an interview in the daily tv/radio news program „Democracy Now!“ Davis spoke with Amy Goodman about the 40th anniversary of her arrest.

³⁶ Cf. <http://www.sistersinside.com.au>.



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The roll of women and their gender-based oppression comprise an important part of Davis' political involvement. Among other things, she analyzed the biographies of well-known female blue singers under the aspect of „black feminism“³⁷.

Even after her retirement from the University of Santa Cruz, she remains politically active. She appears as a speaker and activist at universities, conferences, campaigns and demonstrations in the US and throughout the world. She has never wavered in her commitment to fight injustice and discrimination. She has written numerous essays and books on women and feminism, on the problems of justice and prison politics, on history and political movements, on peace and disarmament, on the health system and societal change.

ethecon sees in Angela Davis' active opposition to racism, exploitation and oppression, in her fight against injustice and the death penalty as well as in her continuing engagement for humanism and peace, an extremely valuable ethical contribution to the rescue and the preservation of our „Blue Planet“.

For this outstanding accomplishment in the interest of mankind, ethecon – Foundation Ethics & Economics presents Angela Davis with its International ethecon Blue Planet Award 2011.

³⁷ Cf. Davis, Angela: „Blues Legacies and Black Feminism. Gertrude „Ma“ Rainey, Bessie Smith, and Billie Holiday“, 1999.

Awards and distinctions for Angela Davis

- 1972 Honorary citizenship of Magdeburg, GDR
- 1979 Lenin Peace Prize from the Soviet Union
- 2004 Human Rights Award from the Society for the Protection of Civil Rights and Human Dignity (GBM), GDR
- 2006 Thomas Merton Award of the Thomas Merton Center for Peace and Social Justice

Songs dedicated to Angela Davis

- 1972 "Sweet Black Angel" by the Rolling Stones, on their album "Exile on Main Street"
- 1972 "Angela" by John Lennon and Yoko Ono, on the album "Some Time in New York City"
- 1972 "Angela Davis" by Franz Josef Degenhardt, on the album "Mutter Mathilde"
- 1972 "Free Angela (Thoughts ... and all I've got to say)" by Todd Cochran, on the album "Worlds around the Sun"
- 2010 "Angela" by Yannick Noah, on the album "Frontières"³⁸

³⁸ A video of the song exists: http://www.myvideo.de/watch/7604399/Yannick_Noah_Angela.

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Selection of publications by Angela Davis

If They Come in the Morning: Voices of Resistance, 1971

Frame Up: The Opening Defense Statement Made, 1972

Angela Davis. An Autobiography, 1974

Women, Race & Class, 1981

Violence Against Women and the Ongoing Challenge to Racism, 1985

Women, Culture and Politics, 1989

Blues Legacies and Black Feminism. Gertrude „Ma“ Rainey, Bessie Smith, and Billie Holiday, 1999

The Angela Y. Davis Reader, 1999

Are Prisons Obsolete?, 2003

Abolition Democracy – Beyond Empire, Prisons, and Torture, 2005

Narrative of The Life Of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave; Written By Himself. A New Critical Edition by Angela Y. Davis. Featuring Her “Lectures On Liberation”, 2010



Contact details for Angela Davis

Angela Davis
c/o Cassandra Shaylor
Business Manager for Angela Y. Davis
1563 Solano Ave. #377
Berkeley, CA 94707
USA
Phone +1 - (510) 444 6573 (AB)
eMail aydavis@aol.com

SpeakOut!
Speakers, Artists, Exhibits and Films
P.O. Box 22 748
Oakland, CA 94609
USA
Phone + 1 (510) 601 01 82
eMail info@speakoutnow.org

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Selected internet links

http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Angela_Davis

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Angela_Davis

www.fembio.org/biographie.php/frau/biographie/angela-davis

http://www.democracynow.org/2010/10/19/angela_davis_on_the_prison_abolishment

http://www.democracynow.org/2006/12/28/angela_davis_speaks_out_on_prisons

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V2mHxxGFG9w> (Angela Davis - Abolition Democracy & Global Politics, Vortrag vom 30.10.2008)

<http://sfbayview.com/2011/angela-davis-stop-the-execution-of-troy-davis-set-for-sept-21/>

<http://www.criticalresistance.org/>

<http://www.sistersinside.com.au/>

<http://www.naarpr.org/>

<http://www.freemumia.com/?p=535>

<http://www.millions4mumia.org/>

<http://www.mumia.de/>

<http://www.freethefive.org/>

<http://www.cc-ds.org/>

<http://nationalcongressbw.org/>

<http://www.speakoutnow.org/>

http://www.myvideo.de/watch/7604399/Yannick_Noah_Angela



Selected organisations

- > Critical Resistance
1904 Franklin Street, Suite 504
Oakland, CA 94612
USA
Phone +1 (510) 444 21 77
eMail crnational@criticalresistance.org
Internet www.criticalresistance.org

- > National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression - Chicago
1325 S. Wabash Avenue, Suite 105
Chicago, IL 60605
USA
Phone +1 (312) 939 27 50
Internet www.naarpr.org

- > Free Mumia Abu-Jamal Coalition (NYC)
New York City, NY
USA
Phone +1 (212) 330 80 29
eMail info@freemumia.com
Internet www.freemumia.com

- > National Committee to Free the Cuban Five
2969 Mission St.
San Francisco, CA 94110
USA
Phone +1 (415) 821 - 65 45
eMail info@freethefive.org
Internet www.freethefive.org

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Franz Josef Degenhardt³⁹

„Angela Davis“⁴⁰

This is the story of the crimes of the communist Angela Davis and why she was to be sent to the gas chamber:

Three black brothers, they sang, that was
in the year seventy on the thirteenth of January
in the prison yard of Soledad
in the State of California.
But that must not be, it was late - half past nine,
they just wanted to see the beautiful full moon.
High on the tower watched the guard John Mills,
the nigger-hater with the scar on his neck.
And who instantly emptied a few magazines
and the three black brothers no longer sang.
Very well, you all say, that's not very nice.
But what has that to do with Angela Davis?
Listen on, I say, look ahead!

The captive men of Soledad
they wanted satisfaction for this deed
and they went on strike. And John Mills was taken to court.
But the judge said: Mills was only doing his duty.
Well, and a few days later John Mills was found -
beaten to death and with his neck cut through.
One Governor Reagan was pleased as punch:
just at this time three Black Panthers were
in solitary confinement and it was so easy,
Reagan accused them of murder.
Very well, you all say, that's not very nice.
But what has that to do with Angela Davis?
Listen on, I say, look ahead!

³⁹ Franz Josef Degenhardt is a German communist singer-songwriter, author and lawyer. As such, he defended social democrats and communists in several lawsuits in 1968, who were on trial for actions connected with the extra-parliamentary opposition. As singer-songwriter, he is considered to be one of the voices of the movement of 1968. Among other causes, he campaigned against the war in Vietnam and for the Easter March movement. He performed during many concerts of the Peace Movement. See <http://www.franz-josef-degenhardt.de/>.

⁴⁰ Text reprinted with the kind permission of Franz Josef Degenhardt and the publishing house Kulturmaschinen Verlag. This song was recorded in 1972 on the album „Mutter Mathilde“ (Mother Mathilde).

The judge was named Haley and he was a fascist,
just like the governor is one.
Right at the beginning of the trial he said:
Martin Luther King, he was rightly killed.
And he was most anxious to see,
how revolutionaries go to the gas chamber.
A premeditated murder, how can we stop it?
A brother of one of the accused, he was named
Jonathan Jackson, they let him into the court-room,
and he was to free the three comrades.

Jackson, he jumps over the judge's bench,
sticks the weapon hard in the judge's neck.
Handcuffs go and weapons appear.
In no time the court-room is bare.
And the judge is taken as a hostage.
But outside the police is in wait.
When they come out, the cops open fire,
and the whole rescue mission ends in blood.
The three roll down the court-house steps,
along with Judge Haley.
Very well, you all say, that's not very nice.
But what has that to do with Angela Davis?
Listen on, I say, look ahead!

Those in power, they're in the know:
their mighty ending is not far off,
Once the powerless begin to free themselves.
And then they remembered Angela Davis.
Because she had always said, that that's the way it is.
And she says that not just because she's a communist.
Therefore she is tried as an accessory to murder
before the judge of the Panthers of Soledad.
But no matter what comes: It has started to roll,
this beginning of the end of justice by murder.
And even if they let all the John Mills and Lieutenant Calleys go free:
Angela and her party will win in the end.

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John Lennon & Yoko Ono⁴¹

„Angela“⁴²

Angela, they put you in prison,
Angela, they shot down your man.
Angela, you're one of the millions
Of political prisoners in the world.

Sister, there's a wind that never dies,
Sister, we're breathing together.
Sister, our love and hopes forever,
Keep on moving, oh, so slowly round the world.

They gave you sunshine,
They gave you sea,
They gave you ev'rything but the jailhouse key.
They gave you coffee,
They gave you tea,
They gave you ev'rything but equality.

Angela, can you hear the world is turning,
Angela, the world watches you.
Angela, you soon will be returning
To your sisters and your brothers of the world.

Sister, you're still a people teacher,
Sister, your word reaches far.
Sister, there's a million different races,
But we all share the same future in the world.

They gave you sunshine,
They gave you sea,
They gave you ev'rything but the jailhouse key.
Yeh, they gave you coffee,

⁴¹ John Lennon (1940 – 1980) was a British musician, composer and author, who became world-renowned as one of the founders and members of the "Beatles". Starting in the late 1960s, he and his second wife Yoko Ono organised actions for world peace. Among the best-known songs of his solo career are "Imagine" and "Give Peace a Chance". He actively supported the struggles for independence of that time. Because of his activism in the United States, he was put on the list of public enemies. He was assassinated at the age of 40.

⁴² Song recorded in 1972 on the album „Sometime In New York City“.



They gave you tea,
They gave you ev'rything but equality.

Hey, Angela, they put you in prison,
Angela, they shot down your man.
Angela, you're one of the millions
Of political prisoners in the world.

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for the civil and human rights activist
Angela Davis / USA

Greetings from Prof. Dr. Dr. hc. Oskar Negt⁴³

Dear Angela,

I was most happy to hear that the ethecon Foundation will be presenting you an award in honour of your tireless endeavours in the cause of civil liberties at all levels. No one deserves this prize more than you. Fortunately I've come across my letter of recommendation supporting the proposal to grant you an honorary doctorate from the University of Frankfurt/Main; I'd like to forward it to you; it sums up why I hold you in such high esteem.

Best Wishes, Oskar Negt

Review of the Kant paper by Angela Davis
for the honorary doctorate screening process
at the Johann-Wolfgang-Goethe-University in Frankfurt/Main, 1972

My knowledge of Angela Davis' work and intellectual ability is of course incomplete. However, during the two semesters in which she studied philosophy with Adorno, Habermas and me, she made an outstanding impression on me which was confirmed by later publications. Angela Davis belongs – and this I can say without exaggeration – to the very small group of students who are extremely gifted and show a pronounced sensitivity for philosophical problems. This became clear to me after just a few months of intensive discussions; despite her language difficulties she was able not only to discuss, but also to objectify in written form, the most complex problems of Kant's transcendental philosophy and Hegel's dialectics.

A paper on the notion of interest in transcendental philosophy written for a seminar on Kant's "Critique of the Power of Judgment" documents this unusual capability. With great keenness and clarity she identifies and elaborates on those problematic elements of Kant's philosophy which, as widely known, are not only confined to the Schematism Chapter in the "Critique of Pure Reason." She criticizes the idea that it is only the patently obscure and difficult to understand passages in Kant's work in which the dialectic problem of the interdependence of form and content is concealed by aporetic constructions. She convincingly shows that notions such as interest, dignity, intelligible subject, etc. are determined by the same structure.

⁴³ Prof. Oskar Negt (born 1934) is a social philosopher. From 1962 until 1970 he was the assistant of Jürgen Habermas at the universities of Heidelberg and Frankfurt on the Main, where he also taught. Afterwards, he was a professor at the Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz University of Hanover until his retirement. He was a visiting professor in Berne/Switzerland, Vienna/Austria, Milwaukee/USA and Madison/USA. Negt is considered to be one of the masterminds of the Critical Theory. Besides his scientific work, he used to address current political topics regularly.

It deserves special attention that she does not attempt to reconstruct Kant's philosophy ex post -- from the viewpoint of Hegel's dialectic --, but that she rather builds her account on those theorems whose solutions by themselves engender dialectic.

It seems inappropriate to cite the highly positive comments made by Theodor W. Adorno about Angela Davis; I had however occasion to read a paper written by Angela Davis on the "Negative Dialectics" for one of his seminars, which betrayed the same high intellectual level. Other students in the seminar in which this paper was presented told me that the ensuing discussion between Adorno and Angela Davis had been very enlightening for him.

I would like to summarize my overall opinion: world famous through the incidents in San Rafael, Angela Davis had already fulfilled the requirements for a promising career in philosophy during her time in Frankfurt. Her personal integrity and her academic qualifications are essential parts of a life history for which an academic committee can only hold the highest respect.

Personally I would highly welcome, if an academic panel of a German university would demonstrate its support for Angela Davis' fight for the rights and freedoms of the oppressed Afro-American minority through the courageous act of offering her an honorary doctorate.

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Greetings from Dr. Klaus Steiniger⁴⁴

The fact that Angela Davis is the winner of this year's ethecon Blue Planet Award gives me a feeling of great satisfaction. It is above all a recognition of her decade-long self-sacrificing commitment to promote the human rights of millions - most of them non-white inmates and victims of the prison industries in the USA, which are owned by the most brutal exploiters in this capital of imperialism.

The name of Angela Davis is connected with half of my life. I met her again last year, when she was in Berlin, Leipzig and Magdeburg on the occasion of the reprinting of my article about the show trial in San Jose. About 40 years ago I first heard about the discrimination dealt to Angela by the then governor of California and later US president, Ronald Reagan. That was about two years before the manhunt ending in her arrest, imprisonment and threat of death in the gas chamber of the San Quentin prison. After a long confinement and a month-long trial, Angela was finally acquitted of all three charges - murder, kidnapping and conspiracy - by the 12 white jury members. Thus Angela's acquittal proved to be a victory over the class and race justice prevalent in the USA. As is well known, the battles for Sacco and Vanzetti, Ethel and Julius Rosenberg as well as many other innocent convicts did not end so successfully. They were all executed.

But back to the year 1970. The young assistant professor of philosophy, Angela Davis, was to be barred from the faculty of the University of Los Angeles / Los Angeles Campus (UCLA) after her membership in the communist party of the USA became known. Shortly afterward, I learned about this in an article in a left-wing New York paper. I published an extensive article with the headline "The Case of Angela Davis" in "Neues Deutschland" (New Germany), a newspaper which at that time had a circulation of 1.3 million copies. I was responsible for the coverage of capitalistic countries.

When his scheme to dismiss Angela resonated neither with the UCLA faculty nor with the competent California court, Governor Reagan saddled the unflinching communist with the responsibility for a kidnapping in San Rafael (located near San Francisco), which had actually been done for personal reasons. In the course of this incident, the judge, the two young kidnappers and two black witnesses were killed in police fire. The policemen had set an ambush and opened fire on the advancing getaway car.

Within just a few hours Angela Davis, who had had nothing at all to do with the case, was put on the FBI list of the ten most highly wanted criminals.

My paper, the leading organ of the GDR and its state-supporting party, immediately sounded the alarm for the Afro-American UCLA professor, whose special field is classical German philosophy. The ND ("New Germany") was without doubt one of the initiators of the ensuing world-wide solidarity campaign. Shortly after Angela's arrest in New York, I wrote at the request of the National Assembly of the

⁴⁴ Klaus Steiniger is editor-in-chief of the monthly magazine "RotFuchs". As a foreign correspondent of the daily newspaper "Neues Deutschland" he reported on the trial of Angela Davis.

National Front the text for a richly illustrated brochure entitled "Freedom for Angela Davis!" Published in a very high print-run of a half million copies, the little red book reached all schools, day care centers, factories and public facilities in every corner of the GDR. Inspired by the motto "A Million Roses for Angela!", children drew and painted flowers which were then sent to the California prison where Ms Davis was being held. About two-thirds of the international solidarity greetings came from GDR children. This I was able to see for myself on the premises. The roses - which were not delivered by Fleurop - are still kept in a state archive in the USA.

As the trial came closer, I once again applied for a visa at the US Mission in West Berlin, where earlier requests for entry had been strictly denied. After a nine month waiting period interrupted only by several interrogations by employees of the CIA-controlled "Eastern Affairs Office", I finally received permission from USA authorities as the first GDR journalist to report on events outside the UNO area in New York. Thus, along with hundreds of sensation-seeking reporters from the capitalistic media, I was able to attend the trial as a newspaperman experienced in legal matters (in the late 50's I had been a public prosecutor in Güstrow in Mecklenburg) for two months until my arbitrary deportation from the USA. Incidentally, six weeks before the acquittal, I wrote an article entitled, "The Truth about San Rafael - fourfold Bloody Deed by the California Police". The short book about the trial which I wrote for GDR readers sold 150,000 copies.

In 2005 I was able to renew contact with Angela when she came to Berlin to accept the human rights award presented by the East German Association for Civil Rights and Human Dignity and to speak at the Rosa Luxemburg Conference organized by the daily newspaper "junge Welt" (young World). My earlier decade-long contact with Angela had been high-lighted by her triumphant tour through the GDR in 1972 and by her participation in the 10th Youth and Student Festival the following year as well as by a private dinner within my own family circle.

In my opinion, this newest tribute to Angela, the ethecon Blue Planet Award, is to be given to an activist who highly deserves this recognition. Thus I congratulate my longtime friend and comrade from my whole heart!

International ethecon Blue Planet Award 2011
for the civil and human rights activist
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Greetings from Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Richter (GBM)⁴⁵

We were most happy to hear that the ethecon foundation plans to bestow its International Blue Planet Award 2011 on Angela Davis. We applaud this decision in great solidarity and wish to be among the first to congratulate you. This is fitting, as our organization honoured Angela Davis with its own human rights award in 2004 in Berlin.

Many of our members recall demonstrating their solidarity with the imprisoned civil rights activist Angela Davis by sending her roses and letters as part of a world-wide campaign for her release. In 1972, Angela Davis was saved from the death sentence and released from prison after a successful world-wide protest movement against her unjustifiable imprisonment. Today she works as a professor of sociology and political science at the University of Santa Cruz.

We honoured her for her political and academic work in the fight for civil and human rights. She is a socially committed scholar and a highly respected representative and organizer in the women's rights, anti-racism, anti-war and anti-death-penalty movements. Her name has a special ring to it and an aura that defies changing times. This is not only because our joint cause to promote humaneness, to fight against war and poverty, to fight for gender and racial equality, against political prosecution, misuse of the justice system and occupational bans has been successful in the past decades and therefore lets us find the names of those responsible for the victories on monuments to humaneness throughout the world. No, possibly for the very reason that there remains so much to do, because history brings us not only advances, but setbacks as well, because there are and always were so few like her, because failures make success more important and urgent, and because dangers to mankind and the fate of the earth are not decreasing, but increasing. History has sent us on the path again.

Angela Davis' goals have remained relevant during all the years of her dedicated involvement and they are as urgent today as ever. Today as well as throughout the past, the hope remains that it has been ultimately possible to free her from her dungeon, that powerful world-wide movements against the Afghanistan and Iraq wars, against imperialistic globalization, growing poverty, racism, unequal treatment of women, misuse of the justice system and the death penalty can still lead to success, if all of us, if millions tenaciously follow these goals without letting ourselves become discouraged. When Angela Davis left prison over 30 years ago, she gave a very moving speech, in which she said that her release from prison was not her own victory, but a victory of the people. "What we are really celebrating, sisters and brothers, is our ability to deal the rulers of this nation a powerful and unmistakable de-

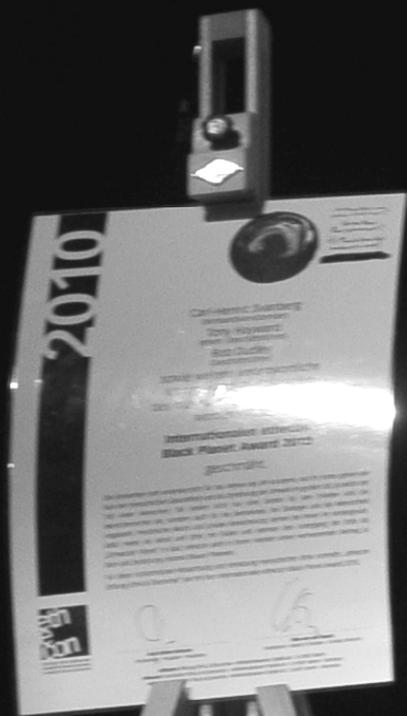
⁴⁵ The "Gesellschaft zum Schutz von Bürgerrecht und Menschenwürde e.V. - GBM" (Society for the Protection of Civil Rights and Human Dignity) was founded in 1991 by artists, social workers, lawyers and scientists (see <http://www.gbmev.de>). The GBM works for the protection of human dignity and the exposure of human rights violations. It contributes to the "inner unity of Germany" by analyzing the legal, social and cultural consequences of discriminations against citizens of the former GDR due to the German reunification. Prof. Wolfgang Richter is the national chairperson of the "Gesellschaft zum Schutz von Bürgerrecht und Menschenwürde e.V." and member of the European Peace Forum.

feat." And she gave the great assignment to start a movement "that is strong enough to dethrone the entire ruling class. ...As long as I know that millions of people are behind me, I'm convinced we'll win." At that time there were hundreds of millions of people and today we again need hundreds of millions willing to follow these goals with renewed urgency. As another awardee of the GBM human rights prize, Professor Michel Chossudovsky, once said, today our only chance to fight imperialistic globalization is in the globalization of our own resistance.

Angela Davis has never stopped taking part in political activities and movements within and outside the USA. She has never stopped making that movement which once freed her from prison her own cause: international solidarity with political prisoners and all those who suffer under arbitrary prison conditions and torture throughout the world. Acting on this commitment in the Paris City Hall in 2003, she accepted, as a representative of the US campaign against the death penalty, the parchment and medal documenting Mumia Abu-Jamal's honorary citizenship in his name.

Solidarity with Mumia Abu-Jamal and other political prisoners in the US, with the five imprisoned Cubans who wanted nothing else than to protect their country from terrorism, as well as the fight against the death penalty throughout the world are also goals of our "Gesellschaft zum Schutz von Bürgerrecht und Menschenwürde". Threats to civil rights by new dictatorships and neo-fascist movements admonish us to keep up our efforts to create a new and more just world. Angela Davis is a model for us to follow in the American and international civil and human rights movement.

It is a credit to your foundation ethecon that A. Davis has again been honoured with an award. With this prize you remind us all that we have a never-ending responsibility for the billions of people who simply wish to live in peace, without social hardship, in equality and freedom, and who place their hope and trust in people like Angela Davis.



Statements from previous ethecon Blue Planet awardees

Diane Wilson/USA⁴⁶

International ethecon Blue Planet Award 2006

This year's Blue Planet Award to Angela Davis sends a clear and powerful message of how people can bring about real change. Time and time again, and against insurmountable odds, the will of the people are heard because people like Angela took to the streets and demanded that obvious wrongs be made right. She fought for the lives of many as if she would fight for her own. Anyone who takes for granted the 5-day work week, child labor laws, civil rights, humane working conditions, and fair and equal compensation, should not take lightly the efforts of people like Ms. Angela Davis. Her struggle has been humanity's struggle and because of it all life has benefited.

Elias Bierdel/Austria⁴⁷

International ethecon Blue Planet Award 2010

The fight against injustice, oppression and discrimination demands total commitment. Primarily for this reason I'm very happy about this recognition for Angela Davis – and I wish to congratulate her as the award recipient. I hope that the Blue Planet Award leads to renewed interest in her life and work. For Angela Davis is by no means simply a symbolic figure in the historical civil rights movement, but rather, above all, a strong woman who has dedicated her whole life to this mission. On many issues we would definitely have different opinions. However, beyond ideological issues, it is her decade-long unconditional dedication which makes her a credible role model, especially for younger generations, who possibly only know about her from pictures in history books.

⁴⁶ Diane Wilson is an American environmental and political activist as well as the winner of the International ethecon Blue Planet Award 2006 (cf. <http://ethecon.org.de/976>). A fourth-generation shrimper and the mother of five children, she adamantly advocates for the implementation of ethical principles. As a result, she has been arrested frequently, has served nine jail sentences and went on hunger strikes about 20 times. She is a union representative of workers whose health has been damaged due to working conditions in various chemistry plants in her home region in Texas ("Injured Workers United"). She is also one of the founders of the American Women and Peace organization Code-Pink (cf. <http://chelseagreen.com/blogs/dianewilson/>).

⁴⁷ The refugee- and human rights activist Elias Bierdel is the winner of the International ethecon Blue Planet Award 2010. The journalist and author was the director and chairperson of the relief organization, „Komitee Cap Anamur/Deutsche Notärzte e.V.“ ("Cap Anamur/German Emergency Doctors"). As such he was involved in 2004 in the rescue of 37 African refugees who had come into sea distress during their crossing to Europe. After their arrival in Italy, Bierdel as well as the captain Stefan Schmidt and the first officer were arrested under the charge of smuggling immigrants. They faced four years of imprisonment and a fine of 400 000 euros. They were acquitted after five years. He was not re-elected by the members of the board of "Cap Anamur". Under the impact of this experience Bierdel and Schmidt founded „borderline-europe - Menschenrechte ohne Grenzen e.V.“ (Human rights without borders) in 2007. Since March 2010, Bierdel has been working for the "Österreichisches Studienzentrum für Frieden und Konfliktlösung/ÖSFK" ("Austrian Study Center for Peace and Conflict Resolution/ASPR") where he is responsible for the International Civilian Peace-keeping and Peace-building Training Program.

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Angela Davis / USA

The international ethecon awards

The two International ethecon Awards have been presented annually since 2006. The award winners were/are:

2006

International ethecon Blue Planet Award

Diane Wilson / environmental and peace activist / USA

International ethecon Black Planet Award

Shareholders and the management of the MONSANTO company / agricultural technology
(genetic engineering, pesticides, chemical warfare agents) / USA

2007

International ethecon Blue Planet Award

Vandana Shiva / peace and environmental activist / India

International ethecon Black Planet Award

Peter Brabeck-Letmathe (CEO) and other responsible managers and Liliane de Bettencourt
and other shareholders of the Nestlé company / food industry (genetic engineering, privatization
of water) / Switzerland

2008

International ethecon Blue Planet Award

José Abreu / engineer / Venezuela and Hugo Chavez / revolutionary / Venezuela – under the name
of "El Sistema" they set up a worldwide unique and widely publicized program against poverty,
drugs, social negligence and crime that guarantees every child in Venezuela the right to learn
to play a musical instrument

International ethecon Black Planet Award

Erik Prince and the managers of the Blackwater company (for publicity reasons renamed
to Xe Services LLC) / service provider for the military (Killer Company) / USA

2009

International ethecon Blue Planet Award

Uri Avnery / peace and human rights activist / Israel

International ethecon Black Planet Award

Owner family Wang and the management of Formosa Plastics Group / chemistry /
genetic engineering / Taiwan



2010

International ethecon Blue Planet Award

Elias Bierdel / refugee- and human rights activist / Austria

International ethecon Black Planet Award

Tony Hayward, Bob Dudley, Carl-Henric Svanberg and other accountable executives
and major shareholders of the oil- and energy company BP / Great Britain

2011

International ethecon Blue Planet Award

Angela Davis / civil and human rights activist / USA

International ethecon Black Planet Award

Tsunehisa Katsumata (chairman), Masataka Shimizu (former president), Toshio Nishizawa (president)
and other accountable executives and major shareholders of the energy company TEPCO (Tokyo
Electric Power Company) / Japan



International ethecon Blue Planet Award 2011
for the civil and human rights activist
Angela Davis / USA



ethecon Foundation Ethics & Economics
Fundación Ética & Economía Stiftung Ethik & Ökonomie

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The ethecon Foundation

Our blue planet is in serious danger. This is no longer denied, not even by politics and science.

But the underlying cause continues to be ignored: the greed for profit connected with the worldwide dominant economic system.

This profit-based system is responsible for injustice, exploitation and ecological destruction. The lust for profit is becoming more and more the sole motivational force in our society and in our management of the environment. The devastating consequences of this development may no longer be overlooked: massive unemployment, the breakdown of the health-, education- and social security systems, destitution, poverty and homelessness, egoism, crime and ruthlessness, weapons production and war, climate change and the collapse of ecological systems.

A different world, a just world, may only be achieved through the development and the implementation of ecologically-sound and humane economic and social models not based on profit maximization. To reach this goal, we must start at the roots, that is, within the competing interests of ethics and economics. We must stand up against those who profit from the globalization process and social decay. For the good of ecology and society, the primacy of ethical principles over economics must be asserted. The rescue of our planet will only be possible when the supremacy of the profit principle is replaced by an economic system based on ethical principles.

The transformation of our society in the direction of a just and fair social system with an intact environment and the overcoming of the profit principle cannot be achieved overnight. This requires perseverance and endurance. In order to achieve this necessary change, broad social movements must be established and fragmented forces united. However, good ideas and voluntary commitment alone are not enough. They must be backed by sufficient financial means.

This is where "ethecon - Foundation Ethics & Economics" comes in. Whereas other groups and organizations – in a historical context – are active for a short time only, ethecon follows the insight, that successful work for the implementation of ethical principles in the interest of ecology and society must be designed to operate on a long-term basis, continuing past the current generation. The legal form as a foundation was deliberately chosen in order to ensure the necessary on-going financial basis for the securing and defence of the principle of solidarity as opposed to the principle of profit.

In order to bequeath future generations with a strong foundation, ethecon needs further endowment contributions, donations and sustaining members. Founded in 2004, the foundation was able to increase its initial capital of 85,000 Euros fourfold through the aid of subsequent endowment contributions (the latest figures may be found in the foundation's brochure "For a World without Exploitation and Oppression" or on <http://www.ethecon.org>).



ethecon seeks people who, in light of the current devastating ecological and social developments, wish to use their financial resources in a responsible way. Many people want not only to talk about a just world, but to find ways to realize it, always with the goal of a sound environment, peace and humane working conditions for coming generations.

Here is where you can help. If you agree that the prevailing profit-defined conditions must be opposed on a long-range basis, beyond the current generation, then please support "ethecon – Foundation Ethics & Economics". If an endowment contribution (from 5,000 euros) is not possible, your donation or, even better, your sustaining membership (from 60 euros per year) would be greatly appreciated. It is now possible to make an endowment contribution over a longer period of time, with monthly payments starting at 20 euros. All contributions are tax-deductible (national laws may differ on this point). In Germany, the tax-exemption limit is much higher than for regular donations and also more advantageous than for donations to political parties.

Please act now! ethecon needs you, as an endowment contributor, donor or sustaining member. You may reach "ethecon – Foundation Ethics & Economics" on the internet at <http://www.ethecon.org> or here:

ethecon Board of Directors

Schweidnitzer Strasse 41, D-40231 Düsseldorf, Germany

Phone +49 - 211 - 26 11 210

Fax +49 - 211 - 26 11 220

eMail aks@ethecon.org

ethecon office

Ahrenshooper Strasse 73, D-13051 Berlin, Germany

Phone/Fax +49 - 30 - 22 32 51 45,

eMail info@ethecon.org

Donations Account

EthikBank Germany

IBAN DE 58 830 944 95 000 30 45 536

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Board of Directors

Schweidnitzer Str. 41, D-40231 Düsseldorf, Germany
Phone +49 - (0)211 – 26 11 210 / eMail info@ethecon.org

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