



### INSIDE:

U.S. war-drive in Yemen

Vigil for Jakelin

Justice for Jazmine!

Los Angeles teachers!

# RACIST POLICING a public health issue

Gloria Verdieu is a longtime San Diego activist, well known for her tireless work on progressive issues and especially her dedication to causes of particular importance to the African-American community. As a leader of San Diego's Committee Against Police Brutality, she was asked to speak at the "Ending Police Violence" shadow session at the American Public Health Association meeting held in San Diego from Nov. 10 through 13 (See the accompanying report). The Public Health Justice Collective convened the plenum "Health Equity Now: Ending Police Violence" as an addendum to the annual meeting. This plenum was held at the Centro Cultural de la Raza in San Diego's Balboa Park and included a keynote address by professor Alex Vitale, author of "The End of Policing." Modern policing in the United States and Western Europe has two origins: the systems of controlling enslaved Africans and surveilling poor and working people. In both instances, policing has remained a tool to disrupt the survival and self-determination of oppressed people.

What follows is a slightly edited version of Verdieu's presentation:

In a recent article titled "Police killings and brutality damage mental health of Black communities," it says that policing should be treated like a public health issue, forcing the entire system of recruitment and training to change. Boston University's School of Health and the University of Pennsylvania released a study that found that the high rate of unarmed African-Americans being killed at the hands of police has caused more incidents of depression, stress and other mental health issues among Blacks. In other words, overwhelming police brutality is damaging the mental health of African-Americans — even those who have no direct connection to men, women and teens who have lost their lives at the hands of police. This report was released two days after 17-year-old Antwon Rose II was shot, June 19, 2018, by police in East Pittsburgh following a traffic stop.

Here is a recent Facebook post by a Black man in San Diego: "Today I was in America, driving an American car with American license plates down an American road when a Border Patrol agent stopped and asked me what country I was from." Even though I did not have information to determine if this stop was right or wrong, I was relieved that no one was killed, locked up, tazed, choked or beat up.

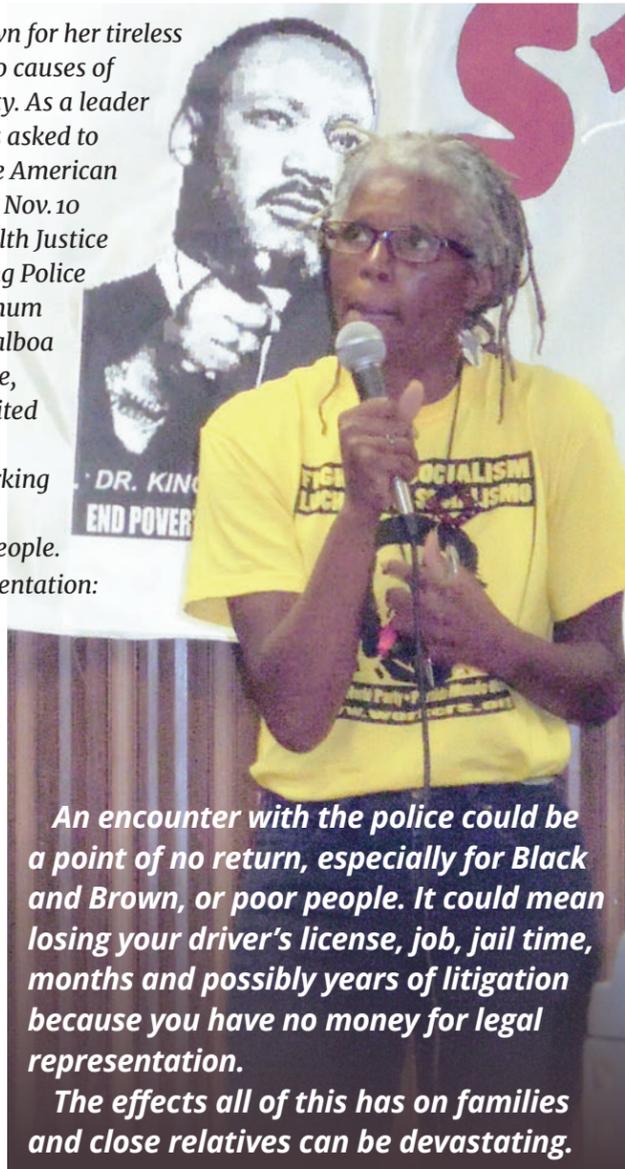
I thought about the times that I was followed and/or stopped by the police. I recalled how nervous and stressed I became, wondering what I did wrong. Checking the passenger seat to make sure I had my purse where I keep my driver's license and that my registration and insurance cards were in the glove compartment and, at the same time, reminding myself to stay calm. You see, I know what to do if stopped by the police. After all, I am an organizer with the Committee Against Police Brutality.

What about all the people — Black, Brown, Asian, Indigenous and white — who can't calm down or for whatever reason don't have insurance or registration? They may know their rights, but express them in the wrong tone, because they haven't been trained on what to do when stopped by the police, or they are just stressed, frustrated and at that moment lose it.

It is normal to have anxiety and some stress when a police car is behind you. But there is a point when we become so stressed that our health is affected. Why so stressed? An encounter with the police could be a point of no return, especially for Black and Brown, or poor people. It could mean losing your driver's license, job, jail time, months and possibly years of litigation because you have no money for legal representation. The effects all of this has on families and close relatives can be devastating.

We see this happening all across the nation and in San Diego.

Twenty-three-year-old Sagon Penn was racially profiled by San Diego police on March 31, 1985. He fought the charges against him and was acquitted after two trials, but committed suicide in 2002. Six-



*An encounter with the police could be a point of no return, especially for Black and Brown, or poor people. It could mean losing your driver's license, job, jail time, months and possibly years of litigation because you have no money for legal representation.*

*The effects all of this has on families and close relatives can be devastating.*

teen years have passed and his family is still deeply affected and continues to look for answers.

Twenty-year-old Sonserra Holloway was killed by a Border Patrol agent in the San Diego neighborhood of City Heights in 2000. She was 5 months pregnant. Her mother, Chery, who became an activist for years following the murder, has now moved away. The last time I spoke with her, she said, "My life and my other children's lives will never recover."

Billye Venable, Anastasio Hernández, Victor Ortega, Valeria Tachiquín, Alfred Olango, are only a few of over 100 people killed by the police in San Diego since 1999 when CAPB started recording people killed by the police. It's a partial list, because we will never know exactly how many because the state has no comprehensive database that lists the names of those killed by police.

These are people who paid the ultimate price when stopped or confronted with law enforcement. The number multiplies when we consider those who were beat up, in litigation, in jail or prison for years. Their families paid the cost and did the time along with them.

A documentary on Native American health and healing said that the primary source of health issues is stress, emotional stress, family stress, time related stress and the many other things that can cause mental stress in the mind and body. It went on to say that stress affects every tissue in the body — the digestive system, the cardiovascular system, diarrhea, heart disease, the list goes on. This is a concern for all of us, but Black and Brown people face high doses of stress daily just driving or walking while Black or Brown.

Policing has a negative effect on the health and safety of our communities because many of us see the police as a force that intimidates and harrasses the communities who pay them to protect and serve.

Policing is a public health issue! 📢

## GLOBAL

### AFRICA

## More U.S. military operations than anywhere else

"Africa has more named operations than any other theater," says retired Brig. Gen. Donald Bolduc, who served as commander of Special Operations Command Africa from April 2015 to June 2017. U.S. military operations are spread over at least 33 countries in Africa.



In 2017, U.S. troops carried out an average of nearly 10 missions per day — 3,500 exercises, programs and engagements for the year — across the African continent, according to Gen. Thomas Waldhauser, the Africom (United States Africa Command) commander.

Read more at <https://tinyurl.com/yajsrzsv>

### PALESTINE

## Interview with PFLP General Secretary Ahmad Sa'adat

An interview with imprisoned Palestinian leftist leader, Ahmad Sa'adat, the general secretary of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), was published in the Italian newspaper Il Manifesto.



Sa'adat says: "Trump's declaration on recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of the Israeli state and the transfer of the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem is the natural continuation of 100 years of colonization in Palestine and the 1917 Balfour Declaration.

"It is part and parcel of the ongoing attempt to liquidate Palestinian rights and to accelerate the ethnic cleansing of our people, especially in Jerusalem. Palestinians across the board politically reject Trump's attempt to eliminate the Palestinian cause.

"Our people are resisting and rejecting this attempt not only with words, but with action: the launch of a true, heroic popular uprising in Gaza — the Great March of Return, in the spirit of the first Intifada and with the participation of the PFLP and a broad range of Palestinian political forces."

Read the full interview at [Samidoun](http://Samidoun)

### CHINA

## Meng arrest: a huge provocation

The arrest of Huawei chief financial officer Meng Wanzhou is an escalation of the Trump administration's intensifying moves against China.

The U.S. requested that Canada arrest Meng in the Vancouver, British Columbia, airport and then extradite her to the U.S. The U.S. never arrests businesspeople for a company's alleged crimes. Corporate managers are arrested only for alleged personal crimes such as theft. The arrest of Meng is unprecedented.

Read more at [How the 'Five Eyes' cooked up the campaign to kill Huawei](http://How the 'Five Eyes' cooked up the campaign to kill Huawei). 📢

# What Sanders won't say Built-in U.S. war drive fuels genocide in Yemen

By John Parker

The humanitarian crisis in Yemen demands, as a first step, the unconditional withdrawal of U.S. weapons and military aid — not excuses to justify remaining a partner in genocide.

It doesn't matter whether Washington calls its own political structure a democracy and another country a dictatorship or failed state. These are words used by the powers-that-be to vilify their targets and ease public acceptance of imperialist war.

What actually matters is the fact that a much more powerful imperialist country is terrorizing a sovereign nation for the ultimate purpose of profit.

As V.I. Lenin, leader of the 1917 Russian Revolution, wrote when analysing World War 1: "The struggle for markets and for plundering foreign lands, the eagerness to head off the revolutionary movement of the proletariat and to crush democracy within each country, the urge to deceive, divide, and crush the proletarians of all countries, to incite the wage slaves of one nation against the wage slaves of another nation for the profits of the bourgeoisie — that is the only real content and meaning of the war." (August 1914.)

We hear both Republican and Democratic Party politicians — even some who call themselves socialists — pushing for wars in Iraq, Libya and Afghanistan, or whipping up fear against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK or North Korea). Yemen is also one of their targets.

For years, Saudi Arabia has been violating the sovereignty of the people of Yemen in their fight against U.S. and Saudi domination. The movement of resistance, Ansar Allah (called Houthi rebels in the U.S. media), at one point successfully overthrew a government tied to Saudi Arabia and the U.S. It was then met with attacks from both al-Qaida and the coalition forces of the U.S. and Saudi Arabia.

Here's how a CBS news report from Nov. 28 described the situation: "With weapons supplied by the U.S., Saudi Arabia is capable of much greater damage. The Saudi-led coalition has hit weddings, markets and schools with airstrikes, according to a U.N. report, and aid groups say a Saudi blockade has contributed to a deadly cholera outbreak, leaving thousands dead."

A Nov. 20 report by Save the Children, citing United Nations data, states that some 85,000 children under age 5 may have died from extreme hunger or disease since the war in Yemen escalated. According to the charity, this is a conservative estimate of the effects of severe acute malnutrition between April 2015 and October 2018.



School bus bombed in Yemen.

According to the report: "Almost four years since the brutal conflict in Yemen escalated, the U.N. says that up to 14 million people are at risk of famine. That number has increased dramatically since the Saudi and Emirati-led coalition imposed a month-long blockade of Yemen just over a year ago."

That blockade couldn't happen without U.S. assistance.

## Loopholes to continue war

On Nov. 28, Sen. Bernie Sanders forced a Senate vote that allowed debate on his bill, SJR 54, resulting in its approval on Dec. 13. The bill is supposedly meant to end U.S. support for the war against Yemen, and its victory has been lauded by many well-meaning progressives, who may not have looked under the hood before they bought what Sanders was selling.

Some suspicion was warranted given Sanders' contradictory international record, including his backward stance on Venezuela and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Some of that past support for U.S. wars, in fact, helped pave the way for the humanitarian crisis we are witnessing today in Yemen. This speaks to the influence of the military-industrial complex even on politicians who have a more progressive domestic agenda.

According to an April 1, 2016, article by Alexander Cohen in Politico, entitled "The Defense Industry's Surprising 2016 Favorites: Bernie & Hillary":

"Despite advocating steep cuts in defense spending, Sanders' campaign has accepted at least \$310,055 from defense-related workers — more than any Republican presidential candidate — since the start of the 2016 campaign cycle."

This may explain why the recent bill by Sanders, although presented as a measure to stop Washington's involvement in Yemen, would actually justify further atrocities by the U.S. and Saudi Arabia, in addition to allowing two huge loopholes to continue war cooperation with Saudi Arabia.

Although the Sanders bill does not name the 2001 Authorization for Use of Military Force (AUMF) waiver, it emphatically states that engagement and assistance to Saudi forces is justified as long as the claim of al-Qaida involvement is made by either country. And, as history has shown time and again, the actual presence or nonpresence of al-Qaida is irrelevant to the claims made by the U.S.

The second loophole is even bigger. When the bill was presented on Dec. 13, it also allowed an amendment that reads: "As Modified; To provide that nothing in the joint resolution shall be construed to influence or disrupt any military operations and cooperation with Israel."

As the Associated Press reported on Aug. 6, al-Qaida, Saudi Arabia and the U.S. have been working together against the Ansar Allah forces, which are actually fighting al-Qaida. That association between the Saudis, the U.S. and al-Qaida, again, makes this bill useless, since wherever the U.S. is fighting in Yemen, as in the U.S. war against Syria, al-Qaida forces are close by, and sometimes in collaboration.

On Sept. 19, 2016, the Washing-

ton Post admitted it was likely the U.S. gave white phosphorus weapons to Saudi Arabia to use in Yemen. That Sanders' bill would basically do nothing to stop the use of these types of weapons against the children of Yemen speaks volumes about the complicity of the Democrats and their supporters, whose talents mostly center on quieting dissent against U.S. war crimes.

Although the money going to Democratic, pro-Democratic and Republican politicians explains their support of U.S. wars, it doesn't explain why the ruling class, the financial and industrial monopolists who run this country, pay to maintain these wars in the first place. But their profit motive and billions of dollars in arms sales to the Saudi alliance does.

## Quelling people's anger

After the revelations came out last year about mass starvation from the U.S.-assisted war in Yemen, and especially after Washington Post journalist Jamal Khashoggi's murder at the Saudi Arabian Consulate in Istanbul last October, people began to respond with anger and shock.

A way of appeasing that anger had to be manufactured. Not with a bill that would actually stop U.S. assistance vital to the Saudi war against Yemen — but with one that could calm the opposition while continuing to block self-determination for the people of Yemen, which would likely threaten U.S. profits.

As Lenin explained in his scientific analysis of capitalism's final, imperialist stage, the constant acquisition of land, resources and increased exploitation of labor is required to fend off a continual decline or decay in its ability to maintain ruling-class profits. This requires more war and denying the working class even more of the wealth created through its labor.

Taking basic social services away from workers is a direct consequence of the trillions of dollars necessary to prosecute imperialist wars. Dollars denied to our communities, and the wars that steal the wealth of workers abroad, lead to more police and Immigration and Customs Enforcement brutality here at home, to keep the people in fear so they won't demand the wealth that they created.

Instead of being satisfied with whatever piece of legislative rotten meat is thrown our way, let's come together and make our own solutions. Let's work on shutting this system down and demanding that not one more child die in criminal wars for profit. [📧](#)

## U.S. withdrawal from Syria, Kurdistan

On Dec. 19, President Donald Trump announced plans to withdraw U.S. ground troops from Syria. This long overdue acknowledgement of the defeat of imperialism's strategy to dismember the Syrian Arab Republic set off a firestorm in Washington. Defense Secretary James "Mad Dog" Mattis announced his resignation over the decision.

This has led to much confusion on the left, with some groups even call-



## CHICAGO

### Charter school strikers win

After a 5-day strike, school workers in the Chicago Acero/Uno charter network won a contract that will reduce class size, make the system compliant with special education requirements and bring pay equality with public school workers.

The strike drew national attention from educators and labor leaders who recognized the historic significance of challenging the influential business interests and corporate elites who promote charters as a cornerstone of their school privatization agenda, a Chicago Teachers Union statement said.

"This is a victory for every educator who sees children getting shortchanged by privatization, and charter operators putting their business models over the needs of our students," said Chris Baehrend, chair of the CTU Charter Division.

[Teacher's Union statement online](#)

## AMAZON

### Workers' union drive

The internet monopoly capitalists — Amazon, Apple, Facebook, Google and Microsoft — look a lot like the robber barons of the 19th century when it comes to workers' rights. Not one of them has recognized a labor union.

Amazon has blocked all efforts to unionize since its founding in 1994. Time magazine headlined a story in 2014: "How Amazon crushed the union movement."

Amazon, with a global workforce of 566,000, has the highest employee turnover rate of all the Fortune 500 companies but one. These workers want a union. On Dec. 11, workers at Amazon's recently opened New York City warehouse announced a new organizing drive.

And on Dec. 14, a group of workers at an Amazon warehouse in the Minneapolis suburb of Shakopee led a protest demanding better working conditions. East African immigrants make up a majority of the workforce at the massive warehouse.

*Continued on page 4*

ing for continuing the illegal U.S. occupation to "protect" Kurdish Rojava.

Struggle-La Lucha will write more about this situation. For now, we present an article by Sam Marcy written after the 1991 U.S. war against Iraq. Marcy's article gives a historic perspective on the Kurdish struggle for self-determination and the imperialist role in the Middle East. Read the article online at [struggle-la-lucha.org/kurdistan](http://struggle-la-lucha.org/kurdistan), [historical-perspective](http://struggle-la-lucha.org/historical-perspective).

## U.S. crimes at the border

# 7-year-old Guatemalan child dies in custody

By Sharon Black

Jakelin Amei Rosmery Caal Maquín was barely 7 years old when she died on Dec. 8 following her detention by U.S. Customs and Border Protection. She had traveled with her father, Nery Gilberto Caal Cuz, some 2,000 miles from Alta Verapaz, a rural Indigenous community in Guatemala, to seek asylum in the U.S.

A full, independent investigation has yet to be conducted. What we do know from her father's statement to the media is that Jakelin had eaten and had water prior to being taken into custody by the Border Patrol. She and her father were among a group of 161 asylum seekers detained at Antelope Wells, in a remote area of the New Mexico desert.

Life-threatening circumstances for migrants are knowingly created by the federal policy that places border sentries on international bridges to block people from entering the U.S., forcing crossings at much more dangerous and remote spots.

Both were first detained at the Bounds Forward Operating Base, one of 17 military bases recently constructed in Texas, Arizona and New Mexico. The purpose of these outposts is to catch people, including children. They are not staffed to respond to medical crises even though they deal with large numbers of refugees and migrants in a harsh environment.

Department of Homeland Security investigators earlier found that the bases were plagued with contaminated and potentially unsafe drinking water. "They found 'excessive amounts' of chlorine, iron and dirt in water at the bases," according to their report," according to the Daily Beast.

It took 8 hours before buses arrived to take the asylum seekers, including Jakelin and her father, to their next destination at the Border Patrol Processing Center in Lordsburg, N.M. It was another 90 minutes before Jakelin was transported for emergency medical treatment. By then her temperature was 105.9 degrees Fahrenheit and she was having convulsions, according to the Washington Post.

Jakelin died 15 hours later with her father at her side.

The Guardian reported Maquin's Grandfather said the Guatemalan family lived on \$5 per day earned harvesting corn and beans, and Jakelin's father, Nery Gilberto Caal Cuz,

hoped to be able to send money home from the U.S.

In another example of the cruel hardships and separations that migrant and refugee families face, a Guatemalan man, Noé Aguilar, was recently denied a visa by the Trump administration to attend the funeral of his 13-year-old daughter in North Carolina. The child, Hania Aguilar, was kidnapped outside her mother's home and murdered.

### No borders in workers' struggle

Struggle—La Lucha spoke with John Parker, a leader of the Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice in Los Angeles. Parker and his group recently traveled to the Mexican border city of Tijuana to deliver aid to the refugee caravan, along with the

American Indian Movement SoCal, #Me Too International March Movement, Cosecha and others. These groups continue to collect aid and travel regularly to the border.

"As a father, I found the news of Jakelin's death to be deeply painful and troubling," said Parker. "The rights of all asylum seekers are being violated. Frankly, all walls need to be torn down, from Mexico to Palestine."

Asked why he felt so passionately about this issue, he explained that his son, who like Parker is Black, is at risk daily of experiencing police terror in Los Angeles. He worries every time his son leaves the house. "So I understand what it means to be a parent who could lose a child."

Parker exclaimed, "There are no borders in the workers' struggle." [📄](#)



Jakelin Amei Rosmery Caal Maquín

## Vigil for Jakelin

By John Parker  
Los Angeles

On Dec. 17, seventeen organizations, including the American Indian Movement, SoCal; Me Too March International; Black Lives Matter; Unión del Barrio; the National Day Laborer Organizing Network; the California Poor People's Campaign; California for Progress; La Comunidad Ixim; the Answer Coalition; Occupy ICE; and the Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice, united to build the Struggle for Justice vigil for 7-year-old Jakelin Amei Rosmery Caal Maquín. Jakelin died while under the custody of the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol.

Greg Akili of Black Lives Matter Los Angeles explained that the criminalization and separation of migrants from Central and South America is similar to the criminalization of Black people in the U.S. and that everyone must support asylum for those seeking entry into this country.

Many speakers slammed Democratic Congressperson Norma Torres, who at the rally implied that equal blame for the death of Jakelin should be placed on the governments of Central America. Yolanda Marela Gonzalez, a school teacher, responded: "Jakelin was our baby, and the CBP [Customs and Border Patrol] and ICE [Immigration and Customs Enforcement] cannot stop the legacy of murder they are committing right now. We are here to tell them that the genocide against our Indigenous and Black people must stop. I was calling out the Congresswoman Torres because the Democrats are just as guilty. They're corporatist globalists and they don't care if we die, but they do come out for their photo op. It is incumbent upon all of us to continue this fight



## Justice for Jazmine!

### Rally supports Black mother and infant assaulted by cops

By Greg Butterfield  
Brooklyn, N.Y.

More than two dozen people gathered outside a New York City Human Resources Administration office in Boerum Hill, Brooklyn, on Dec. 11, for a rally and press conference to demand "Justice for Jazmine."

"We are here today to demand justice for Jazmine Headley and all the unknown Jazmine Headleys — Black women who are victimized for simply trying to live like human beings and take care of their families," declared Amadi Ajamu of the December 12th Movement, which called the lunchtime rally.

Headley, a 23-year-old African-American single mom, and her infant son Damone were attacked inside the overcrowded HRA office on Dec. 7. Headley had been standing in line for hours, holding her child, waiting to apply for daycare vouchers so she could look for work. Since few chairs

were provided for those seeking assistance, Headley sat on the floor.

Instead of providing her with a seat, HRA security threatened her and told her she had to stand. Headley refused. Police were called and attacked Headley, violently wrestling her child from her arms as angry bystanders protested. One cop threatened the crowd with a taser.

Headley was arrested on charges of trespassing, resisting arrest and "endangering the welfare of a child" — her own child! — whom she was trying to protect from the violent NYPD!

Fortunately, a bystander caught the assault on video and posted it to Facebook. The outrageous case of police brutality went viral. People were furious at the racist, sexist, abusive attack — and it caused many to wonder whether this kind of treatment was common.

The answer, activists and witnesses said, is yes.

for Jakelin so her death isn't in vain."

Former President Barack Obama had record deportations of migrants and his administration assisted the coup in Honduras and led the wars against Libya and Syria, causing a worldwide refugee crisis.

Graywolf, who exceed and represents AIM SoCal, said that we must educate ourselves about how the U.S. causes the problems, but then wants to blame everyone else.

The vigil was covered well by the media and coverage by KTLA news can be seen here. [📄](#)

New York State Assembly member Latrice Walker said she had spoken to Headley's mother, who was caring for 18-month-old Damone: "The baby is traumatized and still seeking medical attention."

Walker said: "I remember what it was like as a child, the long lines and long wait. Enough is enough. Poverty is not a crime."

Under intense public pressure, Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez and Mayor Bill de Blasio later dropped all the charges against Jazmine Headley. After five nights in jail on Riker's Island, she was finally released at 9 p.m. on Dec. 11.

But the struggle for justice for Jazmine and her son isn't over. They are examples of the millions of workers whom the capitalist system is unable to provide with jobs and decent living conditions, and instead criminalizes based on racism and poverty. [📄](#)

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

**West Coast office:**  
5278 W. Pico Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90019  
Phone: 323.306.6240

**East Coast office:**  
2011 N. Charles St.  
Baltimore, MD 21218  
Phone: 443.221.3775

**Web:** [struggle-la-lucha.org](http://struggle-la-lucha.org)  
**Email:** [info@struggle-la-lucha.org](mailto:info@struggle-la-lucha.org)  
**Twitter:** [@StruggleLaLucha](https://twitter.com/StruggleLaLucha)  
**Facebook:** [facebook.com/strugglelalucha](https://facebook.com/strugglelalucha)



This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 3.0 Unported License.

# UTLA votación por la huelga sindical



Por Scott Scheffer  
Los Ángeles

20 Diciembre – Después de veinte meses de negociaciones con Unified School District (LAUSD) de Los Ángeles y sin haber tenido un contrato por todo un año, 35,000 miembros del United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA) han fijado el día del 10 de enero para comenzar una huelga. Un fuerte apoyo comunitario y sindical se está movilizándose para las y los maestros.

LAUSD es el segundo distrito más grande de todo el país. No a habido una huelga desde 1989.

En la votación por la huelga sindical, participó el 83 por ciento de lxs miembros con el 97 por ciento votando a favor. Trescientos sindicatos en el County Federation of Labor han votado para apoyarla y LASchoolReport.com anunció que la California School Employees Association – que también representa a lxs trabajadores de LAUSD – ha reafirmado su derecho a realizar una huelga de solidaridad.

El 15 de diciembre, un mitin y marcha masiva en el centro de Los Ángeles – con una participación estimada de 50,000 personas – ilustró firmemente la determinación y el apoyo de lxs miembros del sindicato. Miles con camisetas rojas golpeando tambores serpentearon por las calles. Consignas como “UTLA!” “¡Poder sindical!” y “¡Beutner, Beutner, no te puedes esconder! ¡Podemos ver tu lado codicioso!” Retumbaban por las paredes del centro de negocios de la ciudad.

## ¿Quién es Austin Beutner?

La cara de la intransigencia de LAUSD en la negociación es el nuevo superintendente de escuelas Austin Beutner. Su nombramiento a esa posición en mayo de 2018 despertó una protesta por parte de educadores, trabajadorxs y padres. Su nombra-

miento se hizo con el apoyo del desarrollador billonario de Los Ángeles Eli Broad, el multimillonario de Netflix Reed Hastings, la Fundación Walton y otros quienes han estado propulsando y financiando la campaña nacional para convertir en chárter y privatizar las escuelas públicas.

Beutner es un ex-banquero de inversión con la reputación de romper compañías y vender las partes divididas. Él trabajó en Rusia ayudando a vender las propiedades socializadas de lxs trabajadorxs de la ex Unión Soviética. Él también fue el editor de Los Angeles Times hasta que fue despedido en 2015. Él planea dividir el LAUSD en 32 “redes de vecindarios”. Según la página web del UTLA, en julio aparentemente, él le dijo a un grupo de partidarios corporativos que el distrito escolar podría “no existir más” en 2021.

Con la adición de Beutner como superintendente, la Junta Escolar de Los Ángeles está dominada por fuerzas privatizadoras y pro chárter. Lxs miembros de UTLA saben que están peleando no sólo por salarios y condiciones de trabajo justas, sino que también por la supervivencia de un sistema de escuelas públicas que atiende a 90 por ciento de estudiantes de color y 85 por ciento con ingresos bajos.

## ¡El dinero existe!

Según LAUSD no hay suficiente en el presupuesto para cumplir con las demandas del sindicato por un 6,5 por ciento de aumento en salario, aulas más pequeñas, más enfermeras, consejeros de salud mental y más suministros escolares. Lxs negociadores de UTLA apuntan al fondo de reserva de \$1,7 mil millones del distrito, que sería más que suficiente para hacer todas las mejoras que lxs educadores dicen que son necesarias. [R]

# United Teachers Los Angeles Vote to set a strike date

By Scott Scheffer  
Los Angeles

Dec. 20 – After negotiating with the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) for 20 months, and without a contract for a year, 35,000 members of United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA) have set a strike date of Jan. 10. Strong community and labor support is mobilizing for the teachers.

LAUSD is the second largest school district in the country. There hasn't been a strike since 1989.

In the union's strike vote, 83 percent of membership participated with 98 percent voting in favor. Three hundred unions in the County Federation of Labor have voted their support, and LASchoolReport.com has announced that the California School Employees Association – also representing LAUSD workers – has asserted their right to carry out a sympathy strike.

On Dec. 15, a mass rally and march in downtown Los Angeles – estimated at up to 50,000 people – illustrated union members' determination and support in a big way. Thousands wore red shirts, banged drums and snaked through the streets. Chants of “U! T! L! A!” “Union power!” and “Beutner! Beutner! You can't hide! We can see your greedy side!” echoed from the walls of the city's business center.

## Who is Austin Beutner?

The face of LAUSD's intransigence in bargaining is the newly appointed superintendent of schools, Austin Beutner. His May 2018 appointment to that position drew an outcry from educators, staff and parents. His ap-

pointment was made through the support of Los Angeles billionaire developer Eli Broad, Netflix billionaire Reed Hastings, the Walton Foundation and others who are fueling and funding the national campaign to “charterize” and privatize public schools.

Beutner is a former investment banker with a reputation for breaking up companies and selling off the parts. He worked in Russia to help sell off all the workers' socialized property of the former Soviet Union. He was also the publisher of the Los Angeles Times until he was fired in 2015. He plans to break up LAUSD into 32 “neighborhood networks.” According to UTLA's website, in July he reportedly told a group of corporate supporters that the school district may “be no more” by 2021.

With Beutner's addition as superintendent, the Los Angeles School Board is dominated by pro-charter and privatization forces. UTLA's membership knows that they are fighting not only for fair wages and working conditions, but for the survival of a public school system serving 90 percent students of color and 85 percent low-income.

## The money's there

LAUSD claims that there is not enough in the budget to meet the union's demands of a 6.5 percent salary increase, smaller classroom sizes, more nurses and mental health counselors, and more school supplies. UTLA negotiators point to the district's \$1.7 billion reserve fund, which would be more than sufficient to make all the improvements that educators say must be made. [R]

## CABLE MONOPOLY

### Spectrum strike still fighting

Members of International Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 3 in the New York City area have been on strike against the Spectrum cable company (formerly Time-Warner) since March 28, 2017. The 1,800 strikers are fighting Charter Communications, which brands itself as Spectrum.

Check out the strikers' website at [www.cutthecordspectrum.org](http://www.cutthecordspectrum.org).

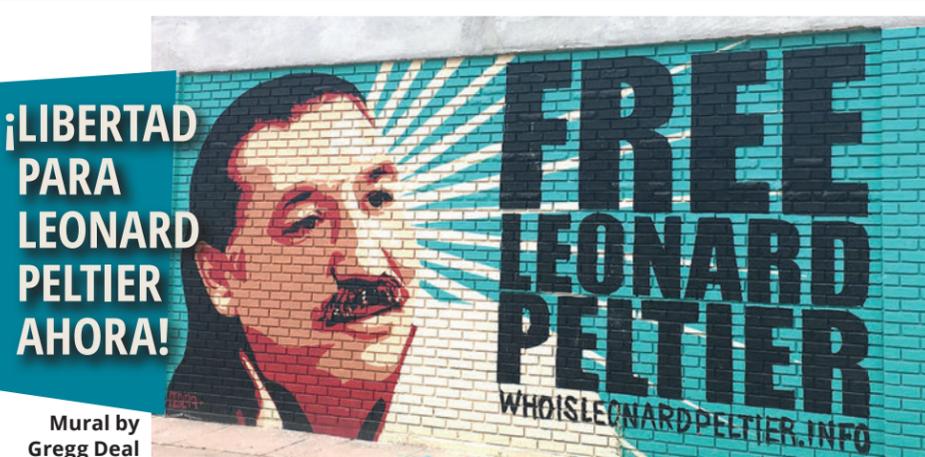


PHOTO: LABOR AGAINST RACIST TERROR



PHOTO: HOWARD ROTMAN

Hundreds of union members and their supporters rallied in Boston in solidarity with 1,250 National Grid gas workers who have been locked out of their jobs for nearly six months. The lockout began after the union rejected a contract offer that would have increased workers' health care costs and eliminated the existing pension plan. The workers are represented by USW Local 12012. [R]



Mural by  
Gregg Deal

On Feb. 6, 2019, Indigenous political prisoner Leonard Peltier will mark the beginning of his 44th year in prison. Now 74, Peltier is Ojibwe (Anishinaabe) and Lakota from the Turtle Mountain Reservation and was framed ...

[www.struggle-la-lucha.org/leonard-peltier/](http://www.struggle-la-lucha.org/leonard-peltier/)

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