

New York Emergency Protest Feb. 28: Stop Hindu Fascist Terror

written by Struggle - La Lucha
February 25, 2020

emergency protest



**STOP
HINDU
FASCIST
TERROR**

**FRIDAY FEBRUARY 28
5:30 - 6:30PM
INDIAN CONSULATE
3 E 64 ST, NEW YORK**

Friday, February 28, 2020 at 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM EST

India in New York

3 East 64th St (Between 5th and Madison Avenues)

EMERGENCY PROTEST: STOP HINDU FASCIST TERROR IN INDIA

Join Equality Labs, The Alliance for Justice & Accountability, Indian American Muslim Council and South Asia Solidarity Initiative for an emergency protest to support Muslims and caste oppressed communities being terrorized by Hindu mobs and RSS goons.

As Donald and Melania Trump descend upon Delhi, Muslims are experiencing an unprecedented level of violence. Four people have been reported murdered, with hundreds being tortured and attacked by Hindu fascists. There have been several shooters across Delhi, and it is uncertain what the next period will bring. We are gathering at the Indian consulate to demand they stop their support of the RSS, BJP and Hindu fascist violence. We are demanding justice for protestors, and condemning the Citizenship Amendment Act, and the escalation of violence against protestors.

Join us! The time to stop a genocide is before it starts.

Friday, February 28

India in New York

3 E 64 ST, New York

5:30 – 6:30PM



Protest for Chelsea Manning & Julian Assange

written by Struggle - La Lucha
February 25, 2020



Wednesday, February 26, 2020 at 12:00 PM - 2:30 PM EST

William G. Truesdale Adult Detention Center

Join the People's Power Assembly as we protest the unjust imprisonment of Chelsea Manning & Jeremy Hammond here in the USA and the attempted extradition of Julian Assange.

WEDNESDAY AT NOON: we'll be joining several organizations listed below outside the William G Truesdale Adult Detention Center. 2011 Mill Road Alexandria, VA 22314

We'll have a carpool leaving from Baltimore at 10am Wednesday. We'll meet at the Solidarity Center, 2011 N Charles St, Baltimore, MD 21218

FRIDAY AT NOON: In addition to Wednesday we'll also be attending the protest on Friday. On Friday at 10am we'll be meeting at Baltimore's Train Station, Penn Station on Charles Street) and then taking the train followed by the free DC Circulator to the White House. We'll arrive at the White House at noon that Friday. Please join us on either day, or both!

We'll be joining [#Unity4J](#), [#Action4Assange](#), [#VeteransForPeace](#), CodePink, Women Against Military Madness, Baltimore Peace Action and more for peaceful protests all this week as it's the opening week of Julian Assange's extradition case. We encourage everyone to go to as many events this week as possible and bring BIG signs. For more info on other events this week go to fb.com/events/174040013880366



Consumer debt soars to \$14 trillion. So, cancel the debt!

written by Struggle - La Lucha
February 25, 2020



Consumer borrowing in the U.S. rose to a new record level at \$14.15 trillion, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York said on Feb. 11.

Everything rose: mortgages, student loans, auto loans, credit card debt.

Student debt is at \$1.51 trillion. Auto loans are at \$1.33 trillion.

Credit card debt in the U.S. is at a record \$930 billion. Credit card interest rates have soared to a record high. [According to the Federal Reserve](#), the average interest rate on credit card accounts with balances on which interest is assessed — so not counting the theoretical interest rate on credit card accounts that don't carry balances — was about 17 percent at the end of 2019, a record level going back to 1994.

Also rising, according to the Fed's report, are credit card delinquencies, that is, nonpayment of credit card debt. The rate of credit card balances that are 30 days or more delinquent has spiked to 7.05 percent, the highest delinquency rate seen since back in the 1980s.

Similarly, seriously delinquent auto loans jumped to 4.94 percent. This is higher than the delinquency rate in 2010, when unemployment was the highest since the Great Depression of the 1930s. In 2010, delinquencies on credit cards and auto loans were soaring because over 10 million people had lost their jobs and they couldn't make their payments.

Today, delinquencies aren't because of high levels of unemployment; the government's Bureau of Labor Statistics says the unemployment rate is near historic lows. While unemployment isn't really that low — [it's at least triple](#) what the BLS says — it's not at 2010 Great Recession levels.

Sharp divide

So why are these delinquencies spiking now? We haven't seen millions of people getting laid off. You hear every day in the business media like the Wall Street Journal, Bloomberg News and CNBC that the economy is good.

The stock market is booming. CNBC headlined Feb. 19: "S&P 500 and Nasdaq jump to record highs, Dow climbs more than 100 points." The Dow Jones Industrial Average reached an all-time high of 29,569.58 in February 2020. The coronavirus panic on Feb. 24 has brought that down more than 1,000 points, but the effect of that is yet to be seen.

But there's a sharp divide in the economy. One group is doing well. Their wealth is rising. Profits are up. For the rest, their incomes have not risen, have not even kept up with inflation, with the price increases of cars and homes and other items.

Capitalist economists call it slow wage growth.

Wages today for most workers are lower, in real terms, than they were 40 years ago. What's increasing is the rate of capitalist exploitation.

The working class is strung out. Workers have jobs but are living from paycheck to paycheck, not because they're splurging but because wages have not gone up. People are working, but they aren't even making a living wage.

The Federal minimum wage is \$7.25 an hour. The Fight for \$15 movement began in 2012. According to FightFor15.org, the movement has won raises for 22 million people across the country. That's good, but what is needed is much more.

Approximately 23 million workers are paid between \$7.25 and \$11 an hour. [Nearly half \(42.4 percent\)](#) of all workers in the U.S. make less than \$15 per hour.

The fact is, even \$15 an hour is not enough to be considered a living wage; it's only enough to rise above what capitalist economists call a poverty wage, which is about \$8 — that is, more than the Federal minimum wage.

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology has a [Living Wage Calculator](#). According to the MIT calculator, a single adult with one child in the New York-Newark-Jersey City metropolitan area has to make \$32.29 an hour, working full time (40 hours a week), to have a living wage. In the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, Calif., metropolitan area, the living wage for a single adult with one child would be \$31.85.

So, \$32 an hour would be a good starting point for the minimum wage.

Wages under capitalism

Wages under capitalism is a hot topic. Karl Marx wrote a whole book or three on it.

Capitalist exploitation is hidden by the wage system. Workers are hired for a given

amount of time and receive a wage in return. It appears on the surface that an equal exchange has taken place — but this isn't the case.

Why not? The capitalist, in addition to purchasing computers, machinery, raw materials, etc., for production, also buys [what Marx called labor-power](#), the capability to produce goods or services for sale on the market.

Working-class people, who don't own the means to produce and sell commodities, have one commodity they can sell: their labor-power, their ability to work. In this way, workers are forced to sell themselves to some capitalist for a wage in order to acquire money to buy the necessities of life.

Labor is the actual process of work itself.

According to Marx, unlike computers, machinery, raw materials and other inanimate materials for production that pass on their value to the product but create no new value, labor-power is a “special commodity ... a source of value.” In other words, workers produce new value contained in the final product, which belongs to the capitalist. This is what the capitalist calls profit.

The capitalist owns not only the means of production, and the workers' labor-power which is bought to use in production, but the product as well. After paying wages as required for the workers to live, the capitalist then becomes the owner of the surplus value, that is, the profit.

The distinction between “labor-power” and “labor” is the key to understanding exploitation under capitalism.

When a capitalist pays a worker a wage, they are not paying for the value of a certain amount of completed labor, but for labor-power. The soaring inequality in the U.S. today illustrates this. The wealth that workers create has increased, but this has not been reflected in wages, which remain stagnant. Instead, an increasing

proportion of the wealth produced by workers swelled the pockets of the super rich, who did not compensate the workers for their increased production on the job.

It appears that the capitalist pays the worker for the value produced by their labor because workers only receive a paycheck after they have worked for a given amount of time. In reality, this amounts to an interest-free loan of labor-power by the worker to the capitalist.

As Marx wrote, “In all cases, therefore, the worker advances the use-value of his labor-power to the capitalist. He lets the buyer consume it before he receives payment of the price. Everywhere, the worker allows credit to the capitalist.”

Why workers are in debt

What is household debt — mortgages, student loans, auto loans, credit cards? This is not the same as the debt of big businesses like General Motors or Walmart, which involves capital investment.

Workers’ debt is not a capital investment. Rather, consumer debt or household debt occurs because wages are too low to cover the costs of the means of subsistence — housing, food, transportation, clothing, health care and so on — as well as to smooth the personal booms and busts between paychecks.

What appears to be a lending of money by banks through loans or credit cards to wage earners is actually a borrowing by the capitalists. Only in the case of wage labor is the commodity used up before it is paid for. Every day, we make an interest-free loan of our labor power to our bosses. And, short of cash, we are forced to take out interest-bearing loans to cover the “revolving” costs of eating and dressing and living, as well as the long-term costs of housing, commuting, schooling, etc.

Actually, what is being loaned by the banks, the credit dealers and such is unpaid wages, loaned to the capitalists. A raise in pay to at least a living wage would relieve

some of the debt burden. But the fact is that what has been borrowed is really unpaid wages and [the debt should be cancelled altogether](#), as it is the accumulation of years of unpaid wages. That and a living wage for all would fix the record-breaking debt crisis.



Brooklyn Feb. 25: Rally To Oppose Bail Reform Rollbacks

written by Struggle - La Lucha
February 25, 2020

STAND UP WITH COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND PUBLIC DEFENDERS!

RALLY TO OPPOSE BAIL REFORM ROLLBACKS



SAY NO TO RACIST ROLLBACKS TO BAIL REFORM

Tuesday, Feb. 25
1:00 - 2:00 PM



Brooklyn Criminal Court
120 Schermerhorn St.

#FREEnewyork

Tuesday, February 25, 2020 at 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM EST

Brooklyn Criminal Court

120 Schermerhorn St, Brooklyn, New York 11201

STAND UP with Community Members and Public Defenders!

Say NO to racist rollbacks to bail reform

Join UAW 2325 (Legal Aid Attorneys), 1199 SEIU and VOCAL-NY

FAST FACTS ABOUT THE SENATE MAJORITY PROPOSAL TO ROLLBACK BAIL REFORM

* On January 1, 2020 groundbreaking bail reform legislation came into effect after years of unjust and racist bail decisions that led to pretrial detention of innocent people, coerced guilty pleas, and contributed to mass incarceration.

* Less than two months after the implementation of the reforms, the Senate Majority plans to change the bail laws in reaction to a negative and false PR campaign led by pro-carceral prosecutors and law enforcement agencies.

* But the new proposal replaces money bail with an even more harmful tool that allows judges to detain people indefinitely.

* The proposed rollbacks will dramatically expand the number of people who are jailed before trial, and will result in further mass incarceration, especially for people of color.

DON'T LET THE SENATE GIVE IN TO FEAR-MONGERING.

CALL YOUR STATE SENATOR NOW AND SAY NO TO THE SENATE BAIL ROLLBACK PROPOSAL.

Find your NY Senator at <https://www.nysenate.gov/find-my-senator>

On [Facebook](#)



Oscar López Rivera: ‘Socialism is an alternative that can move us forward’

written by Struggle - La Lucha

February 25, 2020

At a time when what is coming from the U.S. government is all about hatred and misery, hearing Oscar López Rivera — a man who talks about love and solidarity despite spending more than 30 years in U.S. prison for fighting for the right of self-determination and sovereignty for Puerto Rico and its people — was refreshing.

A full house at La Pena Cultural Center in Berkeley, Calif., warmly welcomed Oscar on the evening of Feb. 22. This event was part of a national U.S. tour whose goal is to build his work in Puerto Rico after Hurricanes Irma and María, and more recently a series of devastating earthquakes, have made the colonial living conditions even

harder for most Puerto Ricans on the island.

Since his release in 2017, Oscar has founded the Oscar López Rivera Foundation, Libertá, as part of the effort to strengthen grassroots community organizing, demanding the auditing and cancelation of the island's debt and advocating for Puerto Rico's sovereignty.

In this western U.S. part of his tour, Oscar has made presentations at the University of Washington, Berkeley City College, the University of California at Davis, San Francisco State University (San Francisco and San José campuses), Stanford University, Diablo Valley Community College, California State University (East Bay) and the University of California at Santa Barbara.

In his talk, he stressed that it was his passion and love for Puerto Rico that gave him hope through all those years of his imprisonment. Out of that, he took away the belief that nothing is impossible. "I don't do things for me. I am a citizen of this planet. Love is what moves me in the direction to do whatever we need to help our people. The history of Puerto Rico is full of examples of this type of patriotism."

In addition, Oscar asked the audience to support the struggle to free political prisoners. He talked briefly about how the Violeta Parra song "Gracias a la Vida" became his everyday anthem, something significant for La Pena Cultural Center, which is full of history from Chilean refugees who started it in the 1970s after fleeing the Pinochet dictatorship.

Puerto Rico, Cuba and Haiti

Then he talked about Cuba and what it means for him and for humanity. He highlighted the fact that for four years he shared the same cell with Fernando González Llort, one of the Cuban 5 political prisoners jailed in the U.S. for defending their country against terrorism. He described that time with the words, "Those were

the best years for me.”

Someone from the audience asked Oscar a question about what socialism means to him, and he responded, “Socialism is an alternative that can move us forward.” He used Cuba and its international solidarity as an example.

He talked about the role of the medical brigades that Cuba sends all over the world to help wherever there is a need. Importantly, he also talked about the decisive role that Cuba played in the struggle against apartheid in Southern Africa. “Without Cuba’s assistance, apartheid could still exist there and without the help of Cuba, there would have been no President Mandela.” All that coming from a country in a constant struggle against a brutal U.S. blockade, all the while showing the possibilities of a social system based on humane priorities.

Oscar made the connection between Haiti and Puerto Rico and all they have in common, and the importance of the Puerto Rican diaspora and how much they are helping their compatriots on the island. But he also brought up the terrible conditions that people in the U.S. confront today, like the lack of health care and homelessness.

“We came to talk to people about the thousands on the island who are living without homes and under tarps and in tents and then we found that right here in Berkeley and Oakland there are hundreds of people visibly in the same conditions. We have to shame the U.S. government, with all their money and power, for what they do to their own citizens and others around the world.”

It is hard to imagine what 36 years of unjust imprisonment can do to an individual, but seeing and listening to Oscar López Rivera tonight, we can say that the spirit of those who continue to fight for justice can never be broken.

Source: [Resumen Latinoamericano](https://www.struggle-la-lucha.org/2020/02/page/3/)



Koreans in support of the Palestinian freedom struggle

written by Struggle - La Lucha
February 25, 2020



“We will crush the deal of the century and continue the revolution!”

We, Korean people and people of the Korean diaspora, unequivocally oppose the “Deal of the Century.” This so-called deal represents a continuation of U.S.-Israeli policy to further entrench the occupation of Palestine and erode the sovereignty of the Palestinian people. The deal is a unilateral decision that was birthed without any input from the Palestinian people.

We support the liberation of Palestine and the Palestinian right of return, neither of which are included in the Deal of the Century. People across the world, from Palestine to Korea, are terrorized by U.S. imperialism and its military occupation. There can never be true sovereignty under U.S. hegemony.

In addition, we demand that the South Korean government end its military relations with Israel. South Korea and Israel have engaged in arms trade and invested in defense upgrades, joint ventures and co-production since opening their respective embassies in the early 1990s. As an example, in 2011, the Republic of Korea closed a \$43 million arms deal, and in June 2012, Elbit Systems, an Israeli defense electronics company, secured a \$62 million contract with the Republic of Korea Air Force. We condemn South Korea’s past and current involvement in arms trade with Israel, which is a direct statement of support for U.S.-Israel’s occupation of Palestine.

We call on our fellow Koreans worldwide to extend solidarity with Palestinians everywhere, support the Palestinian right of return and denounce settler-colonialism. Until our lands are liberated from the hands of U.S. military occupation from Palestine to Korea to Turtle Island, we remain committed to fighting the settler-colonialist occupation further perpetrated by the “Deal of the Century” and all forms of settler colonialism.

February 18, 2020

Source: Nodutdol.org



Venezuela Embassy Protectors case ends in mistrial — new hearing set for Feb. 28

written by Struggle - La Lucha
February 25, 2020



A hearing is set for Feb. 28 in Washington, D.C., concerning the trial of four U.S. citizens charged by the Department of Justice for protecting the Venezuelan Embassy from right-wing political opponents to the sitting, elected president, Nicolás Maduro. In a blow to the Trump administration, the initial attempt to prosecute ended in a mistrial on Feb. 14.



Who the real president of Venezuela is, is the legal “elephant in the room.” The four defendants — Kevin Zeese, Margaret Flowers, David Paul and Adrienne Pine — along with other activists, protected the Venezuela Embassy for 37 days with full permission of the elected Venezuelan government led by Nicolás Maduro. Maduro is the sitting president, recognized by the United Nations and other international bodies. However, the Trump administration fails to recognize Maduro, and instead anointed National Assembly member Juan Guaidó as president in January 2019, even though he has never won or even entered a presidential election.

“The Trump administration, like the Obama and Bush administrations before it, has continued to interfere in Venezuela’s elections, most recently by helping to fund the right-wing failed coup attempt with Juan Guaidó,” said Ajamu Baraka, co-chair of the Venezuelan [Embassy Protectors Defense Committee](#).

Baraka continued, “A second trial raises the stakes for the Trump administration. The world is seeing the charade of a trial based on the false claim that Guaidó is president when he has not been president for one nanosecond and is no longer even the president of the National Assembly. A second prosecution will look vindictive and a second mistrial or an acquittal will be a blow to the failed coup, which is already on its last legs.”

“This was all a big, risky gamble,” said Oliver Stuenkel, professor of international relations at São Paulo think tank Fundação Getulio Vargas, of the move by foreign governments to replace Maduro with Guaidó. “Europeans, no matter how much they may deny it, have already started this process of getting back to business as usual with Maduro. Latin American countries will eventually have to do the same.”

“The jurors and the judge herself are also victims here,” said Baraka. “The fact that an anomaly of U.S. law allows President Trump to decide who the U.S. recognizes as a foreign leader despite the facts on the ground is a political decision the courts cannot overrule. The prosecution, by limiting the time to three days and not allowing

the defense to present the full context of 37 days of their time in the embassy, led to confusion among the jury.”

After deliberating for more than 10 hours, more hours than the actual trial itself, the jury was hopelessly deadlocked and communicated to the judge that more time was not going to result in a unanimous decision. After instructing the jury to continue deliberating, the judge finally acknowledged the obvious and declared a mistrial, instructing the defense and prosecution to return to court on Feb. 28.

Donate to help the legal defense at DefendEmbassyProtectors.org.

Source: Medum.com



Chicago: Free police torture victim

Gerald Reed!

written by Struggle - La Lucha

February 25, 2020

Statement from the Chicago Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression, the Chicago Torture Justice Center, and Mamas Activating Movements for Abolition and Solidarity.

Judge Thomas J. Hennelly has attempted to illegally reverse the order of another judge, Thomas V. Gainer, who vacated the conviction of Gerald Reed and ordered a new trial. Gainer vacated Reed's conviction after overwhelming evidence that his "confession" to a double murder in 1990 was the fruit of horrible torture by police working under Cmdr. Jon Burge, torture so extreme that it broke his thigh bone.

The 100 people packed into Hennelly's courtroom on Friday, Feb. 14, 2020, were stunned when Hennelly announced his decision to send Reed back to prison to serve a life term. They left seething with anger, and in tears. Armanda Shackelford, Reed's mother and a leader of the Chicago Alliance, responded in disbelief. "I never would have thought that this judge would do what he did today," she said.

Frank Chapman, co-chairperson of the Chicago Alliance, declared: "Judge Hennelly's ruling today was unheard of. It was outrageous and a racist insult to Black and Brown communities.

"Gerald Reed has gone through a seemingly endless process started by the Torture Inquiry and Relief Commission. He's been in prison almost 30 years. His evidentiary hearing regarding the torture he suffered at the hands of Jon Burge's minions was conclusive. Judge Gainer vacated his conviction. By what right does Judge Hennelly think he can just undo this order?

"Judge Hennelly had only two options: get on with a new trial or dismiss the case.

He arbitrarily conjured up a third option that really doesn't exist: he reversed Judge Gainer's order, sending Reed back to prison to serve a natural life sentence."

Veteran courtroom observers say that Judge Hennelly's action is unprecedented and illegal. A circuit court judge has no authority to reverse the decision of another circuit court judge. Many feel that his action is cause for his removal from the bench. Reed's attorneys are reportedly considering an appeal seeking a writ of mandamus, ordering Hennelly to correct his unlawful decision.

Civil-rights lawyers recall that it was Hennelly who, as a prosecutor, led the conviction and death sentence of Burge torture victim Aaron Patterson. Patterson was spared only because Gov. George Ryan pardoned him and set him free in 2003, at the same time that he emptied death row and declared a moratorium on executions.

"Now is the time for this governor, J.B. Pritzker, to stand up and sign the papers freeing Gerald Reed from the torture he continues to endure in prison. The people will take this demand to his door, and we'll be there until it's done," Chapman declared.

The Chicago Alliance is campaigning for Gov. Pritzker to pardon all survivors of police torture in Illinois. In this case some are also demanding that Chief Judge Timothy Evans intervene.

"This turn of events in the Gerald Reed case just exposes the criminal justice system for what it is: criminal, racist and unjust. Due process means nothing in this system," Chapman added. "The time to end this torture is now, and the governor has the power to do that."

Significantly, Hennelly's boss as a prosecutor was once none other than Robert Milan, the special prosecutor appointed to Reed's case.

**CALL
GOVERNOR
J.B. PRITZKER**



We demand the
immediate pardon of
Gerald Reed and all
police torture survivors.
J.B. Pritzker,
DO YOUR JOB!!!

**DEMAND A PARDON
FOR GERALD REED!**

phone 217-782-6830 or 217-782-6831

chicago office 312-814-2121





The Communist Manifesto: A clarion call full of ideas

written by Struggle - La Lucha
February 25, 2020

The Communist Manifesto was first published on Feb. 21, 1848. This appreciation was written on its 135th anniversary in 1983 by Sam Marcy, a leading Marxist thinker and fighter of the second half of the twentieth century.

Of all the great classics in the treasury of Marxism, [The Communist Manifesto](#) unquestionably stands out as the most popular and widely read throughout the world. Bourgeois ideologists, even the most virulent opponents of Marxism, never fail to be astonished by the persistent attraction the Manifesto has for each new generation of revolutionary militants.

The Manifesto, written by Karl Marx and Frederick Engels in 1848, is a creative revolutionary synthesis of propaganda and agitation, as these terms were originally

defined by George Plekhanov when he was still a revolutionary Marxist.

“Propaganda” was then understood as the presentation of many complex ideas to a small group of people, while “agitation” was conceived as the presentation of a few ideas or a single idea to a large audience. Of course, there’s no wall between the two.

The Manifesto illuminates a great number of complex ideas.

It presents the materialist conception of history in clear, brilliant language. It traces the history of the class struggle from its earliest days to 1848. It analyzes the rise of the bourgeoisie, explains its revolutionary role — and not only analyzes the intermediate classes in bourgeois society, but also mercilessly exposes the nature of capitalist exploitation and oppression as it had never been done before.

The Manifesto’s diagnosis of capitalist society is at the same time a prognosis of the destruction of capitalism at the hands of what the Manifesto calls the “gravediggers” of capitalism — the revolutionary proletariat.

Not just a critique but a guide to action

Far from being merely a criticism of feudal and bourgeois society, the Manifesto thus unequivocally points the way to the revolutionary overthrow of the bourgeoisie.

Furthermore, the Manifesto subjects to critical analysis the nature of the capitalist state, as well as the role of the family, religion and culture.

Above all, in tracing the development of the proletariat from its earliest days in mere handicraft production to its role in large-scale industry by 1848, the Manifesto points to the “proletariat alone as the really revolutionary class” and the historic agent for constituting a new social order, free of exploitation or oppression.

All of this is propaganda — irreplaceable working-class propaganda. Yet at the same time it is also revolutionary agitation of the highest order. It fans the flames of revolution.

On the one hand, the Manifesto directs itself toward presenting a succinct, coherent and lucid exposition of the basic principles of Marxism. To that extent, it directs itself to “the few” — not necessarily the middle class, but the advanced sections of the working class.

On the other hand, with its ringing call to overthrow the oppressors and exploiters, the Manifesto addresses itself directly to the broadest and widest sections of the working class.

It is this dialectical unity of opposites — propaganda and agitation — so skillfully blended together that makes the Manifesto such a monumental achievement.

Nothing could be a more crystal-clear call to the proletariat than the final paragraph of the Manifesto.

It ends with this ringing call to action:

“Communists disdain to conceal their views and aims. They openly declare that their ends can be attained only by the forcible overthrow of all existing social conditions. Let the ruling classes tremble at a Communistic revolution. The proletarians have nothing to lose but their chains. They have a world to win.

“Workers of all countries, unite!”

Such a mighty clarion call for revolutionary worldwide action by the proletariat has yet to be surpassed.

Marx and Engels were not unaware that the working class was a narrow segment of

society at the time the Manifesto was written. As Engels said in the 1890 preface to a Polish edition of the Manifesto, “Few voices responded to Workers of all countries, unite!’ when we proclaimed these words to the world ... on the eve of the first Paris revolution in which the proletariat came out with demands of its own.”

However, wrote Engels, “On Sept. 28, 1864, the proletarians of most of the Western European countries joined hands in the International Workingmen’s Association.” And even though that International — the first attempt at a world organization of the proletariat — lasted only a few years, said Engels, it left a glorious heritage.

National chauvinism vs. internationalism

Just prior to the start of World War I, the working-class movement in Europe, under the leadership of the Social Democratic parties, reached the zenith of its authority over the broadest masses on the continent. Immediately after the outbreak of the war, however, the movement was virtually smashed as a result of the betrayal by the Social Democratic leadership.

The adherents of revolutionary Marxism — in reality the adherents of the principles enunciated by the Manifesto — were temporarily reduced to a small minority. The majority had succumbed to chauvinism. They had forgotten one of the principal tenets in the Manifesto: that the workers in a capitalist country have no fatherland. “The workers have no country. We cannot take from them what they have not got.”

The Social Democratic leaders’ surrender to chauvinism cost the proletariat dearly in World War I: millions upon millions of lives lost and untold devastation and destruction.

Nothing so much arouses the prejudices of the bourgeois ideologists, nothing so much enrages them and exposes their deep-seated chauvinism, as the question of “patriotism,” the “defense of the national interest.” Today, more than ever, this

invariably means the defense of the capitalist state and giant finance capital.

Any lie, any falsification will do to corrupt, vulgarize and distort the real meaning and significance of the defense of one's country, as it was understood both in Marx's time and in the imperialist epoch.

Marx and Engels had written extensively about the autonomy and unity of each nation. It is well known that they had fought for the independence of Poland, Hungary, Ireland and Italy. Engels wrote in 1893 in a preface to the Italian edition of the Manifesto that the defeat of the 1848 revolutions resulted in "the fruits of the revolution being reaped by the capitalist class."

"Through the impetus given to large-scale industry in all countries," he wrote, "the bourgeois regime during the last 45 years has everywhere created a numerous, concentrated and powerful proletariat. It has thus raised, to use the language of the Manifesto, its own grave-diggers."

Engels then added this remarkable thought, as pertinent today as it was then: "Without restoring autonomy and unity to each nation, it will be impossible to achieve the international union of the proletariat, or the peaceful and intelligent cooperation of these nations toward common aims."

Fighting monopoly capitalism today

The progressive epoch of the bourgeoisie in the struggle against feudalism — especially the period when Marx was writing — demonstrated a trend toward diminishing national differences and antagonisms. It was due to the development of the bourgeoisie, to freedom of commerce, to the world market.

The subsequent evolution into monopoly capitalism diverted this trend. Indeed, capitalism has not been able to carry out a single one of its economic trends to its ultimate conclusion.

The classical example of this is the failure of the various trusts and combinations, through the process of competition, to be converted into total monopoly and become a worldwide trust or “super imperialism,” which Karl Kautsky thought would abolish the anarchy of capitalism.

As industrial and technological development grows by leaps and bounds, monopoly capitalism, rather than narrowing national differences and ameliorating national oppression, exacerbates them. It is no wonder that the bourgeois world is literally divided into oppressing and oppressed nations.

But this does not at all disqualify the class struggle. It merely imparts a greater urgency for the revolutionary cooperation and solidarity of all the workers in both the oppressing and oppressed nations — in a common struggle against imperialism, capitalism and all forms of bourgeois reaction and feudal rubbish left by centuries of oppression.

The revolutionary contribution of the bourgeoisie, as Marx explained, was in developing the world market, which has “given a cosmopolitan character to production.” This has greatly increased the strategic role of the working class in production and in relation to the class struggle.

Marx’s words are even more true today: “In place of the old local and national seclusion and self-sufficiency,” the bourgeoisie has tremendously enhanced “intercourse in every direction, universal interdependence of nations.”

The bourgeoisie cannot create even the semblance of world unity, despite the obvious foundations laid by the gargantuan growth of the productive forces and the ensuing economic interdependence.

Only the proletariat in alliance with the oppressed peoples and the socialist countries can lay the political and social foundations for worldwide solidarity. This is

precisely because only socialism, which is based on planning and the common ownership of the means of production, can purge the worldwide market of its imperialist chaos, its unpredictable crises, and the reign of the arbitrary based on superprofits.

Indeed, the world market, as Marx said, “makes national one-sidedness and narrow-mindedness become more and more impossible.” It inevitably generates proletarian class solidarity — the truest basis for bringing about the solidarity of the human race.



San Diego protests racist ban on campus speakers

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The International People’s Democratic Uhuru Movement (InPDUM), a mass organization of the African People’s Socialist Party, held a news conference on the “free speech” steps of the San Diego State University campus on Feb. 19 to

denounce the school's banning of APSP Chair Omali Yeshitela and Nation of Islam leader Minister Ava Muhammad.

Both Yeshitela and Muhammad had been invited to speak at a campus event on reparations. Student organizers, bowing to pressure from university officials, SDSU's Hillel chapter and Zionist leaders, later "uninvited" them, prompting many to call for a boycott of the event.

Speakers at the news conference stood behind a banner reading "Africans Charge Genocide." They included Benjamin Prado of Unión Del Barrio, professor of African Studies Dr. Adisa A. Alkebulan, local InPDUM leader Muambi Tangu, Terrie Best of the Uhuru Solidarity Movement, and this writer, Carl Muhammad of the Committee Against Police Brutality and Socialist Unity Party-San Diego.

"We are completely opposed to the offensive notion that Black people should be required to seek approval from the university or Jewish Zionist organizations before speaking openly about our own oppression and our own liberation struggle," read the press release announcing the news conference.

"It is outrageous and absurd that the oppressed, colonized, exploited, suffering, resource-starved, tortured, imprisoned and brutalized African should be held responsible for anti-Semitism when it was white people, not Africans, who forced Jews into gas chambers in Europe," the press released continued.

"San Diego State University sits on land stolen from the Mexican people, whose holocaust at the hands of U.S. white power is continuous, made clear by the mass graves lining the false colonial border, where Mexican women, children and men have been shot and discarded by U.S. Border Patrol and white vigilantes."

The local ABC news affiliate covered the news conference and falsely accused speakers of creating an "outrage" with the use of "anti-Semitic tropes." However,

each speaker received favorable applause from the mostly student crowd, which numbered about 100 people at its height. No one booed, heckled or openly objected to any of the presentations.

One person interviewed by ABC, Dylan Meisner, falsely claimed speakers “directly” incited “violence against Jewish people.” His bogus statement was posted on the channel’s website.

A quick internet search revealed that Meisner is not some random student. He is a journalist for the campus newspaper, The Daily Aztec, and runs a blog in which he characterized Palestinians’ rejection of Donald Trump’s horrific “Deal of the Century” as “irrational” and repeated the racist canard that Palestinians use civilians as human shields.

This writer joined the other speakers calling on the community to skip the censored event, but offered to work with the organizers to move the reparations event to a venue “so that these important voices can be heard.”

