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Workers at Target attacked by far-right The anti-LGBTQ+ bigots are anti-worker

NEWSFLASH

By Gregory E. Williams

The far right's agitation around corporate brands is not limited to boycotts and outlandish social media posts. They are harassing and threatening retail workers in person. When Target pulled back Pride merchandise in response to the far right's bullying tactics – likely emboldening these neo-fascists – it was in the aftermath of real disturbances that occurred in stores.

The Washington Post describes multiple incidents at one Target location in South Florida, where workers have been confronted by bigots calling them "groomers." At this same location, a manager wearing a safety vest over a Pride shirt was told by a customer, "Oh, is that so I could shoot you easier?"

Part of a broad trend

Retail workers are no strangers to customer attacks, which rose during the COVID-19 pandemic. UNI Global Union, an international service workers' union federation, released a 2022 report with data from 20 countries

Continued on page 5



Solidarity and defiance at Trans Pride March. See page 3.

See photo: Melinda Ruffalo

LGBTQ+ delegation meets with Federation of Cuban Women

ILWU to celebrate Juneteenth with a shutdown

By Lallan Schoenstein

Seattle port bosses fired the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) Local 52 workers on the June 2 night shift and again on the morning shift, says Gabriel Prawl, a longshore worker and a leading member of the Million Worker March Movement as well as the president of the Seattle A. Philip Randolph Institute.

The firings are the latest outrage taken by West Coast port terminal operators against over 22,000 longshore workers at 29 ports fighting to get a decent union contract. Prawl says, "It's time for the rank and file to speak up and make their voices heard."

In San Francisco, militant ILWU Local 10 rank and filers voluntarily stopped picking up jobs during dispatch on June 2, 3, and 4. CNBC reported that port shutdowns were expected to spread up and down the West Coast as workers protest over negotiations in contract talks with port management.

ILWU members have been working without a contract for a year. The Pacific Maritime Association (PMA) represents over 70 multinational ocean carriers and maritime companies with whom the ILWU negotiates a contract.

Many ILWU locals are following the call by Locals 10 and 52 to shut down all West Coast ports on June 19 – Juneteenth, the day in 1865 when news about the emancipation from slavery finally reached the last workers in Texas. Prawl added, "It is a day for workers to protest conditions rising out of slavery that are currently getting worse – homelessness, child labor, hunger. ... The ILWU needs to

Juneteenth

EMANCIPATION DAY

QUEST SPEAKERS & MUSIC ON THE WATERFRONT
COME JOIN THE WEST COAST STOP-WORK ACTION TO COMMEMORATE JUNETEENTH

MARCH & RALLY

MONDAY JUNE 19 2023

ILWU LOCAL 10 HALL @ 10 AM TO TERMINAL 40 MAIN TRUCK
ENTRANCE (ALASKAN HWY S. & ATLANTIC ST) 11AM-1PM

for more information go to: APRISSEATTLE.ORG [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCa8eFv)

celebrate Juneteenth with a shutdown to show the PMA that they are a strong and angry workforce."

Port bosses made historic profits

There is plenty to be angry about. According to a June 2 ILWU press release, "PMA member carriers and terminal operators made historic profits of \$510 billion during the pandemic. In some cases, profits jumped nearly 1000%. Even as shipping volumes return to normal in 2023, PMA members have continued to post revenues that far exceed pre-pandemic times by billions of dollars."

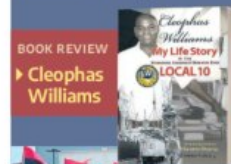
"ILWU workers risked and lost their lives during the pandemic to ensure grocery store shelves were stocked, PPE was made available, essential medical supplies were reaching our hospitals." Record volumes of goods were moved, enabling the shipping industries' astronomical revenues. "Despite this fact, from pre-pandemic levels through 2022, the percentage of ILWU wages and benefits continued to drop compared to PMA rising revenues."

According to ILWU International President Willie Adams, "West Coast

Continued on page 2



'Pride on the picket line'



In honor of Malcolm X

- Reparations must be paid!
- Nakba protest at 'Israel parade'
- War criminal Kissinger
- South Korean prisoners of conscience
- Ukraine dam weaponized

- Workers at Target attacked by far-right
- ILWU to celebrate Juneteenth with a shutdown
- Cleophas Williams: My Life Story in the ILWU Local 10
- Solidarity and defiance at Trans Pride March
- ‘Pride on the picket line’ for Writers Guild strike
- They stole us, they sold us, they owe us: Reparations must be paid!
- December 12th Movement shuts down Harlem’s 125th Street in honor of Malcolm X
- NYC’s biggest hate march protested
- LGBTQ+ delegation meets with Federation of Cuban Women
- War criminal Kissinger doesn’t deserve to be 100 years old
- South Korean prisoners of conscience: ‘They are still warriors’
- U.S. proxy war: Kakhovka dam and the weaponization of water
- Defienden educación pública
- NO causa para detenidos por el Gobierno de Puerto Rico

