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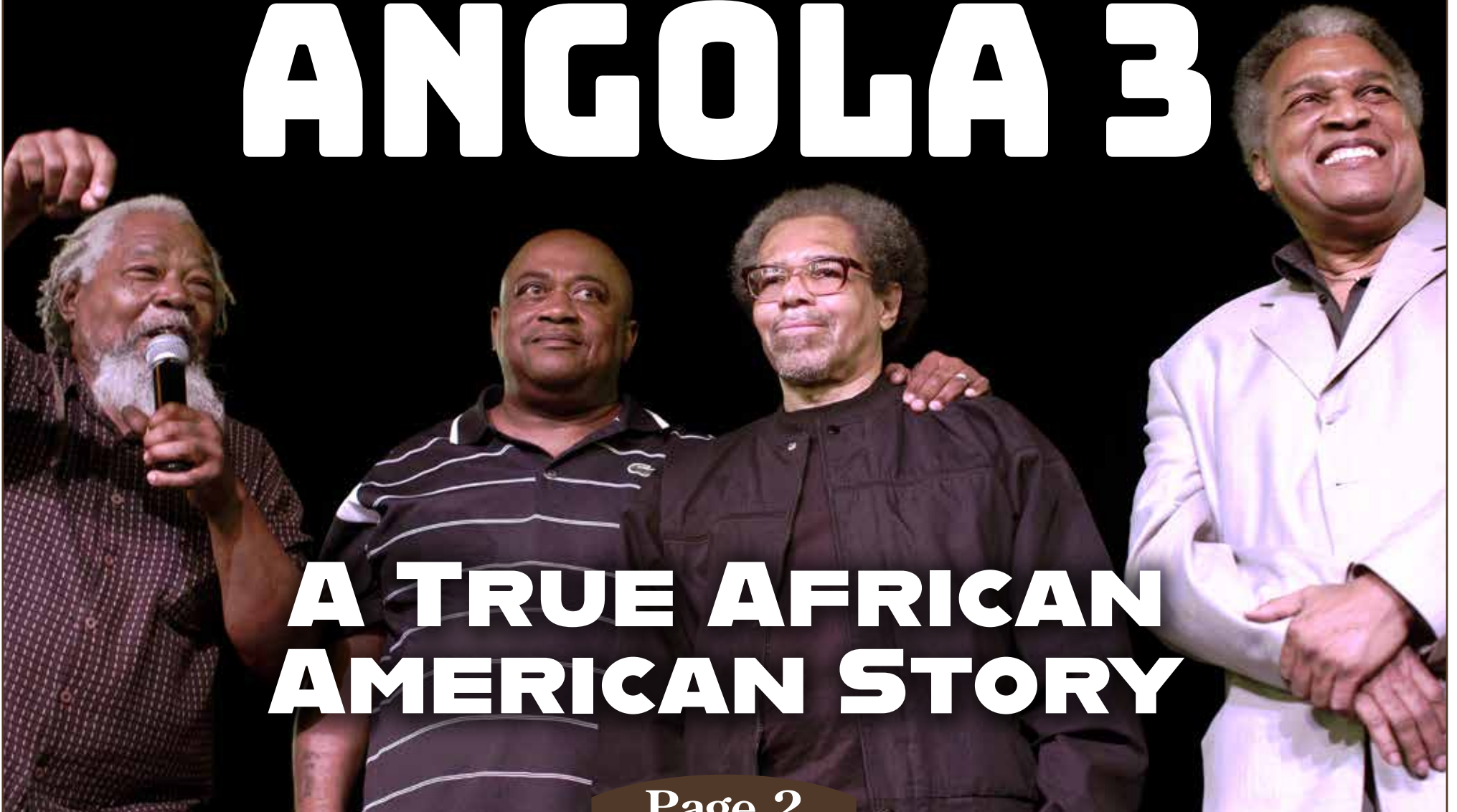
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October 21 - October 27, 2023 58th Year Volume 26 www.ladatanews.com

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The Angola 3

A True African American Story



The Angola 3 Stage Play will be held at the Carver Theater on October 20th, 21st, 27th and 28th. The play was written by Parnell Hebert and is being directed by Saran Bynum.

Dionne Character
Data News Weekly Contributor

Louisiana’s State Penitentiary aka Angola was once considered “The Bloodiest, Most Brutal Penitentiary in the Nation.” Due to fear, trained and paid prison guards refused to enter those dormitories after dark.

To alleviate this problem the administration armed and authorized inmates known as Khaki backs to serve as guards. They were authorized to beat and / or kill other inmates when they deemed it necessary. The play “Angola 3,” written by Playwright/Producer Parnell Herbert, a US Navy Vietnam Vet and Director, Saran Bynum, a Black Amerasian, orphaned

girl, abandoned by her biological mother to save her life, adopted by a New Orleans family, is the unimaginable true story of three men, Herman Wallace, Albert Woodfox and Robert King, who were all thrust into infamy because of their principals and unwavering beliefs in humanity for all people. During this era Prison Guard Brent Miller was killed

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DATA NEWS WEEKLY

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Cover Story, Continued from page 2.

in one of those dormitories. Angola administrators saw this as an opportunity to silence Black Panther leaders. Woodfox and Wallace were immediately charged and placed in solitary confinement. They were later convicted of Officer Miller's murder. These two men remained in solitary, 44 and 41 years respectively as they would later along with a few others, become responsible for forming and maintaining one of the first officially sanctioned chapters of the Black Panther Party in a U.S. Prison.

A few days later, Robert King was sent to Angola. Upon his arrival King was immediately placed in solitary confinement as an accessory to Miller's murder. Even though he was being held in a different prison at that time, King was eventually wrongfully charged with the murder of another prisoner while in solitary.

Playwright Parnell Herbert (boyhood friend of Albert Woodfox) was shocked when he learned that Woodfox had been in Solitary Confinement for decades. Herbert said, "Everyone knows about Rubin 'Hurricane' Carter, and Nelson Mandela. How do we not know



Angola 3 is based on the story of Herman Wallace, Albert Woodfox, and Robert King. The story speaks to questions of racism and injustice in the criminal justice system.

about the Angola 3? Men right here in our own backyard? "He decided to contribute what he had to offer. He wrote the play and staged it annually for six years out of his own pocket.

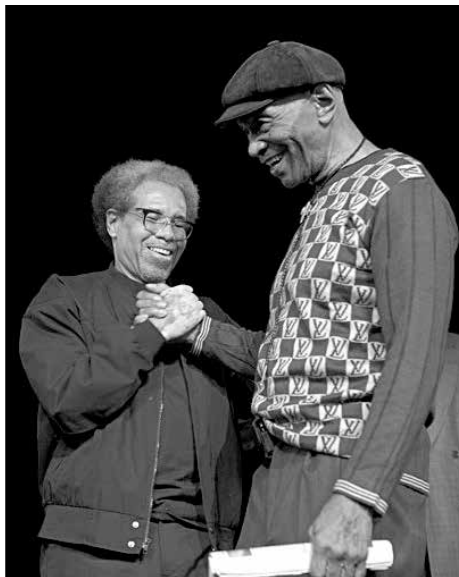
With the passing of Herman Wallace and the release of Albert Woodfox, the staging of the play was stopped. During the five-year hiatus from the stage, the play was being tweaked to not only address

Angola 3, mass incarceration, the death penalty and school-to-prison pipeline, there is also a desire to reach and strive more to bring awareness to high school and college aged young people to impress upon them the genocide that is now devouring our young people nationwide.

King would spend 29 years in solitary confinement while Woodfox and Wallace served an incredible 43

years and 10 months in solitary, the longest period of solitary confinement in American Prison History.

It was eventually proven that the men were unfairly targeted, wrongly convicted and held because they were activists trying to bring attention to the notoriously cruel and violent prison. King said he was accused of being a "prison lawyer." All three were members of the Black Panther Party.



After this undeniable and decades-long injustice the three men would eventually be released from Angola. King was released in 2001 after his conviction was overturned. Herman Wallace, who had been diagnosed with terminal liver cancer was released October 1, 2013 with the help of Amnesty International. However, he would die just three days later. Woodfox was released in February of 2016 after his conviction was overturned by the court of appeals. He died from COVID-19 complications in August of 2022. King is the only surviving member of the famous trio.

The Angola 3 Stage Play will be held at The Carver Theater on October 20th, 21st, 27th and 28th, 2023. One can expect the re-enactments to be real and vocal as the actors bring forth the true-life Angola bound experiences by the accused. This special performance will include Al "Carnival Time" Johnson, Baby Dolls of New Orleans and New Orleans Heavyweight Amateur Champion Larry D.E. McGee, as Robert King. For more information, visit info@carvertheater.com.

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Black Men of Labor Jazz Legacy Honors Gala and Jazz Concert

Data News Staff Edited Report

The Birthplace of Jazz and Jazz a National Art Treasure rooted in the Black Experience to what is now a global treasure. Jazz continues to be a source of inspiration and creativity, due in large part to the Honorees of the Black Men of Labor. Black Men of Labor will honor and pay tribute to them on October 20, 2023, at 7:00pm at the Sheraton Hotel Armstrong Ball Room.

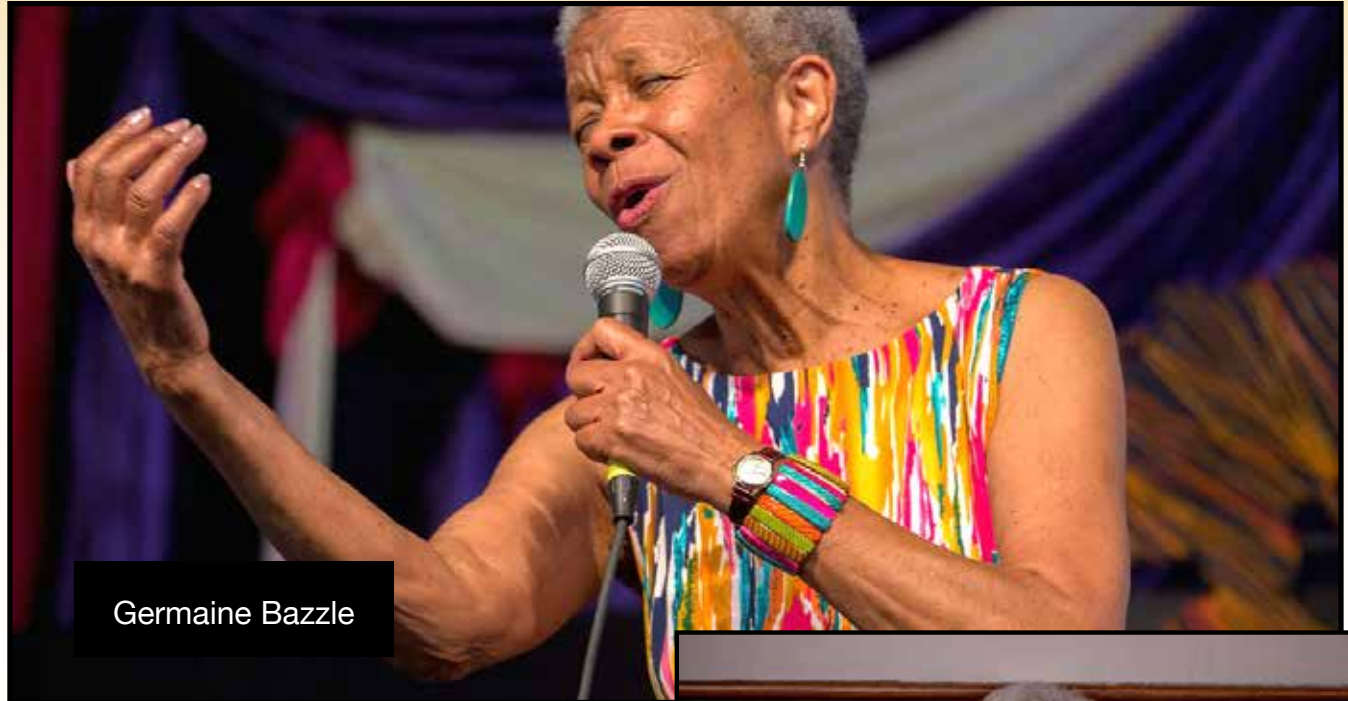
Presented by the Black Men of Labor, New Orleans Iconic Cultural Bearers and in partnership with the New Orleans Culture and Tourism Fund will celebrate the commitment, dedication, creativity, and contributions of the following Musician's.

The Incomparable

Germaine P Bazzle
Charles "Charlie" Gabriel
Roger Dickerson
Roger Lewis
Benny Jones, Sr,
Lawrence Cotton
Daniel Farrow
Al "Carnival Time" Johnson
Thais Clark
Lester Caliste

The Gala will be dedicated in Memory of Peter "Chuck" Badie and Edward "Kidd" Jordan.

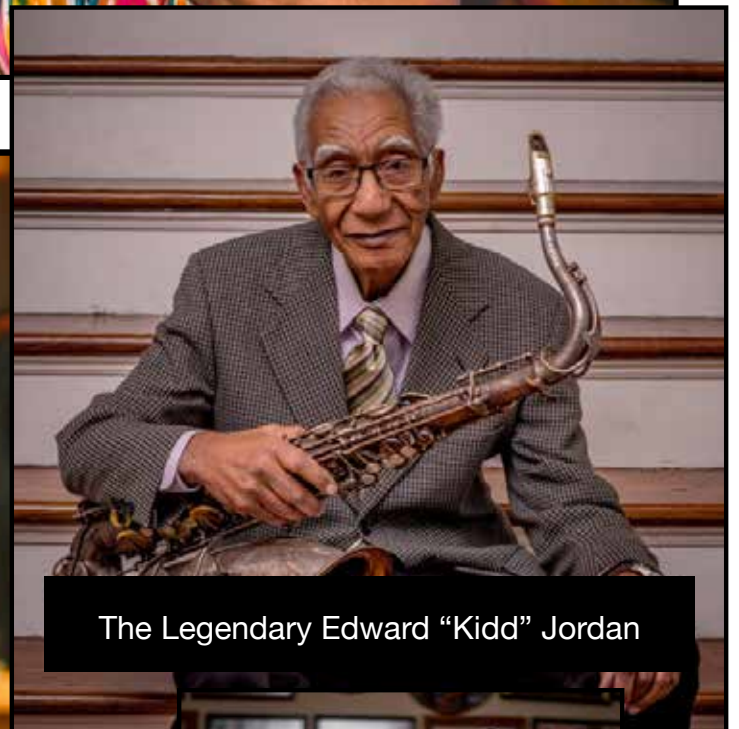
We are inviting everyone to come out and celebrate over eight hundred plus years of educating, mentoring, performing, and living life. Ticket price is \$100 per person, visit www.thebmol.org to purchase tickets.



Germaine Bazzle



Al "Carnival Time" Johnson



The Legendary Edward "Kidd" Jordan



The Legendary
Peter "Chuck" Badie

Visit www.ladatanews.com for more photos from these events.

16th Annual Crescent City Blues & BBQ Festival

Photos by Demian Roberts
Data News Weekly Contributor

The 16th Annual Crescent City Blues & BBQ Festival returned to Lafayette Square Park from October 13th to the 15th. Presented by the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Foundation, this event was free and open to the public and offered three days of live music, BBQ, and a local art market. Data News Weekly was there giving you some highlights of this great event.



Visit www.ladatanews.com for more photos from these events.

Voting and the Making of History

It Still Matters

**Terry B. Jones Publisher,
Data News Weekly**

Last week elections were held, and we had the opportunity to make history by potentially electing Shawn Wilson, the first African American Governor since Reconstruction. Today Louisiana is in a place where across the state elected offices are dominated by Republicans. In this election, Democratic voters did not show up at the polls, and most importantly, African Americans voted in high numbers. We must do better if we want our voices to be heard and have our issues addressed.

In his concession speech, Shawn Wilson, who ran his campaign as a bridge builder said he would work with Gov-Elect Jeff Landry on the issues that matter to his voters. This reasonable approach is what



U.S. Congressman Troy Carter, pictured with Gubernatorial Candidate Shawn Wilson and his wife Rocki.



Lindsey Cheek, Candidate for Louisiana Attorney General has made the runoff election.



William "Billy" Nungesser, Lt.. Governor wins re-election.

is needed in those who seek our votes. Those who are reasonable enough to work with those we disagree with and find ways to work together on issues that impact the citizens of Louisiana.

Last Saturday, we missed an op-

portunity to have more leverage by not forcing a run-off election between Landry and Wilson. But this is not the end, for we have had Governors and other officeholders who had views that were counterproductive to our community. And it is in

these divisive times that we must be civically engaged at the local, state, and federal levels. We must organize our communities, define the issues that are important to us, and let those who represent us at the State level echo our demands.

Also, we would like to congratulate our Lt. Governor William "Billy" Nungesser for his continued leadership. He is an example of getting people of diverse interests together to get things done. Also, we would like to congratulate Lindsey Cheek for making the runoff in the race for Attorney General. We will have to get out and support her if she is to be victorious against her opponent Liz Murrill, who served as Chief Deputy under Gov-Elect Jeff Landry. We must decide that we have to let our voices be heard at the polls if we are to have a seat at the table setting the agenda for the future of our state.

We at Data News Weekly will continue to promote voting and civic engagement. It is our hope that our citizens get out and vote because it matters today more than ever.

State & Local News

Pets and Pet-lovers Bond at New Festival

**Story and Photos by Mckenzi
Neal Data News Weekly
Contributor**

In New Orleans there are over 130 festivals annually. This year, there was one for the pets. The Louisiana SPCA or the Humane Society (LASPCA) hosted their first ever carnival fundraiser for New Orleans-area pet owners and pet-lovers, which provided family and community members the opportunity to learn, support, and engage with their fellow furry friends in support of the LASPCA's mission in the region.

"Carnival is a brand new, first ever event done. [We] raise money for pets in the community, as well as keeping people and pets together and getting pets who need a home adopted. The two main drivers we're fundraising for are keeping pets in their forever homes and helping get adoptable pets, adopted," said Rebecca Melanson, the Communications Director for LASPCA.

The Carnival was held on Saturday, Oct. 14th, located on SP-CA's new campus which was built



after Hurricane Katrina in 2007 at 1700 Mardi Gras Boulevard in Algiers. According to LASPCA, Katrina had an impact on animal treatment in the area, relegating them to non-essential. The human-animal bond was even more important after the storm, helping residents cope with loss and destruction and even loneliness through the Pandemic and other subsequent natural disasters, the

organization noted.

"The turnout is great. We were expecting the number to be 200-300 people, but we hit 400. [Definitely] happy with the turnout, especially with it being our first event," Melanson said.

"Last year we did the 45th Annual [Gala] and it was a little stuffy. We wanted something where our supporters and community would want to come and have the space to

do so ... and be more accessible and affordable," Melanson said.

For community members and their pets who attended were welcomed with live music, an auction, games, carnival fair like foods, and immersive educational activities, showing how community gatherings can help bring awareness which impacts over thousands of animals.

"It's important to see the work we

do here. A lot of people don't know what animal welfare is. So even just to talk to staff and be educated about it [animal welfare] such as: debunking the misrepresentation of pit bulls. It's also good to have affordable care for the animals," said Zachary Murphy, a Transport Rescue Coordinator.

The LASPCA is one of the oldest and most Comprehensive Animal Welfare Centers in the State of Louisiana providing care for more than 70,000 homeless and companion animals. LASPCA has been serving the community of New Orleans for more than 128 years with plans to expand annual events through the new Carnival.

"An event such as Carnival is one for the books. I think it's great there is a community dedicated and willing to provide for the betterment of pets," said Kai Davis, New Orleans native who attended the Carnival. "LASPCA isn't just known for having cats and dogs, but they have goats, rabbits, guinea pigs and more. If anything, I think it shows the advocacy the shelter has for providing forever homes to any pet in need," Davis added.

Hate Crimes Surge in 2022 Leading to an Urgent Call for Unity and Action

Stacy M. Brown NNPA
Newswire Senior National
Correspondent

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has released its comprehensive Hate Crime Statistics for 2022, revealing a troubling surge in hate-fueled incidents across the United States. Recent attacks in New York and Chicago are stark reminders of the urgent need for increased awareness and action.

In 2022, the FBI transitioned to the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) for data collection, representing a significant step towards more accurate reporting. The new data reflects submissions from 13,293 law enforcement agencies employing NIBRS data, covering over 256 million U.S. inhabitants. Additionally, data from 2,431 non-transitioned agencies was accepted, representing 55,441,278 inhabitants, expanding the population coverage to 93.5%.

The Hate Crime Statistics 2022 report reveals that law enforcement agencies reported 11,634 criminal incidents involving 13,337 related offenses motivated by bias towards



race, ethnicity, ancestry, religion, sexual orientation, disability, gender, and gender identity.

In New York, a Sikh man faced a vicious attack aboard an MTA bus in Queens this week. The assailant, allegedly expressing xenophobia, targeted the victim and attempted to remove his turban—a sacred religious symbol—forcibly. This incident is a stark reminder of the

persistent hate plaguing American society.

Meanwhile, in Chicago, a horrific incident over the weekend resulted in the tragic murder of a six-year-old boy. Wadea Al-Fayoume and his mother fell victim to a brutal attack, with the assailant singling them out due to their Muslim faith. The suspect, Joseph Czuba, now faces charges of murder and hate crimes.

This shocking incident highlights the devastating consequences of hate-fueled violence.

In response to the surge in hate crimes, President Biden released a statement condemning the 25 percent increase in antisemitic incidents from 2021 to 2022. He stressed the imperative of unity in speaking out against hate and bigotry, pledging his administration's dedication to combating antisemitism and Islamophobia.

While there was a positive 38 percent decrease in hate crimes targeting Asian Americans, the overall levels remained stable, underscoring the need for sustained efforts to eradicate hate-fueled violence. Anti-LGBTQI+ hate crimes rose 16 percent, and Muslim and African Americans continue to be over-represented among victims, Biden said.

"There's more to do when it comes to ending hate-fueled violence," the president insisted. "That means coming together and speaking out against hate and bigotry in all its forms. All Americans deserve to live their lives with dignity, respect, and safety."

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