

# The Origins of the Black Lives Matter Movement

Black Lives Matter was founded in 2013 by three black women , Patrisse Cullors , Alicia Garza and Opal Tometi.

## 1) Patrisse Cullors



Patrisse Cullors is the first Co founder of Black Lives Matter . In an interview with Democracy Now (16 Jan 2018) she told the interviewer that her first involvement in politics was as an activist with the Climate Justice and Labor Community Strategy Center and studied there under its director Eric Mann

“ I think sometimes people think that because Black Lives Matter is the biggest thing, that’s the first thing I ever did. And it’s not. The Labor Community Strategy Center is my first political home. Eric Mann that’s my mentor ” - Patrisse Cullors

The Labor Community Strategy Center is located in South LA . On its website , the center describes its purpose as - "continuing the long revolutionary traditions of the Communists during the Great Depression" and "creating a worldwide movement to challenge U.S. Imperialism" .

Eric Mann who runs the center and mentored Cullors writes on his website that he was inspired by Communists such as Irving and Skippy Riskin .

Mann had been a leading figure in a self-described communist revolutionary group called the weather underground and had been sentenced to two years in prison on charges of conspiracy to commit murder after two bullets were fired through a window of the Cambridge police headquarters in Boston on November 8, 1969 .

Cullors said the training she received from Mann made her an expert in "Marxism" in an interview with the Real News Network

“ We are trained Marxists. We are super-versed on, sort of, ideological theories. And I think that what we really tried to do is build a movement that could be utilized by many, many black folk.”

## 2) Opal Tometi



*Opal Tometi co founder black lives matter embraces Venezuelan Dictator Nicolás Maduro*

Opal Tometi is the second Co Founder of the Black Lives Matter Movement .

In September 2015 ,Tometi publicly praised and embraced Venezuelan Dictator Nicolás Maduro at the People of African Descent Leadership Summit in Harlem, New York .

Nicolás Maduro whos presidency of Venezuela was endorsed by the Communist Party of Venezuela , has refused to relinquish control of the Country . Since taking office in 2013, more than 9,000 Venezuelans have been subject to extrajudicial killings with some four million forced to flee the country. In March 2020, the U.S. Department of Justice indicted Maduro on charges of drug trafficking and narco-terrorism . Maduro's snipers were also responsible for the killing of former beauty queen, Genesis Carmona in 2013 .

Despite Maduro's human rights abuses , Tometi publicly addressed Maduro at the gathering stating – "we really appreciate your leadership", she then asked the attendees to remember Assata Shakur .. "our dear exiled sister" . Assata Shakur is a former member of the black liberation army who was convicted of being an accomplice in the first-degree murder of State Trooper Werner Foerster during a shootout on the New Jersey Turnpike in 1973 .

In a follow up letter published in the venezuelanalysis.com (Dec 26th 2015) Tometi goes even further praising Maduro's Venezuelan regime as .. "a champion participatory democracy" .. and .. "a democratic process that has advocated the rights of Afrodescendants and other oppressed people within Venezuela and across the globe"

### **3) Alicia Garza**



Alicia Garza is the third and final Co founder of Black Lives Matter .

Three years ago Alicia Garza started the Black futures lab to mobilize black voters accross america by "Building Black political power and changing the way that power operates locally, statewide, and nationally"

It was subsequently revealed how the project was being funded by the Chinese Progressive Association (CPA) , an organisation with links to the Communist Party in China . A statement on the websites donate page read.. "Black Futures Lab is a fiscally sponsored project of the Chinese Progressive Association CPA" .

A 2009 Stanford university study described the CPA as - "a pro-People's Republic of China organization, promoting awareness of mainland China's revolutionary thought" and said the organisation has included members from the League of Revolutionary Struggle (LRS), "a communist organization based on Marxist-Leninist-Maoist teachings"

In September 2019 , the CPA sponsored the raising of the peoples republic of China flag for the first time ever over Boston's City Hall to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the Communist takeover of China.