

We will resist Trump's takeover of New Orleans

written by Struggle - La Lucha
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New Orleans, June 5, 2020 - thousands of people filled the park and streets around Jackson Square in New Orleans on the eighth day of protests in response to the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

It is not about crime, it's about dictatorship for profit

Occupations of L.A. and D.C. are the first steps to martial law

Everything Trump and Louisiana Governor Jeff Landry do is designed to impoverish the people, strip us of our rights, destroy our lives and use force to suppress any struggle to stop them so that billionaires can extract maximum profits from our labor.

Trump and Landry are rapidly moving to impose a total dictatorship of the military corporations, banks, oil and gas, and tech companies over society. The billionaire owners of these corporations already take the vast majority of the wealth we sacrifice in the form of taxes. But they want the entire national budget for themselves.

The Trump presidency gets its marching orders from capitalist think tanks like the Heritage Foundation, the Pelican Institute, and the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), all of which are funded by and for the benefit of billionaires. They are celebrating \$3.4 trillion in cuts to Medicaid, SNAP, Section 8, Education, Child Care, Medicare, and Social Security. Even if you do not currently use these programs, cutting them will force down the wages of everyone else.

Trump and his billionaire cronies want no minimum wage, no pensions, no civil rights laws, no unions or any other organizations that would stand in the way of their profit-making. They are gutting what is left of voting rights. It's not enough that political candidates are bought and paid for by the rich. They are openly taking over all state machinery for elections.

Trump's deployment of shock troops has nothing to do with crime. But because Trump and Landry can't state their real motives, they scapegoat and brand as "criminals" immigrants, trans people, women and most especially Black and Brown communities.

In Louisiana, the highest crime rate is in majority white rural areas, which also suffer from poverty and lack of opportunity. More than 1 in 5 of all people incarcerated around the planet are in U.S. jails and prisons. Prisons for citizens and immigrants are a profit-making industry, and corporations are using prison labor to get super-profits. Convict leasing, child labor, labor camps, debtors' prisons are all about enslaving labor for maximum profit. This will inevitably drag down the wages of non-incarcerated workers as well.

Trump and Landry are preparing for resistance to their program of total impoverishment. On Aug. 25, Trump issued an executive order calling on Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth to designate Army and Air National Guard members in every state to "assist Federal, State, and local law enforcement in quelling civil disturbances."

Resistance to occupation and dictatorship is inevitable. The people will not stand by as we lose our housing and homes and politicians rake in bribes. We will not stand by while seniors are in the streets and education becomes something that only the rich can afford. We will not be peacefully hungry. We have the right to good wages, healthcare, housing, equality, food, education, peace, and a livable planet. The handful of billionaires that are centralizing their control over our lives are the real criminals and parasites.

Repression Breeds Resistance. Trump and Landry smugly think they can lie about everything in order to enrich their pals. But while people may be temporarily stunned by the rapid rise of dictatorship, a reckoning is coming. They are few and we are many.



Kalief Browder and the right to bail

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It's Trump who should be jailed

Donald Trump signed an Aug. 25 executive order abolishing cash-free bail in Washington, D.C. The wannabe dictator also wants to cut off federal aid to local governments — including the entire state of Illinois — that have enacted this human rights legislation.

The U.S. Constitution's Eighth Amendment, part of the Bill of Rights, says "excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted." Bail is excessive for anyone who can't afford to pay it.

That was the tragic story of Kalief Browder, a Black youth in New York City. Arrested in 2010 when he was 16 years old for allegedly stealing a backpack, Browder's family couldn't afford \$900 to pay for a bail bond.

Fifteen years later, in 2025, [59% of U.S. families](#) — living paycheck to paycheck — can't come up with \$1,000 in an emergency. (Even though the dollar's value had plunged [over 30%](#) in the meantime.)

So, because his family was poor, Kalief Browder was locked up for three years in the notorious Riker's Island jail complex without ever being brought to trial. Prosecutors kept delaying his case.

For two of those years, Browder was kept in solitary confinement, a torment that's been [denounced](#) by the United Nations Committee Against Torture.

Prosecutors finally dropped the charges against Kalief Browder. Two years later, he hanged himself on June 6, 2015.

Whenever you hear bail being discussed, always remember Kalief Browder.

Prisons are concentration camps for the poor

It's a big lie that everyone in the United States is considered innocent until proven guilty. Trump and most cops think that anyone arrested is automatically guilty.

Not being able to afford bail means you can't contact witnesses who could confirm your innocence. Any effective legal defense is largely denied.

On an average day, [457,000 people](#) are being held in local, state and federal dungeons without being convicted.

Being kept in hellholes like Riker's Island causes many innocent people to confess to lesser charges just to get out of jail. These forced confessions often prevent poor people from voting.

In 2024, [4 million people](#) were kept off the voting rolls because of a previous

conviction. That can make the difference in many elections.

Just cashing a check with insufficient funds can be enough to block somebody from voting. The real crime was being poor.

Any jail or prison is dangerous. Transgender prisoners are especially endangered.

In 2019, [1,200 prisoners](#) died in local jails. [Three thousand](#) prisoners died from COVID-19.

The political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal's eyesight is endangered because Pennsylvania prison officials are denying necessary medical care. Please make phone calls to demand treatment for Mumia Abu-Jamal, who has been incarcerated for nearly 44 years. Details are listed here: <https://www.thejerichomovement.com/news/mumia%E2%80%99s-eyesight-endangered-take-action>

Pennsylvania and many other states call their prison systems "departments of correction." Correction was the polite, lying term slave owners used to describe their torture of enslaved Africans.

Riker's Island is named for the wealthy [slave trading](#) Riker family. In "Gateway to Freedom: The Hidden History of the Underground Railroad," the historian Eric Foner describes how Richard Riker was part of a gang that kidnapped Black people in New York City and sold them into slavery.

U.S. prisons are concentration camps for the poor. Gaza — where tens of thousands of children have been killed by Zionist war criminals using U.S. weapons — is a concentration camp.

Rich criminals like Trump need to be jailed instead. The labor movement should

demand jobs, not jails!

Poor people in Paris started the French Revolution by attacking a notorious prison called the Bastille. In our struggles against Trump and the billionaire class, don't forget the 2 million people incarcerated across the United States.

They're members of the working class, too. Always remember Kalief Browder.



Baltimore dirtbike rides defy racist redlining, gentrification, and policing

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This [Black August](#), I want to honor a force of resistance in Baltimore City that continues to fight every week against police repression, builds community between generations, race, sexuality, gender, and age, creates spaces of empowerment and

education, and, through their actions, shows us that artificial borders and boundaries are nothing more than lines that can be erased.

The 12 O’Clock Boys, also known as The Pack, is a community formed around the love of dirt bikes, four-wheeled ATVs, three-wheeled Slingshots, other all-terrain vehicles, and tricked-out cars. Every Sunday, The Pack has weekly rideouts through Baltimore City or others across the East Coast. (They are even sometimes seen out in Ohio and New Orleans.)

These riders are not only masters of actually riding these vehicles, they also are extremely talented performers who use their vehicle as a stage, prop, and co-star on the road while they are all riding. The name 12 O’Clock Boys comes from the practice of hitting a wheelie and having such perfectly stable control of the vehicle that it points straight to the sky, like when all the hands of a clock are aligned at the 12.

More than just street performers, those in The Pack are also mechanics and educators. Mostly everyone who rides out can fix their own vehicles and also the vehicles of their brothers, sisters and siblings around them. They host competitions, where it isn’t just races and riding skill, but also who can fix and repair their vehicles the fastest, who can identify problems the quickest, who can change parts out on the fly in the least amount of time. It reminds me of the practice in the Cuban Revolution, where it was a badge of honor and a sign of commitment to the Revolution for revolutionaries to make their own hammocks after learning and being on campaign with veteran comrades in the Sierra Maestra mountains.

There are also camps and workshops they host for new riders of all ages to attend, where they teach safety and introduce the basics of what it takes to ride and be with The Pack and maintain a vehicle like the ones they ride.

It does not come without its risks. The Pack is constantly harassed and targeted by

the police and residents who want to see them gone.

Recently, residents of Federal Hill and Fells Point (2 of the most gentrified areas and major economic / tourist zones in the city) have ramped up calls for the police to put an end to the dirtbikes that ride through those areas. Residents also attempt to interfere with the rides, using their own personal vehicles as blockers and weapons against the 12 O’Clock Boys.

Before Fells Point and Federal Hill became major hubs for tourists and nightlife, they were areas home to long-existing Black communities pushed out due to anti-Black urban renewal planning, redlining, police oppression and city disinvestment. The Pack riding through these areas is no different from Palestinians fighting to return to the lands illegally taken from them by the U.S.-backed Zionist state of Israel.

In Baltimore, police are not supposed to engage in chases with the dirtbikes for the sake of public safety. However, there are many instances of the Baltimore Police Department chasing the bikes with multiple police interceptors and helicopter coverage. Police Officers also attempt to force the riders in The Pack to crash by trying to run them off the road. Most sick, however, is the tactic of the police turning their cars into battering rams and charging towards the dirtbike riders with their high beam lights on in an effort to blind the rider and force him to hit the car or have an accident. Houses are raided and residents are forced to line up on the sidewalks of their neighborhoods while police conduct violent raids, kicking in doors and destroying people’s stuff looking for dirtbikes and spare parts.

These attempts by the police to stop the 12 O’Clock Boys are not just because of the weekly rideouts. There are videos of dirt bike riders recording police as they harass community members around the city. In these videos, cops always attempt to stop the rider from filming what is going on or even arrest the rider and confiscate their vehicle.

Recently, The Pack was in D.C., riding in defiance of Trump's federal occupation of the city and complete terrorizing of the Black neighborhoods and Black existence.

The narrative linking those who ride in The Pack to crime is racist fear-mongering meant to create false consent for the government to continue and escalate their constant oppression of Black spaces with the heavy hand of the police. There have been many petitions and campaigns to build parks to accommodate The Pack, but every attempt was shot down and sunk into the political quagmire.

Finally, The Pack is not just a Baltimore city thing. Their rideouts stretch from the city into the county. Through their rides, you can see the connection of Black communities that are only divided by arbitrary lines made by racist politicians to keep us divided. The roads they ride on are the lifelines that connect the Black existence in Edmonson Village to our siblings living in Woodlawn, they connect the Black communities in the county to communities deep in the city, from Reisterstown to Park Heights to Upton and Sandtown / Winchester.

The Pack are the city's visual reminder of what liberation and freedom look like, and their constant struggle against the police and government at large is a reminder of the effort it will take for people to come together and fight back to end the racist practice of redlining and ultimately defeat white supremacy.

[embedpress]<https://www.instagram.com/reel/DLBmW3Mp8t8/?igsh=MTQ0dGlr3RsMmg1NQ==>[/embedpress]

Bike riders and other community members come out in the streets following an officer-involved shooting.



A boot on the neck of the working class: The \$16 billion footprint of Trump's police state

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As fascist war monger in chief, Donald Trump threatens cities like Chicago and Baltimore with military occupation, and billions of dollars are headed for an unprecedented expansion in domestic federal law enforcement hiring.

The “One Big Beautiful Bill Act,” signed into law by Trump earlier this year, allocates \$16 billion to federal law enforcement agencies, including ICE, Customs & Border Patrol (CBP), and the Bureau of Prisons, just for staffing. This number doesn't include weapons, vehicles, surveillance technology, and other equipment.

Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid are all on the chopping block, but the capitalist government made sure that its fascist domestic security force is well fed.

The federal sector news site, [Gov Exec](#), commented that this increase in spending “promise(s) to transform the component agencies into behemoths with prodigious and unparalleled reach” – a concerning prospect considering federal police have acted with greater and greater impunity every year since the Department of Homeland Security was founded in 2003. ICE plans to use its \$8 billion to hire 10,000 more officers, while CBP will receive \$4 billion to hire 8,500 more employees. These increases in domestic federal law enforcement funding are set to begin as Donald Trump has [escalated](#) his threatening rhetoric towards various U.S. cities.

ICE, CBP, and others only serve to terrorize migrants and other working-class people. Moreover, these agencies serve as a vehicle to create a hardline pro-Trump domestic security force. Long story short, these agencies are the new gestapo. Eighteen thousand five hundred more federal law enforcement personnel just means 18,500 more fascists to wage a war of terror on the working class and oppressed people.

Whether it is the prominent deportation cases like Kilmar Abrego Garcia and Mahmoud Khalil – or the mass ICE terror raids in Los Angeles – federal law enforcement constantly wages war on the working class.

The banks and corporations that own the U.S. government have been in need of a [scapegoat](#) as economic conditions have declined domestically and their military grip has waned internationally. As unemployment rolls fill and the money of the U.S. working class is plundered through taxes to fund genocide in Palestine and war in Ukraine, the ruling class needs someone to blame. They need something to distract the masses from growing poverty and underemployment.

“Illegal immigration” has served as that distraction, scapegoating Latine migrants who are simply seeking to feed their families. To continue the cycle of repression, the federal gestapo needs an influx of funds and storm troopers. That is exactly what

the “Big Beautiful Bill” provides.

Billionaires like Trump, Bezos, and Musk need to make sure the working class stays divided, afraid, and repressed. To that end, they will continue to deploy the military against multinational working-class cities and domestic federal police against [immigrant workers](#) and pro-Palestine activists – such as Kilmar Abrego Garcia and Mahmoud Khalil.

The working class in the United States has to be prepared to mobilize and resist this rising tide of fascism. Profiteers in war and misery, people like Trump and the Koch Brothers, don’t want the working class to know that it actually has the [power](#) to [fight back](#).

With the right political will, the workers and oppressed people living in the United States can flood courthouses, stage mass sit-ins, and be a human blockade between ICE storm troopers and the people they target for deportation.

If there was ever a time for this sort of working-class unity against fascist military and ICE intervention, it’s now.



Baltimore attempts to shut down Black August celebration, community marches on

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On Aug. 23, members of the People's Power Assembly and Struggle for Socialism Party participated in a celebration of Black August at the Black owned bookstore, UrbanReads. Joined by the Pan-African Liberation Movement (PLM), Tendea Family, Freestate Coalition, and PSL, activists and community members marched through northern Baltimore to bring attention to the continued threats and attacks at UrbanReads.

Leading up to the 23rd, the city attempted to stop the celebration from happening, denying the request for a permit to host the block party. Also, the Police Major of the district personally called the store owner, Ms. Tia, and tried to make her cancel the event because there "were not enough officers available" for that day.

This is ironic because the Baltimore Police have consistently failed in their promises to Ms. Tia to have officers check in on the store and log when they show up.

In the past month, there has been an increase in threats towards both the store and Ms. Tia. With all of this going on, she, along with the community coalition formed around her, continued forward to host the day's events and handle security and safety for those who attended the action.



Community members marched to bring the news of these attacks to the community around the bookstore. However, this news also came with calls to action, calls to get organized and calls to fight back and defend our communities.

The march was met with great responses by workers, people driving, and people just hanging out outside.

Following the march, a celebration and concert were held at UrbanReads. There was food, drinks, music and different tables full of things for people to enjoy during the party.

One of the musicians who performed, Slim Rob, is a local Baltimore rapper and member of the People's Power Assembly. He, along with the other artists, performed music that centered around building class consciousness, fighting back against white supremacy, and honoring the many killed and locked up pillars of the Black diaspora.



Following the party at the store, members of the Struggle for Socialism Party stayed around UrbanReads to provide additional security to both the store and Ms.Tia. The practice of community security at UrbanReads has been going on since the attacks started earlier this year.

In the evening, the People's Power Assembly hosted a "Sinners" film showing at the bookstore. The event was well attended, and those who came were interested in not only the bookstore but also the People's Power Assembly and the campaigns the organization finds itself in.

Movie goers took literature explaining the need to counter and prepare for a possible Federal occupation of Baltimore, and also the need to organize and fight for a city-funded grocery store to end the food desert located around the Upton and Sandtown / Winchester communities. From sun up to sun down, it was a beautiful day in celebration of Black August and also in practice of what the month means, which is the continued and unbreakable Black resistance to racism and white supremacy.



Another capitalist-made disaster: Poor and Black communities bear

brunt of Louisiana's toxic legacy

written by Struggle - La Lucha

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On Aug. 22, an ecological disaster began to unfold in my hometown in South Louisiana with the explosion of the Smitty's Supply plant in Roseland. Two days later, the oil and chemical tanks are still burning, though reported to be 90% under control. The cause is still under investigation.

Everyone within a one-mile radius was evacuated, but the smoke plumes could be seen for many miles. Residents in neighboring towns are reporting an oily residue on everything.

At 9:54 that night after the fire started, a friend texted me, "I just drove down that way on I-55. I could smell it."

Smitty's manufactures over 200 products, including industrial and commercial lubricating fluids as well as diesel engine oils. They are a major employer in the area.

We're only five days out from the 20th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina's landfall in Louisiana, and I can't help but think of that capitalist-made ecological disaster, as well as the BP oil spill of 2010. Fortunately, nobody has died so far from the Smitty's explosion, but people are pretty freaked out about the potential health impacts.

Hurricanes are major events, but some of the deadliest impacts of climate change and fossil-fuel dependence are slow burners. These include skyrocketing numbers of heat-related deaths worldwide and the effects of inhaling wildfire smoke.

This situation since Friday is bad, but Louisiana is already heavily polluted by the barely regulated oil, gas, and chemical industries, especially in predominantly Black

or Indigenous areas. Roseland is 61.36% Black according to 2020 Census data. Adjacent Amite City (where I'm actually from) is 54.43% Black.

There are plenty of poor white people, too - the folk that Trump and Vance sometimes pretend to care about, but do nothing but rob. They'll help white Louisiana workers as soon as they help those white coal miners in Appalachia - that is, never.

On Aug. 24, WAFB meteorologist Steve Caparotta posted pictures on Facebook showing an oily sheen on the Tangipahoa River, which empties into Lake Pontchartrain. Others are posting photos of animals covered in oil.

My niece summed things up like this:

"Mom let the cat out last night for a minute to use the bathroom, and his feet were covered. The rivers are black, and animals are covered in soot and oil. The farmers can't use any produce and might have to wait years until their soil is usable again. All livestock are covered and have been grazing on grass covered in pollutants.

"I feel so bad for all the animals who have no idea what's going on. And many people here don't really believe in climate change and think it will go away in a couple days, but there will be long-term effects.

"I'm sure many people will have health issues because of it too. People still can't return to their homes and everything is a giant mess. This is terrible for the environment and will ruin the economy here as Smitty's played a big role in it and so does farming. Not to mention 450 people now without jobs (and some no longer have cars / trucks because they burned in the fire) and are supposed to live off of \$250 a week. It's just a tragedy overall."

Five days out from the 20th anniversary of Katrina, and all I can think is that nothing has changed, except for the worse. Louisiana is still suffering from the profit-driven

reliance on fossil fuels. What is it going to take for us to say enough is enough? Clearly, “our” millionaire politicians kissing the asses of oil and gas billionaires aren’t going to change anything.

We should have no illusions about that. It’s going to take a massive movement of the people.



The Mamdani NYC mayoral campaign, ‘Which side are you on?’

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Zohran Mamdani’s victory in the New York City Democratic mayoral primary makes the self-proclaimed democratic socialist poised to become the first Muslim person of South Asian descent to hold this position.

Mamdani’s crushing defeat of Democratic political dynasty heir Andrew Cuomo — surging from a mere 1% in early polls to a commanding 56% final victory — shattered the expectations of so-called election “experts” over which corrupt

representative of the elite would fill the seat.

Mamdani campaigned for an affordable New York City. His platform calls for free and faster buses, making City University of New York tuition free, freezing rents on rent-stabilized housing, free child care for children between the ages of six weeks and five years, and setting up a city-run grocery store in every borough to drive down food prices. To pay for these programs, the campaign is proposing a 2% increase in the income tax for city residents who earn more than \$1 million a year.

His campaign has also called for a “Department of Community Safety” tasked with responding to mental health crises and homelessness with community-based services as opposed to intervention by the NYPD.

Despite the many pro-Zionist media attacks on Zohran Mamdani’s open support for Palestine, he won, underscoring how the working class and youth are increasingly rejecting the manufactured consent for imperialism and apartheid. Mamdani’s open solidarity with Palestine was not a liability but a catalyst, mobilizing a base that supports Palestine against starvation and genocide.

Two city council elections in Brooklyn also reflected this. A landslide vote reelected both Shahana Hanif, a progressive Muslim, and Alexa Aviles, a DSA member, despite Solidarity PAC (New York City’s local version of AIPAC) financing opponents.

These results show how the massive street mobilizations and global resistance are reverberating in the electoral battlefield as well.

New York City, the capital of capitalism

The [Financial Times](#) quoted an anonymous Wall Street executive responding to Mamdani’s platform: “Why would we adopt [it] in the world’s capital of capitalism?”

Yes, New York City is the capital of finance capitalism, and what happens in NYC has

national and ultimately international repercussions.

It is home to the Wall Street Stock Market and megabanks like JPMorgan Chase, as well as shadow banks like BlackRock, the largest asset manager in the world.

Some 384,500 millionaires, 818 centimillionaires (those with at least \$100 million in assets), and 66 billionaires list residences in New York City. According to the [Visual Capitalist](#), NYC is the wealthiest city in the world based on its millionaire population.

This parasitic class of landlords and bankers is losing its mind over this development. Donald Trump, a real estate mogul himself, has called for deporting Mamdani. It's impossible to keep up with the amount of slander and attacks from both Democratic and Republican bosses.

New York City also home to millions of workers

There are over 8 million working-class people living in New York City, and over 19 million workers and their families in the metropolitan area. These are the people who keep NYC running. They run the buses, trains, and subways, staff the hospitals and all the offices, clean the streets, pick up the trash, keep the sweatshops running, and much more.

New York City is one of the most diverse cities in the country and in the world. As many as [800 languages](#) are spoken in New York, making it the most linguistically diverse city in the world. Approximately 36% of its residents are foreign-born. The Puerto Rican, Chinese, South Asian, Dominican, Mexican, Ecuadorian, and Haitian communities each number hundreds of thousands of people.

New York City has the largest Black population of any city in the U.S., comprising 20.2% of the city's residents.

What do the wealthy elite fear?

What really unsettles the billionaire class is the possibility that Mamdani's election might interrupt their endless stream of insider deals — but their fears run even deeper.

The capitalist drive for profit ensures that bosses fight tooth and nail against even the most modest and justified demands. Relief from crushing inflation — nothing less than a hidden wage cut — is a basic right for workers. It takes not only the threat of the guillotine, but their actual necks in it, to wrestle concessions from the bosses, especially in a period of capitalist contraction and crisis, when the system finds it close to impossible to do so.

Those bosses and bankers most attuned to their ruling class interests fear something even worse: that this spark could rouse the working class, transforming demands for reform into a struggle for workers' power.

Once New York City's vast working class awakens, no handful of billionaires, millionaires, and financial speculators can stand in its way.

What must the workers prepare for?

Of course, the ruling class's first line of defense will be to defeat Zohran Mamdani in the November election, sparing no expense and leaving no lie untold to achieve it — a battle we are witnessing in real time. Behind the scenes, they will also maneuver to chip away at the campaign's demands.

By their very nature, bourgeois elections temper political demands in a conservative direction, making these pressures predictable. Should Mamdani compromise excessively, it would destroy the campaign. Yet, unless unexpected developments arise, the campaign's core energy and platform remain largely intact, positioning it to win.

If Zohran wins, the next and possibly more important battle will be how to implement the very program that inspired the victory.

This is where the question of arousing the working class to fight in its own interest is of the most importance to class-conscious workers and revolutionaries.

The NYPD, real estate tycoons and bankers

Regardless of who is at the mayoral helm, the question of who holds the power and whose interests the state – and in this particular case, the New York City Police Department – serves and defends will become front and center. It will be the obstacle.

The New York City Police Department (NYPD), with a documented history of corruption and police brutality, is the largest municipal police force in the country. Its official budget is \$10.8 billion — costing NYC workers approximately \$29.6 million per day — though the true figure is often obscured. The department employs 36,000 uniformed officers, making it larger than the active militaries of several nations, including Belgium and Ireland, Jamaica and Panama. Its international reach is extensive, with offices and detectives stationed in 15 cities across 12 countries in Europe, the Middle East, Asia, and the Americas.

When a banker feels threatened by an unhoused person outside their building, when protesters block a company funding Israel, or when workers refuse to tolerate slave wages, billionaires don't negotiate — they call the NYPD. One phone call, and they expect arrests, removals, jail time. The message is clear: Power protects profit, and the city enforces it.

Billionaire Jessica Tisch, heiress to a real estate empire that spans much of New York City, is presently the police commissioner of the New York Police Department. Rumors have swirled about a possible mayoral run. This isn't a representative of the

rich running the department; it's the rich running the department themselves.

Any Mamdani administration will undoubtedly have to contend with this reactionary force and those that stand behind them. This includes the future of the Cop City training complex being built in Queens and how to dismantle the "Strategic Response Group," the special 800-strong battalion of cops notorious for abusing the constitutional rights of protesters.

Removing this reactionary clique will not be simple. The people have to prepare for a fight.

Which side are you on?

In 1931, miners and mine owners were locked in a bitter and violent struggle called the "Harlan County War." Florence Reece, a daughter of a coal miner and companion of union organizer Sam Reece, updated the lyrics to a song she composed at the age of 12, "Which Side Are You On?" The song's raw and resolute message became the union's battle call.

Today in New York City, that same question rings true. We did not decide this battle; our opponents did. In essence, the mayoral race in November will serve as a referendum on these issues. As revolutionary socialists, our central concern is the workers' struggle. Its awakening is crucial, and we will be there — not in defense of a corrupt and decaying system, but present to defend the picket line, organizing for an end to the rule of billionaires. Will an election end the capitalist system? No. But a revolutionary movement of the working class can.



Trump's racist takeover in Washington, D.C., is just the beginning

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Pentagon preparing "reaction force" to crush protests

Donald Trump's Aug. 11 news conference announcing his hijacking of Washington, D.C.'s police force was a racist tirade of lies and threats. The wannabe dictator [claimed](#) that the capital "has been overtaken by violent gangs and bloodthirsty criminals, roving mobs of wild youth, drugged-out maniacs and homeless people."

When Trump talks about "violent gangs" and "roving mobs of wild youth," he's talking about rounding up Black and Brown people. Every day, Washington is becoming more and more of a police state, although it was already occupied by

thousands of armed personnel from a dozen different government agencies.

Trump [told police](#) that “they are allowed to do whatever the hell they want.” To hell with the Bill of Rights or any other constitutional safeguard.

That’s like Nixon calling students protesting the Vietnam War “bums” just before the Ohio National Guard killed four Kent State students in 1970.

People are being stopped at checkpoints. Sean Dunn was arrested on felony charges near one for allegedly throwing a submarine sandwich towards a cop.

Immigrants and homeless people are special targets. [Trump vows](#) to drive homeless people “far from the capital” as encampments are being torn down. The biggest crime under capitalism is to be poor.

Trump said that he was “looking into” overthrowing Washington, D.C.’s municipal government by revoking home rule for the federal territory. [Utah Sen. Mike Lee and Tennessee Rep. Andy Ogles](#) have already introduced bills in Congress to do so. The Tennessee statesman and Islamophobic bigot is also demanding that New York City mayoral candidate Zohran Mamdani be deported.

Preparing to crush resistance

At his news conference, Trump [threatened to send troops](#) to Chicago, New York City, Baltimore and Oakland, California, after already doing so in Los Angeles. **All these cities have Black mayors.**

As [Larry Hamm](#), chairperson of the New Jersey-based People’s Organization for Progress, pointed out, “Trump’s attack on Washington, D.C., is an attack on Black self-determination and Black political power which are seen as obstacles by white supremacists to their apartheid agenda for the U.S.”

It's been revealed that the Pentagon is preparing secret plans to establish a "Domestic Civil Disturbance Quick Reaction Force" to crush anti-Trump protests. "The plan calls for 600 troops to be on standby at all times so they can deploy in as little as one hour," according to the [Washington Post](#).

Back in 2020, when millions of people took to the streets during the Black Lives Matter movement, Trump wanted to declare martial law. Will this "Quick Reaction Force" also be used to help cancel the 2026 or 2028 elections?

The scheme's author is [Elbridge Colby](#), the Defense Department's undersecretary for policy. Colby is primarily known as an anti-China war hawk.

It's another example of the link between U.S. imperialism's wars abroad and its continuous war against poor people at home. Future Pentagon bosses Donald Rumsfeld and Dick Cheney dismantled anti-poverty programs for Nixon.

One of Colby's grandfathers was the late war criminal and CIA director William Colby. During the Vietnam War, the senior Colby was head of Operation Phoenix, which assassinated thousands of Vietnamese people.

A 600-strong "Quick Reaction Force" might be too small to stop hundreds of thousands of people from protesting. Is it being prepared to take out movement organizers instead?



Same-sex marriage is absolutely on the chopping block

written by Struggle - La Lucha

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We've had a decade of marriage equality—and that may be all we're going to get.

When the Supreme Court decided [*Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*](#) in 2022, it didn't just reverse *Roe v. Wade* and eliminate the constitutional right to an abortion, it opened the door for challenges to all substantive due process rights cases. These are cases that relate to the intimate areas of a person's life: sex, birth, and marriage, mostly.

That means that [*Obergefell v. Hodges*](#)—the landmark case that legalized same-sex marriage in 2015—is squarely in the crosshairs. But people don't want to believe it. And it's making me want to walk into the mountains with no water supply.

I've been active on social media for almost 15 years, and for years before *Roe* was overturned, irate Twitter mobs would descend upon me whenever I warned that

abortion rights were on the chopping block. People said I was being dramatic. That I should stop fearmongering. *The Supreme Court would never take away the right to abortion*, they cried. *It's been settled law for almost 50 years!*

And then [Dobbs](#) came along, and the Court did exactly that.

You'd think being right about *Roe* would earn me some benefit of the doubt. But no.

Once again, I see people arguing that marriage equality is safe. Even some well-regarded [lawyers](#) and legal scholars have [contended that there "aren't five votes" to overturn it](#).

They're wrong. The votes are there.

And when the conservatives on the Court train their sights on the other renowned substantive due process cases—*Griswold v. Connecticut* which legalized the right to contraception for married couples, *Loving v. Virginia*, which decriminalized interracial marriage, and *Lawrence v. Texas*, which decriminalized same-sex intimacy—it's a pretty solid bet that the votes to overturn those cases will be there, too.

No 'history and tradition' of same-sex marriage

The six conservatives on the Court have signaled either that substantive due process rights don't exist, or that they should be limited to whatever white, property-owning men thought was fine in the late 1700s.

Substantive due process rights are unenumerated rights, meaning they're not spelled out in the Bill of Rights or elsewhere in the U.S. Constitution. For the conservatives on this Court, if a right didn't exist when powdered wigs were in style and the founders didn't list it in the Constitution, then it can be tossed out because it's not "deeply rooted in the nation's history and tradition"—and gee whiz that's just

too bad.

If the “history and tradition” language sounds familiar, that’s because it’s the same test Justice Samuel Alito used in *Dobbs* to overturn *Roe*. And it’s the same blueprint the conservatives on the Court will use to reverse *Obergefell* and eliminate the federal right to same-sex marriage.

In his *Dobbs* concurrence, Justice Clarence Thomas explicitly said that *Obergefell*, *Griswold*, and *Lawrence* were “‘demonstrably erroneous’” and should be reconsidered. He wasn’t being coy. (Perhaps he was being coy when he omitted *Loving v. Virginia*, which struck down laws banning interracial marriage, from his list of substantive due process cases to axe. After all, it would make for awkward pillow talk with his wife, Ginni, who is white.)

“As I have previously explained, ‘substantive due process’ is an oxymoron that ‘lack[s] any basis in the Constitution.’”

That’s what Justice Thomas [wrote](#) in *Dobbs* in reference to *Obergefell*, *Griswold*, and *Lawrence*. He was referring to the rights to same-sex marriage, contraception, and consensual sex that those cases established.

Enter Kim Davis. She’s the former county clerk from Kentucky who turned her refusal to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples into a decade-long martyrdom tour, [complete with a jail stint](#) and endless whinging about “religious freedom.” She’s back at the Supreme Court asking the justices for a second time to overturn *Obergefell v. Hodges* and eliminate nationwide marriage equality.

Davis has been locked in a battle with David Ermold and David Moore—the couple to



whom she notoriously refused to provide a marriage license in the days immediately following the Court's decision in *Obergefell* in 2015. Five years later—after some rulings didn't go her way—she filed a petition asking the Supreme Court to overturn *Obergefell* in 2020.

The Court declined, over the [pointed dissent of Justices Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito](#). Her case went to trial in 2023, and Davis was ultimately ordered to pay Ermold and Moore [\\$360,000 in damages and legal fees](#).

She doesn't want to pay, of course—so back to the Supreme Court she goes. Davis [filed a new petition](#) with the Supreme Court on July 24 asking the justices—for a second time—to pretty please overturn *Obergefell*.

I'm tempted to ignore Davis' efforts because, frankly, the woman needs a hobby. But it's not the halcyon days of 2015 anymore, and the current political climate is ripe for shenanigans when it comes to LGBTQ+ rights—so this petition sets off warning bells in my head.

Marriage equality is not safe

When I caution folks that *Obergefell* is not as untouchable as they think, I get the same tired cocktail of denial and delusion: *It would be too complicated to undo. The [polling is too strong](#). What about the Respect for Marriage Act?*

Yeah, well, a majority of Americans liked abortion rights, too—[about 61 percent](#). The Court eliminated federal abortion protections anyway.

Here's the reality: Conservatives want to send same-sex marriage back to the states—the same way they sent abortion rights back to the states. And the way they're going to do it is to claim that there's no "history and tradition" of marriage equality in the United States and therefore it should be left up to "the people."

The "history and tradition" language comes from a 1997 case called [Washington v. Glucksberg](#).

In *Glucksberg*, the Supreme Court unanimously ruled that the Due Process Clause of the U.S. Constitution—which [says](#) that "No State shall ... deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law"—does not protect a right to physician-assisted suicide. Why? In an opinion penned by William Rehnquist (one of the two dissenters in *Roe*), the Court ruled that physician-assisted suicide was not "'deeply rooted in this nation's history and tradition'" or "'implicit in the concept of ordered liberty.'"

Conservatives' reliance on "history and tradition" language to strike down modern laws [has proliferated in recent years](#).

In 2022, Clarence Thomas writing for the majority in [New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen](#) invoked "history and tradition" to strike down a New York gun law that infringed on an enumerated right—the Second Amendment right to bear arms. And in 2023, right-wing Trump judge [Matthew Kacsmaryk](#) cited "history and tradition" in upholding West Texas A&M's cancellation of a student drag show [because historically, drag shows weren't protected expressive conduct](#) under the First Amendment.

'Christian conservatives are coming for *Obergefell*'

[It's no secret that Christian conservatives are coming for *Obergefell*.](#)

They've been telegraphing it for years—through court filings, state legislation, and those [not-so-subtle speeches at Federalist Society events](#). With the Supreme Court stacked with conservatives who are already comfortable tossing out precedent, Christian conservatives are just waiting for the right case to tee up the question of whether marriage equality should survive at all.

And with Kim Davis' latest appeal to the Supreme Court, that case may have just landed in the justices' laps.

Of course, they may turn Davis down again. But if there's one thing right-wing culture warriors are, it's persistent. It took 49 years to overturn *Roe*; anti-abortion advocates started campaigning against legalized abortion as soon as *Roe* was decided, and they never stopped. Opponents of same-sex marriage are just as fervent. If the Court won't take Davis' case, Christian conservatives will find a better one.

And when that case makes its way to the Supreme Court, the six Federalist Society darlings on the bench will rely on *Glucksberg*, the physician assisted suicide case, to take down *Obergefell*—just like they relied on *Glucksberg* to take down *Roe*.

Their reasoning will boil down to the same claim: There's no "history and tradition" of same-sex marriage in this country.

They have six votes to end marriage equality

Why am I so convinced there are six Supreme Court justices willing to overturn *Obergefell*? Let's start with the obvious ones.

Alito and Thomas have been blatant in their contempt for *Obergefell* since the day it was decided a decade ago.

In his *Obergefell* dissent, Alito referenced *Glucksberg* and complained that same-sex marriage is not “‘deeply rooted in this nation’s history and tradition.’” (Hey, Sam? The Constitution doesn’t actually mention marriage at all.)

And when the Supreme Court declined to hear Davis’ 2020 appeal, Thomas [wrote in a dissent for himself](#)—with Alito joining—that *Obergefell* amounted to “an alteration of the Constitution” and that the Court had “created a problem that only it can fix.”

In his *Dobbs* concurrence, Thomas argued that “liberty” only means freedom from physical restraint—it couldn’t possibly mean the freedom to marry a person of the same sex. He also specifically called for the Court to reconsider *Obergefell*, calling the ruling “demonstrably erroneous.”

Now let’s talk about Justice Neil Gorsuch. Don’t let his [opinion in *Bostock v. Clayton County*](#) protecting LGBTQ+ workers under Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act fool you into thinking he cares about LGBTQ+ rights. Gorsuch also signed on to Alito’s *Dobbs* opinion, which, again, uses the “history and tradition” framework to wipe out abortion. That is the blueprint for reversing *Obergefell* and allowing states to criminalize same-sex marriage again.

Justice Brett Kavanaugh signed onto *Dobbs*, too, and made a big show of saying in his [concurring opinion](#) that the Court’s decision “properly leaves the question of abortion for the people and their elected representatives.” That is exactly the argument conservatives on the Court will use to send the issue of same-sex marriage back to “the people”—the same way they sent abortion back to “the people” with *Dobbs*. As of 2022, [35 states still had laws criminalizing same-sex marriage on the books](#), by the way.

Justice Amy Coney Barrett is a social conservative [who doesn’t believe the courts should invent rights](#) not grounded in the text or original meaning of the Constitution. She clerked for the late Justice Antonin Scalia, who [dissented in *Obergefell* in his](#)

[quintessential caustic style](#). And she helped vaporize *Roe* without hesitation. Why would she not do the same to *Obergefell*?

And Chief Justice John Roberts? He may not have joined Alito's dissent in *Dobbs*—preferring instead to write his own separate opinion—but don't mistake that for moderation. [Roberts was all-in on dismantling abortion rights](#)—he just wanted to do it more slowly. (And ultimately, he concurred in the *Dobbs* judgment that Mississippi's 15-week ban was constitutional.)

Roberts exhibited no such restraint about same-sex marriage. In *Obergefell*, Roberts disagreed with the ruling so strongly that he read his [dissent](#) from the bench—a move reserved for when judges are really mad, and they want everybody to know it. The Court's decision to legalize same-sex marriage had “nothing to do” with the Constitution, Roberts grouched.

The Court doesn't care much for public opinion

As for polling? Don't talk to me about polling. Gallup surveys show that [two-thirds of Americans support marriage equality](#), but that doesn't matter. This Court is not responsive to popular opinion. If [they were, they wouldn't have overturned Roe](#).

And please don't tell me the [Respect for Marriage Act](#) will save same-sex marriage.

The Respect for Marriage Act, which repealed the Defense of Marriage Act in 2022 and made it clear that the federal government and state governments must recognize marriages that were legal in the state they were performed—including same-sex and interracial marriages—is riddled with broad religious exemptions. For example, it still allows religious nonprofits to refuse to marry same-sex couples—which is why, I suspect, [some of the 12 Republicans](#) who voted yes ended up supporting the Democrat-sponsored legislation.

In any case, the Respect for Marriage Act would still allow states to refuse to issue

marriage licenses for same-sex couples if *Obergefell* were to fall. Those states would only have to recognize same-sex marriages performed in other states. Wonderful. So queer folks in Texas could still get married post-*Obergefell* in California, as a treat.

Finally, [some people have insisted](#) that the Supreme Court wouldn't dare undo marriage equality because it would cause too much political fallout. That's the same argument people made, mistakenly, about *Roe*.

[We know this Court doesn't care much about backlash](#). It doesn't care about democracy. It cares about enshrining a white Christian nationalist agenda into constitutional law. Just look at their recent rulings.

Marriage equality is absolutely on the chopping block. It's not a question of if, but when a clean case challenging *Obergefell* gets filed.

And when that case arrives at the Supreme Court, mark my words: The conservative votes will be there. All six of them.

Source: [Rewire News Group](#)



The siege of Washington, D.C.: Trump's police state goes live

written by Struggle - La Lucha
September 4, 2025

Aug. 8 — In an escalation of his authoritarian ambitions, President Donald Trump has ordered a massive mobilization of federal police and military personnel to patrol the streets of Washington, D.C. The move marks another step toward the consolidation of a police-state regime, with Trump openly threatening a federal takeover of the capital city and the deployment of the National Guard to suppress dissent.

Washington, D.C., is a federal territory (the District of Columbia) and is not part of any state. Under the Home Rule Act of 1973, it has an elected mayor and city council, but Congress retains ultimate authority and can (and regularly does) override local laws and budgets. Residents can vote for president, as granted by the 23rd Amendment, and are represented in the U.S. House of Representatives by a non-voting delegate. They have no representation in the U.S. Senate. Since 2000, standard D.C. license plates have carried the phrase “Taxation Without

Representation.”

A show of force

Federal officers from at least 15 agencies — including the Secret Service, Homeland Security, ICE, the FBI, and the U.S. Marshals — have been deployed across Washington, supplementing the city’s 3,400 Metropolitan Police officers. At least 120 federal agents were on the streets Friday night, Aug. 8, with White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt warning that the operation could expand “as needed.”

But Trump is not stopping there. In a series of statements, he has threatened to take over the local government and flood the city with National Guard troops. On his far-right social media platform, Truth Social, he declared:

“If D.C. doesn’t get its act together, and quickly, we will have no choice but to take Federal control of the City, and run this City how it should be run, and put criminals on notice that they’re not going to get away with it anymore.”

At a press briefing Wednesday, Trump doubled down, stating, “We have to run D.C.” — adding that this might include “bringing in the National Guard — maybe very quickly, too.” When asked about repealing D.C.’s limited home rule, established in 1973, he casually remarked, “The lawyers are already studying it.”

A long-planned power grab

This is not the first time Trump has sought to impose martial law in the capital. During the 2020 George Floyd protests, he pushed for military deployment, only to be blocked by Pentagon officials who feared the resistance of the troops, who were sympathetic with the Black Lives Matter protests, saying that the military should not be engaged in domestic law enforcement.

The pretext for this latest crackdown? A single attempted carjacking in Dupont

Circle involving a former staffer of the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), the budget-slashing task force set up by Elon Musk. Two 15-year-olds have been arrested, but Trump is using the incident to demand harsher penalties for juvenile offenders — part of a broader law-and-order narrative that ignores FBI data showing a decline in violent crime in D.C. over the past five years.

White House Deputy Chief of Staff Stephen Miller, Trump's most openly fascistic adviser, took the fearmongering to grotesque extremes, claiming that Washington is "more violent than Baghdad, more violent than parts of Ethiopia, and parts of many of the most dangerous places in the world." The implication was clear: The capital, like a warzone, must be pacified by force.

Militarizing the U.S.: A broader agenda

Trump's actions in D.C. fit a disturbing pattern of normalizing military repression. Earlier this year, he deployed Marines to the U.S.-Mexico border. On Aug. 8, the New York Times reported that Trump has secretly signed an order directing the military to take action against so-called drug cartels and other criminal groups in Latin America and the Caribbean, immediately targeting the sovereign countries of Mexico, Venezuela and Haiti.

In June, 4,000 National Guard troops and a brigade of 700 Marines were deployed into Los Angeles following widespread protests of ICE Gestapo-style raids. And on his birthday, June 14, Trump staged a militarized spectacle in Washington, complete with tanks and warplanes — a not-so-subtle display of his authoritarian vision.

Meanwhile, ICE has launched sweeping raids in cities across the country including New York City, Chicago, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Phoenix, Denver, Miami, Atlanta, Seattle, Washington, D.C., Newark, Boston, San Jose, and multiple cities in Texas such as Houston, Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth, San Antonio, and Laredo. Many seem designed to provoke clashes and justify further crackdowns. The goal? To condition

the public to accept armed troops in the streets as a fact of life.

The January 6 hypocrisy

Trump's "law and order" rhetoric is steeped in hypocrisy. The most violent episode in recent D.C. history was the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection — incited by Trump himself. Five people died, and over 130 Capitol Police officers were injured in the assault. Yet since returning to office, Trump has pardoned the rioters while purging the Justice Department of officials who investigated the coup attempt.

The media's silence on this history is deafening. Instead of holding Trump accountable, the political establishment treats his authoritarian threats as mere rhetoric — even as he lays the groundwork for dictatorship.

A government at war with the people

Trump's actions reveal a regime in crisis, lashing out at a population that overwhelmingly rejects its policies. His approval ratings have cratered below 40%. ICE raids have met protests in nearly every city and even in the countryside. The June 14 "No Kings" protests saw over 10 million take to the streets in the largest one-day demonstration in U.S. history. The message has been sent, but it'll take action to deliver it effectively.

Trump is moving fast — and if the people do not act faster, the streets of Washington may soon resemble those of an occupied city.

