

‘It has been a long 22 years’: wife of wrongfully imprisoned man speaks out

written by Struggle - La Lucha
June 2, 2025



Duryea Green has been imprisoned in Maryland since 2003 after being framed up for a shooting. His wife, Van Green, is an activist with the Peoples Power Assembly

of Baltimore, fighting for her husband's freedom and other victims of the racist justice system.

On May 30, Struggle-La Lucha sat down with Baltimore Peoples Power Assembly activist, Miss Van Green. She has been fighting to free her husband, [Duryea](#), who is currently serving an unjust prison sentence for a crime he did not commit. That interview is published below.

Lev Koufax: Can you tell us about your husband, Duryea Green?

Van Green: Duryea Green is my husband. He has been in prison here in Maryland since 2003. This has been quite the journey. Duryea was sentenced to 45 years in prison for two attempted murder charges. The sentence ended up being 20 years per attempted murder charge, and the other five came from some gun-related charges.

The evidence against my husband was essentially that he was a Black man who was around the O'Donnell Heights neighborhood when the shooting happened. The prosecutor and judge both made biased statements at the trial. I also had to deal with corrupt defense lawyers. I hired two different lawyers. Both took my money and did not meet their end of the bargain. One has been disbarred since.

LK: Could you talk about the experience you and your family went through when Duryea was arrested and put through trial?

VG: I remember the night of the shooting like it was yesterday. My husband and I were planning a night out with friends. As we were getting to leave, a police sergeant, James Lloyd, arrived at our home in East Baltimore and asked for a "Darrell Green." That isn't my husband's name.

Sergeant Lloyd would return to our home multiple times with the incorrect name or information about my husband. The next time he came to our home, he asked for

Derek Green. Again, not my husband's name. Eventually, Lloyd and the cops returned with a warrant. The warrant still had an incorrect name.

The day they came with a warrant, it was early in the morning. Duryea was at work, and I was getting ready to take my sons to school. Sergeant Lloyd ordered myself and my two sons handcuffed. I insisted I needed to take my sons to school, and the police had no right to act like this. They agreed to take my sons to school, but only if they were handcuffed in the back of a police cruiser. This was a humiliating experience for my two young boys.

We returned to the house where James Lloyd handcuffed me and searched the house. James Lloyd refused to discuss the charges with me. Later that day, they placed me in the back of their cruiser to go arrest my husband. This was all against my will. When they arrested my husband in front of my eyes, they did it under the wrong name and without informing him of the charges.

LK: And Duryea has been in jail or prison since?

VG: Yes. This nightmare has gone on for 22 years. We are going to keep fighting to free Duryea and all prisoners. But it has been a long 22 years.

LK: Can you talk about James Lloyd a bit?

VG: He is a notoriously violent and corrupt police sergeant. He harassed my family and traumatized my sons forever. A few years ago, he was fired from his job after he kidnapped a contractor at gunpoint. Before that, he was involved with the corrupt Gun Trace Task Force. He was also assigned to investigate the death of Sean Suiter – the police officer who was shot and killed the evening before he was set to testify about the GTTF to the FBI. Many in the community believe that the Baltimore police murdered Suiter to silence him. It's entirely possible Lloyd was involved. We informed the Baltimore police of his conduct during the investigation into my

husband. They ignored us.

LK: Has Duryea been treated well in prison? If not, how so?

VG: Like most prisoners, Duryea has not been treated well in prison. My husband has several serious medical conditions, including autoimmune disorders and cancer. Duryea rarely gets the treatment he needs. He is only taken to an outside hospital when he faces a life-threatening complication. There is no preventive care at all for any of the prisoners across the state. It's near impossible to consistently get the correct medication. The prison health care system is fundamentally broken. Prisons are just cages for the poor.

LK: When did you become involved with the Peoples Power Assembly about your husband's case?

VG: I became a member of PPA in 2020. We have worked since then to free my husband and all prisoners. We demonstrate. We canvass. We have been on multiple different local radio stations. I have also organized letter campaigns supporting Duryea. We struggle any way we can to bring light to the prisoners' struggle and to my husband's case.

LK: What would you like to see happen with your husband's case and all the prisoners of the racist U.S. prison system?

VG: Duryea needs to be freed now. We don't care if it comes from Governor Moore or State's Attorney Ivan Bates. Both have claimed to support addressing issues of racism in the justice system. Both have failed. My husband and many others, most of whom are Black, need to be unlocked from their cages and treated like **people**.

Myself and the PPA want to see an end to the racist U.S. police and prison system. We want people back in their communities with their families. We want people to have union jobs and health care - not prison sentences. We struggle to free my

husband Duryea, but also to end the broader racist system.



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Trump's huge military budget accelerates economic decay

By Gary Wilson

President Donald Trump delivered a rally-style commencement speech at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point on May 24, aggressively promoting militarism, nationalism, and his ongoing attacks on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) as well as transgender rights.

Addressing the graduating cadets, Trump glorified the U.S. military as "the greatest and most powerful army the world has ever known," claiming personal credit for its expansion during his first term.

"I rebuilt the army and the military like nobody has ever rebuilt it before," Trump boasted, putting military power at the center of U.S. global dominance.

Trump intensified his militaristic agenda: "We're getting rid of the distractions and focusing our military on its



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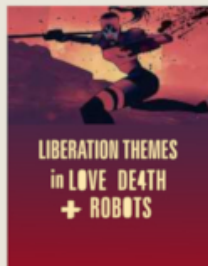
The Trump regime has already cut \$660 million nationwide for school lunch programs. Twelve million students are expected to lose food aid with new restrictions.



Rev. Annie Chambers is a tenant activist leader.

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- **Racist policing in Maryland**
- NYC can't afford a \$3 transit fare

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Targeted by fascism, united by struggle: Bob McCubbin on defending trans rights and building class solidarity

written by Struggle - La Lucha

June 2, 2025

Following is part one of an interview with gay communist activist Bob McCubbin, who has organized and written political analysis since the 1960s. He is the author of the 2019 book, [The Social Evolution of Humanity: Marx and Engels were right!](#) For Pride month, Struggle-La Lucha writer Gregory E. Williams sat down with McCubbin to explore the revolutionary history of the LGBTQ+ struggle and what it means for today's fight back.

- Part 1: [Targeted by fascism, united by struggle: Bob McCubbin on defending trans rights and building class solidarity](#)
- Part 2: [Inside the Bay Area's Gay Liberation Front with Bob McCubbin](#)
- Part 3: [Bob McCubbin on LGBTQ+ liberation and Marxist organizing](#)
- Part 4: [Leslie Feinberg, Minnie Bruce Pratt, and the radical legacy of LGBTQ+ communists](#)

Gregory Williams: You were in the revolutionary movement at the time of Stonewall, and you've been in the struggle ever since. But what's happening right now with all the fascist attacks that are coming down? Where's that coming from, and what can we do about it?

Bob McCubbin: We should have a discussion about fascism, because it's what

we're facing right now. And there are various ways to explain it. Scholars and revolutionaries who studied the fascist movement in Germany - which was in the leadership of the European imperialists - that was a form of fascism designed to crush a very strong workers' movement in Germany, which was challenging the capitalists as a result of the First World War.

Germany was forced into a very difficult economic position. The workers' movement grew and grew and became stronger and stronger. At a certain point, the German industrialists decided not to put up with it any longer because even by their own rules, the workers were gaining more and more political power, organizing in the communities and at the workplaces, etc.

So, they began breaking their own rules, but that's just a part of it. Another part of it is their desire. The economy was terrible in Germany. Their desire was to place the blame elsewhere, always using scapegoats. That's a favorite tactic of the ruling class, pointing the finger at others. And in this case, they tried to direct the anger of the German people against Jewish people, and also against homosexuals. In general, people of color were considered the enemy.

I hope everyone understands the significance of the concentration camps, which were terrorism. It's going on right now, though; the same kind of genocidal terrorism is going on in Palestine, for example.

But getting back to fascism now, what we're facing right now, it parallels Germany in the sense that the ruling class is pointing the finger at trans people and people of color as the source of the economic problems which are really based in the economic system itself, the system of private property and capitalist exploitation.

So, yes, we have to defend the trans community, we have to defend people of color. The U.S. contains oppressed nations that need liberation. They're finding groups in

society that are already denigrated and targeting them. It looks like everything's on the chopping block in terms of illegality, the illegality of the current rulers of the United States.

It's important for people to understand what we mean when we say the ruling class. Of course, it's the billionaires. But they're just window dressing, in a way. The ruling class includes the military-industrial complex, the industries that make money off war. The ruling class includes big banks and big industries in general. Together, they constitute the sources of oppression of the rest of us. We need to identify them, and they need to be targeted.

We don't expect any sympathy from the ruling class. They have to be defeated and overthrown. They're destroying the world. And they know it because their system is in crisis, and that's why they're stooping to the worst terrorist tactics, using racism, homophobia, transphobia, and whatever they think they can use to turn the workers against each other. We, on the other hand, are fighting for unity in our class and consciousness of the task ahead of us, which is to overthrow the capitalist system.

GW: The situation can change radically when there's intense struggles, like in the 1960s. How did you find out about Stonewall in 1969, which was this earth-shaking moment?

BM: To understand the '60s, we have to look back at the '50s, which are really hard to reconstitute. They were so outrageously repressive. We're talking about the period of McCarthyism, and preceding that was the return of hundreds of thousands of GIs from World War II looking for jobs. Now we're talking about the mid-40s, and as a result of all of the class struggles that, to some extent, continued in the war, but definitely erupted very strongly after the war. And again, we have a ruling class confronted and organizing fascist tactics. I mean, McCarthyism was a form of fascism, with the ruling class fighting back against the rising workers' movement. And the repression was incredible.

There's an example, I think, that typifies the terror that gay people felt. I remember watching a television program. I think it was a Saturday afternoon, and we are talking about the early '60s. It was a student assembly at a high school somewhere in Florida, and the chief of police was speaking to an audience of about a thousand students. And I remember the words, not word by word exactly, but it was really terrifying. He looked out at the audience and said, "There are among you homosexuals, and they cannot be ..." — well, whatever horrible and negative things he had to say about it. But he concluded by saying, "The person next to you may be a homosexual. And always remember, if you are a homosexual, you need to go to a police station and identify yourself."

This was about 1964 and gives you a flavor of what the '60s were about, because the '60s were a response to the terrible repression of the '50s. The youth just wouldn't have it. And that was the background to a countrywide and international youth rebellion. It was largely a cultural rebellion.

At the beginning of the '60s, very few people in the imperialist countries knew what or where Vietnam was. But the youth movement was beginning to develop a good political consciousness to the extent that, by the end of that decade, we were chanting, "Ho! Ho! Ho Chi Minh! The NLF is gonna win! Free Huey! Stop the attacks on the Black Panthers!" And all of that was happening in the youthful world, the world of the youth, the cultural background. And it was largely middle class, but some of the revolutionaries made a big mistake writing it off because it did not involve the working class per se. Although, of course, many of the youth were from working-class families.

But, in general, it was a task of educating the youth into revolutionary thought and class consciousness that was tremendously aided by the example of the Vietnamese and the example of the Panthers and the other Black revolutionary movements. A number of new Marxist-Leninist groups began organizing.

It was a fantastic time, and so when the young people at the Stonewall Inn in Greenwich Village, New York, when they were confronted with the police, it was just one confrontation too many. Instead of accepting the repression, they fought back. It was beautiful and went on for about four evenings.

The New York Times reported on it in a small back-page column, "Homosexuals Riot in Village." And there I was in Buffalo, probably at our party office, which was also where I lived, opening up the New York Times, reading this and thinking to myself, "Okay, now you need to make a decision." What am I talking about? The fact that I was gay, and like most of the gay youth, I was largely in the closet. (And let's start saying LGBTQ+. There's been a whole series of vocabularies that have been used.) And anyway, there I was, a revolutionary, largely in the closet, and I had to decide what I was going to do.

I knew that I didn't have the courage to face everyone. I mean, I'd grown up in Buffalo. I knew hundreds of people. I told the comrades I needed to leave Buffalo. I spent a year and a half in San Francisco, largely working with the San Francisco Gay Liberation Front. I was able to do organizing work in San Francisco, including LGBTQ+ organizing. And was making some progress in terms of organizing it, but the comrades in New York kept calling me, "We need you here, we need you here." So, at the end of a year and a half, I moved to New York City.

And then that was a whole new stage of my life because working with the party was tremendous - rewarding and tremendously educational. And Dorothy Ballan - I always thought of Sam Marcy, Vincent Copeland, and Dorothy Ballan as the triumvirate of the party, because they were the leaders. They were products of the '30s, '40s, and '50s, which meant that they had seen the power of the working class in the United States. They understood the potential for our class, as well as having experience in practical organizing. They were all organizers in the working class.

But unlike the other traditional socialist groups, they didn't write off the youth movement as just a middle-class shindig or whatever it was. No, they understood there's a revolution here. These youth are drawing their inspiration from the Vietnamese struggle, from the Black struggle. And I remember I was not present, but in the midst of this, right at the time of Stonewall, there was a conversation in the party headquarters, and one comrade was heard saying, about the Stonewall Rebellion, "A new front is opened in the struggle against U.S. imperialism."

Well, maybe a little exaggerated, maybe a little too much, but the first organization was the Gay Liberation Front. Where did they pick that name from? From the NLF, the National Liberation Front of Vietnam, which was leading the struggle in the south of that country. That tells you something about the consciousness of the youth. Maybe a little bit idealistic, maybe a little bit overblown in some instances.

But I remember a leader of the party saying, "We should much prefer the slightly ultra-left youth to the conservative youth." And I mean, there was a confidence there that we could win them to the class struggle, that they were already angry, they already knew the contradictions and the outrageous values of the capitalist system, and were ready to hear about something else, something to replace it with.

GW: Just the fact that those youth decided to call their organization the Gay Liberation Front shows how developed their consciousness was already despite coming out of McCarthyism, the extreme anti-communism and extreme homophobia and transphobia - we didn't necessarily have these words. But in that moment of rebellion, they were able to break through that conditioning, even if they didn't understand all the ins and outs of Marxist theory and everything that was going on in Vietnam. It's a learning process.

They were able to put two and two together and see the commonality of those struggles. Because on the surface of it, you might think, "Well, what does the

Vietnamese struggle have to do with the gay and lesbian struggle?” But they saw that, yeah, it is related. It actually is related, and not only is it related, but we can learn from each other’s struggles.



Protesting genocide is not a crime: hands off Yunseo Chung!

written by Struggle - La Lucha

June 2, 2025

New York, May 29 — Hundreds rallied in Manhattan’s Foley Square against the Trump regime’s attempt to deport Yunseo Chung. The ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) Gestapo wants to kick her out for protesting the genocide in Gaza.

The 21-year-old Columbia University student, who was born in Korea and has lived in the U.S. since she was six, is a permanent resident. The so-called legal proceedings against her are an attack on everyone’s First Amendment right to free speech.

The attempted deportation of Yunseo Chung is part of a government round-up of activists, including fellow Columbia student Mahmoud Khalil and Tufts University student Rûmeysa Öztürk.

The deportation hearing against Ms. Chung was being held next to the rally in the same federal courthouse where Ethel Rosenberg and Julius Rosenberg were framed and sentenced to death.

The protest was called by Nodutdol for Korean Community Development. Speakers connected the U.S. occupation of Korea with the occupation of Palestine.

Millions of Koreans were killed by the U.S.-instigated Korean War, while hundreds of thousands of Palestinians have been killed and starved in Gaza. Nodutdol proclaims, "Korea is one!"

People chanted, "From the river to sea, Palestine will be free!" Chants were accompanied by drums and even a bagpipe. Messages were read from student groups in South Korea.

Among the rally speakers were those from Nodutdol, PAL Awda: the Palestinian Assembly for Liberation, Palestinian Youth Movement, the All-African People's Revolutionary Party, Columbia University Apartheid Divestment, CUNY for Palestine and The People's Forum.

The rally closed with a survivor of the U.S. war against Korea describing how his village was bombed and strafed by U.S. Air Force planes in 1950, injuring him and his sister. He said he remembers that when he thinks of the people of Gaza being bombed and massacred by Israel's U.S.-made planes, and is determined to fight for a free Palestine.

Hands off Yunseo Chung!



Governor Jenniffer González fails

written by Struggle - La Lucha

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While the independence process is a constant struggle on all fronts, this year in Puerto Rico, we have been forced to face the most incompetent local administration that has taken the reins of the colony in recent years. The new governor, Jenniffer González, belongs to the New Progressive Party, whose sole ideology is to join the United States of America as one more state. And now, that party has been left empty-handed, because U.S. congressmen have already said forcefully that they will not allow statehood for Puerto Rico.

Since she began on Jan. 2, the governor has gone from failure to failure, and already several people she has appointed to crucial positions in her cabinet have been rejected by the legislature for not being qualified. So, five months after his swearing-in, she has still not been able to complete her government.

And to avoid this, she has gone from trip to trip abroad, or recording embarrassing videos with her husband entitled *De Todo Menos Política*, "Anything But Politics."

But already many sectors of the people are getting tired, including even those who voted for her. Every day, there are demonstrations against her demanding that she govern for the people and not for the private interests of her corrupt relatives.

And if this continues, it could be a repeat of summer 2019, when the people removed another NPP ruler, Ricky Roselló.

Let's hope so.

From Puerto Rico, Berta Joubert-Ceci speaking with Radio Clarín in Colombia.



Trump's huge military budget will accelerate U.S. economic decay

written by Struggle - La Lucha

June 2, 2025

President Donald Trump delivered a rally-style commencement speech at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point on May 24, aggressively promoting militarism, nationalism, and his ongoing attacks on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) as well

as transgender rights.

Addressing the graduating cadets, Trump glorified the U.S. military as “the greatest and most powerful army the world has ever known,” claiming personal credit for its expansion during his first term.

“I rebuilt the army and the military like nobody has ever rebuilt it before,” Trump boasted, putting military power at the center of U.S. global dominance.

Trump intensified his militaristic agenda: “We’re getting rid of the distractions and focusing our military on its core mission: crushing America’s adversaries, killing America’s enemies, and defending our great American flag.”

Trump said that’s why the U.S. will invest in new tanks, planes, drones, ships, and missiles. In addition, the U.S. will build the Golden Dome Missile Defense Shield, which has been described as a [\\$175 billion fantasy](#) and a boondoggle for Elon Musk’s [SpaceX](#).

He also praised recent reactionary policies designed to dismantle DEI programs in the armed forces.

The Trump administration has moved to ban trans troops from the military — a decision the Supreme Court upheld earlier this month. Trump’s policies have reintroduced a discriminatory ban on transgender military personnel and imposed new uniform physical standards aimed at severely limiting women’s participation in combat roles.

Unprecedented military expansion

On May 2, Trump released his budget request for 2026, dubbed the “One Big Beautiful Bill.” [Over 75%](#) of Trump’s budget is allocated for the military and police.

In the budget proposal, military spending is \$1.01 trillion, accounting for approximately 60% of the total requested. For the non-military Departments of Homeland Security, Justice, and Veterans Affairs, the request is \$272.2 billion.

Funding for departments whose primary purpose isn't military, military-adjacent, or policing is \$409 billion, or only 24% of the budget.

The proposal includes \$163 billion in federal spending cuts, all of which target non-defense programs. For a breakdown of the cuts, see: [Trump's 'big beautiful' cuts to Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid and more](#).

Military Keynesianism

Both Donald Trump and Joe Biden have argued that increased military spending and the production of armaments will reindustrialize the country and create jobs, using this rationale to justify historically large Pentagon budgets. And completely ignoring that military expansion is not, in any way, shape, or form, reindustrialization.

Trump has explicitly said it would provide unmatched military strength and support job creation through the purchase of new equipment and capabilities, mirroring the arguments made by Democrats, including Biden, about the economic benefits of Pentagon budgets.

The Biden administration promoted the jobs argument, especially when seeking support for military aid to Ukraine, Israel, and Taiwan. Biden described the U.S. arms industry as the “arsenal of democracy,” emphasizing the economic benefits to states involved in weapons production.

Military Keynesianism is an economic policy approach that advocates for sustained, high levels of military spending as a primary tool for government stimulus and economic growth, based on the core principles of Keynesian economics.

Keynesian economics, developed by John Maynard Keynes, argues that during economic downturns, such as recessions and depressions, government spending (fiscal stimulus) injects money into the economy, creates jobs, and stimulates production.

Many capitalist politicians and economists argue that only World War II's massive government spending finally brought the Great Depression to an end. This suggests that sufficiently large stimulus packages — extensive deficit spending by the government — can overcome any economic downturn.

War economies do indeed trigger sharp increases in production as dormant factories resume operations. Manufacturing surges and unemployment declines as workers join either the military or the defense industries. When depression conditions exist before conflict begins — as occurred before both world wars — economic downturns will end.

However, this “recovery” comes at a profound cost: the suppression of expanded reproduction – the essential process of capital accumulation that defines capitalism. Instead, the war economy imposes a state of *contracted reproduction*. Once the economy reaches full war capacity, production plateaus and inevitably begins a gradual decline as society consumes its existing resources without replacing them (no expanded reproduction).

In the United States, normal economic expansion following the collapse of the early 1930s didn't resume with World War II, despite the end of the Depression. The wartime economic model represents a temporary transformation rather than a sustainable solution. While it can rapidly mobilize resources and eliminate unemployment, it does so by redirecting productive capacity away from civilian goods and long-term investment toward immediate consumption of military materials. This creates an illusion of prosperity while actually weakening the economic foundation necessary for sustained growth and innovation that

characterizes healthy capitalist development.

The contradictions of monopoly capitalism

Under competitive capitalism, the profit motive drives firms to reinvest surplus value into productive capital, fostering technological advancement and market expansion. Marx's analysis of expanded reproduction hinges on this cyclical reinvestment process, where profits fund new machinery, labor, and infrastructure.

However, the rise of monopolies has disrupted this dynamic. By controlling markets through cartels, patents, and economies of scale, monopolies replace price competition with administered pricing strategies. This allows firms to sustain higher profit margins by extracting surplus value through inflated prices rather than productive efficiency.

The consequence is a structural surplus that cannot be absorbed through traditional reinvestment. If monopolies channel profits into new capital, they risk overproduction and the erosion of their pricing power, undermining the very basis of their profitability. This creates a paradox: the mechanisms that maximize short-term profits simultaneously stifle long-term growth.

Imperialist expansion serves as an outlet for surplus capital, channeling it outward through foreign direct investment and the exploitation of natural resources in less developed regions. The result has been a rigid global hierarchy that divides the world into dominant imperialist powers and the subordinated states, commonly called the Global South.

Commodities of destruction

Military spending means contracted reproduction, not expanded reproduction, the lifeblood of capitalism.

The goods churned out by the world's arms manufacturers are not commodities in the ordinary sense.

To understand what makes military goods so distinctive, we must first revisit what Marx meant by a commodity. In the classical sense, a commodity is a product of human labor created for exchange on the market. Its existence is defined by two essential qualities: use-value — the ability to satisfy a human need or want — and exchange-value — the price it commands, determined by the socially necessary labor time required for its production.

Under “normal” conditions, the production and circulation of commodities are governed by the logic of supply and demand. Businesses compete to sell their products or services to consumers or other businesses, and profit is the driving force behind the entire system. This is the cycle that keeps the capitalist machine in motion: Workers sell their labor, receive wages, buy goods, and capitalists reinvest profits to expand production.

But what happens when the commodity in question is a tank, a missile, or a fighter jet? Here, the rules of the game change dramatically. The products of the military-industrial complex are not like bread, clothing, or even automobiles. They are unique in how they are produced, sold, and consumed.

First and foremost, military goods are not produced for a conventional market. The primary — and often sole — buyer is the state. Demand for these products is not determined by the needs or desires of private individuals, but by political decisions made in the corridors of power — the White House, Congress or the Pentagon.

The rationale is not “what does society need?” but “what does the state require to project power or pursue imperial ambitions?” As a result, arms manufacturers are shielded from the risks of competition. Their profits are secured by government contracts, often awarded without competitive bidding and structured to guarantee

returns regardless of efficiency or actual need.

This artificial demand is only the beginning of what sets military commodities apart. Their use value is fundamentally different from that of ordinary goods. Where food nourishes, housing shelters, and clothing warms, military goods are designed for destruction or deterrence. Their utility lies not in satisfying human needs, but in their capacity to threaten, maim, or kill. The value of a cruise missile is realized not in peaceful exchange, but in its potential to obliterate a target. In this sense, military commodities are not just useless from the standpoint of social welfare — they are actively anti-social, their value rooted in violence. They are the means of destruction.

Marx's labor theory of value holds that the price of a commodity reflects the amount of socially necessary labor required for its production. Yet military goods routinely defy this logic. Their prices are often wildly inflated, thanks to cost-plus contracting, political lobbying, and the lack of market discipline. The state, not the market, determines what is produced, how much is produced, and at what price. This distortion severs any meaningful link between labor input and exchange value, turning the arms industry into a haven for waste and profiteering.

Perhaps most damningly, military commodities play no productive role in the ongoing reproduction of capital. Ordinary goods — whether consumer products or means of production, such as machines, tools, and factory equipment — circulate through the economy, enabling workers to live and capitalists to accumulate further profits. Military goods, by contrast, are “consumed” in war or left to rot in arsenals. They do not feed, clothe, or house anyone; they do not contribute to the expansion of productive capacity. Instead, they represent a colossal diversion of human labor and material resources into activities that, from the standpoint of human need, are utterly wasteful.

The products of the military-industrial complex are commodities only in the most superficial sense. The laws of supply and demand do not govern them, nor do they

serve human needs.

This diminishes the economy and has been a central factor in U.S. imperialism's stagnation and economic decline.

Contracted reproduction and the crisis of imperialism

Contracted reproduction occurs when society's vital resources — labor, capital, and technology — are diverted to produce military goods and services. Unlike productive investments, which expand future capacity or meet human needs, these resources are ultimately wasted: consumed in warfare, stockpiled indefinitely, or deployed to enforce imperial dominance. This diversion actively shrinks the productive sectors — those that create real social wealth (such as food, housing, and essential goods) — while the parasitic military sector expands at their expense.

This process reveals a core contradiction of monopoly capitalism: To sustain profits and imperial power, the system cannibalizes its foundations. By prioritizing the destructive needs of the military-industrial complex over the long-term societal vitality of the many, it trades long-term societal vitality for short-term dominance, thereby accelerating stagnation and systemic decay.



Tenants in Baltimore public housing threatened with eviction over bogus bills

written by Struggle - La Lucha

June 2, 2025

Across public housing developments (also known as projects) in Baltimore, residents are being charged up to nearly \$2,000 in utility bills. These bills, at baseline, are fraudulent and against the contractual agreement between the residents and the Housing Authority of Baltimore City (HABC). By law, residents of projects are not supposed to be billed for utilities; they are only required to pay the monthly rent.

Currently at Douglass Homes, the residents find themselves on the frontlines in a struggle against the Housing Authority, the historic racist housing practices of Baltimore City, and American Conservation and Billing Solutions, a third-party property management firm being used to collect on illegal bills.

On May 19, the residents of Douglass Homes held a press conference to let the

public know of the utility bills. This press conference itself was an act of defiance against the Housing Authority and the racist ruling class of the city. The lead organizer of the press conference, Reverend Annie Chambers, was threatened with eviction if she went through with the press conference. The Housing Authority also threatened other residents with punishment and eviction if they attended.

However, the conference went on and alongside the residents of Douglass Homes stood community organizations that pledged to stand in solidarity with them and fight for as long as there was a need to fight. As residents and community members took the microphone to speak about the situation, across from them stood the security of Douglass Homes. These security guards repositioned themselves to intimidate those who attended the press conference, laughing at residents and standing with their hands near their equipment and weapons. It was a clear sign to those who spoke out against this injustice and those who attended that the Housing Authority does not want to respect the residents and their contracts.

Following the press conference on May 27, residents of Douglass Homes, alongside community organizations, held an open meeting to discuss the next steps and how everyone can get involved in advancing the struggle against the Housing Authority and American Conservation. The residents agreed at this meeting to go forward with legal action in Federal court. They are going to file an injunction against the Housing Authority to cease with the threats of evictions and these criminal utility bills.

Everyone present at this meeting also agreed on battling the fear campaign of the Housing Authority by talking to residents of Douglass Homes about their rights as residents of the Housing Development and the legal proceedings. It was also agreed to fight these criminal bills across the entire city and even beyond into county lines. Residents of Douglass Homes spoke of friends and family currently living in other Projects, like Latrobe and McCulloh homes, that are receiving similarly suspicious

and criminal bills related to utilities.

It is worth detailing who American Conservation and Billing Solutions is. This property management company, which bills residents of Baltimore City, is located all the way in Colorado Springs, Colorado. They work for property managers and landlords, and their work includes increasing “the profitability” of the sites owned by their clients. A visit to [their website](#) tells you exactly what this company is and who they actually serve. They are nothing more than a weapon wielded by the ruling class to continue the economic and systemic oppression of poor and marginalized communities.

This type of attack has become more and more prevalent since the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020. Huge sectors of society came to a complete halt, not only threatening profits for the bosses, but more importantly, cutting off wages and livelihoods for workers.

Despite the many lifeboats the federal government granted to businesses of all sizes, the businesses were desperate to recoup their losses. Property management companies figured out that, with a nominal fee to a legal or collections firm, they could sue people for amounts they were not owed — last month’s rent, a security deposit, you name it. And without the resources to lawyer up, the property management companies win these suits easily.

These attacks through the bogus billing by American Conservation and the collective harassment and punishment by the Housing Authority are nothing new to these communities in Baltimore. Poor and working-class communities, especially Black communities, have always come under attack in Baltimore.

As the ruling class of the city wants to expand the creation of luxury apartments and developments to increase the city’s tourist value, Black communities have historically been forcefully displaced and moved into smaller and smaller pockets

around the city and its outskirts. However, these actions have failed to completely eradicate or remove the Black population, and they will fail again and forever as long as they try.

Power and Resilience to the Residents of Douglass Homes!

Power to all the Projects fighting these fraudulent bills!

Down with American Conservation and all agents and supporters of Redlining and Apartheid!

Long Live International Solidarity!

Long Live Baltimore!



Racist policing in Maryland: 41 deaths in police custody reclassified as homicides

written by Struggle - La Lucha
June 2, 2025



Nearly two weeks ago, Maryland Governor Wes Moore and Attorney General Anthony Brown [announced](#) that a Towson University audit reclassified [41 deaths](#) in police custody as homicides. The audit focused on the years 2003-2019, a period that aligns with the tenure of notorious racist medical examiner, David Fowler, who was trained in apartheid South Africa.

All 41 cases were initially classified by Fowler as “undetermined, accidental, or natural” during his tenure as Maryland’s Chief Medical Examiner. The murders, finally being called murders, include high-profile cases such as [Anton Black and Tyrone West](#). In both cases, the police brutally assaulted and killed a young Black man, and in both cases, David Fowler found the deaths to be accidental. Racism as a system could not function without a whole system of bureaucrats like Fowler who silence the community and rubber stamp racist murder.

Fowler’s heinous testimony in the trial of Derek Chauvin stirred public outrage when

he testified under oath that George Floyd died from a heart attack. According to Fowler, the police officer's knee on Floyd's neck for nearly 10 minutes was merely coincidental. Due to public pressure, the State of Maryland ordered the audit after 450 medical experts published a letter demanding a full review of Fowler's tenure.

Even as Governor Moore and AG Brown reflected on the audit results as "concerning," there was no announcement of charges against the perpetrators of the recently converted murders. All of these killings are documented in nauseating detail. The sad fact is that - Fowler, Chauvin, the Maryland State Attorney - are all cogs in a larger racist machine. They work to uphold and enforce modern Jim Crow.

Frankly, the working class is tired of hearing about audits, investigations and reviews. All this report did was confirm a fraction of what the entire city of Baltimore has known for years: The police and the medical examiner have coordinated to protect brutal, racist cops.

Justice for Marlyn Barnes

Many people died at the hands of the racist justice system who weren't on that list. For example, Marlyn Barnes was one of the 1,300 initial cases that Towson investigated but was not included in the cases officially reopened. Marlyn Barnes died under suspicious circumstances in the Harford County jail in Bel Air, Maryland, in 2019. It was Fowler's Medical Examiner administration that scuttled Barnes' mother's efforts to gain information about his death. Even to this day, Marlyn's mother Marilyn doesn't know the whole story. This is the sort of racist injustice enacted upon the Black community in Maryland and across the United States every day tenfold.

There is no better argument for the need for a socialist revolution than the horrendous police terror regime known as the U.S. criminal justice system. While Fowler's fall from grace and the reclassification of some of the murders is a positive

step – they are also indicative of the limits of justice under capitalism. Ultimately, capitalist bureaucracy isn't designed to genuinely assist working people, but to frustrate their efforts while maintaining a veneer of progress.

Anton Black, Marlyn Barnes, Tyrone West, Korynne Gaines, all prisoners, and all those who have suffered from racist police brutality deserve legitimate justice. What is really needed is not just a full people's prosecution of racist killer cops, but also complete community control of the police.

Please see Struggle-La Lucha's previous coverage of David Fowler, Marlyn Barnes, and the prisoner and police terror struggle more broadly:

- [Protest Demands Justice for Marlyn Barnes](#), Oct. 16, 2019
- [Bel Air, Md., Nov. 9: Truth and Justice for Marlyn Barnes and all Prisoners!](#), Oct. 30, 2019
- [Justice for Marlyn Barnes & Prisoners Solidarity Car Caravan](#), May 10, 2020
- [#FreeThemAll caravan honors Marlyn Barnes](#), May 23, 2020
- [Chauvin witness David Fowler: medical expert or racist liar?](#), Apr. 17, 2020
- [Baltimore: Reopen Marlyn Barnes' case, June 8](#), June 2, 2021
- [Cases reopened: Maryland's former chief medical examiner covered up police killings](#), Jan. 7, 2023
- [Baltimore demands justice for Tyre Nichols and end to police terror](#), Feb. 2, 2023
- [Nazi Billionaires: Fascism in the Elon Musk family tree](#), Jan. 26, 2025



Protesters confront Zionist celebration in Los Angeles

written by Struggle - La Lucha

June 2, 2025

Zionists in the Israeli American Council of Los Angeles organized an event at the Dolby Theater in Hollywood to celebrate 77 years of their murderous occupation of Palestine. The well-heeled attendees had to walk past a group of loud protesters who kept Palestinian flags and protest signs aloft, and chanted until their voices were hoarse.

They were a young crowd that reflected the multi-national character of L.A.'s population. Judging by the Keffiyehs worn by many, and the many t-shirts with a variety of anti-imperialist and anti-Zionist messages, these were participants in the powerful movement that has grown up on campuses and in cities across the country during the horrible genocide against Gaza.

The Dolby Theater is centered in the area of Hollywood where thousands of tourists crowd the sidewalks each day, and the anti-genocide action was warmly received by

the great majority walking by.



NYC can't afford a \$3 transit fare

written by Struggle - La Lucha
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The fare ain't fair!

New York, May 28 — A loud and militant rally was held this morning in front of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's headquarters in lower Manhattan to denounce the agency's planned fare increase to \$3. That's 60 times what it cost to ride the bus or subway in 1948.

The action was called by the Fare Ain't Fair Campaign initiated by the December 12th Movement. Volunteers have been leafleting and petitioning against the fare hike that the MTA is demanding to be implemented on Aug. 1.

Speakers at the rally were from the December 12th Movement; the New York Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression; the Party for Socialism and

Liberation; and Struggle-La Lucha newspaper.

They pointed out that the fare increase is another attack on poor people. It goes hand-in-hand with Trump's budget, which wants to cut 14 million people from Medicaid.

New York Gov. Kathy Hochul and New York City Mayor Eric Adams are flooding the subways and buses with armed police. Last September, after someone allegedly jumped the turnstile at the Sutter Avenue L train station in Brooklyn, trigger-happy cops shot four people.

Without a subway, bus and commuter train system, all of Manhattan's skyscrapers would be worthless. To Wall Street, however, the MTA's most important function is to give \$2.8 billion in tax-free interest to bondholders.



The Elevator Action Group held an adjacent rally, focusing on the lack of accessibility on the subways. Less than a third of the stations have elevators.

Malaysia Goodson was killed on Jan. 28, 2019, because there wasn't an elevator at the Seventh Avenue B/D/E subway station in Manhattan. The 22-year-old Black mother died falling down the stairs while protecting her year-old daughter.

Trump's proposed trillion-dollar Pentagon budget could easily pay for free, accessible transit everywhere in the United States, as well as housing the homeless.

The fare ain't fair! We can't afford a \$3 transit fare!

