



**Struggle-La-Lucha.org**  
Vol. 7, No. 16 • Sept 2, 2024  
Suggested donation: \$1  
**Socialist Unity Party**  
**Partido de Socialismo Unido**

## DNC's message:

# WAR! WAR! More WAR!

By Sharon Black

In record time, the Democratic Party establishment dumped Joe Biden, crowned Kamala Harris, and put on an unprecedented show-stopping convention spectacle Aug. 19-22.

Over a billion dollars was likely spent (more than \$76 million was paid to the Chicago Police Department for “over-time” and equipment). With that amount of cash, a lot can happen, and quickly.

Vice President Kamala Harris’s acceptance speech summed up the core of the DNC’s program. Once you strip away the platitudes and emotional appeals for a better “future,” you’ll find the heart of the message: war and more war.

Harris promised the Pentagon generals, bankers, and arms manufacturers, which include the artificial intelligence and high-tech companies that are floundering, that war will continue whether it’s the U.S./NATO proxy war in Ukraine, the not-so-cold war on China, Venezuela, Cuba, Iran, Lebanon, Yemen and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.

She stated, “As commander in chief, I will ensure America always has the strongest, most lethal fighting force in the world.”

On the question of Palestine, these are Harris’s direct remarks:

“I will always stand up for Israel’s right to defend itself, and I will always ensure Israel has the ability to defend itself, because the people of Israel must never again face the horror that a terrorist organization called Hamas caused on Oct. 7, including unspeakable sexual violence and the massacre of young people at a music festival.”

Those standing behind the curtain who crafted the DNC spectacle had hyped-up participants erupting into



SLL photo: Sharon Black

Close to 20,000 people participated in major marches called by the Coalition to March on the DNC on Monday, Aug. 19, and Thursday, Aug. 22. Actions took place all week, including a march to the Israeli Mission. Representatives of Struggle-La Lucha for Socialism marched and participated in the protests outside the convention.

chants of “USA! USA!” during Harris’ presentation, mirroring a Trump MAGA rally.

Vice President Harris also proclaimed, “I promise to be a president for all Americans.” But one very major voice was missing from the “all” — the Palestinian people.

The uncommitted delegates had fought for the DNC to grant just one Palestinian speaker. This included an all-night sit-in before the last day. They even promised the DNC that the message could be prescreened. But their pleas were crushed in a city that boasts the largest Palestinian diaspora in the United States.

There was also no family of Sonia Massey to call for Black lives or to remind

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## BLACK AUGUST RESISTANCE

- Jaylen Brown’s Olympic absence
- Black Populism vs. Jim Crow terror



- Supreme Court criminalizes being homeless

# Our resistance is essential

## BLACK AUGUST

By Gloria Verdieu

Black August is a month to commemorate and tell the history of those African men and women brutalized, locked up, and killed by the U.S. criminal justice system. Those courageous freedom fighters sacrificed their livelihood in the ongoing struggle for liberation and a better life for all humanity.

Black August is the month we recall the great loss exacted upon our Black revolutionary movement with the assassination of George Jackson and his younger brother, Jonathan Jackson.

George Jackson was 28 years old when he was murdered at San Quentin State Prison on Aug. 21, 1971. His writings from prison shed light on the harsh realities of prison life, systemic racism, and the struggles faced by incarcerated individuals. On the day of his memorial service in 1971 at St. Augustine's church in West Oakland, there were 200 Black Panthers in full uniform while 8,000 people listened outside, perched on rooftops, hanging from telephone poles, and filling the streets. As George Jackson's body was brought out, the people raised their fists in the air and chanted, "Long Live George Jackson."

Black August is commemorated in cities nationally and around the world. In San Diego, we highlighted historical markers of Black resistance in August past and present. We emphasized that historic acts of struggle, resistance, and courage occur every month of the year, every day of the week, every hour of every day by workers and oppressed people all over the world; our Resistance is essential.



At the San Diego Black Panther Party meeting.

Photo: Paolo Cruzalegui/Hands Off UHURU

### Kevin 'Rashid' Johnson

Artist and co-founder of the New African Black Panther Party, Kevin "Rashid" Johnson, convicted in 1990 of murder at 18 years old, has maintained his innocence throughout his 34 years in prison. Politicized in prison, Johnson is an accomplished political theoretician, organizer, and artist whose art honors Black freedom fighters and political prisoners.

Johnson was born in Richmond, Virginia, 35 miles from the English colony of Jamestown, Virginia, where the first dark-skinned African enslaved captives were chained. Stolen captives of a vicious race war against Black life by the merchant princes of Europe were unloaded in August 1619.

Johnson's drawing entitled "Philly's 7th Ward" is a thought-provoking tribute honoring ancestors George and Jonathan Jackson, Fred Hampton, Huey Newton, Harriet Tubman, Safiya Bukhari, Rus-

sell Maroon Shoats, Dr. Mutulu Shakur, Major Tillery (who remains in prison '41 years'), the Haitian Revolution, and the MOVE 9.

### The MOVE 9

Aug. 8, 1978, after a 15-month armed police standoff with the Philadelphia-based naturalist "MOVE" organization, the police raided MOVE, killing one of their own in police crossfire, nine men and women were charged with murder, and sentenced to 30 to 100 years in prison — Merle Africa and Phil Africa — seven were released. Of the seven released, two have since joined the ancestors, and four are continuing the fight for justice and freedom for all prisoners.

Michael Africa, Jr. — son of Mike Africa, Sr. and Debbie Simms Africa, two of the MOVE 9 political prisoners — was born

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# Jaylen Brown's Olympic absence: Nike, labor solidarity and anti-racism

By Lev Koufax

Jaylen Brown has a lot going for him. As of recently, he's an NBA champion and an NBA Finals Most Valuable Player. He's a multi-time NBA all-star and a former McDonald's All-American. What Jaylen Brown is not is an Olympian.

On July 10, USA Basketball announced that Derrick White, not Jaylen Brown, would replace Kawhi Leonard on the U.S. men's basketball team for the just completed Paris Olympics. Derrick White and Jaylen Brown are teammates on the Boston Celtics, which recently broke a 16-year championship drought.

The decision to choose Derrick White over Jaylen Brown struck many as odd due to Brown's performance in the 2024 NBA finals, a performance that led to Brown being named both Eastern Conference Finals MVP and NBA Finals MVP. Brown averaged 20.8 points, 5.4 rebounds, and 5.0 assists in the NBA finals. Additionally, Brown's defense was crucial in shutting down Dallas' offensive stars, Luca Dončić and Kyrie Irving.

And it's not like Brown's statistics were unimpressive during the regular season. In the 23-24 campaign, Brown averaged 23 points, 5.5 rebounds, and 3.6 assists for the Celtics. There is no doubt that Brown, at only 27 years old, is one of the NBA's brightest stars. Yet, not bright enough of a star for USA basketball to name Brown an Olympic team member.

Now, Derrick White is a terrific NBA player. Nothing written in the coming paragraphs is meant to criticize him or any of the players. There are simply questions that must be asked about Team USA's snub of Brown.

So, why wasn't Brown selected to play for Team USA's Olympic basketball team? Is Brown not good enough? Is he not a team player? Is there some other extenuating circumstance?



Jaylen Brown

## Depends on who's asked

As with many questions, the answer to these questions depends on who is asked. That is no different here.

Let's start with the man himself, Jaylen Brown. In response to Team USA's announcement, Brown took to social media with tweets hinting at Nike's involvement in keeping him off the squad. Brown has been critical of Nike for its connections to overseas sweatshops and its decision to drop Brown's former teammate, Kyrie Irving, from its brand.

Brown has also criticized Nike for the culture of sexism and bullying that led to several multi-million dollar lawsuits against Nike. For all of these reasons, Brown has consistently refused to sign an endorsement deal with Nike, even though Brown has only worn Nike sneakers for several years. When a reporter later asked Brown if he believed Nike had kept him off Team USA, he said he did. So, there is Jaylen Brown's answer, and there are many reasons to believe it. But before getting deeper into that, let's see how other individuals answered these questions.

When members of the news media asked Grant Hill, USA Basketball's Operating Manager, about the decision to leave Brown off the roster, Hill asserted the decision was purely a basketball one. Hill even went as far as to imply that Brown's accusations against Nike were "conspiracy theories."

Several prominent sports media talking heads joined the fray as well. Skip Bayless asserted that Team USA's snub of Brown was because Jayson Tatum, Brown's Celtics' teammate, is on the Olympic roster, and Tatum does not like Brown. Stephen A. Smith went a step further. Smith asserted that NBA players, in general, dislike Brown because of his Muslim faith, his left-wing politics, and his outspoken union activism.

It is interesting that the media narrative and the comments from Grant Hill kept the blame for Brown's snub focused on the players, whether it be because Brown's fellow players disliked him or because Brown's radical politics made it impossible for him to be liked. The sports establishment would seemingly want us to believe that this was all a matter of interpersonal preference between the players.

## A voice for workers' rights

The media's attempt to depict Brown as self-destructive or interpersonally disagreeable is an intentional mischaracterization. For the past five years, Brown has served as a vice president of the NBA Player's Association, the NBA's labor union. He was elected to that position by his fellow players because of his commitment to workers' rights and anti-racism.

The fact is, Team USA's decision to keep Brown from the roster has nothing to do with his talent or his interpersonal sportsmanship. The snub was born of politics. Team USA and Nike did not want to risk giving Brown access to the microphone and global audience that comes with the Olympics. With access to that stage, Brown could have seized the moment to spread a message of anti-racism and labor solidarity. That could not be allowed.

Nike, USA Basketball, Grant Hill, and the sports media can hide behind any narrative they wish. The facts speak for themselves.

Solidarity with Jalen Brown! Solidarity with Angel Reese! Black Lives Matter! #

# Supreme Court millionaires criminalize being homeless

By Scott Scheffer

On June 28, the unelected U.S. Supreme Court ruled in the Grants Pass, Oregon v. Johnson case that the U.S. Constitution does not protect people against cruel and unusual punishment for sleeping outside even if they have nowhere else to go. The six justices who voted to criminalize the homeless have a combined net worth of \$54 million.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom, a Democratic Party darling and rising star in U.S. politics, quickly followed up with an executive order instructing all state agencies in California to clear encampments of houseless people. While municipalities don't need to comply, Newsom has threatened to redirect state funds away from those who don't.

Mayor Bass of Los Angeles and other cities are refusing to comply. Bass campaigned on solving Los Angeles's major homeless crisis and launched a campaign called "Inside Safe," including a municipal state of emergency. In April she called on businesses to contribute to a new fund called LA4LA. The Bass administration claims it has made progress which may be statistically true, but the streets of Los Angeles are still checkered with small and large tent cities that are periodically pushed out and then re-emerge weeks later.

One year ago the mayor and the city council approved a 12% raise for the Los Angeles Police Department, infamous for its racism and brutality, without having to beg for funds, but there are still not enough shelter beds. Adding more shelter beds is the bare minimum that should be done to get people housed. What is really needed are homes and jobs or income for all.

## California leads in homelessness

According to a U.S. Senate fact sheet on homelessness, about 28%, or 181,399 of the 653,100 homeless in the U.S. are in California. Even worse, California leads the U.S. in the percentage of homeless that are unsheltered at 68% of its homeless population, or 123,423 people.

The rise and fall of the number of homeless people can be roughly correlated to the boom and bust cycles of



A group of unhoused people camp outside the Housing Matters shelter in Santa Cruz on Aug. 7, 2024.

capitalism. That was certainly the case after the Great Depression of 1929 when the number of homeless people rose to more than 2 million. Nationally there are 653,100 people homeless currently, and about 40% live unsheltered. Black, Indigenous, Brown, and other people of color are overrepresented in the homeless population, as are survivors of domestic violence, members of the LGBTQ+ community, and people with disabilities, per the Southern Poverty Law Center.

This current wave of homelessness can be traced back to the 1970s when the U.S. economy began to shift toward a high-tech, service economy, and the corporate ruling class, and all three branches of the capitalist government, began a decades-long assault on workers' living standards.

Over five decades, millions of jobs have disappeared. During the same period, the housing market, controlled mainly by individual landlords, became a source of super profits for huge investment groups. This has driven gentrification all across the country and caused rent prices to spike. Even mobile home parks, a last resort for impoverished workers, are being purchased by giant hedge funds who raise rents and use them as a cash cow.

After driving people into homeless-

ness, capitalist politicians punish the victims. A report issued by the National Homeless Law Center states: "From vagrancy laws and the workhouses of pre-industrial England to legal segregation, sundown towns, and anti-Okie laws in the U.S., ordinances regulating the use of public space have long been used to exclude marginalized persons based on race, national origin, or economic class."

## Racist, classist anti-homeless laws

The report indicated that from 2006 to 2019, it tracked anti-homeless laws in 187 cities and found that citywide bans on camping have increased by 92%, on sitting or lying down by 78%, on loitering by 103%, on panhandling by 103%, and on living in vehicles by 213%. Meanwhile, a 1300% growth in homeless encampments has been reported in all 50 states.

The Grant's Pass decision now greenlights cities, counties, and states across the U.S. to apply racist and classist laws without legal repercussions. According to the unelected multi-millionaire Supreme Court justices, the U.S. Constitution doesn't protect homeless people from discriminatory repression. In other words, someone going camping doesn't

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## Supreme Crt. criminalizes homelessness

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get arrested as long as they can show they have a home. But, a homeless person can be arrested for life-sustaining activity, like lying down or sleeping anywhere.

Many housing advocates say that although the number of homeless people today is smaller than that of the Great Depression era, the situation is worse. There is some validity to that notion because unions and the working class generally have not yet moved from a defensive mode brought on by 50 years of corporate repression. However, the powerful movement in the 1930s was also a response to poverty and oppression, and it grew and led to a great deal of militant union and community activism.

The people's movement became so strong that it forced the new administration of Franklin Roosevelt to institute major changes in how the capitalist government functioned. Programs like Social Security and unemployment insurance began to provide some relief to millions of unemployed and aged workers. The administration also scrambled to find ways to provide jobs, income, and affordable housing.

Most relevant to the issue of homeless people being criminalized today is the history of tremendous movement of "Unemployed Council" members who physically resisted evictions being carried out by moving people's furniture back inside their homes as sheriffs moved it out. They also became experts at reconnecting electric or gas lines – "meter jumps." These peoples' actions occurred in many cities and towns across the country and were written about in Ralph Ellison's famous novel, "The Invisible Man."

The Unemployed Council movement was organized and led by the Communist Party and drew the participation of workers and activists everywhere. A modern-day movement to provide people with housing and stop evictions can happen. With the growing class awareness that has emerged during the U.S. funding of genocide against the Palestinian people, now is the perfect time for a militant, revolutionary movement that leads to an end to imperialist war and genocide while ensuring housing, medical care, and education for all. Capitalism belongs in the dustbin of history. It is on its way. #



## Black August: Our resistance is essential

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in a prison cell in 1978, raised within the MOVE organization family, and began working to free his parents at 13 years old. With the help of the teachings of John Africa — love, courage, and determination — he successfully got his parents released, as well as all the remaining MOVE 9 political prisoners, after 27-plus years of struggle. Mike Africa tells his powerful, captivating story in his book "On A Move: A Native Son's Battle for Justice," released Aug. 6, 2024.

In San Diego, Black August Political Education (PE) events were held by the Association of Raza Educators (ARE), the San Diego Black Panther Party, and the San Diego Coalition to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal. Each event emphasized the meaning of Black August highlighting historical markers of Black Resistance beginning with the assassination of George Jackson and his teenage brother Jonathan Jackson.

### Hands off Uhuru!

During the Black Panther Party panel discussion, Matsemela Odom, president of InPDUM, gave an update on the case of the Uhuru 3 and the African People's Socialist Party (APSP). The Uhuru 3 — APSP Chairman Omali Yeshitela, Penny Hess, and Jesse Nevel — face up to 15 years in prison for exercising their First Amendment right to freedom of speech. The Uhuru 3 case has global support and has sparked an emerging global anti-colonial free speech movement.

"The U.S. government has put us in the position of having to fight for free speech that they claim is the cornerstone of U.S. democracy," said Chairman Yeshitela.

The Uhuru 3 are encouraging people to show up on Aug. 31 and participate in the "Not One Step Backwards March" in St. Petersburg, Florida. The trial begins Sept. 3 in Tampa. It is important for people to show up for this historic trial.

There are many more historical markers of resistance in August, many of which are listed in Mumia Abu-Jamal's commentary "Black August 2003."

Honorable Marcus Garvey, born Aug. 17, 1887, the founder of the Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA), inspired millions of Africans around the world with his ideas of Pan-Africanism.

Long Distance Revolutionary Mumia Abu-Jamal's death warrant was signed twice by Pennsylvania Governor Thomas Ridge: Aug. 17, 1995, the birthday of the Honorable Marcus Garvey (Aug. 17, 1887), and Dec. 2, 1999, the day abolitionist John Brown was executed (Dec. 2, 1859). On both occasions, protests were held around the world. The death sentences were dropped in December 2011. After 30 years on death row, Mumia's sentence was commuted to life in prison with no possibility of parole.

Black August is a time to strengthen our commitment to end mass incarceration, free all political prisoners, and end death by incarceration.

### The words of Ho Chi Minh

Recall the words of Ho Chi Minh, the revolutionary president of Vietnam:

"People who come out of prison can build up the country. Misfortune is the test of people's fidelity. Those who protest at injustice are people of true merit. When the prison doors are opened the real dragons will fly out."

The San Diego Coalition to Free Mumia and "Do For Self" will host the final Black August event in San Diego at the Malcolm X Library on Saturday, Aug. 24. We will screen the film Black August and have an open discussion about the film. All three events were free and open to the public.

Long Live the spirit of George Jackson!

Free Mumia, Leonard Peltier, and all political prisoners! Shut down the Prison-Industrial Complex, and abolish the death penalty and death by incarceration!

Hands off Uhuru, hands off Palestine, Hands off Haiti! #

# Resistance amid Jim Crow terror

## THE HISTORY OF BLACK POPULISM

**A**s explained in the first installment of this series on populism, historical populism in the U.S. was a progressive, left-wing movement of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It was a reaction to the rising monopoly capitalist class, the titans of big business, and big banks who were rapidly taking over the world. The movement was based especially among farmers in the South and West but included alliances with industrial workers and even small shopkeepers.

Although populism was overwhelmingly anti-racist, a fundamental weakness of the movement was that it remained mostly white. The populist movement was not able to create the big, multiracial alliance that was needed to take on the rich successfully.

But to leave the story at that would be misleading. In fact, there was a significant Black populist movement that had its own dynamics. What they achieved was impressive, especially considering the extreme racist violence that characterized this period.

When the populist movement was in full swing in the 1890s, the Southern ruling class' shock troops were carrying out over 100 lynchings annually, rolling back the many political, economic, and social gains made by Black people after the Civil War.

The Black populists organized and fought back during the height of this post-Reconstruction Klan terror, leaving a legacy that influenced movements going forward.

### Roots of populism

Discussing the Black populists requires us to account for the origins of populism in general. The first installment of the series began right in the middle of things, describing populism at its height in the 1890s, centered around the People's Party. But that party came out of a big wave of agrarian movements in the 1870s and 1880s. Mirroring the growth of industrial unions in the same period, farm workers and farm owners organized alliances. These alliances were the basis of the People's Party and, thus, of populism.

Multiple factors drove these agricultural communities to organize. As capitalism entered its monopoly-imperialist phase, those making their living in agriculture were affected in specific ways, notably by being burdened with debt.

With the crop-lien system introduced in the South after the Civil War, sharecroppers and much poorer tenant farmers were trapped in endless cycles of debt to rich landowners, making them indentured servants. Both rural white and Black workers were trapped in these cycles, with Black workers experiencing some of the worst exploitation.

In addition, the banks, which increasingly controlled the economy, dictated that farmers in the South grow cotton, the cash crop. Through repeated cycles of overproduction (growing more cotton than the market could absorb), cotton prices tended to fall, so those working the fields got less and less for their work. On the other hand, big capitalist players like cotton warehouse owners, banks, and shippers continued to profit. This bred righteous class anger.

Agricultural crisis struck the Midwest and the Plains in the 1880s. Masses of people had moved West in the preceding years, lured deliberately by the railroad companies that were making a fortune. Railroad bosses wanted settlers in the new economic outposts. The federal government was providing these privately owned railroad companies with subsidies and giving them public land for the tracks – land that had been stolen from Indigenous peoples.

It was in 1886 that some 200,000 workers participated in the Great Southwest railroad strike, taking on the likes of robber baron Jay Gould, the owner of the Union Pacific rail company. These striking workers were not agricultural laborers, but the fact that this strike occurred at the same time that farmers were forming their alliances, and directing their ire against the rail companies, is hardly incidental.

The Knights of Labor, the biggest labor union federation in the country at the time, organized the strike. The agricultural alliances endorsed it. This support for the labor movement's goals was not

a one-off. The Farmers' Alliance championed the eight-hour workday and called for public ownership of the railroads, which had been paid for by the people anyway.

In 1887, severe drought came to the West. Crops failed and inflated land prices fell, breaking the speculative bubble. The settlers who had moved to states like Kansas and Oklahoma were left high and dry as the Wall Street investors pulled out.

These are just some of the immediate factors that drove the establishment of the great agricultural alliances.

### The Colored Alliance

One of the primary organizations of the movement was the Colored Farmers' National Alliance and Co-Operative Union (hereafter the Colored Farmers' Alliance). It was founded on Dec. 11, 1886, in Houston County, Texas, by 16 delegates identified as either "Negro" or "mulatto," plus one white farmer.

According to historian Omar H. Ali: "Hundreds of grassroots organizers tapped into preexisting networks of Black farmers, sharecroppers, and agrarian workers affiliated with Black churches, the Colored Agricultural Wheels, the Knights of Labor, the Cooperative Workers of America, and the Colored Farmers' Union. Within two years of its founding, the Colored Alliance consolidated various Black agrarian organizations scattered across the South into a cohesive movement encompassing hundreds of thousands of African Americans." ("In the Lion's Mouth: Black Populism in the New South, 1886-1900")

Around the same time in Texas, a different organization called the National Colored Alliance formed. Within three years, the group claimed a membership of 250,000. There were chapters in every Southern state. The two alliances merged into a single organization: The Colored Alliance.

The Colored Alliance carried out mutual aid and self-help activities, raising funds to help members in a society almost completely lacking a social safety net, especially for rural Black farmers

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## PART 3

BY GREGORY  
E. WILLIAMS*Continued from page 6*

and sharecroppers. They planned and carried out cooperative farming activities, and conducted educational presentations on farm techniques and more. The Alliance also published multiple newspapers.

Any organization of Black people was suspect, whether overtly “political” or not; the Colored Alliance, therefore, operated in the beginning as a largely clandestine organization – modeled on secret societies – and centered in Black churches.

However, the Alliance also engaged in more militant struggles, coming into direct confrontation with the racist white ruling class by “boycotting goods where price gouging was taking place, demanding higher wages for cotton picking, and calling for an immediate end to the convict-lease system,” in the words of Ali. He goes on to explain:

“The convict-lease system was both a means of control and a particularly cruel profit-making business in the South. It gave planters, railroad bosses, and other employers who faced labor shortages, free rein to purchase labor from the state (at a small fine and court cost). The labor often came from those convicted of petty crimes and disproportionately marked Black men, many of whom were physically and mentally abused in a system with little legal recourse; county officials notoriously looked the other way to abuses of authority, even when deaths were the result. The Colored Alliance’s opposition to the system therefore targeted a critical point of contention for African Americans.”

Ali argues for the importance of assessing Black populism on its own terms. It was not simply an appendage of a general – or, more accurately, majority white – movement. Rather, it developed from the internal dynamics of the Black community, including other political and labor organizations of the time, as well as fraternal and religious groups. As a counter to the rising tide of Jim Crow, Black populism made unique contributions and left



Colored Farmers National Alliance members, circa 1886. Texas State Historical Association

ers, opposition to the inclusion of Black members was not just racism in the abstract. It had implications for their bottom line.

Crucially, a split occurred over voting rights. In 1890, a Republican member of the U.S. House of Representatives, Henry Cabot Lodge, introduced the Federal Elections Bill, which aimed

a legacy that reverberated through the radical sharecroppers’ movement of the 1930s, the Civil Rights, and Black Power struggles down to the present day.

### Movement segregation

From their inception, Black populist organizations like the Colored Alliance were not the driving force of a segregated movement. On the contrary, it was existing segregation in white farmers’ organizations that, at least in part, necessitated the establishment of the Colored Alliance.

The biggest agrarian organization was the Farmers’ Alliance, founded in central Texas in 1876. Later, it became the backbone of the People’s Party. The Farmers’ Alliance denied membership to Black people, six years before the Colored Alliance was founded. This was in keeping with the political trend of post-Reconstruction reaction. Such white chauvinism was a boon to the ruling class and a detriment to sharecroppers, tenant farmers, and poor farm owners, both Black and white.

Despite the organizational segregation, the Black and white Alliances joined forces on multiple campaigns. These included opposing the privately owned Louisiana State Lottery Company and tax hikes on cottonseed oil, which was an important source of income for Black tenant farmers.

There were class contradictions at play here, however. This agrarian movement had made strange bedfellows, with some of the poorest people, like sharecroppers, in an alliance with wealthy farm owners. The white Farmers’ Alliance, especially, included big landowners who employed sharecroppers. For these wealthy farm-

to curb voter suppression in the South by establishing federal oversight. At that time, the Democratic Party was the party of segregation and the whole political apparatus of the South conspired to disenfranchise Republican – especially Black – voters. The bill was endorsed by Republican President Benjamin Harrison. The white Farmers’ Alliance opposed the bill, siding with racist Southern Democrats who made it the main presidential election issue in the South in 1892.

### Cotton-pickers strike

The Colored Alliance called for a general strike of Black cotton pickers in 1891, demanding higher pay. These laborers were only getting 50 cents for 100 pounds of cotton. Strike organizers called for a raise to \$1 per 100 pounds. As with the voter bill, the white Farmers Alliance balked at the demands and opposed the strike.

The Georgia chapter of the Colored Alliance included wealthier Black farmers who employed sharecroppers themselves, and this chapter also opposed the strike.

The planned September strike did not break out anywhere except for Lee County, Arkansas. A Black labor organizer from Memphis, Tennessee, Ben Patterson, went there and recruited around 25 pickers to strike.

Workers began striking on a farm owned by Colonel H.P. Rodgers. Unfortunately, the strike did not spread across the county, and these strikers remained isolated. The sheriff organized a posse and chased the strikers to an island near Horseshoe Lake on Sept. 29. Patterson escaped but was recaptured and shot. The

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# Resistance amid Jim Crow terror

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sheriff allowed masked lynchers to murder the nine prisoners taken by his posse.

We can learn a great deal from the bravery of these strikers. Their fate is also emblematic of the extreme, terroristic violence of the racist planter class and its lackeys. This kind of repression was endemic and has to be taken into consideration when assessing Black populism and the populist movement generally. This is what they were up against.

At the same time, we would be right to wonder how much more effective this strike call, and other efforts, might have been if the white Farmers' Alliance had thrown its weight behind it rather than caving to racist scare tactics and prioritizing the interests of its wealthier land-owning members. We can also wonder whether the situation might have been altered if the Georgia chapter of the Colored Alliance had not sown dissension on behalf of its wealthier members.

## The Agricultural Wheel

There were other farmers' alliances that were integrated or quasi-integrated. One example is the Agricultural Wheel, a farmer's union founded in the Arkansas Delta in 1882. It expanded to 10 other states, mostly in the South, but even reached Wisconsin. In 1888, they joined forces with the Knights of Labor to form the Union Labor Party of Arkansas and ran candidates. At its peak in 1888, the Wheel had 75,000 members, making it a real force.

Early on, the Wheel dropped whiteness as a requirement for membership and began admitting Black members into separate Black Wheel formations. In 1887, an unrelated Black farmer's union, The Sons of the Agricultural Star, merged with The Wheel.

These concrete developments toward uniting rural Black and white people on a class basis were a real advance. This progress on race – or the national question, as Lenin called it – came undone in 1889 when the Wheel merged with an organization called the National Farmers' Alliance and Industrial Union of America. One of the terms of the agreement was the denial of membership to Black farmers. This meant excluding half of all Southern farmers, who were Black. (The Encyclopedia of Arkansas)

## The Wilmington Massacre

This article has dealt mainly with the pre-history of populism prior to the founding of the People's Party in 1892. In those years, the Agricultural Alliance attempted to work with both of the two ruling parties, that is, with the Democrats in the South and the Republicans in the North, with limited success. These failures, in part, inspired the formation of the People's Party. The Party was not simply a reformulation of the Alliance but involved some fusion with the industrial workers' movement, namely the Knights of Labor. The new party drew from the ranks of both organizations.

If we fast forward to 1898 – a year representing the height and culmination of populism – the tremendous significance of the Black movement within populism becomes apparent.

In Wilmington, North Carolina, Black populists made a major stand against the rising tide of Jim Crow. This majority-Black Southern city was the largest in the state and had a biracial government, with Black citizens serving as aldermen, coroners, and more. This was not the case everywhere in the state, and the openly white supremacist Democratic Party that had retaken the state

legislature with the overthrow of Reconstruction attempted to curtail home rule in the towns; they had their sights on Wilmington.

The government in Wilmington was "fusionist," meaning that it resulted from an alliance between the Republican Party, on the one hand, and the Populist or People's Party, on the other. The Wilmington Republican Party itself was biracial.

Statewide, the Populist and Republican Parties formed a fusion coalition from 1894 to 1900. They combatted the Democrats and championed progressive policies such as equal voting rights and free public education. (Both voting rights and public education are under attack in 2024).

In addition to Black people holding power in the city government, many were successful in local trade and business. They made up some 30% of the skilled trade workforce.

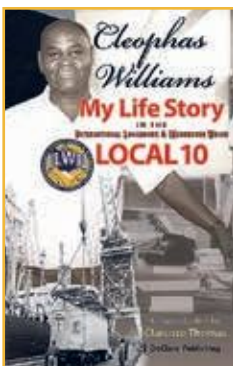
Most of the progress in Wilmington came to a halt in 1898 when white supremacist mobs carried out a sustained campaign of violence.

It is clear that this was not a spontaneous eruption. Rather, the Democratic Party – particularly a Wilmington grouping known as "the Secret Nine" – plotted a coup to drive Black people out of political life and better-paying jobs.

Like Donald Trump, these ruling-class leaders used the press and rallies to foment racist hysteria, affecting enough of the white population that around 2,000 went on to participate in the massacre. They relied on old lies about Black men sexually assaulting white women, while also tapping into economic and other anxieties – not so different from today's anti-trans and anti-immigrant panic.

This was not a totally disorganized mob, though. The Red Shirts were a terrorist organization similar to the Ku Klux Klan in Wilmington, and they led much of the violence. In short, these paramilitary organizations played a role similar to that of the Brown Shirts during Hitler's rise to power in Germany.

This basic logic of fascism is apparent here. In an attempt to preserve its rule and reverse gains won by the people, the ruling class terrorizes the population with violence. But then as now, people fought back. The next installment in this series will explore these events in Wilmington in greater detail. #



Cleophas Williams' election as president of ILWU Local 10 in 1967, made him the highest elected African American in the ILWU.

Born in rural Camden, Arkansas, he was part of the Great Migration – seeking to escape the horrors of systemic racism & white supremacy.

He was a leader of Local 10 in the civil-rights vanguard of the labor movement of the 1960s and 1970s.



**Mobilizing in Our Own Name**  
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# Teachers refuse to be silenced on Palestine

By Maggie Vascassenno

## PROTEST AT LAUSD

“Free Palestine!” and “Stop the genocide!” chants rang out from the steps of the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) headquarters on Aug. 8. LAUSD employees, United Teachers of Los Angeles (UTLA) Human Rights Committee, Association of Raza Educators, Teachers for Justice in Palestine, Unión del Barrio, the Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice, and other community-based organizations demanded an end to the harassment, intimidation and doxxing of teachers who teach their students about Palestine and the ongoing U.S.-funded Israeli genocide.

Teachers have been forced to switch schools to do their jobs. Ethnic Studies pioneer Dr. Theresa Montaña explained that ethnic studies is to “reveal what has not been taught about oppressed and marginalized people everywhere, including oppressed and marginalized people in Palestine. It is incumbent upon us, as critically conscious folks, to teach our children about that so that it never happens to a single human being ever again, anywhere. These teachers are heroes.”

David Feldman, a Jewish educator and chair of the UTLA Human Rights Committee, chaired the press conference/rally: “As teachers, it is our duty to stand up for children in our city and around the world. Schools are being bombed and children are being killed in Palestine. We demand that our tax dollars be used to fund schools, health care and housing; not to fund Israel who is committing genocide in Palestine.”

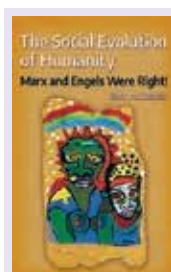


Press conference at Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) to tell LAUSD to stop attacking educators for speaking out against the genocide in Palestine.

Photo: Unión del Barrio Facebook

Ron Gochez, a high school history teacher with 20 years of experience, has filed complaints to LAUSD about the threats he has faced, but there has been no response or protection from LAUSD. Gochez said, “The work we do is out of love for our students, community and humanity ... we are being cyber-stalked, doxxed, and harassed, we are being at-

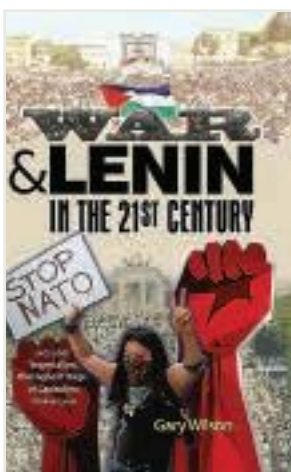
tacked in different ways: at our school sites, during school time, at home and online at all times. They are publishing our work and home addresses. They think we are going to quit – we are not going to quit, we are organizing – we are building. We will continue to say, Long Live Palestine, End the Occupation and End the Genocide!” #



This study of the evolution of humanity focuses on human social/sexual relations and, in particular, the changing social status of women. It offers a selection of scientific evidence that updates and augments the viewpoint expressed in Frederick

Engels' masterful work, 'Origin of the Family, Private Property & the State.'

McCubbin wrote 'Roots of Lesbian and Gay Oppression: A Marxist View.' Published in 1976, during the rise of the modern LGBTQ2S movement  
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# Gravediggers of imperialism

## International conference to decolonize the world

By John Parker

Abuja, Nigeria, Aug. 14 — The Society for International Relations Awareness (SIRA) Conference on Aug. 12-13 in Abuja, Nigeria, served as a powerful testament of solidarity and commitment for peoples fighting for self-determination. The theme was “The Forgotten Peoples: International Conference to Decolonize the World.”

Today’s most dangerous period of the push towards World War III by Western imperialism – led by U.S. imperialism, which also leads NATO – can only succeed with the participation and obedience of the former colonized and neocolonized governments and peoples.

However, this conference makes it clear that the anti-imperialist organizations, activists, and youth in the colonized orbit will more likely become the gravediggers of the imperialists.

Owei Lakemfa, the current president of SIRA with a long history of struggle in leading and writing about labor unions and human rights, gave a welcome to the conference: “We feel the United Nations has not been fast enough, even though they promised to decolonize countries since 1960. So, we decided to bring the people of the colonies as well as the people of the colonial masters together to agree on a possible time frame, or framework, or action plan. ...

“With about 61 non-self-governing territories in the world and about 17-18 by the UN, we want to see how many of them can be decolonized within the next 4 to 6 years.”

### Occupation of Western Sahara

Western imperialism has and continues to encourage division among the colonized and neocolonized nations. The Spanish-enabled, long-standing occupation of Western Sahara by Morocco is one of those contradictions of the colonized becoming colonizers. Morocco was also a victim of French and British colonialism.

Lakemfa explained that the issue has deep roots, dating back to Spain’s controversial decision to hand over Western Sahara to Morocco and Mauritania during decolonization.

“While Mauritania eventually withdrew, Morocco maintained its grip on

the territory, leaving the Sahrawi people scattered across occupied lands and refugee camps in Algeria.”

The keynote address was presented by Western Sahara Ambassador Oubi Bachir, representative of the POLISARIO Liberation Movement to the UN and Geneva:

“I would assume that you all know that Western Sahara is known to be the last colony in Africa,” said Bachir, “because it is still listed within the UN list of countries to be decolonized,” but Morocco’s “Plan A was to militarily occupy the territory by exterminating the people.”

By 1991, however, Bachir states that the Sahara’s military resistance forced Morocco to appear to accept the UN plan that was calling for a referendum for self-determination. But Morocco reverted to military attacks against Western Sahara. Bachir pointed out that the responsibility of the European Union, the U.S., and the African Union is to assist in the self-determination of Western Sahara. “The people of Western Sahara are the ones and only ones entitled to determine the final fate of the territory of the Western Sahara,” said Bachir.

### Solidarity with Cuba

The Ambassador of the Republic of Cuba, Miriam Morales Palmero, was well received. She spoke about solidarity with Nigeria and their common interests in ending the U.S. blockade of Cuba as well as the U.S. classification of Cuba as a State Sponsor of Terrorism. Palmero received a chant of solidarity from participants in the conference and recognition of Fidel Castro’s birth on Aug. 13, the day she spoke.

The previous day, opening remarks were made by the chairperson of the conference – Professor Ibrahim Gambari – former UNICEF President, ex-Nigeria Foreign Affairs Minister, and past Chair of the UN Special Committee Against Apartheid and Envoy on Cyprus, Zimbabwe, and Myanmar: “As long as many people remain not free under colonialism, none of us can consider ourselves free,” said Gambari.

“The freedom of all oppressed people, colonized people is paramount; without it, international peace and security are truly endangered,” he continued.

“United resolutions are plenty in terms of supporting the end of colonialism, but

they don’t self-implement; therefore, we really have to organize to make sure those territories under colonial rule or not self-governing must be independent as soon as possible.”

Jihad Abdul Mumit, former political prisoner and member of the Jericho Movement, USA, echoed this sentiment in his statement to the conference: “The point and opportunity here is to continue to build better and stronger networks to educate, uplift, and represent the people. It is our duty to develop a plan. It is our duty to fight against genocide, colonialism, and all forms of oppression. It is our duty to respect each other. It is our duty to struggle to win.”

Maggie Vascassenno, co-coordinator of Women in Struggle/Mujeres en Lucha, USA, referenced the Nigerian struggles today: “Women In Struggle is inspired by and in solidarity with the young people and workers here in Abuja and cities throughout Nigeria who are fighting against soaring inflation, hunger and poverty. We demand an end to the brutal repression which includes not only the deaths of those fighting against capitalist price gouging but also the mass jailings in Nigeria. We embrace the demands of the mass movement #EndBadGovernanceInNigeria.”

### End colonization of Puerto Rico

The struggle to end the colonization of Puerto Rico within the U.S. was a major focus of this conference. Edwin Cortes, a former Puerto Rican political prisoner who spent 14 years in prison and who also spoke on behalf of former political prisoner Oscar Lopez Rivera, expressed how it created a desire for struggle. “Since the 1970s, we have been and continue to be moved by many liberation struggles, including in Algeria, Angola, Mozambique, South Africa, Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, as well as the Tupamaros in Uruguay, the FMLN in El Salvador, July 26 Movement in Cuba, Nicolas Maduro and United Socialist Party of Venezuela, Palestine, among others. ...

“Oscar Lopez Rivera was born in Puerto Rico and, as part of a colonial economic forced migration, moved to the United States in the 1950s. He was conscripted into the U.S. armed forces and sent to Vietnam, where his eyes were opened to

*Continued on page 11*

Front row from left: Estelí Capote Maldonado, General Coordinator, Instituto Puertorriqueño de Relaciones Internacionales; Kandis A. N. Sebro, Operational Secretary, Alba Movements Continental Assembly of Caribbean Peoples; Berta Joubert-Ceci, Women's International Democratic Federation, contributor to Struggle-La Lucha; Maggie Vascassenno, co-coordinator of Women in Struggle /Mujeres en Lucha; Carlos Alicea Negrón, Movimiento Nin Negrón. Back row from left: Jihad Abdul Mumit, former political prisoner, International Peoples' Senate, National Jericho Movement; Ahmed Aminu-Ramatu Yusuf, co-host of SIRA conference; Roberto A. Alzaga, Instituto Puertorriqueño de Relaciones Internacionales; John Parker, Socialist Unity Party; Edwin Cortés, former Puerto Rican political prisoner; Owei Lakemfa, President of SIRA, Convenor of conference; Kazi Toure; former political prisoner, International Peoples' Senate, National Jericho Movement.



## International conference to decolonize the world

*Continued from page 10*

the anti-colonial struggle of the Vietnamese people. Oscar returned to the streets of Chicago with an anti-colonial vision to uplift the lives of our people struggling in the community and for the development of new campaigns for Puerto Rico's self-determination and independence."

This writer, a member of the Socialist Unity Party, spoke on the denial of self-determination taken from the Global South by the World Bank and IMF, which is dominated by the U.S. Their role in denying infrastructure only brings poverty and inflation — fueled by the U.S. wars, proxy wars and military terrorism in Africa.

Kandis A. N. Sebro, Alba Movements Continental Assembly of the Caribbean People: also spoke about the underdevelopment of infrastructure exposed in 1968: "As the Guyanese intellectual Walter Rodney highlighted, colonialist expansion was done with a view to exploit our resources, and the Caribbean was therefore structurally organized to foster the development of industrial countries predominantly in Europe — or the mainland."

In addition, Sebro explained: "Social domination also included the renunciation of self in various ways such as through language and culture. This phenomenon is addressed by Frantz Fanon in his book, 'Black Skin, White Mask' where Caribbean people are constantly taught that elements of their culture are primitive and worthless."

The violence of the Western imperialist countries is today very visible with technology and the unprecedented killing of children and Palestinians in Gaza by Israel's most heinous and monstrous genocide — armed and funded by the U.S. And the genocide against African

peoples, on the continent, and in the diaspora, continues to increase its violence.

Kazi Toure, former political prisoner and member of the National Jericho Movement, USA, was a witness to the state executions against the Black liberation movement: "When a child goes to school, he or she must place their hand over their heart, turn to the flag, and pledge allegiance to the flag of the U.S. — the same happens at every major sports event ...

"I stopped pledging when I was 13. Medgar Evers was murdered when I was 14. Brother Malcolm was assassinated when I was 15. The Black Panther Party was born when I was 16 and Martin Luther King was murdered when I was 18. ... The counterintelligence program of the FBI, known as Cointelpro, infiltrated and destroyed every Black, Brown, and Indigenous organization that worked to better their communities and nations. Twenty-eight young people in the Black Panther Party were murdered by 1974, to the party's demise."

Berta Joubert-Ceci, a member of the Women's International Democratic Federation and a regular contributor to Struggle-La Lucha, gave a very informative presentation at the conference that highlighted the economic violence against Puerto Rico:

"In 2015, the Krueger Report, an IMF neoliberal prescription, was published: 'Puerto Rico a way forward.' The 30-page report provides a detailed study of the economy of the colony and its practices ... some of the measures of this five-year plan are:

- Elimination of the minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour, which it says is too high
- Reduction of the number of teachers and consolidation (closing) of schools; reduction of funding to the University of Puerto Rico, etc.

"It also includes privatization of public agencies such as the PUR Electric Power Authority, and other government agencies that are efficiently generating income as the State Insurance Fund. These facts point to the urgency of decolonization now."

Estelí Capote, General Coordinator, Instituto Puertorriqueño de Relaciones Internacionales, talked about how organizations working through the UN committees could also push Puerto Rico's independence and self-determination.

"For example, during the early 2000s, Puerto Rico had a big struggle in taking out the U.S. military from Vieques that was bombarding heavily the island resulting in contamination, displacement of population, the sickness of the population, death of personnel ... this is the type of issue that the 4th Commission can work on. It is important for Puerto Rico to have a presence in this 4th Commission specially through our sister country of Cuba ... with all the economic blockage and political restriction imposed by the U.S., they have continued to be very strict in their determination to fulfill the Jose Marti and Fidel Castro commitment to foster Puerto Rican independence."

Owei Lakemfa and Estelí Capote — the key organizers — brought together an extremely successful conference that ended with the direction of work and the recognition of a significant and inspiring date of birth. Said Capote: "This is the first of a series of consecutive, consistent events to be celebrated until the objective of this body is obtained. The participants recognized today, Aug. 13, Fidel Castro's birthday, the vital and inspirational energy of the great revolutionary of the world, sustaining and providing guidance in the process of debating and agreeing collectively on the objectives and goals of this conference." #

# DNC's message: WAR! WAR! More WAR!

Continued from page 1

the world that racist police terror is continuing. The real voice of workers, the oppressed, of women, the LGBTQ+ community, of Black, Brown, Arab, Mexican, Indigenous, and Asian people was outside the conference protesting.

## What's behind the messaging

What accounts for the sudden surge for the Democrats, particularly in terms of financial backing, coupled with the rave reviews in the major mainstream media?

José Ramón Cabañas Rodríguez, Director of the International Policy Research Center in Havana, Cuba, infers the answer in his The Kamala-Trump-Walz-Vance equation:

*“But perhaps one of the keys to what was going on under the surface was given by the megabank JPMorgan in a communication addressed to its clients:*

*“Markets don't like uncertainty, and some of the strength in risk assets over the summer was likely due to the increased likelihood of a Republican victory. We would not be surprised to see more turbulence as the presidential race evolves.”*

*“What was a mere probability at the time was chillingly confirmed by the record drop in the major stock markets on Aug. 5.*

*“For the U.S. financial world, the opposite of uncertainty is predictability. In the new circumstances, this condition seems more likely among the Democrat Party, which could not only offer a sense of continuity as of 2028 to the team that could be elected this November but also exhibits a list of probable ‘leaders’ for the future that are not present in the Republican party.”*

Harris comes from Silicon Valley and represents, to a large degree, high tech capitalists whose interests are connected to the war machine and military industrialists. Of course, these developments are not based on one section of the capitalist class alone but rather on what benefits the whole kit and kaboodle of predatory thieves, from bankers to landlords.

The U.S. capitalist economy (more than just increasingly) predominantly relies on military spending and risky speculations on the stock market. It is not real growth based on production for use. The result is continuing inflation marked by unemployment and stagnation.

Third-party candidates **Cornel West**, national civil rights activist; **Claudia De la Cruz**, Party for Socialism & Liberation; and **Jill Stein**, Green Party; spoke at the **Abandon Biden** press conference on **Aug. 19**, which voted to change its name to **Abandon Harris**.



## The velvet glove and iron fist

At this moment, the Democratic Party looks like it could emerge as the winner in the November presidential election. While it sounds crude, follow the money — not that Trump doesn't have his billionaire contributors like Timothy Mellon, heir to the Mellon banking fortune, and others mainly from the real estate sector. Harris's campaign boasts that it has raised \$540 million since its launch.

But of course, nothing is ever guaranteed, especially in the chaotic, dog-eat-dog, unplanned world of capitalist politics. The very Electoral College that all of the millionaires of both parties have enshrined may play into the hands of the Trump campaign.

Most workers, especially in the larger cities, hate Trump, and for very good reasons. He is a racist, misogynist, anti-worker, anti-immigrant buffoon. And he is a fascist. It is a good instinct to be horrified by Trump.

But embracing the Democratic Party as a real alternative whose neoliberal policies at home and abroad have provided the soil for this development is not a solution. In fact, they have fed the growth of outright fascist movements.

You could possibly say that the Democratic Party machine represents the velvet glove and the Republicans the iron fist. But it's not that simple. It's more accurate to say that whether it's the Biden administration or a future Harris administration — we are subjected to both the velvet glove and iron fist at the same time.

The so-called “democratic” bourgeois electoral system and its resultant elected officials are just one part of the superstructure of the capitalist system — there is the state apparatus of repression, which has grown larger and more virulent and is a product and outgrowth

of the militarization of the U.S. economy.

They are the iron fist and include racist killer police, the FBI with its raids and spying, sheriff departments riddled with neo-fascists, the court and prison system, and much more. They, along with the Pentagon, are the guarantors of the rule of billionaires both at home and abroad.

Retired Ambassador Chas Freeman, who was Nixon's translator during his 1972 China trip, said recently, “The United States is in the midst of a mounting constitutional crisis that will come to a head with the Nov. 5 elections and the transition to the Jan. 20 inauguration of the next president. ... The civilian government in Washington may disintegrate at the end of this year, but the U.S. Armed Forces will not.”

While the Democratic Party elite tout freedom and constitutional rights — massive and violent attacks on student encampments opposing genocide in Gaza — belie the very right to protest. The dismissal and firings of teachers and workers who take a stand for even a ceasefire are done to shut down opposition.

The chilling case of the UHURU 3, members of the African People's Socialist Party who were the victims of militarized SWAT teams and indicted on conspiracy charges for speaking out against the war machine, is aimed at smashing free speech. The attacks on non-profits like The Peoples Forum in New York City threaten the ability to build organizing centers.

It must be impossible for the Palestinian mothers and fathers, mourning murdered children suffering from outright genocide, and for the occupied and colonized people of the entire region to hear talk of “a lesser of two evils.” Time to break with both capitalist parties and end all “evil.” #

# U.S. attack on Mexico's judicial reforms: Protecting corporate profits

By Lev Koufax

Since the beginning of 2024, the government of Andrés Manuel López Obrador (known as AMLO) has promoted a set of legal reforms aimed at rooting out corruption and diminishing Western corporate interests in the Mexican judiciary. At the core of AMLO's proposal are popular elections for all judges, including the Supreme Court of Mexico.

For years, corruption, bribery, and police brutality have been the hallmarks of Mexican courts and law enforcement. Cartels, militarized police, and U.S. corporations exert enormous amounts of pressure on Mexican judges in the form of bribes, threats, and violence. Under the current appointment system, judges in the hands of organized crime or companies like General Motors can maintain their positions indefinitely.

These judges scuttle any individual or institutional attempt to bring justice to brutal cops, maquiladora bosses, or drug cartel bosses.

AMLO's reform aims to break this cycle by making the judiciary elected, not appointed. If the Mexican judiciary could effectively take on corrupt U.S. corporations and organized crime, it could help break the U.S. stranglehold on Mexican labor and reel in an out-of-control militarized police force. Under NAFTA and the current U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement ("USMCA"), U.S. corporations own and operate factories across different industries in Mexico.

Further, the U.S. and Canada browbeat Mexico into pledging against state-owned enterprises as a part of the USMCA. NAFTA, and now USMCA, allow, if not empower, U.S. billionaire corporations to pay Mexican workers less for more work and avoid most regulations enforcing higher standards for workers.

Many of these same companies demanding continued cheap labor in Mexico left U.S. workers high and dry as they closed down factories over the past several decades. Mexican and U.S. workers have common enemies in Washington and on Wall Street.

A change in Mexico's judiciary towards regulating U.S.-owned factories and away from the USMCA could help



United States Ambassador Ken Salazar attacks Mexico reforms, promotes exploitation of Mexican workers.

Mexico gain some independence from the U.S. imperialist machine.

And for these exact reasons, the U.S. government and its mouthpieces have unleashed a firestorm of criticism against AMLO and his proposed reform.

The U.S. Mission to Mexico denounced the reform and said that "popular election of judges is a major risk to the functioning of Mexico's democracy." What?! Popular elections are a threat to democracy? The U.S. has a fascinating definition of democracy. Is the U.S. so openly saying that "Mexican democracy" means a form of government that explicitly and solely benefits a small number of Western oligarchs?

The U.S. Mission asserted that the proposed reforms would "threaten the historic trade relationship [the U.S. and Mexico] have built, which relies on investors' confidence in Mexico's legal framework." As previously noted, U.S. corporations benefit greatly from a weak and corrupt Mexican judiciary. What the U.S. embassy won't say is that "investors' confidence" is based on higher and higher levels of exploitation of Mexican workers.

The neoliberal think tank, the Wilson Center, went a step further and openly invoked the USMCA. Specifically, "If approved, these legal shifts could seriously challenge North America's long term competitiveness, and nearshoring potential, jeopardize billions in U.S. and Canadian investments in Mexico, and com-

PLICATE the 2026 review of the USMCA." Translated: if the Mexican judiciary actually works, the U.S. ruling class could lose a lot of money.

This attack on AMLO's reform is nothing more than a U.S. corporate attempt to maintain a stranglehold on the Mexican economy. The U.S. cannot allow any attempt to restrict its exploitation of Mexican labor, even a relatively mild one. AMLO did not propose nationalizing the energy sector or serious tariffs on imported

U.S. goods. However, the U.S. capitalist machine won't risk losing a single penny. No restriction of their market domination can be allowed. Hence, they will fight this reform tooth and nail.

When U.S. Ambassador to Mexico Ken Salazar bellicosely proposed that putting judges up for election would threaten "the historic commercial relationship" between the two countries, the Mexican government responded that Salazar's comments "represent an unacceptable interference, a violation of Mexico's sovereignty."

AMLO suspended diplomatic relations with the U.S. and Canada, which has also denounced the judicial reforms. While this reaction is certainly justified and frankly should be applauded, it might be noted that AMLO's response to the attempted coup in Venezuela was not nearly as strong. In fact, AMLO has yet to recognize Nicolas Maduro's election victory even after it was fully certified by the Supreme Court.

This is unfortunate because Washington's attempts to re-colonize Venezuela are also a threat to Mexico. An attack on the sovereignty of one Latin American country is an attack on the sovereignty of all.

The U.S. attack on AMLO's proposed judicial reform is outrageous and entirely rooted in the interests of the U.S. billionaire class. Mexico deserves to carve its future without having to pay the piper that is U.S. imperialism at every turn. #

# Declaración de la XI Cumbre Extraordinaria de Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno del ALBA-TCP

Continúa de página 16

6. Reconocemos que Venezuela es un Estado libre, independiente, democrático y soberano que cuenta con sus propias instituciones y leyes para resolver sus asuntos internos. En ese sentido, saludamos con beneplácito la decisión de la Sala Electoral del Tribunal Supremo de Justicia (TSJ) para dirimir esta controversia electoral, en un digno ejemplo de ejercicio pleno de soberanía y, con ello, garantizando la paz y la tranquilidad al pueblo venezolano.

7. Saludamos a todos los participantes de la contienda electoral que comparecieron ante el Tribunal Supremo de Justicia para contribuir a la paz y la estabilidad del pueblo venezolano, lo cual es una muestra de madurez política y de la democracia participativa en esta na-

ción hermana al tiempo que lamentamos que algunos actores políticos, que denunciaron supuestas irregularidades, no se hayan presentado ante el Tribunal Supremo de Justicia, fallando al compromiso adquirido para con el pueblo como candidatos presidenciales.

8. Felicitamos al Presidente Constitucional Nicolás Maduro Moros y a su pueblo que, con resiliencia y apego a la justicia, han sabido derrotar el intento de golpe de Estado continuado y ratificamos nuestro compromiso y apoyo irrestricto al gobierno constitucional, legítimo y democráticamente reelecto.

9. Reafirmamos, una vez más, que América Latina y el Caribe es una Zona de Paz. Reclamamos el estricto cumplimiento de la obligación de no intervenir, directa o indirectamente, en los

asuntos internos de cualquier otro Estado y de respetar plenamente el derecho inalienable de todo Estado a elegir su sistema político, económico, social y cultural como condición esencial para garantizar la convivencia pacífica entre las naciones, la paz y la estabilidad de nuestra región.

Nos reunimos para defender, hoy más que nunca, al hermano pueblo venezolano de los tentáculos del fascismo y levantar la voz para rechazar la injerencia, la manipulación y las pretensiones imperialistas y golpistas para apoderarse de nuestros legítimos derechos y recursos, que tanto han perjudicado a nuestros pueblos.

Defender a Venezuela es defender el sueño de unión y hermandad de nuestros próceres y pueblos.

Caracas, 26 de agosto de 2024

**SPEAKOUT**  
**FOR TRANSLIVES** *JOIN US!*

**SATURDAY**  
**OCT 19**  
**COLUMBUS, OHIO**

- Protect trans youth & trans lives
- No bans on gender-affirming care, restroom access & sports
- End police violence against our communities.
- Justice for Frank Tyson!
- End attacks on nurses, teachers, librarians
- Free, legal, accessible abortions
- Safe, affordable housing for queer youth
- Stop attacks on privacy - protect sex workers
- Demand federal enforcement of civil rights coast to coast
- End attacks on immigrants
- Stop genocide in Gaza! Israel is no friend to LGBTQIA+ people
- Expand Medicaid and SNAP - Fund healthcare for all, not warfare

Under Gov. Mike Dewine and the Republican legislative supermajority, Ohio has become a battleground for trans healthcare and reproductive rights, as the far right attempts to create a beachhead in the midwest.

No matter who wins the national elections, we will need to continue fighting for our rights.

Help organize a national protest to push back the attack on trans people, LGBTQIA+ and BIPOC communities, immigrants, and workers.

Initiated by Protect Trans Lives Coalition  
Volunteer & endorse at [ProtectTransKidsMarch.org](https://ProtectTransKidsMarch.org)

# Declaration of the 11<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government of ALBA-TCP

Monday, August 26, 2024

We, the Heads of State and Governments of the member countries of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America – People's Trade Treaty (ALBA-TCP), committed to the founding principles and values of solidarity, social justice, and cooperation, and in adherence to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the international law, meeting on August 26, 2024:

Being the sister Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, a founding member country of the ALBA-TCP, a unionist project envisioned by the Liberator Simón Bolívar and the heroes of the independence deeds of Latin America and the Caribbean and realized by Commanders Hugo Rafael Chávez Frías and Fidel Castro Ruz; the member countries of this great Alliance acknowledge that this kind Our American nation is a sovereign and independent country, with high democratic standards, which, in compliance with its sacred Constitution, organized presidential elections, in accordance with the corresponding regulatory times.

Throughout the years of growth of this great unionist and integrationist project, we have witnessed the work and leadership of President Nicolás Maduro Moros at the helm of this sister nation in the face of the fiercest onslaught of transnational powers, in the worst political, geopolitical, social and economic conditions in the current world, in which some of our sister countries have been direct victims of imperialism, as well as witnesses to an unparalleled onslaught against the Venezuelan nation, through over 930 unilateral, extortive and illegal coercive measures aimed at strangling the Venezuelan economy and society.

Therefore, we hereby:

1. Strongly condemn any coup d'état or attempted coup d'état, as they constitute the violent, illegal, and unconstitutional way that threatens democracy, peace, and life itself, as well as the destabilizing plans and actions promoted by foreign factors, which attempt to disregard the will of the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean, expressed democratically and legitimately at the ballot box.

2. Strongly repudiate the brutal communicational warfare, full of hatred, intolerance, discrimination, and contempt through social networks, strategically aimed at the younger generations of Venezuelan society, victims of disinformation and hyper-information to promote violence, vandalism, and barbarism.
3. Reject the attacks and acts of vandalism against people, public infrastructure, religious and national symbols representing the Venezuelan idiosyncrasy, which caused human and material losses in order to create an opinion matrix of chaos in a country where a historic election day was held in peace and democracy.
4. Denounce the disregard of the official results of the electoral process by a violent and fascist sector of the Venezuelan opposition that has openly requested interventionism and more sanctions for the country at the expense of the Venezuelan people and which had already shown signs of its coup intentions by not signing the agreement for the respect of the electoral results promoted by the Venezuelan governing body, the National Electoral Council.
5. Demand the international community to respect the sovereignty, self-determination, and democratic will of the Venezuelan people. We regret the decision of some governments to question the electoral results in Venezuela and to promote discourses that do not reflect the reality of the country. It is essential that all States recognize the principle of non-interference in internal affairs and work together to foster dialogue and constructive cooperation rather than fuel divisions.
6. Recognize that Venezuela is a free, independent, democratic, and sovereign State that has its own institutions and laws to address its internal affairs. In this regard, we welcome the decision of the Electoral Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice (TSJ) to settle this electoral controversy in a

worthy example of the full exercise of sovereignty and, thus, guaranteeing peace and tranquility to the Venezuelan people.

7. Salute all the participants in the electoral contest who appeared before the Supreme Court of Justice to contribute to the peace and stability of the Venezuelan people, which is a sign of political maturity and active democracy in this sister nation, while we regret that some political actors, who denounced alleged irregularities, did not appear before the Supreme Court of Justice, failing to fulfill their commitment to the people as presidential candidates.
8. Congratulate the Constitutional President Nicolás Maduro Moros and his people who, with resilience and adherence to justice, have been able to defeat the attempted coup d'état, and we reaffirm our commitment and unrestricted support to the constitutional, legitimate, and democratically elected government.
9. Reaffirm, once again, that Latin America and the Caribbean are a Zone of Peace. We demand strict compliance with the obligation not to intervene, directly or indirectly, in the internal affairs of any other State and to fully respect the inalienable right of every State to choose its political, economic, social, and cultural system as an essential requirement to guarantee peaceful coexistence among nations, peace and stability in our region.

We gather to defend, today more than ever, the brother Venezuelan people from the tentacles of fascism and raise our voices to reject the interference, manipulation, and imperialist, colonialist, and coup intentions to seize our legitimate rights and resources, which have caused so much harm to our peoples.

Defending Venezuela is to defend the dream of union and brotherhood of our heroes and peoples.

Caracas, August 26, 2024

# Declaración de la XI Cumbre Extraordinaria de Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno del ALBA-TCP

*La declaración llama al organismo continental a ocuparse «de los asuntos de sus miembros». El secretario ejecutivo de la Alianza Bolivariana para los Pueblos de Nuestra América-Tratado de Comercio de los Pueblos (ALBA-TCP), Jorge Arreaza, envió una misiva al secretario general de la Organización de Estados Americanos (OEA), Luis Almagro, para recordarles el artículo 143 de la carta de ese organismo, a fin de evitar su intromisión en asuntos referentes a Venezuela.*

**Lunes, 26 de agosto de 2024**

Nosotros, los Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno de los países de la Alianza Bolivariana para los Pueblos de Nuestra América – Tratado de Comercio de los Pueblos (ALBA-TCP), fieles a los principios y valores fundacionales de solidaridad, justicia social y cooperación, y apegados a los propósitos y principios de la Carta de las Naciones Unidas y al Derecho Internacional, reunidos el 26 de agosto de 2024:

Siendo la hermana República Bolivariana de Venezuela un país miembro fundacional del ALBA-TCP, un proyecto unionista, soñado por el Libertador Simón Bolívar y los héroes y heroínas de las gestas independentistas de América Latina y el Caribe y materializado por los Comandantes Hugo Rafael Chávez Frías y Fidel Castro Ruz; los países de esta gran Alianza reconocemos que esta noble nación nuestroamericana es un país soberano e independiente, con altos estándares democráticos, que apegado a su sagrada Constitución, organizó elecciones presidenciales, de acuerdo a los tiempos reglamentarios correspondientes.

A través de los años de crecimiento de este gran proyecto unionista e integracionista, hemos constatado el trabajo y liderazgo del Presidente Nicolás Maduro Moros al frente de la conducción de esta nación hermana ante la más feroz arremetida de poderes transnacionales, en las peores condiciones políticas, geopolíticas, sociales y económicas del mundo actual, en las que algunos de nuestros países hermanos hemos sido víctimas directas del imperialismo, así como, testigos de una embestida sin parangón hacia la nación venezolana, expresada a través de más de 930 medidas coercitivas unilaterales, extorsivas e ilegales, que pre-



Foto: albatcp.org

**El documento concluye pidiendo respeto a los pueblos de América Latina y el Caribe.**

tenden asfixiar la economía y la sociedad venezolanas.

Por tanto, nosotros:

1. Condenamos enérgicamente cualquier golpe de Estado o intento de golpe de Estado, pues constituyen la vía violenta, ilegal e inconstitucional que amenaza a la democracia, a la paz y a la vida misma, así como, los planes y acciones desestabilizadoras impulsadas por factores externos, que intentan desconocer la voluntad de los pueblos de América Latina y el Caribe, expresada de manera democrática y legítima en las urnas.
2. Repudiamos contundentemente la brutal guerra comunicacional, cargada de odio, intolerancia, discriminación y desprecio en las redes sociales, estratégicamente dirigida a las generaciones más jóvenes de la sociedad venezolana, víctimas de la desinformación y la hiperinformación para impulsar la violencia, el vandalismo y la barbarie.
3. Rechazamos los ataques y actos vandálicos contra personas, infraestructuras públicas, símbolos religiosos y patrios que conforman la idiosincrasia venezolana, que causaron pérdidas humanas y materiales para crear una matriz de opinión de caos, en un país en el que se desarrolló una histórica jornada electoral en paz y democracia.
4. Denunciamos el desconocimiento de los resultados oficiales del proceso electoral por parte de un sector de la oposición venezolana, violento y fascista, que ha solicitado abiertamente el intervencionismo y más sanciones para el país en detrimento del pueblo venezolano en distintas ocasiones y que ya había dado muestras de sus intenciones golpistas al no firmar el acuerdo para el respeto de los resultados electorales impulsado por el ente rector venezolano, el Consejo Nacional Electoral.
5. Reclamamos que la comunidad internacional respete la soberanía, la autodeterminación y la voluntad democrática del pueblo venezolano. Lamentamos la decisión de algunos gobiernos de cuestionar los resultados electorales en Venezuela y de promover resoluciones y pronunciamientos que no reflejan la realidad del país. Es fundamental que todos los Estados reconozcan el principio de no injerencia en los asuntos internos y trabajen juntos para fomentar el diálogo y la cooperación constructiva en lugar de alimentar divisiones.

*Continúa a página 15*

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

Vol. 7, No. 16 Sept 2, 2024 Vol. 7, Núm. 16 2 de septiembre 2024