

Why ICE shot and killed Lorenzo Salgado Araujo

By Gary Wilson

Before sunrise on July 7, Lorenzo Salgado Araujo left his Houston home and drove off to pick up his construction crew. He had made that trip for 35 years, building houses across Houston.

By 7 a.m., he lay handcuffed on Canal Street, shot through the abdomen by an ICE agent and crying for help.

His oldest son, Ronaldo, learned of the shooting from a Facebook video. "I recognized him immediately," he said, "not from his appearance but from his voice, crying for help as he lay on the street bleeding out."

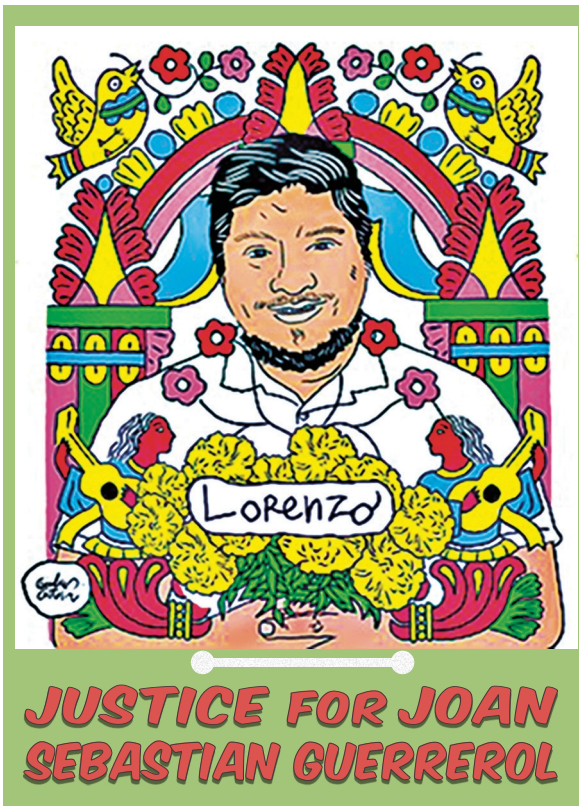
Salgado Araujo was 52. He came to Houston from Mexico at 17. He and his wife raised three sons. He had no criminal record and was applying for legal residency, sponsored by Ronaldo, a U.S. citizen.

ICE was not looking for him.

ICE shot Lorenzo Salgado Araujo because Washington had ordered a quota of 2,000 arrests a day. That quota sent armed agents into Mexican working-class neighborhoods before dawn, hunting for bodies to fill the number.

Agents were staking out the block for two other men.

Continued on page 16



Rev. Annie Chambers, uncompromising voice of Baltimore's poor

How ICE put a parasite in the food supply

'Stay out of the heat,' Apps sent workers into it

AC is a human right!

Labor movement opposes U.S. imperialism

ILWU Local 6 holds the line

U.S. built on genocide & slavery:

Demand REPARATIONS

Baltimore dirt bike riders refuse to be chased off the streets



BALTIMORE

Police turn AFRAM celebration into occupation

Millions vote socialist — the ruling class panics.

The Supreme Court wages class war

Another broken agreement – Washington tears up the Hormuz ceasefire
The war on Iran reaches the U.S. food supply

Pentagon uses earthquake to occupy **VENEZUELA**

Elián González: However tired the Cuban people may be, they know where the evil lies



After San Francisco police violence over Pride weekend, trans leaders deliver demands to Lurie

Rev. Annie Chambers, uncompromising voice of Baltimore's poor, dies at 84

The following statement was issued July 3, 2026, by We Stand Up For All and shared by the People's Power Assembly on the death of their founder, Rev. Annie Chambers.

It is with profound sadness that our organization, We Stand Up For All (part of the OCN), announces the death of our beloved founder, Rev. Annie Chambers — legendary civil rights leader, community mother, and lifelong champion of the poor. Rev. Annie Chambers died the evening of July 2, 2026, shortly before midnight. She leaves behind an unparalleled legacy of grassroots activism and unconditional love for her people, her family, her community, and all those who struggle to survive.

Throughout her life, Rev. Chambers faced overwhelming odds and deep personal hardships. Yet she transformed every challenge she endured into a fierce, ordained mission to fight for the rights of everyone, especially the most vulnerable among us. From her early days with the Black Panther Party, Malcolm X, and the original 1960s Poor People's Campaign, to her foundational work with the Baltimore and National Welfare Rights Organization, she never backed down from a fight for justice.

As a longtime resident and tenant leader at Baltimore's Douglass Homes, Rev. Annie Chambers was the uncompromising voice of the poor, the working class, and those experiencing homelessness. Whether she was organizing food giveaways for her neighbors, ministering to the incarcerated, fighting against the privatization of public housing, or fighting to keep the electricity on for struggling families illegitimately billed by public housing, she firmly believed that the basic necessities of life belonged to the people.

Details regarding a memorial service and ways the public can continue to support her ongoing community initiatives will be



announced in the coming days. Rev. Chambers often said she was ordained by God to stay in the battle for justice, and she spent every day of her life fulfilling that calling. If, upon hearing the news of her death, you feel compelled to give immediately, please reach out to one of the organizations listed below.

Reverend Chambers worked with hundreds of organizations over her lifetime in Baltimore

and beyond. Here are just a few of the last organizations she worked with, recommended, and wholeheartedly supported to fulfill her work in Baltimore: the People's Power Assembly, Struggle-La Lucha, the Ujima People's Progress Party, and New Harvest Ministries. She also had her own organization, We Stand Up For All, which she founded with her longtime ally and protégé, Ian Schlakman.

Your thoughts, prayers, and continued dedication to Rev. Chambers' mission are the greatest gifts. We strongly encourage those seeking to support or continue her work to reach out to any and all of the organizations above. If you feel especially moved to send flowers or tokens of remembrance, they may be

sent to her local church of worship and service, New Harvest Ministries, which will hold prayers for her Sunday, July 5, 2026.

She is survived by her 25 children and hundreds of grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Her daughter, Dena Smith — a radio show host like her mother — also followed her mother, and her grandfather before her, into the ministry, serving God and fighting injustice in his name. #

CHINA: Building socialism in an imperialist world Gary Wilson

This report looks at how over a billion people are building socialism in a world still dominated by imperialism. It follows the Chinese Revolution from land reform and collectivization, through the mass campaigns that built industry and expanded education and healthcare, to the Cultural Revolution's effort to curb privilege and keep the revolution on a socialist path.

It shows how socialist construction created the foundations of modern China: state ownership of key industries, technology and banking; planning; broad social participation; and an industrial base strong enough to withstand capitalist pressure. It also examines the strains created after 1978, when market policies widened inequality and allowed new privileged layers to grow, and how today's leadership is working to strengthen state ownership and planning against those pressures.

China is not treated here as a puzzle or a ready-made template, but as a workers' state developing inside a capitalist world system. Its advances and contradictions are rooted in the unfinished struggle of socialist construction, begun with the revolution of 1949.



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How ICE deportation quotas can put a parasite in the food supply

By Gary Wilson

The parasite driving this summer's foodborne illness outbreak cannot spread directly from person to person.

Cyclospora cayetanensis must spend a week or two in warm soil or water before it becomes infectious. That delay points investigators back toward a common source: the fields, packing houses and water systems through which produce passes.

Michigan alone has recorded more than 3,700 cases since June, compared with 40 or 50 in a normal year. The CDC has confirmed cases in 34 states and is reviewing thousands more.

Cyclospora enters the food chain wherever sanitation fails: through contaminated irrigation water, fields without toilets or handwashing stations, or water used to wash and pack crops. Investigators have not established which route fed the current outbreaks. But every route comes down to whether agribusiness keeps human waste out of the food supply.

The federal sanitation standard is narrow. Covered farms must provide one toilet and one handwashing station for every 20 workers, within a quarter-mile of the field. Farms with 10 or fewer hand laborers are exempt, as are crews whose field work, including travel time, lasts three hours or less.

Farmworkers were excluded from the 1935 National Labor Relations Act by design. That Jim Crow-era carve-out kept agriculture a low-wage preserve worked by those with the least legal power to fight back.

They fought back anyway.

Filipino and Mexican workers struck the Delano grape fields in 1965 and carried the struggle nationwide through the grape boycott. In 1970, they forced growers to sign union contracts requiring drinking water, toilets, handwashing stations and protection from pesticides.

A sanitary field was a union demand, won by strike and boycott before Washington put it into federal law.

Even where the rule applies, enforcement is weak. The Labor Department acknowledges that workers without handwashing facilities risk exposure to parasites and can carry contamination onto crops. Government surveys show that undocumented and piece-



ICE and other federal agents occupy a field during the July 10, 2025, immigration raid at Glass House Farms in Camarillo, California. Farmworker Jaime Alanís García died after falling 30 feet while trying to escape the raid.

rate workers are among those least likely to have reliable access to toilets and clean water.

When a crew has no toilet or place to wash, the grower has put human waste within reach of the crop.

Roughly 70% of hired crop workers are immigrants, mostly from Mexico and Central America. About 40% lack legal work authorization, according to federal figures.

These are the workers the Trump administration has spent 2026 raiding and deporting.

Stephen Miller set a quota of 3,000 immigration arrests a day — a floor, he said, not a ceiling. ICE has raided farms and packing houses across California, the Midwest and the South. In parts of California, growers reported losing as much as 70% of their workforce after raids.

ICE does not have to arrest every worker to control the whole workforce. Each raid warns those who remain what can happen if they demand higher wages, clean water or a toilet.

Workers have described agents chasing them through crop rows. Jaime Alanís García fell 30 feet from a greenhouse roof and died while fleeing agents during a July 2025 raid on a Ventura County farm.

ICE terror makes the fields more dangerous. A worker who fears that reporting an unsanitary field may bring agents to the crew stays silent. A crew cut in half must harvest faster, with less time to reach a toilet, wash hands or demand a break. A worker facing deportation cannot safely challenge a grower who refuses clean water.

The arrest quota drives down wages and sanitation standards by keeping the workforce frightened, divided and disposable.

Once contaminated produce reaches consumers, the undercount continues. Testing

for *Cyclospora* is expensive and often not routine. The parasite is shed intermittently, so one negative result proves little. Many patients suffer for days or weeks before a doctor orders the test. Anyone who works through watery diarrhea

rather than lose a shift or face an emergency-room bill disappears from the official count.

Michigan found more cases partly because it maintained surveillance and interviewed more than 1,000 patients. The official count shows where testing and tracing are strongest, not everywhere the parasite is spreading.

The federal government has also weakened the system used to find contaminated food. Mass firings beginning April 1, 2025, eliminated thousands of FDA and CDC jobs, including positions in the CDC division that tracked parasitic diseases. In July 2025, FoodNet made active *Cyclospora* surveillance optional at its 10 sites, ending required tracking in place since 1997.

The government also delayed the FDA produce - traceability rule from Jan. 20, 2026, until July 20, 2028, after food-industry pressure. Investigators must again trace produce one record and one phone call at a time.

Weeks into the outbreak, Taylor Farms has been named. Investigators are focusing on lettuce and other salad greens. Taco Bell has withdrawn some ingredients as a precaution, with no confirmed link.

Agribusiness is allowed to obscure the source of contamination just as it obscures the conditions under which crops are harvested.

Better tracking can show who became sick. It cannot make the fields safe. Outbreaks recur because agribusiness refuses to pay for sanitation and the government refuses to force it. Instead, the state sends armed agents against the workers who would demand clean water and toilets.

The fields became safer in the 1970s because workers organized, struck and boycotted. Only that power can make the fields safe for farmworkers — and the food safe for everyone. #

U.S. built on genocide and slavery: demand reparations

By Colby Byrd

In the shadow of Amerikkka's 250th birthday celebration, I ask myself what can bring this genocidal, enslaving war machine to an end? This country's culture is shaped by its origin. This is a country built on top of genocide, slavery, war, exploitation and racism. The founders of this country were slave owners, who launched their "Revolutionary War" not for liberty, freedom and brotherhood but for the expansion of Slavery, the expulsion of Native peoples from their land, and to rob the land of its resources all in the name of profit. This country has never made amends for the terror it committed in the past because it uses the same tactics of terror to enslave, expunge, and extract today. One way that will bring an end to this vicious cycle is Reparations.

The Rev. Dr. Robert Turner, of Empowerment Temple AME, is a champion in the fight for Reparations. As pastor of Vernon AME in Tulsa, Oklahoma, he led the fight for recognition of the Tulsa Race Massacre of 1921. He personally was on the ground during this investigation, discovering mass graves and handling the remains of Black people who were forgotten to time due to racism. He has put his body on the line countless times in the name of Reparations.

He has marched every month for 40 months straight, ending on Feb. 16, 2026, a total of nearly 1,600 miles, spreading the demand for Reparations wherever he has been. He now aims to march in every state capital in order to organize a national push for the demand of Reparations. He has written a book, "Creating a Culture of Repair: Taking Action on the Road to Reparations," that has a 100-step Reparations plan, with ways for individuals, communities, and institutions to be part of creating a culture of Repair for all the harm done to Black people throughout history.

Reparations for Black people is a crucial step in dismantling this terror machine. Reparations



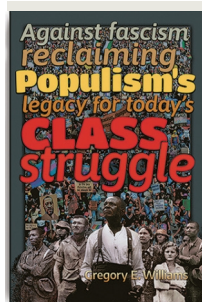
Rev. Robert Turner and supporters rally outside the White House on Feb. 16, 2026, during the monthly march from Baltimore to Washington, D.C. Photo: Rev. Robert Turner

not just for Slavery, but for the more than 400 years of systemic racism, oppression and occupation. The Honorable Malcolm X said, "If you stick a knife in my back nine inches and pull it out six inches, that's not progress. If you pull it all the way out, that's not progress. Progress is healing the wound that the blow made. And they haven't even begun to pull the knife out, much less heal the wound. ... They won't even admit the knife is there." U.S. colonialism and imperialism is the knife and it has been in the back of the Black population that lives in this country since this country was nothing more than 13 slave owning trading posts sitting on the Atlantic ocean. That knife is covered in the blood of Slavery, of Jim and Jane Crow, of racial terror and genocide, of mass incarceration, of the "War on Drugs," of redlining and forced removal, of police brutality and of data centers destroying land inhabited by Black people.

Reparations is not just the removal of the knife, but also the healing of the wound.

Reparations isn't just a check worth some amount of money. Reparations are revolutionary. For Black people in this country to get Reparations by any means necessary, there would be a complete change in how this country exists and operates. There can be no implementation of Reparations for Black people here without an end to imperialist greed and war abroad, because those wars are fought with Black bodies. Reparations given to the descendants of slaves in Amerikkka have to include reparations to the places from where the men women and children were stolen from. For the wounds inflicted on Black people to be healed, that means an end to the expansion of AI, it means a mass release of Black prisoners, an end to redlining and gentrification, an end to police occupation of Black cities and towns. All in all Reparations means the end of the "Amerikkkan experiment" because that was built on the backs and tested on the blood of Black people. To see prosperous Black communities in the land known as the United States of Amerikkka, means an end to the destruction of communities overseas.

Reparations is the continuation of the struggle for Emancipation, the continuation of the struggle for Civil Rights and the struggle for Black Power. Amerikkka cannot exist as a bastion and home of empire if the people who built this country have control, and to use the words of George Jackson, if Revolution (in this case Reparations) means civil war – I accept, and the sooner begun the sooner done. #



AGAINST FASCISM Gregory E. Williams
Reclaiming populism's legacy for today's class struggle
Populism: progressive farmers' movement of 1890s

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 - + Legacy of Jena Six + Abortion rights movement in South
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'SOUTHERN POPULISM AND BLACK LABOR tinyurl.com/Populism-book



A scene from a film directed by Lotfy Nathan about the people who ride dirt bikes on the streets of Baltimore.



Baltimore dirt bike riders refuse to be chased off the streets

By Colby Byrd

Dirt bike culture in Baltimore is woven into the culture of Resistance within the city. It has survived crackdown after crackdown, each time reorganizing and coming back stronger than before. The Pack continues to survive in an environment that was designed to see them gone.

Recently, dirt bike riders have come under intense attack by the Baltimore Pig Department. This comes after a Baltimore Pig got themselves injured after instigating and escalating an interaction with a rider.

BPD claims it does not chase dirt bike riders. Riders, witnesses and videos from the street show the opposite: police instigate, corner, ram and pursue riders, then blame any injuries on the people they attacked.

The Pigs create their own consent to break the law in order to go after people whose only crime is having fun while being Black.

The Baltimore Pig Department has, in a sense, declared war on the Pack and its supporters. Nearly every day, BPD social media is updated with posts showing off seized bikes and parts and threats to store and gas station owners not to help riders in any way. The pigs occupy gas stations, corner stores, restaurants,

parking lots, fields and neighborhoods in an attempt to intimidate, isolate and go after riders. Videos have circulated of Pigs once again using their vehicles as battering rams. They charge into dirt bike riders in an attempt to get the rider to crash.

And it isn't just city Pigs that are doing all this. Baltimore County Police are also attacking and chasing riders. Together, hundreds of thousands of dollars in city money are being spent by the police in a manner that actually makes the community less safe.

When the dirt bikes ride, riders often halt traffic so the whole group can pass, rotating the job from rider to rider. Drivers see the same basic pattern in funeral processions, car caravans and group rides with hazard lights on. But when young Black riders do it, the city treats it as a police emergency.

BPD's violent chases have led to multiple injuries and at least one fatality. They will say that they don't give chase and that these casualties are caused by the rider's actions, but video recordings and eyewitness reports quickly show the truth against the lies of the police.

It is the dirt bike community that gives the city's youth a way to turn passion into skill. While the city cracks down on bikes, spare

parts, gasoline and the riders themselves, the culture still finds ways to hold youth sessions where younger riders can learn and ride safely. Riders teach newer riders how to spot mechanical problems and fix bikes. Kids still rush out of their homes to give high fives and cheer when the pack comes down their block.

The Pack and the culture of dirt bike riding haven't retreated in the face of this increased oppression. Hundreds of riders still find their way to meet-up spots every day and take to the city streets, reclaiming territory that was lost to racist redlining and forced removal. Recently, a group of riders forced the Pig department to retreat from a lot they were attempting to occupy in Park Heights. Hundreds of riders surrounded the officers, who had no other option but to retreat and call for backup as the gathering of riders took off on their weekly Sunday ride.

The Pack faces the full extent of the Pig's tools out in the streets. Helicopters and drone surveillance, CCTV cameras, the Citi-Watch systems and crazed killer pigs both on foot and behind the wheel. In the face of all this, they continue to organize, they continue to ride, and they continue to show that the streets belong to the People, not the Pigs. Power to the Pack, and continue to drive over the redlines! #

ILWU Local 6 holds the line against C&H Sugar's union busting

By Lallan Schoenstein

On July 15, Struggle-La Lucha interviewed Jarvis Payne, a member of the International Longshore & Warehouse Union (ILWU) Local 6, and Clarence Thomas, an ILWU Local 10 retiree who is on the executive board of the Pacific Coast Pensioners Association.

Thomas introduced his ILWU brother Jarvis Payne, who has been a member of ILWU Local 6 for five years. "He is what I would best describe as a young rank-and-file leader," Thomas said.

Payne reported that Local 6 is in the fifth week of a strike against C&H Sugar Refinery in Crockett, Calif. Originally known as California and Hawaiian Sugar Refining Company, C&H is trying to throw out substantial agreements in its contract with ILWU and cut union benefits.

Basically, C&H is insisting on:

- Taking away retiree healthcare benefits from current and future retirees;
- Reducing overtime pay, which the majority of the C&H workers rely on to earn a living;
- Eliminating the established seniority system for promotion and scheduling;
- Reducing available sick leave;
- Unfairly scheduling weekend work

Payne says: "We, the members of ILWU Local 6, are not going for any of that.

The company offered a thousand-dollar signing bonus to break the solidarity of our union. They're asking us to sell our seniority, along with our sick days.

We are in our fifth week of the strike to fight to save our union contract.

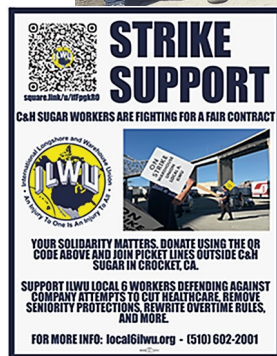
We have the support of ILWU on the West Coast and in Hawaii, especially ILWU Local 10 in San Francisco. The Filipino community is backing us up, and our local community in Crockett is giving their support.

The Filipino community is tied in because C&H gets sugar from the Philippine island of Negros. There is a labor struggle going on there. On April 19, the Philippine Army's 79th Infantry Battalion killed 19 people in Toboso, on Negros Island. The killings came as Washington and Manila launched Balikatan 2026, their largest joint war games yet.

Lyle Prijoles, a leader of the International Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines (ICHRP) from Hayward, California, was one of those killed. He was documenting conditions of sugar workers and linking their struggles to international networks.



ILWU Local 6 and supporters picket C&H Sugar on July 15.



Payne says, "His death triggered a chain reaction from here all the way to the Philippines. The Filipino community is out here in support of our strike. We're all fighting together."

Clarence Thomas reported that C&H diverted a ship to Levin-Richmond Terminal, a private dry-bulk marine port. It handles scrap metal, cement, and coal. Local 10 longshore workers have honored and joined Local 6's picket lines at C&H and subsequently Levin. One of the Ten Guiding Principles of the ILWU states, "every picket line must be respected as though it were our own."

"It's important for people to know that it is the longshore workers that take the raw sugar out of the ships with a backhoe," Thomas said. "Brother Leo Robinson, who had such an illustrious career as a rank-and-file ILWU leader, trained me to operate the backhoe at Crockett."

Payne said, "Workers began unloading the ship at the Levin terminal, where coal, petroleum products and other toxic industrial materials are handled. He said the sugar was dumped onto the piers and is being moved to

the factory in industrial dump trucks."

"Our employers are paying particular attention to our resolve and solidarity in fighting against concessionary bargaining with our Local 6 sisters and brothers at the bargaining table with C&H Sugar," Thomas said. "We are trying to let our members know, particularly in Local 10, that this is a test run. If we don't support the Local 6 strike, this will set the stage for what the employers will try to do

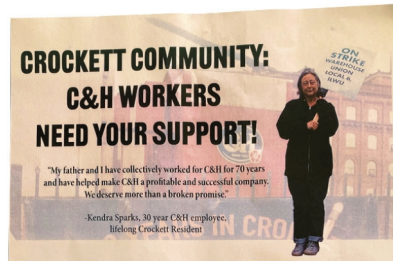
to the Longshore Division contract negotiations in 2028."

Thomas said, "This is where it starts, right here, and one of the most important things that we're trying to get ILWU

members to understand is that when we have picket duty, it's part of all members' obligation to volunteer at least three hours. We have some 1,600 members, and the support on the picket line will determine how much bargaining power the rank-and-file can show C&H and Levin at the point of production.

The American Sugar monopoly

In 2005, C&H Sugar was acquired by American Sugar Refining, a monopoly that also markets Domino and Florida Crystals. The company, now



Continued on page 7



Continued from page 6

known as ASR Group, calls itself the world's largest cane sugar refiner. Different labels conceal a unified corporate structure monopolizing major parts of sugar refining and distribution.

The company is controlled by the Fanjul brothers — Alfonso, José “Pepe,” Alexander and Andrés — whose family-owned sugar plantations, mills and port concessions in pre-revolutionary Cuba. After the 1959 revolution expropriated their holdings, the family relocated to Florida and rebuilt a multibillion-dollar sugar empire protected by U.S. tariffs, import quotas and subsidies. The Fanjuls are close allies of Donald Trump and major funders of the Cuban-exile political machine. They pour millions into U.S. political campaigns and lobby for high sugar prices as well as a broader campaign against socialist Cuba.

When the ASR Group took over, things began to go south. This is straight-up concessionary bargaining. What they have put on the table for Local 6, they said, “take it or leave it.”

Javis Payne says, “We’re not going for that. They’re now five weeks into a strike that has local and international ramifications. The ILWU expects the same fight up and down the coast in 2028. Local 6 is where it starts.”

Payne says, “People in Crockett are very much in support of the C&H workers. There’s going to be a Sugar Festival in Crockett on July 19. We plan on having a lot of our members here to be able to participate and to let them know how much the ILWU appreciates their support.”

Clarence Thomas notes that Crockett was a thriving company town located about nine miles from Richmond, California. Until C&H was acquired by American Sugar in 2005, there was a strong relationship between C&H and the local community. #

Baltimore police turn AFRAM celebration into occupation



By Colby Byrd

The city of Baltimore recently had its AFRAM (African American Festival) weekend celebrations. The festival started on June 19th, Emancipation Day (Juneteenth), and went until the 21st of June. This celebration is meant to be a time of community and healing, a time of connection and relaxation and a moment to find power and strength by honoring and reflecting on history. However, capitalist greed, as it does around the world, found a way to rob the people of peace.

Fox News would have you believe that AFRAM was invaded and taken over by “juveniles” who wanted to do nothing but fight and wreak havoc. They point to one fight between kids and immediately write off the whole weekend as a failure. This could not be further from the truth. It was the Baltimore Pig Department that invaded and took over AFRAM. It was the pigs who surrounded the youth learning zone at the festival with police trucks and armed officers. It was the pigs who chased Black youth through the park, instigated confrontations with bystanders and threatened violence on concerned onlookers. It was the pigs who flew the helicopter low over the trees of Druid Hill Park, drowning out the performances and scaring kids.

This behavior by the Baltimore Pig Department is nothing new. Just last year, AFRAM took place in the shadow of the murder of beloved arabber Bilal “BJ” Yusuf-Muhammad Abdullah Jr. by Baltimore Pigs on June 17, 2025. Three pigs — Omar Rodriguez, Ashley Negron and Devin Yancy — fired 38 rounds at him; his family later sued the officers over the shooting. Days later, Dontae Melton Jr. was killed by police custody and medical neglect.

At this year’s festival, it was the Baltimore Pig Department’s “Group Violence Reduction Unit” that was the real demon and devil ruining the event for everyone. This same unit that was terrorizing kids at AFRAM is responsible for the deaths of multiple Black men across the city.

On the last night of the festival, following the end of the headlining performance, the crowd was harassed by the Police helicopter searchlight. Each time the chopper flew over the crowd, the searchlight made sure to sweep the crowd from top to bottom.

This heavy-handed occupation by BPD was a message. Racist police and those who profit from their practices cannot see a unified Black Baltimore. They cannot see a Black Baltimore that is educated on its past and ready to fight for its future. Whether it be at an art festival or in our neighborhoods, the only answer to seeing peace and unity is by kicking the pigs out. #

Millions vote socialist – the ruling class panics

By Gary Wilson

On June 30, Denver voters ended the 30-year congressional career of Diana DeGette, handing the Democratic nomination in Colorado's 1st District to Melat Kiros — a 29-year-old barista and Democratic Socialists of America member, fired from her corporate law job in 2023 for speaking against the U.S.-backed genocide in Gaza. The seat is safe; she should win in November.

Colorado followed New York, where on June 23 three candidates backed by Mayor Zohran Mamdani won their primaries — among them United Auto Workers organizer Claire Valdez and Darializa Avila Chevalier, who unseated a machine politician who had armed Israel's war on Gaza. In January, DSA's House bloc will number six — larger than the Farmer-Labor Party held at its 1930s peak, the previous high-water mark for the left in Congress.

U.S. capitalism has spent a century making socialism unspeakable. In 2026, millions hear the word and vote for it. Its fear is not about one primary night.

'A bigger threat than Pearl Harbor'

Trump said it out loud on July 1: communism is "the biggest threat to our country," a bigger threat than two world wars, Pearl Harbor or Sept. 11 — "like a cancer that spreads, and you better stop it fast."

Hysteria aside, he states a class truth. A working class that has stopped believing in capitalism is a mortal threat, because it begins to question the property relations behind profit.

The billionaires' press has hammered this for a century, and when the message failed, the state supplied the force. Joe Hill was shot by a Utah firing squad in 1915. The Palmer Raids filled the deportation ships. Sacco and Vanzetti went to the electric chair in 1927, the Rosenbergs in 1953. Then came the loyalty oaths, the blacklists, the McCarthy hearings — and when a new generation found revolutionary politics anyway, COINTELPRO answered with the frame-up and the gun. Chicago police, working from an FBI floor plan, killed Fred Hampton in his bed on Dec. 4, 1969.

It was the most sustained campaign of repression in U.S. history, and it has stopped working.

The lesson came from life. A generation priced out of housing and buried in medical debt watched Washington arm the genocide in Gaza, watched masked ICE agents drag neighbors from their homes and troops occupy U.S. cities, watched Washington kidnap the

president of Venezuela on Jan. 3, and paid for the war on Iran every week at the gas pump. The wars, the raids and the rents flow from one source — the profit system, run for landlords, insurers, drug monopolies and the banks. The alternative is socialism.

The Democrats reach for the purge

The Democratic leadership reads the moment as Trump does. In June, 13 House Democrats unveiled a pledge, "Promise to America," whose first principle is "We are capitalist, not socialist." Their own voters lean the other way: Gallup finds 66% of Democrats view socialism favorably, against 42% for capitalism.

The last time socialists gained real ground, both parties answered with a purge. In 1947 Truman ordered loyalty probes of every federal worker, Taft-Hartley made union officers swear they were not communists, and the Smith Act jailed the country's communist leaders. Washington seized Paul Robeson's passport and arraigned W.E.B. Du Bois, 83, in handcuffs.

Understand who was purged. The unions were built by communists and socialists — the organizers who led the 1934 strikes that broke the open shop and threw open the door to the workers the craft unions had shut out: women, workers of color, immigrants. By 1950 the CIO had expelled 11 unions with a million members. The purge beheaded U.S. labor and cut the throat of the alliance between labor and Black liberation. Eighty years of retreat followed — falling union density, wage stagnation, the rust belt, the gig economy. The conditions that drove Denver to vote socialist grew out of that defeat.

They would rather run the purge again — and lose to Trump again — than allow a socialist voice in their party or an organized working class outside it.

Red-baiting with teeth

The talk is more than talk. Fifteen organizers of January's Minneapolis general strike face federal indictment under a memorandum turning the counterterrorism apparatus on domestic movements. Protesters at the Prairieland detention center in Texas drew sentences totaling 450 years. ICE has run its largest-ever arrest surge. Trump called Mamdani a communist and threatened to deport him — a U.S. citizen — in the same breath. Fused to the racist attack, the label becomes the legal spearhead of repression, aimed at every striker, immigrant defender and antiwar organizer. Racism is the wedge, anticommunism the blade. They are one weapon.



Paul Robeson leads Moore Shipyard workers in song in Oakland, California, September 1942. Eight years later, Washington seized his passport.

They mean it

When workers say socialism they mean health care that does not bankrupt the sick, rent a paycheck can cover, an end to masked agents in the streets and to wars paid for in their wages. Each demand runs into private ownership; it does not fit inside capitalism. Given the choice, voters picked the open socialist: Valdez beat a progressive who matched her on the issues but took real estate money, by more than 20 points. They chose the banner.

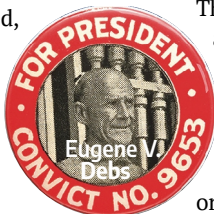
The ballot is a barometer

A vote registers consciousness; it does not create power. June 30 echoed struggles already underway — the Minneapolis general strike, the neighborhoods that turned out against ICE, the millions in the streets against genocide. The movement built the consciousness; organization carried it to the polls, knocking on 720,000 doors in New York. Avila Chevalier won Black Harlem against a 10-year incumbent; Valdez carried every age and racial group in her district — the neighborhoods that gave Mamdani his million votes in November 2025. The coalition held, and it extended.

That is why the ruling class is afraid. Politicians can be pressured, co-opted, purged — 1947 proved it. The ballot itself is under attack: the gutting of the Voting Rights Act and the rigged maps that follow target Black political power, the heart of this coalition. But a working class conscious of itself as a class cannot be redistricted.

Socialism was once beaten out of the U.S. working class with clubs, purges and prisons — Eugene Debs polled nearly a million votes for president in 1920 from a prison cell, jailed for opposing the first imperialist world war. It is returning because capitalism has again produced the conditions that drive workers toward it — wealth more concentrated than at the 1929 peak, debt, war, repression and the open rule of profit over human need.

Trump says stop it fast. A century of anticommunism could not. The strikes, the walkouts and now the ballots all say the same thing: the U.S. working class is finding its way back to its own banner. #



Stay out of the heat, officials said. The apps sent workers into it.

By Gary Wilson

In the first week of July 2026, a heat dome settled over the central and eastern United States. Heat indexes reached 115 degrees. More than 185 million people were under heat alerts, and more than 30 died before the heat broke. The real toll will rise because heat often kills through the heart, kidneys and lungs and is recorded as something else.

Millions were told to stay indoors. Delivery workers were sent into the streets. That is the app economy's business model in physical form. When dangerous weather keeps customers inside, they order food, groceries and medicine. The companies protect their profits by sending workers into the heat, paying them by the delivery and denying that they are employees.

In New York City, an estimated 65,000 app delivery workers ride for DoorDash, Uber Eats, Grubhub and grocery apps. They worked as heat indexes were forecast to reach 105 to 110 degrees.

The companies call this flexibility. In reality, the algorithm sets the pace. It assigns the order, sets the delivery window and times every leg. A courier overheating in a triple-digit heat index cannot simply stop in the shade. The app registers delay. Delay can mean lower pay, fewer orders or deactivation.

The app is the foreman. It controls labor while the companies deny responsibility for the workers who make their money.

The workforce is heavily immigrant, Black and Latine. Many are shut out of jobs with contracts, benefits and workplace protections. The apps send them into deadly weather for the lowest possible wage and the highest possible profit.

The companies call them independent contractors. That is the legal trick at the center of the business model. They control the pay, route, delivery window and threat of deactivation while denying that they are employers.

In deadly heat, misclassification becomes a question of who has the power to stop work, take shelter and live.

Outside the law by design

The federal government has never issued a workplace heat standard. Federal health officials recommended one in 1972. More than half a century later, after hundreds of recorded heat deaths on the job and tens of thousands of injuries, there is still no standard.

OSHA proposed a rule in 2024. Hearings ended in 2025. The Trump administration has not finalized it, while business groups work to weaken or kill it.



Los Deliveristas Unidos in New York City. App delivery workers have organized to win minimum pay, fight arbitrary deactivation and demand safety protections.

Photo: WJP/Los Deliveristas Unidos

Even if signed tomorrow, the rule would leave out workers classified as independent contractors — the category platform bosses spent more than \$200 million to enforce in California through Proposition 22.

The employer has not disappeared. The companies still set the pay, assign the order, impose the delivery time and cut off access to work. The contractor label lets them deny responsibility for breaks, workers' compensation and protection from deadly heat. The companies built that escape hatch on purpose.

The bosses oppose heat standards because standards limit profit and control. They want the power to keep people working through deadly heat.

The ceiling of the emergency plan

A social-democratic mayor now heads New York City's capitalist government. That does not change the class character of City Hall.

During the heat wave, Mayor Zohran Mamdani's administration opened cooling centers and expanded pop-up cooling stations for outdoor workers from two to seven. Seven stations, for 65,000 delivery workers and hundreds of thousands of other outdoor workers.

The administration encouraged businesses to adopt heat illness plans and recognized the

danger facing gig workers and day laborers. But recognition is not protection. Guidance is not an enforceable standard.

Mamdani named the problem: "Workers cannot cool down when they have quotas to meet."

City Hall can hand out water. It cannot make DoorDash stop the clock. That is the limit of capitalist government — and why workers need organization of their own.

The companies offered weather advisories and asked customers to tip more. But an unpaid break is not protection. A tip is not hazard pay. A warning from the app enforcing the delivery window is not safety.

The only standard that holds

Los Deliveristas Unidos, built largely by immigrant couriers, forced New York City to open the platforms' confidential records and won the country's first minimum pay rate for app delivery workers, covering work and waiting time.

On Jan. 30, 2026, the Mamdani administration announced a \$5.2 million settlement with Uber Eats, Fantuan and HungryPanda for violating that rate. Uber also agreed to reinstate as many as 10,000 workers deactivated by the algorithm. The workers made it possible.

Continued on page 12

The Supreme Court wages class war

By Gary Wilson

The Supreme Court closed its term by showing how the capitalist state works.

On June 30, the court struck down Donald Trump's executive order denying birthright citizenship to U.S.-born children of undocumented and temporary-visa parents. The ruling brought relief to millions of immigrant families.

A right written in blood

The right was written in blood. In the 1857 Dred Scott decision, Chief Justice Roger Taney declared that Black people, enslaved or free, “had no rights which the white man was bound to respect.” Four million enslaved Black people smashed that ruling — fleeing the plantations and joining the Union Army — and forced emancipation into the Constitution. The 14th Amendment, ratified in 1868, put it plainly: all persons born in the United States are citizens. In 1898, amid anti-Chinese racism, the court ruled that Wong Kim Ark, born in San Francisco to Chinese parents barred from citizenship, was a citizen.

That is the right Trump tried to cancel with a signature.

Two rulings, one method

The same day, the court upheld state bans barring transgender girls and women from girls' and women's school sports. Justice Brett Kavanaugh wrote the decision; Justice Clarence Thomas, concurring, declared trans girls and women are not girls or women at all.

The court preserved birthright citizenship because tearing it up would shake the legal order capitalism depends on. Birth certificates, Social Security numbers, passports, property deeds — all rest on citizenship at birth. Let a president cancel it and every citizenship paper is open to challenge. The court protected it for the banks, the bosses and the state.

Trans girls got no such protection. Barring a teenager from her school's soccer team creates no crisis for the legal order. The court handed states the power to declare who counts as a girl — an attack chosen because it divides workers and expands state control over bodies, schools and families.

Demolition of the Voting Rights Act

The term's most far-reaching attack, on April 29, hit Black political power. In *Louisiana v. Callais*, the court struck down the state's second majority-Black congressional district. Black people are one-third of Louisiana's population, packed into one of six districts. Voting Rights Act litigation forced a second district. The court threw it out — and gutted what remained of Section 2, the provision won in 1965 to stop states from erasing Black representation.



Supporters of trans youth outside the Supreme Court, Washington, Jan. 13, 2026, as the justices heard arguments in the school sports cases.

The Voting Rights Act was won in blood — in Selma, in Birmingham, in the murders of Civil Rights workers. Justice Elena Kagan, dissenting, called the ruling “the majority's now-completed demolition of the Voting Rights Act.”

The court is not inconsistent. It is class-consistent. Birthright citizenship holds up the legal order the ruling class needs. Black voting power threatens the political order it wants.

Deportation as labor control

On June 25, in *Mullin v. Doe*, the court let the Trump administration end Temporary Protected Status for Haitian and Syrian workers, pushing hundreds of thousands of families toward deportation. The same day, in *Mullin v. Al Otro Lado*, it let the government turn asylum seekers away before reaching a U.S. port of entry. A border officer testified agents were told to lie — say the port is full — and people turned away were beaten, kidnapped and raped in the camps. “More people will die,” Justice Sonia Sotomayor warned in dissent.

Haiti was bled for a century by U.S. banks, Marines and coups. Syria was torn apart by imperialist war and sanctions. Imperialism makes countries unlivable, then uses the displaced as a vulnerable labor force inside the U.S.

Deportation is a weapon of labor control. A deportable worker is easier for the boss to threaten — and every attack on immigrant workers is an attack on all workers.

Bayer, prisons, impunity

The court shielded Bayer's Monsanto from suits by cancer victims who charge Roundup caused their illness. Bayer stock jumped.

In *Rutherford v. United States*, May 28, the

court locked federal prisoners into “stacked” gun sentences of 50, 70, even 100 years — sentences Congress abolished in 2018 but did not make retroactive. In *Landor v. Louisiana*, June 23, it ruled that Damon Landor, a Rastafari man whose guards shaved off dreadlocks grown for two decades as an act of faith, cannot sue for damages.

Two arms, one class

The corporate media presented the term as a struggle between Trump and “the rule of law.” But ruling after ruling gave legal cover to Trump's program — deportations, border turnbacks, attacks on trans youth. The court and the White House are two arms of the same capitalist state: the White House raids and deports; the court makes it legal. It saved birthright citizenship while helping Trump deport the parents of citizen children, because capitalist rule depends on law — and the ruling class cannot always afford to let Trump smash the machinery it uses to rule.

Won through struggle

The court's defenders point to the birthright ruling and say the system still works. Workers should draw the opposite lesson: the system works for the class it was built to serve.

The Civil War and Black struggle won the 14th Amendment. Selma won the Voting Rights Act. Strikes won union rights. Every right workers and oppressed people hold was won through struggle, and only struggle can protect it.

The answer is solidarity — the united power of workers and oppressed people, in the unions, in the schools, in the streets and in every community under attack. #

After San Francisco police violence over Pride weekend, trans leaders deliver demands to Mayor Lurie

By Marke B. @ 48 Hills

Dozens of people gathered on the steps of City Hall for a powerful and emotional rally on Monday afternoon, July 13, called by the Trans March Organizing Committee after police violence and failure to protect the community marred this year's "celebration of joy" at the annual event during Pride weekend.

As Trans March leaders delivered a list of demands to increase safety and hold officials accountable at a meeting with city officials and representatives of Mayor Daniel Lurie upstairs, chants of liberation and calls for more protection for trans people rang out below. Leaders of the Trans March, Transgender District and other organizations gave testimony to the fear and panic that broke out at the event.

Trans March police liaison and lawyer Renee Coe described a chaotic scene during the march. "I saw a squad car drive directly into the march, and police in full riot gear confronting and pushing people to the ground." As she called out to the people being arrested for their contact information, Coe herself was "shoved with a billy club and pinned against a concrete wall."

(Police arrested four people, two for alleged vandalism and two for obstruction, after they claimed they saw people spraying paint on Flock and private surveillance cameras at Market Street and Eighth Street during the march. District Attorney Brooke Jenkins' office has charged the alleged vandals with eight counts of felony vandalism. The arrests occurred near the historic site of Compton's Cafeteria in the Tenderloin, where trans people rose up against police brutality in 1966, helping to kick off the modern queer rights movement. Police also raided a SoMa block party in full riot gear and arrested 20 in an overwhelming use of force. Supervisor Jackie Fielder has demanded an inquiry into the police actions and charges.)

Coe and others also spoke about a less-covered threat during the Trans March: A number of cars tried to drive into or through the march, and, the speakers claimed, no one from SFMTA or the police department tried to stop them or stepped up to protect the crowd. Instead, the community itself secured the intersections and perimeter of the march.

The demands that the organizers submitted

Queer activist Jason Wyman spoke at the rally.



People's March leader Alex U. Inn delivered an impassioned speech to hold elected leaders accountable after police violence against trans people over Pride weekend.



to the mayor:

- **Drop All Charges** against event participants who were arrested — All charges against participants in this year's Trans March must be dropped immediately. The use of disproportionate police force, surveillance technologies and subsequent prosecution against community members does nothing to advance community safety.
 - **Invest in Community Safety, not Police** — The relationship between SFPD and the transgender community is shaped by a long history of institutionalized police violence, discrimination, and mistrust. This has been exacerbated by the recent budget process defunding services and programs that working class people in San Francisco rely on in favor of prioritizing militarized policing and surveillance. We believe that community-led safety initiatives are a proven alternative and deserve sustained public investment. The City must work with Trans March organizers and other community-based organizations to invest in solutions that meet the real needs of the trans community.
 - **Replace Police Presence with Civilian Traffic Management** — A situation where drivers can drive vehicles into the crowd is unacceptable. The City must mobilize the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) to fully close Market Street and surrounding intersections during the Trans March. Traffic control should be managed by civilian agencies working in coordination with Trans March organizers and our community safety team, rather than through police enforcement.
- Speaker Jason Wyman, aka Queerly Complex,

draw a connection between the victory of community organizers on June 25, in restoring to the city budget Lurie's proposed \$28 million in cuts that directly affected trans and queer people, and the violence of the state on the two days following that. "They are scared of us because they see our power when we come together," Wyman said.

People's March organizer Alex U. Inn told the crowd that if the mayor doesn't accept the demands, "We escalate the political costs. This is an election year, and city leaders care deeply about their public accountability. Every time city officials step out for a campaign rally, a press conference, or a photo op, our coalition will be there."

"We are ending the era of politicians waving the Pride flag for public relations, while staying silent when riot gear is deployed against us," Inn said. "When our trans siblings are arraigned, we will flood the halls of justice. Our presence will show the District Attorney that if you try to persecute one of us, you answer to all of us."

At the end of the rally, community leaders emerged from City Hall after their meeting with city officials. According to Trans March co-director Rose Astra, the mayor's office received the community's demands, but no agreement was reached. "The fight must continue," Astra said. "We can't rely on the police or public institutions to keep us safe, we need to be organized as a community to do that."

Trans leaders vowed to keep pressure on until the demands were met, and announced another rally on July 19, requesting people follow the Trans March's social media for more information and to support the effort. #

Air conditioning is a human right!

By Stephen Millies

Capitalism is cooking the earth

Thousands of people are dying in the United States and Europe during the current heat wave. An estimated 20,000 people perished in Europe during June. Deadly conditions are continuing into July and will probably persist at least through August.

None of those killed were named Donald Trump or Elon Musk. It's poor and working people — especially those living in Black, Brown, Indigenous and immigrant communities — who are the first victims of capitalist climate change.

Seniors are the most vulnerable. So are children. Just between June 18 and 29, 530 people 85 years and older died in Belgium, a country of less than 12 million people.

Meanwhile the super rich are spending millions to build “snow rooms” — which are something like frozen saunas — for themselves. These winter wonderlands can come “in rock, luxury marble, wood, whatever you can imagine,” according to one of their makers.

The misery and deaths caused by extreme heat should remove any doubt that climate change is real. According to the United Nations' World Meteorological Organization, the high temperatures in Europe broke records set in the 1970s.

None of this is natural. The billionaire class



Paris, June 22, 2026 – people cool off with fans while metro during the ongoing heatwave.

refuses to put any real controls on greenhouse gas emissions produced by using petroleum, gas and coal. They don't want any limits on their profits.

The biggest culprit is Big Oil, whose founder John D. Rockefeller — the world's first billionaire — regularly dumped gasoline from his Cleveland refinery into the Cuyahoga River. For a century this waterway caught fire over a dozen times until 1969.

ExxonMobil, the direct descendant of Rockefeller's Standard Oil trust, denied for decades that global warming even existed.

Stay out of the heat, officials said. The apps sent workers into it.

Continued from page 9

On May 22, Massachusetts certified the App Drivers Union as bargaining agent for nearly 70,000 Uber and Lyft drivers — the country's first recognized rideshare union. They won it while still classified as independent contractors.

Couriers cracked open the pay formula in New York. Drivers organized industry-wide in Massachusetts. The bosses' claim that app workers cannot act together as a class is already broken in practice.

Capitalism meets climate disaster by protecting fossil fuel profits, app profits and employer control while treating workers' bodies as a cost of doing business. Climate change has made the heat more dangerous. The app economy has made more workers carry it order by order.

A federal heat standard was recommended in 1972. It still does not exist. The temperature is not pending. Workers whom the law refuses to recognize as workers have already begun acting as a class. That is the only standard that has ever held. #

Beat back the fascists

All deaths due to extreme weather, whether hot or cold, are preventable. Factories and other workplaces can be cooled. Farm workers and other persons employed outdoors can be protected from the heat.

Capitalists resist these absolutely necessary safety measures just like they seek to junk the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). Landlords don't want to spend any money protecting their tenants either.

Western Europe has had milder weather compared to the United States due to the Gulf Stream. This has led many in France to question the need for air conditioning.

While air conditioners can cool a house or office, they also help warm the atmosphere. New York City's subway platforms are hotter than 60 years ago because the cars are now air conditioned and are giving off heat in the tunnels and stations.

This helps cause sweltering conditions for passengers waiting for a train and makes it more miserable for Transport Workers Union members who labor on the tracks and in the stations. Yet nobody wants to give up air conditioning inside the subway cars.

Many scientists believe the Gulf Stream is breaking down. France had to shut down three nuclear reactors because of the heat wave. It shows the limitations of using nuclear power as a stopgap measure to fight global warming.

Only about a quarter of French homes are air conditioned compared to 60% of homes in the socialist People's Republic of China. Is this resistance to air conditioning natural or a reflection of French capitalists who don't want to pay higher wages so workers can afford air conditioning?

At the very least, every hospital and school should be cooled in both France and the United States. So should every home for seniors. Cooling centers need to be set up and made accessible to all.

The French fascist Marine Le Pen is demagogically calling for more air conditioning at the same time she bashes immigrants and spews racism. Le Pen's National Rally shouldn't be allowed to use the heat wave to get more support.

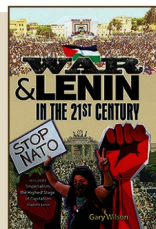
The power of the people can beat back the heat wave and the fascists. #

'WAR AND LENIN in the 21st Century'

Includes U.S. complicity in the Gaza genocide and military profiteering

Vladimir Lenin, The revolutionary leader of the Soviet Union and key contributor to Marxist theory, wrote 'Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism' in 1916.

At tinyurl.com/LeninAndWar



Labor movement increasingly opposes U.S. imperialism



Dec. 1, 2023 – United Electrical workers (UE) and other union members rallied at the White House to support hunger strikers demanding a ceasefire in the U.S.-Israeli war on Palestine.

By Cheryl LaBash

The 30th AFL-CIO Constitutional Convention wrapped up in Minneapolis on June 10. One resolution in particular hints at a shift in its staunchly pro-imperialist record. A paragraph in “Resolution 9: We Want a Just and Peaceful World” particularly stands out because it explicitly addresses Gaza, the genocide and war crimes viewed in real time across the globe since Oct. 7, 2023.

The Peace and Prosperity subsection reads in part: “In Gaza, we demand an immediate and permanent ceasefire; full, safe and sustained humanitarian access; a halt to arms transfers that may facilitate violations of international law by all parties; and a credible political process grounded in international law and UN resolutions to achieve a just and lasting peace based on a two-state solution.”

The Gaza paragraph falls short of recognizing the decades-long imperialist oil domination project aiming to erase Palestine and the Palestinian people by replacing them with a settler-colonial military outpost, “Israel.” However, the carefully crafted narrative that attempts to hide the apartheid Palestinian existence in the U.S. labor movement is crumbling.

Several international unions acted to form the National Labor Network for Ceasefire, whose

original Nov. 22, 2023, statement is echoed in the AFL-CIO resolution. The paragraph is a result of the tireless work and sacrifices of the Palestinian people in Gaza and around the world, the global solidarity movement. Deserving of a special shout-out are the outspoken and militant Jewish communities inside the U.S. — the engine and enabler of genocide — who declare, “not in my name.” The social movement built by their actions became a deciding factor in the 2024 U.S. presidential election and continues to resound as the working class grapples with the effects of capitalism at a dead end and its endless war.

The member unions have grown to include: American Association of University Professors (AAUP); American Postal Workers Union (APWU); Association of Flight Attendants (AFA-CWA); National Nurses United (NNU); Inlandboatmen’s Union (IBU); International Union of Painters and Allied Trades (IUPAT); International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU); National Education Association (NEA); National Writers Union (NWU); United Auto Workers (UAW); United Electrical Workers (UE).

In another welcome surprise, on Jan. 3, the AFL-CIO reposted to its Facebook page a resounding condemnation by the International Trade Union Confederation of the U.S. military attack on Venezuela and the abduction of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro. The ITUC statement was followed by an AFL-CIO

statement: “We join the international labor community in condemning President Trump’s unconstitutional actions in Venezuela.”

As the U.S. intentional asphyxiation of Cuba daily becomes more apparent, the largest U.S. union of registered nurses, National Nurses United, brought labor’s active voice to the Capitol. On June 30, this powerful union spoke at a press conference at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., flanked by four congressional Representatives: Delia Ramirez, Illinois; Jonathan Jackson, Illinois; Pramila Jayapal, Washington state; and Ro Khanna, California. Supporting speakers included Olivia DiNucci, CodePink; Dr. John Reuwer, Doctors Against Genocide; Retired UE Washington Representative Chris Townsend and Bob Schwartz, Global Health Partners.

Support for ending the U.S. war on Cuba is growing in the U.S. The California Federation of Labor Unions and Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO, have taken a stand. Official AFL-CIO allies are on record supporting Cuba — the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW), Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA), and Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU) — as are the International Longshore and Warehouse Union and the United Electrical Workers. A more extensive list can be found at [NNOC.org/resolutions](https://nnoc.org/resolutions), including tips on passing resolutions in your city or union. #

Another broken agreement — Trump tears up the Hormuz ceasefire



At Tehran's Grand Mosalla, red flags reading "O avengers of Hussein" linked Washington's assassination of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei to the martyrdom of Karbala and turned mourning into a call for resistance.

Washington is trying to replace that arrangement with a U.S.-backed corridor and collect its own charge for "security." On July 2, a U.S. naval convoy moved to take control of the Omani side of the strait. That operation was no part of the memorandum. Iran stopped it and closed the strait again. On July 13, Trump announced that the U.S. would

By Gary Wilson

On May 5, Secretary of State Marco Rubio stood at the White House podium and announced what victory in the U.S. war on Iran now meant. "As President Trump has said," Rubio told reporters, "the United States of America holds all the cards." The goal, he said, was for the Strait of Hormuz to be opened "back to the way it was, anyone can use it, no mines in the water, nobody paying tolls." Read it again.

On Feb. 28, 2026, the U.S. opened Operation Epic Fury by assassinating Iran's head of state, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei — an act of war meant to break Iran's sovereignty. By May, the stated goal of the war had become reversing the consequences of the U.S. war.

That was more than two months ago. The strait remains under Iranian command. And the U.S. bombing has escalated beyond anything since the June ceasefire.

The one-day 'rescue'

Rubio's May 5 remarks introduced Project Freedom, which Washington called a rescue mission for nearly 23,000 civilian mariners aboard commercial ships in the Gulf. But the ships were not trapped for lack of a route — Iran and Oman had already designated a passage through the strait.

The problem was that the route was not under U.S. command. Project Freedom was an attempt

to escort commercial vessels through Hormuz under Pentagon control instead. It lasted one day. Trump suspended it the same day, announcing "great progress" toward an agreement with Iran. The progress was fiction — Tehran was merely considering a proposal for talks.

Shipowners and insurers with billions at risk did not trust the U.S. Navy. They took Iranian missiles more seriously than Pentagon promises.

What the demand actually is

The clause Rubio tucked at the end — "nobody paying tolls" — gives the game away. The issue is command. The Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) reopened the strait to commercial traffic along the route designated by Iran and Oman. Washington's own negotiators signed that agreement. But the passage remained under Iranian command, and Iran, having declared the strait closed to the imperialist blockade fleet, has reportedly allowed passage to vessels that pay.

reinstate the naval blockade and seek "reimbursement" at a rate of 20% on all cargo because the U.S. military is "securing passage" through Hormuz.

Iran, an oppressed nation under attack, has dared to control passage through its territorial waters that the U.S. has treated as its own free road for generations. The empire's answer is to seize the route, impose its own toll and call it freedom of navigation.

And in exchange for what? For nothing. Washington has already shown it cannot deliver a concession even when it signs one. General License X, the U.S. Treasury waiver that briefly permitted Iranian oil sales, was revoked less than three weeks after it was issued. Every future waiver now expires whenever the Treasury chooses.

Washington uses agreements as weapons, signing when that serves the U.S. war and discarding them when breaking them serves the war. China has drawn the lesson: Beijing invoked its anti-sanctions law and ordered its companies not to comply with U.S. sanctions on five refiners accused of buying Iranian oil.

This is the oldest pattern in Washington's book. Between 1778 and 1871, the U.S.

Continued on page 15

War on Iran reaches the U.S. food supply

By Gary Wilson

The White House says the war on Iran is winding down. On June 29 it declared a national emergency over the U.S. food supply.

The proclamation, published July 2 in the Federal Register, suspends duties on Moroccan phosphate fertilizer imposed in 2021 to protect the profits of Mosaic Co., the Florida phosphate monopoly.

Industrial agriculture runs on phosphate. Corn, soybeans and wheat do not grow at scale without it, and U.S. farmers spread more than half the year's phosphate between fall and early spring.

The proclamation blames “conflicts in fertilizer-producing regions” and says the largest foreign source of U.S. phosphate “has experienced supply chain disruption.” It names neither the source nor the conflict. Both have names.

The source is Saudi Arabia, which supplied nearly 55% of U.S. ammonium phosphate imports in the first five months of 2025. The fertilizer comes from Ma'aden, the Saudi state mining company, shipped from Ras al-Khair — a Persian Gulf port behind the Strait of Hormuz.

When Iran shut the strait after the Feb. 28 U.S. attack, Ma'aden's exports were trapped with everything else, forced onto a costly truck



Phosphate fertilizer is essential to industrial agriculture. Washington's war on Iran has disrupted the routes that carry Gulf oil, gas, petrochemicals and fertilizer to the world market.

The government's emergency reserve has fallen

for 14 straight weeks, to about 326 million barrels. Total U.S. crude supplies stand near 734 million — the lowest since 1984. Commercial inventories fell six straight weeks through late June, a season when they normally build.

The stopgaps holding the price down cannot last. Tankers trapped in the Gulf since February cleared out in one wave, and China cut crude imports sharply. But backed-up cargo clears only once, stored oil runs down, and China cannot keep cutting forever. Trump said on June 17 that U.S. reserves would run out “in about four weeks” with the strait closed. The strait is still only partly open. The weeks are passing.

Five years of duties, reversed in a day

The suspended duties shut Moroccan and Russian fertilizer out of the U.S. market at Mosaic's request. A Texas A&M study found they raised the price of the main phosphate fertilizer nearly 29% and cost U.S. crop producers an estimated \$6.9 billion over five years. For five years the capitalist state held the line: farmers paid, Mosaic profited, every administration defended it.

One war reversed it. With Saudi supply trapped behind the strait and fertilizer prices climbing into planting decisions for 2027, the duties protecting Mosaic became a threat to the food supply — and the state dropped them overnight. The wall stood as long as it served monopoly profit and fell the moment it endangered the system. The \$6.9 billion is already paid; workers and small farmers will not be reimbursed.

The oil price says the war is over.

The oil market tells a story of peace. Brent crude fell to about \$72 a barrel by July 3 — down roughly 24% in a month, back to where it stood before the first bombs fell. The business press credits recovering tanker traffic and the Doha talks.

The government's own forecast tells another story. The Energy Information Administration, assuming the strait stays largely closed, projected Brent at \$105 a barrel through June and July. West Asian producers cut output by more than 11 million barrels a day in May. Even optimistic estimates put July flows through the strait just above 10 million barrels a day — about half the prewar volume.

Half the oil is moving, but the price has fully recovered. The numbers do not add up. Stored oil is filling the gap.

Trump tears up ceasefire

Continued from page 14

government signed some 370 treaties with Indigenous nations and broke them to seize the land. It has gone on breaking agreements ever since, tearing up arms-control treaties and walking out of the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran. In 1972, Indigenous activists marched on Washington to protest that record and named their caravan the Trail of Broken Treaties. The Islamabad memorandum joins the trail.

Rubio was demanding that Iran hand the strait to the U.S. military in exchange for promises Washington had already shown it would break. That was no basis for agreement — a demand for surrender under threat of a new attack.

The answer from the streets

That demand to surrender has been rejected — and the power behind the rejection rose from the streets after the assassination that opened the war.

The U.S.-directed strike on Feb. 28, 2026, assassinated Iran's Supreme Leader, Ali Khamenei, along with four members of his family, including his 14-month-old granddaughter. The war planners believed they had decapitated the resistance on day one. Khamenei's funeral proved them wrong.

The U.S. terror was not confined to the assassination. In the same opening wave, a U.S.

Where the scarcity shows

The shortage hidden by the oil price surfaces where workers buy fuel. U.S. retail diesel hit \$5.40 a gallon on March 30. Refineries run at 96% of capacity while U.S. refined-product exports hit records — Europe and Asia bidding for fuel that no longer arrives from the Gulf. Diesel moves the trucks, trains and ships that move everything else. Its price is already inside every grocery bill.

That is the class content of the “recovery.” The number on the news — the one that flatters Wall Street and the White House — is held down by emptying the stockpiles. The calm is real only on the screen, and it is bought weekly, in barrels, from reserves that are running out.

Playing for time, out of time

U.S. imperialism is playing for time, hoping to resume the assault on Iran from stronger ground while racing its own inventories.

The empire that set out on Feb. 28 to seize Iran's oil lost the Strait of Hormuz instead — a waterway open to all before Washington attacked. It cannot reopen the strait by force. It cannot admit the loss. So it drains the tanks, waives the tariffs, declares the emergencies and calls the result stability. Declining imperialism does not correct course. It consumes its reserves — of oil, of credibility, of time — and grows more dangerous as they run down. The fertilizer emergency is the first line of the bill. The rest is still arriving. #

Continued on page 16

Trump tears up ceasefire

Continued from page 15

missile strike massacred more than 175 people, most of them children, at Shajareh Tayyebbeh Elementary School in Minab. Three missiles struck the school compound in rapid succession while classes were underway. The dead were mainly girls between the ages of 7 and 12.

In the opening weeks, U.S. strikes hit schools, hospitals, vaccine-production facilities, bridges, universities and residential neighborhoods with no credible military target, destroying civilian buildings by the thousands. It was a reign of terror meant to force Iran into submission. Iran answered with resistance.

The U.S. war delayed Khamenei's burial for more than four months. The mourning became a national mobilization. On July 4, Khamenei's body lay in state at Tehran's Grand Mosalla. While Trump spoke at Washington's 250th-anniversary spectacle, mourners unfurled a red flag reading "O avengers of Hussein" — the Prophet's grandson, killed at Karbala in 680 for refusing to submit to an unjust ruler and mourned by Shia Muslims ever since as a symbol of resistance to oppression.

On July 6, millions packed the procession route through Tehran to Azadi Square. The body traveled to Qom, Najaf and Karbala before burial on July 9 in Mashhad, his birthplace. "We will take revenge for the blood of our leader," a 30-year-old mourner, Zahra Valaei, told Reuters. "We will not let it be trampled underfoot."

This is what Washington's war planners did not foresee. Even before the funerals, the June memorandum of understanding (MOU) had drawn protests in several Iranian cities accusing the negotiators of conceding too much. The marches settled it: a government that surrendered the strait would now face its own people.

The war managers set out to separate the Iranian state from the Iranian people. Instead the U.S. war brought millions into unified resistance. A nation fighting an imperialist war for its surrender cannot give up its strongest weapon, and the people of Iran have said so in the tens of millions.

Two months of 'restoration'

Two months after Rubio promised to restore the strait "back to the way it was," Washington was bombing Iran again and tearing up its own ceasefire. The renewed attempt to seize the strait widened the war beyond it, hitting the outer works of the Bushehr nuclear facility — a deliberate threat against a civilian power plant.

On July 12, Iranian forces struck the UAE-owned container ship GFS Galaxy after it abandoned the designated route and ignored orders to change course. The ship caught fire, and the crew abandoned it.

The U.S. answered with a third wave of strikes in a week. Iranian missiles reportedly struck U.S.-linked military targets in Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, Jordan and the UAE. Gulf energy infrastructure was hit for the first time since the June ceasefire.

War risk insurance premiums have surged again, maritime authorities are warning of a severe threat to shipping, and the strait remains under Iranian command.

The bombing showed what "back to the way it was" was worth. The objective announced on Feb. 28 — breaking Iran as an independent state — had not changed, but the war had cost the empire its free road through the Gulf.

That objective has not changed because the stakes have not changed. Wall Street has piled up debts and financial claims against the world's labor, oil, currencies and budgets, and

those claims can be paid only while the dollar rules world trade. Oil is central to that rule, and so is the Pentagon. When profit from production cannot cover Wall Street's swollen claims, finance capital leans harder on debt, sanctions, oil and war.

The Strait of Hormuz is one place the dollar system is in crisis. Monopoly capitalism in decline cannot concede the Gulf, because conceding the Gulf means weakening the petrodollar, and weakening the petrodollar means weakening the empire.

The war machine runs short

The U.S. retreat also reflected limits inside its own war machine. In the 39 days before the April 7 ceasefire, the Pentagon used large shares of several critical missile stockpiles. U.S. arms factories cannot replace them at the speed the Pentagon fires them. The Pentagon can expend in weeks what U.S. factories need years to replace.

Trump's June order invoking the Defense Production Act was an admission of the shortage, even though the Pentagon attempted to deny it. Decades of offshoring and profit-taking have hollowed out U.S. productive capacity. Wall Street can create mountains of debt and paper claims. It cannot manufacture missiles.

That shortage helped force the June retreat.

Washington lost the initiative

An army that retreats to rearm has not left the field, and no one should mistake a shrunken war aim for peace. It is the political packaging of the next assault, now in preparation.

By breaking its own ceasefire, Washington admitted the failure. The initiative passed instead to the millions who filled Iran's funeral routes and to the resistance across West Asia that forced the June retreat.

Washington reloads. So does the resistance — it is stronger, and angrier, and more united than it was on Feb. 28. #

Why ICE killed Lorenzo Salgado Araujo

Continued from page 1

Instead, they fixed on Salgado Araujo's work van in Magnolia Park, a Mexican working-class barrio. To them, he was a Mexican worker driving to a construction job before dawn.

The terror is aimed at the Mexican and Chicano people of the Southwest, an oppressed nation inside U.S. borders since the U.S. seized half of Mexico in 1848.

A construction worker dies on the job in Texas every three days from falls, heat, trench collapses and speedups.

Salgado Araujo survived 35 years of that. What killed him was a police quota set in Washington.

A quota with guns

Internal ICE documents obtained by the New York Times describe the late-June surge. Strip away the agency language and they read like a bosses' speedup order.

Management set 2,000 arrests a day. Eighty percent of ICE officers were assigned to arrests. Agents were put on mandatory seven-day weeks. The deportation chief praised their "remarkable operational results."

In a packinghouse, the speedup produces severed fingers. When armed agents hunting human beings are put on quota, a construction worker gets shot through the passenger window of his van.

ICE arrests in Houston's streets, homes and

workplaces have more than quadrupled, according to a Texas Tribune analysis of federal data. Jails and courthouses could not produce 2,000 arrests a day. To make the number, ICE sent agents in unmarked SUVs into neighborhoods like Magnolia Park.

Caging the witnesses

Three other men were in the van: Jose Trinidad Rojas, Daniel Tirado Pantoja and Lorenzo's brother, Victor Salgado. The bullet passed Victor's face. ICE jailed all three and pressured them to sign their own deportations.

Their accounts agree: no agent stood in front of or behind the van. Agents fired from the sides. Rojas called the government's claim that the van was used as a weapon "a lie."

The shooter has not been named. The agents

Continued on page 19

Pentagon uses earthquake to occupy Venezuela

By Gary Wilson

The U.S. Air Force now runs Venezuela's main international airport. A U.S. amphibious warship is docked at its principal port. MQ-9 Reaper drones and combat helicopters fly over Caracas. Nearly 2,000 U.S. troops are deployed on land, air and sea in and around the country, operating from U.S.-held Puerto Rico and Dutch-held Curaçao.

Washington calls this earthquake relief.

Two earthquakes, measuring 7.2 and 7.5, struck northern Venezuela 39 seconds apart on June 24. By July 8, the official count had risen to 3,811 dead, 16,740 injured and 17,907 people without housing. Thousands remained missing.

As international search teams withdrew, Venezuelans kept digging. Families and neighbors worked the rubble with hands, shovels and ropes, pooled wages to rent cranes and organized rescue networks through WhatsApp. Solidarity from below moved faster than any foreign force.

Into this catastrophe, the Pentagon moved an occupation force.

The footprint of an occupation

U.S. Southern Command chief Gen. Francis Donovan said July 1 that roughly 2,000 U.S. military personnel were operating around Venezuela. The day before, he told Reuters that 900 were already on Venezuelan soil. He said the mission could build stronger "military-to-military relations" — a strange goal for disaster relief.

After repairing a runway, a U.S. Air Force unit took over airfield management, air traffic coordination, communications and security at Simón Bolívar International Airport, according to SOUTHCOM. The USS Fort Lauderdale, an amphibious warship built to carry Marines, landing craft and helicopters, docked at La Guaira. The combat ship USS Billings holds position nearby. A Marine logistics company came ashore with trucks and off-road vehicles.

Control of the airport and port means control of what enters and leaves the capital region. That is a military objective, and the Pentagon has secured it.

The thief arrives as savior

The New York Times reported that the Trump administration has seized at least \$8 billion in Venezuelan oil wealth since U.S. forces attacked the country and kidnapped President Nicolás Maduro and First Combatant Cilia Flores on Jan. 3. Both remain imprisoned in Brooklyn.

The USS Fort Lauderdale in a file photo. The amphibious assault ship is now docked in La Guaira, Venezuela, after the June 24 earthquakes. Under cover of disaster relief, Washington put a U.S. warship at the country's primary port.



Trump boasted that the U.S. "took over Venezuela ... and the oil is flowing."

It flows through the U.S. Treasury, which controls Venezuela's oil export revenue. Nearly 100 million barrels, worth an estimated \$8 billion, have moved through a process with no public accounting. Washington has not said how much it sold, how much it collected or where the money went.

The Bank of England still holds 31 metric tons of Venezuelan gold, worth more than \$4.5 billion. U.S. sanctions still freeze Venezuelan state assets. Yet a July 2 UN assessment put direct earthquake damage at \$37 billion.

Washington spent a decade trying to bleed Venezuela through sanctions aimed at the Bolivarian Revolution — at workers and poor people organizing to reclaim the country's oil and mineral wealth for housing, food, health care and human need.

The Washington Office on Latin America estimated that U.S. sanctions cost Venezuela \$17 billion to \$31 billion in revenue from 2017 to 2020. The Tricontinental Institute estimates \$226 billion in lost oil revenue from 2017 to 2024. Those sanctions gutted the health system, drove millions into exile and left housing in disrepair.

The earthquake was natural. The mass death was not. The U.S. blockade turned disaster into catastrophe. The catastrophe now supplies the pretext for occupation.

Regime-change forces followed under the same humanitarian cover. Members of the British-backed White Helmets arrived from Syria. An Israeli military delegation came as "reconstruction experts" — officers from the army that bombed Gaza to rubble.

The U.S. ruling class agrees on occupying Venezuela but argues over who can run it. Oil executives and the CIA oppose returning María Corina Machado because they doubt she

can keep the oil flowing or hold the country down without provoking mass resistance.

The hemisphere is the target

Venezuela is the leading front in a wider offensive. Cuba remains its longest continuous front. Washington's six-decade blockade has attacked transportation, electricity, food production and hospitals in an attempt to force the Cuban people to surrender what they won in 1959.

In Colombia, Trump-backed Abelardo de la Espriella won an election bought by Washington. In Brazil, the U.S. falsely labeled two criminal organizations "terrorist groups," creating a pretext for action against Brazilian banks, payment systems and even national territory.

These are not separate fronts. They are one imperialist offensive: monopoly capital in crisis using military power, trade and finance to return the hemisphere to colonial rule.

The target is the revolution

Even as Venezuelan firefighters, health workers, soldiers and civil protection teams entered the hardest-hit areas, imperialist media declared the state absent. Every government measure was recast as authoritarianism. The purpose was to make Venezuelan sovereignty itself appear to be the obstacle to relief.

But communal councils set up kitchens. Students turned schools and sports courts into supply depots. Health centers mobilized nationwide. Volunteers and aid convoys were organized through public institutions and popular organizations built by more than two decades of Bolivarian struggle.

That is what the occupation is aimed at: the revolutionary government and the organized masses behind it. The Pentagon holds the airport and the port. The Venezuelan people hold the country. #

Elián González: 'However tired the Cuban people may

By Aníbal Malvar

This interview has been abridged for print.

Elián González, the 6-year-old Cuban boy at the center of an international custody battle in 1999, is now 32 and a deputy in Cuba's National Assembly of People's Power.

After surviving a sea crossing in which his mother died, Elián was held in Miami by relatives who refused to return him to his father. Mass demonstrations in Cuba demanded his return. U.S. immigration agents finally removed him from the Miami house, and he went home to Cuba.

This July, González visited Spain at the invitation of the State Movement of Solidarity with Cuba to explain the crisis facing the island and build opposition to the U.S. blockade and threats of war.

Why have the threats against Cuba produced so little reaction in Spain?

The issue of Cuba is heavily manipulated by media operating from the United States. The average Spaniard hears that Cuba is communist and therefore terrible.

Among people on the left, we feel great friendship. But many others believe the story of Cuba as a dictatorship with a repressed population. When people learn what is really happening, they can mobilize and make our cause their own.

Look at Palestine. People saw a massacred population, and solidarity demonstrations multiplied. Young people led many of those marches in Spain, Italy and even the United States. What is missing is an understanding of what is happening in Cuba and the danger Cubans face. Those who know, sympathize.

Some describe President Miguel Díaz-Canel's reforms as a move toward capitalism or a surrender to Donald Trump.

Cuba is living through the worst siege of the revolutionary period — medieval, brutal and completely illegitimate. Cuba sponsors no terrorism. It is at war with no one and has

harmed no one. Yet this siege leaves the population in darkness.

We must find ways to survive. When traditional channels are closed and the country is denied essential supplies, we have to find other routes. One is opening space for a private sector that can bring in resources. The purpose is to let oxygen reach us so we can breathe.

Is Cuba moving toward a Chinese-style mixed system?

I cannot give a definite answer. These are necessary measures, but we will not lose sight of our goal: prosperity, health and education for the people. Cuba will not copy the Russian model or the Chinese model. We are trying to build our own socialism, at our own pace and in our own way, under enormous pressure and isolation.

The U.N. General Assembly again voted against the blockade, 136-9, with 30 abstentions. Why does nothing change?

It is the height of hypocrisy. For 33 years, the United Nations has called for an end to the blockade. This time, Secretary of State Marco Rubio sent cables pressuring governments and warning that Washington would watch how they voted. Those are the methods of a mobster and neighborhood bully.

Has the kidnapping of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro weakened Cuba's relations with Venezuela?

Diplomatic and cooperative relations remain open. Cuban doctors are still there. After the earthquake, Cuba sent more medical personnel and rescue workers.

We have fought all these years to stop the United States from ruling our country. It is deeply disappointing that the world did not act forcefully

enough to return Maduro to Venezuela.

Even before his kidnapping, aid often could not reach Cuba. The U.S. Coast Guard and Navy boarded the Venezuelan oil tanker Olina in January. Even governments that want to help can be prevented from doing so.

Could Brazil and other governments do more?

Certainly. But Cuba has always practiced solidarity without demanding repayment. We need and welcome aid, but we do not

impose obligations on others.

The blockade also strikes those who try to help us. Shipping anything to Cuba can cost three times as much. Routes have been closed. Governments can find it impossible to send fuel even when they want to. Solidarity organizations sometimes have more room to send a container than governments have to send essential supplies.

Can the Cuban people continue to endure this?

The Cuban people are weary and sometimes angry, but they can defend their sovereignty. They are proud of what the revolution has achieved and cannot imagine surrendering it.

This is the worst crisis of the revolutionary period. Health care and education have been badly damaged. There is too little foreign currency, fuel, medicine and electricity. That creates unrest — exactly what Washington wants. It wants the suffering it causes to be turned against the Cuban government.

But the Cuban people have shown an extraordinary capacity to resist. In six months, only one oil tanker entered the country. Access routes have been closed, yet Cuba is still standing, living and surviving. However tired



Elián González

Continued on page 19

LOVE
IS THE
LAW

Book by
Gregory E.
Williams

CUBA's Queer Rights Revolution

In the book 'Love is the Law' –

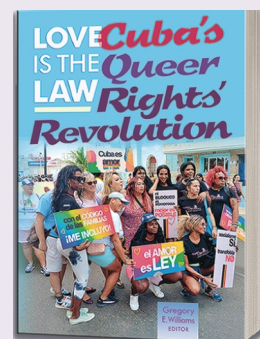
The process of winning approval of the Cuba's 'Code of Freedom' for Families;

Reports from the U.S. Friends Against Homophobia and Transphobia delegation to Cuba

Reports from CENESEX – the National Center for Sex Education / Centro Nacional de Educación Sexual
CENESEX director Mariela Castro Espín

The full text of Leslie Feinberg's 'Rainbow Solidarity in Defense of Cuba

tinyurl.com/Cuba-LoveisLaw tinyurl.com/Read-LOVEisTheLAW



be, they know where the evil lies'

Continued from page 18

the Cuban people may be, they know where the problem lies and who is inflicting the damage.

Is that confidence overly optimistic?

Sometimes resistance is difficult. The media is dominated by imperialism, transnational corporations and economic power. Their lies corrode people's understanding. Yet resistance continues.

Is the blockade killing people?

Yes. Cuba once achieved infant mortality rates comparable to developed European countries. Today those rates have risen. It is neither easy nor humane to run hospitals through constant power failures without medicine or supplies. This blockade is genocidal. It is killing Cubans.

It is killing children.

The solidarity movement in Spain is raising funds for solar panels at William Soler Pediatric Oncology Hospital, where children with cancer need reliable electricity. Cuba once achieved pediatric cancer survival rates comparable to developed countries. Today, children's lives are being cut short because medicines and equipment are unavailable.

What did the period of limited opening under Barack Obama show?

The U.S. government covers Cuba's nose and mouth and then says we are breathing badly. Obama loosened the grip slightly, and the change was enormous. Cruise ships arrived. Tourism brought in foreign currency for medicine

and school supplies. There were fewer blackouts, hospitals functioned and goods were available.

Then Trump imposed more than 200 measures, beginning the strangulation that brought us here.

Washington should care for its own people and let ours live. The Monroe Doctrine cannot mean that Latin America is the backyard of the United States. U.S. citizens are barred from freely traveling to Cuba, yet Washington accuses us of denying freedom. I can drink a U.S. beer, but people in the United States cannot freely drink Cuban rum or smoke a Cuban cigar. So who is denying freedom to whom?

Source: Cubainformación. Translation by Ed Newman, Radio Havana Cuba.

Why ICE killed Lorenzo Salgado Araujo

Continued from page 16

were moved out of Houston. They wore no body cameras. The FBI is investigating the dead man for "assault on a federal officer."

ICE took Salgado Araujo's identification, had his body logged as a John Doe and demanded biometric data from the family before releasing it.

The official story was ready-made: he had "weaponized his vehicle." The same story followed the killing of Renee Good in Minneapolis and the shooting of Marimar Martinez in Chicago. Video destroyed both accounts.

At least 10 people have been fatally shot by ICE or Border Patrol officers during Trump's second term. No agent has been charged.

A force expected to seize 2,000 people a day needs anonymous agents, frightened witnesses and impunity. The prewritten lie, the jailed witnesses, the unnamed shooter and the withheld body keep the quota running.

The courts do their part. Fifteen anti-ICE protesters in the Prairieland case were sentenced to a combined 556 years, while every killer in federal uniform walks free.

Terror works on wages

The quota feeds the privatized detention industry. It also helps the capitalist class hold down wages.

Half the Texas construction workers surveyed in a University of Texas and Workers Defense Project study were undocumented.

Construction cannot function without their labor. Neither can meatpacking, agriculture, food service and other industries employing millions of undocumented workers.

The ruling class depends on these workers while threatening them with arrest and deportation. Removing all 13 million undocumented people would tear apart industries that profit from their labor. But the threat itself is profitable.

Undocumented construction workers in Texas earn an average of \$3.12 an hour less than U.S.-born workers. One in four suffers wage theft. Fewer than a third have workers' compensation.

Raids and deportation threats enforce that wage gap. A contractor who can force one section of the workforce to accept unpaid hours, shorted checks and dangerous conditions can use that pressure against everyone.

That is what national oppression does for the capitalist class. It divides workers by nationality and turns the oppression of one people into a weapon against every worker.

The bosses collect at both ends. Those who remain work under threat. Those seized are turned into revenue for private prison corporations at an average of \$187 a day. Inside, detained workers cook, clean and do laundry for \$1 a day.

Texas has done this before

The killing happened in Magnolia Park, and the ground holds the history because the ground was stolen.

The Texas Rangers were organized in the 1820s and 1830s to clear Indigenous nations from the land. Anglo settlers, invited into Mexican Texas, brought enslaved people in defiance of Mexican law. The 1836 secession secured their right to hold slaves.

The U.S. annexed Texas in 1845 and provoked war with Mexico. The 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo stripped Mexico of more than half its territory. The U.S. Senate removed the article protecting Mexican land grants. Courts, taxes, fraud and Rangers' guns transferred the land to Anglo owners.

During La Matanza, from 1915 to 1919, Rangers and Anglo vigilantes killed hundreds, perhaps thousands, of Mexicans and Mexican Americans. In the 1930s, roughly a million people of Mexican descent were expelled; about 60% were U.S. citizens. In 1954, the government launched mass raids under an official name containing a racist slur.

The pattern is clear. First the land is taken by war and extermination. Then the labor of the dispossessed is put to work. Employers recruit it when profits require it, deny it equal rights and turn to raids and expulsions when the ruling class needs a scapegoat.

ICE now uses surveillance databases, facial recognition and drones where the Rangers used rifles and posses. The function remains: terrorize Mexican workers so an entire workforce remains exploitable.

The street answered

The surge was designed to be less visible. Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin promised a "less public-facing" campaign after open raids brought workers into the streets.

On July 8, the day after the killing, the people ICE meant to frighten gathered where Salgado Araujo was shot. Hundreds stood in Magnolia Park. Candles burned on the pavement where agents had left him shackled.

They knew the government's lie before it was finished being told. The street answered ICE's terror with protest. #

Calentamiento y crisis del agua

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

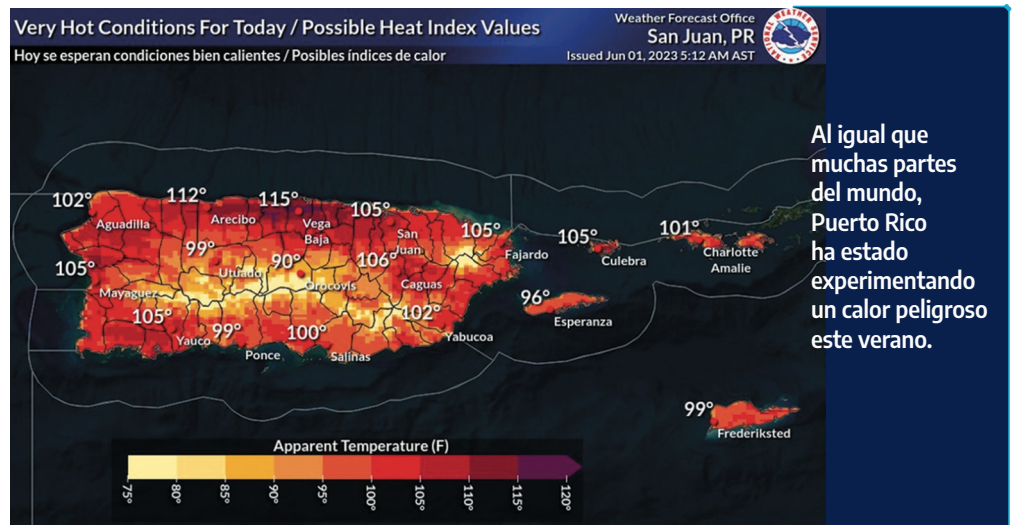
La crisis climática, con el consecuente calentamiento global que está afectando al mundo, también ha golpeado a esta colonia – el Archipiélago de Puerto Rico. La diferencia con muchos otros lugares, es nuestro estado político. Somos desgraciadamente todavía, una pertenencia de los Estados Unidos, donde carecemos totalmente de soberanía propia y por lo tanto estamos a merced de los vaivenes dirigidos por los intereses gringos sin ninguna consideración al bienestar del pueblo boricua.

Estos días nos ha azotado una terrible sequía que no es habitual para este tiempo. En una tierra donde abundan los cuerpos de agua, ríos, lagos, embalses, manantiales y cascadas desde nuestras montañas, vemos como se van secando y dejando a la población sin suficiente recurso hídrico.

Para colmo, hemos tenido la presencia casi continua de los Polvos del Sáhara, esa masa de aire seco llena de partículas minerales que viaja desde el desierto africano por el Océano Atlántico hasta el Caribe. Este fenómeno, no sólo afecta la salud, sobre todo de las personas con afecciones respiratorias y alérgicas, sino que reduce la posibilidad de lluvias.

Esta combinación, ha provocado también fuegos forestales difíciles de combatir.

Esos son fenómenos naturales.



Pero lo peor ha sido la participación activa del gobierno local, seguidor fiel de la política yanki, que por años ha priorizado contratos millonarios para beneficiar a empresas y firmas locales y extranjeras que han urbanizado y deforestado, descuidando el medioambiente y la infraestructura de los acueductos. Aquí por años se pierde casi el 50 por ciento del agua potable por causa de tuberías rotas. Y ahora el sistema de Acueductos y Alcantarillado se encuentra en colapso casi total donde cada día se reportan nuevos casos de roturas e ineficiencias en las plantas.

Toda la población se ha afectado en mayor o menor grado. Hay poblaciones incluso, que han pasado meses sin agua, dependiendo solo de camiones cisterna. Muchos negocios pequeños han tenido que cerrar. Las poblaciones más pobres como siempre, son las más afectadas.

Para Radio Clarín de Colombia, Desde un Puerto Rico luchando por el agua y la liberación, les habló, Berta Joubert-Ceci.



México. Anuncia acciones por muerte de migrantes bajo custodia de ICE

Por Resumen Latinoamericano

El canciller de México, Roberto Velasco, anunció nuevas medidas para reclamar por las políticas migratorias de Estados Unidos, tras la muerte de 17 connacionales mientras estaban bajo custodia del Servicio de Control de Inmigración y Aduanas (ICE) o durante operativos.

«La presidenta nos ha instruido que iniciemos acciones legales contundentes para responder a esta tragedia tan dolorosa», explicó el ministro de Relaciones Exteriores al participar en la conferencia de prensa de la presidenta Claudia Sheinbaum.

Detalló que México solicitará apoyo a la Fiscalía General de la República para presentar denuncias ante fiscalías estatales y el Departamento de Justicia de EE.UU. contra los responsables de la muerte de 14 mexicanos en centros de detención y tres más en operativos.

El Gobierno también emprenderá acciones

civiles contra las empresas privadas que administran los centros de detención donde ocurrieron los fallecimientos. Estas medidas incluirán cartas formales para exigir el fin de condiciones que violen derechos humanos.

Además, México se coordinará con organizaciones civiles para solicitar la intervención de la Comisión Interamericana de Derechos Humanos (CIDH) y reforzará el diálogo con el Departamento de Estado y el Departamento de Seguridad Nacional de EE.UU.

«La prioridad de nuestro trabajo siempre es la defensa de derechos humanos de los connacionales, por eso estamos iniciando el día de hoy las acciones legales. Será el punto central de nuestras conversaciones con el Gobierno de Estados Unidos», señaló.

Hasta ahora, la respuesta mexicana había consistido en acompañamiento legal y humanitario a las familias, la emisión de 11 notas diplomáticas,

gestiones ante la CIDH y solicitudes para que el organismo revise de manera urgente cada caso.

Sheinbaum ya había adelantado que su Gobierno adoptaría una estrategia más firme: «No podemos permitir el maltrato a nuestros hermanos. No tienen por qué estar en centros de detención ni ser víctimas de violencia. Estamos preparando medidas jurídicas», dijo días atrás.

El martes, agentes del ICE dispararon y mataron al mexicano Lorenzo Salgado Araujo, quien se sumó a la lista de al menos 58 inmigrantes fallecidos en operativos o bajo custodia de ICE, en medio del endurecimiento de las políticas migratorias del presidente Donald Trump. #

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