

# El Pueblo le dice NO al Megaproyecto Esencia

written by Struggle - La Lucha

March 8, 2025



Uno de estos es el Megaproyecto Esencia en la costa suroeste de la isla, donde se encuentra uno de los atractivos naturales más bellos y diversos ecológicamente, del archipiélago.

En PR existen propuestas por personas capacitadas y expertas en las diversas ciencias que han desarrollado proyectos para la mitigación de los estragos que

podrían producirse en nuestro archipiélago por los efectos del cambio climático, pero todas las administraciones que han gobernado hasta ahora han hecho caso omiso a estos estudios. Más aún, han viabilizado la destrucción de los terrenos - sobre todo el costero - mediante permisos ilegales productos de actos de corrupción, que se presentan falsamente como proyectos productivos para la economía.

Uno de estos es el Megaproyecto Esencia en la costa suroeste de la isla, donde se encuentra uno de los atractivos naturales más bellos y diversos ecológicamente, del archipiélago. En el área, hay humedales, salinas, manglares y varios ecosistemas frágiles con una biodiversidad enorme, además de tener acceso directo a las playas. Son más de seis mil metros cuadrados de terreno protegido que intentan convertir en un complejo turístico-residencial para la clase más acaudalada. Constaría entre muchos otros elementos, de hoteles lujosos, campos de golf, más de mil residencias turísticas, escuelas y hasta un aeropuerto privado. Sería como una ciudad cerrada para gente rica, mayormente extranjera.

Pero las comunidades impactadas, los colectivos de ambientalistas y el pueblo en general, han forzado celebrar vistas públicas esta semana donde se han dado a conocer estos datos de riesgo no solo en la región, sino en el resto de la isla. Y ha sido el Pueblo, junto a expertos y expertas, organizaciones y residentes quienes a través de sus ponencias y activismo, han asumido su papel de verdadera gobernanza, intentando detener este crimen social y ambiental.

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



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# **New Orleans March 29: Stop the cuts emergency rally**

written by Struggle - La Lucha

March 8, 2025

LOUISIANA  
WORKERS  
COUNCILS

**Stop Billionaires' War on the People**

# **STOP THE CUTS**

***Expand* Medicaid, WIC, CHIP, SNAP**

***Defend* Postal & Federal Workers' Jobs**

***Lower* Rents  
& Insurance**

***Raise* Wages**

***End* Tax Breaks for  
Corporations and  
Super-Rich**



# **EMERGENCY RALLY**

**Saturday, March 29  
2 pm, Canal & Elk St.**

Join us on Saturday, March 29, at 2 p.m. at Elk and Canal to protest Trump's cuts to Medicaid, SNAP, WIC, and all other social programs.

## **Put people's needs over billionaires' greed**

More than 1.5 million people in Louisiana are on Medicaid; 59% are working, others are children, seniors, and disabled people. Seventy-two million depend on Medicaid across the country.

Urban and rural clinics and hospitals will close without Medicaid; 58% of Louisiana rural children use Medicaid.

More than 867,000 people in Louisiana get SNAP (food stamps). 86% are children, seniors and disabled people. More than 42 million people in the U.S. depend on food stamps to feed their families. New Orleans has the highest rate of senior hunger in the U.S.

Trump, supported by Gov. Landry, wants to impoverish all Louisiana workers. Their end game is to create millions in desperation so they can lower all workers' wages. They lie about waste and fraud to convince other workers not to support poorer workers and the unemployed.

Landry and his millionaire buddies refuse to raise the minimum wage which has been \$7.25 since 2009. Yet \$2 billion of Louisiana's tax revenue is lost every year due to tax exemptions and subsidies to oil, gas, and other profit-making corporations.

We reject the billionaires' attempts to scapegoat immigrants and LGBTQ people. We reject the hideous expansion of prisons. Greedy billionaires are the problem. Across the country people are urgently organizing against these cuts. Join the fight!

Get involved, reach out by [Facebook](#) or at [LouisianaWorkersCouncils@gmail.com](mailto:LouisianaWorkersCouncils@gmail.com)

#WorkersOverBillionaires #PutThePeopleFirst #FeedThePeopleNotThePentagon  
#StopTheCuts #SaveMedicaid #HandsOffMedicaid #HandsOffSNAP  
#HandsOffWIC #HandsOffCHIP #PowerToThePeople  
#PeoplesNeedsBeforeBillionairesGreed #FundMedicaid #FundSNAP #FundWIC  
#FundCHIP #DefendThePostalService #StandWithFederalWorkers #HandsOffUSPS



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# Trump's NATO demands signal tech billionaire priorities, not peace

written by Struggle - La Lucha

March 8, 2025

President Donald Trump made it no secret during his election campaign that if he won, he expected Europe to “pay their fair share” regarding NATO and the war in Ukraine. Many in the Republican Party, including Trump himself, have claimed that the aim of this is to “end the suffering” and “have a peace that is good for both sides.”

However, Trump’s somewhat performative hostility toward Zelensky and new

demands on Europe have nothing to do with peace or justice. These shifts do not represent a willingness to end Western hostility but a redeployment of resources.

### **Tech billionaires' focus on China**

It is no secret that Trump has a significant support base among tech billionaires. This includes Elon Musk, Sundar Pichai, Jeff Bezos, and Mark Zuckerberg. This group of capitalists is more concerned with China's growing investment in quantum computing technology, artificial intelligence, and electric vehicles. Chinese companies such as DeepSeek in AI and BYD in the electric vehicle market are beginning to pull ahead of Western alternatives. What Musk and Silicon Valley are not interested in, is a costly unwinnable ground war that mostly serves as a boon for old money [defense conglomerates](#) and [fossil fuel barons](#) like General Dynamics, ExxonMobil, and Northrop Grumman.

China is the far greater threat to Silicon Valley's profits and thus to Trump's ruling-class base of support. Trump's focus on securing a rare earth metals deal with Ukraine is further evidence of an imperialist realignment in focus on the People's Republic of China. China controls a significant portion of the global supply of rare earth metals necessary for all high-tech equipment. Securing alternative supply chains would be the first step in opening up Trump's ability to escalate economic or military conflict with the PRC.

### **Balancing competing business interests**

That realignment in focus should not be mistaken for a true U.S. softening on Russia or even a sign that the war in Ukraine will quickly come to a close. Even with the cost to the taxpayer, the war in Ukraine has still been wildly profitable for many in the ruling class. The increased price of oil and the record spending to replenish military arsenals have made defense and fossil fuel companies billions of dollars. For that reason, Musk and Trump cannot completely end the gravy train of profits from

the NATO war against Russia without significant backlash from that part of the ruling class.

To be able to escalate against China while also not chaotically leaving billions of dollars on the table in Ukraine, Musk and Trump's plan seems to be twofold. First, Trump has not yet shown willingness to hold the delivery of already funded military aid indefinitely. Second, the United States will force Europe to foot enough of the bill to keep the war, and thus the profits, going for at least some period of time. The EU is already considering an [\\$840 billion plan](#) to rearm Europe, particularly Ukraine. This way, the ruling class can avoid the chaotic withdrawal similar to what the Biden administration experienced in Afghanistan. Whether this will work or not is yet to be seen.

Several European countries have already pledged their largest assistance packages to date over the past few weeks. Recently elected German Chancellor Friedrich Merz has already presented a [\\$3.2 billion](#) military aid package for Ukraine to the German legislature. The Norwegian Prime Minister recently announced that the country will spend [\\$3.12 billion](#) in mostly military aid to Ukraine in 2025. Finland will immediately provide [\\$691 million](#) in combat equipment to Ukraine's fascist military. Just days ago, Britain announced a [\\$2.84 billion](#) loan to Ukraine to continue the war. All of these deals have been announced since Trump took office.

The European countries can adopt [harsher rhetoric](#) against the Trump administration, but they are undermined by the fact that they are already doing exactly what Trump wants. Europe will increase military spending and keep NATO's war in Ukraine going until the U.S. can try to make a graceful exit. This could very well be a ruling class fantasy considering that it is unlikely Russia will accept anything less than the full demilitarization of Ukraine. Russia will not end the war that they are winning, having sacrificed so much, just to allow a NATO bridgehead on its western border, nor should they. What this burden sharing shift to Europe

makes abundantly clear, more than ever, is that the war in Ukraine was a NATO project aimed at Russia [from its onset](#).

### **Shifting priorities, not pursuing peace**

Regardless of whether a peace agreement comes in Ukraine, or if the European Union takes over arming Ukraine, or the U.S. continues the campaign directly, Trump and Musk's actions will not lead to greater peace in the world. Much like how the Biden administration pivoted from Afghanistan in 2021 and was already fighting Russia in Ukraine in early 2022, expect any U.S. withdrawal from Eastern Europe to be quickly followed by a new military campaign against China, Iran, or even Mexico. This new political administration's plan is not to pursue peace in the world, it is simply to cool the assault on one front so as to be more effective on another.



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## **Trump, the State of the Un-Union**

# Address and other nonsense

written by Struggle - La Lucha

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The so-called State of the Union Address is currently a verbal presentation by the President of the United States to a joint session of Congress (House and Senate) in a plenary hall of the Capitol, which is also attended by members of the Supreme Court, senior government officials, the accredited diplomatic corps and a select list of guests.

The tradition was started by the first president of the Union, George Washington, although it was not until the beginning of the 20th century (1913) that Woodrow Wilson resumed it. From that moment on, senior executives alternated live presentations with written reports. In 1934, the event began to be convened more regularly at the beginning of each year.

In theory, it is an opportunity for the U.S. president to present what can be considered his government plan for the coming months and, in particular, those budgetary initiatives that will need legislative backing and that would be preceded by endless negotiations.

In reality, with the passage of time, the emergence of television and the trivialization

of politics, the event began to take on theatrical features. The staging became more sophisticated to the point of rehearsing the pauses in which the applause was previously coordinated, the moments to highlight the presence of a guest and, in the same way, the occasions when some congressmen or senators booed certain phrases of the speech.

Part of the ceremony includes, once the president's presentation is over and outside the venue, the so-called response of the supposed opposition, or party that is not in the government (only two alternate) and some intervention by a member of the president's own party, to "highlight" the successes of the former.

That said, the analyst's analysis of the words of the chief executive yields one result when read and a completely different one when seen in the context of the collective performance that surrounds them, the camera shots, the collective gesticulation and much more. Added to this is everything that the press and "other informed sources" have said before and after the exercise. Nowadays, speculation or statements made on digital networks before, during and after are incorporated into the great crossword puzzle.

In this latest exercise on March 4th, the first problem is presented with the nomenclature of the activity (State of the Union Address), firstly because it is a country at the peak of political polarization, which at the moment has no tool that allows it to see itself as ONE NATION. It was therefore the state of DisUnion. The second thing is that practically everything Trump says is aimed at further disunity, at resorting to more extreme positions, which are unlikely to make the country healthier or more hegemonic.

It is common in the United States for analysts to turn down the volume of the television or other electronic devices in order to better grasp what the image they are observing has to offer; often the content of what is being said does not matter. If we do this for the case in question, then we are left with the impression of a one-

man show, in which the rest of the members of his “party” (or what remains of it) had as their priority to be seen applauding and unequivocally supporting the leader. To this we should add the Democratic failure to give a coherent response, both in terms of histrionics and content.

When Trump’s text (without seeing images) is related to what he has done in the preceding days, the desire to present as unique results a profusion of executive decisions that have yet to demonstrate their practical and, above all, constructive outcome for the country, is obvious. Statements such as “We have achieved more in 43 days than most administrations achieve in four or eight years”, or “in the last six weeks, I have signed nearly 100 decrees and taken more than 400 executive actions, a record” were made very early on in the speech.

Trump’s other initial purpose was to change the story (a frequent inclination in his field) about the real results of last November’s elections, in which with a little more effort he would have won the unanimous support of all Americans. This action generated such a backlash among Democrats that it prompted an indication from the *Speaker of the House* (who theoretically presides over the proceedings) threatening to use force to remove those who raised their voices from the premises.

It must be recognized that Trump is not someone who waits for others to praise his performance, it is an attitude that he has assumed for himself from the outset, both when comparing himself to his predecessor and when recalling his first term in office and making use of the proposals with which he will “save” the country and return it to a “golden age”. The small detail is that several of the actions he boasted about during the speech are contradictory, unsubstantiated and change almost daily. Perhaps the example of the use of tariffs against third parties would suffice.

When reviewing similar oratory pieces by other presidents, even ignoring the levels of sincerity they may have had in each case, phrases about the willingness to reach out and work together with the other party (*across the aisle*) are repeatedly heard,

in reference to the obvious fact that in order to pursue policies that represent the interests of the country, consensus must be achieved. Well, on this occasion the language has been simply take it or leave it, join me if you want to survive, or I don't need anyone else.

Very early on in his speech, Trump showed his commitment to the so-called old economy and his willingness to withdraw all the regulations that have been established with regard to the extractive industry or fossil fuels, in the interests of preserving the environment. All the science, research and intellect that has shown the damage of such practices even to the water that Americans drink was ignored with the brand new phrase "*drill, baby, drill*".

Some of his predecessors used the sixty minutes of their speech (Trump spoke for half an hour longer) to focus on the country's problems, others to try to justify military spending, or wars of aggression (Ronald Reagan). The 45th-47th presidents, however, did strike a balance between the internal and the external, but drawing parallels between local "opposition" to their agenda and the norms of multilateralism, which they consider almost all to be anti-American, unnecessary, and to be renounced immediately.

Certainly, we must recognize Trump's contribution to the theory of what has been considered until now as the role of alliances, who Washington's strategic partners are and how, to be the leader of something, you must have the support of someone (if you allow me, as an academic).

The analysis of these interventions must also take into account the context in which they occur. It is worth remembering that this speech took place just a few hours after the schism caused by Trump's meeting with the President of Ukraine in the Oval Office and preceded a meeting of the Council of the European Union, at which the participating leaders basically went to ask themselves "*what the heck is this?*" in relation to that event and to Trump's interpretation of NATO.

But returning to the Congress chamber, Trump thanked the foreigner residing in the U.S. with the greatest financial wealth and with direct and indirect links to South African apartheid for having taken the trouble to come to the “land of freedom” to review his finances and try to achieve greater efficiency in the government.

Trump listed what would be part of Elon Musk’s most important findings these days, including:

“\$22 billion from H.H.S. to provide free housing and cars to illegal aliens. \$45 million for scholarships on diversity, equity and inclusion in Burma. \$40 million to improve the social and economic inclusion of sedentary migrants.”

“\$60 million for the empowerment of indigenous and Afro-Caribbean peoples in Central America. \$60 million. \$8 million to turn rats transgender—this is real. \$32 million for a left-wing propaganda operation in Moldova. \$10 million for male circumcision in Mozambique.”

Reading these figures and the contemptuous way in which the president refers to third parties, one may wonder if they will be able to be consistent with their own philosophy and take this introspective analysis to its conclusion. In the case of Cuba, would they be able to identify the billions of dollars approved for “regime change” that have ended up in Floridian pockets, which in the end are recycled and contribute to paying for the political careers of individuals frustrated in business or academic life, who constantly return to the federal budget to make up for their personal deficiencies in terms of creativity or productivity. The total of 66 years of confrontation against Cuba has been one of the biggest thefts from U.S. taxpayers, including those who have no access to healthcare or education.

There is no doubt that any professional auditor would find many flaws in the U.S. budget system under both Democrats and Republicans. There has simply been an alternation of at least two different forms of corruption. In fact, one of the main

recipients of federal funds, the Pentagon, has not been able to satisfy the demands of the audits that have been carried out on it in the last 10 years.

What we are trying to say here is that what the current group in power in Washington is announcing is the substitution of one scheme of embezzlement for another, in which basically the citizens they consider “second class” (minorities, immigrants, disabled people, low-income communities), so that big capital can continue its triumphant march to contaminate/destroy the country and the world as a consequence.

Suddenly, as if lost in his words, a fleeting mention of a new attempt to “reduce taxes”. These interventions are rarely analyzed with sufficient data. The press and private commentators are in a hurry to be able to offer a headline in a few hours. But at least we should remember the legislation proposed by Trump and passed at full speed in 2017, which already considerably reduced the obligations of the richest, granting benefits to those with lower incomes in the short term, which were reversed in the long term.

It is true that the United States faces a risk to its economic competitiveness, more evident in the case of China, but also with other third parties. But one of the problems with the Trumpist view of the matter is to consider that this reality can be changed only by investing MORE money in one industry or another. Little was said on March 4 about the advancement of science, technology or innovation, rather there were words of contempt for these fields.

In his penchant for rewriting history, Trump considered that all the earthly and divine evils that plague the United States have come from abroad: there are no U.S. cartels, no national traffickers, all rapists have Hispanic or African-American surnames. It is very difficult to ask him to remember that the land he is treading on was the property of native peoples, the last descendants of whom today live on so-called “Indian reservations”, with the worst rates of diabetes and malnutrition.

Let's be objective, because not all references can be critical. Trump was right to describe the American health tragedy and, consequently, the aim of making the country "healthy again" would be valid. It is true that there is no reason to explain the high rates of juvenile cancer in that country, or other indicators. It is a reality that can be changed, with its own resources, and even with the support of third parties. The new Secretary of Health, the national academies of sciences and the American Society for the Advancement of Science could well inform him of who the main partners in the field of health in the region would be, those who during his first term of office assisted specific communities in the U.S., those with whom more than 30 city councils in the union have voted a resolution to establish cooperation.

In his fifth State of the Union address, Trump used every argument at hand to show that he was elected by both the human and the divine. I can't help but say: "I believe my life was saved that day in Butler, Missouri for a very good reason. I was saved by God to restore greatness to America, I am convinced of it." For many, the phrase reopened old doubts about a story that was poorly told at the time, in which an inexperienced shooter and very irresponsible secret service officials were said to have been involved, and about which there was an information blackout after the necessary front-page photos were obtained.

Concerns about the immediate future of the United States grew even more when listening to the Democrats' "response" speech, given by a congressman of Dominican origin, who was branded "illegal" by some extremist Republican, who was unable to present a coherent, comprehensible proposal as an alternative to what the president had said.

One conclusion is clear: on the Republican side there is a leader with a group of unconditional (almost fanatical) followers, on the Democratic side there are several groups that do not find the coherence to present themselves as a single force, and in the middle there is the great mass of the American population that does not identify

the appropriate vehicle to make their interests and objectives prosper. Let's wait for the 2026 exercise.

He said this in 1960. Until it happens, we will continue to live in "la prehistoria".

*José Ramón Cabañas Rodríguez* is Director of the International Policy Research Center (CIP) in Havana, Cuba.

Translation by [Resumen Latinoamericano - English](#)



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# **Activists call for cancellation of U.S.-ROK military exercises In Korea**

written by Struggle - La Lucha  
March 8, 2025

# Actions across the U.S. ahead of the U.S.-ROK Freedom Shield exercises in Korea.

**Nodutdol for Korean Community Development's "U.S. Out of Korea" campaign mobilized hundreds of people in New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Seattle to demand an end to U.S. militarization and escalation towards war.**



UPDATE: Pocheon, South Korea, March 6 (Reuters) - South Korean fighter jets accidentally dropped eight bombs on a civilian district on Thursday, injuring 15 people and damaging houses and a church during military exercises in Pocheon, the Air Force and fire agency said. The fire agency said in a statement that 15 people were wounded, including two who were seriously hurt. Pocheon is about 40 kilometres (25 miles) northeast of Seoul, near the heavily militarized border with

North Korea. "There was a sudden loud roar of a fighter jet, then an explosion rang out.. When I went to the scene, there were about four houses that were halved from the damage, people hurt," said Oh Moung-su, a 65-year-old resident. "Dusk and smoke rose into the sky, water gushed out of a pipe. People in a vehicle going to a construction site were injured - some of them couldn't even get out of the car. Another was outside the car covering his eye." South Korea's Air Force said eight 500-pound (225kg) Mk82 bombs from two KF-16 jets fell outside the shooting range during joint live-fire exercises. "We are sorry for the damage caused by the abnormal drop accident, and we wish the injured a speedy recovery," the Air Force said in a statement.

On March 1, the U.S. out of Korea campaign held rallies across New York City, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Seattle, bringing together hundreds of people in opposition to the upcoming Freedom Shield military exercises taking place between March 10 to March 19 in South Korea.

In **New York**, over 200 people gathered in Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza, joined by Korean survivors of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima who shared the devastating impact of the U.S. nuclear bomb. Member of European Parliament Marc Botenga also spoke on the necessity of diverting resources away from militarism and war towards peace and international solidarity. Activists marched to the U.S. Mission to the UN building, where they shared a statement of support from progressive organizations in the Republic of Korea.

In **San Francisco**, 250 people gathered at the Comfort Women memorial, where a diverse program of cultural ceremony and drumming performances ensued. Speakers from BAYAN, Palestinian Youth Movement, and the Party for Socialism and Liberation highlighted the importance of international solidarity and the urgent need to remove U.S. military presence around the world.

In **Los Angeles**, 150 people took to the streets of Koreatown to demonstrate opposition against the upcoming Freedom Shield war games in Korea. The demonstration began with a slate of speakers and cultural performances at the Wilshire and Vermont Metro Station and ended with a march to the Republic of Korea (ROK) Consulate.

In **Seattle**, community members organized a vigil in front of the Republic of Korea Consulate in Seattle to commemorate and honor the life of Gil Won-Ok, a survivor of Japanese sexual slavery and activist for comfort women's justice who passed away in February. They read testimonies from other comfort women, shared personal stories and migration histories, and reaffirmed the demand for the end of the U.S. military occupation of Korea.

As ROK President Yoon Suk Yeol faces his final impeachment hearing and President Trump continues to seek diplomacy with the DPRK, Korea's political future faces much uncertainty. In the midst of this, the annual Freedom Shield military exercises will be taking place in March. Freedom Shield is an important source of tension with the DPRK, and this year will grow by 70% from 10 combined firepower drills in 2024 to 17 drills this year. On March 1, ROK progressive organizations, trade unions, civil society groups, and political parties [mobilized a national protest raising a progressive agenda](#), including the demand to cancel the Freedom Shield military exercises.

Large-scale springtime U.S.-ROK military exercises have been held annually since 1976. These war games took on the name "Freedom Shield" under Biden in 2023, a year in which U.S.-DPRK relations entered their nadir and tensions within Korea and the region spiked. Last year, the Freedom Shield exercises reached a dangerous scale - evolving into a multilateral exercise involving the militaries of 12 countries, and double the number of exercises from the previous year. The participation of additional countries in Freedom Shield 2025 has yet to be announced.

Though the Trump administration has publicly indicated interest in reopening dialogue with the DPRK, activists say that the expansion of Freedom Shield, along with other military exercises like Polaris Hammer, demonstrates a lack of sincerity towards diplomacy. Organizers warn that the administration's recent joint statement with the Republic of Korea and Japan—reaffirming its commitment to the Japan-South Korea-U.S. trilateral security cooperation (JAKU.S.), and to strengthening the international sanctions regime against the DPRK—closely mirrors the Biden administration's Korea policy, which intensified the tensions between the two Koreas.

In light of this, the U.S. Out of Korea campaign is calling for the cancellation of the Freedom Shield 25 military exercises, and the end of U.S. military aggression of all forms against the Korean people. [Over 100 U.S. organizations have endorsed a statement](#) calling on President Trump to abide by these demands.

**Winter Oh, Nodutdol for Korean Community Development said,** "While the South Korean people are locked in a battle for their democracy during President Yoon Seok Yeol's impeachment crisis, the Trump administration is moving forward with extremely aggressive war drills in Korea called Freedom Shield. This March 1, hundreds of thousands of people in South Korea mobilized against President Yoon and Freedom Shield. We stand in solidarity with the South Korean people's call to end all U.S.-South Korea joint military exercises, and we further demand an end to the U.S. military occupation in Korea."

**Marc Botenga, Member of the European Parliament for Belgium said,** "While, traditionally, some European countries participate in Freedom Shield, I believe European countries should not send forces that will escalate tensions on the other side of the world. They should concentrate on building peace, through diplomacy and disarmament. And there is already a lot to be done in this sense, both in Europe and its immediate neighbourhood."

**Manolo de los Santos, Executive Director of The People's Forum said,** "While Trump calls for peace, his rhetoric is overshadowed by war threats. The forthcoming U.S. War Games on the Korean Peninsula pose a grave risk not only to global peace but also to the sovereignty and dignity of the Korean people. On March 1st, we must unite in solidarity with the Korean people and their movements, affirming our commitment to peace and a future without occupation."

**Ket Maarte of BAYAN Northeast said,** "BAYAN stands in solidarity with our Korean comrades in their demands to cancel Freedom Shield 25 and remove U.S. military out of Korean land. It is a shame that the Philippines was one out of the 12 nations to participate in the U.S.-ROK exercises last year. But it is not surprising that our government is complicit in the ongoing militarism against the Korean working class. The Filipino people know all too well what it is like to have our land, sea, and people exploited for the interests of U.S. imperialism. It is imperative that we show our solidarity in the genuine liberation of the Korean and Filipino working class! Because if the U.S. falls in one, the U.S. falls in all."

Source: [NODUTDOL](https://www.struggle-la-lucha.org/2025/page/51/)



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# **Confiscation, Reparations and Reconstruction's solution to the 'Elon Musk problem'**

written by Struggle - La Lucha

March 8, 2025

In his famous "March to the Sea" in 1864, during the final phase of the Civil War, Union General William T. Sherman faced a problem.

As his army marched through Confederate Georgia from Atlanta to Savannah, burning down the enslavers' mansions and confiscating their huge plantations, thousands of newly liberated freed people followed right behind the troops for protection from marauding enemy troops.

But this mass of humanity created a supply problem for the general. He contacted President Lincoln, who sent Secretary of War Edward Stanton to Savannah to discuss the situation with Sherman. The solution was Special Field Order 15, the "40 acres and a mule" order, which is today famous for it being the basis of the

reparations' movement.

While our class celebrates Black History month, defying arch-racist "King Trump's" executive orders, it's important to note that the idea of land seizures embedded in Article 15 came not from Sherman or Stanton or even Lincoln. It came from 20 Black leaders, all of them ministers, many of them just freed from slavery, who sat down with Sherman and Stanton in Savannah on January 12, 1865.

This was indeed an unprecedented and historic moment.

When asked what the freed people wanted after the war, the Black leaders gave a simple answer: Land! The chosen leader of the group, Garrison Frazier said:

*"The way we can best take care of ourselves is to have land, and turn it and till it by our own labor ... and we can soon maintain ourselves and have something to spare ... We want to be placed on land until we are able to buy it and make it our own." And when asked next where the freed slaves "would rather live — whether scattered among the whites or in colonies by themselves," without missing a beat, Brother Frazier (as the transcript calls him) replied that "I would prefer to live by ourselves, for there is a prejudice against us in the South that will take years to get over ..."*

The order that was composed set aside 400,000 acres of confiscated coastal land between South Carolina and Florida for the freed people, divided into 40-acre plots. Four days later Lincoln approved the order.

By June, 40,000 freed people settled on "Sherman's land."

But during the fall of 1865, ex-enslaver President Andrew Johnson, who took power after Lincoln was killed, rescinded Field Order 15 and returned this land to the former slave owners.

This was a terrible setback for the 3.8 million Black people liberated from slavery. And it has provided the impetus for the righteous movement for reparations to their descendants for the centuries of their unpaid labor from the government and particularly from Wall Street for the “seed money” for U.S. capitalism.

### **Radical Republicans fight for confiscation**

Before the Civil War, the slave owners exercised tremendous political power, dominating the levers of government power in all its branches. That power came from the tremendous wealth produced on the slave plantations from cotton, sugar and tobacco. It should be noted that the slave owners' power also was increased because the original Constitution stated that three out of every five slaves were counted in the census to increase the number of Representatives in Congress and to increase their number of electoral college votes for president. Of course the enslaved people could not vote.

After the Civil War, the 15th Amendment, giving the freedmen the vital right to vote, erased the three-fifths clause, but it did little to stop the former slave owners from using their land to regain their iron rule over the freed Black families.

In March 1865, Representative Thaddeus Stevens of Pennsylvania [proposed](#) that all planter lands in the former Confederacy be confiscated and redistributed to ex-slaves and poor whites in forty-acre tracts. This was modeled after General Sherman's Field Order 15. Stevens argued that with the money from the sale of the remaining confiscated land, the U.S. government could pay off its war debt and finance pensions for Union soldiers and their families, as well as eliminate the power base of the enslavers:

*We especially insist that the property of the chief rebels should be seized and [used for] the payment of the national debt, caused by the unjust and wicked war they instigated...*

***The whole fabric of southern society must be changed, and never can it be done if this opportunity is lost. Without this, this government can never be, as it has never been, a true republic...***

Steven's proposal was never passed. The rising industrial and banking ruling class would not allow the idea of the government seizing wealth producing property and turning it over to the people, particularly Black people, to take hold, even from the slave owners that started the brutal war.

The dominance of the former slave owning class was indeed restored in 1876 by the U.S. withdrawing troops from the South and ending Reconstruction. Southern planters and their KKK minions imposed on the Black population the atrocious rule of Jim Crow, of sharecropping, of prison work gangs, of lynchings and much more.

Nevertheless, the idea of defeating a sector of the capitalist class from seizing complete control of the government, which is precisely what our class faces today from Musk and Big Tech, by confiscating their wealth-producing property is certainly now worth considering.

### **Government data belongs to the people, not the billionaires**

For many decades the federal government has gathered and stored vast amounts of personal data, first on paper, and then on computer systems. Various laws have been passed to protect the people's information contained in government files, including the [1974 Privacy Act](#), which has been updated multiple times.

But with Trump's election and the creation of the unofficial "Department of Government Efficiency" (DOGE) headed by super-billionaire Elon Musk, all these data from all government agencies have been opened up to and seized by Silicon Valley's Big Tech monopolies. Along with that, tens of thousands of government workers, many of whom are union members, tasked with guarding and maintaining

this data, have been summarily fired.

This gives enormous economic, social and political power to these billionaires, unchallenged by any statutes or regulations.

Already they have created their own money - cryptocurrency. They are using that to swindle people out of their incomes of real money so as to raise capital and build their dream project - Artificial General Intelligence (AGI).

Of course, these digital titans already exert huge control over the national and international economy. For example, Jeff Bezos' Amazon makes more money from its ownership of its vast array of computer servers managing global financial transactions than it does from its sweatshop warehouses.

Shortly after taking office, Donald Trump announced the Stargate Project, a \$500 billion project to develop U.S. AI infrastructure, and struck down a Biden executive order on regulating AI.

It was not these rich parasites who developed these computer systems. It was an army of research workers, many of whom evidently do not share their bosses' vision of total social dominance and control. Marc Andreessen, a Silicon Valley billionaire venture capitalist, **told** an interviewer from the New York Times about the transformation of their highly skilled workforce of research workers:

*The most privileged people in society, the most successful, send their kids to the most politically radical institutions, which teach them how to be America-hating communists.*

When Andreessen calls these well-educated workers "communists," he means that they are reluctant to build a computer system that poses as much or more danger to society as the Manhattan Project's development of nuclear weapons. Other digital titans call their own workers "snowflakes."

On February 18, Trump's VP J.D. Vance, who was also a Silicon Valley venture, or more accurately, "vulture" capitalist, lectured European leaders about not standing in the way of the U.S. going full speed ahead in developing this technology and made a not-so-subtle threat:

*The Trump administration is troubled by reports that some foreign governments are considering tightening the screws on U.S. tech companies with international footprints.*

*Now, America cannot and will not accept that, and we think it's a terrible mistake, not just for the United States of America, but for your own countries.*

These billionaires are using king Trump to open the gates to their takeover of all government function, to implement their AI-empowered agenda to maintain their profit streams by slashing every hard-won government benefit since the New Deal and the Civil Rights movement, to attack working people and oppressed people here and around the world, to maintain their faltering global hegemony.

They hope to implement a drastic austerity program, lowering our living standard and filling their coffers, all with a few computer keystrokes.

And since the core of this coterie of rich parasites consumed by their vision of total dominance are apartheid South Africa emigres like Elon Musk and Peter Thiel, they relish implementing Trump's neo-Nazi program attacking DEI, migrants, LGBTQ+ people and unions.

### **Reconstruction offers a revolutionary solution**

Big Tech is conducting its ongoing coup by seizing control of the vast collection of the people's data. They have captured the people's property and converted it to their wealth-generating private property.

King Trump and Elon “muskrat” Musk have sparked a growing movement of resistance. From the courts to social media to the streets, more and more of our class have made their voices heard in protest.

Of course, every aspect of resistance is valid. Every demand for reform is essential, whether to protect migrants, to demand equal rights for transgender people, to protect Medicaid, Medicare and Social Security, to assert justice and reparations for the oppressed communities, to have our children taught the true history of the struggles by people of color, and much more.

This resistance movement is bound to grow stronger, perhaps to the point where a general strike will shut the system down. That would be historic.

But now is the time for the left to inject the idea proposed by those 20 Black ministers to General Sherman in the waning days of the Civil War and raised in the halls of Congress by the Radical Republicans during the revolutionary period of Reconstruction - confiscation of wealth producing property.

We can and should propose that these Big Tech monopolies should be, in modern terms, expropriated, and turned into public non-profit utilities. Then they can be managed by the “communist” research workers and be operated for the benefit of all rather than the small band of billionaire parasites.

Of course, to do that will require a new kind of government, a new kind of state, one controlled by and for the benefit of the actual wealth producers of society, the workers and oppressed communities.

Source: [Fighting Words](#)



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# **Los Angeles, March 16: Women Fight for Justice - Our Strength is Solidarity**

written by Struggle - La Lucha  
March 8, 2025



# WOMEN FIGHT FOR JUSTICE

## Our strength is Solidarity

HEAR REPORTS FROM:

**Fatinah** Co-founder **unmute humanity**

**Frances** PUSO West LA ☺ Cultural Performer

**Lupe Carrasco Cardona** Union del Barrio  
& Association of Raza Educators

**Gloria Verdieu** Coalition to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal

**Melinda Butterfield** Women in Struggle

SUNDAY **MARCH 16**  
2 PM

HARRIET TUBMAN CENTER FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE  
5278 W Pico Blvd, Los Angeles

[www.harriettubmancenterla.org](http://www.harriettubmancenterla.org)

**323-306-6240**



Sponsored by Women in Struggle - Mujeres en Lucha • Struggle for Socialism - La Lucha por Socialismo

Labor donated

# **Los Angeles: Women Fight for Justice – Our Strength is Solidarity**

**Sunday, March 16 - 2:00 p.m.**

Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice, 5278 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles

Sponsored by Women in Struggle - Mujeres en Lucha & Struggle-La Lucha



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## **Long Beach, Calif.: Queer and Forever Here - March 15**

written by Struggle - La Lucha  
March 8, 2025







# **Saturday, March 15 - 11:00 a.m.**

**Gather at Long Beach City Hall, 411 W. Ocean Blvd.**

Sponsored by SoCal Uprising

~no one is free until all of us are free~

We refuse to remain passive while Elon Musk, who has openly rejected the existence of his own transgender child, and the Trump administration threaten the lives of our trans, non-binary, two-spirit, and intersex communities.

We oppose Elon Musk's plans to expand SpaceX in Long Beach, a city known for its diverse and accepting queer community.

On March 15th at 11 am, we will gather at Long Beach City Hall to demand queer liberation and visibility for all marginalized identities. The Trump administration's executive orders are an affront to our rights, dismantling essential DEI training, banning transgender individuals from military service, and undermining equal opportunity hiring practices.

The restrictions on passports for those with an X marker directly target our community, particularly impacting trans, non-binary, and intersex individuals. Recognizing only assigned sex poses severe risks, especially in healthcare and prison systems where trans inmates face unsafe conditions.

We must stand against Elon Musk, a promoter of hate and discrimination, as the end of gender-affirming care would be catastrophic for non-binary, transgender, and two-spirit individuals. Additionally, the administration's attacks on education and healthcare for HIV/AIDS prevention, coupled with its enforcement of mass deportation, undermine the celebration of queer pride nationwide.

Our demands are clear: cancel the executive order that recognizes only two genders, allow transgender individuals to serve in the military, allocate funds for gender-affirming care instead of war, eliminate bathroom restrictions for transgender people, prohibit the forced outing of queer students, fully fund federal grants for HIV prevention and research, protect trans athletes, provide amnesty for queer immigrants, and remove SpaceX from Long Beach.



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# **International Women's Day Baltimore March & Teach In - March 8**

written by Struggle - La Lucha  
March 8, 2025





## **IMPORTANT UPDATES!!!!!!**

**AFTER THE MARCH BACK  
FROM THE WOMEN'S JAIL  
JOIN US FOR...**

# **INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY- TEACH-IN & DINNER**

**3:30 PM - GATHER & DINNER**

**4:00 PM - TEACH-IN**

## **CALVERT STREET PARK**

**2201 N. CALVERT ST  
BALTIMORE MD 21218**

**FEATURING KEYNOTE SPEAKER  
MELINDA BUTTERFIELD**

WRITER FOR STRUGGLE-LA LUCHA FOR  
SOCIALISM NEWSPAPER, TRANS ACTIVIST,  
CONVENOR OF PROTECT TRANS YOUTH  
NATIONAL MARCH ON ORLANDO



## **International Women's Day Baltimore March & Teach In**

Stop the billionaires war on women & the poor  
Women fightback from Baltimore to Palestine  
Demanding justice for working class women globally

Saturday, March 8, 2 pm  
gather at the corner of 20th & N. Charles Street



March to the women's jail followed by a  
Teach-In, dinner & keynote speakers  
3:30 pm Gather & Dinner

At Calvert Street Park  
20th & N. Calvert Streets  
4 pm Keynote speakers

Include **Melinda Butterfield**, transgender activist who helped organize the national March to Protect Trans Kids in Orlando, Florida. She has defended immigrant rights

and opposed racism.

*We have shifted to an outdoor venue (as the weather will be good) to provide a healthy environment with flu, COVID and other viruses on the rise in our area. We will also have masks available for everyone.*

**Co sponsored by: Women In Struggle & Peoples Power Assembly**



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## **Massive wildfires threaten communities across Carolinas**

written by Struggle - La Lucha  
March 8, 2025



Carolina Forest, South Carolina, March 2 — From Saturday to Sunday, an estimated 175 wildfires erupted across South Carolina, with dozens spreading into neighboring North Carolina by Sunday morning. Fueled by dry, windy conditions, the fires have forced thousands to flee, destroyed swaths of land and prompted a state of emergency in South Carolina.

The largest and most urgent blaze, dubbed the “Carolina Forest Fire,” ignited shortly before dawn on Sunday near residential neighborhoods in Horry County — where this writer’s family lives. Evacuation orders were issued as early as 4:45 a.m.,

and residents of Carolina Forest and surrounding areas were urged to leave immediately. Traffic congestion was reported along major evacuation routes, including Highway 501, as families scrambled to escape advancing flames.

South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster declared a state of emergency Sunday morning, activating National Guard resources and authorizing the deployment of Black Hawk helicopters to aid firefighting efforts. South Carolina Forestry Commission officials, alongside more than 410 personnel from local and regional fire agencies, are battling the Carolina Forest fire, which has already consumed approximately 4,200 acres (about 6.5 square miles). For context, the blaze remains significantly smaller than California's historic 37,800-acre Los Angeles wildfires, but its proximity to densely populated areas has heightened concerns.

While officials cite extreme weather conditions as a key factor, the exact cause of the wildfires remains under investigation. State authorities have not yet released details about potential ignition sources, leaving residents to speculate whether downed power lines, human activity or other triggers may be responsible.

As of Sunday evening, evacuation orders for Carolina Forest and adjacent communities have been lifted, despite the fire being only 30% contained. Horry County Fire Rescue spokesperson Dana Brown cautioned, "The situation remains fluid," noting that shifting winds and dry vegetation could reignite hotspots. More than 60 structures, including homes and outbuildings, are confirmed damaged or destroyed, though no fatalities have been reported.

Displaced residents expressed frustration and anxiety, criticizing the lack of transparency about the fires' origins and the decision to lift evacuations prematurely.

"They're telling us it's safe, but we can still smell smoke. We can still see the glow," said Carolina Forest resident Marissa Torres, who returned Sunday to find her

property covered in ash.

Firefighters continued to work through the night, with reinforcements arriving from neighboring states. Shelters remain open in Myrtle Beach and Conway for those unable to return home.

