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Struggle for Socialism Party

Partido de la Lucha por el Socialismo

300 cities answer Minneapolis' general strike call against ICE

By Gary Wilson

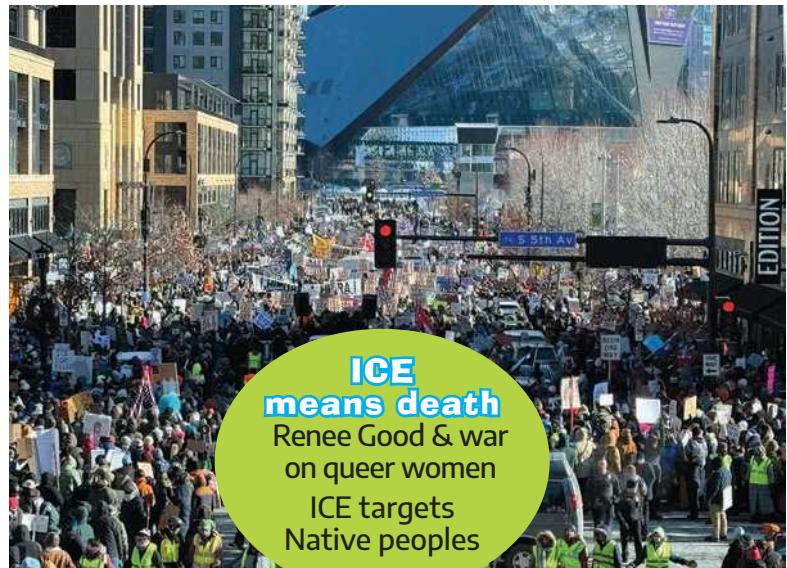
On Jan. 23, 2026, Minnesota was locked in a deep freeze. Temperatures dropped to 16 below zero, with wind chills reaching minus 30. Instead of staying home, more than 100,000 people filled the streets of Minneapolis and St. Paul.

They were joined by solidarity actions across the country. In the days leading up to Jan. 23, support for the Minneapolis general strike spread rapidly, jumping from plans in "dozens" of cities to confirmed actions in at least 300 cities tied directly to the strike call. Workers, immigrant rights groups, students and community organizations acted together across the country, making clear that what was unfolding in the Twin Cities was not a local dispute.

In Minnesota, the strike was driven by the escalation of ICE as a paramilitary repressive force – armed agents operating as a domestic secret police, carrying out surveillance, raids and discretionary detentions aimed at controlling entire communities rather than enforcing any narrow set of laws.

"Operation Metro Surge" flooded neighborhoods with armed ICE

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NYC nurses in historic strike

From 'heroes' to 'disposable' in the eyes of hospital profiteers

By Sharon Black

New York, Jan. 13 – Do you remember when New York City nurses were heroes? When they showed up every day at the height of the pandemic, risking their lives to save thousands from a deadly and highly contagious virus?

The city clapped and banged pots at 7 p.m. for them. Politicians called them angels. Their courage was the thin white line between life and death for a city in crisis.

Nurses expose for-profit health care

Kaiser profits from ICE detention camps

Nurses demand hospitals bar ICE

Hospital executives claw back gains

But the executives at New York's largest and richest private hospital networks – Mount Sinai, New York-Presbyterian, and Montefiore –

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Organizers with Baltimore's People's Power Assembly and the Harriet Tubman Center of Los Angeles join the nurses picket line in New York.

- Remembering the spirit of Rev. Martin Luther King
- **MLK 2026:** The 'Demonic suction tube' of war
- Baltimore doesn't need a **\$1.2 billion jail** – it needs jobs
- The **antisemites aren't pro-Palestine** - they're MAGA

- **Kalaallit Nunaat** (aka Greenland) vs. Trumpland
- As genocide drags on in **Gaza**, Israel escalates war
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- Siege of **Iran**: Giuliani boasts: 'Sanctions work'
- **Release Chantal!** Stop U.S. aid to the Philippines

Kaiser nurses set to strike as health care giant profits from ICE detention camps

By Gary Wilson

When 31,000 Kaiser Permanente nurses and health care workers walk off the job on Jan. 26, they will be fighting for safe staffing at a nonprofit health system sitting on \$66 billion in reserves – reserves that include investments in the private prison companies caging migrants for ICE.

Kaiser Permanente Group Trust has held investments in both CoreCivic and GEO Group, the two largest operators of Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention facilities, according to financial disclosures reviewed by the union UNAC/UHCP. The investments appear in Kaiser's Form 5500 filings from 2020 through 2022, the most recent years for which public filings are available.

These are not obscure holdings. ICE now holds a record 68,000 people in detention nationwide, up from 40,000 at the start of 2025. At least 30 people have died in ICE custody in 2025 – the deadliest year in two decades. CoreCivic and GEO Group facilities have been at the center of documented medical neglect and preventable deaths, even as their executives celebrate “unprecedented” profits from the Trump administration’s deportation campaign.

Death and neglect for profit

GEO Group operates the Adelanto ICE Processing Center in California’s San Bernardino County, the state’s largest immigration detention facility. In September 2025, 39-year-old Ismael Ayala-Uribe died there after repeated pleas for medical care were ignored. Internal emails later showed staff had flagged his condition as potentially life-threatening, yet he was sent back to his dormitory, where his health deteriorated over several days without treatment. Ayala-Uribe had lived in the United States since he was four years old.

When Disability Rights California inspected Adelanto in June 2025, investigators documented “abuse and neglect of people with dis-



Kaiser Permanente nurses during their 2024 strike. Workers walk out again Jan. 26, demanding safe staffing from a nonprofit sitting on \$66 billion in reserves – including investments in ICE prison camp companies.

Photo: National Union of Healthcare Workers

abilities.” In a matter of weeks, the detained population ballooned from about 300 to nearly 1,400. Detainees reported going days without clean clothes or basic hygiene items, while guards responded to mounting tensions by tear-gassing entire dormitories.

CoreCivic’s record is similarly grim. The company reopened the 2,400-bed South Texas Family Residential Center in Dilley, Texas – a facility that can hold children – after it was shuttered in 2024. In Georgia, ICE also reopened the Irwin County Detention Center, which had closed in 2021 following a bipartisan Senate investigation into medical abuse of detained women.

Executives from both companies openly celebrate the surge. GEO Group’s chairman has described an “unprecedented opportunity,” projecting up to \$1 billion in additional annual ICE revenue. CoreCivic’s CEO has declared the company’s business “perfectly aligned with the demands of this moment.” GEO Group has backed that alignment with \$1 million in contributions to a PAC supporting Trump’s 2024 campaign.

Billions in reserves, no money for nurses

Kaiser Permanente calls itself a mission-driven nonprofit dedicated to health and healing. One in four California residents receives care through Kaiser. Yet the system has accumulated \$66 billion in unrestricted reserves – projected to reach \$70-75 billion by the end

of 2026 – while telling workers it cannot afford the staffing improvements they say patients desperately need.

The union’s “Profits Over Patients” report, released Jan. 15, documents how Kaiser reported \$7.9 billion in net income in the first three quarters of 2025 alone. Meanwhile, nurses’ wages have lost 10% of their purchasing power since 2021, with raises that failed to keep pace with inflation.

At the top, the numbers tell a different story. Kaiser CEO Gregory Adams averaged approximately \$13 million in annual compensation from 2020-2023 – 69 times what the health system pays an average optometrist, 29 times what it pays an average rehab therapist, and 27 times what it pays an average nurse. Board members averaged \$251,000 in 2023, and a third of them have banking and investment backgrounds.

The open-ended strike set to begin Jan. 26 follows a five-day walkout in October 2025 that failed to produce a contract agreement. Workers have been without a contract since Sept. 30. Kaiser paused national bargaining in mid-December, and the union has filed an unfair labor practice charge with the National Labor Relations Board alleging the company is trying to bypass the agreed-upon negotiating process.

Where the money goes

The investments in CoreCivic and GEO Group fit a pattern. The union report documents that Kaiser’s investment portfolio has also included holdings in fossil fuel companies linked to elevated rates of cancer and respiratory disease in working-class communities,

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Striking nurses expose for-profit health care

By John Parker

New York nurses are on strike. With 15,000 walking out on Monday, Jan. 12, this is the largest nurses' strike in the city's history. These nurses represent three different, privately owned hospital systems and are fighting back against hospital executives who have pushed them to the limit to squeeze out more profits – burning nurses out and endangering patients in the process.

On Jan. 11, John Parker with Struggle-La Lucha interviewed several nurses rallying outside New York-Presbyterian Allen Hospital. The following are excerpts.



John Parker: We're from Struggle-La Lucha – can you tell us why you're here?

Nurse 1: I'm here for better patient-to-nurse ratios. It means a lot. We need adequate staffing so we can properly care for them. That's what we're fighting for.

Nurse 2: I'm here for patient safety and safe staffing. We're nurses and we cannot be spread so

thin. They need adequate care.

Parker: I had a stroke three years ago, and it took three months for me to get a neurologist, a cardiologist. And luckily I survived, but the health care system is

so bad. And I know what they take away from you is being taken away from us too.

Nurse 2: Exactly.

Parker: So, why do people call you heroes?

Nurse 2: Heroes? Because we put ourselves last. We put everybody else before us.

Nurse 3: We put our patients before our bladders!

Nurse 2: Before our tummies! Nurses and patients deserve better. Union power can get us there.

John Parker is an organizer with the Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice in Los Angeles and the Struggle for Socialism Party.



New York nurses strike over patient care, demand hospitals bar ICE

By Gary Wilson

Bronx, New York, Jan. 22 – Nurses at Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx walked off the job this week, shutting down routine operations as they pressed a demand that has not previously appeared in a major U.S. health care labor contract: a binding rule barring Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents from entering hospital facilities.

"In the Bronx, we have a very high population of Black and Brown people, and we have a population of immigrants that we are trying to protect and make sure that they feel safe coming into hospitals," said Michelle Gonzalez, a Montefiore nurse and executive committee member of the New York State Nurses Association, speaking on Democracy Now! on Jan. 21.

The demand did not appear suddenly. For more than a year, NYSNA nurses worked with the Committee of Interns and Residents and 1199SEIU – the union representing other hospital workers – to push hospital administrators to voluntarily adopt protections against ICE agents inside medical facilities. Management refused. After months of meetings produced no change, nurses moved the issue into formal contract negotiations.

"We've been unsuccessful, which is why we've brought it into our contract demands," Gonzalez said. "But still, to this point, they have not negotiated."



Nurses picket outside Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx during a strike over patient care and working conditions, including a contract demand to bar ICE enforcers from hospitals.

What nurses are already facing nationwide

What nurses at Montefiore describe is already happening in hospitals across the United States.

At Hennepin County Medical Center in Minneapolis, doctors and nurses have begun using encrypted group chats to warn one another about ICE activity near the hospital. Health care workers described plainclothes agents stopping patients and staff, particularly people of color, and demanding documentation as they enter or leave the facility. In one incident described by hospital staff, an officer unnecessarily shackled a patient receiving care.

In Portland, Oregon, the Oregon Nurses Association sent a letter to Legacy Emanuel Medical Center documenting cases in which ICE officers pressured clinical staff to discharge patients early. "Nurses have reported instances where physicians have recommended con-

tinued hospitalization, but ICE insisted on removing the patient," the union wrote, describing discharges that went against medical advice.

The cost paid by patients

The effects show up in patients' lives.

In Minnesota, doctors reported that a pregnant woman skipped prenatal appointments because she feared encountering ICE agents at a clinic. A nurse later found her at home, already in labor. Another patient with kidney cancer was taken into ICE detention without his medication. Legal advocates intervened to get the medicine sent to him, but doctors said they could not confirm whether he was able to take it. Diabetic patients have gone without insulin. Wounds that could have been treated early progressed into medical emergencies requiring intensive care.

"Immigrants are absolutely avoiding medical care due to fear of being targeted," said Sandy Reding, vice president of National Nurses United and president of the California Nurses Association. In Southern California, nurses

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Remembering the revolutionary spirit of Rev. Martin Luther King

By Stephen Millies

Cold weather didn't stop people from marching in the Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood of Brooklyn, New York, to commemorate Dr. Martin Luther King's holiday on Jan. 19. The action was called by the December 12th Movement.

The demonstration started with a rally in Jitu Weusi Square, named after the late revolutionary educator and organizer. A recording was broadcast of Dr. King's famous April 4, 1967, address at Riverside Church, where he denounced the dirty war in Vietnam.

There, King declared: "The greatest purveyor of violence in the world is my own government." For courageously telling the truth, he was executed exactly one year later in Memphis during a strike of sanitation workers for union recognition.

Roger Wareham, an International Secretariat member of the December 12th Movement, told people that he was there when Dr. King spoke. Wareham and other speakers denounced Trump's fascist raids in Minneapolis targeting Somali immigrants. Just as fascist was Trump's kidnapping of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and First Combatant Cilia Flores.



Brooklyn

Brooklyn, N.Y., Jan. 14 – Marchers led by the December 12th Movement carry a banner reclaiming the revolutionary legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during an MLK Day march in Bedford-Stuyvesant.

SLL photo: Stephen Millies

The ending rally was held near Utica Avenue, where Omowale Clay, chairperson of the December 12th Movement, spoke. Other speakers included representatives of the Palaver Collective and the United Negro Improvement Association, founded by Marcus Garvey.

The freedom fighter Marcus Garvey was a Jamaican immigrant who was framed, jailed and deported, just like immigrants are being attacked today. Everyone was determined to stop Trump's fascist war drive against poor people everywhere. #

NY nurses, demand hospitals bar ICE

Continued from page 3

reported declining patient numbers as people stayed away from hospitals and clinics.

Hospitals are workplaces – and ICE is entering them

Montefiore nurses are not describing a misunderstanding or a communication problem. They are describing what happens when ICE enforcers enter their workplace.

Hospitals are places where nurses and other staff work long shifts under staffing shortages and time pressure. Administrators answer to boards, insurers and bondholders. When ICE enforcers walk hospital corridors or wait outside entrances, patients stop coming. Workers become afraid to report for shifts. Nurses are left managing more advanced illnesses, more emergencies and more preventable complications.

Hospital executives allowed immigration enforcement to operate inside medical facilities rather than confront federal authorities. Patients and workers paid the price.

Hospital administrators often say their hands are tied by federal law or that they must remain "neutral" on immigration enforcement. At Montefiore, those claims collapse under the weight of how the institution actually operates.

Montefiore Medical Center is an \$8.6 billion medical corporation that brings in more annual revenue than many major cities. While it claims nonprofit status to avoid taxes, it operates as a commercial engine, prioritizing its bond ratings and executive compensation – including a CEO salary of over \$16 million – over the safety of the Bronx community.

Its board of trustees reads like a directory of the billionaire class. It includes Daniel Tishman, a real estate magnate tied to Tishman Realty, and Zygmunt Wilf, owner of the Minnesota Vikings and a major real estate developer, alongside executives whose careers are built on controlling and profiting from vast pools of capital.

While the system expands into luxury concierge-style medicine in Manhattan, it imposes austerity in the Bronx and allows ICE enforcers to operate inside its public-facing facilities.

Hospital executives allowed ICE enforcers to operate inside medical facilities and made no attempt to stop it. Patients skipped care, workers feared reporting for shifts, and hospitals became places of arrest instead of treatment.

With hospital management allowing ICE enforcers to continue unchecked, nurses turned to the only leverage they control: their labor.

"ICE is bad for patients, bad for commu-

nities, and bad for health care workers," said Karen Sanchez, a registered nurse at California Hospital in Los Angeles, in a 2025 statement released by National Nurses United. "Our hospitals need to be sanctuary spaces for people who need care, and the presence of ICE in the facility severely impacts how safe patients feel here."

What distinguishes the NYSNA demand is not only what it calls for, but how it is being pursued. Nurses are not asking elected officials to pass new laws. They are not waiting for courts to intervene. They are asserting through collective bargaining that safe patient care requires keeping ICE agents out of hospitals.

For a year, nurses, doctors and hospital workers coordinated across unions to build support for the demand. When management refused to act voluntarily, they escalated. The strike is not a collapse of negotiations. It is the point at which workers use organized power to force an issue management has refused to address.

Hospital administrators have so far declined to agree to protections from ICE agents. The outcome remains uncertain. But nurses at Montefiore have already drawn a clear line: They are willing to strike not only over staffing levels and working conditions, but over whether patients can enter a hospital without fear of arrest.

At Montefiore that fight continues. #

From the 'demonic suction tube' of war to the fight against tech-capitalism

By Colby Byrd

MLK 2026

In 2026, there are three lessons from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. – and the Civil Rights struggle he played a major role in – that will aid us in our continuing fight to destroy the racist, sexist, homophobic, capitalist system.

Dr. King said that, “when machines and computers, profit motives and property rights are considered more important than people. ... The giant triplets of racism, materialism, and militarism are incapable of being conquered.” This quote is far from an admittance of defeat, or a praise of strength to the capitalist enemy. This quote is a call to action – a wake up call to reject the disempowering blinders of capitalist ideology so we can fight back.

Dr. King understood that corporate politicians and their backers in the banks and military-industrial complex would continue to squeeze everything they can out of people. They would continue to look for ways to strip communities, and displace them to make way for profits.

During the '60s, it was the construction of highways and the government's commitment to “Urban Renewal” (or as James Baldwin coined it, Negro Removal) which led to the razing of Black communities all across the country to make way for the expansion of private investment and military spending. Today, the government is continuing its process of Negro Removal through the expansion of gentrification in cities, the gutting of work and education opportunities and, most notably, the construction of AI data centers in predominantly Black and working-class areas, which pollute the water, land and air, turning them into unlivable wastelands.

The second lesson from Dr. King is the importance of exposing and educating people on the intersections of U.S. imperialist foreign policy and its oppression of people within its borders.

Here is a longer quote by Dr. King that clearly states this exact lesson:

“There is a very obvious and almost facile connection between the war in Vietnam and the struggle I and others have been waging in America. ... America would never invest the necessary funds or energies in rehabilitation of its poor so long as adventures like Vietnam continued to draw men and skills and money like some demonic, destructive suction tube.”

In the '60s and '70s the United States found itself spending today's equivalent of nearly 2



In 2025, activists in Memphis, Tennessee, protest the construction of Elon Musk's xAI data center in a historically Black community (top). Below, Martin Luther King Jr. and other Civil Rights leaders march with striking sanitation workers in Memphis on March 28, 1968.

trillion dollars to carry out a brutal genocide and occupation of Vietnam all to protect the financial interests of Washington. The U.S. killed over 1 million Vietnamese people, mainly women and children, and subjected those that survived the calamity with long term irreparable health defects from the use of chemical weapons.

While this was going on across the globe, back in the United States, Black communities were getting erased and Black bodies were thrown into the meat grinder of a draft, also in the name of profits and military expansion for those in Washington.

Today, the U.S. continues its occupation and genocide of the Global South for the same bankers and war profiteers. The government spends nearly 900 billion dollars annually on maintaining its chokehold over the working people of the world.

While the U.S. spends that much money overseas, communities within the country go without adequate housing, access to a stable supply of food, proper and well-rounded health care, education and employment. These communities instead see the influx of around 300 billion dollars spent on expanding and maintaining the police departments in their communities across the country.

The capitalist class will do whatever it takes

to defend its stranglehold on the world and maintain the status quo. A status quo that not only prioritizes profits over people, but one that is emphasized by the brutality and depravity in which it goes about holding onto and increasing profits.

Lastly, Dr. King knew that it was the younger generations, the youth that will be the key to continuing and making strides in the struggle to overturn these oppressive systems.

“They are a new seed of radicalism. ... They carry out a serious rebellion against old values but have not yet concretely formulated the new values.”

Nothing can continue without the buy-in of younger generations and the system knows this.

Whether in the '60s or now in 2026, the war on Black youth is precisely to keep the younger generations from learning how to formulate the new values Dr. King was talking about. The capitalists have created this boogey-

man in the “juvenile” which they can use to justify any and all tactics it uses to imprison or kill any young Black child or teen that chooses not to submit to the racist systems of the United States.

The word “juvenile,” which replaced “thug,” which replaced “super predator,” which replaced “brute and savage,” is only the newest of terms used to dehumanize Black existence. However, we see that the youth – especially Black youth – continue to resist police occupation and are not conforming to the fascist system.

As the system increases its oppression and raises the level of brutality against Black youth, it is only natural that Black youth rise to meet and overcome these new horrors and challenges.

May Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s teachings continue to mold and shape the struggle ahead. The working and oppressed people of the world must continue to struggle and fight the U.S. empire. Dr. King said that “the price that America must pay for the continued oppression of the Negro and other minority groups is the price of its own destruction.” This destruction will be the smashing of the capitalist system and in its place will be a socialist system that ultimately puts people's needs and lives over profit.

Rest in Power Dr. King and Happy Birthday! #

Baltimore doesn't need a \$1.2 billion jail – it needs jobs

By Lev Koufax

A Baltimore City local news publication, the Baltimore Banner, recently reported that the cost of a new state constructed jail in the city would cost more than originally thought. Initially estimated to be a \$1 billion investment, which already made the most expensive project of any kind in Maryland history – the “state of the art” concentration camp for the poor will now cost \$1.2 billion.

Governor Moore and the Maryland Department of Correctional Services have framed the new prison as a much-needed upgrade to decrease crowding and improve living conditions. However, local prisoner rights advocacy groups have expressed doubt that the \$1.2 billion facility would do either of these. The fact is, the Maryland state government and the army of contractors that will build and equip this prison do not care about the conditions of prisoners. They care about two things: more prisoners and a bigger paycheck.

Maryland's Department of Correctional Services has already spent \$54 million on planning, even as the state faces critical budget deficits that the Governor has used to justify cuts to the state workforce and social welfare programs. Governor Moore's cuts, combined with the ongoing inflation crisis combined with Donald Trump's slashing of social benefits, have already battered Baltimore.



The city is facing its highest unemployment rate in years, at 5.5%. In his budget for fiscal year 2025, Governor Moore nearly froze raises for state workers and delayed the implementation of Maryland's new family leave program another 18 months. Yet, the new Baltimore City jail construction is all aboard, full steam ahead, and the State of Maryland continues to spend nearly \$288 million a year on incarcerating Baltimore City residents.

Baltimore doesn't need another massive concentration camp. The city already makes up 32% of the state's prison population, while only accounting for 10% of the overall state population. Baltimore is not only the largest city in the state, but also the home of the largest Black community in the state. This new jail is simply aimed at sharpening the oppression of an oppressed working-class Black city.

U.S. politicians, courts, and bureaucrats insist that the purpose of the country's massive incarceration system is rehabilitation and prevention. This assertion couldn't be further from the truth. As with so many institutions under capitalism, the motivation behind the massive prison system that operates at federal, state, and local levels is simply and solely profit.

Across Baltimore, Maryland, and the Country, prisoners – who are disproportionately Black and Brown – work for cents in wages creating all sorts of goods and providing all sorts of services.

Construction contractors make profit from building the facilities. Medical supply magnates rake in millions supplying equipment and medicine to prisons that rarely, if ever, use them effectively. The need for uniforms, beds, light fixtures, furniture, and plumbing all provide a boon for the parasitic prison supply industry that has grown like a weed since the 1980s. And this analysis doesn't even account for the labor actually done by prisoners once the prison is up and running.

Across Baltimore, Maryland, and the Country, prisoners – who are disproportionately Black and Brown – work for cents in wages creating all sorts of goods and providing all sorts of services. In as recently as 2024, the Associated Press investigated a supply chain that used prison labor to slaughter cattle, fish in dangerous waters, and work long hours picking produce in fields. All of these goods find their way to companies like Coca-Cola, General Mills, and Kroger to be sold for exponentially more than the prison laborers were paid.

Baltimore's new jail is just another avenue for profit in a national prison industrial system that only cares about the bottom line. Not a single city across the country needs more concentration camps for the poor. Those cities need jobs, healthcare, and education. #

Kaiser nurses set to strike as health care giant profits from ICE

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predatory lenders like Enova International (which operates CashNetUSA and NetCredit at interest rates exceeding 100%), and Elliott Management – the hedge fund run by Paul Singer, who has bankrolled the Manhattan Institute's campaigns against critical race theory education and LGBTQIA+ rights.

The private prison investments stand out because of what Kaiser claims to be. CoreCivic and GEO Group facilities disproportionately hold Black, Latinx, and immigrant workers and their families. The medical neglect documented at these facilities – medication withheld, chronic conditions ignored, emergency care delayed – is the opposite of what a health system is supposed to do.

Yet Kaiser, a California-based nonprofit that enjoys tax-favored status precisely because it is supposed to serve a public benefit, has channeled worker pension funds into ICE's concentration camp operations. The \$66 billion in reserves came from somewhere – from the

premiums paid by workers, from the Medicare and Medicaid dollars that flow through Kaiser's books, from the labor of the nurses now preparing to strike.

Those financial decisions are not abstract – they materialize every day in Kaiser hospitals, where nurses now preparing to strike confront the human consequences of understaffing and neglect.

Workers fight back

Kaiser workers say the strike is about more than wages. They point to chronic understaffing that has resulted in dangerous delays in care and what they call “moral injury” – knowing what patients need but being unable to provide it.

In December 2023, 53-year-old Francisco Delgadillo died in a Kaiser Vallejo emergency room after waiting more than eight hours for treatment for chest pain. Federal and state investigators found critical deficiencies in nursing coverage, with 30 to 40 patients in the wait-

ing area and no systematic oversight. Frontline workers had circulated a petition demanding safe staffing just days before his death.

Southern California Kaiser workers filed 13,807 formal staffing objections between November 2023 and November 2025 – an average of 19 per day – documenting conditions they consider unsafe for patients. The actual number is likely higher, workers say, because many have given up filing reports that seem to change nothing.

“We're not going on strike to make noise,” said UNAC/UHCP President Charmaine S. Morales. “We're authorizing a strike to win staffing that protects patients, win workload standards that stop moral injury, and win the respect and dignity Kaiser has denied for far too long.”

The 31,000 nurses and health care workers walking out Jan. 26 are asking a straightforward question: If Kaiser can find billions to invest in companies that profit from caging and neglecting migrants, why can't it find money to staff its hospitals safely? #



Hundreds rallied for trans children, youth and adults in New York's Union Square.

SLL photos: Melinda Butterfield

NYC rally: 'I believe in trans youth power'

By Melinda Butterfield

Jan. 10 – Under a cold, steady rain, hundreds of people rallied today in New York's Union Square to defend the lives of transgender children and all trans people. Holding a sea of umbrellas, signs and flags, they chanted, "I believe in my power! I believe in your power! I believe in trans youth power!"

"Together We Win: NYC Rally for Trans Kids" was organized by Trans formative Schools (Tfs), PFLAG NYC, and the New Pride Agenda, and supported by ACT UP NY and other groups. It was held in the run-up to a U.S. Supreme Court hearing Jan. 13 on the right of trans youth to participate in school sports.

The decision of the Trump-aligned court will have repercussions far beyond athletics,

impacting everything from health care access to bathroom bans to the right of trans people to exist in public spaces.

Speakers included several trans and gender-nonconforming youth from Tfs. The group, which unites teachers, students and parents, recently won a long battle to push back anti-trans measures by far-right members of Community Education Council 2 in Manhattan.

A student named Bea declared: "I want people to know that trans kids are just kids, we just want to live normal lives and be accepted. We don't need to be debated, we need to be cared for."

"Right now across our nation we are seeing a coordinated attempt to erase and silence the transgender community," said New York

Attorney General Letitia James. She vowed to use her office to protect trans youth and their access to gender-affirming health care.

New York is one of several states that have sued the federal government to stop Trump's anti-trans executive orders and departmental rules.

Trans community leader Qween Jean connected the Trump regime's attacks on trans rights with the genocide of Palestinians in Gaza, the terrorization of immigrants, and the murder of Renee Nicole Good, a queer woman, by ICE in Minneapolis.

"We are in a moment where, if we are silent, they will come after us. If we do not organize, they will terrorize," said Qween Jean. "If they come for us in the night, they will come for you in the morning." #

High school students stage walkout against ICE

By Gregory E. Williams

New Orleans, Jan. 20 – High school students at three city schools staged a two-hour walkout against ICE on the one-year anniversary of Trump's second term inauguration. The schools were NOCCA (New Orleans Center for Creative Arts), New Harmony High School, and Benjamin Franklin High School, whose students led several walkouts over the past few years in support of LGBTQIA+ rights.

Chants captured on social media include "El pueblo unido jamás será vencido / The people, united, will never be defeated" and "Hate does not make America great."

Some signs read: "ICE = Gestapo," "Hot people melt ICE," "ICE out," and "shame."

A report on New Orleans Public Radio included an excerpt from a statement released by



Students at three New Orleans schools walked out against ICE on Tuesday.

Photos: Louisiana PSL Instagram

the students. It said that they "refuse to accept a reality shaped by fascism, tyranny, and fear."

The New Orleans action was part of a nationwide wave of student walkouts on Jan. 20. Students at schools in New York City, Los An-

geles, Washington D.C., Atlanta, Minneapolis, Oklahoma City, Hartford, and Chicago staged similar protests against ICE. News reports said that tens of thousands walked out at over 800 high schools and colleges in all 50 states. #

80 years without a general strike. Then

By Gary Wilson

For most of U.S. history, general strikes have been rare – not because workers lacked the will to fight, but because the ruling class moved quickly and violently whenever that power surfaced.

When workers across an entire city stop work together, they do more than make demands. They expose who actually keeps society running, and that revelation has repeatedly been met with repression: police violence, mass arrests, court injunctions, federal intervention, and laws written to make such actions illegal before they can spread.

That history is no longer abstract. On Jan. 7, Immigration and Customs Enforcement agent Jonathan Ross shot and killed Renee Good, a 37-year-old lesbian mother and U.S. citizen, on a residential Minneapolis street. Good had been observing ICE operations near her home after dropping her six-year-old son at school.

In the days since, federal agents have been filmed violently detaining protesters and bystanders. In response, a coalition of Minneapolis community organizations, immigrant defense groups, and labor unions has called for a citywide mass action on Jan. 23 – a day of no work, no school, no shopping – demanding that ICE leave the city.

More than 90 organizations have endorsed the “ICE Out of Minnesota: Day of Truth & Freedom” call for no work/school/shopping Friday, Jan. 23.

Union endorsers include: Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation AFL-CIO, ATU Local 1005, SEIU Local 26, UNITE HERE Local 17, CWA Local 7250, St. Paul Federation of Educators Local 28, Minneapolis Federation of Educators AFT Local 59, IATSE Local 13, Graduate Labor Union, and UE Local 1105.

If large numbers of workers withhold their labor across the city on that day, the action would amount to a general strike.

Renee Good was white and a U.S. citizen. She was not the target of an immigration arrest and was not accused of any crime. Her killing came amid a sharp escalation of immigration enforcement violence under the Trump administration’s second term – violence that has overwhelmingly targeted immigrants and people of color. In 2025 alone, 31 people died in ICE custody, the highest number in more than two decades. In the first days of 2026, several more followed. For years, authorities treated such federal repression as routine while it remained directed at immigrants and communities of color.

The general strike

The general strike – workers across an entire city or region stopping work simultaneously – represents one of the most powerful weapons in the working-class arsenal. It is also one of the rarest in U.S. history.

That rarity has nothing to do with a lack of militancy. U.S. workers have repeatedly shown a willingness to fight. What makes general strikes exceptional is their scope: they are mass actions, drawing in workers across industries, workplaces, and neighborhoods at the same time.

When labor is withdrawn on that scale, it disrupts not just individual employers but the normal functioning of an entire city or region.

That is precisely why such actions provoke a harsh response. In the United States, strikes are routinely met with police violence, mass arrests, injunctions, and federal intervention. Sympathy strikes and secondary actions have been criminalized, and even legally permitted strikes are hemmed in by court orders and enforcement powers designed to contain them.

The United States is the most undemocratic of the world’s top industrialized imperialist powers when it comes to labor – workers have few rights, and even those few are routinely suppressed.

Seattle 1919: The high-water mark

The Seattle General Strike of February 1919 remains the largest general strike in U.S. history. For five days, 65,000 workers shut down the city. Shipyard workers had walked out for higher wages; within days, the entire Seattle labor movement joined them in solidarity.

The action was coordinated by unions, but its scope quickly exceeded any single organization’s control. What followed was later known as a general strike.

Workers did not simply stop working – they organized to keep the city running on their own terms. Union-run milk stations ensured deliveries to hospitals and families with infants. Labor guards maintained order without police. Cafeterias fed thousands of workers each day.

Yet the strike ended without winning its original demands. The strike committee faced immediate hostility from the federal government, the press, and national AFL officials. Seattle’s mayor denounced the strikers as Bolsheviks in the wake of the Russian Revolution. Federal troops were mobilized. Pressure mounted to return to work.

Crucially, the strike lacked specific, achievable demands beyond solidarity with the shipyard workers. When the shipyard dispute stalled, the General Strike Committee voted to end the action. Workers returned without concessions – but they had demonstrated something that terrified the ruling class: For five days, workers shut down a major U.S. city and ran it themselves. That demonstration shaped the repression that followed.

San Francisco 1934: Police violence

Fifteen years later, San Francisco showed a different dynamic. The 1934 General Strike grew out of a two-month West Coast longshore strike that had already paralyzed Pacific ports.

On July 5 – “Bloody Thursday” – police opened fire on picketers, killing two workers.

Outrage swept the city. Within days, up to 150,000 workers walked out.

In San Francisco, police killings transformed a bitter but contained struggle into a citywide shutdown. When violence by police and government forces becomes impossible to ignore, anger that has been building for years can break into open, collective action.

The strike differed from Seattle in key ways. It grew out of an ongoing fight with clear demands: union recognition for longshore workers and an end to the “shape-up” hiring system. Workers had already endured months of confrontation. They had leadership tested in struggle and rank-and-file support prepared for escalation.

The National Guard occupied the waterfront. Hundreds were arrested. But after four days, workers won. Arbitration granted union recognition and established the hiring hall, shifting power on the docks for generations.

Minneapolis’s demand – ICE out of the city – is similarly clear. But it targets federal power rather than an employer.

As Chris Silvera, the longest-serving principal officer in the Teamsters and former chairperson of the Teamsters National Black Caucus, has emphasized in his address “1934: A Year of Good Trouble,” the San Francisco General Strike was not an isolated eruption.

It was part of a broader working-class upheaval during the depths of the Great Depression – from the Toledo Auto-Lite strike to the Minneapolis Teamsters’ strikes and the coast-wide longshore shutdown. With unemployment soaring, banks collapsing, and entire cities thrown into crisis, violence by police and federal authorities in 1934 did not contain these struggles; it accelerated them, turning strikes that began in single industries into citywide confrontations that reshaped the labor movement for decades.

In 1934, Minneapolis was transformed by police violence into a center of mass labor revolt; in 2026, it is once again testing how police and federal repression reshapes collective response.

Oakland 1946: How the strike was shut down

The Oakland General Strike of December 1946 began with women department-store workers. Police escorted scab trucks through picket lines at two downtown stores where women clerks had been on strike for weeks. Outrage spread quickly.

Workers across Oakland walked out spontaneously – 130,000 in a city of about 400,000. Downtown became a workers’ festival, with jukeboxes dragged into the streets and bars offering free drinks to strikers.

The Oakland General Strike of December 1946 shows how quickly mass action can be demobilized when officials step in to contain it.

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ICE came to Minneapolis

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The strike showed how quickly rank-and-file solidarity can spread across a city – and how quickly it can be cut off when union officials intervene to protect their own authority and position, even if that means ending a struggle workers themselves started.

The strike wave of the 1930s and 1940s terrified the ruling class. Their response was systematic. The Taft-Hartley Act of 1947 banned sympathy strikes, secondary boycotts, and mass picketing – the very tactics that had made general strikes possible. It required union officials to sign anti-communist affidavits, driving militants and left-wing organizers out of unions.

The Cold War completed the process. What replaced class-struggle unionism was “business unionism”: unions reduced to negotiating contracts, policing their own members, and maintaining institutional stability, rather than mobilizing workers as a class against employers and the government.

The result was more than seven decades without a general strike in any U.S. city.

The 2006 “Day Without Immigrants” showed that mass work stoppages were still possible in the United States – and also showed their limits when they are not backed by durable organization.

On May 1, 2006, millions of immigrant workers and their supporters stayed home from work or walked out across the country to protest the Sensenbrenner bill, which would have criminalized undocumented immigrants and those who assisted them. Meatpacking plants shut down or slowed across the Midwest. Construction sites across the Southwest and California were deserted. Restaurants, hotels, garment shops, and food-processing facilities closed or operated with skeleton crews.

In cities like Los Angeles, Chicago, Dallas, and Denver, marches drew hundreds of thousands, in some cases more than a million people.

For a single day, the action made something unmistakably clear: Immigrant labor is central to the U.S. economy, and when that labor is withdrawn, entire industries feel it immediately.

But the action was not rooted in workplace organization or strike committees. It was called largely by coalitions of immigrant rights groups, churches, and Spanish-language media, not by unions prepared to sustain a work stoppage. When May 1 ended, most participants returned to work the next day. There was no coordinated escalation, no mechanism to defend participants from retaliation, and no organization capable of turning a one-day shutdown into sustained pressure.

The Sensenbrenner bill was eventually dropped, but broader demands – legalization, an end to raids, and full rights for immigrant workers – were never secured.

In 2018, teachers in West Virginia struck illegally. Public-sector workers there had no collective bargaining rights, and the state had not seen a major strike in decades. Educators shut down every public school in the state for nine days. With broad public support and workers refusing to return under pressure, the legislature approved a 5% raise – not only for teachers, but for all state workers.

The following year, teachers in Los Angeles struck for nine days, pressing demands that went beyond wages. They called for smaller class sizes, more nurses and counselors, and limits on charter school expansion. In Chicago, educators stayed out for 11 days, winning enforceable class-size caps, staffing increases, and protections for students facing housing insecurity and immigration enforcement.



These were sustained work stoppages carried out illegally, in defiance of labor law and political threats. They shut down school systems, disrupted daily life, and forced concessions. They were limited to a single sector, not citywide shutdowns.

Any citywide work stoppage today faces formidable obstacles. Union density is lower. Legal repression is harsher. Workplaces are fragmented. Many workers lack formal collective bargaining rights.

Yet the Minneapolis call has emerged with notable strengths. It is broad from the start. It links labor action to opposition to police and federal repression. And it has drawn union endorsement without being limited by formal strike procedures.

Whether Jan. 23 remains a one-day action or opens onto something larger will be decided by what happens next.

History does confirm this much: When workers across a city stop work together, they demonstrate a power no other form of protest can match. That power terrifies those who benefit from workers remaining divided.

Renee Good was shot and killed by a United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement agent during a federal operation on Jan. 7, igniting widespread protests and public outcry. If Minneapolis workers withhold their labor together, they will be confronting a question the ruling class has long tried to suppress: What happens when working people decide they've had enough? #

Minneapolis' general strike call against ICE

Continued from page 1

units acting as a domestic secret police, using raids, surveillance and intimidation to impose political control. That same apparatus killed Renée Nicole Good, a 37-year-old lesbian parent, legal observer and community defender, and then protected its agent from any federal investigation.

What took shape on Jan. 23 was a general strike. Labor was withheld, businesses shut their doors and daily life was deliberately disrupted by workers, shop owners, immigrants, faith leaders and students acting together.

The action reflected a shared understanding that the violence was not isolated, but built into the enforcement system now operating in their neighborhoods.

Somali workers and business owners played a central role. For years, the Somali community in Minnesota has faced racist repression from

federal authorities, including surveillance of mosques and businesses, baseless fraud accusations and neighborhood enforcement operations aimed at intimidation.

On Jan. 23, hundreds of Somali-owned businesses closed. Karmel Mall, one of the state's largest commercial hubs, went dark. Roughly 700 businesses statewide shut down.

As repression intensified, federal plans escalated. Fifteen hundred paratroopers from the Army's 11th Airborne Division were placed on standby for possible domestic deployment. Veterans and military families urged active-duty troops to refuse illegal orders.

ICE's tactics also drew widespread outrage. School officials and medical workers reported actions they described as psychological warfare, including the detention of children and arrests near schools. In one case, a 5-year-old child was used to lure adults from a home before being taken out of state.

ICE has used administrative warrants – internal paperwork the agency signs itself – to barge into people's homes without a judge's sign-off, openly flouting the Constitution's Fourth Amendment protections against unreasonable searches and seizures, which require a neutral judge's approval based on probable cause. That is deliberate. It is how this repressive force operates – unaccountable, armed, and deployed to control communities.

The Jan. 23 strike marked a turning point. The rapid spread of solidarity actions showed how quickly walkouts, shutdowns and protests took hold in other cities. In Minneapolis, the organizing that produced the strike has continued in workplaces, neighborhoods and community spaces, as people prepare for further confrontation with ICE and the forces backing it. Larger actions later this spring, including May Day, are already being discussed, but the fight is unfolding now. #

'We will get ICE out of Minnesota' Community, unions mobilize for Jan. 23

By Melinda Butterfield

Imagine federal agents are besieging your neighborhood. Gas canisters and explosives are popping off all around. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents have just shot someone nearby.

You pile your children, including your six-month-old baby, into the family car to get them out of harm's way.

"Officers threw flash bangs and tear gas in my car. I got six kids in the car," Shawn Jackson told TV station KMSP. "My 6-month-old can't even breathe."

"The explosions were strong enough to trigger the car's airbags," Raw Story reported.

"They were innocent bystanders driving through what should have been a peaceful protest when things took a turn," Destiny Jackson, the children's mother, explained. ICE agents "began to start throwing tear gas bombs everywhere."

"One of the bombs rolled under our truck, and within seconds our truck lifted up off the ground, and the airbags deployed, the car doors locked themselves, and the car began to fill with the powerful tear gas. We fought hard to get the doors open and get all of the kids out. Bystanders had to help."

The baby stopped breathing, requiring emergency CPR on the scene. All six children were hospitalized.

Now imagine you and your wife just dropped off your child at school. You get a notification that ICE agents are threatening neighbors nearby. You drive to the location to observe and document the abuses.

An ICE agent threatens you. You and your wife return to your vehicle and attempt to move away from the scene. The federal cop pulls a gun and shoots your wife in the face four times, killing her.

"We had whistles," said Becca Good, the widow of Renee Nicole Good. "They had guns."

Imagine you are a disabled person on your way to a checkup at the Traumatic Brain Injury Center. ICE agents stop your car. You explain your situation and ask to be flagged through. Instead, the masked, gun-toting men pull you violently out of your vehicle.

"In the video, one masked agent smashes [Aliya] Rahman's passenger side window while others cut her seatbelt and drag her out of the car through the driver's side door. Numerous guards then carried her by her arms and legs toward an ICE vehicle," reported the CBC.

"While in custody, Rahman said she repeatedly asked for a doctor, but was instead taken to the detention center."

"I thought I was going to die," said Rahman.



Photo: MIRAC

She was put in detention, where she lost consciousness. Eventually, she was hospitalized, and credits the emergency staff with saving her life.

It's January 2026. Welcome to Minneapolis.

Community fights back

The horrors are real. For many workers across the U.S., especially white people, the plentiful videos and testimonies are shocking. To Black and Brown people, the scenes seem all too familiar.

The scale of the repression unleashed on the Upper Midwestern city by the Trump regime and its ICE, Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is genuinely shocking. The city has been flooded with thousands of federal agents, far outnumbering the local police force.

Agents have begun going door-to-door to terrorize residents, under the command of CPB head Gregory Bovino. Schools began offering remote classes after high school students were attacked by Border Patrol agents.

Members of the Oglala Sioux tribe have been detained in violation of treaties. It's believed that the U.S. government is holding them hostage to force the Indigenous nation to make an agreement with ICE.

The pretext for the violence? A story promoted by a MAGA YouTube "influencer" about a supposed scandal involving state funding of child daycares in the Somali community.

Last year, "Congress gave ICE \$75 billion over four years, approximately \$18.7 billion each year. Added to the \$10 billion Congress already appropriated ICE for fiscal year 2025 in March, ICE now has \$28.7 billion at its disposal this year. That \$28.7 billion figure is nearly triple ICE's entire budget for FY24," reported Brennan Center for Justice.

That money has been used to recruit thousands of far-right bigots – including members of the Patriot Front and Proud Boys, participants in the January 6, 2021, coup attempt, and former police, Special Forces and prison guards. The government's recruitment campaign is built on openly fascist imagery and slogans. There is no effort to vet the recruits.

The results, seen on the streets of Minneapolis, are exactly as intended.

On Jan. 15 – the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. – President Donald Trump threatened to invoke the Insurrection Act and send in U.S. troops to crush protests in Minneapolis. Readers may remember that Trump made similar threats when the country erupted in protests following the police murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis in 2020.

But there are other viral videos too. They show dozens, hundreds, and thousands of Minnesotans responding to every ICE attack on Somalian, Hmong, and Mexican migrants and other people of color – often chasing off the armed bigots, sometimes freeing targeted people, being wounded and threatened but refusing to back down. Students have walked out of classes from Minneapolis and neighboring St. Paul to Duluth and Madison, Wisconsin.

On Jan. 10, three days after the cold-blooded murder of Renee Good by ICE agent Jonathan Ross, 100,000 people answered a call to protest by the Minnesota Immigrant Rights Action Committee (MIRAC) to demand "ICE Out of Minnesota, Real Sanctuary Now, and Justice for Renee Good."

The march united migrant communities, unions, the LGBTQIA+ community, Indigenous nations, students, anti-war organizations, and people of all nationalities against government terrorism.

Jan. 23 'Day of Truth and Freedom'

Struggle-La Lucha spoke to Mira Altobell-Resendez of the Minnesota Immigrant Rights Action Committee (MIRAC). "We're unable to go about business as usual with these racist attacks taking place everywhere, all day, every day," they explained.

"We will keep up the fight for immigrant rights no matter what the Trump regime throws at us because we are powerful when we stand united. We will get ICE out of Minnesota."

MIRAC, along with local unions, churches and community-based organizations, has called for an ICE Out of Minnesota day of action on Friday, Jan. 23: "Day of Truth and Freedom: No Work, No School, No Shopping." A mass march is planned in downtown Minneapolis at 2:00 p.m.

The demands for the day of action are:

- ICE must leave Minnesota now.
- The agent who killed Renee Good must be held legally accountable.
- No additional federal funding for ICE in the upcoming Congressional budget; ICE must be investigated for human and constitutional violations.
- Minnesotan and national companies must cease economic relations with ICE and

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The siege of Minneapolis: testimonies from the front lines

By Melinda Butterfield

In an effort to provide readers with a clearer picture of events in Minneapolis, Struggle-La Lucha has spoken to local activists and community members and gathered testimonies from other participants in the local response to Trump-ICE terror. These voices are being ignored or distorted by the corporate media.

For weeks and months prior to the new year, activists in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area had been preparing for a full-scale invasion by federal agents – particularly after President Donald Trump leaned into attacks on the Somali immigrant community. The area is home to the country's largest Somali diaspora and to Rep. Ilhan Omar, a frequent lightning rod for white supremacists.

But the murder of Renee Nicole Good by ICE agent Jonathan Ross on Jan. 7 ignited a mass response to ICE repression throughout the city. Good, a 37-year-old white woman and U.S. citizen, together with her wife Becca Good, were acting as observers documenting an ICE raid.

Multiple videos of Ross's brutal killing of Good provide ample proof of the vicious misogyny, anti-lesbian and anti-queer hate that fueled the murder.

"The queer community is furious," local activist Meredith Aby-Keirstead told Struggle-La Lucha. "Not only was Renee Good murdered and labeled a 'domestic terrorist' by the Trump administration, but now the Justice Department is investigating Renee's wife Becca, when in reality they should go after the ICE murderer instead."

But that anger isn't limited to LGBTQIA+ people, said Aby-Keirstead, an organizer with the Anti-War Committee. "Minneapolis is outraged at Good's murder. Many communities are angry at how ICE is tearing our city apart. We had over 100,000 people in the streets on Saturday [Jan. 10]."

Children under siege

P, a young teacher, who asked SLL to remain anonymous, said: "Right away at school today one of my students told me he's afraid of ICE. These are K-2 students with developmental delays.

"He said three men in vests came to his house over the weekend. He said his older brother was cursing at them and his mother told him to hide.

"I asked him if he wants a whistle to keep in his bag, so he can blow it if he feels scared and he needs to call for help, and he said yes."

The teacher continued: "I think it's very odd that the news articles about the closing of Minneapolis schools are connecting it only to the shooting of Renee Good and not the coincidental fact that within hours ICE assaulted chil-

dren going home from school at Roosevelt High School.

"While it's true that the shooting did cause an elementary school to go into lockdown, the reason they're allowing students to learn from home until Feb. 12 is because ICE is kidnapping, assaulting, and tear gassing children as they leave school."

E, a parent and coordinator of an all-volunteer bookstore, posted on social media: "I really want people without Minneapolis connections to understand. You might've heard that Minneapolis public schools went hybrid because so many families are in hiding. Well, a coworker just told me that today, during his kid's hybrid class, another kid's apartment building was raided on screen."

'Money for names'

Legal observer Brandon Siguenza was violently detained by ICE Jan. 11 and held at the Whipple Federal Building in downtown Minneapolis. Siguenza made a statement shared on social media and was also interviewed by local television station KARE-11.

"... they finally told me that they could offer undocumented family members of mine legal protection if I have any... or money, in exchange for giving them the names of protest organizers, or undocumented persons. I was shocked, and told them no."

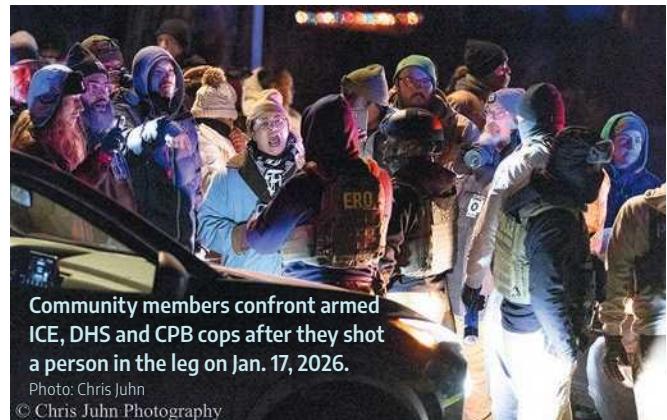
Hwa Jeong Kim, vice president of the St. Paul City Council, posted a video for residents of her district, stating: "Before 9:30 this morning ICE already kidnapped someone off the streets of my ward. We have first-hand accounts of neighbors reporting ICE showing up at their homes, asking people to identify pictures ...

"They ask them, 'Do you know any of your Hmong neighbors?' They even go so far as asking, 'Do you know any Asian people in your neighborhood?' And they said no.

"This going door-to-door to random homes is a clear escalation. I don't want to be the person to say that it's not safe to go outside today, but folks really need to decide for themselves how safe they feel out in their neighborhoods.

"And still there are community patrols keeping an eye out for you. There are caring neighbors who want to deliver groceries to you and provide mutual aid. Please stay safe."

Sarah Martin is an organizer of Women Against Military Madness (WAMM), which started in the 1980s to oppose U.S.-funded wars in Latin America. Martin told SLL, "WAMM and the anti-war movement in Minneapolis understand that all our movements



Community members confront armed ICE, DHS and CPB cops after they shot a person in the leg on Jan. 17, 2026.

Photo: Chris Juhn
© Chris Juhn Photography

are connected and that we are fighting the same enemy: U.S. imperialism.

"In the case of ICE, it's about the connections. That monstrosity has connections to the IOF [Israel Occupation Forces] through training and reports of direct involvement. The wars the U.S. perpetrates in Latin America and beyond – whether military or sanctions or regime changes – have forced people out of their homelands and to migrate here.

"It is unjust and so cruel," said Martin. "Our government makes life unbearable for people in their countries, they feel they have no choice but to leave, and then they make it just as miserable for them here. So of course, we respond when ICE is terrorizing a neighborhood."

Martin added: "For at least 10 years WAMM has held a weekly banner at the Whipple Federal Building, which holds the immigration court and from which immigrants are deported. The banner happens at 7:30 a.m., when vans holding deportees go by. Now it's the site of ICE agents staging every morning."

Chris Juhn is a photojournalist who covers many protests in Minneapolis, including during the 2020 uprising after the police murder of George Floyd.

On the night of Jan. 14, Juhn was documenting the federal agents' attack on protesters and legal observers after ICE shot a person in the leg. He photographed the feds unleashing an unidentified green gas not seen at previous protests.

"That was the most tear gas I've ever experienced in my life," Juhn recalled. "I must've been hit with at least five rounds of tear gas, some incredibly thick. Had some shrapnel from flashbangs fly around me."

"I was next to a crowd that was completely peaceful. Next thing, they're tossing tear gas and flash bangs at everyone without warning. A car nearly hit me as everyone scrambled."

"The Minneapolis PD seemed useless. I had my editor tell me to clear out."

Somali community patrols

The Intercept published a report on ICE watch patrols organized by Somalis to keep

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From Minneapolis to Texas: ICE means death, get ICE out

By Gary Wilson

On Jan. 14, Immigration and Customs Enforcement reported that Victor Manuel Diaz, 36, had died in federal custody. He was pronounced dead at 4:09 p.m. at Camp East Montana, an immigration detention site in west Texas. ICE described the death as a “presumed suicide,” while stating that the official cause remained under investigation.

Eight days earlier, Diaz had been arrested in Minneapolis. Between arrest and death, he was moved more than 1,200 miles. He went from a city street to a tent camp on a military base near El Paso. The transfer took days. The outcome took one week.

Diaz was arrested on Jan. 6, as federal immigration agents surged into Minneapolis under Operation Metro Surge. The operation unfolded alongside lethal force. On Jan. 7, Renee Good, a Minneapolis resident, was shot and killed by an ICE agent.

Good had dropped off her child earlier that morning. She was unarmed when the agent fired. She died at the scene.

The killing and the arrests were not separate events. They occurred during the same federal operation, carried out by the same agency, and under the same conditions of expanded enforcement.

Operation Metro Surge was publicly announced as an enforcement effort targeting undocumented Somalis in Minneapolis. The claim was repeated by the Trump administration and circulated widely. In practice, arrests spread quickly across the city.

Most Somalis in Minnesota are U.S. citizens, by birth or naturalization. That did not limit the scope of the operation. Immigration arrests expanded across neighborhoods and workplaces. The people who later died in custody were not Somali. Victor Manuel Diaz was Nicaraguan. Geraldo Lunas Campos was Cuban. Others who died in January came from Mexico and Cambodia.

Federal officials did name several Somali men taken into custody during the operation: Abdikadir Sheik Yusuf, Abdulkadir Sharif Abdi, Sahal Osman Shidane, Mukthar Mohamed Ali, Ahmed Mohamed Said and Feisal Mohamed-Omar. No public information has been released about where they are being held or the conditions they face.

Attorneys tracking transfers say most people arrested in Minneapolis are moved within days, mainly to Texas. Immigration attorney David Wilson said several detainees held at the Kandiyohi County Jail were sent to the Port Isabel Service Processing Center in southern Texas. Data compiled by the Sahan Journal shows this has been ICE’s routine. More than half of those booked into immigration deten-

tion in Minnesota in recent years were later transferred elsewhere.

Attorneys representing detainees say the pace has increased since Operation Metro Surge began. Michele Garnett McKenzie, an attorney with the Advocates for Human Rights, said at least 100 people linked to the operation have been detained, with most transferred to facilities in Texas.

Somali detainees transferred out of Minnesota are held far from family and legal counsel. Their locations are often learned secondhand. Their cases move across state lines. Attorneys say some face removal not to Somalia but to third countries such as Uganda or Rwanda.

Temporary Protected Status for Somalia is set to end March 17. Work authorization will be revoked, pushing more people into detention.

After Victor Manuel Diaz was arrested, ICE released no public information showing whether he spoke with a lawyer or contacted his family. There has been no public statement from relatives. His location was not publicly known. He reappeared only after his death.

For people arrested in Minneapolis, Camp East Montana in Texas is one of the main destinations. Lawyers based in Minnesota cannot easily represent clients held in Texas. Families cannot visit. Hearings take place by video, if they happen at all. Distance denies access.

Camp East Montana is a tent detention camp on the Fort Bliss military base near El Paso. It is run by Acquisition Logistics, a private company paid \$1.24 billion under a federal contract. Before receiving that contract, the company had no experience operating immigration detention facilities.

The camp is designed for rapid intake. People are housed in tents, not buildings. Guards are contract staff. Medical care is also provided by outside contractors.

In December 2025, the American Civil Liberties Union sent a letter to federal officials describing what detainees reported inside the camp. Based on interviews with people held there and with their attorneys, the letter described beatings by guards, sexual abuse, denial of attorney access, inadequate food and delayed medical care. Detainees reported waiting days to see medical staff as their conditions worsened.

Deaths in custody

Victor Manuel Diaz died at Camp East Montana. Eleven days earlier, another man had died at the same camp. On Jan. 3, Geraldo Lunas Campos, 55, a Cuban national, was found dead in custody. The El Paso County medical examiner later indicated that his death was “likely a homicide by guards,” choked to death.

Two men died in the same detention camp on the same day. Their deaths came amid a ris-

ing toll nationwide. In the first 20 days of 2026, five people died in ICE custody.

On Jan. 5, Luis Gustavo Nunez Caceres, 42, died at the Joe Corley Processing Center in Texas. On Jan. 6, Luis Beltran Yanez-Cruz, 68, a Mexican national, died at the Imperial Regional Detention Facility in California.

On Jan. 9, Parady La, 46, a Cambodian national, died after being held at the Federal Detention Center in Philadelphia.

In 2025, 32 people died in immigration detention, one of the deadliest years on record, as the detained population increased sharply.

Victor Manuel Diaz was arrested in Minneapolis on Jan. 6. Eight days later, he was dead in a detention camp in Texas.

One day after his arrest, Renee Good was shot and killed by an ICE agent in Minneapolis.

Those two deaths – one on a city street, one in federal custody – came from the same operation.

In Minneapolis, protests and organizing for the Jan. 23 general strike have grown in response to police violence, mass arrests and the expansion of federal enforcement. The demand raised in the streets is direct: ICE out.

Stopping ICE in Minneapolis is the action that would end the arrests and transfers that lead to detention, abuse and murder. #

‘We will get ICE out...’

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refuse ICE entry or using their property for staging grounds.

- “MIRAC sees the Jan 23 call to action as a necessary escalation in resisting the violent federal occupation by ICE,” Altobell-Resendez told SLL.

On Jan. 16, local and state labor federations and councils officially endorsed the call, opening up the possibility for the Day of Truth and Freedom to take on the character of a general strike.

Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation President Chelsie Glaubitz Gabiou said: “Working people, our schools and our communities are under attack. Union members are being detained commuting to and from work, tearing apart families. Parents are being forced to stay home, students held out of school, fearing for their lives, all while the employer class remains silent.

“Our labor federations are encouraging everyone to participate on Jan. 23. It’s time for every single Minnesotan who loves this state and the notion of truth and freedom to raise their voices and deepen their solidarity for our neighbors and coworkers living under this federal occupation.”#

Renee Good's murder shines spotlight on far-right war on queer women

By Melinda Butterfield

*"If they are going to shoot us and then call us 'fucking b****s,' then we need to be bigger fucking b****s."*

— Handlettered protest sign in Minneapolis

First, let's make something clear. Renee Nicole Good was a lesbian. She had a wife. She was not only a mom; she was a queer mom. That matters.

Don't let anyone erase her.

Everyone who can stomach it, and many who cannot, has seen at least one of the multiple recordings of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) terrorist Jonathan Ross murdering Renee Nicole Good in Minneapolis.

Good and her wife, Becca Good – both white and U.S.-born – had just dropped off their child at school. They heard about a nearby ICE raid and drove over to legally observe and document the attack on their immigrant neighbors.

Ross and other ICE agents threatened the couple. The Goods retreated, attempting to drive away.

Ross stepped toward their departing vehicle – a standard practice for Border Patrol agents, documented over a decade ago – to justify shooting at the occupants.

Ross then shot Renee Good four times, killing her. In the aftermath, he shouted at the woman he'd just murdered: "Fucking b****!"

Jonathan Ross is no newbie lacking in training. He is a career repressor who worked for U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CPB) prior to joining ICE in 2015.

Before that Ross was part of a National Guard contingent deployed to occupy Iraq – something he later bragged about at a College Republican event in Texas.

As Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, the bombs the U.S. dropped on other countries come back to explode at home.

Erasure and demonization

As of this writing, it is just 12 days since Good was murdered.

During that brief time, she and her wife have been subject to a parallel campaign of queer erasure and queer demonization.

Erasure by politicians and the "mainstream" corporate media. Demonization by the far-right web of billionaire-owned social media, MAGA politicians, and corporate platforms like Fox News.

President Donald Trump dismissed Becca as Renee Good's "friend." More media coverage has sought out comment from her ex-husband and former in-laws than from her wife. Others refer to Good only as a "widow" (her second husband died in 2023).



Becca and Renee Good

Renee's six-year-old child is called an "orphan" – despite living with a loving and responsible step-mother. The parents of Good's second husband have already made noises about seeking to take custody.

All this is very familiar to queer people, who often find our identities and our closest family members being erased when tragedy strikes; who find biological relatives and exes ready to seize our children from loving homes at the first opportunity.

Renee and Becca Good were part of the "Pink Migration" – the massive internal refugee crisis inside the U.S., as many states become more dangerous and restrictive for LGBTQIA+ people. The Goods left Missouri for Minnesota, considered a "sanctuary state" for queers as well as migrants.

A recent survey estimated that at least 400,000 trans people alone have fled their home states since Trump's election in November 2024, seeking safety and access to health care. Others are fleeing abroad.

Pronouns in bio'

Meanwhile, the fascist propaganda machine that currently dominates U.S. politics has worked overtime to shine a spotlight on Renee Good's queerness, to show why she was an acceptable target.

Within hours of her murder, Fox News host Jesse Waters sent out the first volley, describing Good as someone with "pronouns in bio" – a dogwhistle to justify the murder of a white, middle-aged woman to his white supremacist audience.

Trump administration officials labeled Good a "domestic terrorist," refusing to hand over Jonathan Ross to local authorities. Minnesota was iced out of the "investigation" of Good's killing. The Justice Department then ordered federal prosecutors to investigate Becca Good rather than Ross – resulting in at least five resignations so far.

On social media platforms like Elon Musk's "X" and Trump's "Truth Social," viral posts spread focusing on disparaging the appearance of Becca Good, and justifying the murder because of the Goods' being "disrespectful" to ICE agents – the term used by Trump.

CBS News, now controlled by pro-Trump propagandist Bari Weiss, pushed out a story of Ross suffering "internal injuries" from contact with the Goods' vehicle – a lie about something which never happened.

Meanwhile, Ross's slur over Renee Good's body has become the far right's slogan du jour for any woman who dares resist.

A history of terror

ICE, CPB, the Department of Homeland Security, and the Federal Bureau of Prisons all have long histories of abusing queer immigrants and U.S.-born LGBTQIA+ people.

Some readers may recall the case of Roxsana Hernandez, a trans woman with AIDS who fled the U.S.-sponsored coup regime in Honduras. She died in ICE custody in 2018, during Trump's first term, after awful abuse and refusal of medical care.

Last year, trans and other queer immigrants held at an ICE detention center in southern Louisiana exposed how they were subjected to hard labor and sexual assault by prison authorities.

More people have recently learned about the common U.S. prison policy called "v-coding," which not only places transgender women in men's prisons, but houses them with "aggressive" male inmates to subject them to rape as a form of punishment.

At the same time, these women are denied their right to feminine appearance and often denied gender-affirming medical care like hormone therapy. Overwhelmingly, it is Black and Brown trans women who suffer this torture.

Trans prisoners, including military whis-
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Anna Brauch was held in a chokehold as she and Mar Navarro were detained by ICE on Jan. 8.

War on queer women

Continued from page 13

tleblower and former political prisoner Chelsea Manning, fought hard for the right to gender-affirming care. The Trump administration is pushing to strip those rights from incarcerated people in the federal prison system.

Queers in the crosshairs

“Anna Brauch wanted to do something to help her neighbors the day after Renee Good was fatally shot,” reported Minnesota Public Radio. “So she stationed herself outside her favorite local bakery in the northeast corner of the city and told the bakery’s immigrant owner she’d be there if ICE came for them.

“Instead, ICE came for her.”

Baruch and her spouse, Mar Navarro, were rushed by ICE agents and violently attacked. Brauch thinks it may have been the mural on her car, which says “Trans Rights are Human Rights,” that attracted their attention.

“I had my phone in one hand and my keys in my other hand, and they all started screaming, like, ‘Get her! She’s got a weapon! Get her!’” Brauch said. “I put my hands up and I said, ‘I don’t have anything!’ But I also had a whistle around my neck, and I blew the whistle so that the people in the bakery would know that ICE was there.” The queer couple was detained.

“Brauch showed agents her injuries and said they promised to call her a medic, who never appeared during her two-hour long detention,” reported MPR. “Eventually, she said the agents called an ambulance, and after failing again to identify her arresting officer, took off her leg shackles and let the paramedics take her to the emergency room.

“Brauch’s spouse was also released later that evening. Neither has been charged with a crime.”

On Jan. 12, another queer couple, Alice Valentine and Sofia Martin – both U.S.-born trans women – responded to a report of ICE agents raiding the Star City Mall, home to many Somali businesses, in the city of St. Cloud, northwest of Minneapolis. Their subsequent ordeal was first reported by Marisa Kabas of The Handbasket.

As soon as the women arrived on the scene, they were surrounded by armed federal agents, tear-gassed and physically assaulted. They were thrown into the back of a van with Somali detainees and driven to ICE headquarters – the Whipple Federal Building in Minneapolis.

“The two were questioned separately by ICE officers, and Sofia was subjected to particularly invasive and humiliating questions. They asked her if she had had a sex change and if she had a penis. Alice said back in the cell Sofia told her she answered truthfully to both questions to avoid the officers from groping her for answers.”

Kabas reported: “I asked Alice if she felt like, as visibly queer people, they were particular targets at the protest of agents working

for an administration known to be virulently anti-LGBTQIA+, and especially after they shot Renee Good four times – including once in the head – and killed her in a car with her wife Becca. Alice said it didn’t occur to her until she had time to reflect in the van. She said to Sofia ‘You know, I just realized that they probably knew Renee was a lesbian before they shot her.’

“When I was in the cell, I overheard a woman asking to call her girlfriend, and I started crying because I just thought of Renee, and I thought of my girlfriend and this girl. And I was like, ‘Why are so many lesbians being fucked up by ICE right now?’”

Immigrants & queers: targets of white supremacy

The question Alice Valentine asked is important. In fact, it cuts to the heart of capitalist white supremacy in general and the brand of fascism perpetuated by the Trump regime in particular.

Marxists from Frederick Engels to Leslie Feinberg have demonstrated how patriarchy is central to capitalist exploitation. Similarly, white supremacy is central to the U.S. brand of colonialism and imperialism.

White supremacy as practiced in the post-Reconstruction U.S., from lynchings by the Klan to “mainstream” eugenics practices targeting people of color, queers and women, inspired the Nazi German practice of genocide against Jews, Romani, LGBTQIA+ people, and other “undesireables.”

In the same vein as German fascism, the “Great Replacement” conspiracy touted by Trump and his movement provides the ideological foundation for imposing naked fascist rule by capitalist corporations and billionaires today.

According to this conspiracy, the greatest threat to the so-called U.S. “nation” is the increasingly diverse working class and falling birth rates among whites. Immigrants from the Global South – whether heterosexual or queer – are seen as a threat to white (meaning white capitalist) domination and its foundation of dividing and conquering the working class with racism.

Similarly, U.S.-born queer women and trans people, and even straight women who no longer feel forced to “perform” their reproductive duties under patriarchy, are also seen as an existential threat.

Our oppressions are not the same, though often they overlap. But they are connected, because our very existence is fundamentally irreconcilable with the needs of the profit system.

More than ever, the survival of the working class, in its great diversity, calls for us to unite and fight back.

Queer women in Minnesota are showing us how, with their courage to show up in solidarity, even in the face of physical danger and death.

Renee Good won’t be forgotten. #

Statement by Becca Good:

First, I want to extend my gratitude to all the people who have reached out from across the country and around the world to support our family.

This kindness of strangers is the most fitting tribute because if you ever encountered my wife, Renee Nicole Macklin Good, you know that above all else, she was kind. In fact, kindness radiated out of her.

Renee sparkled. She literally sparkled. I mean, she didn’t wear glitter but I swear she had sparkles coming out of her pores. All the time. You might think it was just my love talking but her family said the same thing. Renee was made of sunshine.

Renee lived by an overarching belief: there is kindness in the world and we need to do everything we can to find it where it resides and nurture it where it needs to grow. Renee was a Christian who knew that all religions teach the same essential truth: we are here to love each other, care for each other, and keep each other safe and whole.

Like people have done across place and time, we moved to make a better life for ourselves. We chose Minnesota to make our home. Our whole extended road trip here, we held hands in the car while our son drew all over the windows to pass the time and the miles.

What we found when we got here was a vibrant and welcoming community, we made friends and spread joy. And while any place we were together was home, there was a strong shared sense here in Minneapolis that we were looking out for each other. Here, I had finally found peace and safe harbor. That has been taken from me forever.

We were raising our son to believe that no matter where you come from or what you look like, all of us deserve compassion and kindness. Renee lived this belief every day. She is pure love. She is pure joy. She is pure sunshine.

On Wednesday, January 7th, we stopped to support our neighbors. We had whistles. They had guns.

Renee leaves behind three extraordinary children; the youngest is just six years old and already lost his father. I am now left to raise our son and to continue teaching him, as Renee believed, that there are people building a better world for him. That the people who did this had fear and anger in their hearts, and we need to show them a better way.

We thank you for the privacy you are granting our family as we grieve. We thank you for ensuring that Renee’s legacy is one of kindness and love. We honor her memory by living her values: rejecting hate and choosing compassion, turning away from fear and pursuing peace, refusing division and knowing we must come together to build a world where we all come home safe to the people we love.

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Bombing Somalia, raiding Minnesota: Two fronts of the same war

By Gary Wilson

The intensified bombardment of Somalia and the assault on Somali communities in Minnesota are not separate policies. They flow from the same source: a capitalist system that requires military domination abroad and uses raids, deportations and the threat of denaturalization to terrorize nationally oppressed workers at home.

In the first two weeks of 2026, U.S. Africa Command launched as many airstrikes in Somalia as it reported in all of 2024. At the same time, 2,000 federal immigration agents deployed to the Twin Cities, where the largest Somali community in the country has built a life over the past three decades. The timing is not coincidental. Both operations serve the same objective.

The 2025 air campaign in Somalia saw 124 strikes – nearly double the previous record. The Pentagon has stopped providing casualty estimates. The Somali government, dependent on U.S. support, has silenced local journalists. What filters through are fragments: villages bombed near Bosaso, strikes around Godane, and in September 2025, the killing of a clan elder described locally as a peace mediator.

The elder had just met with the president of the Puntland region when a U.S. drone strike killed him. AFRICOM called him an al-Shabaab operative. Somali federal and regional authorities said this was false. He was working to resolve conflicts peacefully – a stabilizing force that cuts against the permanent military presence the United States maintains in the Horn of Africa.

This is imperialism in practice. Critical shipping lanes connecting the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden run along the region's coast. U.S. military control ensures that trade routes remain open on terms favorable to U.S. monopoly capital and its allies. It also positions the United States to counter regional forces – whether Yemen's Ansarullah or others – that challenge this arrangement. The instability created by decades of intervention is used to justify the continued presence of U.S. forces, which in turn perpetuates that instability.

From bombs to raids

People who flee this violence encounter a second front when they reach the United States. The same system that destabilizes their homeland criminalizes their presence here.

On Dec. 26, 2025, a right-wing influencer posted a video claiming Somali-run day care centers in Minnesota were empty shells defrauding the government. Minnesota's Republican House speaker admitted helping produce it. Local journalists reported the claims were false – the centers were licensed, inspected

and operating. But four days later, the federal government froze child care funding nationwide, citing the video as justification.

Federal prosecutors have charged 98 people – 85 of them Somali – with misuse of public funds. These prosecutions function as political instruments. They provide the pretext for freezing funding that serves tens of thousands of working families, deploying about 2,000 ICE agents to immigrant neighborhoods, and threatening to strip citizenship from naturalized Somalis over alleged paperwork discrepancies from years ago.

In early January, those 2,000 agents turned the Twin Cities into an occupied zone. Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey described the scene as chaos and demanded federal agents leave. They did not leave. Instead, on Jan. 7, less than a mile from George Floyd Square, ICE agent Jonathan Ross shot 37-year-old Renee Nicole Good four times in the face through her windshield as she sat in her car.

ICE agents know they can kill with impunity. The administration will defend lethal force regardless of circumstances. The killing of Renee Good is not an aberration. It is what happens when 2,000 armed agents are deployed to terrorize a community and told that their targets threaten national security.

After killing Good, ICE agents moved on to raid a nearby child care center and a high school, tackling people, handcuffing staff members, and firing tear gas until both facilities were forced to close.

One week later, on Jan. 15, another ICE agent shot a man in the leg during what the Department of Homeland Security called a "targeted traffic stop" in north Minneapolis. President Trump wrote on social media that "reckoning and retribution is coming" to Minnesota.

Minneapolis City Council President Elliott Payne said he was assaulted by ICE officers while observing them, calling it what it is: "This is a military occupation, and it feels like a military occupation."

The same week, Homeland Security terminated Temporary Protected Status for 2,471 Somali nationals. The administration also ordered a review of every Somali green card in the country, opening the door to mass denaturalization.

The Somaliland strategy

While raids proceed in Minnesota, the administration is moving to recognize Somaliland – a self-declared breakaway region in northern Somalia – as an independent state. The goal is access to the Bab el-Mandeb Strait for expanded U.S. and Israeli military facilities. Recognition would come in exchange for hosting Palestinians relocated from Gaza, according to reports of discussions between President Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu.

Legislation supporting Somaliland independence has been introduced in Congress. The African Union and Arab League have condemned the plan as a violation of Somali sovereignty, but sovereignty in the imperialist system is conditional. It exists when it serves the interests of the major powers and disappears when it does not.

The pattern is consistent across decades and administrations. U.S. military intervention destabilizes regions in the Global South, creating refugee flows. When people from those regions arrive in the United States and form communities, they are subjected to intensified exploitation as low-wage workers and then scapegoated when political conditions require it. The fraud accusations are a pretext. The raids terrorize workers into accepting poverty wages and staying silent about workplace abuses. The denaturalization threats are a reminder that citizenship, for nationally oppressed workers, is always provisional.

This is not a policy failure. It is how the system distributes costs and maintains control. The arms manufacturers profit from the bombing campaigns. The politicians gain electoral advantage by directing working-class anger away from falling wages and toward immigrant communities. The underlying crisis – a capitalist economy that cannot provide decent jobs, housing, or child care for the working class – remains unaddressed because addressing it would require challenging the power of capital itself.

The defense

Somali organizations in the Twin Cities are organizing legal defense, know-your-rights sessions, and support networks for families facing deportation. Child care workers are resisting the funding freeze. These efforts build the infrastructure needed for sustained resistance.

On Jan. 13, a coalition of faith leaders, union presidents, business owners, and community organizers called for a general strike on Friday, Jan. 23. They are asking every worker in Minnesota to refuse to show up to work and every Minnesotan not to spend money that day. The demand is for ICE to leave the state entirely.

"We are going to leverage our economic power, our labor, our prayer for one another," said JaNaé Bates, the co-executive director of Isaiah MN, an interfaith organizing network. Dozens of labor unions, faith groups, and businesses have endorsed the action. Organizers are calling for a mass march in downtown Minneapolis at 2 p.m. Faith communities will fast and pray.

The call comes after ICE agents have raided homes, dragged workers from their jobs, pepper-sprayed residents, assaulted high school students and staff, and continued terrorizing neighborhoods across the Twin Cities. The or-

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ICE kills in Minnesota, then moves to crush protest

By Gary Wilson

Federal authorities arrested civil rights organizers in St. Paul, Minnesota, after a protest at a Southern Baptist church that demanded accountability for an ICE killing.

Among those arrested were Nekima Levy Armstrong, an ordained minister with decades of organizing experience, and Chauntell Louisa Allen, a sitting member of the St. Paul Public Schools Board of Education. Others were charged as well. The charges were federal.

The targeting of Nekima Levy Armstrong and Chauntell Louisa Allen was not incidental. Both are organizers whose work links protests against police violence with resistance to ICE raids. Armstrong is a longtime civil rights leader shaped by Minneapolis's Black Lives Matter movement and by repeated uprisings against police killings. Allen is an elected school board member active in immigrant and community defense. Together, they represent a growing overlap between opposition to police violence and resistance to ICE enforcement.

That overlap matters. In Minneapolis, Black Lives Matter protests against police brutality and protests against immigration raids have increasingly drawn from the same neighborhoods, the same families and, in some cases, the same organizers. When those fights converge, they challenge not just one agency, but a broader system of policing, surveillance and detention.

By responding with federal felony charges and conspiracy allegations, the Department of Justice moved to break that connection. The arrests sent a clear signal about which forms of solidarity will be tolerated and which will be punished. Organizing across movements – Black communities confronting police violence and immigrant communities resisting ICE – is being treated not as dissent, but as a federal crime.

The protest was one of several that erupted after an armed Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agent shot Renee Good, a U.S. citizen, dead inside her car in Minneapolis. Rather than open a criminal or civil-rights investigation, the Department of Justice declined to pursue one.

Because the shooter was a federal agent acting under federal authority, the refusal to investigate was an assertion of power. No independent body was assigned. No federal grand jury was convened. The Department of Justice declined to open a civil rights inquiry. The killing was closed without testimony, without public evidence, and without consequence. The message was unmistakable: When ICE kills, the federal government will protect its agents, and those who demand answers will

not find them through official channels. That refusal came first. Everything else followed.

A killing without an investigation

The officer who fired the shots, Jonathan Ross, was not arrested.

When people demanded answers from the federal government, it responded with arrests instead of an investigation.

One of the protests took place at a Southern Baptist church on Sunday morning to confront the pastor, who is also the local head of ICE.

Federal authorities reacted immediately. Prosecutors did not use minor trespass laws. Instead, they reached for heavy federal conspiracy charges and a law passed to block violent interference with abortion clinics, the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act, commonly known as the FACE Act.

That law was turned into a tool to make a church protest a federal crime.

Secret policy to enter homes without warrants

While these prosecutions moved forward, another shift was taking place inside ICE itself.

ICE staff leaked a secret memo signed by acting Director Todd Lyons, ordering agents to enter homes without a judge's warrant, relying only on paperwork signed by ICE.

The policy was not circulated openly. Supervisors were told to show it briefly and take it back. Agents were instructed verbally. At least one ICE instructor resigned rather than teach it. Employees who objected were disciplined.

The reason for the secrecy is obvious. No judge has granted ICE the power to break into homes without a warrant.

The policy allows armed federal agents to force their way into private homes without a judge's approval – the very practice the Fourth Amendment was written to prevent. No court has ever authorized ICE to operate this way.

ICE moved ahead anyway.

At the same time, the agency expanded enforcement under what agents call "Operation Catch of the Day." Minnesota was one of several states targeted. The old rule barring arrests at schools, churches and hospitals had already been revoked. Agents were given broad discretion to operate anywhere.

Federal officials have explicitly framed the ICE escalation in Minnesota as punishment for the state's sanctuary policies. The Trump administration has singled out Minnesota not only for limits on cooperation with ICE, but also for its legal protections for immigrants and its status as a refuge for LGBTQIA+ people. In public statements, these protections have been cast as defiance rather than civil



Nekima Levy Armstrong

rights. Federal officials have presented the enforcement surge as a warning. States that protect immigrants and LGBTQIA+ people will face raids and arrests.

The results followed quickly.

Indigenous community members in Minneapolis have also faced heightened federal enforcement and joined resistance to ICE action. Reports from the ground describe Native people being profiled and targeted in immigration sweeps, creating fear and disruption in Indigenous neighborhoods, where people say they are afraid to leave their homes amid the raids.

Tribal citizens from the Oglala Lakota Nation were among those detained near housing complexes as ICE pressure in the city intensified, drawing protests and statements from Native organizers condemning the federal operations.

Indigenous organizers and residents have taken to the streets in neighborhoods with deep histories of Native resistance, including renewed patrols along the American Indian Cultural Corridor, rejecting federal enforcement as another form of state violence.

ICE has used a range of tactics to enforce this crackdown. In one reported case, ICE agents used a 5-year-old child to draw his father into an arrest. Both were taken into custody and sent to a detention center in Texas. Schools were monitored. Churches were entered. Communities were put on notice.

Deaths in custody follow

In El Paso, Texas, Geraldo Lunas Campos died at a makeshift ICE detention facility known as Camp East Montana at Fort Bliss Army base. The county medical examiner ruled the death a homicide by guards, caused by asphyxia from neck and torso compression.

Federal power has drawn a line. ICE agents can kill and expect protection. ICE can enter homes without a judge's order. Churches aligned with enforcement are shielded. Those who challenge this arrangement are charged with conspiracy.

The issue is no longer legality. It is whether people will accept a system in which federal agents are protected after a killing and protesters are prosecuted for demanding accountability.

That will not be decided in courtrooms. It will be decided by struggle. #

From Minneapolis to Arizona, ICE targets Native peoples

By Gary Wilson

Jan. 17 – Immigration and Customs Enforcement has escalated a nationwide campaign of racial profiling and arbitrary detention against Indigenous people, seizing members of federally recognized tribes in Minnesota, Arizona, and Oklahoma in what tribal leaders are denouncing as open treaty violations and a direct attack on Native sovereignty.

What began earlier this month with mass arrests in Minneapolis has now spread across state lines. Native citizens are being stopped, detained, and threatened despite presenting valid tribal identification and proof of U.S. citizenship. Across all three regions, the pattern is the same: ICE treating Native identity itself as grounds for suspicion.

The Minneapolis raids set the stage. In early January, roughly 2,000 ICE agents and other federal personnel flooded the Twin Cities in one of the largest immigration enforcement operations in the region's history. At least five Indigenous people were seized. Four Oglala Lakota citizens remain in federal custody after being arrested near the Little Earth housing complex in Minneapolis' East Phillips neighborhood.

A fifth person, Jose Roberto "Beto" Ramirez, a 20-year-old Red Lake Anishinaabe man, was violently detained after ICE agents repeatedly punched him while he was complying with orders, according to video evidence and family testimony.

"This is a treaty violation. Treaties are not optional. Sovereignty is not conditional. Our citizens are not negotiable," Oglala Sioux Tribe President Frank Star Comes Out said in a statement.

Those arrests were carried out from Fort Snelling, a site inseparable from the history of genocide and forced removal in Minnesota. In 1862, Dakota people were imprisoned at Fort Snelling following the U.S.-Dakota War, culminating in the mass execution of 38 Dakota men – the largest mass execution in U.S. history. Today, Indigenous citizens are again being taken to the same grounds by federal agents.

When the Oglala Sioux Tribe demanded information about its detained members, federal officials responded with an ultimatum: The tribe would only receive details if it entered into a formal agreement with ICE. Tribal leadership refused, stating that such an agreement would violate binding treaties recognizing tribal sovereignty. Days later, the tribe formally banned Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem from the Pine Ridge Reservation, citing her repeated racist claims



Protesters gather at Moore Square in downtown Raleigh, N.C., on Nov. 18 against ICE and U.S. Border Patrol raids. In recent weeks, Indigenous nations from Minnesota to Arizona have reported ICE detentions of Native citizens, prompting tribal leaders to denounce racist detentions and treaty violations.

about "cartels" operating on tribal lands and her role in promoting militarization.

Community resistance followed. On Jan. 10, Indigenous activist Rachel Dionne-Thunder narrowly avoided detention when ICE agents surrounded her vehicle and threatened to smash her window. Community members quickly converged, forcing agents to retreat. Tribal governments across the region issued condemnations, circulated "Know Your Rights" guidance, and warned that documentation alone does not guarantee safety under ICE operations.

Racist arrests spread to Arizona and Oklahoma

According to a Jan. 16 report by Brenda Norrell at Censored News, ICE agents this week detained Navajo and Pascua Yaqui citizens in Arizona while expanding harassment of Absentee Shawnee members in Oklahoma.

In the Phoenix Valley, Peter Yazzie, Diné, was seized early Monday morning while on his way to work. ICE agents ignored his tribal ID and citizenship documents, forced him into a vehicle, and detained him before eventually releasing him hours later.

Near Tucson, a Pascua Yaqui tribal member was tackled and detained near the San Xavier District of the Tohono O'odham Nation after being followed by an unmarked van. Held for nearly eight hours, the individual described hearing screams and threats inside the facility. Federal agents dismissed their tribal ID as "fake," called them "illegal," and threatened deportation or death. When released, the person overheard agents saying, "I can't wait to get rid of them all" and "I'm gonna turn them into my slaves."

In Oklahoma, Absentee Shawnee leaders reported that ICE agents have begun approaching and detaining tribal members using racial profiling.

As raids continue, deportation operations are also intensifying nationwide. On Jan. 16, a deportation flight departed Mesa Gateway Airport in Arizona bound for Venezuela. Flight

monitors have also tracked a deportation flight from Minneapolis to the U.S. naval base at Guantánamo earlier this month.

The legal reality is unambiguous. Native people are not immigrants. They are citizens of sovereign nations whose status is defined by treaties that predate the Department of Homeland Security, ICE, and the modern U.S. immigration system itself. The Native American Rights Fund has reiterated that ICE has no jurisdiction over Indigenous people in immigration matters.

The political reality is equally clear. ICE is operating as a militarized arm of the capitalist state, carrying out repression that has always been central to U.S. imperialist rule. From the removal of Native nations to the policing of migrant labor today, surveillance, detention, and forced displacement are not abuses of the system but necessary tools for maintaining class domination. Immigration law is simply the current legal mechanism for enforcing that power.

From Fort Snelling to the Sonoran Desert, Indigenous communities are responding with resistance – through rapid-response defense networks, legal challenges, and public mobilization. As tribal leaders have stated repeatedly, Native citizenship is not negotiable, and treaties are not historical artifacts. They are living obligations the federal government is now openly violating. #

Somalia

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ganizers are framing Jan. 23 as a "Day of Truth and Freedom" – truth about what is happening in Minnesota and freedom from living under military occupation.

This represents what terrifies the state: organized refusal across class, faith, and community lines. When workers withhold their labor, when communities refuse to cooperate with raids, when entire cities say no to federal occupation, the machinery of repression faces a problem it cannot solve with more guns. #

The antisemites aren't pro-Palestine – they're MAGA

By Gregory E. Williams

A 19-year-old man has allegedly confessed to setting fire to a synagogue in Jackson, Mississippi. Stephen Spencer Pittman, of Madison, Mississippi, carried out the arson before dawn on Jan. 10, destroying the Beth Israel Congregation's library and administrative offices. Notably, the Ku Klux Klan firebombed this same synagogue in 1967 because the congregation supported the Civil Rights movement.

Spencer has been quoted as calling Beth Israel the "synagogue of Satan" when talking to the cops. He appeared before a judge on Monday. When the judge asked him if he understood his right to an attorney, he answered, "Yes sir, Jesus Christ is Lord."

Whatever else comes out about his personal motivations, the Jan. 10 attack should not be surprising. That is because there has been a rise in antisemitism coming from the right-wing – that is, from Donald Trump's MAGA movement and its international counterparts. While Zionists falsely accuse the Palestinian liberation struggle of antisemitism, real antisemitic forces have gained ground.

Those forces had nothing to do with the incredible pro-Palestine encampments on campuses, or the millions who have marched in the streets of the U.S. and around the world. The real antisemites are just the usual suspects: the racist, sexist, anti-immigrant homophobes and transphobes currently applauding as the people are stripped of their rights.

That politics is very well funded by the most reactionary sections of the ruling class. And why

is antisemitism so useful for the ruling class? Antisemitism serves capitalism by deflecting working-class anger away from the system itself and toward a mythical scapegoat: "Jewish bankers," "cosmopolitan elites," "globalists." In reality, finance capital isn't controlled by Jewish people – it's controlled by capitalists of all backgrounds. This is all a diversion that divides the working class, thereby decreasing our power.

With the normalization of open antisemitism in some quarters of MAGA, formerly fringe figures from that world have gained mainstream exposure. For example, there is 27-year-old Nick Fuentes, who dined with Trump in 2022. Fuentes is a white supremacist, misogynistic, Holocaust-denying internet troll. He has over a million followers on Elon Musk's X (Musk reinstated his account in May 2024). His livestreams routinely get over a million views and Tucker Carlson interviewed him, exposing him to even more people.

Or take the Young Republican Telegram chats that were leaked back in October. This Republican Party "youth" organization includes members from 18 to 40, so they are not all that young, even if JD Vance dismissed the outrage as "pearl clutching" over "a bunch of kids." At any rate, these Young Republicans talked about raping their enemies and driving them to suicide. They mocked trans people and people of color while praising slavery.

They typed up infantile, sociopathic fantasies about putting their enemies in gas chambers. In a long string of Holocaust jokes, Joe Maligno – who had already identified himself as the general counsel for the New York State Young Republicans – quipped, "Can we fix the showers? Gas chambers don't fit the Hitler aesthetic?" Another wrote, "I love Hitler."

Fuentes' rise and these leaked chats show just how far toward fascism and neo-Nazism sections of the right-wing have gone. But this drift is not accidental or dependent on any specific "influencers," grifters, politicians or billionaires. It is happening because the capitalist-imperialist system is in decay. The U.S. leads this declining system and is rapidly declining itself. So, the possibility appears for the capitalist state to be transformed from a formally "liberal" one to a fascist one. This is the capitalists' most extreme "solution" to the system's inevitable crises.

Historically, fascism was a way for the capitalist class to try to maintain its grip on power when the system experienced deep shocks, as in the Great Depression of the 1930s. The Great Depression enabled movements like Hitler's and Mussolini's to grow and take power.

Trump has made the government much more authoritarian while imposing austerity on the people. The fascistic tendencies are on display in the administration and in the MAGA base, whose internal divisions may be intensifying. But for now, MAGA has been unable to develop something essential for a fascist regime: an organized mass movement that can sustain street violence to effectively crush any resistance.

Although Trump has unleashed Gestapo-like ICE and a federalized National Guard in communities across the country, these forces are not backed up in a large capacity by, say, armed Proud Boys, explicit neo-Nazi organizations, or any of the many right-wing militias in the U.S. There is certainly a great deal of crossover between such organizations and law enforcement. But in a full-fledged fascist scenario, we would expect a real deployment of these groups to go around and violently shut down progressive protests and simply seize or even kill immigrants. Think of the Nazi Brownshirts, or contemporary Israeli settlers terrorizing Palestinian people alongside the official armed forces.

For now, a real weakness of MAGA is that they are vastly outnumbered by progressive people in the streets, leaving the cops and troops isolated. That does not mean that these state occupation forces are not dangerous: The world watched ICE agent Jonathan Ross shoot Renee Good right in the face. But the people in the street are against them.

While we can expect more "lone wolves" like synagogue arsonist Stephen Spencer Pittman, for now, we do not have masses of such people flanking ICE. The continued resistance of working-class and oppressed people has objectively made it harder for ICE to operate, and it is the workers who can keep a full-blown fascist regime from coalescing.

As already argued, fascism has become a possibility because the imperialist system is in decay. But the crisis that produces fascism also creates conditions for a revolutionary working-class movement. Fascism is not inevitable – it can be defeated. The potentially revolutionary people outnumber them by a vast margin. If we stay in the streets – if we fight for everyone who is under attack – we can win. #



Parts of Beth Israel synagogue in Jackson, Mississippi, were burned to the ground in an arson attack.

Minneapolis: testimonies

Continued from page 11

their community safe.

Those participating are mainly people with U.S. citizenship, explained Abdi Rahman, a founder of the West Bank neighborhood patrol. "The non-citizens have stopped stepping out entirely. We buy groceries for them and drop them off at their homes."

"The armed men and women, with their faces covered, roaming our streets and profiling us – we thought we had left all that behind, but now this moment in America is reminding us again of the Somali civil war," said Imam Yusuf Abdulle of the Islamic Association of North America.

"But we are fighting. We didn't come this far, make our lives here, to again be targeted and abused like this."

"We fled a civil war," community activist Mahmoud Hasan said. "We are more resilient than they think."

Kalaallit Nunaat (aka Greenland) vs. Trumpland: The fight for sovereignty in the geopolitical Arctic

By Sharon Black

"Finance capital in general strives to seize the largest possible amount of land of all kinds in all places, and by every means, taking into account potential sources of raw materials and fearing to be left behind in the fierce struggle for the last remnants of independent territory, or for the repartition of those territories that have already been divided." V.I. Lenin, Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism (1917)

Donald Trump, at the behest of salivating tech billionaires, oil and gas barons and Pentagon generals, is hunting for fresh acquisitions for his 21st-century empire-building project. Greenland – Kalaallit Nunaat – is the latest prize in his sights, a living nation talked about in Washington as if it were an empty "Trumpland" waiting to be branded and bought.

A strategic bridgehead in the North Atlantic

Greenland has long been treated as a strategic outpost by imperialist powers. During World War II, its location gave its name to the feared "Greenland Air Gap," a stretch of the mid-Atlantic beyond the reach of land-based aircraft, where Nazi U-boats turned Allied merchant shipping into a killing ground. In any future major war, whoever controls Greenland would command vital Atlantic sea lanes and enjoy a major advantage in anti-submarine and air operations.

Today, the U.S. base at Pituffik (formerly Thule) already plays a key role in Washington's early-warning missile detection and space surveillance systems. As Arctic ice melts and new sea routes open "on the roof of the world," Greenland is becoming hotter both literally and geopolitically. Trump and his cronies see how critical this island is to controlling North Atlantic and Arctic chokepoints in its hostilities toward China and Russia.

Greenland is also rich in yet-untapped offshore oil and gas fields. As its tundra thaws, the island's rare earth mineral deposits – crucial to high-tech industries and advanced weapons systems – become easier and cheaper for corporations to exploit. With enough investment, U.S. planners fantasize about turning Greenland into a "Silicon Valley of AI data centers": a cold, renewable-energy-powered server farm for the next wave of digital capitalism.

A living Indigenous homeland, not an empty frontier

But Kalaallit Nunaat is not a blank space on a Pentagon map. It is the Inuit people's homeland. The island is the world's largest,

Nuuk, Greenland – A protester holds up a "we are not for sale" sign in a rally outside the U.S. consulate on March 15, 2025.

straddling the Arctic Circle off the northern edge of North America. Roughly three times the size of Texas, its interior is not open range but a vast ice sheet more than a mile thick in many places. Of its approximately 57,000 residents, about 90% are Indigenous Inuit. Kalaallisut (Greenlandic) is the official language and the language of daily life.

Only a narrow southern belt of Greenland is arable. For thousands of years, people have relied on the sea and tundra for food. Hunters and fishers bring in seals, whales, fish, seabirds, muskox, caribou and small land animals, selling "country foods" in local markets alongside imported goods. These wild foods are not a romantic relic; they remain central to community nutrition and income, and there is constant pressure from the people themselves to keep harvesting sustainable rather than let profit-driven exploitation destroy their environment.

Most Kalaallit – the name refers to both the people and the country – live in 17 towns and dozens of smaller coastal settlements, working in transportation, education, health care, commerce and a growing tourism sector. Smaller coastal settlements still depend heavily on hunting and fishing, living as much as possible from land and sea. This is the living society erased when Trump and his media echo chamber speak of Greenland as a "real estate deal."

4,000 years of Inuit history, centuries of colonial intrusion

Inuit ancestors, small groups adapted to the harsh Arctic, reached Greenland from Siberia at least 4,000 years ago. Around 800 years ago, new Inuit cultures spread along the coasts and fjords, developing sophisticated marine economies based on whales, seals and walrus. Around the same time, Norse farmers from Iceland established small settlements in a few southern fjords. Their communities, never more than a few thousand people, survived about five centuries before disappearing for reasons still debated, leaving ruins and little



evidence of sustained contact with the Inuit.

By the 18th century, European ships from many nations were plundering the waters around Greenland for fish, whales and walrus, feeding the factories and street lamps of Europe. In 1721, the Danish crown sent an expedition to search for surviving Norse settlers and instead found a land firmly inhabited by Inuit communities. Missionaries followed, intent on conversion and control, and laid the foundation for centuries of Danish colonial domination.

This is the historical backdrop to Trump's surreal campaign to "own Greenland." Behind the bombast and bullying stands a familiar imperialist pattern: powerful capitalist nations treating Indigenous lands as commodities, to be carved up and sold over the heads of the people who actually live there.

Rare earths, land and the lie of 'security'

Why does Trump want Greenland? The capitalist media repeat a narrow set of answers: strategic real estate, access to minerals, a forward military base in the Arctic. None of these explanations grapple with the basic irrationality of imperialism, where financial oligarchs and their political servants seek control for profit, not for any rational human need.

U.S. strategists see in Greenland an opportunity to lock down rare earth minerals that feed tech, AI and weapons industries. Many of these elements are not truly rare, but extracting them is often extremely expensive or environmentally catastrophic. The Inuit people, dependent on clean water, ice and land, have every reason to oppose transforming their home into an open-pit sacrifice zone for Silicon Valley and the Pentagon.

Private ownership of land is not allowed in Kalaallit Nunaat. This collective principle

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The siege of Iran: Giuliani boasts that sanctions are ‘working’

By Gary Wilson

On Jan. 11, at a high-priced gala in a carpeted ballroom, Rudy Giuliani let the mask slip. Speaking to a group of well-funded exiles, the former New York mayor and longtime fixer for the powerful didn’t talk about “human rights” or “democracy.” He talked about hunger.

“The sanctions are working,” Giuliani gloated. “The currency is going to nothing. We see signs of young men and women saying, ‘Give me some food.’ These are the kinds of conditions that lead to successful revolution.”

He wasn’t expressing horror at the sight of starving youth. He was bragging about it. For the billionaire class and the generals in Washington, a hungry child in Tehran is not a tragedy; it is a metric of success. This is the reality of U.S. sanctions. They are not a “peaceful alternative” to war. They are war conducted without uniforms or front lines – a calculated, systematic attempt to break a working-class population until it submits to a harsher, imperialist-backed order.

Hunger as policy

The people Giuliani addressed are a collection of former royalist exiles being groomed by the Pentagon and Wall Street to oversee the recolonization of Iran. Long promoted as a replacement government, these figures represent a bridge for foreign corporations to return to the oil fields and banks they once owned.

They aren’t looking to free the Iranian people; they are looking to hand Iran’s oil and gas back to the same Western billionaires and bankers who used to treat the country as their private gas station.

For more than 40 years, the U.S. military and financial centers have surrounded Iran. They use sanctions when a direct invasion is too risky and a permanent occupation too unstable. This allows the centers of power in Washington and Wall Street to impose their will without the political cost of a body count of their own soldiers. Instead, they let the bodies pile up in the hospitals and marketplaces of the target nation.

Since the 1979 Revolution, every U.S. administration – regardless of party – has tightened the noose. The excuses change like the weather: Sometimes it is nuclear technology, other times it is “terrorism” or “regional stability.” But the underlying demand remains fixed: Iran must surrender control of its oil, its banks, and its future.

Iran’s real “crime” was the 1979 Revolution itself. That year, the people overthrew a U.S.-installed dictator, the Shah, who had been placed on the throne by a CIA-led coup



A worker walks past the Mahshahr petrochemical complex in Iran’s Khuzestan province, part of the nationalized energy sector targeted by U.S. sanctions designed to choke Iran’s economy.

in 1953 to ensure that Iranian oil enriched foreign corporations rather than the Iranian people. By reclaiming their resources, Iran did the one thing the imperialist system cannot tolerate: It existed outside of their control.

What independence made possible

What followed the revolution was a demonstration of what independence makes possible. Despite the hostility, the new order reduced poverty and expanded health care into rural areas that the Shah had treated as mere extraction zones. Literacy rates climbed as education became a right, not a privilege for the elite. Life expectancy rose. Electricity and clean water reached millions for the first time.

These advances did not erase class contradictions or eliminate struggle inside Iran. But they were real, and they mattered. They showed that an oppressed nation, even developing unevenly under constant imperialist pressure, could use its own resources to raise living standards without submitting to foreign control.

These gains showed that an oppressed nation could develop its own life, even under constraint, without taking orders from the World Bank or the Pentagon. And that is exactly why those gains had to be destroyed.

Sanctions strike at the kitchen table

Sanctions are designed to strike at the kitchen table. This is not a side effect. It is written into sanctions design.

When the U.S. Treasury Department blocks a bank, it isn’t “pressuring a regime.” It is devaluing the paycheck of a factory worker in Isfahan. It is making sure a mother in Shiraz cannot find specialized medicine for her child. It is ensuring that spare parts for power plants don’t arrive, so the lights go out in working-class neighborhoods.

This suffering is the intended output of the system. In the 1970s, the Nixon administration explicitly set out to “make the economy scream”

in Chile to topple the Salvador Allende government that dared to nationalize its copper mines. In the 1990s, U.S.-led sanctions destroyed the industrial base of Iraq, leading to the deaths of half a million children. When asked if that price was worth it, then-Secretary of State Madeleine Albright didn’t flinch. She said it was.

Today, the same script is being played out. Since late December, the collapse of the rial and the rising cost of bread have driven people into the streets of Tehran and beyond. Western media outlets, acting as the public relations arm of the State Department, rushed to frame these as “freedom protests.” They ignore the fact that the “food riots” they celebrate are the direct result of the economic blockade they support.

The grievances are real, but they are being selectively amplified and repackaged to divert attention from the imperialist siege itself.

Washington creates the misery, and then points to that misery as proof that the Iranian people need “saving” by the very people who are starving them.

But the goal is not to “save” anyone. The goal is submission. When a country is placed under siege, the margins for survival shrink. The government is forced to make impossible choices: Cut subsidies for the poor or watch the currency evaporate. This is how the imperialist system weaponizes the internal life of a nation, forcing workers to choose between the slow death of a blockade or the sudden death of a puppet government that will hand the country back to the oil companies.

Despite this, the siege has not produced the surrender Washington expects. Instead, it has forced a different kind of growth. Iran has been forced to build its own refineries, its own medicines, and its own industrial base because it had no other choice. It has also found allies in the same boat – forging ties with Venezuela, Cuba, and Nicaragua. These are not ordinary trade deals; they are acts of mutual survival among nations that refuse to be colonies.

Sanctions are a globalized form of class war. The same forces that use the dollar to strangle Iran are the ones that use the police to break strikes at home, allow landlords to hike rents until families are on the street, and shut down hospitals in our own neighborhoods.

The struggle of the Iranian worker to afford bread and the struggle of the worker in the United States to afford rent are the same struggle. Both are being squeezed by a system that prioritizes the expansion of profit over the maintenance of life. Breaking the siege on Iran is not just a matter of “foreign policy.” It is an essential step in dismantling a system that enforces profit through sanctions abroad and repression at home. #

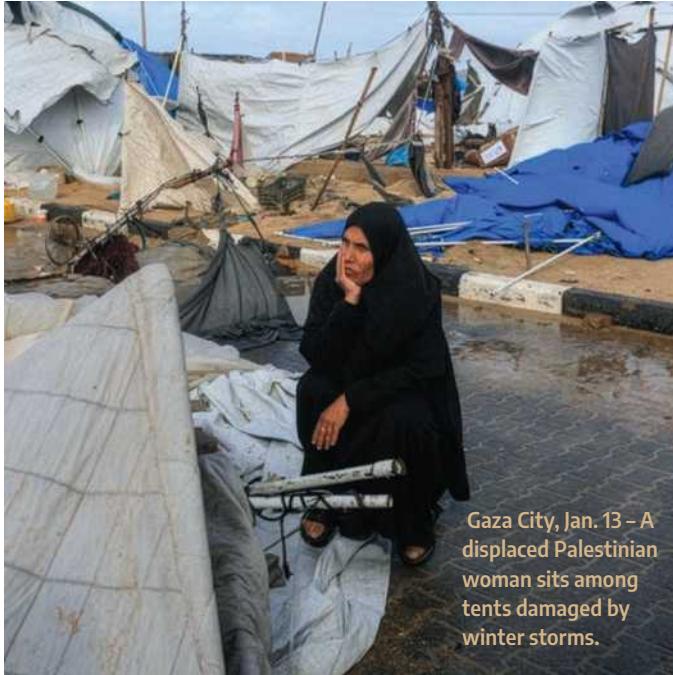
As genocide drags on in Gaza, Israel escalates war within 1948 borders

By Lev Koufax

Three months into the fake U.S.-imposed “ceasefire,” both Zionist forces and the elements continue to batter Gaza. The numbers are a dry ledger of atrocity: over 875 ceasefire violations, more than 400 murdered under the cover of a “pause,” and more than 1,000 injuries from airstrikes that deliberately target the lifelines of starving people: aid stations and border crossings.

Having demolished over 70% of Gaza’s homes, schools, and hospitals, the people of Gaza are left completely bare to the elements. Torrential rains, which would challenge any robust infrastructure, create mass suffering for a population living in ruins. Floodwaters churn with the debris of bombed-out apartment blocks and the unclaimed remains of martyrs. Children, already emaciated from an engineered famine backed by the U.S., now die of hypothermia in soaked tents. To call this a “natural disaster” is to repeat the lie of the century. Gaza’s inability to defend itself from the elements is a direct effect of the Zionist occupation of Palestine.

Since winter began, over 30 Palestinians have died from hypothermia, and 24 more from storms and floods that damaged buildings. During this same period, Zionist occu-



Gaza City, Jan. 13 – A displaced Palestinian woman sits among tents damaged by winter storms.

pation forces continued to demolish buildings – at least 2,500. Zionist destruction of what little infrastructure is left in Gaza deepens the humanitarian crisis and severely exacerbates the negative impact of weather.

While Gaza drowns, the IDF and Mossad escalate their war against rising dissent within the 1948 borders of “Israel.” Last week, sever-

al dozen progressive Jews and Palestinian citizens of the ‘48 took to the streets against the genocide in occupied Jaffa, known as “Tel Aviv.” The event was met with the brutality that has been the hallmark of the Zionist occupation going back to 1947 Nakba.

The demonstration was a combination of musical performance and protest against the “ongoing Holocaust in Palestine.” What began as sporadic attacks from hardline Zionist passersby soon grew into waves of assault from both fascist mobs and the police. A protester told Haaretz that “when the police arrived, they used extreme violence.” Video footage captured an officer choking an anti-Zionist Jewish woman after throwing her to the ground. Other protesters described their friends being “dragged away.”

The violent suppression of this protest exposes the truth – there is no “vibrant democracy” inside the ‘48 borders, only a police state terrified of any anti-war consciousness growing among its citizens.

The Zionist project has always sold itself to world Jewry as the ultimate guarantor of safety from persecution. Yet in Gaza, it has constructed the largest open-air concentration camp since Warsaw, and in “Tel Aviv,” it beats Jews in the streets for standing against genocide. What safety is there in becoming the new SS? What future is there in a state whose every action replicates the horrors our ancestors fled?

Jewish revolutionary forebears in the Warsaw Ghetto – the anti-Zionist socialists and communists of the Jewish Combat Organization – did not fight the Nazis so that their grandchildren could pilot armed drones over a crowded refugee camp. They took up arms as an act of desperate resistance to fascism. That same spirit lives today not in the IOF, but in the Palestinian fighter defending Khan Younis with an outdated rifle, in the Samaritan warrior like the released prisoner Nader Sadaqa, and in the Jewish protester in Tel Aviv refusing to bow to Nazi policies.

Working-class people across the world must continue to demonstrate, march, strike, and raise their voices in solidarity with Gaza. And beyond that, a working-class movement to build socialism in the United States and across the world is the best and only way to permanently end the brutal U.S. imperialist system that makes Zionism possible.

Lev Koufax is an anti-Zionist Jewish activist.

Kalaallit Nunaat (aka Greenland)

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clashes head-on with the logic of real-estate speculation that Trump represents.

The most gruesome example of how U.S. imperialism has used access comes from 1953. During the Cold War, Washington secretly expanded the Thule Air Base (now Pituffik Space Base) to store nuclear weapons – in violation of the base agreement and without informing either Denmark or the Inuit.

To make room, the U.S. forced a small Kalaallit community off their ancestral land with four days’ notice, sending them 81 miles away to poorer hunting grounds. Their descendants remain angry and continue to fight for justice. Later, a B-52 bomber carrying nuclear weapons crashed nearby, spreading radioactive contamination that was only fully acknowledged years afterward. Plutonium still shows up in tests of seabed shellfish.

This is not “security.” It is colonial violence.

Greenland belongs to Greenlanders

The Arctic has often been described as a zone of “exceptionalism” where great-power rivalry is muted. Trump’s push to claim Greenland, backed by tech capital and the Pentagon, threatens to turn it instead into a heavily militarized front line in conflicts over shipping lanes, missile routes and critical infrastructure.

Junior capitalist partners in Europe would do well to see the handwriting on the wall: Bow down; U.S. imperialists do not intend to share.

For the Inuit majority, the core message is clear: Greenland is not for sale. Decisions about the land, the sea, and the future of the island belong to the people who live there – not to Trump, not to U.S. generals, not to tech billionaires and not to European capitals. The real struggle is to ensure that this moment of climate crisis and imperialist interest becomes a step toward full Indigenous sovereignty, not the opening act of a new colonial grab. #

6 defiant words: Maduro sends message, vows resistance after U.S. kidnapping

January 11, 2026

Maduro sent a message from New York confirming that he and First Lady Cilia Flores are “well” despite being held in U.S. custody following what Venezuela describes as a military kidnapping on Jan. 3, 2026. The message, delivered through legal representatives and shared publicly by his son, National Assembly Deputy Nicolás Ernesto Maduro Guerra, marks the first direct communication from the Venezuelan president since the U.S. operation that left more than 100 people dead across Caracas, La Guaira, Aragua and Miranda states.

In the brief but powerful statement, Maduro urged supporters not to succumb to despair. “We are well, we are fighters,” he declared – a phrase that has already become a rallying cry across Venezuela and solidarity movements worldwide. His son emphasized that his father remains “strong” and unbroken, despite what Caracas calls an act of war. “They couldn’t defeat him by any means, so they used disproportionate force – but they did not defeat him,” he said.

The revelation comes amid intensifying diplomatic fallout. Acting President Delcy Rodríguez, appointed by Venezuela’s Supreme Court to lead the government in Maduro’s absence, has formed a High-Level Commission to pursue his release through legal and political channels. Meanwhile, mass protests continue daily across all 23 states, with citizens demanding the immediate return of their democratically elected leaders.

Maduro sends message from New York amid global condemnation of U.S. aggression

According to Venezuelan officials, the Jan. 3 operation involved coordinated airstrikes and ground incursions by U.S. special forces targeting presidential residences and military installations. The assault culminated in the forced extraction of Maduro and Flores, who were flown to New York and are reportedly being held at the Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn, a federal facility known for housing high-profile detainees.

While the U.S. government has framed the action as a “counter-narcoterrorism operation,” citing long-standing – but unproven – allegations linking Maduro to the so-called “Cartel de los Soles,” no formal charges have been presented in an international court. Venezuela rejects the accusations as politically motivated fabrications.

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres condemned the operation, stating that it “violates core principles of the UN Charter, including sovereignty, non-intervention and the prohibition of the use of force.” Several members of the U.N. Security Council,



Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro sent his first message from U.S. custody in New York, declaring: ‘We are well, we are fighters.’

defense partnerships with Russia, China and Iran, while critics argue that continued unilateral actions by Washington risk further isolating the United States.

More than 100 Venezuelans – both soldiers and civilians – were killed in the Jan. 3 strikes, according to Venezuelan authorities. Those casualties have received little attention in U.S. official statements, which have focused instead on allegations against the country’s leadership.

Domestic unity and international solidarity in defense of sovereignty

Inside Venezuela, authorities say institutional continuity has been maintained. The Supreme Court’s designation of Rodríguez as acting president was presented as a constitutional measure, while the Bolivarian National Armed Forces reaffirmed loyalty to the civilian chain of command.

“The revolution does not depend on one person – it belongs to the people,” Rodríguez said in a national address, pledging to “work and fight simultaneously” for peace and sovereignty.

Her administration has pursued diplomatic efforts at international forums while mobilizing domestically to prevent destabilization. Officials report that community organizations and social movements have continued organizing daily activities amid heightened tensions.

International reactions have continued to emerge. Iran labeled the operation “criminal aggression,” China demanded the immediate release of Maduro and Flores, and Cuba described the action as “state terrorism.” In the United States, some lawmakers and human rights organizations have questioned the legality of the operation.

The message from Maduro – brief and personal – has taken on symbolic weight among supporters. By stating “we are fighters,” he framed the moment as one of resistance rather than defeat.

Conclusion: Words that defy empire

In a context marked by sanctions, military pressure and diplomatic conflict, Maduro’s message from New York has resonated widely. His five-word statement – “We are well, we are fighters” – has been repeated in demonstrations and public statements across Venezuela.

As the situation continues to unfold, supporters say the message reflects a broader insistence on sovereignty and political self-determination in the face of external pressure.

Source: teleSUR

including China, Russia and Algeria, echoed this stance, calling for an emergency session to address what they describe as a dangerous precedent in international relations.

“This is not law enforcement – it is state-sponsored abduction,” said Dr. Amara Diallo, an international law professor at the University of Dakar. “Even if allegations were true, due process requires extradition requests, judicial cooperation and respect for diplomatic immunity – not midnight raids and forced transfers.”

Under the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, heads of state enjoy absolute immunity – a norm critics say the U.S. appears to have disregarded. Legal experts warn that if such actions go unchallenged, the door opens for powerful states to unilaterally detain foreign leaders under flimsy pretexts.

Geopolitical context:

A world reckoning with unilateral power

The crisis triggered by Maduro’s detention represents more than a bilateral dispute. At a time when multipolarity is rising and trust in Western institutions is eroding, the U.S. operation has galvanized a broad coalition of nations that view it as an overreach disguised as justice.

From Serbia, where President Aleksandar Vučić declared the U.N. Charter “nonfunctional,” to India, which called for a peaceful resolution, and Brazil, which convened an emergency CELAC summit, the response has been wide-ranging. Traditionally neutral actors such as the Vatican and South Africa have also expressed concern.

Regionally, the attack challenges the 2012 CELAC declaration of Latin America and the Caribbean as a “zone of peace,” which rejects foreign military intervention. In response, several governments have called for renewed regional dialogue.

Globally, the incident has intensified discussions around de-dollarization and alliance diversification. Venezuela has deepened energy and

Stop all U.S. aid to the Philippines

Release Chantal!

By Andrew Matatag

Chantal Anicoche is a friend of mine.

We have shared meals together, gone to protests together, and sat together in meeting after meeting figuring out how we can help our people in the Philippines.

On Jan. 1, 2026, the Armed Forces of the Philippines, supplied and supported by the United States, rained bombs indiscriminately on the island of Mindoro.

The AFP's stated reason for the bombing was to kill members of the New People's Army. When the people's movement condemned the bombing as indiscriminate, they asserted that "its security operations against suspected New People's Army (NPA) rebels in Abra de Ilog, Occidental Mindoro on New Year's Day, Jan. 1, were a legitimate response to armed threats despite criticisms from human rights groups and progressive lawmakers."

Of course, this is a tired, recycled justification the Philippines government uses to scapegoat the people's movement as justification for its repressive measures.

Chantal was there. She was in the Abra de Ilog area, working with peasants and peasant advocates to truly understand life in the Philippines. She was there to learn from the communities impacted the most by the social and economic crises that arise from the relationship between the United States and the Philippines. She was there with friends and family.

By the standards of international law, this was humanitarian work.

After the bombing on Jan. 1, which separated and displaced the communities in Abra de Ilog, Chantal was missing. The international people's movement mobilized immediately, raising the demand to surface Chantal.

Children's rights vs. cells

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music; where decent housing is unaffordable and the cost of living has skyrocketed to the point that aid for those without adequate income isn't even enough for basic necessities; where access to health care is minimal; where our children disappear, are murdered, and are recruited by drug cartels; where femicides and domestic violence are on the rise. But that's not important to the government. No laws are passed, no programs are developed for that. For them, it's easier to talk about the rights of cells than the rights of the living being once it's born.

From Puerto Rico in struggle, with

Radio Clarín of Colombia,
Berta Joubert-Ceci



A week later, on Jan. 8, the AFP could no longer ignore the international public outcry and scrutiny. They released to the public photos of Chantal in their custody.

I was relieved to know she is alive, but still troubled to see her looking afraid and confused in AFP custody. I know what the AFP is capable of – torture, indefinite detention, all manner of inhumane treatment.

The public pressure also forced the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC) to publish a hit piece on Chantal and staged video mischaracterizing the situation. Feigning concern and respect for her well-being, the NTF-ELCAC predictably blames the Communist Party of the Philippines for putting her in danger.

The Malaya Movement published a comprehensive statement on the hit piece, completely debunked the myths pushed by the NTF-ELCAC, excerpted here:

"It is unbelievable and illogical that the AFP found Chantal 7 days later hiding in a hole only 400 meters from the site of the attacks and crying out 'help.' It is basic medical knowledge that a person can only survive 3 to 5 days without water. How many takes did the AFP have to do on this poorly scripted and staged film shoot? The video editing is so amateurish that the video they released even included two instances of the soldiers supposedly 'finding' her. Our hearts go out to Chantal for being clearly coerced to act in this idiotic video.

"Due to the overwhelming international outcry, the NTF-ELCAC's rabid online troll army has been unleashed to spew the most vile attacks on Chantal and the organizations tirelessly working to free her from the captivity of these AFP monsters. Aside from the obviously staged videos of her "rescue", the AFP and these trolls have produced clearly AI-generated photos attempting to project the false narrative that she was an NPA rebel who is now smiling happily in the custody of the military."

To date, there is no movement on the part of the Philippines government to release Chantal from custody and back to the United States.

For me, this has been yet another all-too-real illustration that the imperialist relationship between the United States and the Philippines must end. The bombings, the extrajudicial killings, the ravaging and pillaging of the Philippines are not possible without the complete neo-colonial control of U.S. monop-



Pictured above, article author Andrew Matatag and Chantal enthusiastically share a meal from the Philippine restaurant chain, Jollibee.

oily corporations of Philippine labor, land, resources, and government.

Whatever the Philippine government may say about the Communist Party of the Philippines, the National Democratic Front, and the New People's Army, it pales in comparison to the actual violence and exploitation perpetrated by the Philippine government.

I may not speak for all Filipinos, but I am for the people's democratic revolution that will sever U.S. control of the Philippines. I am for the self-determination of my people. Neither the U.S. nor its stooges in the Philippine government will bring this to the Filipino people.

I think it can be cliche to sing the praises of a friend who has come under attack. So I say without hesitation or exaggeration that Chantal is one of my favorite people I have ever met. She is genuine, compassionate, silly, and kind. She is dedicated to the Filipino people. She is dedicated to uniting Filipino communities across the world. She is a fighter for the people. Her sincerity and kindness are infectious.

Chantal's friends, family, and allies in the U.S. are asking everyone and anyone who wants to help to check out the following:

Sign & share the petition: tinyurl.com/chantal-advocacy-toolkit

Use the advocacy toolkit to contact your legislators: tinyurl.com/chantal-advocacy-toolkit

Report your outreach here to amplify pressure: [#](https://tinyurl.com/SurfaceChantalForm)

Cuando la corrupción cruza fronteras...

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

En una colonia no solo estamos a merced del poder económico del país invasor, en nuestro caso los Estados Unidos de América, sino que la Justicia, con mayúscula, depende en última instancia, de los intereses imperiales.

Un ejemplo reciente es el indulto presidencial, es decir, del presidente Trump, para la ex gobernadora de Puerto Rico Wanda Vázquez Garced.

Es un caso que pica y se extiende. Veamos brevemente.

Vázquez Garced sucedió en la gobernación a Ricky Roselló, a quien el pueblo sacó de su puesto manifestándose masivamente en el ahora famoso Verano del 2019, luego de que saliera a la luz un chat en Telegram donde éste se burlaba del pueblo de forma muy crue-

el considerando además que era a raíz de la devastación producida por el Huracán María. Irónicamente, Vázquez era la Secretaria de Justicia en ese entonces.

Mientras era gobernadora, ella aceptó cientos de miles de dólares del presidente de un banco para su campaña de reelección del 2020, a cambio de favores para ese banquero. Ella fue reelecta y le cumplió al banquero lo prometido en el soborno.

Sin ahondar en los complicados pormenores, sí es importante mencionar los nombres de dos actores principales quienes fueron acusados por la Oficina del Fiscal de Estados Unidos en Puerto Rico junto a Vázquez Garced.

Uno, el presidente de Bancrédito, Julio Herrera Velutini, un venezolano terrateniente que había abierto ese banco en Puerto Rico y

quería más libertad de acción sin fiscalización de las agencias boricuas.

El otro, es un ex agente del Negociado Federal de Investigaciones (FBI), Mark Rossini, quien actuó de intermediario entre la gobernadora y Velutini.

Los tres habrían tenido que cumplir pena de cárcel por esos delitos. Pero gracias a que la hija de Herrera Velutini había donado \$2.5 millones a la organización de Trump, MAGA, Inc. a finales del 2024, Trump le acaba de otorgar un perdón presidencial absoluto a los tres.

Mientras tanto, el pueblo boricua tendrá que seguir convocando al pueblo para lograr Justicia. Cosa que solo la independencia y soberanía lograrán.

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



Derechos de niños vs. células

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

Las contradicciones en esta colonia son inmensas. No solo el pueblo se enfrenta al poder imperial gringo, sino que está secuestrado por las peleas internas de una administración local que ganó las elecciones con menos de un 40% del electorado. O sea, que el 60% les votó en contra, lo que en cualquier parte del mundo sería una mayoría. Representado por el Partido Nuevo Progresista, que de progresista no tiene nada,

estos baluartes de la derecha, tanto en la rama ejecutiva como en la legislativa, mantienen una rivalidad peligrosa compitiendo entre sí a ver quién es más irrelevante para el bienestar del pueblo, y quién avanza los proyectos legislativos más detrimientos para la población.

Encima, compiten a ver quiénes son más disque "religiosos." Pero no la religión basada en obrar por el bienestar del próximo, en la de hacer bien sin mirar a quién, sino en las doctrinas que criminalizan a la mujer y a la juventud.

Children's rights vs. cells

By Berta Joubert-Ceci

The contradictions in this colony are immense. Not only do the people face the imperial power of the United States, but they are also held hostage by the internal squabbles of a local administration that won the elections with less than 40% of the vote. In other words, 60% voted against them, which anywhere else in the world would be a majority. Represented by the New Progressive Party, which is anything but progressive, these bastions of the right wing, both in the executive and legislative branches, maintain a dangerous rivalry, competing to see who is most irrelevant to the well-being of the people and who can advance the most detrimental legislative projects for the population.

Moreover, they compete to see who is the most supposedly "religious." But not the religion based on working for the well-being of others, on doing good without regard for who it benefits, but rather on doctrines that criminalize women and youth.

A human egg and sperm as visualized by scanning electron microscopy.



Un óvulo y un espermatozoide humanos, visualizados mediante microscopía electrónica de barrido.

These days, a law and a bill have been passed in the Senate that classify the killing of an unborn child as murder. Abortion is legal in this country, but now, from the highest levels of government, there is an attempt to criminalize it. Terms like "unborn" and "conceived but unborn human being," in practice, grant more rights to two cells that unite, since these terms include any stage of gestation. Thus, the egg and sperm have more rights as legal persons than children who have already been born. Debates, statements, and media interviews attempt to justify the unjustifiable.

In a country where our children and youth have been denied so much by closing schools and eliminating programs that enhance human well-being, such as the arts and

Estos días se ha aprobado una ley y un proyecto en el Senado que tipifica la muerte del "concebido" no nacido como asesinato. En este país el aborto es legal, pero ahora desde las más altas esferas del gobierno, se intenta criminalizarlo. Términos como "nasciturus" y "ser humano concebido, pero no nacido," en práctica, otorgan más derechos a dos células que se unen, pues estos términos incluyen cualquier etapa de gestación, así que el óvulo y el espermatozoide tienen más derechos como persona jurídica, que los niños y niñas ya nacidos. Debates, comunicados y entrevistas en los medios tratan de justificar lo injustificable.

En un país donde se le ha negado tanto a nuestros niños y a nuestra juventud al cerrar escuelas, eliminar programas que elevan la calidad humana del ser como las artes y la música. Donde la vivienda digna es inasequible y el costo de vida se ha disparado tanto que las ayudas para quienes carecen de un ingreso adecuado, no les dà para una compra básica. Donde al acceso a los servicios de salud es mínimo. Donde nuestros niños y niñas desaparecen, mueren asesinados, los narcos los reclutan. Donde aumentan los feminicidios y la violencia intrafamiliar. Pero eso no es importante para el gobierno. Para eso no se promulgan leyes, no se desarrollan programas. Para ellos y ellas es más fácil hablar de los derechos de las células y no del ser una vez nacido. #

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