

Dismantle Now! Black and Indigenous solidarity march in Boston

written by Struggle - La Lucha
July 17, 2020



On July 8, multiple Boston-area Indigenous, Black and Afro-Brazilian groups held a rally and march demanding police abolition, the immediate removal of symbols of white supremacy, and investment in the economic development and self-

determination of BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People Of Color).

Speakers called for the permanent removal of the hated Christopher Columbus statue at Boston's waterfront and for the renaming of Faneuil Hall, named after a slaveholder and slave trader. Many at the rally called for structural change in Boston and elsewhere to address white supremacy and for an end to police brutality and disproportionately high death rates in Black and Indigenous communities.

After marching to City Hall, speakers demanded that Boston's mayor and City Council honor Indigenous Peoples' Day instead of Columbus Day. Mahtowin Munro, spokesperson for [IndigenousPeoplesDayMA.org](https://indigenouspeoplesdayma.org) and United American Indians of New England (UAIINE), said: "It is time for everyone to acknowledge that this is a stolen land in a nation built by stolen peoples.

"We wish to express our solidarity with movements for Black Lives and against police violence. Our people have also been on the streets here and elsewhere to support those demands, because of our centuries of ties with our Black relations and because our Native communities also suffer a disproportionate impact from police violence," Munro explained.

"Politicians and others who now say they want to work for racial justice need to ensure that Indigenous voices and perspectives are included in the work, not erased or silenced."

A Palestinian speaker drew many parallels between what is happening in the U.S. and in Palestine, where Zionists continue to brutally oppress Palestinians and steal their land, with a recent annexation of a large portion of the West Bank and further incursions in East Jerusalem. Several speakers demanded an end to capitalism and colonialism.

In addition to speakers, there were Taíno and Afro-Brazilian ceremonies, dance and

music. The Boston march strengthened the bonds between the communities here and was one of many Black and Indigenous solidarity actions taking place around the U.S. in recent weeks.

Photo: Dismantle Now Coalition



Border wall threatens Kumeyaay Nation burial sites

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Members of the Kumeyaay Nation gathered in Boulevard, Calif., on June 30 to halt the building of Donald Trump's border wall. The Army Corps of Engineers has been using dynamite to blast an existing wall which is located on sacred burial sites of the Kumeyaay ancestors. Indigenous artifacts and bones have been found at the blasting site.

Many of the hundreds of protesters were members of the Kumeyaay Original Peoples Alliance. Additionally, members of the American Indian Movement, Warriors

of Awareness, the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee and Black Lives Matter were in attendance, along with allies from other organizations. Marchers chanted, “We didn’t cross the border! The border crossed us!”

According to the organizer, Cyn Parada from the La Posta band of Kumeyaay, “Customs and Border Patrol [CBP] has not worked in good faith to permit monitors.”

The Kumeyaay are native to both San Diego County and Northern Baja California. The border wall divides their tribal lands. The Kumeyaay are now divided into bands all over the east and north county sections of San Diego.

The blasting was stopped for the day, but will continue. Cyn Parada explained that the demonstration was meant to draw attention to the scheduled construction, which she said is just one example of a project that did not do enough to safeguard the ancestral lands of local tribes.

Blue Eagle Vigil, a member of the Viejas band of Kumeyaay, said, “We’re sick and tired of not being at the table when our ancestors are being dug up.”

“Our ancestors fought for us and died for us,” Parada said. “It’s time for us to start saving that history and passing it on to our children, instead of just watching it get desecrated.”

Border Patrol officials said they are working to reschedule the blasting.

The actions are continuing. Another protest was held at the blasting site on July 3, and a march was [held in downtown San Diego](#) on July 5.

This reporter has seen construction trucks still going up the road to the wall. The colonizers want their monument to racism, even if it means desecrating an ancient people’s culture.

Trump's wall is a monument to white supremacy. It's a monument to himself. Walls are about racism and xenophobia. The border wall is to remind Latinx people they are not welcomed in the U.S.

For Native Americans, the U.S./Mexico border is an imaginary line. The traditional homelands of 36 federally recognized tribes, including the Kumeyaay, Pai, Cocopah, O'odham, Yaqui, Apache and Kickapoo peoples, were split in two by the 1848 treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo and the 1853 Gadsden Purchase, which carved modern day California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas out of northern Mexico.

Colonial powers claim Indigenous lands as their own. It takes a lot of arrogance for the colonizers to stand on stolen land and complain about immigration. This is Indigenous land and it's time to take it back.

Zola Fish is a member of the Choctaw Nation.



Millions face eviction while banks

grab billions

written by Struggle - La Lucha

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Alvin Kinnard was jailed for nearly 36 years in Alabama for allegedly stealing \$50.75 from a bakery. His real crime was being Black and poor.

Kinnard was 22 years old when [he was sentenced to life in prison](#) without the possibility of parole. This was done under the state's "three strikes and out" law. He was 58 when he was released on Aug. 30, 2019, after that fascist act had been slightly modified.

Banks steal the real dough, billions of it. [The Wall Street Journal reported](#) on July 8 that JPMorgan Chase and Bank of America will collect up to \$2.6 billion in fees for administering the coronavirus emergency aid program for small businesses.

Four thousand legal loan sharks (aka financial institutions) will divvy up as much as \$24.6 billion in fees. That's 484 million times what Alvin Kinnard supposedly took from a bakery.

Banksters love fees. Just in order to get a mortgage, you have to pay a loan origination fee, a discount fee and a processing fee. That's on top of the interest that has to be forked over every month.

In 2016, the three biggest U.S. banks — the already mentioned JPMorgan Chase and Bank of America, as well as Wells Fargo — [grabbed over \\$6.4 billion](#) from ATM and overdraft fees. The rest of the banks collected many billions more. That's a real stickup.

Foreclosures are a bigger crime. Nearly 7.8 million families in the United States had their homes [stolen by banks](#) between 2007 and 2016.

Wells Fargo was the biggest thief in Baltimore. Half of the bank's foreclosures there were in neighborhoods that were at least 80 percent African American. That's because [65 percent of its Black customers](#) had high-interest-rate loans compared to only 15 percent of its white customers.

The Wells Fargo criminal syndicate created [3.5 million phony bank and credit card accounts](#) in order to filch fees from unsuspecting customers. Now it's being rewarded by the feds with over a half-billion dollars in fees.

Looming epidemic of evictions and shut-offs

The Wall Street Journal claims that administering these small business loans is really expensive and that the "biggest banks" will donate their profits. Maybe the tooth fairy also exists.

Meanwhile, [nearly seven million families](#) could face eviction across the U.S. Many state moratoriums on evictions and utility shut-offs are scheduled to end soon.

The U.S. capitalist economy was falling into crisis even before COVID-19 struck. [Forty-four million workers](#) filed for unemployment compensation between March and June.

Yet the \$600 weekly federal supplemental unemployment benefit is set to expire at the end of July. Without it, many families won't be able to pay their rent or mortgage.

Andy Puzder, the former CEO of CKE Restaurants, doesn't want the \$600 supplemental benefit to be renewed. Puzder exploited tens of thousands of low-paid workers at his Carl's Jr. and Hardee's fast food chains. Both youths and seniors were his biggest victims.

[Puzder actually wrote](#) that people aren't applying for jobs because the \$600 benefit

was too high. He's really confessing that wages are too low.

Trump nominated Puzder to be U. S. labor secretary, but even the Senate balked at the hamburger mogul. This creep who thinks unemployed workers are lazy is also a union-hating sexist pig whose specialty was commercials featuring scantily clad women.

"I like our ads," Puzder [told Entrepreneur magazine](#). "I like beautiful women eating burgers in bikinis. I think it's very American."

Abolish rents and jails!

Jean Valjean — the fictional hero of Victor Hugo's novel "Les Misérables" — was sent to jail for stealing bread to feed his sister's starving family. But he spent much less time in jail than Alvin Karpis did.

The biggest crimes are committed not in the streets but in the business suites. Donald Trump's son-in-law, [Jared Kushner, is a billionaire slumlord](#) who terrorizes tenants at his Baltimore-area properties.

People are fighting evictions across the U.S. Car caravans have been organized coast to coast, often linking the demands of abolishing rents along with freeing prisoners. The jails are COVID-19 death traps.

The Black Lives Matter movement has energized millions. Only by continuing to struggle will supplemental unemployment benefits be renewed and evictions, foreclosures and utility shut-offs be stopped.



Terrorism against Cuba is U.S. state policy

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The United States government has been the main organizer and sponsor of terrorism in the world since the country's emergence as a power with aspirations of universal hegemony.

Over the course of contemporary history, this country has created, structured and provided support to all kinds of self-proclaimed paramilitary and terrorist groups around the world, while providing assistance to dictatorial governments that used terror as a tool of repression against their people.

The terrorist war unleashed against Cuba was conceived as U.S. state policy. The countless military, economic, biological, diplomatic, psychological, propagandistic and espionage attacks, the sabotage and attempts to physically eliminate leaders of the revolutionary process, are part of an official strategy developed and implemented by the White House to defeat the Cuban Revolution and end the

construction of socialism on the island.

The overwhelming evidence has been reviewed so many times. The hijacking of airplanes, which before 1959 had no precedent in the world, was a method devised and used precisely by the CIA in its program of terrorist actions that began with the triumph of the Cuban Revolution. The toll of 3,478 dead and 2,099 disabled Cubans, victims of this violent plan, are more than enough to make clear the serious consequences of these crimes.

Two months after the terrorist Alazo Baró shot “to kill” [at the Cuban Embassy in Washington](#), the complicit silence of the U.S. government indicates that the story is to be continued.

The motivations that inspired the mercenary and his puppeteers in Miami are products of the policy of tolerance, complicity and encouragement of hatred that for years allowed the likes of Orlando Bosch, Posada Carriles and other criminals, tutored by the U.S. government, to act with complete freedom.

Both the impunity with which these extremists act, and the absence of a reaction on the part of the Trump administration to the seriousness of an armed assault on a foreign diplomatic headquarters, silently answer the basic question: Who really sponsors terrorism?

Invariably, Cuba takes the high road, responding by offering lessons, amidst the COVID-19 crisis, and looking to the ethical protection of Martí's ideas: “Those [places] where hate or intolerance are preached, fall down in good time: but temples? Now more than ever, temples of love and humanity are needed, to unleash all that is generous in man, and subdue all that is crude and vile in him.”

Source: [Granma](#)



El terrorismo contra Cuba es la política del estado de EE. UU.

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Estados Unidos ha sido el principal organizador y patrocinador del terrorismo en el mundo, desde su surgimiento como potencia con aspiraciones de hegemonía universal.

En el transcurso de la historia contemporánea, esa nación creó, estructuró y proporcionó apoyo de todo tipo a grupos paramilitares y terroristas confesos alrededor del orbe. También brindó asistencia a numerosos gobiernos dictatoriales que usaron el terror como herramienta de represión contra sus pueblos.

La guerra terrorista desatada contra Cuba fue concebida como política de Estado. La variedad de acciones militares, económicas, biológicas, diplomáticas, psicológicas, propagandísticas, de espionaje, la ejecución de actos de sabotaje y los intentos de liquidar físicamente a los líderes del proceso revolucionario, forman parte de una estrategia oficial creada y ejecutada desde la Casa Blanca para derrotar a la

Revolución y detener la construcción del socialismo en la Isla.

Demasiadas son las evidencias que tantas veces se han repasado: el secuestro de aviones, que hasta 1959 no tenían precedentes en el mundo, fue un método ideado y utilizado precisamente por la cia en su programa de acciones terroristas a partir del triunfo de enero. Las cifras de 3 478 cubanos fallecidos y 2 099 incapacitados como víctimas de todos los planes violentos sobre la Mayor de las Antillas, muestran las graves consecuencias del flagelo.

Dos meses después de que el terrorista Alazo Baró disparara «a matar» contra la Embajada cubana en Washington, el silencio cómplice de la Casa Blanca sacó a la luz los engendros de un pasado aún cercano en el tiempo.

El espíritu que animó al mercenario y a sus titiriteros en Miami, nace de la política de tolerancia, complicidad e incentivación del odio que durante años permitió actuar con entera libertad a los Orlando Bosch, Posada Carriles y otros monstruos nacidos bajo la tutela del Gobierno.

Tanto la impunidad con que actúan los extremistas, como la reacción ausente de la administración de Donald Trump ante la gravedad de un asalto armado a una sede diplomática extranjera, responden silenciosamente la interrogante mayor: ¿Quién realmente patrocina al terrorismo?

Invariable, la respuesta de Cuba siempre tiene la misma altura, como estas que ofrece, a modo de lecciones, en medio de la crisis provocada por la covid-19, y al amparo ético del ideario martiano: «Aquellos donde se predique el odio, o la intolerancia, vénganse abajo en buen(a) hora: pero ¿templos? ahora se necesitan más que nunca, templos de amor y humanidad que desaten todo lo que en el hombre hay de generoso, y sujeten todo lo que en él, de crudo y vil».

Fuente: [Granma](#)



Haiti and Bastille Day

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July 14 is Bastille Day. On that date in 1789 tens of thousands of poor people in Paris attacked a hated prison called the Bastille and began the French Revolution. The continual intervention of poor people in the cities and countryside — particularly in Paris — drove the revolution forward.

Karl Marx and Frederick Engels — the founders of communism — lived in that revolution's afterglow. Lenin and the other leaders of the Russian Revolution studied the French Revolution. Lenin became chairperson of the Council of People's Commissars, a term derived from the French "commissaire."

Even the terms "left" and "right" derive from the French upheaval. When the National Assembly met in 1789, the supporters of the king seized the right portion of the chamber and forced revolutionaries to sit on the left. They did this because of an ancient prejudice against left-handed people.

The French Revolution started in Europe, but it belongs to the world. And there

would have been no French Revolution without Haiti.

Capitalist riches from enslaved workers

The French Revolution was a capitalist, or bourgeois, revolution. It swept away all the old feudal rubbish, like the remnants of serfdom, that oppressed people. Even the formation of a national market, a necessity for capitalism, had to be fought for.

The capitalist class or bourgeoisie was not a new class. It began its rise centuries earlier in merchant trading. Its earliest attempts to challenge the old feudal order, usually under the guise of religious differences, were thrown back with bloody reprisals.

The Bourbon kings and the big nobles of France were aristocratic parasites who feasted while millions lived in rags. They were symbolized by Queen Marie Antoinette, who, when informed that people had no bread, exclaimed “Let them eat cake!” referring to the burnt remnants of bread caked inside communal ovens.

During the 1700s, the Bourbon monarchy was increasingly challenged by the bourgeoisie. Its ideologues, led by Voltaire, questioned everything and led the great intellectual movement known as the Enlightenment. Voltaire campaigned against executing people on “the wheel,” a torture device to which people were tied while their bodies were broken, sometimes just for allegedly mocking a religious procession.

But what gave the bourgeoisie its newfound confidence to oppose the monarchy were the profits flowing into its coffers from the labor of people held in slavery.

As C.L.R. James pointed out in his classic book “The Black Jacobins”: “Nearly all the industries which developed in France during the eighteenth century had their origin in goods or commodities destined either for the coast of Guinea or for America. The capital from the slave-trade fertilized them; though the bourgeoisie traded in other

things than slaves, upon the success or failure of the traffic everything else depended.”

The livelihood of 2 to 6 million people in France — out of a total population of 25 million — depended on slavery and products grown by enslaved people. French possession of Haiti meant it owned the richest colony in the world. Its trade employed 24,000 French sailors on 750 ships.

While Britain had an export trade of 27 million British pounds, the French were close behind with 17 million. The wealth produced by the Haitian people in slavery accounted for nearly 11 million pounds alone.

Liberty seized by enslaved people

The French bourgeoisie declared “Liberty, Equality, Fraternity” as the watchwords of their revolution. This is still the motto of France today.

But most French capitalists never wanted to abolish slavery or grant liberty to Black people kidnapped from Africa who were worked to death in Haiti, Guadeloupe and Martinique.

At that time, conditions were such in Haiti that the average life expectancy for a Black person on the island was 21 years. Then, news of the French Revolution reached Haiti and created a political ferment as it became known to people in slavery.

Dutty Boukman, an African originally enslaved in Jamaica, started a revolt in August 1791. Over 1,800 plantations were burned. Boukman was eventually killed, bravely fighting. But new leaders like Toussaint Louverture and Jean-Jacques Dessalines arose. The rising of Haiti’s enslaved people could not be stopped, and it found support among the French poor.

“The Blacks were taking their part in the destruction of European feudalism begun by the French Revolution,” James wrote, “and liberty and equality, the slogans of the revolution, meant far more to them than to any Frenchman.”

‘The aristocracy of the skin’

While the French Revolution was a bourgeois revolution, it was poor people in the cities and countryside who fought for it. In Europe, there was as yet no modern working class because there were no big industries. The Industrial Revolution had just started in Britain a few years before with the first cotton spinning machines.

Haiti was different. As James pointed out, “Working and living together in gangs of hundreds on the huge sugar-factories which covered the North Plain, they were closer to a modern proletariat than any group of workers in existence at the time.”

The French poor hated aristocrats and royalty like Marie Antoinette. But it was the “aristocracy of the skin,” as it became known, that became the most hated. Poor people in Paris found it detestable that people could be enslaved, branded and sold like cattle just because of their skin color.

James wrote: “In these few months of their nearest approach to power [the French poor] did not forget the Blacks. They felt towards them as brothers, and the old slave-owners, whom they knew to be supporters of the counterrevolution, they hated as if Frenchmen themselves had suffered under the whip.

“It was not Paris alone but all revolutionary France. ‘Servants, peasants, workers, the laborers by the day in the fields all over France were filled with a virulent hatred against the ‘aristocracy of the skin’ [James was quoting a supporter of slavery]. There were many so moved by the sufferings of the slaves that they had long ceased to drink coffee, thinking of it as drenched with the blood and sweat of men turned into brutes.”

As the French Revolution went forward, those bourgeois political leaders who opposed radical measures became known as Girondists. They were named for the region surrounding the French port of Bordeaux. Like Liverpool in England, Bordeaux's economic life depended on the slave trade.

The opponents of the Girondists were known as Jacobins. Most schoolbooks slander Jacobins like Maximilien Robespierre or other radicals like Jean-Paul Marat as bloodthirsty "terrorists."

But most of the Girondist leaders who talked so grandly about liberty didn't want to abolish slavery. It was only when Robespierre and the radical Jacobins were in power that slavery was formally ended in all French possessions by the decree of Feb. 4, 1794.

This was a historic measure by France's National Convention, but it only confirmed the freedom that had already been seized by the enslaved people themselves.

Defending the revolutions

The French Revolution was opposed by all of feudal Europe and by Britain, its commercial rival. Like the Russian Revolution more than a century later, France was invaded on a dozen fronts. The Duke of Brunswick, commander of the Allied Army (principally Austrian and Prussian), issued a manifesto threatening the destruction of Paris.

Although Britain bankrolled some of the armies invading France, its own army was absent. That's because it was invading Haiti. This move was a disaster for the British ruling class. "By the end of 1796, after three years of war, the British had lost in the West Indies 80,000 soldiers including 40,000 actually dead," wrote James.

If the British army that invaded Haiti had marched on Paris along with other European powers, the French Revolution might have been crushed. By defending

their own freedom in a battle with British invaders, the Haitian people also defended the freedom of 25 million people in France.

“It was the decree of abolition, the bravery of the Black [people], and the ability of their leaders, that had done it,” wrote James. “The great gesture of the French working people towards the Black slaves, against their own white ruling class, had helped to save their revolution from reactionary Europe. Held by Toussaint and his raw levies, singing the Marseillaise and the Ça Ira [two revolutionary songs], Britain, the most powerful country in Europe, could not attack the revolution in France.”

In “A History of the British Army,” J.W. Fortescue concluded that people who had been enslaved “had practically destroyed the British Army.” He admitted that “the secret of England’s impotence for the first six years of the war may be said to lie in the two fatal words, St. Domingo [the old name for Haiti].”

Two centuries of revenge

After the French Revolution, the radical Jacobins were overthrown and many were executed. Napoleon Bonaparte eventually seized power and became a military dictator.

Napoleon defeated one European feudal army after another. But he couldn’t conquer Haiti. Napoleon sent an army to Haiti commanded by his brother-in-law, Charles Leclerc, and Toussaint Louverture was kidnapped and died in a French prison.

But as Leclerc wrote to a French government minister: “It is not enough to have taken away Toussaint, there are 2,000 leaders to be taken away.” Leclerc died in Haiti knowing he was defeated. (Aldon Lynn Nielsen, “C.L.R. James: A Critical Introduction”)

Despite massacres that included drowning a thousand Black people at a time, as well as public burnings and hangings, the French army suffered a worse defeat than the

British. Out of 34,000 French troops, 24,000 died.

Dessalines declared Haiti's independence on Jan. 1, 1804. But the world capitalist class has never forgiven Haiti for its revolution. U.S. slave masters had nightmares about leaders in the mold of Dessalines, like Nat Turner who led an 1831 uprising of enslaved people in Virginia. Haiti is still deliberately kept the poorest country in this hemisphere by the United States and other capitalist countries.

But the Haitian Revolution changed history forever.

Tear down the walls

French capitalists use Bastille Day to glorify French colonialism. But socialist revolutionaries should celebrate Bastille Day by demanding that the more than 2 million prisoners locked up in U.S. bastilles be freed, starting with Leonard Peltier, Mumia Abu-Jamal, Dr. Aafia Siddiqui and Simón Trinidad.

Bastille Day should also be celebrated because of the Iraqi Revolution that overthrew the U.S.-backed and British-backed monarchy on Bastille Day: July 14, 1958. Capitalists never forgave Haiti's revolution and haven't forgiven Iraq's people for taking over their own oil. The Pentagon has invaded Iraq twice and still occupies it.

The U.S. capitalist class is as obsolete and useless as the French aristocracy was 228 years ago. Capitalists want to take away health care, privatize Social Security and cut wages even further. A socialist revolution is needed just to stop capitalism from cooking the earth.

The multinational working class in the U.S. will be forced to rise, as the French and Haitian masses did. An absolutely necessary requirement for success is that millions of white workers, part of this multinational class, break with racism. They need to see, and will see, that they are being used as political cattle by the wealthy and

powerful, like Donald Trump, who actually despise them.

Tear down the Bastilles! Down with the aristocracy of the skin! Reparations for Haiti!

Source: C.L.R. James, "The Black Jacobins: Toussaint L'Ouverture and the San Domingo Revolution."



Socialism and dignity: U.S. capitalist health care is racist

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Deamonte Driver didn't have to die. An abscessed tooth led to the 12-year-old Black youth's death on Feb. 25, 2007.

Deamonte's mother, Alyce Driver, worked two jobs. But her pay was so low that she couldn't afford \$80 for her son to have a tooth extracted.

Few dentists in Prince George's County, Md., accepted Medicaid. [Alyce Driver was trying to find a dentist](#) for another son who had six bad teeth.

After initially being sent home from an emergency room, Deamonte was rushed to the hospital. The infection in his tooth had spread to his brain.

Despite two operations [Deamonte Driver didn't survive](#). He really died of racism.

His last breaths occurred a few miles from the National Institutes of Health and a whole series of prestigious hospitals in the Baltimore/Washington, D.C., area. Almost none of them, with the notable exception of Howard University Hospital, were designed to serve any poor people.

Thirteen years after Deamonte Driver's death, the coronavirus has [killed over 130,000 people](#) in the United States. No one has died of the virus in either the socialist Lao People's Democratic Republic or the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Black people in the U.S. are dying of COVID-19 at a rate 2.7 times greater than that of whites. In Wisconsin's Racine County, the rate is seven times higher.

Latinx people are [over three times more likely to die](#) as compared to whites. In Apache County, Ariz., the death rate of Indigenous people from the virus is nearly 17 times higher than that of local whites.

The racist difference in death rates is even greater for people of working age. That's because three out of seven deaths from COVID-19 have happened in nursing homes.

The seniors warehoused there are too often treated by management as roadkill. Workers at nursing homes, many of them poorly paid, have also died of the coronavirus.

Poor white people suffer from unequal medical care. So do all transgender people.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. declared that “of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane.”

Capitalism is inequality and the nearly \$4-trillion U.S. medical-industrial complex is shockingly unjust and inhumane.

Robbing life from millions

One hundred fifty years after the U.S. Civil War, white men in 2015 had a [life expectancy at birth](#) 4.4 years greater than Black men. White women lived an average 2.8 years longer than Black women.

Within New York City, there are outrageous differences in lifespans. Sixty-five percent of people in Battery Park City at Manhattan’s southern tip are white and most households have incomes of over \$100,000 per year. They lived to be on average almost 86 years old.

A subway ride away in Brooklyn’s Brownsville community, 93 percent of the residents are Black or Latinx. Their life expectancy was just 74.4 years. That’s 11.5 years of life [stolen from them by capitalism](#).

Rates of infant and maternal mortality are even more unequal. In 2017, Black babies in Milwaukee were [five times more likely to die](#) than white babies. [Black mothers in Wisconsin](#) were five times as likely to die giving birth as white mothers.

Over 22,000 people have died of the coronavirus in New York City. Whether people lived or died often depended on what hospitals they went to.

The fancy private hospitals in Manhattan are often connected to a medical school and have the best technical equipment. Lincoln Medical Center in the Bronx — one of 11 city-owned hospitals — had trouble getting ventilators.

“Safety net” hospitals like Lincoln almost exclusively serve the poor and are often understaffed. Meanwhile, the five big private hospital chains in the Big Apple can afford to [spend \\$150 million a year](#) in advertising.

Not only have patients died needlessly because of this inequality. So have health care workers.

Kious Kelly, an assistant nursing manager at Manhattan’s Mount Sinai hospital, [died of the virus](#) on March 24. Workers there had to use garbage bags as personal protective equipment.

[Mount Sinai Health System CEO Dr. Kenneth Davis](#) doesn’t wear garbage bags. In 2017 he was paid over \$12 million.

Cuba has what we need

For capitalists, health care is a commodity to be sold for a profit, like Twinkies or napalm. Nowhere else has medicine become more of a source of profit than in the U.S.

Why does health care account for [17 percent of the U.S. capitalist economy](#) while capitalist Germany spends just a tad over 11 percent? It’s not because Germany lacks physicians: it has [65 percent more doctors](#) per person than the U.S. [Average life expectancy](#) in Germany is nearly 2.8 years longer than in the U.S.

The difference in the two countries’ health care costs is the much greater profits in the United States. The four biggest U.S. pharmaceutical outfits — Pfizer, Merck, Abbott and Eli Lilly — have a total stock market value of \$700 billion.

Eli Lilly raked in [\\$8.3 billion in profits](#) last year. Its best-selling product is Humalog insulin, a life-saving medicine for people with diabetes.

According to the American Medical Association, [insulin prices tripled](#) between 2002 and 2013.

Some people died because they couldn't afford insulin. [Among them was Jeremy Crawford](#), who died in Dallas on Aug. 25, 2019.

Crawford's death would have been impossible in Cuba. So would the death of Deamonte Driver.

Health care is considered a human right in the socialist country of Cuba, not something to make money from. Cubans live, on average, [16 years longer than they did in 1959](#), when the Cuban Revolution began.

After the Soviet Union was overthrown in 1991, Cuba lost two-thirds of its trade. But not a single Cuban hospital or school was closed.

Hundreds of hospitals have closed in the U.S. Some of them have been turned into luxury housing, [like St. John's Hospital](#) in Queens, N.Y.

The Borough of Queens, an epicenter of the coronavirus, has only 1.8 hospital beds per thousand people. Cuba has five per thousand.

Before its revolution, Cuba couldn't even manufacture an aspirin tablet. Today, Cuban medical workers have developed [medications like CIMAvax-EGF](#) to combat lung cancer.

Thousands of Cuban health care workers are helping people in other countries. Two thousand Cuban doctors and nurses went abroad [to fight Covid-19](#).

Despite a 60-year-long U.S. economic blockade, Cuban workers have dignity. Cuba has what we need: socialism and free health care for all.



‘Historic day’ for Standing Rock as pipeline company told to shut down, remove oil

written by Struggle - La Lucha

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Updated: Another blow for pipelines: The U.S. Supreme Court has kept in place a lower court ruling that blocked a key permit for the Keystone XL

[Kolby KickingWoman](#)

[Indian Country Today](#)

A federal judge has ordered the Dakota Access Pipeline to shut down and remove all oil within 30 days, a huge win for Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, and the other plaintiffs.

In a 24-page order, U.S. District Judge James Boasberg wrote that he was “mindful of the disruption” that shutting down the pipeline would cause, but that it must be done within 30 days. The order comes after Boasberg said [in April](#) that a more

extensive review was necessary than what the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers had already conducted and that he would consider whether the pipeline would have to be shuttered during the new assessment.

“Following multiple twists and turns in this long-running litigation, this Court recently found that Defendant U.S. Army Corps of Engineers had violated the National Environmental Policy Act when it granted an easement to Defendant-Intervenor Dakota Access, LLC to construct and operate a segment of that crude-oil pipeline running beneath the lake,” said the opinion from Boasberg.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Supreme Court handed another blow to the disputed Keystone XL pipeline from Canada by keeping in place a lower court ruling that blocked a key permit for the project.

Monday’s order also put on hold an earlier court ruling out of Montana as it pertains to other oil and gas pipelines across the nation.

That’s a sliver of good news for an industry that just suffered two other blows — Sunday’s cancellation of the \$8 billion Atlantic Coast gas pipeline in the Southeast and the ruling that shut down the Dakota Access oil pipeline.



“The Court does not reach its decision with blithe disregard for the lives it will

affect,” Boasberg wrote in Monday’s Dakota Access ruling. “It readily acknowledges that, even with the currently low demand for oil, shutting down the pipeline will cause significant disruption to DAPL, the North Dakota oil industry, and potentially other states.

This doesn’t appear to be the first time Boasberg has reversed or rescinded a previous judgment.

According to [BallotPedia](#), since 2018 the judge has ruled against the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement for detaining asylum seekers more than seven days and also stopped states from implementing work requirements for Medicaid programs.

Ron Ness, president of the North Dakota Petroleum Council, called the ruling “shocking” and noted that the pipeline is moving 570,000 barrels of Bakken oil a day.

“I think there’s a lot of questions about the authority of this liberal district court judge to make such a significant ruling,” Ness said of Boasberg, who was appointed by former President Barack Obama. “There is no doubt that the lawyers are all gearing up and looking at every possibility of a stay or an appeal or something.” From the outset of the pipeline’s construction, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Chairman Mike Faith Jr. said the tribe stood against the project.



[“There are many problems with the information ETP \(Energy Transfer Partner\) submitted to the Corps of Engineers on DAPL. ETP estimates that 12,500 barrels of oil would be the worst-case scenario, but that is based on a nine-minute shutdown time. By looking at prior spills, we know that the true shutdown time is hours, and can even take days. Now, the fight continues, but it is in federal court.” —Chairman Mike Faith of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe \(Photo courtesy of Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, Facebook 2018\)](#)

“Today is a historic day for the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and the many people who have supported us in the fight against the pipeline,” Faith said. “This pipeline should have never been built here. We told them that from the beginning.”

The pipeline extends more than 1,000 miles from North Dakota to Illinois - but the issue is the portion of the project that is buried under the Missouri River. The Standing Rock Sioux tribe said a leak will contaminate their drinking water and sacred lands.

The Cheyenne River Indian Reservation sit next to the Standing Rock Sioux and Missouri River. Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal Chairman Harold Frazier celebrates the decision.

“I applaud the actions of the US District Court in finding what we knew all along, that this pipeline, like many other actions taken by the US government, is in fact illegally operating,” read the statement. “The fact that this operation had been operating illegally for three years before this conclusion was finally made shows you the power that money holds on the American government.”

Late in the Obama administration the Corps of Army Engineers announced it would suspend approval of the project while an Environmental Impact Statement was prepared. “A few months later, however, following the change of administration in January 2017 and a presidential memorandum urging acceleration of the project, the Corps again reconsidered and decided to move forward,” the opinion said. “It granted the sought permit, construction was completed, and oil commenced flowing through the Dakota Access Pipeline. “

This the court found was a substantial error and a violation of the National Environmental Policy Act.

The bottom line: “The Corps had not been able to substantiate its decision to publish” only an Environmental Assessment and not an Environmental Impact Statement.

“Dakota Access’s central and strongest argument ... is that shutting down the pipeline would cause it, and the industries that rely on it, significant economic harm, including substantial job losses,” the court said.

The court’s decision is the latest and possibly final ruling on what has been a years long court battle. Earthjustice Attorney Jan Hasselman, who represents the tribe, said despite the long court process, justice for the tribes has been served.

“If the events of 2020 have taught us anything, it’s that health and justice must be prioritized early on in any decision-making process if we want to avoid a crisis later on,” Hasselman said.

The pipeline company said it could lose \$643 million in the second half of 2020 and \$1.4 billion in 2021 if shut down. The court said: “All of these financial losses would be absorbed by the owners of Dakota Access,” particularly Energy Transfer Partners, the current parent company of DAPL after a merger with Sunoco.”

Energy Transfer last year proposed increasing the pipeline’s capacity to as much as 1.1 million barrels to meet growing demand for oil from North Dakota, without the need for additional pipelines or rail shipments.

Before the coronavirus pandemic [devastated the U.S. oil industry](#), daily oil production in North Dakota – the nation’s No. 2 oil producer behind Texas – was at a near-record 1.45 million barrels daily. The state’s output slipped to below 1 million barrels daily in May amid low energy prices and sparse demand.

Permits for the project were originally rejected by the Obama administration, and the Army Corps of Engineers prepared to conduct a full environmental review. In February 2017, shortly after President Donald Trump took office, the Corps scrapped the review and granted permits, concluding that running the pipeline under the Missouri River posed no significant environmental issues.

The Corps said that opinion was validated after an additional year of review, as ordered by Boasberg in 2017.

Boasberg had ruled then that the Corps “largely complied” with environmental law when permitting the pipeline but ordered more review because he said the agency did not adequately consider how an oil spill under the Missouri River might affect the Standing Rock Sioux’s fishing and hunting rights, or whether it might disproportionately affect the tribal community.

“Yet, given the seriousness of the Corps’ NEPA error, the impossibility of a simple fix, the fact that Dakota Access did assume much of its economic risk knowingly, and the potential harm each day the pipeline operates, the Court is forced to conclude that the flow of oil must cease,” Boasberg’s ruling stated.

In a statement, the Indigenous Environmental Network is celebrating all the prayers and support the #NoDAPL movement has received over the years. While Boasberg’s opinion clearly states the flow of oil must stop, the organization is prepared to fight to see that through.

“The Standing Rock and Cheyenne River Sioux Tribes have shown the world that treaty rights and environmental justice are not token concepts without merit, but rather tangible arguments that inherently protect the sacredness of mother earth. We will continue to fight until DAPL is stopped completely,” the statement said.



Kolby KickingWoman, Blackfeet/A’aniih, is a reporter/producer for Indian Country Today. He is from the great state of Montana and currently reports and lives in Washington, D.C. Follow him on Twitter - [@KDKW_406](#). Email - kkickingwoman@indiancountrytoday.com



July 18th Day of Protest: Stop Police Crimes! Community Control Now

written by Struggle - La Lucha
July 17, 2020



Hosted by National Alliance Against Racist & Political Repression

Saturday, July 18, 2020

EVERYWHERE

We are calling a national day of protest in what has now been a double-edged sword of crisis, with the pandemic on the one edge, and the horrific racist injustices against Black people on the other.

The fact that we have entered a new era of rebellion unprecedented in the annals of US history is now recognized by the powers that be, as well as the hucksters in the mass media, and all strands of the people's movement.

We are issuing this call for a national day of protest not only in a moment of outrage, but also in the greatest crisis this country has seen.

What is at stake? The lives of our people are daily stolen by the ravages of Covid-19—particularly in the Deep South where our population is concentrated—and also the unabated crimes of murder and assault against our people by the police in virtually every major city in the United States.

We must place the demand for community control of the police at the center of the struggle to end police crimes and tyranny over our people.

The highest principle in the struggle is for us to assert our inalienable democratic right to determine who polices our communities and how our communities are policed. To avoid going down the blind alleys of piecemeal reforms, this must be our rock bottom demand.

Yes, defund the police. Yes, demilitarize the police. To make this happen people must be in control of the policing. So we are calling on all the various strands of the people's movement—workers and all oppressed people—to join us on July 18th for a national day of protest demanding community control of the police, and continuing to demand depopulation of prisons, jails and detention centers which are death traps of the people confined in these institutions.

We also demand the freedom of Mumia Abu-Jamal, Sundiatta Acoli, Jalil Muntaquim, Veroza Bowers, Romaine “Chip” Fitzgerald, and all political prisoners who were in the Black Panther Party, many of whom have been locked down for over four decades, and also all those wrongfully convicted as a result of racist frame-ups as well as the survivors of torture like Gerald Reed, Tamon Russell who still languish in prison decades after they were wrongfully convicted. We must continue to relentlessly fight for justice for George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and all those wantonly murdered by the police.

By being organized we are prepared to help the masses of our people to raise and fight for the demands in this call to end racist genocidal policies and practices of the police, and to stand in united struggle with all the democratic forces agitated into action by the present rebellion. WE HAVE MADE THE DEMANDS OF THE PEOPLE THE DEMANDS OF OUR MOVEMENT! JOIN US JULY 18TH IN UNITED PROTEST THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY!

On [Facebook](#)



Baltimore July 18: Nat'l Day to Stop Police Crimes! Community Control Now - Free Them All

written by Struggle - La Lucha
July 17, 2020



Saturday, July 18, 2020 at 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM EDT

2011 N Charles St, Baltimore

MARCH & CAR CARAVAN

Stop Police Crimes! Community Control Now! Free Them All! July 18th Day of Protest

We are calling a national day of protest in what has now been a double-edged sword of crisis, with the pandemic on the one edge, and the horrific racist injustices against Black people on the other.

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