

Rangel, Waters Stun Their Accusers

by Nancy Spannaus

Aug. 16—"I've been to a lot of funerals, and this damn sure isn't a funeral," commented senior Democratic Congressman Charles Rangel at his well-attended 80th birthday party/fundraiser Aug. 11 in New York City. The rallying behind Rangel evident at that event, which was hosted by New York Gov. David Paterson, and attended by many leading Democratic personalities, was a fitting follow-up to the Congressman's historic, Shakespearean address to the House of Representatives the day before. There, Rangel stunned his accusers by challenging the specious charges by the House Ethics Committee against him, and saying that he is "not going anywhere." He is going to stand and fight.

Congresswoman Maxine Waters (D-Calif.) expressed the same combativeness two days later, when she called a press briefing in Washington, where she ripped to shreds the charges brought against her by the Ethics Committee. Not only did Waters and her chief of staff document that they did nothing wrong, but she implicitly highlighted the racial targeting involved, by contrasting the ability of the big Wall Street, bankers to get right on the phone with the Treasury Secretary's office, with the lack of access for minority and community banks.

The Obama Administration's Ethics Gestapo—which is suspected of having an Enemies List à la Richard Nixon—had expected both senior African-American lawmakers to shun combat, and make a deal. But instead, both Rangel and Waters have gone on the offensive, demanding their Constitutional rights to due process, and to face their accusers in a trial. "I think it's kind of important for due process to take place," Waters said wryly at her Aug. 13 press conference. "It's kind of guaranteed by something called the Constitution."

A Constitutional Issue

In fact, the prosecution against Rangel and Waters does violate the Constitution, as this magazine elabo-



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rangel.house.gov/Elbert Garcia

Representatives Maxine Waters and Charlie Rangel have refused to roll over and play dead for Obama's Ethics Gestapo. The two lawmakers are the latest targets on the FBI's "Operation Frühmenschen" hit-list against those who have committed the crime of "legislating while black."

rated in our last two issues. In both cases, but especially that of Waters, the formal, initiating role was played by an institution created by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.)—the Office of Congressional Ethics (OCE). The OCE itself, an "independent" panel appointed by House leaders without any Members of Congress on it, violates the Constitution by setting up an agency outside Congress to judge its members, and to act, as critic Rep. Marcy Fudge (D-Ohio) has argued, as prosecutor, judge, and jury, on the basis of complaints that can be submitted by anyone, even anonymously.

The second un-Constitutional aspect comes from the role being played by the FBI, which, according to *EIR*'s sources and evidence publicly available, is pursuing its Operation Frühmenschen program of targetting African-American lawmakers. Operation Frühmenschen (German for primitive man) was first exposed by former Congressional Black Caucus leader Mervyn Dymally in 1988, who presented Congress with sworn testimony from an FBI agent in the program. Yet, the overwhelming majority of the targets of today's "ethics" investigations continue to be African-Americans, specifically, those who oppose crucial aspects of Obama's British-Wall Street program.

Dymally has recently spoken out in strong support of Waters, in interviews with the *Los Angeles Sentinel* and LPAC-TV (<http://www.larouchepac.com/node/15508>).

The outrageousness of the charges against Rangel and Waters has even been reflected on cable TV. Jon

Stewart's "Daily Show" satirical news program Aug. 9, identified the targetting of the two Congressional Black Caucus members, as the crime of "LWB," or, "Legislating While Black."

In the documentation section below, you will find further evidence of the slimy frameups being crafted by the Obama Administration, the Pelosi crowd, and their cohorts—most especially, the role of OCE co-chair Porter Goss, and of Obama's outgoing "Ethics Czar," Norman Eisen.

But, there is no substitute for the eloquent arguments on this question from Reps. Rangel and Waters them-

selves. While we urge you to listen to the presentations, to get their full import, we present *EIR*'s transcripts of their own statements below.