

Trump pushes voter suppression: how should revolutionaries respond?

written by Struggle - La Lucha

October 15, 2020



Protesters demanding justice for Breonna Taylor faced off with armed fascists at the Kentucky Derby, Sept. 5.

Oct. 13 — As people in Fairfax, Va., waited in line to cast their ballots on the second day of early voting, [a squad of Trump supporters](#) descended on the polling station, disrupting the process and intimidating voters and poll workers. In Southern California, the Republican Party placed [unofficial dropoff boxes](#) to capture mail-in

ballots amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

The New York Police Department, which regularly brutalizes and murders Black and Brown people with impunity, brags how it will [guard the polls](#) while mobilizing [all cops in the city](#) to repress protests around the election. New York's police "union" has even endorsed Trump.

The governor of Texas restricted mail ballot dropoff to just one location for every county in that huge state. (A federal court later [ruled against the measure](#), but the state immediately appealed. It's unclear how or if it will be rectified in time.) Florida imposed a poll tax to prevent voting by former prisoners. Elsewhere, Republican governors and state legislatures have taken measures to restrict and inhibit voting. As of this writing, [some have been overruled](#) by the courts, some have not.

The U.S. Supreme Court on Oct. 5 [upheld a South Carolina measure](#) that requires that mail-in ballots include a witness's signature. In 2013, the unelected, appointed-for-life Supreme Court gutted a key provision of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, opening the door for Southern states to reinstate such Jim Crow-style restrictions.

"The state of Alabama moved almost immediately to implement a voter identification bill that had been held up in the state legislature under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act," the [Washington Post noted](#). "The state then closed more than two dozen driver's license offices, a principal place for obtaining a proper ID. The offices closed were disproportionately in areas with large Black populations."

"Before 2006, no state required voters to produce identification. The first was enacted in Indiana and later upheld by the Supreme Court. Today, 36 states have voter ID laws, some more strict than others."

A concerted, well-organized and generously funded campaign is underway throughout the U.S. to suppress and invalidate the votes of the most oppressed

members of the working class in the Nov. 3 elections — not only for the presidential contest, but also congressional, state and local races.

There is also the threat of violence by white supremacist movements like the Proud Boys and Oath Keepers. At an earlier time, these forces went under names like the Ku Klux Klan and the John Birch Society.

Danger of fascist violence

Racist voter suppression is a frequent and ever-growing feature of U.S. elections. But the level of coordination in 2020 is unprecedented and comes right from the top.

For months, President Donald Trump has denounced voting by mail and other measures to protect voters amidst the pandemic, going so far as to try to sabotage the ability of the Postal Service to deliver the mail.

Trump has repeatedly refused to say that he will accept the election results if they don't favor him. During a nationally televised debate, he told the Proud Boys (and by extension all white supremacists) to "stand back and stand by."

[Attorney General William Barr](#) joined Trump, authorizing investigations of politically motivated fraud claims.

On Oct. 10, the [Los Angeles Times](#) published a report entitled, "What if armed far-right groups go to the polls? Some plan to." It states: "Experts are especially focused on dangers raised by armed right-wing factions and self-styled militias with national networks who may intimidate voters, particularly immigrants and people of color.

"The Oath Keepers claim thousands of members, including some who served in the military and law enforcement. Some have signed up as poll watchers, while others plan to monitor the election armed and 'undercover,' drawing their weapons if

needed, said founder Stewart Rhodes, a former Army paratrooper and Yale Law School graduate."

The danger of far-right sabotage and violence targeting people of color is especially high in [so-called swing states](#), where the decisive Electoral College votes are up for grabs between Trump and Democratic challenger Joe Biden: Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Michigan, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, North Carolina and Wisconsin.

And there are other states where violent, racist gangs have clashed with Black Lives Matter protesters, and where the elections could be another flashpoint — including Colorado, Kentucky, Missouri, Oregon and Texas, among others.

According to the L.A. Times: "Black Lives Matter protesters in swing states also plan to go to the polls to protect voters from being intimidated by right-wing groups: 'This could be the biggest voter turnout in history, a lot of them people of color,' said KeJuan Goldsmith, 19, a Black activist college student who led a protest against police brutality in Green Bay, Wis., on Saturday. 'If we need to be there for them to be protected, so they can cast their vote without fear, that's what we have to do.'"

Defend democratic rights of the people

How should revolutionaries respond to threats of right-wing violence and state-sponsored intimidation before and on Election Day? We should defend the rights of the oppressed and workers at the polls wherever and however we can.

Many progressive and even liberal groups have made plans to counteract voter suppression, including court challenges. The Coalition of Labor Union Women and other AFL-CIO affiliates urged union members to sign up as poll workers. Others are organizing community escorts for voters, as reproductive rights activists have long done to overcome the intimidation tactics of anti-women "right to life" groups. These are all worthy efforts.

But what happens if armed, violent movements like the Oath Keepers and Proud Boys descend on polling stations? The police and other agencies of the capitalist state can't be relied upon to protect oppressed voters and poll workers. On the contrary, cops often treat these fascists as their unofficial deputies and even goad them on to violence.

The Democrats won't call on the masses to fight to defend their rights. That was made crystal clear, yet again, with the Republican rush to confirm Trump nominee Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court before Election Day.

Although it may cost them the White House, Democratic leaders haven't called on the masses to resist the imposition of this far-right ideologue. They are more afraid of the people and the potential for their struggle to outgrow the limits of capitalism than they are of the devastation that four more years of Trump could wreak.

That's why revolutionaries can't stand aside on Election Day. Communists, revolutionary socialists and anti-fascists must be prepared to challenge the right-wing goons and defend the right to vote at polling places where necessary — just as we would protest and defend the community during any fascist manifestation.

Our goal is not to give credibility to Biden or other capitalist politicians who helped pave the way for Trump and the far right. They offer no solutions to the white supremacist danger or the broader crisis of capitalism.

Rather, we must show our class that we will defend their hard-won democratic rights, especially those of the most oppressed, against the class enemies who would terrorize them into submission, while continuing to explain why a mass movement politically independent of the capitalist parties is needed to win real social change.

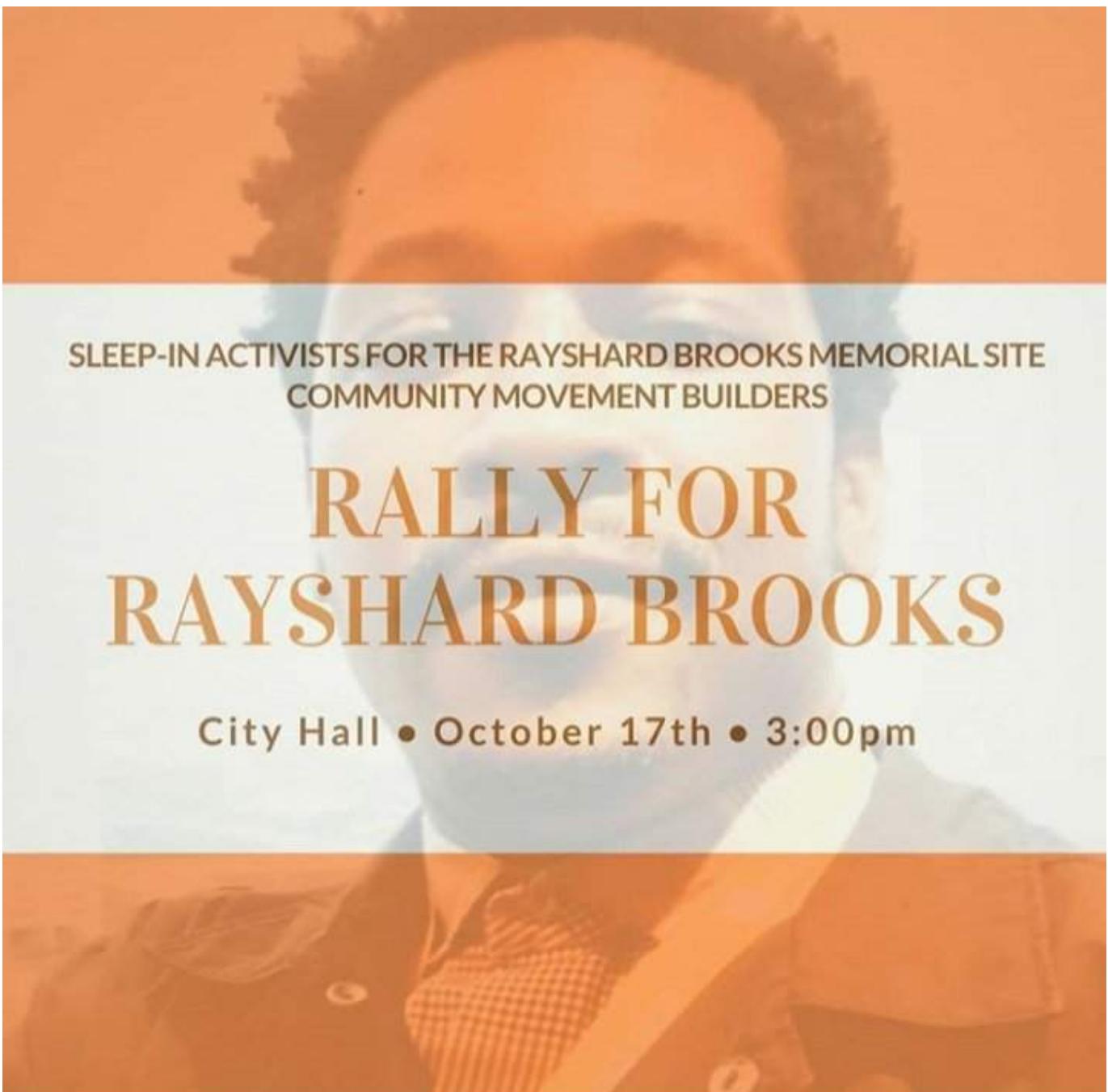
The voting rights of Black and Brown people, now under threat, were won in the streets, not the voting booth. What better way for revolutionaries to make their case

than to show our willingness to defend the rights of the people?



Atlanta: Rally for Rayshard Brooks, Oct. 17

written by Struggle - La Lucha
October 15, 2020



SLEEP-IN ACTIVISTS FOR THE RAYSHARD BROOKS MEMORIAL SITE
COMMUNITY MOVEMENT BUILDERS

RALLY FOR RAYSHARD BROOKS

City Hall • October 17th • 3:00pm

Rally for Rayshard Brooks

Saturday, October 17 - 3:00 p.m.

City Hall, Atlanta, Georgia

Sleep-In Activists for the Rayshard Brooks Memorial Site & Community Movement Builders



Washington D.C.: Abolish Columbus Day - Honor Indigenous Peoples Day instead! Oct. 17

written by Struggle - La Lucha
October 15, 2020

ABOLISH COLUMBUS DAY

**HONOR
INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY
INSTEAD!**



**NO CELEBRATION OF GENOCIDE!
TAKE COLUMBUS FOUNTAIN DOWN!**

INSTITUTIONALIZE & FUND INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY!

Face coverings & social distancing required!

Sat., October 17, 2020, 12pm - 3pm

Malcolm X Park (lower level)

Watch the livestream:

A-APRP-GC.org

Indigenous People's Day will honor Native Americans and their 500-year struggle for freedom and self-determination. Speakers will address such issues as the ongoing crisis of murdered and disappeared Indigenous women, the pipeline issue and numerous other violations of treaty rights, the catastrophic impact of Covid-19 on Indian Reservations, and the demeaning use of Native American names in team sports.

SPEAKERS

Chief Billy Redwing Tayac

Piscataway Indian Nation & Tayac Territory

Penny Gamble Williams

Women of All Red Nations

Pete Lendaros

Mid-Atlantic American Indian Movement

David Grosso

DC City Council

PERFORMERS

Uptown Boyz

Malcolm X Drummers & Dancers

Grupo Wayta

People's Music Network

For more information, contact:

John Steinbach, (703) 822-3485

johnsteinbach1@verizon.net

Abolish Columbus Day
Honor Indigenous Peoples Day instead!
Sat. October 17 - 12 p.m. - 3 p.m.
Malcolm X Park (lower level), Washington, D.C.
Face coverings and social distancing required
Watch the livestream: A-APRP-GC.org
No celebration of genocide!
Take Columbus Fountain down!
Institutionalize and fund Indigenous Peoples Day!

Three of the most important movements in the world today are the movements to repudiate and rescind the Papal Bulls of Discovery and the Treaty of Tordesillas, to tear down the Columbus Statutes in every corner of the world, and to replace Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples' Day. These movements seek, among other objectives, to reclaim and rewrite the history of Indigenous Peoples.

We believe that Indigenous Peoples' Day is in harmony and alliance with African Liberation Day and Palestine (Nakba) Day. We seek to help tear down racist and sexist monuments and memorials in every corner of Africa, the African Diaspora, and the World. We also seek to help reclaim and rewrite our history, and the history of the world. Permit us to share a bit of history about Columbus Day and Indigenous Peoples' Day.

Since 1792, October 12 has been celebrated across the United States and in many countries worldwide as Columbus Day. On March 4, 1907, the 59th United States Congress approved HR 13304: "That there shall be erected in the city of Washington, in the District of Columbia, a suitable memorial to the memory of Christopher Columbus." From June 7-9, 1912, the Knights of Columbus, President Taft, the U.S. Army, the Marine Corp Band, and 150,000 people celebrated as the Columbus Fountain was unveiled in Columbus Circle at Union Station in Washington, DC. It is the national monument.

In 1934, Congress passed a statute "(1) designating October 12 as Columbus Day; (2) calling on United States Government officials to display the flag of the United States on all Government buildings on Columbus Day; and (3) inviting the people of the United States to observe Columbus Day, in schools and churches, or other suitable places, with appropriate ceremonies that express the public sentiment

befitting the anniversary of the discovery of America.” In 1968, Columbus Day became a federal holiday. Five decades later, Columbus Day celebrations are still being held.

Indigenous Peoples’ Day began in South Dakota in 1989. In October 1991, Columbus Fountain in DC was spray painted with graffiti reading “500 Years of Genocide” during a wreath-laying ceremony by the Knights of Columbus. Vernon Bellecourt of the American Indian Movement, and others, protested at that site, and other sites across the U.S., countless times. The All-African People’s Revolutionary Party supported them, and we continue to support them, uncompromisingly.

Indigenous Peoples’ Day was instituted in Berkeley, in 1992, to coincide with the 500th anniversary of the arrival of Columbus in the Americas. Hundreds of campuses, cities, counties worldwide have instituted Indigenous Peoples’ Day, and taken Columbus statutes down. On October 8, 2019, the D.C. City Council abolished the celebration of Columbus Day, and replaced it with Indigenous People’s Day.

Chief Billy Tayac and the Piscataway Indian Nation, the American Indian Movement (Mid-Atlantic), the A-APRP (GC) and a number of other organizations are organizing a 1st Amendment-protected protest against Columbus Day, and a Celebration of Indigenous Peoples’ Day from 12 (noon) to 4:00 pm on October 17, 2020, at Malcolm X Park, at 15th & W Street NW in Washington, DC. We were forced to reschedule it because of the storm.



Wisconsin: Mass arrests, tear gas, National Guard used against protesters

written by Struggle - La Lucha
October 15, 2020

Cole family arrested one day after killer cop not charged

Milwaukee — Protests in the Milwaukee suburb of Wauwatosa ramped up over the past two nights. On October 7, Milwaukee County District Attorney John Chisholm ruled that although the shooting death of Alvin Cole in February was not justified, Wauwatosa police officer Joseph Mensah would not face charges for the murder. Mensah is also responsible for the murders of Antonio Gonzales and Jay Anderson. Chisholm was the district attorney who filed no charges in each of those cases, as well as six other instances of killer cops in and around Milwaukee.

Immediately after the announcement, protesters took to the streets of downtown Milwaukee. They quickly made their way to Interstate 94 going west towards Wauwatosa, breaking through a police line to get onto the freeway. The protest eventually made its way to the suburb where they were met with riot police and National Guard troops.

Rubber bullets, teargas and pepper-ball shot were used to brutalize people in what is becoming common place for protesters in southeast Wisconsin. There were a few broken windows, and a handful of people shopped for free at a gas station before the night was done.

The situation escalated on the night of October 8. Wauwatosa has taken on the characteristics of a war zone, with armed National Guard troops patrolling the streets and enforcing a 7 p.m. curfew. Reports on the ground indicate that mass arrests are being made.

Among those arrested include many of Alvin Cole's family, including his mother Tracy, his sisters, and his brother. The Coles were literally ripped from their vehicles during the arrests. Tracy Cole was taken away in an ambulance after police broke her arm during the ordeal. Some family members of Jacob Blake, the man who Kenosha police attempted to murder at the end of August, had joined the protest in Wauwatosa. Jacob Blake, Sr. has been arrested.

These injustices perpetrated against the Cole and Blake families, as well as all other protesters who have been attacked and arrested by the police and National Guard while demanding justice, will not go unchecked. When DA Chisholm determined that there would be no justice, he ensured that there would be no peace.

Release the Cole family! Release Jacob Blake, Sr.! Release all others who have been arrested! Charge, arrest and indict serial-killing cop Joseph Mensah! Justice for Alvin Cole!

Source: [FightBack! News](#)



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written by Struggle - La Lucha

October 15, 2020

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The wolf is at the door: Mobilize workers against a stolen election

By Sharon Black

Sept. 30 — Since our last article, "2020 elections and capitalist instability: How should we prepare?", President Donald Trump has declared several times that he won't leave office if the presidential election is "not fair." By that he means, if he does not win, it may be the first time that a U.S. president has openly said that he won't accept the vote, indicating that there will be no peaceful transfer of power.

This is not an idle threat. Trump has his own paramilitary police force, which has been deployed against protesters in test runs from Washington, D.C., to Portland, Ore.; the Department of Homeland Security; the support of the most virulent and reactionary police departments; and a myriad of violently racist, vigilante-type groups.

At the Sept. 29 debate in Cleveland with his Democratic opponent Joe Biden, after the moderator asked if he would condemn white supremacists including the Proud Boys, a violent far-right racist group, Trump declared: "Proud Boys: Stand back and stand by," acknowledging that he was their leader.

Later in the debate, Trump refused to say that he would abide by the results of the election and declined to tell his supporters to remain calm or avoid violence. "If I see tens of thousands of ballots, I can't go along with that," he said, urging his supporters to go to the polls and "watch very carefully."

If anyone is fooled into thinking that Trump is remotely anti-war, his 9-minute ram at the United Nations General Assembly on Sept. 22 should set the record straight. It was a full-throttle jingoistic preparation for war against China, along with Iran, Venezuela and Cuba. Though this is not unusual for Trump, it was a departure from the subterfuge used by most capitalist politicians on the world stage.

"When someone shows you who they are, believe them the first time" is a saying made famous by writer and poet Maya Angelou. We should believe Trump.

Growing repression

State attacks on the Black Lives Matter uprising against racism and police terror have escalated.

In Louisville, Ky., Attica Scott, the only Black woman state representative, and her 10-year-old daughter were arrested Sept. 24 on felony riot charges during protests after the grand jury decision exonerating Breonna Taylor's killers. Twenty-four others were arrested at the same time, along with 127 more on Sept. 23.

This follows on the heels of draconian charges against Party for Socialism and Liberation and Frontline Party for Revolutionary Action members in Aurora, Colo.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis recently announced a legislative bill, the "Combating Violence, Disorder and Looting and Law Enforcement Protection Act." It would drastically intensify criminal charges against protesters. Blocking traffic would become a third-degree felony, but drivers who intentionally plow their vehicles into crowds would not be held liable for injury or death.

Destroying or toppling monuments, such as Confederate statues, would become a second-degree felony.

These recent events make it all the more imper-



Minneapolis protest against release of killer cop Derek Chauvin on bail, Oct. 7. Chauvin's murder of George Floyd on May 25 sparked the current anti-racist uprising.

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If November election is stolen
OCCUPY THE STREETS
No work ▶ No school ▶ No shopping
Call for People's General Strike
PeoplesPowerAssembly.org

ative for the working class to intervene actively in what undoubtedly will be a series of major crises this year and into 2021.

Lessons of 2000 election

The 2000 election pitted Democrats Al Gore and Joe Lieberman against George W. Bush and Dick Cheney. It was stolen by outright suppression of Black and working-class voters in Florida.

After several contentious months of struggle, sometimes in the street, the outcome was resolved by the U.S. Supreme Court, which overturned a Florida Supreme Court decision ordering a recount. Bush was declared the winner. Not even the undemocratic Electoral College, but just nine Supreme Court justices chose the president.

At that time, James Baker was chief legal advisor for Bush's campaign and oversaw the Florida recount operation. Baker was responsible for the strategy to take the case to the U.S. Supreme Court after losing in a deeply corrupt effort on the state level.

Baker later became Bush's secretary of state. John G. Roberts Jr., one of the lawyers on Baker's team, was rewarded by Bush with an appointment to the Supreme Court. Roberts is now the chief justice.

As Struggle-La Lucha's Gary Wilson wrote in "Donald Trump's Greedy Big Oil Backers Want More":

"Former Secretary of State James Baker considered voting for Joe Biden in November but will instead keep backing Donald Trump, a new biography reveals, in the process outlining a key reason

for continued Republican support for the scandal-plagued U.S. president," the *Guardian* reports.

"Though the 'myriad' ethical scandals surrounding Trump were head-spinning," Baker told the authors, "it was worth it to get conservative judges, tax cuts and deregulation."

"Yes, Trump is giving them exactly what they want."

Democratic Party's role

In 2000, the Democratic Party fought the election theft with one hand tied behind its back. It pulled Jesse Jackson back from organizing demonstrations. Democratic Sen. Joe Lieberman, who later became chair of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security, broke ranks and called for conceding to Bush.

This should serve as a lesson to not count on the Democratic Party to protect the rights of the people. In the final analysis, the Democratic Party could not be relied upon to defend African American voters. In the end, its allegiance was only to Big Capital.

Readers should take note: Following that election and the 9/11 attacks, the U.S. started the endless "War on Terror" and the second Iraq War. At home, the expansion of the repressive apparatus of the state became gargantuan — a tendency that V.I. Lenin described in the pamphlet "The State and Revolution."

In 2002, the Homeland Security Act was passed, and in 2003, the Department of Homeland Security was formed. Today, it is the third-largest

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Oppression and Resistance: Palestine Fights for Liberation, Oct.

17

written by Struggle - La Lucha

October 15, 2020



Palestine fights back! Anti-Palestinian repression in the United States and Europe is escalating – but Palestinian resistance is growing and continuing, from Palestine to everywhere in exile and diaspora. Join Samidoun Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity

Network to discuss ongoing oppression - and Palestinian Resistance!

17 October - 10 am Pacific/1 pm Eastern/7 pm central Europe/8 pm Palestine

With speakers:

Jaldia Abubakra

(Founder, Alkarama Palestinian Women's Mobilization)

Khaled Barakat

(Palestinian writer and activist)

Nerdeen Kiswani

(Chair, Within Our Lifetime - United for Palestine)

This is an ONLINE EVENT!

Register to attend: <https://bit.ly/palresistance>

Watch on Facebook Live at <https://facebook.com/SamidounPrisonerSolidarity>

Part of the International League of Peoples' Struggle (ILPS) Month of Solidarity for Palestine!



Washington pushing to impose imperial will on Iran: Analyst

written by Struggle - La Lucha
October 15, 2020

PressTV: Washington pushing to impose imperial will on Iran: Analyst

Writer and activist Cheryl LaBash says the United States is attempting to make Iran bend to its imperial will by causing economic hardship for the Iranian people.

Source: urmedium.com/c/presstv/39034



Nov. 4: 50th anniversary of Black Solidarity Day

written by Struggle - La Lucha
October 15, 2020

BLACK SOLIDARITY DAY

50th

ANNIVERSARY

NO WORK * NO SCHOOL * NO SHOPPING

Monday, November 4, 2019

Why Then? / Why Now?



Dr. Carlos Russell in 1969 said it was necessary to attempt to inject once more into the Black psyche the need of developing solidarity. Thus, an arbitrary day was chosen, November 3, 1969. Why November 3? It was the Monday before the elections and white folks, as usual, had taken Blacks for granted. If Blacks did not work, nor purchase on the day before the election for that matter any day, the economy of this city would have felt the impact of the absence of Black folks.

Citywide Unity Program / 6:30pm

Adam Clayton Powell Jr. State Office Building

125th St. & Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Ave.

December 12th Movement / Black Solidarity Day Coalition (718) 398-1766

Monday, November 4, 2019 will mark the 50th Anniversary of Black Solidarity Day. Our struggle for self-determination continues now. Political activist and organizers are reactivating the spirit of Black Solidarity Day with a call for Black consciousness and unity that's spreading around the country.

Fifty years ago, on November 3, 1969, "A small group of Blacks, acutely aware of what was seemingly the trend of white America to obliterate Black people, decided to attempt to stem the tide. Blacks, they argued, for generations have been struggling for survival primarily on an individual basis, be it as a person or as a group," Dr. Carlos Russell, Founder of Black Solidarity Day, said in a speech in 1971.

"Why not, the group decided, select a day arbitrarily and begin to see if it were possible to move Black people towards the recognition that the enemy was one and that our survival, as a people, depended on operational unity," Dr. Russell explained.

The first Black Solidarity Day, was a nation-wide action by masses of Black people. The demand was for a day of absence. "No Work! No School! No Shopping!" We gathered together in our communities and held political, educational, and cultural forums concerning our collective struggle.

Celebrate the 50th Anniversary November 4, 2019

No Work! No School! No Shopping!



December 12th Movement calls for international election observers

written by Struggle - La Lucha

October 15, 2020

The December 12th Movement International Secretariat boldly calls on the United Nations for the immediate deployment of international observers to monitor the 2020 United States presidential elections. We make this demand to alert the international community and U.S. voters that their right to vote and for their votes to be counted has been challenged by the president of the United States.

This is an important national issue that will affect the world community going forward. Therefore, our presidential election should undergo the same international scrutiny that this president has used in condemning and challenging the validity of other countries' elections for far less inflammatory speech and concrete actions (dismantling of USPS and mobilization of "Proud Boys") than taken up by himself.

The continued political division of the United States into Red States/Blue States in particular targets Black people for disenfranchisement. Therefore, we demand that

the Congressional Black Caucus join this call for international observers to monitor these presidential elections.

The letter to the secretary general of the United Nations and copies to additional international organizations have been delivered and we encourage all who unite with this demand to join our efforts.

Following is the text of the letter:

October 8, 2020

H.E. Sr. Antonio Guterres
Secretary General
United Nations
405 E. 42nd Street
New York, NY 10017

Re: Request for International Observers at U.S. 2020 Elections

Secretary General Guterres:

We are writing to request the presence of a substantial delegation of “international” observers at the U.S. 2020 presidential election.

President Donald Trump and members of his Republican Party have made it clear, through word and deed, that they intend to ensure his re-election through voter suppression and racial intimidation. The tactics are many and varied and publicly documented. Most ominously, President Trump has refused to commit himself to surrender the presidency should he lose the election. International observers are crucial to assuming that the elections are being held freely and fairly.

The U.S. has a long history of denying the vote to its “minorities,” particularly to its

Black population. It took 100 years after Black people freed themselves from chattel slavery before the U.S. Congress passed the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which provided the legal protection for them to vote free of discrimination. Over the next 48 years, Black people, often at the cost of their lives, exercised their right to vote but still faced obstacles in doing so. In 2013, the U.S. Supreme Court basically overturned the 1965 Voting Rights Act in *Shelby v. Holder*. Since that decision, more and more barriers have been successfully placed in the paths of Black voters who have been the bulwark of the Democratic Party.

We understand that the OSCE (Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe) has reduced its original observer team from 500 to 30 members to monitor the election. We are proposing that the Security Council and/or the General Assembly invite observer teams from the African Union and CARICOM.

Time is short and of the essence. This is not a partisan request. We are international NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC (United Nations Economic and Social Council). The U.S. is facing an existential threat to democracy. Trump's call for the ultranationalist and violent white supremacist Proud Boys gang to "stand back and stand by" and for white supremacists to go to the voting polls, echoes the master race rhetoric which led to Hitler's election in 1930s Germany. We ask that you exercise all the powers of your office to ensure the substantial presence of truly international observers at this crucial election.

Viola Plummer
Chair, December 12th Movement International Secretariat

Roger Wareham
International Secretary General, International Association Against Torture



The 45-year-long billionaire bonanza

written by Struggle - La Lucha
October 15, 2020



Almost [13 million people](#) in the U.S. are “officially” jobless. The real number is far higher. Many haven’t received an unemployment check in weeks.

Then there’s Jeff Bezos, who runs Amazon and owns the Washington Post. His stash ballooned by another \$72 billion in the last six months.

Over a million people have died of the coronavirus around the world. More than 210,000 expired in the United States of Trump.

But it’s been partytime for the super rich. Millions line up at food pantries and worry about being evicted or losing their home. Meanwhile, U.S. billionaires gained another \$845 billion in wealth [according to the Institute for Policy Studies](#).

This nearly trillion-dollar gain during the pandemic is merely dessert for these parasites. They’ve been having a feast for nearly 50 years.

If workers were receiving the same share of the economy as they had in 1975, their wages would have approximately doubled by 2018.

The bottom quarter of wage earners would be taking home an average of \$61,000 per year instead of \$33,000. Those in the middle would be making \$92,000 instead of \$50,000.

These figures represent another \$2.5 trillion dollars [stolen every year](#) from poor and working people by the wealthy and powerful.

The study showing this “Grand Theft Payday” was commissioned by Seattle’s Fair Work Center and carried out by the RAND Corporation, a Pentagon think tank. Inequality has become so massive and repulsive that it’s obvious to RAND analysts who usually work for the military-industrial complex.

Big Capital’s counterattack

This massive transfer of income isn’t the result of sunspots or UFOs. It’s the product of a worldwide class struggle between the rich and the rest of us.

The class struggle doesn’t just include workers on strike or future union organizing drives at Amazon or Walmart. Every fightback against oppression is a class struggle.

The Black Lives Matter movement is a class struggle. So is the struggle of the Filipino people against the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Rodrigo Duterte. Transgender people trying to survive is a class struggle.

The height of the Black liberation struggle was in the 1960s and early 1970s. The master class was pushed back.

The Vietnamese people defeated the Pentagon war machine. Africans in Angola, Guinea-Bissau and Mozambique won independence. French workers carried out a

general strike in 1968.

Big Capital staged a counteroffensive. Dozens of Black Panther Party members were murdered by police.

New York Gov. Nelson Rockefeller massacred the Attica prisoners. Decades before Iraq was invaded, war criminals Donald Rumsfeld and Dick Cheney were destroying anti-poverty programs for President Richard Nixon.

Harlem Congressperson Adam Clayton Powell Jr. fought to increase the minimum wage and make it cover millions more workers. Just to keep up with inflation, the federal minimum wage of \$1.60 per hour — enacted in February 1968 — would have to be \$12.16 today.

Instead it's \$7.25. That's a pay cut for the poorest workers of \$4.91 per hour or \$196.16 for every 40-hour workweek. This wage theft of over \$10,000 per year has meant hundreds of billions of more profits for capitalists.

Union workers suffered job cuts because of automation. Thousands of unionized workplaces were shut down, particularly in the Midwest and Northeast.

Members of Local 3 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in New York have been on strike against the Spectrum cable monopoly since March 28, 2017. The banksters that lent Spectrum billions have insisted on this union busting.

In the capital of capitalism, 114,000 New York City schoolchildren are homeless. Despite a 60-year-long U.S. economic blockade, not a single child in socialist Cuba is homeless.

We need a socialist revolution

The biggest defeat for poor people was the overthrow of the Soviet Union and the

socialist countries of Eastern Europe. Reconstruction's bloody overthrow guaranteed decades of hell for Black people in the U.S. The Soviet Union's downfall was followed by 30 years of more cutbacks.

The Fair Work Center is demanding a new deal of the capitalist card game, at least back to the conditions of 1975. The RAND study shows that a minimum wage of at least \$20 per hour is perfectly feasible.

Why don't we get rid of the capitalist card game altogether? Every cent of profit is produced by the working class, both employed and unemployed.

Karl Marx called what the banksters, landlords and capitalists steal from us "surplus value." That's because the wages and benefits we get are only a fraction of the value that the entire working class produces.

The long period of reaction we've suffered isn't unique. Globalization isn't new. The capitalist world market was jumpstarted by the African Holocaust and the genocide of Indigenous peoples throughout the Americas.

Hundreds of billions of dollars in profits continue to flow to Wall Street from super exploited workers in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Pacific islands. They need reparations, as do Black and Indigenous people in the U.S.

Two hundred years ago, real wages fell by half during Britain's industrial revolution. Workers rebelled and formed unions.

Decades of struggle around the world led to the Bolshevik Revolution in 1917. Other socialist revolutions were inspired by the Bolshevik example.

A growing tide of struggle will continue no matter what happens in the presidential election. Part of that struggle is spreading knowledge of socialism. We need a socialist revolution just to stop capitalism from cooking the earth.

