

Honduran President Xiomara Castro rejects U.S. interference and condemns coup plot

written by Struggle - La Lucha
September 2, 2024



Honduran President Xiomara Castro. Photo: Xiomara Castro / X

Honduran President Xiomara Castro announced on August 28 that she ordered the suspension of the extradition agreement between her country and the United States. The move was in response to comments made by the U.S. Ambassador to Honduras, Laura Dogu, regarding different high-ranking Honduran officials who had traveled to Venezuela.

The Honduran head of state [wrote in a post](#), “The interference and interventionism of the United States, as well as its intention to direct the politics of Honduras through its Embassy and other representatives, is intolerable. They attack, disregard and violate with impunity the principles and practices of international law, which promote respect for the sovereignty and self-determination of peoples, non-intervention and universal peace. Enough. Based on our Constitution and international treaties, I have ordered Chancellor Enrique Reina to denounce the extradition treaty with the United States.”

The comments in question by the U.S. ambassador happened during an [interview with media outlet HCH TV](#) on August 28. Dogu had said that it was “surprising and disappointing” to see Honduran government officials meet with members of the Venezuelan government because “The U.S. government announced several years ago that the Venezuelan government is involved in drug trafficking; especially, they are sending drugs directly to the United States.”

She added that the Venezuelan Minister of Defense Vladimir Padrino López who met with Honduras’ Secretary of Defense José Manuel Zelaya Rosales is one of the officials that has already been sanctioned by the U.S. government. “It was surprising to see [Honduran] government officials sitting with them because I know that the President [Xiomara Castro] is in a constant fight against drug traffickers. And it was surprising to see government officials sitting [next to] members of a cartel based in Venezuela,” she concluded.

The following day on August 29, Foreign Minister of Honduras Enrique Reina said in a televised interview that the comments by Dogu were linked to a more sinister plan. “We have obtained intelligence information, that these statements by U.S. Ambassador Laura Dogu, imply that some members of the Armed Forces, military personnel of certain rankings, were conspiring with the idea that since allegations have been made against General Roosevelt, he must be taken out of his post,” Reina

stated. “Even though we were able to carry out a clean election which brought the president to power [in 2021], we know where we are coming from, we know of all the struggle that we have waged to even just rescue the institutionality in the country,” the foreign minister added. He also has clarified that at the moment there are not any pending extradition orders against government officials.

Xiomara Castro [said in a public address](#) on August 29 that the U.S. government cannot be allowed to publicly attack the Chief of the Armed Forces, General Roosevelt Hernández, and the Minister of Defense, José Manuel Zelaya, for having attended a meeting with the Venezuelan military, and these types of comments “weaken the institutionality” of the Honduran Army. She classified the comments as part of a plan to undermine and overthrow her government and stated: “I want to promise the Honduran people that there will be no more coups d’état, and that I will not allow the instrument of extradition to be used to intimidate or blackmail the Honduran Armed Forces, we are defending our Armed Forces.”

Several other Latin American and Caribbean left leaders have made statements in support of the Honduran government and condemning yet another U.S. destabilization plan.

Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel [stated](#), “Stop meddling in the internal affairs of Honduras. All our support and solidarity to President Xiomara Castro, her Government and the Honduran people in the face of attacks on the sovereignty of Honduras and Our America.”

Former Bolivian president Evo Morales who was overthrown in a coup in 2019, [wrote](#), “We extend our full support to our comrade Xiomara Castro, President of Honduras, in the face of the destabilization attempts orchestrated by the Honduran right wing in complicity with the government of the United States. We recognize her tireless work and courage in leading the destinies of the beloved and admired Honduran people and defending their sovereignty. They will not return!”

Extradition treaty

In addition to strong statements by top government officials, the Honduran government did take the concrete measure to terminate the extradition agreement between the governments of Honduras and the United States. This agreement has allowed more than 50 Hondurans to be tried and sentenced to prison in U.S. jails. Among them is former U.S.-backed President Juan Orlando Hernández, who [in June was sentenced](#) to 45 years in prison in New York (and who, interestingly, [has criticized](#) Castro's decision to suspend the extradition agreement).

Extradition treaties with the U.S. have been widely criticized by progressives across the world as it represents a violation of a country's sovereignty and undermines their judicial processes. Some have also criticized that the U.S. often uses extradition treaties for their own political goals. Advocates of such agreements argue that it places higher deterrence against committing drug trafficking crimes as the fear of imprisonment in the U.S. is higher.

The President of Honduras has clarified that her objective is not, as the opposition to her government claims, to diminish the fight against drug traffickers or to promote impunity (something that the U.S. ambassador herself recognizes as a virtue in Castro's government), but rather to prevent the agreement from being used as a political "tool" against officials of the Executive and the Honduran Armed Forces.

U.S. Ambassadors' provocations

In what appears to be a generalized imperialist political communication strategy, U.S. ambassadors in Latin America in recent years have decided to "comment" publicly to local media about their opinions on the internal politics of the countries in which they serve missions. Just this week, Mexican President López Obrador [put diplomatic relations with the U.S. and Canadian ambassadors on "pause"](#) due to their public opinions on the Judicial Reform proposed by AMLO and MORENA.

However, Ambassador Dogu's statements stand out for their severity and harshness against high-ranking officials of the Honduran State.

For now, it remains to be seen what attitude the U.S. government will take towards the moves made by the Latin American leaders, and if there will be any retaliation against the Executives of the countries that demand, in accordance with international agreements, that U.S. ambassadors stop publicly commenting on the internal affairs of the countries where they are based.

Source: [Resumen](#)



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Socialist Unity Party

Partido de Socialismo Unido

DNC's message: WAR! WAR! More WAR!

By Sharon Black

In record time, the Democratic Party establishment dumped Joe Biden, crowned Kamala Harris, and put on an unprecedented show-stopping convention spectacle Aug. 19-22.

Over a billion dollars was likely spent (more than \$76 million was paid to the Chicago Police Department for "overtime" and equipment). With that amount of cash, a lot can happen, and quickly.

Vice President Kamala Harris's acceptance speech summed up the core of the DNC's program. Once you strip away the platitudes and emotional appeals for a better "future," you'll find the heart of the message: war and more war.

Harris promised the Pentagon generals, bankers, and arms manufacturers, which include the artificial intelligence and high-tech companies that are floundering, that war will continue whether it's the U.S./NATO proxy war in Ukraine, the not-so-cold war on China, Venezuela, Cuba, Iran, Lebanon, Yemen and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

She stated, "As commander in chief, I will ensure America always has the strongest, most lethal fighting force in the world."

On the question of Palestine, these are Harris's direct remarks:

"I will always stand up for Israel's right to defend itself, and I will always ensure Israel has the ability to defend itself, because the people of Israel must never again face the horror that a terrorist organization called Hamas caused on Oct. 7, including unspeakable sexual violence and the massacre of young people at a music festival."

Those standing behind the curtain who crafted the DNC spectacle had hyped-up participants erupting into



SLL photo: Sharon Black

Close to 20,000 people participated in major marches called by the Coalition to March on the DNC on Monday, Aug. 19, and Thursday, Aug. 22. Actions took place all week, including a march to the Israeli Mission. Representatives of Struggle-La Lucha for Socialism marched and participated in the protests outside the convention.

chants of "USA! USA!" during Harris' presentation, mirroring a Trump MAGA rally.

Vice President Harris also proclaimed, "I promise to be a president for all Americans." But one very major voice was missing from the "all" — the Palestinian people.

The uncommitted delegates had fought for the DNC to grant just one Palestinian speaker. This included an all-night sit-in before the last day. They even promised the DNC that the message could be pre-screened. But their pleas were crushed in a city that boasts the largest Palestinian diaspora in the United States.

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People have a right to housing

because they have a right to live

written by Struggle - La Lucha

September 2, 2024

Vice President Kamala Harris promises to build three million affordable houses if elected president. Meanwhile, her fellow Democrat — [California Gov. Gavin Newsom](#) — has ordered local governments to evict homeless people from their encampments or lose state money.

This is a direct threat to the city of Los Angeles, where at least 29,000 homeless people are living outside. The total number of [homeless people in Los Angeles County](#) is over 75,000, of whom 52,000 have no shelter.

Newsom's order is as cruel as Texas Gov. Abbott putting barbed wire in the Rio Grande (Rio Bravo del Norte) to maim migrants.

Where are homeless people supposed to go? California has an estimated 180,000 homeless people but only 71,000 beds in shelters.

"It's absolute mayhem and craziness," Jeni Shurley told [NBC News](#). Shurley, who lives in Los Angeles, has been homeless for 10 years while working temporary jobs across the United States.

"I have done everything I can, every program that's been offered," she said. "I've taken up on it, and I haven't gotten any assistance that I need whatsoever."

While California has at least 180,000 people without a home, it also has 197 billionaires. Just the richest top 10 of these moneybags have a total stash of [\\$755 billion](#).

It's these parasites that Gov. Gavin Newsom works for and collects campaign

contributions from. Gavin's daddy — [William Newsom III](#) — handled the finances of oil billionaire Gordon Getty.

Newsom's cruelty was given permission by the June 28 decision of the United States Supreme Court in its [Grants Pass v. Johnson](#) decision. It upheld a Grants Pass, Oregon, law that made it a crime for people to sleep in public even if they had nowhere to seek shelter.

The greatest crime under capitalism is to be poor.

No homeless children in Venezuela or Cuba

In a country of 340 million people, the promise of Kamala Harris to have 3 million more houses built over four years falls far short of what's needed.

This isn't a program to directly build 750,000 homes per year. The Vice President is proposing subsidies for "first-time" homebuyers instead.

The Bolivarian Republic of [Venezuela](#) — whose population is less than one-tenth of the U.S. — has built 5 million homes over the past 13 years. That's a good reason why Venezuela's President, Nicolás Maduro Moros, was recently re-elected.

Venezuela accomplished this feat despite 930 economic sanctions being placed against it by the United States and its allies.

There are more than 100,000 [homeless schoolchildren](#) in New York City, the capital of capitalism. But there are no homeless children in Cuba or Venezuela.

The number of homeless people is much larger than those in shelters or on the streets. Over [3.7 million people](#) live in doubled-up households.

Many families facing eviction or foreclosure seek shelter with other family members. Overcrowded housing helped kill thousands during the COVID-19 epidemic.

There's a housing crisis in the United States but no housing shortage. Greedy landlords keep apartments off the market to jack up rents.

Just in New York City, 26,310 "[rent-stabilized](#)" apartments have been kept empty. Rent control laws do not cover thousands more unoccupied apartments.

That's as criminal as hoarding food during a famine.

[Rents](#) across the United States have increased by more than 30% since early 2020. That's higher than the average inflation rate, which certainly outpaces wage growth.

While many homeless people are unemployed, thousands of people with low-paying jobs live in cars because the rents are so high.

Housing is a human right!

People need more than inadequate subsidies for home buying. We need rent rollbacks and a ban on housing foreclosures.

The Biden-Harris administration has poured over [\\$55 billion in arms](#) into the proxy war against the Russian Federation in Ukraine. At least another [\\$12.5 billion](#) has been poured into the genocidal war against Gaza.

This \$67.5 billion being used to kill children could have built 225,000 new apartments at \$300,000 per unit. It's nearly as much as the [\\$78 billion](#) the New York City Housing Authority claims it needs to fix its apartments.

Before Wisconsin Sen. Joe McCarthy became known as an anti-communist witch-hunter, he attacked public housing programs. He did so on behalf of the real estate lobby.

These same developers and real estate outfits defended housing segregation for decades. Metropolitan Life Insurance kept Black people out of its Stuyvesant Town,

Peter Cooper Village, and Parkchester apartment complexes in New York City.

[Donald Trump's](#) daddy, Fred Trump, refused to rent to Black people. Donald Trump's son-in-law [Jared Kushner](#) is a big slumlord in Baltimore and elsewhere.

Instead of Biden ladling out another \$8.5 billion being given to the anti-union [Intel](#) corporation, we need a massive program to build public housing.

One of the first acts of the Cuban Revolution in 1959 was to ban evictions and roll back rents and utility bills. We need to organize the power of the people to make housing a human right.



U.S. arms to Saudi Arabia: A new threat to Yemeni sovereignty and

Palestinian solidarity

written by Struggle - La Lucha

September 2, 2024

On Aug. 9, the Biden administration made official its decision to lift its ban on the sale of offensive weapons to Saudi Arabia.

Specifically, the U.S. State Department announced: “The department is lifting its suspension on certain transfers of air to ground munitions to Saudi Arabia. This suspension was imposed in early 2021 following the administration’s announcement that it was ending support for offensive operations in the conflict in Yemen, including relevant U.S. arms transfers . . . Saudi Arabia has also been a key partner in seeking a durable resolution to the conflict in Yemen.”

Pay attention to that last sentence. In that last sentence, one can find the real intent behind this new rash of U.S. arms sales to the Saudi monarchy. The change in a three-year policy comes down to one word: Yemen.

Since the beginning of the Zionists’ most recent phase of the genocide against Palestine, Yemeni armed forces have sunk or damaged 32 Western vessels bound for “Israel” via the Red Sea. Some of these vessels were military, and some were commercial.

However, **all** of these vessels were on missions in support of Zionism. Such missions cannot be tolerated. To that end, the people of Yemen intervened to stop all forms of assistance to the Zionist occupation regime.

Yemen’s fight against Zionism on behalf of Gaza represents a great act of resistance to Western hegemony in the region. It seems that in response to this resistance and solidarity, the U.S. and its Saudi allies will look to reignite a full-scale war on Yemen. Since 2022, Saudi’s war against Ansarallah, the Yemeni government’s ruling party,

has been on hold under an uneasy UN-negotiated ceasefire.

Until recently, both sides seemed committed to the peace process. On [Aug. 14](#), the Saudi, UAE, and U.S. militaries launched a series of drone and artillery attacks against free Yemen. These attacks, the largest of their kind in two years, came just [five days](#) after the U.S. announced it would resume offensive arms sales to the Saudi monarchy. That is quite a coincidence.

The U.S.-Saudi coalition's escalation against Yemen is dangerous and comes as Yemen continues to recover from a decade of Saudi-led [war and blockade](#). Progressive and anti-imperialist movements across the world must stand with Yemen now more than ever.

The Western imperialist aggression against Yemen via Saudi Arabia represents a chance for the U.S. to strike against the Palestinian resistance while also lining the already full pockets of defense industry [billionaires](#). Further, the Biden administration's renewal of arms sales to Saudi Arabia again proves that the Democratic Party only invests in war and genocide.

The world must stand with the people of Yemen as they continue to repel these acts of imperialist aggression.

Lev Koufax is an anti-Zionist Jewish activist.



U.S. solidarity campaign sends 800 tons of flour to Cuba

written by Struggle - La Lucha
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Havana, August 31 (RHC)- A shipment of 800 tons of wheat flour — collected by solidarity activists in the U.S. — has arrived in Cuba. The donation will provide bread for millions of people in the provinces of Pinar del Rio, Artemisa, Mayabeque, Matanzas and Havana.

This campaign was organized in the United States by the New York City-based “Let Cuba Live: Bread for Our Neighbors” campaign.

According to Manolo De Los Santos, the executive director of The People’s Forum — which was the main coordinator of the solidarity effort — while the campaign has succeeded in carrying out this delivery, it wasn’t without significant hurdles created by Washington’s blockade of the Caribbean island.

In the process of organizing the campaign, Manolo De Los Santos said they reached out to 14 different grain producers in the U.S. to purchase the massive order but

received not a single positive response. In order to successfully complete the delivery, the grain had to be shipped from Turkey and suffered delays “because of the U.S. government’s policy of extreme and arbitrary harassment of Cuba’s foreign trade, which is meant to create desperation for the people of Cuba and has brutal consequences.”

The director of The People’s Forum said that the Joe Biden administration, “in its remaining months before January, has the power to swiftly end this crisis of hunger.” It could remove Cuba from the “State Sponsors of Terrorism List,” an unfounded designation imposed in 2017 by Trump that restricts vital financial and trade transactions.

The “Let Cuba Live: Bread for Our Neighbors” campaign is just one part of the larger fight against the U.S. blockade on Cuba. The people of the U.S. will continue to fight against this brutal blockade and build bridges of solidarity with our neighbors in Cuba.

Manolo De Los Santos emphasized that donations are still being accepted to help offset the costs of this massive delivery, calling on supporters around the world to consider an additional donation.

For more information:
<https://secure.givelively.org/donate/peoples-forum-inc/let-cuba-live-bread-for-our-neighbors>

Source: [Radio Havana Cuba](#)

Edited by Ed Newman on August 31, 2024



DNC's message: War! War! More War!

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war will continue whether it's the U.S./NATO proxy war in Ukraine, the not-so-cold war on China, Venezuela, Cuba, Iran, Lebanon, Yemen and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

She stated, "As commander in chief, I will ensure America always has the strongest, most lethal fighting force in the world."

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"I will always stand up for Israel's right to defend itself, and I will always ensure Israel has the ability to defend itself, because the people of Israel must never again face the horror that a terrorist organization called Hamas caused on Oct. 7, including unspeakable sexual violence and the massacre of young people at a music festival."

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Vice President Harris also proclaimed, "I promise to be a president for all Americans." But one very major voice was missing from the "all" — the Palestinian people.

The uncommitted delegates had fought for the DNC to grant just *one* Palestinian speaker. This included an all-night sit-in before the last day. They even promised the DNC that the message could be prescreened. But their pleas were crushed in a city that boasts the largest Palestinian diaspora in the United States.

There was also no family of Sonia Massey to call for Black lives or to remind the world that racist police terror is continuing. The real voice of workers, the oppressed, of women, the LGBTQ+ community, of Black, Brown, Arab, Mexican, Indigenous, and Asian people was outside the conference protesting.

What's behind the messaging

What accounts for the sudden surge for the Democrats, particularly in terms of financial backing, coupled with the rave reviews in the major mainstream media?

José Ramón Cabañas Rodríguez, Director of the International Policy Research Center in Havana, Cuba, infers the answer in his [The Kamala-Trump-Walz-Vance equation](#):

“But perhaps one of the keys to what was going on under the surface was given by the megabank JPMorgan in a communication addressed to its clients:

“‘Markets don’t like uncertainty, and some of the strength in risk assets over the summer was likely due to the increased likelihood of a Republican victory. We would not be surprised to see more turbulence as the presidential race evolves.’

“What was a mere probability at the time was chillingly confirmed by the record drop in the major stock markets on Aug. 5.

“For the U.S. financial world, the opposite of uncertainty is predictability. In the new circumstances, this condition seems more likely among the Democrat Party, which could not only offer a sense of continuity as of 2028 to the team that could be elected this November but also exhibits a list of probable ‘leaders’ for the future that are not present in the Republican party.”

Harris comes from Silicon Valley and represents, to a large degree, high tech capitalists whose interests are connected to the war machine and military industrialists. Of course, these developments are not based on one section of the capitalist class alone but rather on what benefits the whole kit and kaboodle of predatory thieves, from bankers to landlords.

The U.S. capitalist economy (more than just increasingly) predominantly relies on

military spending and risky speculations on the stock market. It is not real growth based on production for use. The result is continuing inflation marked by unemployment and stagnation.

The velvet glove and iron fist

At this moment, the Democratic Party looks like it could emerge as the winner in the November presidential election. While it sounds crude, follow the money — not that Trump doesn't have his billionaire contributors like Timothy Mellon, heir to the Mellon banking fortune, and others mainly from the real estate sector. Harris's campaign boasts that it has raised \$540 million since its launch.

But of course, nothing is ever guaranteed, especially in the chaotic, dog-eat-dog, unplanned world of capitalist politics. The very Electoral College that all of the millionaires of both parties have enshrined may play into the hands of the Trump campaign.

Most workers, especially in the larger cities, hate Trump, and for very good reasons. He is a racist, misogynist, anti-worker, anti-immigrant buffoon. And he is a fascist. It is a good instinct to be horrified by Trump.

But embracing the Democratic Party as a real alternative whose neoliberal policies at home and abroad have provided the soil for this development is not a solution. In fact, they have fed the growth of outright fascist movements.

You could possibly say that the Democratic Party machine represents the velvet glove and the Republicans the iron fist. But it's not that simple. It's more accurate to say that whether it's the Biden administration or a future Harris administration — we are subjected to both the velvet glove and iron fist at the same time.

The so-called "democratic" bourgeois electoral system and its resultant elected officials are just one part of the superstructure of the capitalist system — there is

the state apparatus of repression, which has grown larger and more virulent and is a product and outgrowth of the militarization of the U.S. economy.

They are the iron fist and include racist killer police, the FBI with its raids and spying, sheriff departments riddled with neo-fascists, the court and prison system, and much more. They, along with the Pentagon, are the guarantors of the rule of billionaires both at home and abroad.

[Retired Ambassador Chas Freeman](#), who was Nixon's translator during his 1972 China trip, said recently, "The United States is in the midst of a mounting constitutional crisis that will come to a head with the Nov. 5 elections and the transition to the Jan. 20 inauguration of the next president. ... The civilian government in Washington may disintegrate at the end of this year, but the U.S. Armed Forces will not."

While the Democratic Party elite tout freedom and constitutional rights — massive and violent attacks on student encampments opposing genocide in Gaza — belie the very right to protest. The dismissal and firings of teachers and workers who take a stand for even a ceasefire are done to shut down opposition.

The chilling case of the UHURU 3, members of the African People's Socialist Party who were the victims of militarized SWAT teams and indicted on conspiracy charges for speaking out against the war machine, is aimed at smashing free speech. The attacks on non-profits like The Peoples Forum in New York City threaten the ability to build organizing centers.

It must be impossible for the Palestinian mothers and fathers, mourning murdered children suffering from outright genocide, and for the occupied and colonized people of the entire region to hear talk of "a lesser of two evils." Time to break with both capitalist parties and end all "evil."



U.S. attack on Mexico's judicial reforms: Protecting corporate profits

written by Struggle - La Lucha
September 2, 2024

Since the beginning of 2024, the government of Andrés Manuel López Obrador (known as AMLO) has promoted a set of legal reforms aimed at rooting out corruption and diminishing Western corporate interests in the Mexican judiciary. At the core of AMLO's proposal are popular elections for all judges, including the Supreme Court of Mexico.

For years, [corruption, bribery, and police brutality](#) have been the hallmarks of Mexican courts and law enforcement. Cartels, [militarized police](#), and U.S. corporations exert enormous amounts of pressure on Mexican judges in the form of bribes, threats, and violence. Under the current appointment system, judges in the hands of organized crime or companies like [General Motors](#) can maintain their positions indefinitely.

These judges scuttle any individual or institutional attempt to bring justice to brutal cops, maquiladora bosses, or drug cartel bosses.

AMLO's reform aims to break this cycle by making the judiciary elected, not appointed. If the Mexican judiciary could effectively take on corrupt U.S. corporations and organized crime, it could help break the U.S. stranglehold on Mexican labor and reel in an out-of-control militarized police force. Under NAFTA and the current U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement ("USMCA"), U.S. corporations own and operate factories across different industries in Mexico.

Further, the U.S. and Canada browbeat Mexico into pledging against state-owned enterprises as a part of the USMCA. NAFTA, and now USMCA, allow, if not empower, U.S. billionaire corporations to pay Mexican workers less for more work and avoid most regulations enforcing higher standards for workers.

Many of these same companies demanding continued cheap labor in Mexico left U.S. workers high and dry as they closed down factories over the past several decades. Mexican and U.S. workers have common enemies in Washington and on Wall Street.

A change in Mexico's judiciary towards regulating U.S.-owned factories and away from the USMCA could help Mexico gain some independence from the U.S. imperialist machine.

And for these exact reasons, the U.S. government and its mouthpieces have unleashed a firestorm of criticism against AMLO and his proposed reform.

The U.S. Mission to Mexico [denounced](#) the reform and said that "popular election of judges is a major risk to the functioning of Mexico's democracy." What?! *Popular elections* are a threat to democracy? The U.S. has a fascinating definition of democracy. Is the U.S. so openly saying that "Mexican democracy" means a form of government that explicitly and solely benefits a small number of Western oligarchs?

The U.S. Mission asserted that the proposed reforms would “threaten the historic trade relationship [the U.S. and Mexico] have built, which relies on investors’ confidence in Mexico’s legal framework.” As previously noted, U.S. corporations benefit greatly from a weak and corrupt Mexican judiciary. What the U.S. embassy won’t say is that “investors’ confidence” is based on higher and higher levels of [exploitation](#) of Mexican workers.

The neoliberal think tank, the [Wilson Center](#), went a step further and openly invoked the USMCA. Specifically, “If approved, these legal shifts could seriously challenge North America’s long term competitiveness, and nearshoring potential, jeopardize billions in U.S. and Canadian investments in Mexico, and complicate the 2026 review of the USMCA.” Translated: if the Mexican judiciary actually works, the U.S. ruling class could lose a lot of money.

This attack on AMLO’s reform is nothing more than a U.S. corporate attempt to maintain a stranglehold on the Mexican economy. The U.S. cannot allow any attempt to restrict its exploitation of Mexican labor, even a relatively mild one. AMLO did not propose nationalizing the energy sector or serious tariffs on imported U.S. goods. However, the U.S. capitalist machine won’t risk losing a single penny. No restriction of their market domination can be allowed. Hence, they will fight this reform tooth and nail.

When U.S. Ambassador to Mexico Ken Salazar bellicously proposed that putting judges up for election would threaten “the historic commercial relationship” between the two countries, the Mexican government responded that Salazar’s comments “represent an unacceptable interference, a violation of Mexico’s sovereignty.”

AMLO suspended [diplomatic relations](#) with the U.S. and Canada, which has also denounced the judicial reforms. While this reaction is certainly justified and frankly should be applauded, it might be noted that AMLO’s response to the attempted coup

in Venezuela was not nearly as strong. In fact, AMLO has yet to [recognize](#) Nicolas Maduro's election [victory](#) even after it was fully certified by the Supreme Court.

This is unfortunate because Washington's attempts to re-colonize Venezuela are also a threat to Mexico. An attack on the sovereignty of one Latin American country is an attack on the sovereignty of all.

The U.S. attack on AMLO's proposed judicial reform is outrageous and entirely rooted in the interests of the U.S. billionaire class. Mexico deserves to carve its future without having to pay the piper that is U.S. imperialism at every turn.



The history of Black Populism: Resistance amid Jim Crow terror

written by Struggle - La Lucha
September 2, 2024

- [Part 1: Populists fought the ruling class](#)
- [Part 2: Populism or fascism?](#)

- [Part 3: The history of Black Populism](#)
- [Part 4: Two paths after slavery's end](#)

As explained in the first installment of this series on populism, historical populism in the U.S. was a progressive, left-wing movement of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It was a reaction to the rising monopoly capitalist class, the titans of big business, and big banks who were rapidly taking over the world. The movement was based especially among farmers in the South and West but included alliances with industrial workers and even small shopkeepers.

Although populism was overwhelmingly anti-racist, a fundamental weakness of the movement was that it remained mostly white. The populist movement was not able to create the big, multiracial alliance that was needed to take on the rich successfully.

But to leave the story at that would be misleading. In fact, there was a significant Black populist movement that had its own dynamics. What they achieved was impressive, especially considering the extreme racist violence that characterized this period.

When the populist movement was in full swing in the 1890s, the Southern ruling class' shock troops were carrying out over [100 lynchings annually](#), rolling back the many political, economic, and social gains made by Black people after the Civil War.

The Black populists organized and fought back during the height of this post-Reconstruction Klan terror, leaving a legacy that influenced movements going forward.

Roots of populism

Discussing the Black populists requires us to account for the origins of populism in general. The first installment of the series began right in the middle of things,

describing populism at its height in the 1890s, centered around the People's Party. But that party came out of a big wave of agrarian movements in the 1870s and 1880s. Mirroring the growth of industrial unions in the same period, farm workers and farm owners organized alliances. These alliances were the basis of the People's Party and, thus, of populism.

Multiple factors drove these agricultural communities to organize. As capitalism entered its monopoly-imperialist phase, those making their living in agriculture were affected in specific ways, notably by being burdened with debt.

With the crop-lien system introduced in the South after the Civil War, sharecroppers and much poorer tenant farmers were trapped in endless cycles of debt to rich landowners, making them indentured servants. Both rural white and Black workers were trapped in these cycles, with Black workers experiencing some of the worst exploitation.

In addition, the banks, which increasingly controlled the economy, dictated that farmers in the South grow cotton, the cash crop. Through repeated cycles of overproduction (growing more cotton than the market could absorb), cotton prices tended to fall, so those working the fields got less and less for their work. On the other hand, big capitalist players like cotton warehouse owners, banks, and shippers continued to profit. This bred righteous class anger.

Agricultural crisis struck the Midwest and the Plains in the 1880s. Masses of people had moved West in the preceding years, lured deliberately by the railroad companies that were making a fortune. Railroad bosses wanted settlers in the new economic outposts. The federal government was providing these privately owned railroad companies with subsidies and giving them public land for the tracks - land that had been stolen from Indigenous peoples.

It was in 1886 that some 200,000 workers participated in the Great Southwest

railroad strike, taking on the likes of robber baron Jay Gould, the owner of the Union Pacific rail company. These striking workers were not agricultural laborers, but the fact that this strike occurred at the same time that farmers were forming their alliances, and directing their ire against the rail companies, is hardly incidental.

The Knights of Labor, the biggest labor union federation in the country at the time, organized the strike. The agricultural alliances endorsed it. This support for the labor movement's goals was not a one-off. The Farmers' Alliance championed the eight-hour workday and called for public ownership of the railroads, which had been paid for by the people anyway.

In 1887, severe drought came to the West. Crops failed and inflated land prices fell, breaking the speculative bubble. The settlers who had moved to states like Kansas and Oklahoma were left high and dry as the Wall Street investors pulled out.

These are just some of the immediate factors that drove the establishment of the great agricultural alliances.

The Colored Alliance

One of the primary organizations of the movement was the Colored Farmers' National Alliance and Co-Operative Union (hereafter the Colored Farmers' Alliance). It was founded on Dec. 11, 1886, in Houston County, Texas, by 16 delegates identified as either "Negro" or "mulatto," plus one white farmer.

According to historian Omar H. Ali:

"Hundreds of grassroots organizers tapped into preexisting networks of Black farmers, sharecroppers, and agrarian workers affiliated with Black churches, the Colored Agricultural Wheels, the Knights of Labor, the Cooperative Workers of America, and the Colored Farmers' Union. Within two years of its founding, the Colored Alliance consolidated various Black agrarian organizations scattered across

the South into a cohesive movement encompassing hundreds of thousands of African Americans.” ([“In the Lion’s Mouth: Black Populism in the New South, 1886-1900”](#))

Around the same time in Texas, a different organization called the National Colored Alliance formed. Within three years, the group claimed a membership of 250,000. There were chapters in every Southern state. The two alliances merged into a single organization: The Colored Alliance.

The Colored Alliance carried out mutual aid and self-help activities, raising funds to help members in a society almost completely lacking a social safety net, especially for rural Black farmers and sharecroppers. They planned and carried out cooperative farming activities, and conducted educational presentations on farm techniques and more. The Alliance also published multiple newspapers.

Any organization of Black people was suspect, whether overtly “political” or not; the Colored Alliance, therefore, operated in the beginning as a largely clandestine organization – modeled on secret societies – and centered in Black churches.

However, the Alliance also engaged in more militant struggles, coming into direct confrontation with the racist white ruling class by “boycotting goods where price gouging was taking place, demanding higher wages for cotton picking, and calling for an immediate end to the convict-lease system,” in the words of Ali. He goes on to explain:

“The convict-lease system was both a means of control and a particularly cruel profit-making business in the South. It gave planters, railroad bosses, and other employers who faced labor shortages, free rein to purchase labor from the state (at a small fine and court cost). The labor often came from those convicted of petty crimes and disproportionately marked Black men, many of whom were physically and mentally abused in a system with little legal recourse; county officials notoriously looked the other way to abuses of authority, even when deaths were the result. The

Colored Alliance's opposition to the system therefore targeted a critical point of contention for African Americans."

Ali argues for the importance of assessing Black populism on its own terms. It was not simply an appendage of a general – or, more accurately, majority white – movement. Rather, it developed from the internal dynamics of the Black community, including other political and labor organizations of the time, as well as fraternal and religious groups. As a counter to the rising tide of Jim Crow, Black populism made unique contributions and left a legacy that reverberated through the radical sharecroppers' movement of the 1930s, the Civil Rights, and Black Power struggles down to the present day.

Movement segregation

From their inception, Black populist organizations like the Colored Alliance were not the driving force of a segregated movement. On the contrary, it was existing segregation in white farmers' organizations that, at least in part, necessitated the establishment of the Colored Alliance.

The biggest agrarian organization was the Farmers' Alliance, founded in central Texas in 1876. Later, it became the backbone of the People's Party. The Farmers' Alliance denied membership to Black people, six years before the Colored Alliance was founded. This was in keeping with the political trend of post-Reconstruction reaction. Such white chauvinism was a boon to the ruling class and a detriment to sharecroppers, tenant farmers, and poor farm owners, both Black and white.

Despite the organizational segregation, the Black and white Alliances joined forces on multiple campaigns. These included opposing the privately owned Louisiana State Lottery Company and tax hikes on cottonseed oil, which was an important source of income for Black tenant farmers.

There were class contradictions at play here, however. This agrarian movement had made strange bedfellows, with some of the poorest people, like sharecroppers, in an alliance with wealthy farm owners. The white Farmers' Alliance, especially, included big landowners who employed sharecroppers. For these wealthy farmers, opposition to the inclusion of Black members was not just racism in the abstract. It had implications for their bottom line.

Crucially, a split occurred over voting rights. In 1890, a Republican member of the U.S. House of Representatives, Henry Cabot Lodge, introduced the Federal Elections Bill, which aimed to curb voter suppression in the South by establishing federal oversight. At that time, the Democratic Party was the party of segregation and the whole political apparatus of the South conspired to disenfranchise Republican - especially Black - voters. The bill was endorsed by Republican President Benjamin Harrison. The white Farmers' Alliance opposed the bill, siding with racist Southern Democrats who made it the main presidential election issue in the South in 1892.

Cotton-pickers strike

The Colored Alliance called for a general strike of Black cotton pickers in 1891, demanding higher pay. These laborers were only getting 50 cents for 100 pounds of cotton. Strike organizers called for a raise to \$1 per 100 pounds. As with the voter bill, the white Farmers Alliance balked at the demands and opposed the strike.

The Georgia chapter of the Colored Alliance included wealthier Black farmers who employed sharecroppers themselves, and this chapter also opposed the strike.

The planned September strike did not break out anywhere except for Lee County, Arkansas. A Black labor organizer from Memphis, Tennessee, Ben Patterson, went there and recruited around 25 pickers to strike.

Workers began striking on a farm owned by Colonel H.P. Rodgers. Unfortunately, the strike did not spread across the county, and these strikers remained isolated. The sheriff organized a posse and chased the strikers to an island near Horseshoe Lake on Sept. 29. Patterson escaped but was recaptured and shot. The sheriff allowed masked lynchers to murder the nine prisoners taken by his posse.

We can learn a great deal from the bravery of these strikers. Their fate is also emblematic of the extreme, terroristic violence of the racist planter class and its lackeys. This kind of repression was endemic and has to be taken into consideration when assessing Black populism and the populist movement generally. This is what they were up against.

At the same time, we would be right to wonder how much more effective this strike call, and other efforts, might have been if the white Farmers' Alliance had thrown its weight behind it rather than caving to racist scare tactics and prioritizing the interests of its wealthier land-owning members. We can also wonder whether the situation might have been altered if the Georgia chapter of the Colored Alliance had not sown dissension on behalf of its wealthier members.

The Agricultural Wheel

There were other farmers' alliances that were integrated or quasi-integrated. One example is the Agricultural Wheel, a farmer's union founded in the Arkansas Delta in 1882. It expanded to 10 other states, mostly in the South, but even reached Wisconsin. In 1888, they joined forces with the Knights of Labor to form the Union Labor Party of Arkansas and ran candidates. At its peak in 1888, the Wheel had 75,000 members, making it a real force.

Early on, the Wheel dropped whiteness as a requirement for membership and began admitting Black members into separate Black Wheel formations. In 1887, an unrelated Black farmer's union, The Sons of the Agricultural Star, merged with The

Wheel.

These concrete developments toward uniting rural Black and white people on a class basis were a real advance. This progress on race - or the national question, as Lenin called it - came undone in 1889 when the Wheel merged with an organization called the National Farmers' Alliance and Industrial Union of America. One of the terms of the agreement was the denial of membership to Black farmers. This meant excluding half of all Southern farmers, who were Black. ([The Encyclopedia of Arkansas](#))

The Wilmington Massacre

This article has dealt mainly with the pre-history of populism prior to the founding of the People's Party in 1892. In those years, the Agricultural Alliance attempted to work with both of the two ruling parties, that is, with the Democrats in the South and the Republicans in the North, with limited success. These failures, in part, inspired the formation of the People's Party. The Party was not simply a reformulation of the Alliance but involved some fusion with the industrial workers' movement, namely the Knights of Labor. The new party drew from the ranks of both organizations.

If we fast forward to 1898 - a year representing the height and culmination of populism - the tremendous significance of the Black movement within populism becomes apparent.

In Wilmington, North Carolina, Black populists made a major stand against the rising tide of Jim Crow. This majority-Black Southern city was the largest in the state and had a biracial government, with Black citizens serving as aldermen, coroners, and more. This was not the case everywhere in the state, and the openly white supremacist Democratic Party that had retaken the state legislature with the overthrow of Reconstruction attempted to curtail home rule in the towns; they had their sights on Wilmington.

The government in Wilmington was “fusionist,” meaning that it resulted from an alliance between the Republican Party, on the one hand, and the Populist or People’s Party, on the other. The Wilmington Republican Party itself was biracial.

Statewide, the Populist and Republican Parties formed a fusion coalition from 1894 to 1900. They combatted the Democrats and championed progressive policies such as equal voting rights and free public education. (Both voting rights and public education are under attack in 2024).

In addition to Black people holding power in the city government, many were successful in local trade and business. They made up some 30% of the skilled trade workforce.

Most of the progress in Wilmington came to a halt in 1898 when white supremacist mobs carried out a sustained campaign of violence.

It is clear that this was not a spontaneous eruption. Rather, the Democratic Party – particularly a Wilmington grouping known as “the Secret Nine” – plotted a coup to drive Black people out of political life and better-paying jobs.

Like Donald Trump, these ruling-class leaders used the press and rallies to foment racist hysteria, affecting enough of the white population that around 2,000 went on to participate in the massacre. They relied on old lies about Black men sexually assaulting white women, while also tapping into economic and other anxieties – not so different from today’s anti-trans and anti-immigrant panic.

This was not a totally disorganized mob, though. The Red Shirts were a terrorist organization similar to the Ku Klux Klan in Wilmington, and they led much of the violence. In short, these paramilitary organizations played a role similar to that of the Brown Shirts during Hitler’s rise to power in Germany.

This basic logic of fascism is apparent here. In an attempt to preserve its rule and

reverse gains won by the people, the ruling class terrorizes the population with violence. But then as now, people fought back. The next installment in this series will explore these events in Wilmington in greater detail.



Israel begins biggest West Bank operation in decades

written by Struggle - La Lucha
September 2, 2024

The Israeli army is planning forced evacuations of West Bank civilians, and the military operation in the territory is expected to last several days



The Israeli army launched its biggest operation in the occupied West Bank in over two decades early on 28 August, raiding Jenin, Tulkarem, and Tubas with hundreds of troops and launching airstrikes on the three cities, considered major hotbeds of resistance in the territory.

Israel has launched a large-scale military operation in the occupied West Bank's Tulkarm late on Tuesday. Footage by Al Jazeera Arabic shows Israeli bulldozers destroying infrastructure, including sewage systems, water, and electricity networks. pic.twitter.com/ZA0jUG8kOB

— Middle East Eye (@MiddleEastEye) [August 28, 2024](#)

The Israeli army announced in a statement early on Wednesday that its forces “have now begun an operation to counter terrorism” in Jenin and Tulkarem. Israeli forces

are also operating in the Faraa camp near Tubas.

Israeli media announces this invasion, which will reportedly involve thousands of soldiers and last for days, as the largest military operation in the occupied West Bank since 2002.

Yedioth Ahronoth reports that the army plans to evacuate civilian neighborhoods in order to... pic.twitter.com/TLjr6qJlrB

— The Cradle (@TheCradleMedia) [August 27, 2024](#)

Military sources told the [Times of Israel](#) that the operation is expected to last several days.

“We need to deal with the threat exactly as we deal with terror infrastructure in Gaza, including the temporary evacuation of Palestinian civilians and any other step needed. This is a war in every sense,” Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz said via social media.

צה"ל פועל מהלילה בעוצמה במחנות הפליטים ג'נין וטול כרם לסיכול תשתיות טרור איסלמיות-אירניות שהוקמו במקום. איראן פועלת להקים חזית טרור מזרחית נגד ישראל ביו"ש, לפי מודל עזה ולבנון, באמצעות מימון וחימוש מחבלים והברחת נשק מתקדם מירדן.

עלינו לטפל באיום בדיוק כפי שמטפלים בתשתיות הטרור

Israel Katz (@Israel_katz) [August 28, 2024](#) ישראל כ"ץ

“Iran is working to establish a terror front against Israel in [the West Bank], according to the model it used in Lebanon and Gaza, by funding and arming terrorists and smuggling advanced weapons from Jordan,” he added.

Hebrew newspaper *Yedioth Ahronoth* said that Israel is planning the forced evacuation of West Bank neighborhoods as part of the operation. “The process will likely be long,” the daily’s correspondent, Yoav Zeyton, said.

Israel’s Kan channel reported that the operation is the largest since Operation Defensive Shield in 2002, which took place in the occupied West Bank during the Second Intifada. It will reportedly involve thousands of soldiers.

Tel Aviv has dubbed the operation “Camps of Summer,” targeting the refugee camps in the occupied West Bank, including Tulkarem’s Nour Shams camp, the Jenin camp, and the Faraa camp.

□ *Breaking: This is Jenin.*

□ *A large military incursion by Zionist terrorist forces into large areas of the West Bank including Jenin, Tulkarem & Nablus.*

□ *The biggest operation since 2002, which fitting in with plans to displace the Palestinians of the West Bank & expand... pic.twitter.com/JdvJV9dIQ2*

— Abdul Wahid (@AbdulWahid_X) [August 28, 2024](#)

“Terrorists in the northern West Bank - The gates of hell have opened. Either you surrender or you die,” said the Hebrew Channel 14 military correspondent Hallel Bitt.

<https://lt.co/LGwt9KEfjs> إرهابيو شمال الضفة - لقد فتحت ابواب جهنم. يا اما تستسلموا او يتموتوا

הלל ביטון רוזן | Hallel Bitton Rosen (@BittonRosen) [August 27, 2024](#)

The operation was launched after a [blast in Tel Aviv](#) last week, which was claimed by

Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) movement.

At least 10 Palestinians have been killed and several others injured.

At least three were killed in a drone strike on a vehicle southeast of Jenin, and another four were killed in a drone strike on the Faraa camp south of Tubas, according to [Wafa news agency](#). Others were killed by Israeli gunfire during clashes.

Israeli forces have bulldozed the roads leading to several [major hospitals](#) in Jenin and Tulkarem and have threatened to raid the Khalil Suleiman Governmental Hospital in Jenin.

“The occupation forces are imposing a siege on medical institutions in the city, as they have blocked roads to Ibn Sina Hospital with earth mounds, and besieged the Martyr Khalil Suleiman Hospital and the headquarters of the Red Crescent,” said Jenin governor [Kamal Abu al-Rub](#).

Meanwhile, several Palestinian resistance factions are confronting Israeli troops across the three cities targeted by the massive Israeli raid.

“We have named the battle being fought by the heroes of Saraya Al-Quds on the combat axes in the West Bank as ‘The Horror of the Camps,’ where the enemy has mobilized its forces in search of an image of victory after its failure over the past 10 months in confronting the fighters of our people in Gaza and the West Bank,” the PIJ’s Quds Brigades said.

“With God’s help, our fighters are ready and will make the enemy taste the horror of the camps, and their soldiers will know the hell that awaits them,” it added.

The Tulkarem and Jenin branches of the Quds Brigades said on Wednesday morning that their fighters were engaged in fierce battles with the Israeli army in the two

cities. The Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades also took part in confronting Israeli forces in Jenin.

“Our fighters are confronting the invading occupation forces in Al-Faraa camp and are showering the enemy forces and military vehicles in the Beirut axis with heavy volleys of bullets,” the Quds Brigades’ Tubas Brigade said.

The Tulkarem Brigade said its fighters “targeted the [Israeli] snipers’ positions entrenched inside a house in Nour Shams Camp and showered them with bullets, achieving direct hits.”

!!Continuous clashes between the resistance fighters and the occupation forces as the resistance fighters confront the occupation’s aggression on Nour Shams camp in Tulkarm, West Bank pic.twitter.com/Myy88udjpi

— Monitor🇵🇸 (@MonitorX99800) [August 28, 2024](#)

Source: [The Cradle](#)



Protest at LAUSD: Teachers refuse to be silenced on Palestine

written by Struggle - La Lucha
September 2, 2024

“Free Palestine!” and “Stop the genocide!” chants rang out from the steps of the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) headquarters on Aug. 8. LAUSD employees, United Teachers of Los Angeles (UTLA) Human Rights Committee, Association of Raza Educators, Teachers for Justice in Palestine, Unión del Barrio, the Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice, and other community-based organizations demanded an end to the harassment, intimidation and doxxing of teachers who teach their students about Palestine and the ongoing U.S.-funded Israeli genocide.

Teachers have been forced to switch schools to do their jobs. Ethnic Studies pioneer Dr. Theresa Montaña explained that ethnic studies is to “reveal what has not been taught about oppressed and marginalized people everywhere, including oppressed and marginalized people in Palestine. It is incumbent upon us, as critically conscious folks, to teach our children about that so that it never happens to a single human being ever again, anywhere. These teachers are heroes.”

David Feldman, a Jewish educator and chair of the UTLA Human Rights Committee, chaired the press conference/rally: "As teachers, it is our duty to stand up for children in our city and around the world. Schools are being bombed and children are being killed in Palestine. We demand that our tax dollars be used to fund schools, health care and housing; not to fund Israel who is committing genocide in Palestine."

Ron Gochez, a 20-year high school history teacher, has filed complaints to LAUSD about the threats he has faced, but there has been no response or protection from LAUSD. Gochez said, "The work we do is out of love for our students, community and humanity ... we are being cyber-stalked, doxxed, and harassed, we are being attacked in different ways: at our school sites, during school time, at home and online at all times. They are publishing our work and home addresses. They think we are going to quit - we are not going to quit, we are organizing - we are building. We will continue to say, Long Live Palestine, End the Occupation and End the Genocide!"

