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Partido de Socialismo Unido

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Defend activists & organizers under attack! Defend Black lives!



Protesters arrested during police riot in Tallahassee, Fla. Sept. 5.

As the anti-racist uprising of 2020 rolled "business as usual" in cities across the U.S., many protesters have been hit with severe charges after being arrested for offenses that would normally be considered violations or misdemeanors. Many arrestees are facing possible sentences of years in prison or even life sentences.

In a dangerous attack on our right to protest, Attorney General William Barr in a recent conference call with U.S. attorneys across the country even encouraged sedition charges be widely used against anti-racist protesters. Sedition means conspiracy and intent to overthrow the U.S. government and can result in 20 years in prison.

The Socialist Unity Party has issued an appeal to all revolutionary left organizations and activists to unite in defense of those facing repression from the capitalist state and its allies in the white supremacist-fascist movement.

Please share widely. This list will be updated regularly. If you know of a case that should be added, send details to info@struggle-la-lucha.org.

Here are some important cases and actions that your organization or you as an individual can help to publicize and defend:

Louisville

In Louisville Sept. 24, cops trapped and corralled marchers protesting the state's refusal to charge the cops who murdered Breonna Taylor. They arrested 127 people and surrounded a church where protesters had gathered, refusing to let them leave.

Among the arrested were State Rep. Attica Scott and her daughter Ashanti. Representative Scott was targeted by the cops, who shouted, "Circle her," as she and her daughter tried to enter the church.

Scott, the only Black woman in the Kentucky legislature, is the author of a bill to abolish no-knock warrants in the state, Breonna's Law. She is charged with inciting to riot. That's the same level of felony as the wanton endangerment charge against former cop Brett Hankison, who fired into the wrong apartment when his partners were murdering Breonna Taylor.

Cops absurdly accuse Scott and other protesters of trying to burn down a public library. "I have no idea where that came from and I'm quite frankly offended and disgusted that they would try to accuse me of setting fire to the library when I'm one of its biggest champions," Scott said. "And this is the library in my district, District 41. That makes absolutely no sense."

San Diego

Denzel Draughn, a well-known San Diego anti-racist activist and supporter of the African People's Socialist Party, was arrested Aug. 28 at a demonstration in solidarity with the movement in Kenosha, Wis., calling for justice for Jacob Blake, who was shot seven times in the back by police. Draughn is charged based on the ridiculous claim that he pepper-sprayed nine cops. He is facing 19

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In fight against killer cops, 'An injury to one is an injury to all'

On Sept. 19, the newly formed New York City chapter of the National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression held a rally in Union Square Park to demand: "Stop police crimes! Withdraw federal troops! Community control now!" It was part of a national day of action called by the NAARPR.

Speakers expressed their commitment to the struggle to defend Black lives from police murder and to keep the fight going and growing in the streets. They also called for solidarity with activists and community members targeted for repression by the police and Trump administration.

Participating groups included the New York Community Action Project, BAYAN USA, New York Boricua Resistance and the Communist Party USA. A highlight of the rally was the announcement by three high school students that they are forming a New York chapter of the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS).

The following remarks were given by Greg Butterfield, representing the Socialist Unity Party and Struggle-La Lucha newspaper:

"We're proud to be here today with all of you, and to be part of the National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression. The launching of the New York Alliance is a big step forward.

"It's been almost exactly 10 years since the FBI raids on anti-war activists in the Midwest, including several members of the Freedom Road Socialist Organization. Back then, the revolutionary left rallied to the defense of these comrades, and eventually, together, we succeeded in beating back the government attack.

"Why do I bring this up? After all, we want to focus on building the movement to defend Black lives, for community control of the police. We want to encourage people to stay in the streets and not back down. But to do that, people have

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'Say her name! No justice, no peace!'

By Greg Butterfield

"Say her name! Breonna Taylor! No justice, no peace!" The cry rang out through the streets of Brooklyn, N.Y., on Sept. 23 as more than a thousand people gathered at Barclays Center to protest the exoneration of the Louisville cops who murdered Breonna Taylor. Later, the crowd marched across the Manhattan Bridge and converged with hundreds more protesters in Manhattan.

SLU photo: Greg Butterfield



