

# Struggle □ La Lucha PDF - June 30, 2025

written by Struggle - La Lucha  
June 30, 2025  
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►Del rechazo a políticas antiinmigrante, al rechazo del Proyecto Esencia ►Energía y huracanes

## STRUGGLE ★ LA LUCHA for Socialism | por el Socialismo

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# From IRAN to GAZA to LOS ANGELES Mobilize to Stop U.S. War

By Sharon Black

June 22 — On Saturday, June 21, the U.S. military carried out a direct act of war on the people of Iran. According to Trump's Truth Social, "A full payload of BOMBBS was dropped on the primary site, #Fordow." Missile strikes were also launched on Natanz and Esfahan.

It's reported that the U.S. military dropped 14 of its new GBU-57 "bunker buster bombs," each weighing 30,000 lbs. This is the first time this bomb has been used, and it is the successor to the "Mother of All Bombs," the GBU-43, which was used in Afghanistan in 2017.

The deployment of massive "bunker buster" bombs, Tomahawk cruise missiles, and the mobilization of U.S. naval fleets, air squadrons, and ground forces in the region is not just a war buildup — it's a deliberate act of imperialist intimidation. Washington's message is clear: Any people in West Asia who dare to take control

**U.S. bombs;  
China builds**

of their own resources or chart an independent path will face the full wrath of the U.S. war machine. This is the iron fist of the military-industrial complex, reminding the oppressed that empire — not self-determination — rules.

Representatives of the Iranian government and its military have correctly pointed out that the U.S. has acted illegally and that the Iranian people have a right to defend themselves against both U.S. and Israeli acts of war.

As we said in earlier articles, this war has nothing to do with so-called nuclear weapons. Like the pretext for war on Iraq, there are no "weapons of mass destruc-

*Continued on page 8*



Iran to Palestine, Stop U.S. War Crimes!  
**ICE OUT NOW!**



**Iran's right to  
self-defense**



L.A. above  
SLL photo, L.A.:  
Lev Kaufman  
NYC, left.  
SLL photo:  
Steve Millers

**Protect  
Trans  
Kids!** **End fascist  
trans panic  
NOW!**

**Intersections & Crossroads, the  
Struggle for Self Determination**

Bilal Abdullah, was a beloved produce vendor who used horse-drawn carts in Baltimore. He was killed by police on June 17, 2025.

**Populist smokescreen: How both  
parties serve monopoly capital**

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- Capitalist crisis and the attack on trans people
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# U.S. bombs, China builds

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June 30, 2025

## China will eliminate tariffs on African countries

As global attention focused on the U.S. and Israeli conspiracy to bring about regime change in Iran (alongside the Pentagon's bombing that risked a regional war crisis), China and African countries were actively building alliances.

Just days before the attacks on Iran began, China announced that it would eliminate tariffs on imports from 53 African countries (except Eswatini, which does not currently maintain relations with Beijing), a move set to significantly strengthen China-Africa trade relations and create new opportunities for African exporters.

The announcement was made during the Ministerial Meeting of Coordinators on the Implementation of the Follow-up Actions of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation

(FOCAC), held from June 10 to 12, 2025, in Changsha, Hunan Province.

The forum brought together representatives from China, 53 African nations, and the African Union Commission to assess progress on commitments made at the 2024 Beijing Summit and to plan future cooperation.

Previously, zero-tariff treatment was available to only 33 African countries. This new announcement expands on the zero-tariff treatment for least developed countries (LDCs) that began on Dec. 1, 2024, which has already boosted exports from several African nations to China. This move opens up China's extensive market to African products.

### **China's broader strategy**

China's declaration of near-zero tariffs is part of a broader strategy that includes support for green industries, e-commerce, artificial intelligence, and infrastructure development. This also includes advancing modernization and supporting the African Union's Agenda 2063.

The removal of tariffs on African goods will help to diversify Africa's export markets and reduce dependency on Western capitalist partners. It also signals a growing realignment in international trade partnerships, with Africa increasingly central to Beijing's global partnerships and solidarity.

China has been Africa's top trading partner for the last 15 years. In 2024, trade hit a record \$295.6 billion. Q1 2025 saw bilateral trade at \$72.6 billion, a 2.7% increase year-over-year. Africa's 2023 exports to China were valued at approximately \$170 billion (£125 billion), highlighting its growing role in China's global trade.

### **Contrasts with the United States**

Instead of lifting tariffs, the Trump administration has tightened the noose and

imposed new tariffs, particularly on some of the poorest countries. Countries facing some of the highest tariffs include Lesotho (50%), Madagascar (47%), Mauritius (40%), Botswana (37%), Angola (32%), Libya (31%), and Algeria and South Africa (both 30%). These moves shred the “African Growth and Opportunity Act” (AGOA).

These actions threaten to disrupt supply chains and hinder economic growth. The impact is joblessness, hunger and general poverty for people living in these countries. And if the people in these regions rebel against economic strangulation, U.S. imperialism’s answer is the stick: Africa Command (AFRICOM), a network of military bases on the continent of Africa.



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## Energía y huracanes

written by Struggle - La Lucha  
June 30, 2025

Ya estamos a finales de junio, y todavía en esta colonia que está en la ruta de los temporales del Atlántico, el pueblo no sabe cual es el plan del gobierno ante las posibles interrupciones del servicio eléctrico en este archipiélago en caso de un huracán.

Tenemos que recordar que en el 2017, cuando nos azotó el huracán María, todo el sistema energético colapsó, incluyendo los servicios esenciales de agua y telefonía. Hubo lugares que estuvieron sin estos servicios casi un año. Más de 3,000 personas fallecieron, no por ahogamiento o por impactos directos de la tormenta, sino la mayoría lentamente, por la falta de energía que alimentaba aparatos médicos y otros servicios esenciales para la vida.

Luego de ese desastre, el gobierno privatizó la energía, tanto la generación como la distribución. Esto, en vez de mejorar y abaratar el servicio según prometía la administración, lo encareció y peor aún, lo hizo menos resiliente por lo cual sufrimos semanalmente de apagones que además de dificultar la vida, dañan electrodomésticos por los cuales, la agencia privatizadora no se responsabiliza.

El gobierno es tan insensible e irresponsable que hasta reporteros del Centro de Periodismo Investigativo, siempre comprometidos con el bienestar del pueblo, han tenido que ir a los tribunales para exigir que se divulgue el Plan de Emergencias que tengan las agencias gubernamentales pertinentes. Sin embargo, hasta el día de hoy, el gobierno rehúsa contestar.

Es inconcebible y criminal cómo los gobiernos locales coloniales de los dos partidos que se alternan para administrar, han abandonado totalmente su obligación de lograr el bien común de la población que les eligió y han ignorado los reclamos de organizaciones como Queremos Sol y otras que han presentado proyectos viables de energía solar, y que sean públicos. Sin embargo, el gobierno opta por alejarse de la energía renovable barata que tenemos en abundancia, y privatiza y adopta los combustibles fósiles que tenemos que importar a precios muy altos para el bolsillo y el medioambiente.

Por eso, aquí, la lucha continúa.

Desde Puerto Rico para Radio Clarín de Colombia, les habló Berta Joubert-Ceci



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# **U.S. bases in the Arab world: A colonial occupation in disguise**

written by Struggle - La Lucha  
June 30, 2025





The recent US aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran has laid bare, long-ignored truth: US military bases are among the most serious threats to the peoples of our region. Today, much of the Arab world remains under occupation through foreign domination enforced by military presence, political control, and economic subjugation. Where direct US or Western military domination ends, internal occupation begins, through World Bank dictates, systems of dependency, normalization, and a suffocating helplessness.

From the Atlantic ocean to the shores of the Gulf, US military bases stretch across the Arab world like the fangs of a “modern” colonial beast. Under false slogans like “cooperation,” “stability,” and “protection”, these outposts have long masked their true purpose. These bases are nothing less than military occupations, brazen, shameless, and no different in essence from traditional colonialism. No free people

would ever tolerate a foreign military presence imposed on their land, against their will and dignity.

Over 40,000 US troops are now stationed across at least 19 military bases and outposts in the Arab homeland, a number that has doubled in recent years. From al-Udeid base in Qatar, now a command hub for regional wars, to the Fifth Fleet in Bahrain, invasion platform in Kuwait, air installations in the UAE and Saudi Arabia, and covert sites in Jordan, Iraq, and Syria, the Arab land has become a launchpad for attacks on our peoples. These bases operate as spy centers, weapons depots defending the Zionist entity, and tools of domination to control our economies and politics. They are supported by mobile warships in our waters, and anchored by the largest outpost of them all: the Israeli entity itself.

The US, British, and French bases are not mere concrete structures or weapons stockpiles. They are the spearhead of the US-Zionist domination project. From those very bases, strikes are launched on Iran and Yemen. From them, security coordination is managed to weaken resistance in Palestine and Lebanon. Inside their walls, spy networks are built, normalization deals are signed, and the maps of devastation are drawn, just as they were when our region was carved up in the past, only now with even more destruction.

The regimes that welcomed these bases under the banners of dependency, normalization, and surrender, have sold their nations for the survival of a paid elite. They have handed over every port, airport, and airspace to foreign militaries, trading sovereignty for power. But as the pace of confrontation accelerates, the voice of the people grows louder: "Isn't it time to expel every last US base from Arab soil?"

The ongoing genocide in Gaza, the recent assault on Iran, and the daily assassinations of resistance leaders expose these bases as more sinister than even traditional colonialism. Their existence ensures a continuous cycle of violence and

control. No Arab state will know safety while they remain. No nation will enjoy stability under their shadow. No people will taste sovereignty as long as US warplanes fly overhead.

Palestine will never be liberated while a single US base remains in the region. Neither Iraq, Yemen, Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, nor Tunisia, Algeria, and Morocco will be free under the weight of US military occupation. The battle is one. Our fate is shared. The enemy is known.

Let the banners of Arab resistance rise once again, this time against US imperialism, as they once rose against the Zionist project. Let us ignite popular campaigns, national uprisings, and revolutionary movements across the region with a single cry: "US bases out of our land, immediately!"

Launching an armed and popular campaign against these bases will not only strike at the heart of imperial control, it will expose the alliance between US imperialism, Zionism, and Arab reactionary regimes. It will disrupt the balance of the enemy camp and open the door to a new phase in the Arab liberation struggle.

Expelling these bases is not an option. It is a national and revolutionary obligation, a critical chapter in our collective resistance. We will never reclaim a free future, Arab unity, or human dignity until we dismantle this foreign occupation, sever the chains of submission, and return sovereignty to where it belongs: in the hands of the Arab people, not the generals of the Pentagon.

*This is an edited translation of an article originally published in [Arabic](#).*

Source: [Al-Akhbar](#)



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# No to a \$3 transit fare!

written by Struggle - La Lucha

June 30, 2025

**New Yorkers say the 'fare ain't fair'**

New York, June 25 — Activists rallied this morning in front of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's skyscraper headquarters in lower Manhattan. They protested the MTA's plan to hike the Big Apple's transit fare to \$3 on Aug. 1.

That's 60 times what it cost to ride a bus, streetcar or subway back in 1948. It amounts to a weekly \$30 transportation tax for workers just going to and from their jobs five days a week.

The action was called by the Fare Ain't Fair campaign initiated

by the December 12th Movement. Speakers from D12, the New York Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression, the Party for Socialism and Liberation, and Struggle-La Lucha newspaper attacked the \$3 fare as another cutback for poor and working people.

They pointed out that MTA is a cash cow for banks and wealthy investors, who are slurping up \$2.8 billion in tax-free interest annually. It's estimated that by 2028, the MTA will be [\\$60 billion](#) in debt.

It's to protect these bondholders that thousands of cops are in the subways, arresting poor people for allegedly jumping turnstiles.

Mike Quill — the founder of the Transport Workers Union — once called for the fare to be free. Activists are hoping that NYC mayoral candidate Zohran Mamdani, who is campaigning to freeze rents, will also demand a rollback in transit fares.

Later that day, MTA Chairman Janno Lieber announced that the [fare would not be increased](#) on August 1, as originally planned, but would take effect later in the year. Lieber — whose salary was [\\$400,999](#) in 2023 — doesn't have to worry about paying any fare.

This shows that the MTA fears the power of the people. It's time to increase the pressure. The fare ain't fair!

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# One Big Boom?

written by Struggle - La Lucha

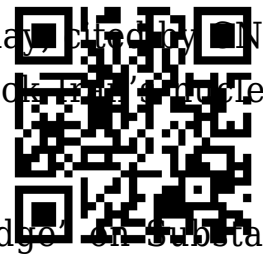
June 30, 2025

On June 21, President Donald Trump announced that U.S. forces had struck Iran's three main nuclear sites — Natanz, Isfahan, and Fordow — claiming these facilities were “completely and totally obliterated.” Trump described the operation as a “spectacular military success.”

However, a leaked Defense Intelligence Agency report the next day, cited by CNN, contradicted this claim, stating that the airstrikes only set back Iran's nuclear program by several months, rather than destroying it entirely.

Reports from sources such as “Simplicius's Garden of Knowledge” on Substack suggest that the Trump administration informed Iran of the strikes through Swiss diplomatic channels, indicating the attack would be a one-off event if Iran did not retaliate. This approach mirrors Trump's 2017 Tomahawk missile strike on Syria, which was widely seen as more symbolic than destructive.

Vice President J.D. Vance and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth emphasized that the



operation was a single, limited action intended to disrupt Iran's nuclear program, not to pursue regime change.

Yet, Trump's subsequent social media post hinted at the possibility of regime change in Iran, stating:

"It's not politically correct to use the term, 'Regime Change,' but if the current Iranian Regime is unable to MAKE IRAN GREAT AGAIN, why wouldn't there be a Regime change??? MIGA!!!"

### **The military-industrial complex's false promises**

Trump's unprecedented peacetime defense budget — 75% of the Big Beautiful Bill funnels into the Pentagon, Homeland Security (including 10,000 more ICE agents), and Veterans Affairs — reveals the true priority: militarism over social needs. While Medicaid, Medicare, and Social Security face cuts, military R&D thrives, bankrolling everything from drone warfare to AI-driven combat systems.

This reflects a deeper capitalist delusion: that massive military spending can stave off economic crisis. Like a drug, it provides a temporary stimulant — absorbing industrial capacity and masking unemployment — but ultimately worsens the underlying sickness. As President Eisenhower warned in 1961, there is always a "recurring temptation to believe that some dramatic, costly action might magically resolve all current difficulties."

### **Two tendencies in the military**

The first tendency — the one that appeals to Trump — is the belief in quick, spectacular strikes as solutions. But there is a second, more dangerous tendency: the faceless generals and admirals who see every operation as a potential prelude to wider war. Their plans, though couched in technical jargon, are deeply political, often designed to escalate rather than resolve conflicts.

The strikes on Iran could still spiral into full-scale war. Trump's rhetoric, combined with the military's institutional drive for expansion, means "regime change" remains on the table.

### **The British parallel — and a key difference**

The U.S. today mirrors Britain in the 1930s. Britain emerged from World War I with its empire intact but its economic foundations eroded. The costs of maintaining global dominance soon outweighed the benefits. U.S. finance capital displaced Britain in Latin America and Asia, and anti-colonial movements surged. Britain's military might could not compensate for its economic decline.

Despite its formidable military and empire, Britain's inability to compete economically with the U.S. led to a loss of global leadership. The U.S. now faces a similar contradiction: an expanding military presence amid a weakening economic foundation. Unlike Britain, which could rely on U.S. support as a fallback, the U.S. has no such safety net.

The U.S. share of global output has steadily decreased, from over 50% in the early 1950s to 26% today. At the same time, China has rapidly advanced, leading global research in critical technologies and maintaining its position as the world's top manufacturer. The growing divergence between the U.S.'s shrinking economic base and its drive for military expansion is increasingly unsustainable.

### **No capitalist way out**

Unlike Britain, the U.S. cannot offload its crises onto a stronger power. The coexistence of U.S. economic contraction and military expansion is fundamentally unsustainable. The only real solution lies in a socialist transformation — one that would resolve the acute contradictions of monopoly capitalism and redirect resources toward human needs, not endless war.





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# **‘From Iran to Palestine, stop U.S. war crimes!’: Activists rally in New Orleans**

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June 30, 2025

New Orleans, June 23 - “No war with Iran!” was the message of an emergency rally downtown during the evening rush hour. Gathered in the shadow of the Hale Boggs Federal Building, they chanted, “From Iran to Palestine, stop U.S. war crimes!” and “From the belly of the beast, U.S. out of the Middle East!”

These views are pretty mainstream. An Economist/YouGov poll covering June 13-16 asked people in the U.S., “Do you think the U.S. military should get involved in the conflict between Israel and Iran?” Sixty percent said “no.” Only 16% said “yes,” and 24% “not sure.” Even 53% of Republicans oppose direct U.S. intervention.

The problem with the wording of the question is that the U.S. is already involved, because Israel’s real masters are in the U.S. Pentagon. Still, these results are clear

enough. *The people don't want war.*

Today's action featured speakers from multiple organizations, including the Palestinian Youth Movement, Freedom Road Socialist Organization, Party for Socialism and Liberation, and others.

Some participants came from other towns in the region, including the Northshore. One participant, a Slidell mom new to activism, told this writer:

"I came out because I believe we have a duty to show up when power is used to harm — not just in our own backyard, but across borders. In the face of war, silence is not neutrality — it's surrender — and I came to stand for peace, not as a bystander, but as part of a global refusal to accept violence."





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# **NYC says: Stop bombing Iran! End the genocide in Gaza!**

written by Struggle - La Lucha

June 30, 2025

June 22 — Hundreds of people came to New York City's Times Square on a few hours' notice today to protest the U.S. bombing of Iran. Among the organizations that called the action were ANSWER, the National Iranian American Council, the Palestinian Youth Movement, Nodutdol for Korean Community Development, the Party for Socialism and Liberation, and the People's Forum.

Speakers denounced Trump and Netanyahu as war criminals who've killed more than 400 Iranians so far, as well as over 50,000 Palestinians. PSL's Sean Blackmon pointed out that the same U.S. ruling class that betrayed Reconstruction and imposed Ku Klux Klan terror on Black people is the same class that's attacking Iran.

Protesters took to the streets with signs, banners, and drums. Onlookers were friendly. They marched to the monument at 59th Street honoring the genocidal Christopher Columbus, where a brief rally was held.

Later that day, many of the marchers welcomed Mahmoud Khalil, who had just been released after being jailed by ICE for 104 days. The Palestinian activist addressed people in front of St. John the Divine Cathedral

Protesters then marched to Columbia University, which was denounced for suspending students challenging the genocide in Palestine.

Activists are preparing more actions in New York City as well as a national march in Washington, D.C., on Saturday, June 28. Hands off Iran!





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# The rising tide of resistance against capitalism and state oppression

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June 30, 2025

## **Many forms of resistance needed**

As the capitalist class continues its assault on the working class and oppressed communities (both overseas and abroad), it is only natural that protest and resistance increase. This resistance takes many forms.

It can be marches in the street joined by all people able and willing to attend. It can be civil disobedience aimed at disrupting the status quo. It can also be a direct confrontation with the state. Obviously, there are many other forms. The point is that resistance exists on a spectrum.

Resistance rises to meet the oppression that created it. Because of this, there is no room for cherry picking the form of resistance that deserves support. Historically, it has always been a combination of different forms of resistance that drove results



and expanded the struggles of liberation for workers and oppressed people.

## **Palestinian, Iran and Yemen**

For nearly two years, the world has watched the Palestinian resistance fight against the Zionist occupation by any means necessary – a fight for the survival of their people. Since that time, Yemen has also militarily confronted Israel and the U.S. directly with the stated goal of ending the genocide in Gaza.

More recently, Iran has found itself in a position of military resistance against U.S. imperialism and Zionism. Similar to the fight of the Palestinian people, Iran is fighting for its survival in the face of an imperialist world order that wants to see it crushed.

However, the resistance to U.S. imperialism is not limited to the armed struggle. There has also been the Gaza Freedom Flotilla, the March to Gaza, the Global Conscience Convoy, and the Soumoud Convoy. All of these actions were / are aimed at defying the Zionist entity and breaking the siege of Gaza through the delivery of humanitarian aid. Whether it is fighters ambushing IOF soldiers in the hollowed remains and rubble of the Gaza Strip or everyday people doing whatever they can, this is all resistance, and it should all be supported to oust the oppressive and genocidal U.S.-backed Zionist state.

## **Parallels between Gaza and Warsaw Ghetto**

Varied resistance in the face of apartheid and genocide is not new. Oppressed and colonized people have commonly and historically embraced whatever tactic required for survival, let alone victory. Ironically, one of the most famous examples of resistance in the face of genocide was in the Warsaw Ghetto in 1943. The word “ironic” is appropriate here because the children and grandchildren of the Jewish radicals and militants who rose up against Nazism in Warsaw are now waging a

genocidal campaign on Palestine.

However, the uprising of 1943 was not the only method of resistance that the Jewish community embraced during the horrific implementation of the ghetto system. A year prior, a group of Jewish doctors performed a study of starvation inside the ghetto. The public health and nutrition situation in the Ghetto at the time was stunningly similar to present-day Gaza. Food could only be obtained through soup kitchens that were themselves the targets of the Nazi occupiers. Vaccines, antibiotics, and other crucial medications were all withheld from the Ghetto prisoners by the Nazis.

The Jewish doctors' stated purpose was to track the impact of genocidal policies on a community in order to help future generations of oppressed people be prepared. To this day, it is the most extensive study of starvation carried out. The 28 Jewish doctors who conducted it were themselves starving. All of these doctors but one died from malnutrition or were executed by the Nazis - but not until they completed and ensured the security of their work. This was certainly as much an act of resistance as the armed uprising in 1943.



## Struggle in U.S. now

In the present-day U.S., the same spectrum of resistance to fascism by various oppressed communities can be observed. Across the U.S. in 2025, racist police and fascist ICE agents hunt, jail, and deport immigrant communities. These attacks on immigrants have been going on under both Democratic and Republican presidents. This shows that it is the ruling class, the millionaires and billionaires, the prison industrial complex and military industrial complex that stand to gain from the



oppressive crackdown on immigrant communities within the U.S.

As communities came under attack by ICE across the nation, they all began to fight back in their own way. In Maine, residents of the state took to the streets demanding ICE leave their cities and towns. In Baltimore, there have been demonstrations protesting ICE and its brutal raids and attacks on immigrants around the city. There have also been anti-ICE groups who actively disrupt and bust ICE operations whenever possible. Many other cities have held massive demonstrations against ICE, and many other communities have confronted ICE directly during attempted raids.

## **Rebellion in LA**

However, in California, there has been a rebellion in the streets. This rebellion formed to fight not only ICE's terror raids, but also the apartheid practices of the LAPD and the general military occupation of downtown L.A.

This occupation is a violent assault on the people by a hardline fascist federal security apparatus. This is a campaign meant to scare not just the people of L.A. and California, but all people who find themselves living in the United States. Trump and his allies want oppressed people cowering before his ICE stormtroopers. This fear is designed to force communities into political paralysis. However, through resistance (like that in L.A.) we see that the people *can* win.

As peaceful protest was met with tear gas, rubber bullets, flashbangs, pepper balls and pepper bombs, the struggle in the streets could only intensify. As residents were shot trying to get home or get the names and ID numbers of officers participating in the occupation, these same residents began to fight back. As more and more people witnessed parents, children, friends, family, and coworkers disappear to gangs of masked men, there came a point where peace could only slow them so much.

So, the people of Los Angeles began directly confronting the occupation of their city

to hinder or completely end the kidnapping of their people. They threw bricks, water bottles, chairs, plates and anything else they could get their hands on. The tear gas grenades that were tossed into crowds were tossed back at the fascist forces that threw them. When the community set police cars and ICE armoured vehicles ablaze, it was not a random act of destruction. It was an attempt to stop a brutal Gestapo force that was kidnapping people and breaking up families.

In Los Angeles, peaceful protests continue to be organized, coordinated ICE patrols still happen, petitions and calls continue to get local and higher government to reverse the occupation and ICE operations, and when violence is brought to the people, they are unafraid, willing, equipped and organized to fight back.

Each of these forms of resistance has played a role in the overall goal of combating ICE and ending the occupation. Government officials have gone on record saying that all this activity is hampering ICE's ability to operate in L.A. at the tempo desired by the ruling class.

### **Lessons from MLK and Malcom X**

Corporate media wants the people to shame resistance. They want the working class divided so the capitalists can conquer. The media goes as far as invoking a false and racist narrative pitting the strategies of the Honorable Malcolm X versus Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in regards to protest and resistance against the state. They paint the resistance in L.A. in the same light as they painted the teachings of Malcolm X. The media wants the people to believe that Malcolm X was a rogue, a renegade who just wanted to see unwarranted violence erupt around the world.

In reality, Malcolm X was speaking of the importance of resistance to injustice. He was speaking of self-defence in the face of brutal racist state violence. In L.A., when pigs and police dogs and horses attack crowds – the crowds attack those pigs back. This is to be expected. The working class has not been known historically for

backing down from fascist assault.

The media and the state have whitewashed the legacy of Dr. King, leading people to believe that he was against violence and against resistance. Dr. King said “A riot is the language of the unheard, and “the price that America must pay for the continued oppression of the Negro and other minority groups is the price of its own destruction.”

Clearly, both men understood the importance of all forms of resistance. Both worked to achieve liberation, justice and equality for Black people, and the Federal government assassinated both men for their organizing. The capitalist system’s police cronies can commit violence whenever they deem it acceptable, but will go into overdrive to shame resistance to that violence.

In Los Angeles, the people are fighting back with any means necessary, just like in Baltimore following the murder of Freddie Gray in 2015. When faced with occupation and intimidation, school kids – unable to go home due to police blockades of bus stops and metro stops through riot police and crowd control weapons – the people fought back. Marches through the streets and into the heart of downtown, marches to police stations and city hall and marches through the affected neighborhoods. Both were forms of resistance to the police occupation, and both worked to bring empowerment and some justice to the people of Baltimore affected by police occupation.

The working class of Palestine, Yemen, Iran, Lebanon, Baltimore, Los Angeles, Baltimore – and wherever working people call their home – will continue to meet fascism and genocide with resistance. That fundamental resistance to racism and imperialism should be supported on all fronts and in all forms.

*Colby Byrd and Lev Koufax are organizers with the Peoples Power Assembly of Baltimore, reporting from Los Angeles.*



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# **Intersections & crossroads, from L.A. to Baltimore, the struggle for self-determination**

written by Struggle - La Lucha  
June 30, 2025

Frantz Fanon says that all the native knows is that the colonizer, the oppressor, can come into their spaces to harass, beat, kidnap and kill them. And there is no one who comes to help, either during these brutal attacks or to bring relief afterwards. This is reality unless there is a broad fightback based in solidarity against the common enemy.

Right now, from coast to coast, populations find themselves subject to these beatings, kidnappings and killings. Across the country, immigrant communities, along with Indigenous communities, find themselves under attack by ICE agents.

These modern slave catchers and lynch mobs attack men, women and children when they are most vulnerable. They destroy the sanctuary and peace of schools,

churches, hospitals, offices, work sites and homes in the name of white supremacy and to maintain the colonial occupation of these communities.

These roaming gangs hide their identities, dressing in plain clothes, wearing masks and sunglasses, to instill fear in the communities they target. This deception extends to their vehicles. Unmarked cars and trucks lurk on the roads alongside those of workers and people simply trying to live their lives.

As these fascist attacks escalate, communities are finding ways to keep themselves safe and fight back against ICE. Patrols and direct action to bust up ICE operations are methods that have proven successful in hindering the slave catchers trying to meet their quotas. These tactics – forms of community self-defense – pave the way for communities to be able to maintain their own safety without the need of police agencies, which ultimately prove incapable of doing anything but assisting in the occupation and oppression of the communities they are supposedly protecting.

There is a sentiment that the fight against ICE is not a fight that Black communities should take up in the Belly of the Beast. There are many reasons why this state-sponsored opinion and narrative are false and ultimately damaging to the struggle of Black Liberation in the United States. Firstly, [Black immigrants](#) are being deported at a higher rate than other POC and white counterparts.

Next, this idea that “well, they voted for it to happen” does nothing but further divide the working class of this country when we really need to work together. That sentiment upholds the colonial domination of both Black and Brown communities and does the state’s job of divide and conquer based on race.

Also, these ICE attacks on immigrants have resulted in the kidnapping and disappearance of U.S. citizens simply because they “looked” like immigrants. This sets a dangerous precedent that will ultimately lead to these modern lynch mobs descending upon Black citizens and anyone they may deem fit for deportation.

Finally, the tactics employed by ICE are similar to the tactics employed by police departments to occupy and torment Black communities across the country.

In Baltimore City, Black neighborhoods are in constant contact with the occupying forces. Over 80% of Baltimore City officers live outside of the city and use their racist understandings of the city to enforce white supremacy in a predominantly Black city. These officers, and, by extension, city leadership, view Black communities as inherently “high crime.” This designation leads to police following rules of engagement similar to those of the occupying U.S. grunt in Iraq or Afghanistan and the Israeli Occupation Soldier in occupied Palestine, Syria and Lebanon.

Recently, Baltimore Police have carried out killings of Black men under the “need” to remove guns and armed individuals from the streets. Under the guise of “public safety,” these orders erase the ability of the Black community to defend itself from attacks in the future. Across the country, violent crime is declining, yet police departments repetitively say they do not have enough officers to police their areas.

The decline in violent crime is not related to good policing but reflects a cultural shift in communities to squash longstanding beefs to find a sense of unity against the continued attacks by the state on their friends and family. In Baltimore City, there have been multiple police murders of Black citizens, justified because they “fit the description of an armed individual.”

Some notable deaths include the killings of the 17-year-old father,



William Gardner, on Aug. 5, 2024; 54-year-old [Robert Phillip Nedd Jr.](#), on Oct. 9, 2024; 26-year-old [Jai Marc Howell](#) on May 12, 2025; and recently the brutal execution of beloved arabber [Bilal “BJ” Abdullah Jr.](#) on June 17, 2025.

In each of these murders, the police announced that they would shoot and kill the men — no calls for de-escalation, no justice or trial, just straight to execution.

These killings and attacks on the ability for Black communities to defend themselves coincide with the attacks by other sections of the city government and private developers to [displace Black communities](#) in the name of gentrification.

The Black community in Baltimore is approaching a crossroads. The capitalist class will continue down its path to remove us and return us to slavery. Black and Brown immigrants are being deported to concentration camps out of the country, and our citizen Black brothers and sisters are killed or locked up. The time has come for the oppressed and working-class people of Baltimore to stand up to occupation, injustice, and apartheid – just like the Black Panthers of the 1960s-70s, the masses during the rebellions against police brutality from 2014-2020, the city of Los Angeles

battling against occupation and slave catchers today in 2025, and the historic Palestinian Resistance fighting extinction at the hands of Zionism to this day.

All Power to the People!

Down with Occupation!

Up with Liberation!

Long Live oppressed and working people!

Long Live Baltimore!

Rest in Power to all Martyrs of U.S. Imperialism!

Long Live International Solidarity!

