

# **RISE!!!**

by Warren Levon

Let this river of fire burn a memory of pain I have lived for 500 years!

Let my voice reverberate and proclaim, I will not lay down and be slain,

Remove your foot from my back, take your knee from my neck, keep your gun at your side,

Hear my cry, feel my pride, I won't let up, I won't subside. I won't give up, I won't restrain,

I am here, I have a voice, I matter, I exist, and I will remain.

We will step forward, every forward, on, over you and through you to justify our pain.

I don't ask for your sympathy; I am way past apology. We seek justice and reform, a change of the guard,

I will no longer be beaten, bruised, whipped, hung, stabbed, shot, choked, and left with non-healing scars, just for who we are!

I demand to clear the yard of the filth and weeds, fake flowers yielding fake deeds.

Lies and deceit, laws that pillage for the privileged, a congress that ratifies racist bills, that build on top of the underserved billions.

I will no longer stand for disgrace and unfairness; I will kneel for equality and justice.

I will march upon your systems of oppression, regression, stagnation, litigated procrastinations, depressive demoralizations in the miseducation, of a people

whom you ask to constantly suffer in degradations while you perforate at  
gentrification!

I say NO! HELL NO, Not now, and no more,

burn that house, burn that store.

Take this stick, taste my spit!

I'm tired of the chase, the struggle, and the bullshit!

I want what is mine, fought, bleed, sacrificed, and earned

In 500 years, its time! We have suffered and sojourned,

Let's take our place atop the pyramid of democracy

Right the wrongs, reverse the curse, defeat this complacency

This is not a test, this is not for fun, not a game, not a joke.

We the people will rise, to form a more perfect union, to establish a new status  
quo!