

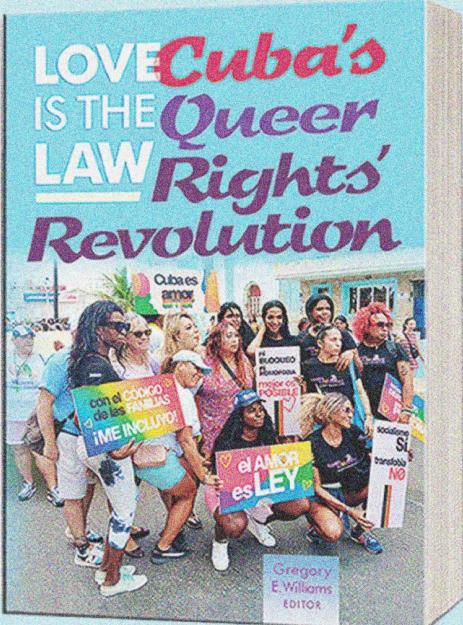
# **Book launch June 7 Baltimore: LOVE IS THE LAW: Cuba's Queer Rights Revolution**

written by Struggle - La Lucha  
May 22, 2025

## BOOK LAUNCH

# LOVE is the LAW

## Cuba's Queer Rights Revolution



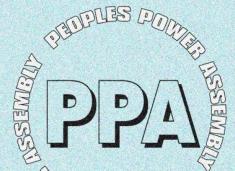
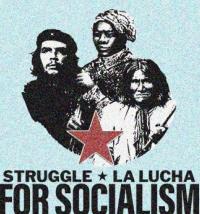
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**In 2022, Cuba held a referendum for a new Families Code, a major overhaul to the country's constitution in regard to sexuality, gender, and family life. This code greatly expands the rights of women, queer and trans people, and ultimately all Cubans.**

This book documents how Cuba's socialist revolution made this possible, with discussion about what LGBTQ+ communities can learn from Cuba's example, at a time when capitalist governments like the U.S. are trying to erase queer and trans people and push back all gains made by working-class and oppressed people.



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Join us to hear from @strugglelalucha editors Melinda Butterfield and Gregory Williams and to celebrate the launch of this important story.

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# More liberation themes in Love, Death, & Robots' '400 Boys'

written by Struggle - La Lucha

May 22, 2025

[Part 1: An analysis of Love, Death & Robots' '400 Boys'](#)

The previous analysis of "400 Boys" was a breakdown of the show's major story beats and imagery. The following focuses on smaller details.

## **Don't give up on Crybaby**

Up first is the character Crybaby. He is a member of the Black gang, the Slickers. While larger than the rest of the gang and other characters, he is the most scared when fighting the show's villains, the gods. In most of his scenes, he cowers with his arms covering his head, crying and wishing for the gods' onslaught to end. He is the most cautious and urges the other Slickers to sit out the coming fight.

His actions and attitude have earned him the nickname "Crybaby." He represents

the most wounded of the oppressed communities. In his character are those who have seen the horrors of imperialism firsthand, narrowly escaping with their lives. He is the portion of society that just wants it all to end because there is so much death and carnage. Because he resembles the gods, Crybaby's nickname also has a layer of irony.

Although they gave him that nickname, Crybaby's gangmates still care for him. They treat him as an equal. Communities of solidarity help their own, bringing along those who may not be ready for progress, no matter how scary or hard the journey may be.

The Slickers know just how capable Crybaby is in a fight and how important he will be in the final battle. It is their mission as comrades to keep him safe, helping him to erase the fear keeping his immense strength shackled. In the final battle, when there is no more time for flight or freezing, Crybaby answers his brothers' call. He gets up and impales a god with a gigantic wooden utility pole.

Crybaby represents the masses who are scared, who want to fight but do not know how. But once in the struggle, such people prove to themselves that there is no need to fear and that the occupier is not superior; and, moreover, that he can be defeated. Ultimately, these people prove to be the most decisive factor in achieving liberation.

He could symbolize those in oppressed communities (especially the Black community) who find themselves working within the systems of oppression, successfully institutionalized to stay in their lane and not fight the system. And yet, through revolution and liberation, Crybaby becomes this new man, leaving the humiliating nickname in the dead past.

### **More than just a razor**

Next is the razor blade, the weapon of choice wielded by the sole survivor of the

Soooooots. This razor is not just for slashing enemies, it is a tool used by barbers to care for their communities. And yet, in the past, a white man used this razor to permanently scar the Slickers' leader, a man called Slash. A tool meant to help the community was wielded by a white man to harm a Black man.

When both sides squash the beef, putting aside old rivalries, this tool is used to defend the community against a common enemy. The razor and its owner represent the white working class, and the tools at their disposal granted to them by society.

Under imperialism and colonialism, the white working class is tricked into using its tools to aid and continue the oppression of their class siblings simply because they are different colors. However, through the process of casting out the ruling class, white workers are able to make amends with their counterparts and blood brothers by utilizing those same tools to aid in the fight against imperialism.

In the Algerian liberation struggle, the FLN recognized that it was not just Muslims and Africans who answered the call, but also Algeria's European / white minority. They not only joined the ranks but played a crucial and defining part in the struggle to see a free Algeria. Here in the Belly of the Beast, the wretched beating heart of imperialism - the United States of America - it will take every community coming together to stand against exploitation, division and oppression.

### **Not just roller skates**

The roller skates worn by the Galrogs are also symbolic. I did not pick up on this during my first watch. My sister, however, immediately clocked the roller skates worn by the women's gang as significant. Those roller blades encompass the experience of all women. Skating embodies the experience of living as a woman (the need to remain balanced, and all the extra work it takes to move proficiently on skates).

Every day, women battle what is around them (societal pressures, harassment, exploitation and ignorance). But at the same time, they are battling their own bodies because of social pressures only a woman can fully understand. Those skates symbolize just how much harder women have to work to be seen and treated as equals in society today.

The Galrog women can scrap and fight just as well as the Slickers and Sooooooots, but they can do it on roller skates. Women can work equally as hard as men, fight and crawl through the trenches and expel the occupier just as well as men. And they can do it while overcoming every lasting stigma against them.

These skates also symbolize freedom and intuition. The Galrogs are the only gang armored and fully prepared for a fight. It is due to their experience gained in fights before that they learned to be the most prepared, because they do not have the privilege to slip up as men do. The skates allow them to be faster, more agile and responsive, able - at a moment's notice - to pivot or move another way. This helps them evade and survive the gods' attacks.

In reality, these skates are the unshakable spirit within every woman to make it to wherever they want to be, and the foresight to prepare and see the plan through.

### **Blue power = revolutionary spirit**

Lastly, there is the mythical blue power that the people are able to collectively wield against the gods in the finale. In the story, it allows the characters to inflict the first wave of damage on the gods, making them susceptible to normal attacks and damage. I believe this blue power is symbolic of revolutionary spirit and the mass movement in general.

This blue power is introduced in the beginning when the Slickers try using it to load a gun. They fail on their own because they are worn out and isolated. It is only when

everyone joins together to manifest and wield the mythical blue power that they are able to severely wound all three gods.

No matter where the struggle is, if a sizable amount of the population is not on board, it will not succeed. If imperialism is able to continue to divide and conquer, it does not matter how much revolutionary spirit a small number of people have; it will not be enough. To bury a system, to move the last to become the first, will require every aspect of a society. It will require the masses to unite against division and destroy the conqueror wherever he resides.



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## **'Destroy Gaza, expel its people'**

written by Struggle - La Lucha  
May 22, 2025

## **Trump's Gulf tour masks bid to secure**

# regional support for Gaza's annihilation

In a brazen escalation, the U.S.-backed and armed Zionist regime has launched what it calls the “concluding” offensive on Gaza. This escalation coincides with advanced U.S. proposals to forcibly resettle Palestinians from Gaza to war-torn Libya and Syria, according to reports.

While global media attention has shifted from Israel’s starvation siege and mass slaughter in Gaza, Trump’s West Asia visit to Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates drew significant coverage, particularly his decision to bypass Israel — a move framed as a diplomatic “snub” to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. The *Washington Post* praised Trump’s “unorthodox” regional strategy, calling the trip a series of “laudable wins.”

## **Trump’s media spectacle masks strategic agenda**

The Trump theatrics concealed the trip’s true purpose: securing regional backing for Israel’s final annihilation of Gaza and the expulsion of its people. Behind the scenes, Trump aimed to advance his plans for Gaza’s post-war future.

On May 5, Netanyahu announced “Operation Gideon’s Chariots,” a full-scale invasion involving ground assaults, intensified bombing, and forced displacement orders.

Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich outlined the operation’s objectives on May 6, stating: “Within a year, Gaza will be entirely destroyed. Civilians will be sent to [concentration camps in] the south, then expelled to third countries.”

## **U.S. plans for mass deportation to Libya and Syria**

Despite Israeli claims of pursuing a negotiated ceasefire, demands for Hamas leaders’ exile and Gaza’s disarmament signal an intent to dismantle Palestinian

governance. Meanwhile, an [NBC report](#) on May 16 revealed U.S. discussions to relocate up to 1 million Gazans to Libya and Syria. The plan, linked to the release of frozen Libyan funds, considers transport by air, land, and sea — a logistical undertaking likened to mass deportations.

Trump's earlier remarks about annexing Gaza ("We're going to have it, and we're going to keep it") now appear less rhetorical.

### **Engineered starvation**

To mask this genocide, the U.S.-Israeli regime unveiled the "Gaza Humanitarian Foundation," a cynical scheme to control food distribution while tightening Gaza's siege. UN Secretary-General António Guterres condemned the ploy as a violation of humanitarian principles. Over 300 UNRWA workers — teachers, nurses, and aid staff — have been murdered by Israeli forces, many alongside their families.

Gaza's Health Ministry reports 53,339 deaths since the war began, with famine conditions worsening under Israel's siege. A UN-backed IPC analysis warns 244,000 Gazans now face "catastrophic" food shortages — an 85% rise since October 2024.

This engineered starvation, paired with mass expulsion plans, constitutes a 21st-century Nakba.



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# **Slaying the hydra: an analysis of Love, Death & Robots' '400 Boys'**

written by Struggle - La Lucha

May 22, 2025

The people's struggle against colonialism and imperialism is a struggle of epic proportions, wherever it takes place. No liberation struggle is waged without involving all aspects of society. Bridges once burned due to the symptoms of imperialism (like racism and misogyny) are rebuilt stronger, made unmovable, connecting people to march together to fight the real enemy - the common enemy.

That enemy takes many forms. In Algeria, it was French paratroopers. In Vietnam, it was the U.S. G.I. In Palestine, it is the Israeli occupation soldier. Inside the Belly of the Beast, it is the police officer. In waging a war against these forces, the people use everything at their disposal and every skill they have learned to defend themselves and expel the occupier.

## **Netflix series depicts liberation struggle**

“400 Boys” is an episode of the anthology series Love, Death & Robots, portraying the remnants of British gangs working together to defeat gods that emerged from the depths of the earth. That is the surface, but peeling back the layers of this animated short reveals a story of a people’s struggle for liberation.

The show opens with the remaining members of a Black and Brown male street gang, the Slickers, attempting to use this mystical, blue power to load a gun. Their attempt to wield the power fails because everyone is worn down, and there simply are not enough people. There is plenty to unpack here.

Although political power grows out of the barrel of a gun, it needs the backing of the masses to be loaded and wielded properly. The attempt failed because right then, it was only one part of the community, symbolizing the Black and Brown male working class, attempting to wield this power.

The Slickers take refuge underground, planning their next move. They move underground because of the immense carnage and destruction happening above their heads, caused by the gods. The guerrilla, whether in Vietnam or Palestine, utilizes such tactics to weather the fury of imperialist shelling and bombing.

### **Anti-racist unity needed**

The Slickers are forced from their temporary reprieve when the ground above them is ripped away. It is revealed that the gods can unearth huge sections of the ground, similar to how the Israeli Air Force uses one-ton bombs - or bunker busters - to level whole residential blocks and refugee camps in Palestine and Lebanon.

The men head out looking for survivors and allies. But they find no one as they go block by block through territory once held by other gangs. It is not until they run into the sole survivor of the Soooooots, a lone white male, that they are able to grow in numbers.

Through character interactions, it is revealed that these gangs were once bitter rivals. But they need to work together to fight the gods. The Sooooooots represent the white male working class. The long rivalry between the gangs results from the racism created by the gods, just as real-life communities are divided by the ruling class and kept from fighting the real enemy.

In the distance, destruction continues, but the characters are unmoved. Death and destruction are normal to them. They have dealt with the ravaging of their communities before these new gods emerged. Pillaging is pillaging, genocide is genocide. Whether it is carried out by settlers and soldiers, jet planes and tanks, billionaires and cops, or mythical gods of the underworld, makes no difference to those struggling for survival every day.

### **Women hold up half the sky**

After coming together, they continue looking for survivors and allies. They decide to go to the turf held by the Galrogs, an all-women gang, knowing that if anyone managed to survive this hell, it is them. They are not met with open arms by the women. In this interaction, the show-makers demonstrate that to win against colonialism and imperialism, there must be not only racial unity but unity of the sexes.

The Galrogs are hesitant to join the growing movement. Like real-life women, they are battling the symptoms of imperialism every day. Whether it is fighting the rival street gangs or any bigger opponent, they have carved out a space where they are in charge and cannot be harmed. It is up to the men to prove to the women that the old patriarchal and misogynistic ways will be vanquished through the collective struggle for liberation.

The Galrogs are apparently the only integrated gang, encompassing all women. Meanwhile, the Slickers and Sooooooots are all Black, Brown and white men,

respectively, symbolic of how – compared to men – women have learned many of the needed lessons of liberation through their existence.

The Galrogs' leader is an elderly Black woman who explains what brought the world to this state. That detail speaks to how the most vulnerable and oppressed people – women and specifically Black women – are also the most educated and influential to the struggle for liberation because of their experience of fighting daily.

It is revealed that the gods emerged from the cracked surface of the earth after the world bombed and terrorized itself so much. This parallels the wars waged by Western imperialism. These wars are meant to create cracks or markets in societies that can be exploited by the capitalist ruling class to subjugate a group of people.

Once the three gangs come together, they can mobilize the individual and unaffiliated groups of survivors to take to the streets to fight. They bring instruments, farming and mechanical tools, different kinds of blades, a few guns, whatever they can get their hands on. The three gangs together symbolize the working-class vanguard able to galvanize the masses into action. They are the FLN during Algeria's war for independence, or the different factions that make up the collective Palestinian Resistance.



## **Imperialism is a paper tiger**

As the final battle draws near and the masses organized into a People's Army call out the gods for all the death and destruction they have caused, they are met with buses and buildings being thrown at them. The immediate response from the gods is mass violence on an industrial-sized scale — the symbolism there speaks for itself.

After the gods' opening barrage fails to break the people's will to fight, they are forced to step forward and show themselves. Stepping into the light, shaking the earth with every step, they are revealed as nothing more than three big babies, literally.

Colonialism and imperialism are meant to instill fear. But once fear is washed away and people realize they hold the power and have the right to self-determination, these systems are nothing more than paper tigers that can be defeated. Although

wealth and hard power are being accumulated by fewer people, their base of power is the exploited communities and workers of the world, who increasingly possess the power to strike back. Western imperialism looks strong as it commits genocide in Palestine, but is revealed to be weak and defeatable in the waters of the Red Sea when fighting against a group better equipped to wage war.

Through their organization and newfound strength in the masses, the people are able to utilize the magical blue power to wound the gods and weaken them. Once their enemy is weakened, the army attacks with everything they have. The final battle depicts what it takes to win against such an enemy. The masses take heavy casualties as the gods topple buildings around them. The people use whatever they have to see liberation through to the very end.

The final words of the episode, “nothing ever ends,” spoken by the leader of the Slickers, are poetic because these communities, the working and oppressed people of the world, have dealt with enemies like these gods before. Be it militaries, police or any other state-sponsored thugs and settlers, the masses have battled and survived onslaught after onslaught, learning the needed lessons to claim victory. It is victory through expelling the occupier and oppressor, victory through surviving against all odds.

From Baltimore to Palestine, oppressed communities must find ways to fight back against forced displacement, redlining, segregation and ultimately genocide. The people resist by any and all means necessary to defend their places in the world against all odds, whether it is napalm or rifle butts and bullets, to reorganize and continue living, continue defying the colonizer and imperialist.

## Part 2: More liberation themes in Love, Death, & Robots' '400 Boys'



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# Struggle ☰ La Lucha PDF - June 2025

written by Struggle - La Lucha  
May 22, 2025  
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► Mariela Castro en la Mesa Redonda:  
'Los problemas del mundo son de todas las personas'



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Vol. 8, No. 9 | June 2025

Suggested donation: \$1

# ICE raids escalate in LA as community fights back

By John Parker

Tense confrontations are escalating in Los Angeles' residential neighborhoods. In just the first two weeks of May, incidents in South Central include a raid near Exposition and Arlington.

According to witnesses, ICE agents arrived in force, shutting down the entire block with at least eight vehicles, including trucks and unmarked cars. Officers in full tactical gear, wearing bulletproof vests, detained at least five individuals.

Neighbors reported hearing a detained individual shouting for a lawyer, while others described a heavy police presence nearby, including armored trucks.

## Forcible removals and warrantless searches

In a separate incident, residents reported that a neighbor, sitting in her car, had her window broken by ICE agents who forcibly removed her.

This writer, a member of the Community Self-Defense Coalition, witnessed another incident in South Central Los Angeles during a community self-defense patrol. Law enforcement, including West Covina Police and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) agents, entered a family's home without a warrant. Minors were forced to provide DNA swabs without parental consent, and

property was seized before a warrant was produced, at least three hours after the raid began.

The government continues to criminalize basic constitutional rights, break laws requiring warrants, terrorize families, and rely on intimidation.

The raid is part of a broader escalation in immigration enforcement, with federal agencies increasingly collaborating with local police — a violation of California's sanctuary city laws. Members of the Community Self-Defense Coalition, a grassroots network that monitors and challenges illegal ICE operations, wit-

*Continued on page 6*

## Students demand justice for Freddie Gray and Palestine

Israeli army issued forced displacement orders to Palestinians in Gaza amidst heavy airstrikes.



Tariffs in a declining empire  
Burkina Faso vs. imperialism  
DPRK troops defend Russia  
Yemen stands firm



Graphic: Emory

Free Mumia, ally of LGBTQ+ movement

40 years later – the MOVE bombing

NJ rail workers strike

Trans rights & class solidarity

LOVE **Cuba's**  
IS THE **Queer**  
**LAW** **Rights'**  
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NEW BOOK

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- Commemorating the 1985 MOVE bombing in Philadelphia
- Honoring Mumia Abu-Jamal on his 71st birthday
- Fighting for justice against LA's neo-Nazi Sheriff's gangs
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Bob McCubbin on defending trans rights and building class solidarity
- Learn from Cuba! End the blockade!
- May Day in Cuba: Int'l solidarity conference
- Mariela Castro en la Mesa Redonda: ' Los problemas del mundo son de todas las personas'



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# **'The message for ICE is to get out of our city!'**

written by Struggle - La Lucha

May 22, 2025

## **Opposition to 1850 Fugitive Slave Act shows the way**



These were twenty of the thirty-seven citizens from Oberlin and Wellington who were charged with breaking the law by helping John Price escape from slave catchers in the fall of 1858. The Oberlin-Wellington Rescue and subsequent trial caught the eye of the nation as escalating tensions over slavery raised the prospect of civil war.

May 8, Worcester, Mass. – Ferreria de Oliveira, a migrant from Brazil, screamed for help. Her two daughters, one of whom was carrying her own newborn baby, tried to reach their mother. They were shoved out of the way, with the new mother forced face down onto the pavement and arrested by the ICE agents and Worcester city cops.

A community hotline, “Massachusetts 50501”, notified residents that ICE was on the scene. A crowd gathered in the working-class city of Worcester, Massachusetts, and surrounded the ICE agents and city cops. They chanted “Where is the warrant?”, objecting to these gestapo thugs ignoring the migrant woman’s right to due process.

A spokesman for ICE arrogantly told the press that they didn’t need a warrant, that Oliveira had been arrested before by local police. However, a media [search](#) for criminal arrest and court records did not show her name at all.

The city's cops are forbidden to arrest people for their citizenship status. Massachusetts law forbids police assisting ICE agents detaining people in the state. They were sent to the scene supposedly "to preserve the peace and prevent anyone from being injured."

Yet the Worcester cops did [violate](#) that law by attacking the crowd surrounding masked ICE thugs seizing the migrant mother and arresting her teenage daughter as well as Ashley Spring, a Worcester School Committee candidate. When Spring tried to prevent the juvenile from being arrested, she also was [arrested](#):

*"The community gathered," Spring said on Eureka Street while in handcuffs. "We found out that (ICE) didn't have a warrant. They didn't have not just a judicial warrant. They didn't have a warrant at all. They wouldn't present it.*

*"The community decided that these women were free to go, and the women decided to go and exercise their right to leave. At that point, the police continued to try to brutalize them, to rip the baby out of the mother's arms, 4-week-old baby, and the community tried to intervene and help them."*

The next day hundreds of protesters packed a local YMCA to [protest](#) these arrests by both ICE and the city police: "We know that ICE, we know that the federal government, is descending upon communities of color," Worcester City Councilor Khrystian King said.

"'The message for ICE is to get out of our city,' Worcester City Councilor Etel Haxhiaj said to applause from residents.

And on May 11 a thousand people [rallied](#) on Worcester's Common. "This issue is very clear. We want ICE to stop acting unconstitutionally. The way that they are taking people reminds all of us of the Gestapo or the KKK," said Rebecca Winter, an organizer with Massachusetts 50501.

## **Miller declares war on our rights.**

On May 9, the day after the ICE attacks in Worcester, Stephen Miller, Trump's deputy chief of staff and chief snarling-dog advisor who orchestrated President Trump's crackdown on immigration, announced that the White House was considering defying numerous court decisions, including some by the Supreme Court, by suspending immigrants' right to habeas corpus:

*"The Constitution is clear," he told reporters outside the White House, arguing that the right, known as a writ of habeas corpus, "could be suspended in time of invasion."*

*"That's an option we're actively looking at," he said, adding, "A lot of it depends on whether the courts do the right thing or not."*

Miller's timing was not random. He made this statement to intimidate the growing militant resistance to ICE by saying that Trump has the right to not only arrest and deport migrants, but also to arrest anyone who gets in their way, including the heroic people of Worcester.

This would nullify every state and local government that prohibits police from assisting ICE's illegal arrests and deportations.

The Miller-Trump proclamation echoes the enslaver-controlled federal government before the Civil War, who repressed those who defied the slave catchers sent to the North empowered by the 1850 Fugitive Slave Act.

## **The Jerry Rescue, the Boston Vigilance Committee and the Oberlin-Wellington Rescue**

William Henry, who called himself "Jerry", escaped from slavery in Missouri in 1843

and made his way to Syracuse, New York, where he found work as a cooper, a maker of wooden barrels.

In 1850, the U.S. Congress, under the control of the South's enslavers, passed the infamous Fugitive Slave Act. It required that all escaped slaves, upon capture, be returned to the slave-owner and that officials and citizens of free states had to cooperate.

In effect, this act nullified all the northern states' laws against slavery and turned every cop and judge into slave catchers. Anyone who opposed this could be arrested and jailed.

In 1851, five U.S. Marshals went to Jerry's workplace and arrested him, preparing to return him to his Missouri owner. At the same time, an anti-slavery convention was set to open in Syracuse.

On October 1, the day after Jerry's arrest, a large crowd gathered outside the jail where he was being held. At a signal, they all broke in and freed Jerry. He was then guided to Canada and freedom.

When the convention opened a few days later, Reverend Samuel May spoke:

*But when the people saw a man dragged through the streets, chained and held down in a cart by four or six others who were upon him; treated as if he were the worst of felons; and learnt that it was only because he had assumed to be what God made him to be, a man, and not a slave—when this came to be known throughout the streets, there was a mighty throbbing of the public heart; an all but unanimous up rising against the outrage. There was no concert of action except that to which a common humanity impelled the people. Indignation flashed from every eye. Abhorrence of the Fugitive Slave Bill poured in burning words from every tongue. The very stones cried out.*

In Boston, the abolitionist Vigilance Committee conducted the same kind of militant actions, rescuing George Latimer, who had escaped from Virginia. After his rescue from jail, he was also guided to Canada. The committee also freed the couple Ellen and William Craft, who were able then to travel to England.

John Price was a young man who had escaped his Kentucky slave owner in 1856 and was able to reach the town of Oberlin in Ohio. Lured by a false promise of work in 1858, Price traveled out of Oberlin to the town of Wellington, some 8 miles away. There he was arrested by slave catchers and federal marshals, who prepared to catch a train back to Kentucky.

When the Oberlin townspeople heard about Price's kidnapping, they [sprang into](#) action:

*White and black Oberlinians hurried the eight miles to Wellington in wagons, buggies, carriages, and some even on foot to rescue Price from slavery. When John H. Scott went to his neighbor, Mrs. Oliver P. Ryder, to borrow a horse she told him, "If necessary, spare not the life of my beast, but rescue the boy."*

*When the southbound train arrived, the situation grew urgent and the crowd began to force their way into the hotel. In the confusion that followed, Price escaped with the help of men who had been trying to negotiate with the captors. Energized by the success of the rescue, Oberlin residents paraded back from Wellington, "shouting, singing, rejoicing in the glad results."*

Although his final destination is unknown, it is believed that Price was able to make his way to Canada.

However, thirty-five of his rescuers were arrested and put on trial, 23 from Oberlin and 12 from Wellington. Two of the defendants sold 5,000 copies of their newspaper "The Rescuer" from inside the Cleveland jail.

On May 24, 1859, thousands of people crowded into Cleveland's Public Square to support the Rescuers. Court costs continued to mount, and the legal tangle intensified when the Rescuers' supporters arranged for the arrest of the slave catchers on kidnapping charges in Lorain County.

A deal was finally negotiated and the Rescuers were released on July 6, 1859, eighty-three days after being imprisoned.

### **The people will win!**

The response by the Democratic Party leadership to the Trump-Miller fascist onslaught against undocumented workers has been criminally pathetic. Even when a Wisconsin judge and the mayor of Newark are arrested at ICE's behest, they have caved at every turn and failed to lead any mass resistance.

This contrasts sharply with the heroic defiance shown by the people of Worcester. Just as the defiers of the Fugitive Slave Act would lead to John Brown's raid on Harpers Ferry and then the Civil War, this growing militant campaign for basic solidarity with our migrant sisters and brothers is bound to awaken a massive militant class struggle.



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# **Free Jay Burton: Fighting for justice against LA's neo-Nazi Sheriff's gangs**

written by Struggle - La Lucha  
May 22, 2025



On Aug. 29, 1970, some 25,000 people gathered for the Chicano Moratorium in East Los Angeles to protest the brutal U.S. imperialist war against the Vietnamese people. Early in the historic protest, L.A. County Sheriff's Deputies attacked, beating people and firing tear-gas grenades.

By the time the assault was over, they had murdered four people. Ruben Salazar, a progressive Chicano journalist, was killed after going into the nearby Silver Dollar Café to gather himself. Los Angeles County deputies fired a tear gas canister into the cafe, striking him directly in the head.

In the aftermath, the Coroner's Inquest revealed that an organized, violent gang within the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department were the shock troops in the assault and were responsible for the four deaths. No Sheriffs, Deputy Sheriffs or commanders took responsibility or were punished.

The gang was called the Little Devils. The revelation of their existence was the first

exposé of a decades-long series of murders, beatings, raids on people's homes at gunpoint, frameups of innocent people, organized violence and murders of inmates carried out by the fascist, racist County Sheriff's gangs in the department, which continue to this day. A recent study found that there are currently at least 24 named gangs in the L.A. County Sheriff's Department (LASD).

After the Little Devils faded, an even more notorious and avowed white supremacist gang came to be known as the Lynnwood Vikings.

At a Black History Month forum at the Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice, Aye Jay, a Los Angeles-based attorney and community organizer, spoke about the case of Jay Burton, one of the victims of the Lynnwood Vikings. He said:

"Jay Burton is a political prisoner of today who was ensnared by the neo-Nazi LASD gang known as the Lynnwood Vikings when he was just 16 years old. People need to grapple with what that means for today's society and the function of 'law enforcement.' Think about knowing someone in your own backyard being wrongfully convicted and imprisoned for 36-plus years for a crime they didn't commit. Doing nothing would be insanely callous, right? That's why we are organizing around the call to FREE JAY BURTON!"

Police agencies in the U.S. are in place to guard the wealth of the capitalists and protect their monopolist profits from the demands of the working class, particularly to keep communities of color in their place.

The LASD is comprised of 18,000 well-armed cops; it's slightly larger than the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD). Between the LASD and the LAPD, their helicopter fleet is second only to the U.S. Air Force. It's the largest Sheriff's department in the U.S., and L.A. has the largest county jail system with a daily count of 12,987 inmates as of the second quarter of 2022.

Parallel to the already violent and racist role of the police, there is a collection of violent Sheriff's Deputies organized in up to two dozen gangs who operate as a shadow government within LASD. They hunt for Black and Brown victims on the street, openly flash their gang signs, and wear gang tattoos on their legs. Deputies are honored in barroom celebrations after beating or shooting a victim, and their tattoos are enhanced to indicate their new status within the gang. They exclude and threaten Sheriff's Deputies who are African-American or women. But their real targets are youth of color.

[An extensive report by Cerise Castle published by KNOCK LA](#) quotes David Lynn, a private investigator, "If you are Black or Brown and walking down your street, it's fair game." Lynn uncovered through his work that regular activities for the fascist gangs include murder, armed assaults, raids on private homes and torture. County jail inmates are among the most vulnerable targets.

Over the years, investigations by the ACLU, a Civilian Oversight Commission, the aforementioned Coroners' Inquest, an FBI "investigation," and even numerous well-meaning progressive journalists' exposés haven't yielded an eradication of this fascist phenomenon. What is often described in the press as a problem that "plagues" the Sheriff's department is actually just the foremost example of the racist violence that is baked into the carceral system under capitalism.

Officially, the prison guards in L.A.'s sprawling county jail system are also part of the LASD. The gang called the 3000 Boys dominates the force of guards at the downtown Men's Central Jail. The 3000 Boys earn tattoos when beating an inmate results in a hospitalization. The Wayside Whities run the Peter J. Pritchess Detention Center.

One former inmate sued the department after he was beaten by them for fighting with a white inmate. They yelled racial slurs as they beat his legs repeatedly with batons until he heard a bone snap and blood gushed from the wound. His suit is only

one of many over Sheriff's gang violence that have been settled by the County. They add up to well over \$100 million over the last 30 years.

The two openly white supremacist groups, the Lynwood Vikings and the Compton Executioners, both get their tattoos supplemented with "998," to indicate that they've shot someone.

The way to root out fascist police gangs, in L.A., Chicago, New York City and across the country, is to abolish the police and the capitalist system they exist to protect.



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## **Commemorating the 1985 MOVE bombing in Philadelphia**

written by Struggle - La Lucha  
May 22, 2025

Philadelphia, May 13 — Two hundred people gathered here at Cobbs Creek Parkway and Osage Avenue this rainy late afternoon to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the bombing of the nearby house of the MOVE organization.

On [May 13, 1985](#), police fired “over 10,000 rounds of ammunition in under 90 minutes at a row house containing children,” according to the Philadelphia Special Investigative Commission. High-pressure fire hoses and tear gas were also used.

Police then [dropped a bomb](#) made from C4 plastic explosives on the house at 6221 Osage Avenue at 5:27 p.m., creating an inferno. Both the Pentagon and FBI helped make the bomb.

This was the first time since the 1921 massacre of Black people in Tulsa, Oklahoma — and the destruction of the city’s “Black Wall Street” — that U.S. police bombed their own city. [Philadelphia Police Commissioner](#) Gregore J. Sambor gave the order to “let the fire burn.”

MOVE family members who tried to escape were fired upon. Five children and six adults were killed, both from the fire and police bullets.

The children killed were Tomaso Africa, age 9; Phil Africa, age 11; Delisha Africa, age 12; Netta Africa, age 12; and Tree Africa, age 14. The adults who died were Conrad Africa, Raymond Africa, Frank Africa, Rhonda Africa, Theresa Africa, and John Africa, the MOVE organization’s founder.

The resulting fire destroyed 61 homes and left over 250 people in the West Philadelphia Black neighborhood of Cobbs Creek homeless. The only two survivors were Ramona Africa and 13-year-old Birdie Africa. Both suffered severe burns.

None of the criminals who committed these crimes against humanity were ever prosecuted. The only person convicted was the injured survivor, Ramona Africa, who spent seven years in prison.

### **Somber and strong remembrance**

Speakers at the rally remembered John Africa and all the MOVE members while a

musical ensemble accompanied their talks. Among those speaking were Mama Pam and Mike Africa, Jr., who lost an uncle and cousin in the bombing. Mike Africa, Jr. described efforts to reclaim the MOVE house.

The [crimes committed](#) against MOVE family members didn't end with their deaths in 1985. Remains of two children — Delisha Africa and Tree Africa — were not given to their families but were instead kept by the Ivy League University of Pennsylvania. These Black children were not allowed any dignity even in death.

The May 13, 1985, bombing wasn't the first attack on MOVE or its supporters. On Aug. 8, 1978, the notoriously racist Mayor Frank Rizzo ordered police to raid the MOVE house in Philadelphia's Powelton Village neighborhood.

Cops fired so recklessly that they killed one of their own, James Ramp. Nine MOVE members were framed for Ramp's death.

They were Chuck Africa, Debbie Africa, Delbert Africa, Eddie Africa, Janet Africa, Janine Africa, Merle Africa, Michael Africa, and Phil Africa.

Both Merle Africa and Phil Africa died in prison. The remaining MOVE members were finally freed after spending four decades in prison. That's over 10 years longer than the old apartheid regime in South Africa had Nelson Mandela jailed.

Trump is now welcoming racists from South Africa while thousands of immigrants are being kidnapped by ICE. Trump continues to supply the bombs that have killed thousands of children in Gaza.

Mumia Abu-Jamal, a MOVE supporter, was framed for the 1981 death of Philadelphia police officer Daniel Faulkner. As a 15-year-old, Mumia helped found Philadelphia's Black Panther Party chapter under FBI surveillance. Later, as a reporter, he was threatened by Mayor Rizzo at a news conference.

Mumia was sentenced to death, but the power of the people stopped the execution and got him off death row. A worldwide movement is demanding freedom for Mumia Abu-Jamal and all political prisoners.

Decades later, the people of Philadelphia are horrified by the MOVE bombing. On May 9, Philadelphia's City Council declared May 13, 2025, the 40th anniversary, to be a day of reflection and remembrance.

Five years before, the City Council for the first time [apologized](#) for the MOVE bombing. In 2020, during the Black Lives Matter movement that swept the United States, racist Frank Rizzo's statue across from City Hall was finally taken down.

Always remember the MOVE holocaust. Stop the war against Black people.



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## **Over 100 Killed in Gaza as Israel Intensifies Strikes, Besieges**

# Hospitals

written by Struggle - La Lucha

May 22, 2025

More than 100 Palestinians have been killed since dawn on Sunday in the Gaza Strip as Israeli forces escalate airstrikes and tighten the siege on hospitals across the enclave.

According to medical sources cited by Al-Jazeera, at least 125 Palestinians have been killed in Israeli attacks since dawn, including 55 in Gaza City and the northern areas of the Strip.

Al-Jazeera reported that 15 people were either killed or remain missing following an airstrike on a house in the Saftawi neighborhood, north of Gaza City.

In Jabaliya, northern Gaza, two separate strikes on homes belonging to the Maqat and Nasr families resulted in the deaths of at least 20 Palestinians, most of them women and children, according to medical sources.

*A baby girl was rescued alive from beneath the rubble after an Israeli airstrike hit her family's home in Jabaliua refugee camp, northern Gaza. [pic.twitter.com/cuk4rjuYu4](https://pic.twitter.com/cuk4rjuYu4)*

— The Palestine Chronicle (@PalestineChron) [May 18, 2025](https://twitter.com/PalestineChron/status/1263811111111111111)

In Beit Lahia, seven members of the Al-Barawi family were killed and others wounded when their home was targeted by an Israeli airstrike.

The Tel al-Zaatar area in the Jabaliya refugee camp has come under intense

bombardment, with five reported dead and several others injured. The shelling also caused extensive damage to the nearby Al-Awda Hospital and destroyed additional civilian homes in the area.

In central Gaza, 20 more people were reported killed amid ongoing bombardments, according to the Ministry of Health.

In the southern city of Khan Yunis, an Israeli airstrike hit a tent camp sheltering displaced families. Images from the site show widespread destruction.

## **Hospitals under siege**

Amid the continuing bombardment, hospitals are facing growing threats.

The Ministry of Health in Gaza said that Israeli forces have surrounded and targeted the Indonesian Hospital in the north, just days after the Gaza European Hospital was forced out of service.

The Ministry reported that panic and confusion have gripped patients, medical personnel, and the wounded, severely disrupting emergency healthcare services. Two patients were reportedly injured while attempting to evacuate the besieged hospital.

Officials say the siege is preventing the wounded from accessing care, as Israel appears to intensify a systematic campaign to disable medical infrastructure. The Ministry has called on international bodies to intervene and provide protection.

The Al-Ahli Baptist Hospital in Gaza has issued an urgent appeal for blood donations amid an influx of casualties.

## **'Catastrophic situation'**

Dr. Marwan Sultan, director of the Indonesian Hospital, described the situation as

“catastrophic,” noting that the facility is now under complete siege, with Israeli forces firing at anyone who moves.

He told Al-Jazeera that Israeli aircraft had fired on the intensive care unit and that the hospital is no longer able to function. “There are only patients and medical staff inside. Why is this place being targeted?” he asked.

Dr. Sultan urged international organizations to pressure Israeli authorities to allow medical teams to work safely and provide critical care to the wounded.

Source: [Palestine Chronicle](#)



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# **Maduro: We will Rescue all Venezuelans Kidnapped in El Salvador**

written by Struggle - La Lucha  
May 22, 2025

Caracas, May 16 (RHC)- Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro, during the march celebrating Family Day and the return of Maikelys Espinoza, a girl kidnapped by the United States (US), assured that the 252 Venezuelans kidnapped in El Salvador will return sooner rather than later.

"I say to the mothers of the kidnapped children, to the fathers, to the siblings of those captured in El Salvador, they will be rescued safe and sound and returned to their loved ones sooner rather than later." He also emphasized that "our migrants (the Venezuelans) are hardworking, honest people. Migrating is not a crime. Persecuting, torturing, and disappearing migrants is a crime." "Sanctioning a country is also a crime," he added.

Meanwhile, he noted that in this criminal wave, his government has managed to return more than 5,000 migrants who were in U.S. prisons. The Venezuelan president also explained that one of those returned migrants was Maikelys's mother, "a noble young woman who is here, who has never lost her ability to smile in the face of adversity," he said.

However, a year after her migration to the U.S., where she turned herself in to immigration authorities, where her daughter was kidnapped and she was separated from her husband, Venezuela managed to rescue the minor.

In this regard, Maduro recounted that "one day they told her you were leaving. She didn't know where she was going, and suddenly she found herself on a plane, and finally she arrived at Simón Bolívar International Airport. There were the hugs and arms of her homeland welcoming her, and that's when we learned about the girl's plight."

In keeping with the celebration, Maduro emphasized that "the happiness we have in our souls is beyond our control," adding that the girl is "rescued, free and happy among us." "Our determination and unity has once again resulted in this great joy."

Following this line of thought, he also recounted that the day, when he saw Maikelys, he was once again filled “with great emotion,” an event he celebrates in conjunction with the International Day of Families.

“I have seen the immense mobilization on a day that should be celebrated with music and hugs...as a family. This national effort that you called for to raise your flags and continue to reaffirm from Venezuela that together hope is in the streets,” he added.

He also thanked Jorge Rodríguez, president of the National Assembly of Venezuela, for his efforts in the girl’s return, as well as the first combatant, Cilia Flores.

Source: [Radio Havana Cuba](#), translation Ed Newman

