

The new banking crisis

written by Struggle - La Lucha

April 17, 2023



The United States hopes to stave off a general collapse of the currency system, which would 'lead to an economic crisis worse than the bank runs of 1931–33.'

As Marxist economist Sam Williams discusses on his "[Critique of Crisis Theory](#)" blog, in early March, Silicon Valley Bank (SVB) in California — the "favorite bank of the area's tech companies and associated venture capitalists" — announced it was selling its government bonds to raise cash. Fearful that their deposits were in danger, there was a run on the bank, forcing the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) to shut the bank down.

Around the same time, two other banks collapsed. The California Silvergate Bank wound up operations, and the New York-based Signature Bank was shut down by the

FDIC. As Williams reported, these banks were “heavily involved in lending to cryptocurrency companies,” and the problems leading to their collapse “could be traced back to the [collapse of Sam Bankman-Fried’s FTX cryptocurrency exchange](#) last year.”

While the collapse of the latter wasn’t directly related to the collapse of SVB, they added to the jitters that spread to the whole banking system in the United States and internationally.

The crisis at Credit Suisse led to another Swiss bank taking it over. Problems at Germany’s Deutsche Bank led to big stock losses.

Big deposits propped up

Under US law, Williams writes, bank deposits are insured up to US\$250,000 — to protect small- and medium-sized deposits. Most of SVB’s deposits came from tech companies and venture capitalists, and were much higher. Despite this, the FDIC rapidly announced that all deposits would be fully covered.

The big commercial banks, says Williams, “will be asked to cough up the money to make up for the massive losses FDIC will incur by paying off large capitalist deposit owners.” This applies to SVB and any further bank collapses.

One of the functions of money is that it is used as currency. But, as Williams writes, coins “are now almost worthless as currency except in large quantities or for making change.” Even Federal Reserve Notes — dollar bills — buy little these days.

“Today people use their bank accounts as a day-to-day currency that circulates through credit cards, debit cards, and smartphones — to purchase weekly groceries (and morning coffee),” writes Williams. “If a run on the banks paralyzed the banking system, even if only for a short time, the circulation of commodities would contract

to an extent impossible at earlier stages of capitalist development.”

The FDIC hopes to stave off such a general collapse of the currency system, writes Williams, which “would lead to an economic crisis worse than the bank runs of 1931–33,” which “marked the transformation of the recession that began in 1929 into the Great Depression.”

Extortion

This threat gives the capitalist class great extortion power, writes Williams, to “insist that the FDIC, the Federal Reserve System or the Treasury bail out large depositors.”

The Joe Biden administration complied and “wasted no time in claiming the taxpayer — unlike in 2008 — would not have to pay anything” for the bailout “because the losses incurred by the FDIC would be paid with a special levy on the commercial banks,” writes Williams.

However, Williams notes, “the levy would tend to contract bank credit. If this happens the world economies — including in the US — would sink into a deep recession, causing mass layoffs within a few months”.

“And there’s another danger if the capitalists become convinced their bank deposits are as good as the dollar bills issued by the Federal Reserve Banks,” writes Williams. “In that case, they may decide Federal Reserve Notes are no more secure than bank deposits without the FDIC, Federal Reserve, and government guarantees. This would trigger a run on the dollar and paper currencies linked to it under the dollar-centred international monetary system into gold, the money commodity ... This danger is real, as shown by the movement of the dollar price of gold since the crisis began.”

This would lead to stagflation, as occurred in the 1970s, and then to a severe

recession.

Such a scenario could happen if the Federal Reserve eases up interest rates to contain the crisis by printing more money (known as quantitative easing) in a bid to “secure a soft landing from the COVID aftermath boom,” writes Williams.

“In the current crisis, the Federal Reserve is forced to prop up bank deposits as the currency system on one side while staving off the collapse of the [dollar-centred] international monetary system on the other. These are contradictory goals.”

Overproduction

The cause of the current crisis is the overproduction of commodities in the COVID-aftermath boom.

After the 2007–09 bank crisis and Great Recession, capitalists were cautious about accumulating inventories and investing, writes Williams. “This prevented a new worldwide overproduction crisis for years, at the price of lingering unemployment and eroding living standards. However, by late 2019 signs of overproduction were again developing, causing a spike in interest rates, though the situation had not yet reached a crisis.

“But then came COVID. In March 2020, the ruling class feared the virus would decimate the working-class population to such an extent their ability to squeeze surplus value out of the survivors would be impaired. They used state power to shut down much of the economy, throwing millions out of work overnight.”

The COVID shutdowns also caused a forced underproduction of commodities and reduction of inventories, writes Williams. When the shutdowns were eased, the boom began to rebuild inventories as demand for commodities soared. Demand exceeded supply at prevailing prices, resulting in high prices and higher profits. There was a rise in demand for labor power. But wages didn’t keep up with inflation, so real

wages declined.

Inflation

The mainstream media and economists try to convince us that wage rises cause inflation, but the opposite is true. Workers' wages struggle to keep up with inflation, which has other causes.

"The Federal Reserve System, headed by [Donald] Trump appointee Jerome Powell, hoped that inflation would disappear as the economy reopened," writes Williams. But once set in motion, what economists call "multiplier and accelerator effects" accelerate a boom and its associated inflation "until they run into the barrier of a shortage of ready cash."

"At that point, they go into reverse. The boom is replaced by recession to liquidate overproduction at the price of millions of jobs," writes Williams.

Banks use their customer deposits to make loans and make money off the spread between what interest they charge on their loans and the interest they pay on deposits. But financial institutions are currently facing a changing economic climate, in which the free-money era of ultra-low interest rates has ended as the Federal Reserve tries to rein in inflation by making it more expensive to borrow.

The result caught Silicon Valley Bank unable to service its depositors.

Middle way?

The Federal Reserve System faces a quandary: If it creates more dollars not backed by gold to keep the boom going, profits in dollar terms would remain high for a while but turn negative in gold terms. This would cause capitalists to transform as much of their capital as possible into gold. The resulting run to gold would accelerate dollar inflation and threaten to bring down the dollar-centered international monetary

system.

On the other hand, if the Federal Reserve allows the bank money system to become paralyzed by bank runs, the dollar would be saved, but the economy would fall into a second Great Depression.

So the Federal Reserve is attempting to find a middle way: to keep the system of bank deposits as currency functioning without bringing down the dollar's role as the world currency — and other currencies linked to it.

The aim is to achieve a relatively soft landing, even if that means a recession with millions losing their jobs. But if the Federal Reserve is successful, it will keep a recession from turning into a depression while saving the international monetary system.

Whether the Federal Reserve can pull it off this time remains to be seen. But even if it does, the world will face a similar crisis again in a decade or so.

Source: [Green Left](#)



New Orleans: International Workers' Day - Legalization for All, May 1

written by Struggle - La Lucha
April 17, 2023

JOIN US FOR OUR 3RD ANNUAL MARCH CELEBRATING:

INTERNATIONAL WORKERS DAY

LEGALIZATION FOR ALL!

RALLY & MARCH

MAY 01. 5 PM
BASIN ST & CONTI ST
FROM THE BENITO
JUAREZ STATUE TO
CITY HALL



ACOMPÁÑANOS EN NUESTRA 3RA MARCHA ANUAL PARA
EL:

DIA INTERNACIONAL DEL TRABAJADOR

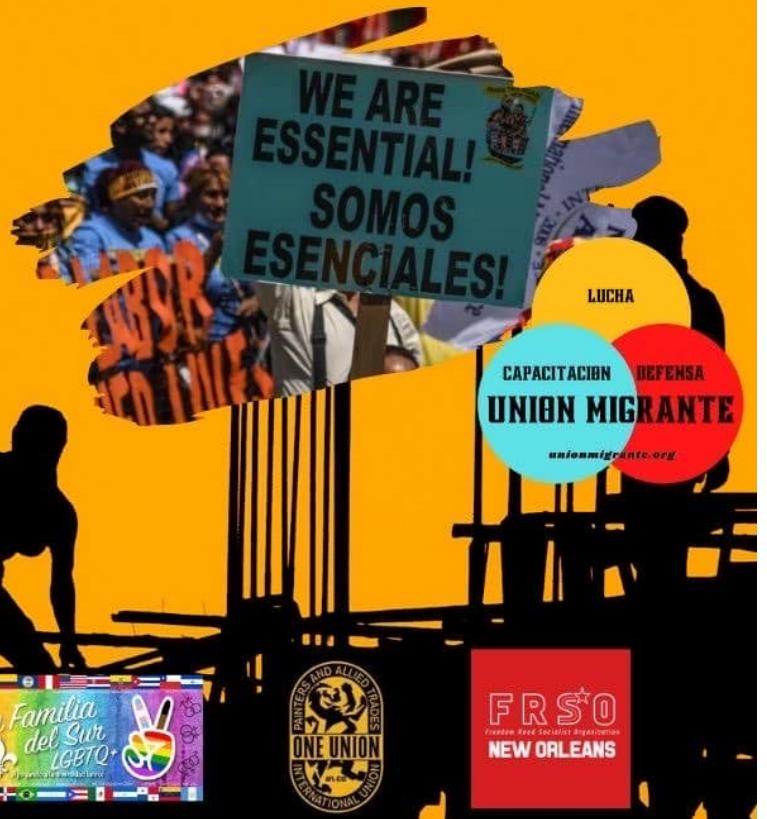
¡LEGALIZACION PARA TODXS!

MARCHA Y
MANIFESTACIÓN

LUNES MAYO 1RO

5 PM

BASIN ST Y CONTI ST
(MARCHA DE LA ESTATUA
DE BENITO JUAREZ A CITY
HALL)



Monday, May 1 - 5:00 p.m.

Basin and Conti St. (at the Benito Juárez statue), New Orleans, LA

On May Day,

Show Solidarity with Migrant Workers

Alongside millions of others around the world, we will be in the streets on May 1 to push forward the struggle for workers' rights.

This May Day, we march especially for the rights of our migrant brothers and sisters here in Louisiana.

Whether on farms or in construction, in the home or in hospitals, clinics, etc., migrant workers carry society on their backs. Yet millions of our migrant siblings suffer from low wages, workplace abuses (including the threat of detention or deportation), and from the denial of basic social benefits like food stamps, housing subsidies, and healthcare coverage. All while they pay billions in taxes every year.

Never content with the billions in profits they get from unpaid labor of workers, the capitalists are ramping up the exploitation and racist scapegoating of our migrant siblings. Biden is moving to revive the policy of caging families in horrific ICE prisons, where immigrants can now be held indefinitely, according to a recent ruling by the Supreme Court. Congress is considering a bill to cut the already criminally low wages of farmworkers. Candidate-for-governor and Attorney General Jeff Landry is threatening immigrant rights groups and trying to whip up anti-immigrant hatred while he rakes in millions from the exploitation of migrant workers.

A united working class fightback is needed to push back the capitalists and their paid-off politicians.

Fight for Workers' Rights, Demand Legalization for All

[**#NoOneIsillegal**](#) [**#FreeThemAll**](#) [**#WorkersOfTheWorldUnite**](#) [**#AbolishICE**](#)

[**#elpueblounidojamasseravencido**](#) [**#LegalizationForAll**](#) [**#BuildBridgesNotWalls**](#)

[**#Not1More**](#)

[**#WorkersRights #solidarity**](#)



San Francisco: Global Action to Stop US Nuke Sub Base in Australian Port Kembla and AUKUS, May 6

written by Struggle - La Lucha
April 17, 2023

All Out On May 6th!



**Global Action To Stop US Nuke Sub Base
in Australian Port Kembla and
AUKUS (US/UK/Australia Military Alliance)**

**May 6, 12:00 noon
San Francisco Australia Consultate
575 Market St, San Francisco, CA 94105**

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 2023 AT NOON

All Out on May 6 for Global Action to Stop U.S. Nuke Sub Base in Australian Port Kembla and AUKUS

575 Market St, San Francisco

All Out On May 6, 2023

For Global Action To Stop U.S. Nuke Sub Base in Australian Port Kembla And AUKUS U.S./UK/Australia Military Alliance

May 6, 2023, 12:00 noon

San Francisco Australia Consultate
575 Market St, San Francisco, CA 94105

The U.S. Biden government with the support of both Democrats and the Republicans is preparing for war against China and has set up Aukus, a trilateral “security” pact between Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

As part of this pact, the U.S. now wants to destroy the Australian MUA-organized Port of Kembla and build a nuclear submarine base which would threaten the survival of the unionized port as a commercial port.

The unions and community have had a development plan for renewable energy projects employing thousands of workers and this Nuke base would destroy this initiative.

On May 6, 2023, there will be a rally at the Port Kembla organized by the trades council with the support of the MUA and community . There will be a workers' community march to the NSW city of Port Kembla to oppose its use as a base for a future submarine fleet.

“The battle for Port Kembla has begun,” said Arthur Rorris, the secretary of the South Coast Labour Council, a longstanding Labor member and one of the organizers of the annual march.”

Around the world, we must support our Brothers, Sisters, and Siblings at the Port of Kembla.

Workers and people around the world need to organize against the militarization of Asia need to unite against this new U.S. nuclear base in Australia and the reactionary AUKUS agreement.

The U.S. and the UK, with Japan and Australia, are working double time to surround China a provoke another war in Asia.

While millions of U.S. people have no healthcare, face homelessness and hunger the U.S. and it's military-industrial complex is pushing Australia and the world to prepare for world war.

We support worldwide demonstrations against this new proposed NUKE base in Port Kembla, which the Australian Labor Party leadership along with Biden administration, Democrats and Republicans are pushing toward a new world war and only workers and the people can stop this new U.S. base and a world war.

Initiated by United Front Committee For A Labor Party

Endorsed by No Nukes Action, Code Pink, Michael Wong Vice President of VFP *, Workers World Party

*For Identification

Send Endorsement To

www.ufclp.org

info@ufclp.org

Port Kembla May Day Event

<https://m.facebook.com/events/162261140063412/>

What is Australia Port Kembla's future? Aussie Labor Opposes U.S. Nuke Base In Their Port

<https://www.leadstory.com/.../what-is-port-kembelas-future...?>

'It's not Fort Kembla': Labor Protesters plan May Day march against AUKUS

<https://www.smh.com.au/.../it-s-not-fort-kembla...>

Australian Union opposition to AUKUS

MUA

2021 Statement: No Nuclear Subs, No AUKUS, No War on China

<https://www.mua.org.au/.../no-nuclear-subs-no-aukus-no...>

MEDIA RELEASE - 22 FEBRUARY 2023 - MUA WELCOMES RENEWABLES FUTURE FOR PORT KEMBLA AND THE ILLAWARRA

<https://www.mua.org.au/.../mua-welcomes-renewables-future...>

New South Wales Teacher Federation

Federation opposes AUKUS - 20 March 2023

<https://www.nswtf.org.au/.../03/20/federation-opposes-aukus/>

"It is a deep commitment to peace that guides the NSW Teachers Federation's opposition to militarism and belief that war should never be used to resolve international conflict. There have been too many times in history when warmongering and armaments build-up have led to international conflict, death and destruction.

Federation opposes AUKUS and joins the growing chorus of concern that the AUKUS security pact Australia signed with the U.S.A and the UK compromises the pursuit of an independent foreign policy and has the potential to drag Australia once again into foreign conflict and war."

ETU (ELECTRICAL TRADE UNION)

<https://www.smh.com.au/.../albanese-wong-return-fire-at...>

"A spokesman for the Electrical Trades Union confirmed his union also opposed the deal: "While the ETU respects the federal government's obligation to strike security agreements that protect our national interest, electricians and engineers have a deep and long-standing health and safety concerns about nuclear technology and remain opposed to its use in Australia."

<https://www.etunational.asn.au/.../etu-fights-for.../>

"The AUKUS submarines will be powered by nuclear technology, which betrays

Australia's non-nuclear policy and opens doors to a dangerous and unnecessary domestic nuclear power industry, weapons proliferation and regional arms race.

The ETU is strongly against the deployment of nuclear power in Australia because of the risks associated with the mining and extraction of uranium, the huge build costs, the terrible and deadly consequences to environmental and human health when incidents occur and its potential to take us down the path of devastating weaponry."

Speech by State Secretary of Qld/NT Electrical Trades Union slams AUKUS deal - 2nd April 2023

<https://ipan.org.au/state-secretary-of-qld-nt-electrical.../>

NTEU

Statement from Sept 2021 opposing AUKUS on nuclear non-proliferation grounds.

<https://ipan.org.au/national-tertiary-education-union.../>

Unions NSW (Peak Union Body in New South Wales)

Motion Against AUKUS passed by Unions NSW in April 2022

Unions New South Wales passed the following motion at its general meeting in April. (Note: Still a Federal Liberal Gov at this stage)

"Unions NSW declares its total opposition to the reckless announcement by Prime Minister Scott Morrison that Australia would be developing nuclear-powered submarines as part of a military alliance with the U.S. and UK."

<https://www.greenleft.org.au/.../unions-nsw-opposes...>

Article on split in Union movement over AUKUS

"Individual unions have been split over the AUKUS proposal. The Maritime Union has been a participant in the "Anti-AUKUS coalition" of peace and environmental activists that has protested against the pact.

The South Coast Labour Council is also marshaling opposition to the prospect that Port Kembla will be named the location for an east coast submarine base.

But the Australian Manufacturing Workers Union and Professionals Australia, which represents engineers, stand to benefit from the creation of thousands of secure and highly paid jobs building and maintaining submarines, while the Australian Workers Union has seized on nuclear-powered submarines being the stepping stone to the development of a domestic nuclear energy industry."

<https://www.afr.com/.../unions-fire-warning-over-aukus...>

ACTU

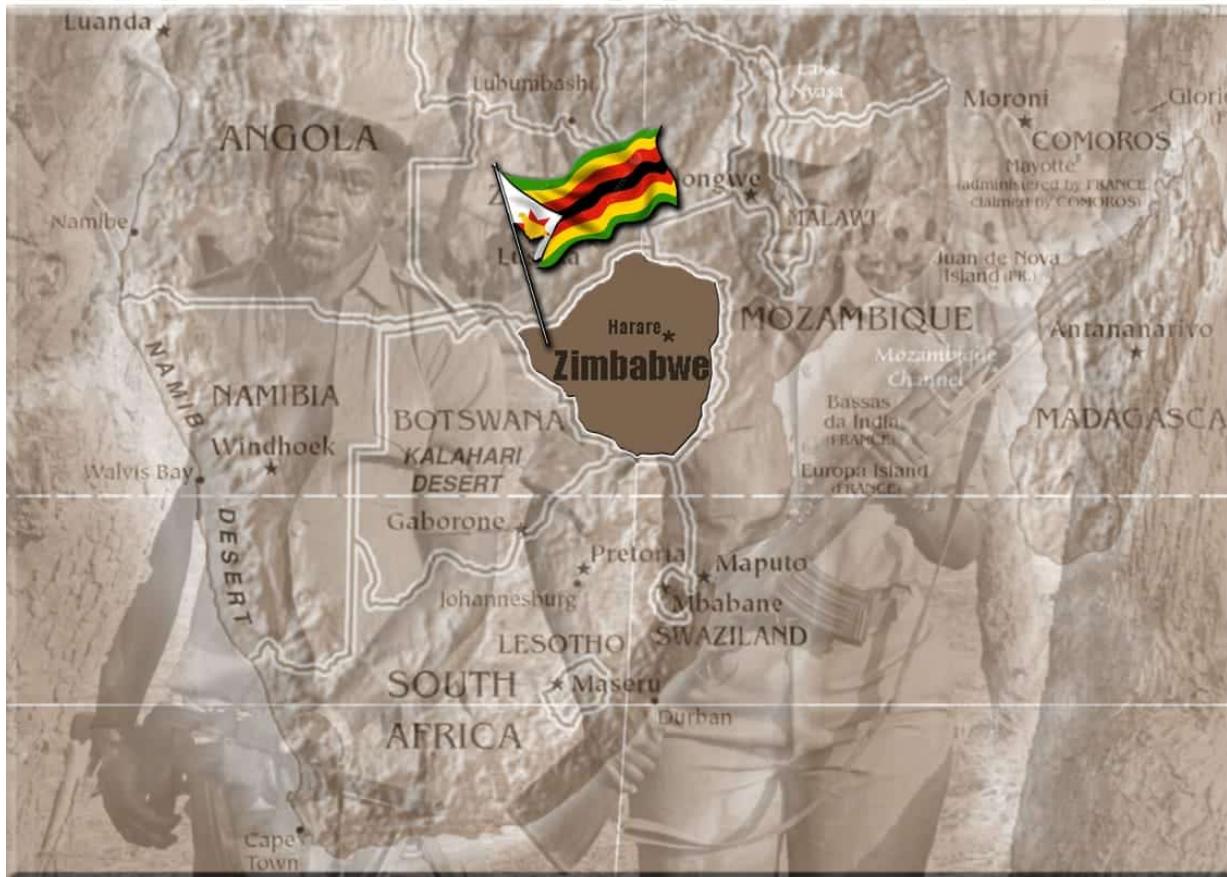
President of ACTU says unions oppose nuclear energy in Australia but leaves them room to back AUKUS by saying it will be “reviewed” by affiliates in next few months.
<https://www.news.com.au/.../b2c607ab41db26dd3883359fcd227b4e>



Brooklyn, NYC: Zimbabwe at 43 - A Pan-African Celebration, April 18

written by Struggle - La Lucha
April 17, 2023

ZIMBABWE @ 43



A Pan-African Celebration of

Zimbabwe's continued victories over

Imperialist Sanctions, Covid-19 and Underdevelopment.

An update on Zimbabwe's industrialization, healthcare, Education and African Unity.

plus music and a revolutionary toast

Tuesday, April 18, 2023 @ Sistas' Place @ 6:30pm

456 Nostrand Avenue (off Jefferson Avenue), Brooklyn

"Where Resistance, Reparations and Culture is Our Weapon"

Please call to confirm your attendance (718) 398-1766

Tuesday, April 18 - 6:30 p.m.

Sistas' Place, 456 Nostrand Ave. (off Jefferson Ave.), Brooklyn

Hosted by December 12th Movement and Friends of Zimbabwe

A Pan-African celebration of Zimbabwe's continued victories over imperialist sanctions, COVID-19, and underdevelopment. An update on Zimbabwe's industrialization, healthcare, education, and African Unity. Plus music and a revolutionary toast.



NEW DATE: Baltimore Community Outreach Event - Food is a Right!

April 22

written by Struggle - La Lucha
April 17, 2023

WEST BALTIMORE COMMUNITY OUTREACH EVENT

Saturday, April 22, 12 noon
At Easterwood/Sandtown Park,
1534 McKean Ave. Balto 21217

Anniversary
of the
Easterwood
Park



Rollback prices
Expand & Restore
Food Stamps
End Food Deserts
Feed the People,
Not War

SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2023, AT 12 PM – 2 PM
Community Outreach Event – Food is a Right
1534 McKean Ave, Easterwood/Sandtown Park, Baltimore

Demand Rollback Prices, Restore & Expand Food Stamps, End Food Deserts, Feed the People, Not War

12 noon to 1 pm

Gather at Easterwood/Sandtown Park, 1534 McKean Ave.

Share food & prepare for Community Outreach Walk through the neighborhood from 1 pm to 2 pm and return to Park.

We will be petitioning. This neighborhood is one of the many food deserts in Baltimore City. This event will also commemorate the founding of the Easterwood/Sandtown Park.



Norfolk, VA: NATO Parade of Nations Protest, April 22

written by Struggle - La Lucha
April 17, 2023



SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2023, AT 9:30 AM
NATO Parade of Nations Protest
Town Point Park, Norfolk, VA

On Saturday, April 22, Norfolk will hold a parade to honor NATO, the North American Treaty Organization, which has its North American command center in the city. We invite you to join us in protesting it.

The wars we should be fighting are the ones here at home against global warming, poverty, racism, homelessness, evictions, attacks on trans people, and for accessible health care. To date, the U.S. government has sent more than \$116 BILLION to Ukraine to fight the present war, while making it clear that it has no interest in ceasefires or negotiations. That's more money than the federal government spends in a year on education. It's 10 times what it spends on the Environmental Protection Agency.

This is OUR tax money that's being squandered on a war that benefits no one except the arms manufacturers, while it pushes us closer to a nuclear confrontation that no one can win.

Join us on Earth Day as we peacefully protest the rise of U.S. militarism and the role NATO plays in carrying out acts of aggression around the world.

Join us as we demand, "Fight Poverty, Racism & Global Warming, not NATO's Wars!"

The event begins at 10 am. Be sure to get there early. There's some parking in the Freemason district or in one of the nearby city garages. We will set up along the parade route near the review stand. Look for the banner and signs!

For more information contact: peaceandplanet757@gmail.com

This protest was initiated by the Hampton Roads Coalition for Peace & Planet and has been endorsed by Norfolk Catholic Worker, the Virginia Defenders for Freedom, Justice & Equality, and the Odessa Solidarity Campaign.



Brooklyn, NYC: Fire Killer Cops Emergency Action, April 17

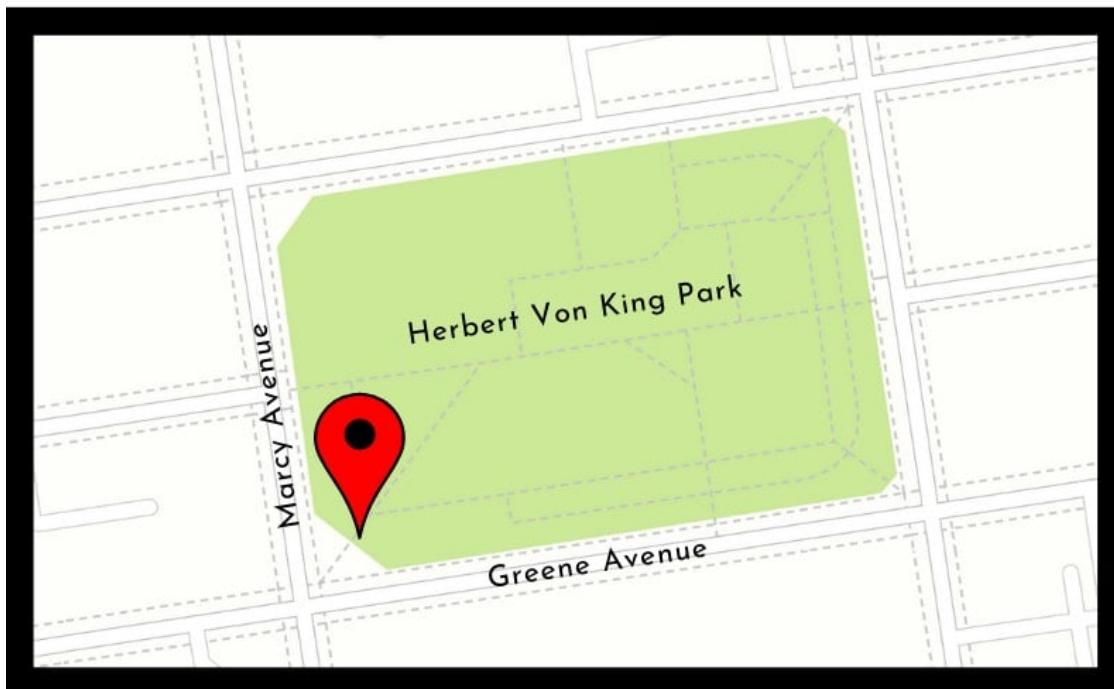
written by Struggle - La Lucha
April 17, 2023

MONDAY, APRIL 17TH at 6:30PM

FIRE KILLER COPS EMERGENCY ACTION

HERBERT VON KING PARK

corner of Marcy Ave. and Greene Ave.



Join NYCAP to protest the unjust murder of a senior citizen in Bed-Stuy by the NYPD on April 13th, and to demand consequences for all killer cops.

COMMUNITY CONTROL NOW!

NYCAP.org



@NYCommunityActionProject



New York Community Action Project will be hosting an emergency response action for the elderly man shot and killed by the police in Bed-Stuy on Monday, April 17th at Herbert Von King Park by the Greene and Marcy Ave entrance at 6:30 p.m.



LA students support school workers' strike, oppose armed police

written by Struggle - La Lucha
April 17, 2023

Jailynn Butler-Thomas is a student at Dorsey High School in Los Angeles. She spoke with Struggle-La Lucha about support for the recent Los Angeles Unified Public School District (LAUSD) strike and opposition to armed police in public schools.

Struggle-La Lucha: In a news article about the LAUSD strike, your organization, "Students Deserve," was written about because of the support that you carried out. But there was also a reference to your organization's ongoing struggle against

armed police being stationed in schools. I'd like to start with you telling our readers a little about that.

Jailynn Butler-Thomas: There's so much backlash that myself and my peers and those who are fighting for police-free schools have to deal with. I think that a big part of it is the difference between restorative and punitive justice.

Punitive justice is like breaking something down. Punishment, punishment, punishment.

Not helping, like fixing or healing, or just building up rather than breakdown.

We're young, we're children, and we're going to have conflict, we're going to make mistakes. That's bound to happen.

Putting police in our schools to harass us and criminalize us, beat it out of us, or pepper spray us, or harass it out of us is not the solution. Police presence on campus is more harmful.

We're not saying that there doesn't need to be somebody there for safety reasons. We're just saying that police that are armed with any kind of weapon are not safe for students. Because of how they treat students, anything can happen any time. A lot of the times, police don't solve the problem, they only escalate it.

In Uvalde, Texas, the police didn't go inside. They stood outside and waited. It got to the point where parents are running inside to their children. I think that that's like a prime example that police don't help.

In a situation at my school in 2019, a fight broke out, and police were just pepper spraying anyone in the area. Just students walking to class. The nurse's office was overflowing with students getting pepper sprayed — students who were just walking into class and didn't do anything wrong.

Something similar happened recently at Garfield high school. Police aren't helping the situation. A bunch of cops that are gonna hurt children and take away from their learning experience and turn schools into this prison-like situation isn't the answer. That's gonna take away from our education.

I think the real answer for us is restorative justice. We're not saying the schools don't need anyone there for these situations. But why not pull people from the community, why not have people there for safe passage after school? Why not have a better solution that doesn't involve students getting criminalized?

Police on campus is an uncomfortable situation for people of color because of how they're being treated. We don't feel safe. You're not gonna want to come, you're not gonna be engaged. You're gonna be distracted, and that is going to take away from your education.

SLL: Your support for the strike was so vigorous. It got the attention of the media that students supported the strike. How did that come about? Do your co-students come from pro-union families?

JBT: So, I think there are many factors why students stood behind teachers and staff. Yes, some people's families have a history of union struggles. But also, we see these faces every day.

These are the people welcoming us, feeding us, and taking care of us, making sure that we're learning, making sure that we're safe, asking how our day is going at school.

I also think a huge factor, the main factor that rallies students behind UTLA and Local 99, is that they're struggling, and we're struggling, and that unites us. Our fight to make the Black Students Achievement Program (BSAP) permanent and to gain mental health support and support for immigrant students is something that's

driving us.

This isn't anything new - we've been fighting for these things for a very long time.

We conducted a survey that was historic. It showed that 87% of students are benefiting from the BSAP program. Black students are benefiting from it.

It also showed that 49% of Black students don't have enough mental health support, as well as showing that 45% of Black students' schools don't have enough resources in general, which isn't fair and it's not okay.

We have to sit in front of the school board's new superintendent and literally beg for things that we deserve and are necessities and are literally the bare minimum for a good educational experience, while the superintendent, who gets paid more than the [U.S.] president, sits on \$5 billion in reserve.

He can't give us the money that we were promised. It doesn't make sense, and it doesn't make sense that teachers and these essential workers were getting paid below poverty level but have to negotiate in the first place.

It doesn't make sense the superintendent is acting as if we are asking for so much, but we're asking for what we deserve. He gets paid to take care of teachers, staff, and students, and we shouldn't have to fight for this. That is what unites us all.

This strike has shown that when teachers, students, and parents come together, they can really shut it down. I think that the school district and superintendent are scared about that because it was beautiful and it made an impact. And we're not gonna stop until we get these things. We're all struggling, and that's what brings us together in solidarity.



Angel Reese and the long legacy of racist hypocrisy in sports

written by Struggle - La Lucha

April 17, 2023

The days following LSU's victory in the women's NCAA basketball championship should have been the best of Angel Reese's young life. Those days should have been packed with praise, celebration, and love.

Instead, Angel Reese was mired in attacks from a racist media and political establishment hellbent on the degradation of Black athletic excellence and exaltation of white athletic proficiency.

In the wake of her commanding championship performance, Reese spoke out about the racist backlash and attacks she has faced from the basketball media sphere all season. Reese commented, "All year, I was critiqued about who I was. ... I don't fit in a box that y'all want me to be in. I'm too hood. I'm too ghetto. But when other people do it, y'all say nothing."

The most incredible thing about this powerful statement is that it preceded the most intense scrutiny and attack on Reese yet. In the wake of the championship game, sports media commentators attacked Reese as “classless” because of a gesture she made towards Iowa star player Caitlin Clark at the end of the championship game.

It is true that in the waning minutes of the final tournament game, Angel Reese made John Cena’s signature “now you see now you don’t” gesture in Clark’s direction, which entails a person waving their hand in front of their face. Reese stood by her actions, as she should. The critiques of this proud young Black woman for living her life are nothing but hollow racist attacks barely shrouded in “sportsmanship.”

The reality of this double standard became even more apparent as images and videos of Clark making the same gesture in the previous two NCAA tournament games circulated on social media. However, when Clark, who is white, made the same gesture to opponents throughout the tournament, there was no outrage. There were no accusations of classlessness. There was no great moral condemnation. That is reserved for Black athletes.

The losers in the White House

Believe it or not, the hypocrisy of the situation had not yet reached its peak. Enter Jill Biden, First Lady of the United States, on April 3, not even 24 hours after LSU’s victory.

Speaking at Colorado State University, Dr. Biden declared that Caitlin Clark and the Iowa team should join LSU in the White House visit, even though they lost. The losing team has never attended the White House ceremony ever in the past.

To justify the ludicrous invitation, Biden commented, “I’m going to tell Joe I think Iowa should come [to the WHITE House] too because they played such a good

game.” That is an interesting perspective considering Iowa lost by 17 points. LSU shot nearly 20% better from the field than Iowa, outrebounded the Hawkeyes by 11, and registered more assists. The game was never particularly close.

For Dr. Jill Biden to speak as if Iowa played a game remotely comparable to the effort LSU gave on the floor can only be described as one thing, a joke. Angel Reese [agrees](#).

The championship game was incredible, not because it was hotly contested but because Angel Reese and her teammates put on an absolute clinic. The Tigers scored the most points in championship game history. They dominated Clark, a player many consider the best in college basketball, thanks to the outstanding defensive play of senior and veteran leader Alexis Miller. This team is exemplified by incredible competitors and young Black women making their communities and family proud.

The ‘Great White Hope’

That should be the focus. But, instead, Jill Biden and the entire media establishment are resolved to coddle white athletes who lose and promote age-old racist “[Great White Hope](#)” mythology. The term “Great White Hope” originated in the 1910s as a rallying cry for a boxer to defeat Jack Johnson, a Black man and heavyweight champion of the world at the time. Johnson’s marriages to white women and other personal relationships with white women were used to promote anti-Black race riots across the United States. Eventually, Johnson was prosecuted and convicted under the racist [Mann Act](#), a law used commonly to prosecute Black men involved with white women, including [Chuck Berry](#).

New York Times sports columnist William Rhoden characterized the Great White Hope phenomenon and racist double standard in a [recent article](#) discussing the attacks on Angel Reese:

“My other takeaway from the weekend is that Great White Hope-ism is gender neutral. What I’ve observed over the years is that whenever you have a white star in a sport dominated by Black athletes, the white star is swathed in extra layers of praise and adulation. This could be Christian McCaffrey in the NFL or Luka Doncic and Nikola Jokic in the NBA. Now we see it, or rather hear it, with Clark.”

The racist double standard isn’t new. White athletes are competitive. Black athletes are classless. White athletes are passionate. Black athletes are angry. White athletes are skilled. Black athletes are brutish.

Lionizing a racist bully

One only has to look at the incessant lionization of white NFL quarterback Tom Brady, even though his sideline [outbursts](#), [temper tantrums](#), and full-on [meltdowns](#) are infamous. Despite Brady’s unquestioned status as a bully, the media and the NFL heap praise upon him, and not just in terms of his football prowess.

[Boston University](#) even went as far as to say that Brady’s greatest achievement was his leadership, not his hall-of-fame career on the field. That’s right, a globally acclaimed university holding up a bully, racist Trump supporter, and [cheater](#) as a prime example of leadership.

Meanwhile, LSU Coach Kim Mulkey, ironically, accused the South Carolina women’s basketball team and their coach Dawn Staley of winning because they play like the game is a bar fight. The racist undertones of that accusation against a prominent Black woman coach and a majority Black women’s team are impossible to ignore. What better way to undermine Black achievement than to invoke eugenic race tropes regarding inherent [Black physical brutality](#)?

The historical and contemporary sports landscape is littered with examples of racist hypocrisy and all forms of discrimination. Tom Brady is lionized. Caitlin Clark is

coddled. Brett Favre is honored as an all-time great, despite radical right-wing politics and theft of millions from federal welfare grants.

Athletes of color, as well as those in the LGBTQ+ community, face an entirely different situation. As of this day, Colin Kaepernick is unofficially banned from the NFL for his courageous 2016 protests against police brutality. Trans collegiate swimmer Lia Thomas won an NCAA title in the women's 500-meter freestyle yet was still openly derided by fascist demagogue [Ron DeSantis](#) and his right-wing mob. After Thomas won, DeSantis declared that the second-place contestant, Emma Weyant, was the true winner. DeSantis, frothing at the mouth with anti-trans panic, asserted that Thomas' win was an affront to all women athletes and that the NCAA was fraudulent in recognizing her victory. Insanity.

Remembering Glenn Burke

Attacks on oppressed athletes can be brutal and unwavering. There is no better example of this than the story of [Glenn Burke](#), a Black baseball player in the 1970s who was also the first openly gay person to play professional baseball. Burke spent significant time in the Los Angeles Dodgers minor league system before finally breaking into the big leagues in the spring of 1976. He scuffled at times but immediately became wildly popular in the clubhouse and among the Dodgers' fan base.

For these reasons, players and fans alike were shocked when after a career-best 1977 season, Burke was traded to the Oakland Athletics just 19 games into the 1978 season. The trade made little sense at the time from a baseball perspective. Burke was young, dynamic, a terror on the base paths, and improving every day.

However, Burke was gay, and this was unacceptable to Dodgers' upper management, including bigoted manager Tommy Lasorda Sr. The trade to Oakland was the beginning of the end of Burke's career. The A's hired manager Billy Martin,

a known homophobe, and racist, who introduced Burke to the team with a homophobic slur.

It later came to the surface that the real reason Burke was traded was Lasorda's homophobia. As manager, Lasorda Sr. wielded much influence within the Dodgers' organization. Lasorda Sr. was embarrassed by rumors that Burke was actually romantically involved with his close friend and fellow gay man, Tommy Lasorda Jr., the son of the Dodgers' manager. Later, both Lasorda Jr. and Glenn Burke died from the AIDS epidemic. Before passing, Burke fell out of baseball and struggled with addiction problems. A man destroyed simply for being Black, gay, and loving the game of baseball.

This is all to say the vicious racism and sexism on display in the attacks on Angel Reese and her LSU teammates are another brutal chapter in a long history of relentless smear campaigns against prominent Black athletes.

As a movement, we must not only remember Glenn Burke, Jack Johnson, and Colin Kaepernick but also fight for and support Angel Reese, Lia Thomas, and Britney Griner as they struggle against racist media narratives and political defamation.

Black Lives Matter! Trans Lives Matter! Stand with Angel Reese!



U.S. out of the Philippines!

written by Struggle - La Lucha

April 17, 2023

New York City's Times Square was packed on April 10 with a protest against the U.S. military's latest incursion on Philippine sovereignty.

The Pentagon [has sent over 12,000 troops](#) to the Philippines for the annual Balikatan ("shoulder-to-shoulder") military exercises. Along with them are 5,400 Filipino forces. These maneuvers — the largest in their 30-year history — are aimed at the People's Republic of China.

Demonstrations against these dangerous provocations have occurred in the Philippines and around the world. Filipino people don't want to be part of the Pentagon's World War 3.

A statement from BAYAN USA Northeast — one of the Filipino organizations calling the protest — described the menace of these maneuvers:

"These actions will only further stoke tensions between the U.S. and China and will

leave the Filipino people caught in the crossfire. We hold our protest at the U.S. Armed Forces Recruiting Station in Times Square to denounce the recruitment of working-class youth to wage imperialist wars to enforce the interests of the one percent.”

The BAYAN statement pointed out that current Philippines President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr., the son of the notorious dictator Ferdinand Marcos, has provided a welcome mat to U.S. armed forces. There are now nine U.S. military bases in the Philippines.

Protesters carried a large banner reading “U.S. troops out of the Philippines,” along with many signs. Chants included, “From Palestine to the Philippines, Stop the U.S. War Machine!”

Joining BAYAN, which called the protest, were the Malaya Movement USA; GABRIELA, National Alliance of Women; Migrante International; the International League of Peoples’ Struggle (ILPS); New York Boricua Resistance; Palestinian Youth Movement; New York Community Action Project; and the NY Committee for Human Rights in the Philippines.

Speakers from these organizations, along with Veterans for Peace, appealed to onlookers to oppose the U.S. war drive.

Speaking for Struggle - La Lucha newspaper, Bill Dores reminded people it was the 125th anniversary of the 1898 U.S. invasion of the Philippines. He called it “a war for imperialist conquest, in which one million Filipino people died the same year they invaded Puerto Rico and Cuba.”

Referring to the latest U.S. military moves, Dores said that “this endless war is a pretext for plundering people, the working class and oppressed communities in the United States. They’re cutting food stamps. They just threw 15 million people off

Medicaid."

Amidst the flashing advertising signs of Times Square on a Monday evening, many people stopped to listen to the talks about the war danger. Leaflets were handed out.

Working and poor people in the U.S. need to oppose the Pentagon war buildup and U.S. support for the Marcos regime that's killing Filipino workers, peasants, and activists.

