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**Reclaman
Independencia
para
PUERTO RICO**

The assault on Black Voting Rights

By John Parker

The U.S. Supreme Court and Louisiana Republicans are orchestrating a "coup by law" to suppress Black voting rights, using Louisiana as a test case for a broader national strategy.

On April 29, the Supreme Court struck down Louisiana's congressional map, which included a second majority-Black district, making it harder to enforce the Voting Rights Act. Then on April 30, Gov. Jeff Landry used the ruling to declare an electoral emergency, suspending U.S. House primaries – even though absentee voting was already underway and over 42,000 ballots had been cast.

On May 4, the Supreme Court took the unusual step of rushing its judgment (bypassing the standard 32-day waiting period) to help legitimize the governor's actions.

The latest attack on voting rights came on June 22, 2026, when the Supreme Court declined to hear an appeal challenging an 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruling on Section 208 of the Voting Rights Act. By refusing to review the case, the Court left in place the Eighth Circuit's ruling that private individuals and groups could not sue to enforce Section 208, a nationwide provision allowing voters with disabilities or an inability to read or write to receive assistance in casting a ballot. The Eighth Circuit's jurisdiction

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A large number of children gathered during a voter registration drive in the 1960s.

Photo: International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union collection / Kheel Center, Cornell University



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'LITTLE HOUSE' A RACIST MYTH

RUBIO REVIVES THE MCCARTHY WITCH-HUNT

CHINA's AI exposes Wall Street's fiction

U.S. OUT OF VENEZUELA!

INDIA's 'Cockroach' revolt shakes Modi

House votes to lock Israel into U.S. war machine

ICE KILLS – BLAMES THE DEAD



WAR CRIMES CONTINUE: U.S.-armed Israel massacres, Palestinian land seizure • U.S. bombs Iran's bridges, water & power

Longshore solidarity forces C&H

By Lallan Schoenstein

After a hard-fought 42-day strike launched on June 15, the ILWU forced C&H back to the bargaining table on July 27. They won this position by standing firm against brutal government repression, carried out in collaboration with American Sugar Refining, the sugar monopoly that owns C&H.

On July 21, shortly after 4 p.m., Contra Costa County Sgt. Daniel Marzilli, accompanied by more than a dozen sheriff's office vehicles, ordered the ILWU Local 6 and Local 10 picket line at the intersection of Loring Avenue and West Street to disperse.

"I hereby declare this is an unlawful assembly," said Marzilli into a megaphone. Surrounding him were the sheriff's deputies armed with batons and tear gas. "If you do not do so, you may be arrested or subject to other police action," including "less lethal munitions, chemical agents or police dogs."

Earlier in the day, ILWU members were injured, and one was hospitalized, when two scab trucks plowed into the union picket line. According to Trent Willis, vice president of ILWU Local 10, scabs have been brought into the refinery since July 18. Willis said the workers were not attempting to block the scab driver when they were run down.

Clarence Thomas, an ILWU Local 10 retiree who is on the executive board of the Pacific Coast Pensioners Association, told Steve Zeltzer live on Work Day Radio Podcast, "You can see from the turnout of the police, there's two things that are bothering the cops: Number one, we're working people and number two, we're Black and people of color. They have a problem with both of those things. It has taken longshore workers exhorting the police to do their job, which is to arrest someone who has hit a pedestrian with a vehicle intentionally. So, it's taken all this time. I understand now they're in handcuffs. They are towing his vehicle away, and they're being forced to respond to the power of the ILWU rank and file."

Striking members of ILWU Local 6 and solidarity strikers from Local 10 were picketing



MEMORANDUM FROM: ILWU International

DATE: July 27, 2026

SUBJECT: Update re: **ILWU Local 6 Strike and Bargaining with C&H**

Please find attached a Press Release regarding ILWU Local 6's strike at C&H Sugar, Inc. and the status of continued bargaining....

The International and Local 6 thank all locals and affiliates for their support thus far. However, this fight is not over so please continue to support Local 6 during this period of bargaining.

'An injury to one is an injury to all.'

ILWU Local 6 / C&H Sugar Company, Inc. – Joint Press Release

CROCKETT, CA, July 27 – The International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 6 and C&H Sugar Company, Inc. today jointly announce that they have agreed to a sixty-day period of continued contract negotiations. ...

ILWU Local 6 represents approximately 100 warehouse workers at C&H in Crockett, California, who have been on strike since June 15, 2026. The parties have been far apart on a number of Issues. The parties met with a federal mediator several times in July but were unable to reach Agreement. ...

In a showing of good faith, ILWU Local 6 has agreed to return to work during this period, and C&H will withdraw its declaration of impasse. The parties have committed ... to bargain in good faith and reach agreement on a fair contract.

the entrances to the C&H Sugar factory to confront strike breakers that the company hired to unload sugar from a cargo ship.

"We're letting the truckers know what's going on – you're crossing a picket line, taking money and our jobs away from us," said worker Frank Gaskin.

Adrian Wells, a truck driver who called himself "a local scab," reportedly said of driving through strike lines, "We all have a choice. We could stop what we're doing. But I want to make some money." According to him, the company is paying \$1,700 a week for scab work.

Following the attack by the scabs who drove their trucks into the picket line on July 21, the police attacked the union members. They handcuffed 10 people on the picket line while threatening others with arrest. Then they cordoned off the picket area with yellow police tape.

Supporters had come from all over the Bay Area to converge at C&H's main entrance on Loring Avenue and the truck entrance on Dowrelia Drive under the Carquinez Bridge. They gathered at the sides of the gates with

cars and motorcycles. The community in Crockett, a company town, has been deeply engaged in supporting the strike, often joining the picket line since the beginning.

ILWU Local 6 members are fighting to retain their union contract covering health care benefits for current and future retirees; overtime pay, which most C&H workers rely on to earn a living; an established seniority system for promotions and scheduling; and sick leave. They are also fighting unfair weekend scheduling.

In addition, they are demanding that all charges be dropped against the strikers, union members, and supporters arrested on July 21. They are also calling for the immediate reinstatement of three workers illegally fired on June 24.

Looking at the contract the company wanted to impose, Mario Rivas, a crane operator at C&H for 10 years, said, "The contract is so bad, you can't afford to take it."

Rivas grew up in Crockett, and his grandfather and brother both worked for C&H. Staffing shortages and the rising costs of living

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Sugar back to bargaining

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don't help, said Rivas. "They're going to raise the bridge tolls again, gas prices are going up. This is pretty egregious," he said of the contract.

"Every three years, we have a contract," Rivas added. "There's always a give and take." This year was different. "This year is the first year there was no negotiation – it was basically, 'We want to take everything you guys have.'"

To lead negotiations, Crockett C&H management brought in Rene Ruiz, chief labor counsel for parent company American Sugar Refining – a lawyer whose official bio boasts that he "trains employers on union avoidance and strike preparation."

Clarence Thomas, Local 10 retiree, said: "The other shoe has yet to fall – for this union-busting outfit American Sugar Refining. They want to break the union. What it's going to take is for the employers of the Pacific Maritime Association to weigh in when they can't get their ships loaded and unloaded. That's what it's going to take. The only thing that the capitalists respond to is when you cut off their profits. This ain't business as usual. They're unloading this ship from the Philippines with scabs. So, they broke the contract."

The union says that C&H is trying to avoid dealing with the just demands of the strikers by diverting the sugar to the Levin-Richmond Terminal, where it is in danger of toxic contamination, an area declared a Superfund site due to rampant DDT contamination. City leaders and union officials say the product is being dumped on a wharf where coal, petroleum and metal scrap are handled. Richmond City Councilmember Claudia Jimenez said, "Sugar, which is a food product, is being dumped here next to petroleum and coal products." The coal isn't covered, and the wind will contaminate the sugar.

C&H has not denied that the sugar is being contaminated. They claim it will be edible after they refine it! Union leaders dispute their assurances.

ILWU Local 10 refused to unload the sugar at the Crockett refinery pier in solidarity with the Local 6 strike. Michael Villeggiante, president of Local 10, said, "We didn't work the ship. It was anchored for 10 days, and then they brought it here to Levin."

C&H Sugar was acquired in 2005 by American Sugar Refining (ASR), a monopoly and one of the world's largest sugar refiners. ASR demanded union-busting concessions



Police ordered the ILWU Local 6 picket line to disperse and surrounded the area with yellow police tape. Earlier, a scab truck rammed into the picket line.

from members of ILWU Local 6, refusing to negotiate and issuing a rigid "take-it-or-leave-it" ultimatum.

ASR 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 built a multibillion-dollar empire shielded by U.S. tariffs, import quotas, and federal subsidies. Today, the Fanjuls are key allies of Donald Trump, bankrolling the right-wing Cuban-exile political machine, lobbying for high domestic sugar prices, and pouring millions into political campaigns aimed at attacking socialist Cuba.

Regarding ASR's attack on the union, Thomas says, "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.

"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."

Local 6 has the support of ILWU on the West Coast, especially ILWU Local 10 in San Francisco. There have been reports of several actions of ILWU Locals in support of the Local 6 strike.

Members of Hawaii's ILWU 142 traveled to Crockett to join the picket line. Chris West, a native Hawaiian, has worked as a longshoreman for 25 years and is president of the Hawaiian Local. "It made sense for us to be

here considering the long history of our fight with these guys."

West said: C&H executives are "deciding between if they're going to buy their new yacht this year or save it for next year," he said. "Whereas our guys are trying to figure out if they're going to be able to pay the water bill or the electric bill, which one they're going to float."

The Filipino community is supporting Local 6 as well. It has been on the picket line because C&H gets sugar from the Philippine island of Negros, where there is a labor struggle. In April, 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.

"Because we wouldn't cross Local 6 picket line, the company decided to go get some strike breakers to work the Local 10 jobs also," said Trent Willis, vice president of ILWU Local 10, standing alongside strikers outside the C&H truck entrance under the Carquinez Bridge on Tuesday.

"The ILWU fights for good working conditions," said Willis. "That raises the standards for other workers outside the ILWU – a standard they can compare to when they're fighting for their own contracts."

Speaking to Zeltzer, Willis said, "This is a basic issue for the unions, for the ILWU and the labor movement. The ILWU is one of the last remaining strong diversified unions, where you have all races of people that are standing up together, which is what's needed in the

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ICE killed eight people – and blamed

By Gary Wilson

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers rammed Joan Sebastián Durán Guerrero's car and fired through the windshield as he drove to work in Biddeford, Maine, on July 13.

Durán Guerrero was 25, a food delivery driver from Bucaramanga, Colombia, who worked two jobs and had U.S. work authorization. His wife and three-year-old daughter reached the intersection minutes after he was shot.

The Department of Homeland Security waited nearly 12 hours before claiming an officer fired "fearing for public safety" as Durán Guerrero "attempted to flee."

He was not the person agents had come to arrest. The agents wore no body cameras. Doorbell cameras, business surveillance and bystanders supplied the record.

Durán Guerrero was the eighth person killed by gunfire from U.S. immigration agents since Trump launched the mass deportation campaign on Jan. 20, 2025.

Seven are publicly known by name: Ruben Ray Martinez, Silverio Villegas González, Keith Porter Jr., Renée Good, Alex Pretti, Lorenzo Salgado Araujo and Joan Sebastián Durán Guerrero. A Border Patrol agent killed a 31-year-old Mexican man near Rio Grande City, Texas, on Dec. 11, 2025. The government has never identified him.

Four were U.S. citizens. Seven were killed during immigration operations, and none was shown to be the person agents had come to arrest. Porter was killed by an off-duty ICE

officer. No federal agent has been charged.

In five killings, the government claimed the victim used a vehicle as a weapon. Wherever video, witnesses or medical findings were available, the record contradicted that claim. The government lied.

A campaign of terror

The killings expose the armed force and impunity behind the deportation campaign. ICE sends agents into working-class neighborhoods with the power to stop, seize and kill. It targets immigrants first, then anyone who warns, records or comes to their defense.

Agents use unmarked cars and road stops to catch workers driving to work or taking children to school. Then the car becomes the excuse. Driving away becomes "weaponizing" a vehicle. The justification is written after the bullets are fired.

Government casts the dead as aggressors

Ruben Ray Martinez was the first.

Martinez was 23, a U.S. citizen from San Antonio preparing to enter trade school as a mechanic. A Homeland Security Investigations agent shot him through the open side window of his car on South Padre Island, Texas, on March 15, 2025.

ICE claimed Martinez accelerated and struck an agent. Body-camera video obtained by CBS News shows the car stationary or barely moving, with its brake lights on. Agents dragged him out, threw him face down and handcuffed him before giving medical care.

ICE concealed the killing for nearly 11 months. A grand jury declined to charge the agent.

On Sept. 12, 2025, ICE agents killed Silverio Villegas González in Franklin Park, Illinois, during Operation Midway Blitz.

Villegas González was 38, a restaurant cook from Michoacán and primary caretaker of his two children. He had dropped them at school and daycare minutes earlier.

Homeland Security claimed he dragged an officer "a significant distance." No video shows the alleged dragging or the shooting. Footage afterward captured the supposedly injured agent calling his injuries "nothing major." The medical examiner found that one bullet entered the back of Villegas González's neck and traveled into his chest.

Three months later, a Border Patrol agent killed the still-unidentified Mexican man near Rio Grande City. The agency claimed a struggle, released no video and withheld his name.

Keith Porter Jr., a 43-year-old Black U.S. citizen and father of two, was killed outside his Los Angeles apartment complex on Dec. 31, 2025.

Porter had fired a rifle into the air during a

New Year's celebration and was returning home when Brian Palacios, an off-duty ICE officer, killed him. Homeland Security said Palacios had "bravely responded to an active shooter situation." Porter's family says Palacios never saw him fire.

Minnesota fought back

Operation Metro Surge placed about 4,000 federal agents in the Twin Cities. Residents warned one another, recorded arrests and organized to protect their neighbors.

That defense had taken organized form in Los Angeles nearly a year earlier. Unión del Barrio put patrols on the streets to spot ICE vehicles, warn workers and explain that agents cannot enter a home or workplace without a signed warrant. In February 2025, it initiated the Community Self-Defense Coalition, which grew to more than 80 organizations.

The patrols stopped raids. On Feb. 23, 2025, 12 ICE vehicles left Alhambra empty-handed after defense patrols arrived. The method spread to Chicago, the Twin Cities and hundreds of cities.

Renée Nicole Macklin Good was part of that resistance. Good was a 37-year-old U.S. citizen and writer. On Jan. 7, 2026, she was driving with her wife in south Minneapolis and warning neighbors that ICE agents were nearby.

Agents surrounded her SUV. Good reversed briefly, then drove forward and turned away. ICE agent Jonathan Ross fired into the vehicle and killed her.

Within hours, Homeland Security called Good a domestic terrorist. Trump called her "very violent" and "very radical" and claimed Ross had been run over. Bystander video showed the SUV turning away as Ross fired.

Seventeen days later, federal agents killed Alex Jeffrey Pretti, a 37-year-old U.S. citizen and intensive care nurse for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Pretti was filming federal officers when an agent shoved a woman down. He stepped between them. Agents pepper-sprayed and wrestled him to the ground. With about six officers surrounding him, two Customs and Border Protection officers shot him multiple times.

Good and Pretti were killed while defending others. Their citizenship did not protect them. The deportation machinery turns on anyone who interferes with its power to seize workers.

Solidarity stopped the operation.

Good's killing led to a Minnesota general strike on Jan. 23, the largest labor action yet against the deportation campaign. Tens of thousands filled the streets, with solidarity actions in some 300 cities backed by more than

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Longshore solidarity

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labor movement today.

"All of the gains that working people – when you talk about African Americans, Black people in this country – all of those gains that were made during the Civil Rights movement, it benefited everyone. It didn't just benefit Black people. So when you see these attacks on labor rights, attacks on social justice and all of that, it is affecting everyone.

"The trick bag that they have a lot of non-Black people thinking is that those rules don't apply to them. They have to find out that corporate greed and white supremacy attacks us all – that racism is a distraction from working people gathering together and demanding respect, decent pay and safe working conditions. If you win at one place, it benefits working people everywhere." #

the dead

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90 unions and community organizations. Pretti was killed the next day, driving the movement forward.

On Feb. 12, the administration ended Operation Metro Surge. No federal investigation had led to charges. Organized workers and communities made the operation impossible to continue.

Workers attacked on the way to work

Five months later, the White House imposed a nationwide quota requiring ICE to make 2,000 arrests a day. Two more workers were killed six days apart in July.

Eighty percent of officers were reassigned to arrest operations, many on mandatory seven-day weeks. Jail and courthouse arrests could not meet the quota. ICE sent agents into working-class neighborhoods before dawn.

On July 7, an unmarked vehicle approached a white van in Houston's East End. Men in plain clothes got out and attacked it.

The driver, Lorenzo Salgado Araujo, was a 52-year-old Mexican construction worker who had lived in the United States for about 35 years. He was taking his crew to a job site.

The ICE officers were looking for two other people believed to be in a white van. Salgado Araujo was not wanted on a warrant or accused of a crime.

Homeland Security said he "weaponized" his vehicle. Two passengers said no agent was directly in front of the van and the shots came from the sides. Video shows Salgado Araujo handcuffed on the ground and bleeding.

"Help me! They shot me!" he cried.

He died at Ben Taub Hospital.

An FBI search warrant later cited "white crystal-like substances" inside the van. The substance was homemade electrolyte drink mix.

Six days later, agents in Maine rammed Durán Guerrero's car and shot him as he drove to work.

On July 14, ICE ordered a nationwide pause on most vehicle stops. The pause lasted one day. Trump overruled it and ordered the stops resumed.

Videos, autopsies, passengers and doorbell cameras had exposed the vehicle story as a script. The Wall Street Journal identified more than a dozen incidents between July 2025 and January 2026 in which immigration officers fired into vehicles.

Killed behind the walls

The deportation machine also kills in holding rooms and detention centers.

Human Rights Watch counted 52 deaths in ICE custody between Jan. 20, 2025, and June 4,



2026. The death rate is the highest in more than a decade and more than double the rate at the start of Trump's second term. At least 22 people had died in custody by July 15, on pace to pass the record 33 deaths of 2025.

ICE packs detainees into rooms built for hours and keeps them there for days or weeks. At 26 Federal Plaza in New York, each detainee had about 10 square feet of floor space. People with tuberculosis, kidney failure and other serious illnesses went without care.

In a Dallas holding room in March, an Afghan man who had fought alongside U.S. troops died after staff ignored his calls for help with chest pain.

ICE has stopped reporting detainees who die soon after release, erasing them from the record.

ICE investigates itself

Federal agencies protect the agents who kill.

They enter neighborhoods in plain clothes and unmarked vehicles without displaying credentials. Even when agents wear body cameras, the cameras are often not turned on. To the workers they surround, seize and shoot, they operate as an armed terror force.

Evidence is withheld. Investigations are delayed, narrowed or buried.

On July 16, FBI managers were told the bureau would stop investigating confrontations involving Homeland Security agents. The cases would go to Homeland Security Investigations, an arm of ICE.

Even before that change, the FBI asked whether an agent had been assaulted, not whether the agent had committed a crime. Every killing was turned upside down.

Killers walk free, protesters go to prison

The government uses assault charges to make protesters and witnesses the aggressors.

More than 550 people have been charged with assaulting federal officers. Of more than 400 resolved cases, nearly half ended in dismissal, withdrawal or acquittal.

On June 23, federal judges in Fort Worth, Texas, sentenced eight anti-ICE protesters to a combined 450 years for a July 4, 2025, noise demonstration outside the Prairieland immigrant detention center in Alvarado.

The government called Roman candles "explosives" and treated anti-ICE politics and associations as support for terrorism. Marine Corps veteran Benjamin Song prevented another police killing when he fired on a police lieutenant who had aimed his weapon at a fleeing protester. Song received 100 years. Daniel Sanchez-Estrada, who was not at the protest, got 30 years for moving a box of leftist pamphlets. By July 6, sentences for the 16 defendants totaled more than 560 years.

A judge said the sentences were a message to "anyone who shares a similar ideology."

Prosecutors called the defendants a "North Texas antifa cell." No such organization exists. "Antifa" means anti-fascist; it is not an organization. The label turned a protest into a terror conspiracy and friends and neighbors into members of an invented cell.

In Minneapolis, where agents killed Good and Pretti and walked free, federal prosecutors indicted 15 immigrant-rights organizers on June 16. They were charged with blocking ICE vehicles, tracking agents and warning neighbors of raids – the work that drove the deportation force out of the Twin Cities. Prosecutors branded them "antifa" and could not name one agent they had injured.

The agents who kill are shielded. The people who resist face lifetimes in prison.

The government sends agents into neighborhoods without visible identification or cameras recording their actions, then protects them when they seize, beat and kill.

Families and communities forced the truth into public view. Relatives demanded names and records. Neighbors filmed the agents. Officials were pushed to investigate, and Mexico filed complaints over the deaths of its nationals.

In Minnesota, workers and communities went further. Community patrols that began in Los Angeles spread to Minneapolis, grew into mass action and forced an end to Operation Metro Surge.

The government isolates each killing and blames each victim. The movement joins the names together, exposes the lies and builds the power to stop the killings. #

U.S. out of Venezuela!

Free President Nicolás Maduro & First Combatant Cilia Flores!

By Stephen Millies

New York, July 22 – Two hundred days after U.S. troops seized them from their home in Caracas, Venezuela's elected President Nicolás Maduro and First Combatant Cilia Flores were taken in handcuffs from the Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn to a federal courthouse in Lower Manhattan, moved by armored motorcade behind a police escort. Supporters were waiting outside, chanting for their freedom and for U.S. troops to get out of Venezuela.

At the hearing, a federal judge refused to throw out the case against Maduro and Flores and set their trial for June 2027 – 18 more months in a Brooklyn jail cell for two people the U.S. government kidnapped at gunpoint.

In the Brooklyn MDC, Maduro and Flores are

separated in solitary confinement, not allowed to see each other. These cruel conditions are like how freedom fighters Geronimo and Nelson Mandela were treated.

The action was initiated by the Freedom Road Socialist Organization; Black Alliance for Peace; Workers World Party; December 12th Movement; Brooklyn Against War; CodePink; and Struggle - La Lucha.

Speakers pointed out that Trump attacked the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela because Big Oil wants to recolonize the country. A speaker from Struggle - La Lucha newspaper said that Trump seeks to turn back the clock to when New York Gov. Nelson Rockefeller had two huge ranches in Venezuela. Rockefeller, whose billionaire family founded Big Oil, massacred the Attica prisoners in 1971.

According to observers, President Nicolás



Protest at the federal courthouse in New York City.

Maduro and First Combatant Cilia Flores were strong and confident when they appeared in court. They haven't surrendered and neither will the people of Venezuela. #

Netflix's 'LITTLE HOUSE' reboot repackages the racist myth of the frontier

By Gary Wilson

Netflix began streaming all eight episodes of its "Little House on the Prairie" reboot on July 9. Before the first episode aired, the right had declared war on it. Megyn Kelly warned Netflix that if it tried to "wokeify" the franchise, she would make it her "singular mission to absolutely ruin" the project.

The uproar hid the real story. "Little House" has always been the origin story of U.S. capitalism told as a children's bedtime tale. The reboot changes the casting and the conscience. It does not change the property line.

The series follows Charles and Caroline Ingalls and their daughters as they leave Wisconsin and settle outside Independence, Kansas, in 1869. Showrunner Rebecca Sonnenshine gives a neighboring Osage family a major place in the story. The real Black frontier doctor George Tann becomes a close neighbor. The settlers admit they have entered land belonging to the Osage.

Osage cultural consultants worked on the production, and about 100 members of Osage and other Indigenous communities took part. The book that once said there were "no people, only Indians" now shares the screen with the people it erased.

That is a real change from Laura Ingalls

Wilder's books and the 1970s NBC series. It is also why the right attacked the reboot. But the new version turns dispossession into a moral failing that decent settlers can recognize, not a system of state violence that created property rights still enforced today. It asks the audience to mourn the theft without questioning the ownership the theft produced.

The politics behind the books

The "Little House" novels began appearing in 1932, during the Depression, and continued through the New Deal years. Wilder's daughter, Rose Wilder Lane, edited and reshaped the manuscripts. Lane was a founder of the U.S. libertarian movement alongside Ayn Rand and Isabel Paterson. She hated Franklin Roosevelt, opposed relief and unions, and preached that every household should face hardship alone.

Lane turned her mother's memories into heroic stories aimed at the New Deal. Their moral is self-reliance. Their history proves the opposite.

The Ingalls family's westward movement depended on federal power. In Kansas, they squatted on Osage land that the government and military were preparing to seize. Later came Homestead Act claims and railroads built with public money and land grants. "Independence, Kansas" became the setting for a myth of rugged

independence made possible by the government.

The land was never empty. The Osage Nation has condemned Wilder's books for generations because they turn removal into wholesome family adventure. That is how the frontier myth works. It takes land seizure, killing and forced removal, converts the land into private property, and retells the crime as thrift, courage and good character.

Marx described the process clearly: people were violently separated from the land and other means of production, creating capitalist property on one side and a class with nothing to sell but its labor on the other.

On this continent, the U.S. government, settlers, railroads, speculators and banks worked together to seize Indigenous land, divide it into deeds and open it for profit. The frontier was the front line of that process. The myth turns the front line into a family picnic.

Kansas makes the point especially clear. Before the Ingalls arrived, the territory ran red over whether seized western land would be worked by enslaved people or absorbed into free-labor capitalism. Both sides treated the theft of Indigenous land as settled.

The white settler's "freedom" rested on someone else's unfreedom: Native nations driven

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Corporate secrecy & contaminated lettuce: The trail to Taylor Farms

By Gary Wilson

More than 11,000 cases of cyclosporiasis have been reported across 46 states this year. Several outbreaks are underway at once. The largest known surge is in the Midwest, where Michigan had recorded 6,148 cases and Ohio more than 2,000 by July 20.

In the investigation of that Midwest outbreak, the laboratory result failed. The traceback remains.

A border sample of Taylor Farms lettuce initially tested positive for *Cyclospora*. The Food and Drug Administration withdrew the result the next day after a second review found it was a false positive.

Taylor Farms seized on the reversal to cast doubt on the entire investigation. But the border sample was separate from the lettuce implicated by patient interviews and shipping records. Based on that evidence, Taylor Farms

had already recalled shredded iceberg lettuce.

More than 90% of the people interviewed by investigators said they had eaten at Taco Bell before becoming sick. The FDA then followed invoices, receipts and distribution records for the shredded iceberg lettuce served at the implicated restaurants.

Those records identified Taylor Farms de Mexico as the single supplier. The traceback then narrowed the lettuce to one farm in central Mexico that supplied the Taylor Farms operation.

That is strong epidemiological evidence.

Cyclospora is difficult to detect. Symptoms may not appear for two weeks. The parasite is microscopic, usually present in small amounts and hard to confirm in a laboratory.

The lettuce passed through harvesting, processing, packing and distribution before reaching restaurants and stores. After leaving the farm, it moved through Taylor Farms' largely U.S.-based processing and distribution network.

The evidence points to Taylor Farms' supply chain, not to Mexico as the proven source of contamination.

The FDA likewise stated that the false positive did not change the "overwhelming epidemiological data" supporting the recall.

Taylor Farms de Mexico recalled iceberg lettuce distributed between June 29 and July 16 to 27 states. The products included shredded and chopped lettuce, bulk food-service packages and blends containing iceberg and romaine.

The company supplies restaurants, grocery stores, hospitals, cafeterias, hotels and other institutions. Taylor Farms says it provides as many as 160 million servings of produce every week. That scale matters. When contamination enters one part of such a system, it can reach thousands of people before anyone knows it is there.

Taylor Farms did not provide a simple list of every customer that received the recalled lettuce. Its recall notice used coded descriptions. Health departments, stores and consumers had to work out which customers the codes represented.

The Taylor Farms corporate food chain runs through farms, processing and distribution. When an outbreak begins, the corporation knows more about the distribution chain than the people eating the food or the public agencies trying to trace it.

The FDA food-traceability rule was supposed to take effect in 2026 and reduce the time needed to trace contaminated food from weeks to hours. By delaying the rule until July



A Taylor Farms facility in Salinas, California. Taylor Farms pointed to an unidentified farm in Mexico, although investigators have not established where in the company's supply chain the *Cyclospora* contamination occurred.

2028 at the demand of the corporate agribusiness lobby, the government preserved Taylor Farms' control over those records.

That delay left the public dependent on voluntary recalls and company-controlled records during the largest *Cyclospora* surge on record.

Federal agencies also entered the outbreak with fewer workers and less specialized capacity. The Trump administration eliminated thousands of jobs at the FDA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The CDC division that included specialists in parasitic diseases was dissolved.

These cuts matter because *Cyclospora* outbreaks already take time to detect. Delayed symptoms, specialized testing and fragmented state reporting slow the investigation even when agencies are fully staffed.

The government weakened that capacity while leaving agribusiness in control of the information needed to follow the food.

The initial laboratory finding that *Cyclospora* was present in the border sample was wrong, and the FDA withdrew it. It should be reported plainly. But it did not erase the interviews, invoices, receipts and shipping records that led investigators to Taylor Farms. It also did not prove that the parasite entered the lettuce in Mexico. Those are the two facts the company's public relations effort tries to collapse into one.

The public does not need another border scare. It needs the records.

Millions depend on this food-distribution network, but Taylor Farms guards its records as private corporate property to protect its profit margins. Disclosure cannot be voluntary. Those records must be opened immediately when an outbreak begins.

Taylor Farms still has not told the public where all the recalled lettuce went. #

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from the land and millions held in bondage whose stolen labor built the expanding country.

A more inclusive frontier myth is still a frontier myth. Putting an Osage family and a Black doctor on screen does not undo the taking. The land remains seized. The deeds, railroads, banks and agribusiness built on that seizure remain untouched. Representation is not restitution.

The culture war around the show keeps the argument fixed on casting and tone. Netflix profits whether viewers cheer or rage. The company renewed the series before the first episode aired. The uproar pushes aside the question of who owns the land and who works it now.

The history the frontier myth leaves out

Another history already exists, told from the side of those the frontier ran over. Louise Erdrich, a member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa, wrote her "Birchbark House" series as a direct answer to "Little House." It follows an Ojibwe family through epidemic and forced removal, showing the theft, death and destruction that "westward expansion" required.

A better Netflix reboot is not what is needed. The question is which side of this history working people stand on: the settler on the wagon, or the Indigenous peoples driven from the land and the workers whose exploited labor built the wealth of this system.

The frontier myth teaches workers to identify with the property owner. The real history teaches them to stand with the dispossessed. #

Rubio's enemies list revives the McCarthy witch-hunt

By Gary Wilson

The House Ways and Means Committee subpoenaed The People's Forum on July 21, ordering the New York organizing center to turn over its internal communications, membership records and finances by Aug. 7. Two other anti-imperialist groups, Break-Through News and Tricontinental: Institute for Social Research, were served the same day.

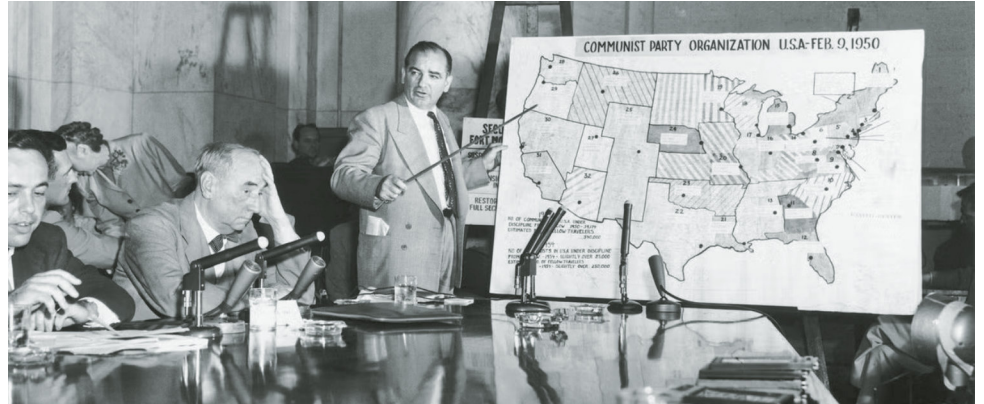
The committee calls it a tax inquiry into the groups' funding. It marks an escalation in something far larger – a coordinated drive by the Trump administration to brand the socialist, antiwar and anti-racist movements as terrorists, and to name, one by one, the people it means to persecute.

The enemies list came first. On July 20 the State Department released a 100-page report, "Cuba: The Capital of 21st Century Communism," that ties nearly every current of the left in the United States to Havana. Secretary of State Marco Rubio called Cuba the "leading sponsor of radical leftism." The report reaches back for its model without embarrassment, crediting the McCarthy-era purges and prosecutions of the 1950s with breaking the Communist Party and the militant labor movement of that time.

Then the roster. The report names at least 43 people and organizations. Among them are the mayors of New York and Los Angeles, Zohran Mamdani and Karen Bass; members of Congress including Maxine Waters, Ilhan Omar and Ayanna Pressley; the Amazon Labor Union and its founder, Christian Smalls; journalists Amy Goodman and Hasan Piker; and organizations across the movement – the Democratic Socialists of America, CODEPINK, the National Lawyers Guild, the Venceremos Brigade, IFCO/Pastors for Peace, the National Network on Cuba and Black Lives Matter.

The "evidence" against them is that they hold the wrong politics. A delegation to Cuba, a word of solidarity with a political prisoner, opposition to the blockade – these are what the report offers as proof of foreign control. It even concedes that DSA grew from "organic ideological commitments" and was not built by the Cuban government, then brands the group an instrument of Havana anyway. This is guilt by association, the method of the witch-hunt, dressed in the language of national security.

The report did not appear on its own. On July 16 Rubio gathered officials from 66 countries



Sen. Joseph McCarthy and his map of alleged Communist Party organization, Army-McCarthy hearings, June 9, 1954. Seventy-two years on, the State Department calls the purges of his era a model worth repeating.

at the State Department for what he called a meeting on the resurgence of political terrorism. There he coined a new category, "Far-Left Terrorism," and a White House statement promised that far-left politics would now be met with "the same seriousness and ferocity" the government reserves for jihadist attacks. Rubio said new terrorist designations for left-wing groups were coming. FBI Director Kash Patel and White House aide Stephen Miller sat in the audience.

The campaign is built on fabrication. Rubio told the gathering that 93% of terrorist attacks in the West between 1970 and 1980 were the work of the far left. Rubio offered no evidence for the figure or any explanation of how he dreamed it up. To prove the danger today, he had to reach back to the Weather Underground, an organization defunct for half a century.

He said the 2020 uprising after the police killing of George Floyd nearly brought the country to its knees; the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project found that about 94% of those demonstrations were peaceful. He called for Antifa to be designated a global terrorist network – though no organization or network called Antifa exists. Antifa means anti-fascist; the word names a political position, not a group. The FBI itself says it investigates violent acts rather than beliefs.

Rubio claimed Iran and Cuba direct the world's left – folding the antiwar movement into the U.S. war on Iran – while, as Reuters reported, presenting no evidence at all.

The rhetoric drops the pretense of law. Rubio called the radical left "the rebellion of the worst against the best" and declared that "the time has come to crush this evil once and

for all." The words echo Mussolini, who preached the "immutable" inequality of human beings. Rubio's language casts a whole political camp as an enemy to be destroyed.

One ambitious secretary of state did not invent this. It is what a ruling class reaches for when its system is in trouble. Its war on Iran has gone badly, its blockade of Cuba stands exposed before the world, and the movements against war, against ICE and against the genocide in Gaza have put millions into the streets. Unable to answer them politically, the billionaire class turns to purges and terrorist labels – the machinery of political repression used by fascist governments to criminalize and crush opposition.

The People's Forum has rejected the subpoena and is preparing a legal challenge. "We will not be silenced," said Manolo De Los Santos, the group's executive director. "We will continue to defend our constitutional rights and expose the political nature of this witch-hunt." Founded as a home for working-class education and solidarity with the peoples of the Global South, the center is assembling a legal team and calling on all who value democratic rights to sign its open letter against the subpoena and support its defense at peoplesforum.org.

The McCarthy purge was broken in the end by those who refused to name names and by a movement that closed ranks around its targets. A witch-hunt survives only by isolation, picking off its targets one by one. The government has named at least 43. The task before the workers' movement is to see that not one of them stands alone – and to meet the attack on any one as an attack on all. #

India's 'Cockroach' revolt shakes Modi – and the working class could break him

By Lallan Schoenstein

Baton-swinging police waded into crowds of students and young workers in New Delhi on July 20, firing tear gas and beating marchers who are posing the most serious challenge to the rule of Narendra Modi's government in years.

Protesters tried to reach Parliament under the banner of the Cockroach Janata Party – a name the movement took, in mockery, from a Supreme Court justice's reported remark likening India's jobless youth to cockroaches. Abhijeet Dipke, who harks from one of India's oppressed classes, coined the name in a fury of exchanges on social media.

The initial demand was for the resignation of Dharmendra Pradhan, the education minister who is responsible for a corrupt system of public exams. He is seen as responsible for leaks of the exams that ruin the opportunities of millions who spend years preparing for them. Parents even sell their homes to pay for the right to participate. In May, more than a dozen students took their own lives; organizers put the number above 20. Pradhan answered by calling the protesters "the B-team of terrorists."

The July 20 protest march, led by students, gathered on the grounds of the historic Jantar Mantar observatory in New Delhi. The march swelled as tens of thousands of Muslims, Hindus, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, people belonging to every caste and class flooded into the capital to join the students and to introduce their own grievances. The march rapidly escalated into a confrontation with Modi's government. Prime Minister Modi fled the city, and members of Parliament were trapped inside the new Parliament building.

In the preceding days, on July 18, the movement broadened in scope when police disguised as medical staff seized Sonam Wangchuk, the 59-year-old engineer and climate activist, dragging him from his hunger strike at the Jantar Mantar grounds where university students were joining his fast. He had come from Ladakh in the Kashmir region to join the student protest. From his hospital bed, Wangchuk called it illegal detention.

The young people who initiated the movement are, for the most part, students, graduates, and professionals. Among the marchers on July 20 was a commercial pilot who swapped his flying duties to be there; among the movement's backers, there were even civil servants who had voted for Modi's Bharatiya Janata



Students and young workers fill the streets of New Delhi on July 20 during the Cockroach Janata Party march toward Parliament.

Party. At its inception, the movement was led not by factory workers from the industrial belts or landless laborers from the countryside, but mainly by students, graduates and professionals.

That is worth saying clearly, because it marks both the movement's strength and its limit.

There is nothing new in a revolt that begins with the more privileged rather than the poorest. Writing in 1857, as the Indian soldiers of the East India Company rose against their British masters, Karl Marx observed that the first blow against the French monarchy came from the nobility, not the peasants, and that India's revolt began not with the ryots "tortured, dishonoured and stripped naked by the British," but with the sepoys "clad, fed, petted, fattened and pampered by them." Those who are better off may strike the first blow. The rising becomes a national revolt only when the broad masses enter. The sepoys sparked 1857, and it took the peasants and townspeople joining them to shake the empire. Where the privileged leadership stayed in command – the princes and the landholders – it made its deals and betrayed the cause.

The same question hangs over the Cockroach revolt now: whether it stays a rising of the educated middle class, or draws in the workers whose labor the whole country runs on – the one force that can bring it to a standstill.

There are signs of the second. In Nashik, in Maharashtra, members of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions and the All-India Trade Union Congress marched on July 20 alongside sanitation workers and farmers, condemning Wangchuk's seizure as an attack on democratic rights. Student federations have been an organizing backbone of the Jantar Mantar encampment since it went up on June 20.

The lesson is close at hand. In neighboring Bangladesh in 2024, a student revolt met the same official violence – hundreds killed – and could not be beaten down. When the students called for a general strike, and the working class answered, the government of Sheikh Hasina fell. A movement of students can shake a government. It takes the working class to bring one down.

India's rulers understand this, which is why the batons came out. According to a report on the developments by Arundhati Roy, there are "thousands of paramilitary troops" being flown in from other states.

The whole edifice of the billionaire Raj – its exam mills, its worthless degrees, its poisonous class system – rests on the labor of hundreds of millions of workers and peasants who have not yet had their say. The cockroaches, as the court called them, have struck the first blow.

Whether it becomes more than that depends on whether they can create the opening for the broader layer of society to fight in their own name.

#

China's open-weight AI exposes the fiction behind Wall Street's boom

By Gary Wilson

In July, free software from China triggered the worst week for U.S. chip stocks in more than a year and briefly knocked Nvidia from the top spot. Wall Street panicked because Chinese firms had matched leading U.S. artificial intelligence systems.

But the selloff exposed something deeper. The AI boom rests on the promise that a handful of U.S. corporations will own the technology and charge the world for every use.

China is breaking that monopoly before it can be built.

On July 16, the Beijing firm Moonshot AI released Kimi K3. DeepSeek's V4 was already on the market. Both compete with the strongest systems from Anthropic, OpenAI and Google. Both are "open weight."

Breaking open the toll gate

An AI model costs enormous sums to build. Once trained, however, it consists of a vast set of numbers called weights. Those numbers can be copied.

Release the weights, and anyone with enough computing power can download the model and run it without paying for every use. U.S. firms keep their strongest models locked inside corporate data centers. Customers must pay each time.

Chinese firms are releasing strong models for direct use. That threatens the toll gate built into every major AI stock.

The companies at the center of the boom are not earning the profits Wall Street promises. What customers pay does not cover the cost of running the models.

Technology writer Ed Zitron estimates that supporting Nvidia's projected chip sales through 2027 would require about \$380 billion



Visitors gather at Moonshot AI's Kimi exhibit during the World Artificial Intelligence Conference in Shanghai. China's open-weight models are challenging the monopoly profits built into Wall Street's AI boom.

a year in AI computing revenue. Current annual spending is below \$70 billion.

Even that demand is partly manufactured. Nvidia invests in companies that use the money to buy Nvidia chips. The sales lift Nvidia's stock price and attract still more investment.

The structure assumes that a few corporations will control the technology and collect monopoly rents from everyone who uses it. Open models attack that assumption directly.

Fictitious prosperity

Marx called wealth of this kind fictitious capital: a thin layer of real income supporting a towering mass of debt and stock valuations, paper claims on profits not yet made.

Corporations are building data centers, installing chips and securing electricity far beyond current demand. Each capitalist expects future profits even as the industry creates more capacity than can be sold profitably.

The expected productivity surge has not appeared. Businesses report little effect on

productivity or employment, while studies of the wider economy find no clear

productivity gain from AI.

Wall Street is trading claims on future monopoly rents, not present income from a profitable product.

When an advanced model can be run outside a U.S. corporation's servers, no company can force every user through its toll gate. The income assumed in the stock price never arrives.

China destroyed nothing profitable. It exposed how little profit stood beneath the boom.

The column holding up Wall Street

Capitalism regularly produces gluts. Too much money enters an industry and too much is produced. Companies collapse, capital pulls out and excess capacity is destroyed until profitability returns.

This glut can shake the whole U.S. economy because of its scale.

AI-linked companies account for about 40% of the S&P 500 and supplied most of the market's growth over the past year.

A collapse in AI stocks would spread through credit, corporate borrowing and workers' retirement funds. The same paper valuations that enriched billionaires have been used as collateral throughout the economy.

The Federal Reserve can pump more dollars into the financial system to support asset prices. It cannot create the missing value, make an unprofitable investment profitable or erase the loss.

Washington turns to coercion

Washington is using government power to defend the threatened monopoly.

Security officials have proposed federal restrictions, official warnings and an executive order aimed at open-weight models. The stated reason is national security. The economic pur-

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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Iran halts the U.S. war machine at the Strait of Hormuz

By Gary Wilson

The U.S. bombed southern Iran again the night of July 29, killing a father, mother and their two-year-old child in a home on Qeshm Island, at the mouth of the Strait of Hormuz. Two more children, ages seven and nine, were wounded. Hormozgan provincial official Ahmad Nafisi identified those killed. More explosions struck Bushehr province to the north.

U.S. Central Command called the assault a "powerful response" to Iranian strikes on U.S. forces stationed across West Asia – part of the same military network Washington used to open Operation Epic Fury on Feb. 28.

Washington launched that war to overthrow Iran's government and take back control of Iran's oil, which the 1979 revolution pulled out of imperialist hands. The opening strike assassinated Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei and members of his family. The war planners expected the state to collapse within weeks. It did not. Iran named a new supreme leader, and its missile forces kept striking U.S. bases across the region.

Five months later, Washington is looking for a way out of a war it cannot win. Iran will not give it one on Washington's terms.

The terms for reopening

Iran answered the opening U.S. assault by closing the Strait of Hormuz to normal commercial traffic. About a fifth of the world's oil moves through the waterway, and Iran has controlled passage through it ever since. Tehran's terms for reopening it are plain: the U.S. must withdraw from the region completely, release the billions of dollars in Iranian assets it has seized, and lift the sanctions it has piled on Iran for 46 years. Until then, the door stays shut.

That is the trap Washington built for itself. It cannot bomb its way to its war aims, and it cannot meet Iran's terms without admitting the war failed. So it keeps bombing – homes on Qeshm, a railway here, a power station there – to prove it still can.

Iran sets the tempo

Through the early months of the war, Tehran struck back only in direct response to specific U.S. attacks. That restraint is over.

When Washington paused its bombing in late July, Iran continued striking U.S. forces. On July 28, it hit Al Azraq Air Base in Jordan. Washington then resumed its bombing, including the July 29 attack on Qeshm. Iran answered with another strike on Al Azraq – the



Rescue workers and residents search the ruins of a family home destroyed by a U.S. airstrike on Qeshm Island. Qeisar Jafari, his wife Zahra and their 2-year-old son Sina were killed. Two other children were wounded.

Photo: Press TV

base Washington had used to bomb Qeshm. The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps said the missiles destroyed three F-35 fighter jets, damaged three more and hit the maintenance shed the aircraft depend on to keep flying.

Iran had taken hold of the war's tempo. Washington no longer decides when the fighting stops and starts.

The pause itself measured U.S. weakness. Gen. Dan Caine, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told President Donald Trump that the military's shrinking munitions stockpile could limit operations against Iran, the Associated Press reported, citing a U.S. official. It was no isolated warning. The Pentagon has fired Patriot interceptors and other missiles faster than U.S. arms factories can build them – by late April it had expended more than 1,200 Patriots, at over \$4 million apiece. Decades of guaranteed profits, monopoly pricing and neglected production capacity have left the arms industry unable to replace what the Pentagon is firing. The most heavily armed war machine on earth is running short of the weapons it needs to fight a single regional power.

The Strait answers to Iran

Nowhere is Iran's grip clearer than on the Strait itself. On July 30 the first Qatari liquefied natural gas shipment in three weeks passed through the waterway – along a route Iran designated, with Tehran's authorization, according to Iran's Fars news agency. Ships move through the Strait when Iran permits it and along the paths Iran sets. The IRGC stated the Strait will stay closed to normal traffic as long as U.S. threats continue, and warned that governments aiding the U.S. assault will face consequences.

The Gulf monarchies cannot escape the trap Washington has set for them. U.S. missiles were reportedly launched from

Kuwait even after Kuwait's ambassador to Washington formally stated her country had not permitted its territory, airspace or waters to be used. A joint U.S.-Saudi attack on targets in Iraq killed at least four people affiliated with the IRGC. The monarchies host the bases, absorb the retaliation and plead with Washington to call off attacks they cannot influence.

Nothing left to negotiate

Tehran has drawn its own conclusion. Washington opened this war the morning after Omani mediators announced a diplomatic breakthrough, bombed Iran again during later talks, and tore up a signed memorandum of understanding within weeks – sending warships into the Strait to seize it in open defiance of the agreement it had just signed. Negotiations with the Trump administration have become a dead end. Mohammad Marandi, a professor at the University of Tehran, said flatly that Iran has no interest in talking to Trump or his representatives. Iran's aim is to force the U.S. out.

The system behind the war

Cooler heads and better diplomats will not fix the war on Iran. It grows out of a monopoly-capitalist system that must dominate the oil chokepoints of West Asia and can no longer do it. Unable to win, and unable to quit on any terms it can stomach, Washington keeps killing to display a power it no longer possesses. The dead on Qeshm are the result.

Across West Asia, the imperialist advance is being stopped and thrown back. Iran, with Yemen alongside it, is holding that line against the U.S. war machine.

Five months in, the initiative belongs to the nation Washington set out to break. Iran holds the door to the Strait of Hormuz, and it is not opening it. #

The assault on Black Voting Rights

Continued from page 1

covers Arkansas, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota.

After conservative Justice Neil Gorsuch issued a single-paragraph opinion in 2021 calling into question the private right of action under Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, multiple states used the same legal argument for the first time against Section 208, saying that only the U.S. attorney general has the right to bring lawsuits under that section.

The case that the justices decided not to take up was brought by the immigrant advocacy group Arkansas United, which has provided Spanish-language interpreters at polling sites to assist voters with limited English proficiency. After Arkansas United won in the trial court, GOP state officials appealed, and the 8th Circuit reversed the decision in July 2025, ruling that private groups like Arkansas United do not have the right to bring this kind of lawsuit.

The net effect: a dramatic decline in voting rights lawsuits protecting the right to vote.

For decades, enforcement of these sections of the Voting Rights Act has mainly been driven by lawsuits by private individuals and groups.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 outlawed discriminatory voting practices that discouraged and disenfranchised Black and Brown peoples. It also mandated federal oversight and preclearance for election law changes in jurisdictions with a history of discrimination.

As the ACLU of Louisiana said, a court has allowed Gov. Landry “to suspend part of an election already in progress and disenfranchise voters who have already cast their ballots.”

Violence has followed decisions like this from the Court.

After the Civil War ended and slavery was abolished in 1865, Reconstruction governments for the first time allowed Black former slaves in the South a taste of self-determination. But decreasing exploitation threatened the interests of former slave owners and financial and industrial monopolies in the North – so the unelected highest court was used to deny the democratic rights of African people.

White supremacist organizations like the Ku Klux Klan used extreme violence and the Supreme Court enabled this anti-Black violence to thrive by systematically stripping away the federal legal protections that had previously been put in place. This is how the disenfranchisement of Black voters created a self-reinforcing cycle: violence suppressed the Black vote, and the Court’s rulings ensured that violence could go unpunished, which in turn fueled more violence and further disenfranchisement.

The Equal Justice Initiative (EJI) has documented nearly 6,500 lynchings of Black people from 1865 to 1950. The Supreme Court – complicit with reactionary state officials – has a history of establishing historic and very dangerous trends.

The EJI highlights a Louisiana case that set the precedent for the country:

In the Slaughter-House Cases of 1873, the Court used a false interpretation of the 14th Amendment, forcing Black residents’ claims of injustice – even those resulting in death – to remain in state courts dominated by white power structures, stripping away federal protection for Black people. In other words, they could only look for justice from the very

state systems run by the people complicit in, or sympathetic to, the violence.

Then *United States v. Cruikshank* (1876) effectively decriminalized white supremacist murder through the Court’s interpretation of the Enforcement Act – gutting the act’s intent to defend and ensure democratic access to the ballot and public office. The case arose from federal charges against the perpetrators of the Colfax Massacre of April 13, 1873, in which as many as 150 Black men were murdered. This violence was explicitly about overturning an election and removing Black officials from local office, making it a direct attack on the political power of Black voters. (Eric Foner, “Reconstruction: America’s Unfinished Revolution,” 1988)

The Supreme Court overturned the convictions, ruling that the 14th Amendment only prohibited actions by the state, not private individuals. The Enforcement Act, which Congress had passed specifically to allow the federal government to prosecute civil rights violations as crimes, was rendered useless.

Black residents were now at the mercy of white terrorists, so long as the terrorists were private actors, not representing the state. The Justice Department immediately dropped 179 prosecutions in Mississippi. The signal to the South was unmistakable: racial violence to suppress Black rights would not be federally punished.

Today’s attack on the Voting Rights Act in Louisiana is again a test run to see whether it can be exported across the South. That has already happened in Tennessee, where the

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China’s open-weight AI exposes the fiction behind Wall Street’s boom

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pose is to wall off Chinese systems, tie U.S. businesses to U.S.-owned models and preserve the toll gate.

In June, a Commerce Department order barred Anthropic from offering its most powerful model for 19 days by placing it under export controls.

This is the chip war in another form. U.S. sanctions failed to stop China from developing advanced semiconductors and AI systems. Now coercion is being used to defend a monopoly that competition has already broken.

When the market cannot preserve monopoly profits, the capitalist state steps in.

A different direction

At the World Artificial Intelligence Conference in Shanghai on July 17, Xi Jinping called for AI to be developed openly as a shared asset of humanity. Dozens of countries joined a new cooperation body headquartered in Shanghai.

That policy rests on a foundation created by the 1949 Chinese Revolution: state banks, public enterprises and national planning able to direct investment toward production and public use.

Chinese technology companies compete and seek profits. But the state can direct credit, infrastructure and research toward national development instead of leaving every decision to private monopoly rent.

That is the source of Wall Street’s panic.

The U.S. capitalist class staked the economy on enclosing a technology created through the collective labor and accumulated knowledge of the whole world. It planned to sell that technology back at a monopoly price.

The enclosure is failing. The fictitious wealth built upon it is enormous and fragile.

When the crisis breaks, the capitalist class will try to force the consequences onto workers through layoffs, wage cuts, lost pensions, inflation and austerity.

Workers created the technology and produced the wealth that financed it. The decisive question is who will own it and whose needs it will serve.

Wall Street’s answer is a toll gate. The workers’ answer must be social ownership and public use.

#

Black struggle was at the heart of winning the Voting Rights Act in Selma and Montgomery, and Black representation is the special target now because it's a central part of every struggle of the working class in the U.S.

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Legislature passed – and Gov. Bill Lee signed into law in May – a new congressional map that breaks Memphis, the largest majority-Black city in the South, into three districts, erasing the state's only majority-Black district.

Justice Elena Kagan, dissenting from the April 29 Callais ruling, joined by Justices Sonia Sotomayor and Ketanji Brown Jackson, clarified the repercussions:

"The Voting Rights Act is – or, now more accurately, was – 'one of the most consequential, efficacious, and amply justified exercises of federal legislative power in our Nation's history.' It was born of the literal blood of Union soldiers and civil rights marchers. It ushered in awe-inspiring change, bringing this Nation closer to fulfilling the ideals of democracy and racial equality. And it has been repeatedly, and overwhelmingly, reauthorized by the people's representatives in Congress. Only they have the right to say it is no longer needed – not the Members of this Court. I dissent, then, from this latest chapter in the majority's now-completed demolition of the Voting Rights Act."

Black struggle was at the heart of winning the Voting Rights Act in Selma and Montgomery, and Black representation is the special target now because it's a central part of every struggle of the working class in the U.S. The Supreme Court's robes may give it an air of neutrality, but its record from Dred Scott in 1857 to Plessy v. Ferguson in 1896 to today's rulings shows a different reality – with evidence of consistent actions to build white supremacy, slavery and disenfranchisement of oppressed peoples.

But the struggle did not stop there. The victory of establishing the Voting Rights Act of 1965, a product of the Civil Rights Movement, significantly contributed to the decline of lynchings of Black people and the elimination of Jim Crow laws. The movement's forcing of the Department of Justice and FBI to investigate and prosecute racial violence with new federal laws chal-

lenging violent institutions of hate changed the paradigm. The impunity given to the Ku Klux Klan and other racist vigilante groups and white supremacists temporarily ceased. But the violence is again more enthusiastically encouraged by President Trump and the increased push towards fascism – which could not happen without the complicity and collaboration with the Democratic Party.

The solidarity of Black and Brown peoples with other victims of terror, colonialism and imperialism comes from a shared history of apartheid-like repression and occupation – like the denial of voting assistance to Spanish speakers and other non-English speakers.

Black activists, revolutionaries and intellectuals have long connected these struggles. Renowned author James Baldwin, born in Harlem – who faced systemic racism in the North – was a strong supporter of the Palestinian struggle against Israel's occupation.

In "Open Letter to the Born Again," published in *The Nation* on Sept. 29, 1979, Baldwin wrote:

"But the state of Israel was not created for the salvation of the Jews; it was created for the salvation of the Western interests. This is what is becoming clear (I must say that it was always clear to me). The Palestinians have been paying for the British colonial policy of 'divide and rule' and for Europe's guilty Christian conscience for more than thirty years."

When the living costs rise, while wages sink, and the military seems to soak up every last dime, the fight against fascism, the fight

against genocide, becomes even more relevant to the daily lives of all working people.

The U.S. war on Iran had an immediate effect on inflation, driving up the cost of personal and commercial transportation. The wars on Cuba and Venezuela, along with military aid to Israel, add to the inflated ask of Trump's \$1.5 trillion military budget. The U.S. share of the world's GDP was 50% after World War II and is now down to 26%, and U.S. manufacturing produces only 16% of the world total, while China's share is double that.

The fastest-growing investment on Wall Street is in AI – used as a tool to cut jobs rather than expand production.

As unproductive military spending increases, the economy weakens. Health care, Medicare, food stamps, housing and education are sacrificed along with the living standards and lives of workers. Much of the value created by workers is going right into the pockets of the military-industrial complex. Elon Musk, a favorite of the U.S. military, is becoming the first trillionaire through his AI company and SpaceX.

The real cost of war is the lives of the school children in Iran hit by U.S. bombs and Israel's acts of extermination against the children in Gaza; the cost of those dying from lack of health care – from the U.S. to the Global South due to the economic war of sanctions and IMF debt.

This is not sustainable, and our international solidarity – pushing against the immorality of the trillionaires and billionaires and their war against humanity – is the cure. #

AGAINST FASCISM Gregory E. Williams

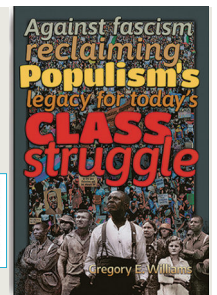
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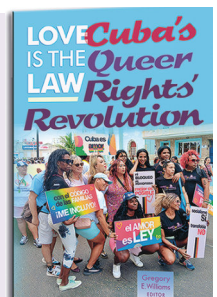
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House votes to lock Israel into U.S. war machine for wider war

By Gary Wilson

The U.S. House voted 216-212 on July 22 for legislation that would make the merger of U.S. and Israeli military industry permanent.

Section 219 of the 2027 National Defense Authorization Act would create a United States-Israel Defense Technology Cooperation Initiative. A Pentagon agent would direct joint research, testing and production.

The House Rules Committee blocked an amendment by Reps. Thomas Massie and Ro Khanna to strike the section. It allowed two cosmetic changes instead: removing the word “integration” and extending reports to Congress. Neither touched the Pentagon agent or the joint production lines.

The changes passed by voice vote inside a package of more than 50 amendments. The House deleted “integration” and left the integration in place.

A permanent joint war industry

The vote came five months into the U.S. war on Iran. Bombing paused after 13 straight nights of U.S. strikes through July 23. Trump said the halt would give negotiations room to proceed while threatening a larger assault if they failed. Iran suspended retaliatory attacks while the U.S. pause continued. No formal ceasefire was announced.

Washington is preparing for a longer and wider war. Section 219 would make the military industry of Israel, a garrison state of U.S. imperialism in West Asia, a permanent part of that preparation.

Instead of relying on annual military aid, it would build a joint military-industrial base meant to outlast any administration. The Pentagon and U.S. contractors would direct one side. Israeli military industry would operate on the other.

The Senate bill says “integration”

Senate Section 1217 does not create the Pentagon executive-agent position. But it calls for Israeli technology to be integrated into U.S. military systems, joint ventures and U.S.-based production, along with joint training and data sharing.

Its reports would recommend further authority for the “long-term integration of joint capabilities.” The bills differ over the machinery. They agree on the destination.

Who commands whom

Some right-wing opponents say Israel and its lobby have seized control of Washington



A U.S. Army THAAD missile-defense battery. In the war on Iran, U.S. crews operating systems like this one engaged more of the missiles aimed at Israel than Israel's own forces did.

and dragged the U.S. into war against its own interests. Netanyahu encouraged that claim when he called the shift from aid to partnership “my plan.”

But Israel does not command Washington. U.S. aid has grown unpopular as the slaughter in Gaza continues. Washington's answer is to hide the aid inside weapons contracts and joint factories where the public cannot see it and Congress cannot easily cut it. Netanyahu supports the plan because it keeps weapons flowing. Washington writes it into law because it serves a U.S. war.

The war on Iran showed Israel's dependence. U.S. forces engaged about twice as many Iranian missiles as Israel's forces and used half the Pentagon's THAAD interceptor inventory. In one 24-hour stretch in late April, the U.S. shipped Israel 6,500 tons of bombs and equipment.

Israel cannot sustain a major war without U.S. weapons, missile defense and resupply. During Israel's June 2025 attack on Iran, its aircraft and weapons could not reach the deepest fortified nuclear sites. The U.S. carried out that mission, sending seven B-2 bombers to drop 14 30,000-pound Massive Ordnance Penetrators.

Israel's warplanes are U.S.-built. Its bunker-busting bombs are U.S.-made. Its missile-defense systems depend heavily on U.S. financing, technology and joint production. Since the war on Gaza began in October 2023, Washington has sent Israel more than 100 separate weapons shipments, each kept below the level requiring notice to Congress.

A garrison that depends on the empire for

large-scale replenishment and its hardest missions does not command the empire that arms it.

Israel also holds the region's only nuclear arsenal, built with Western help and shielded by Washington. It remains officially unacknowledged and outside international inspection and IAEA safeguards. The U.S. makes war on Iran over the bomb Iran does not have while guarding the one its garrison already keeps.

The lobby and the ruling class

The pro-Israel lobby is real, and it spends heavily. All four sponsors of the U.S.-Israel FUTURES Act, whose language became Section 219, received substantial support from AIPAC and allied donors. When Massie opposed the war and the aid, pro-Israel groups spent more than \$15.8 million to defeat him.

But the lobby acted for the ruling class, not against it. It moves when it lines up with the war aims of U.S. monopoly capital. It is an instrument of that policy, not a foreign hand steering Washington from outside.

Liberal opponents make a softer version of the same mistake. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez called Section 219 an “existential threat” to U.S. sovereignty. Bernie Sanders objected to tying Israel closer than a NATO ally. But Section 219 does not give U.S. power away. It strengthens the machinery of U.S. imperialist war.

Built for a wider war

Washington entered the war on Iran to defend U.S. control of oil, shipping lanes, the dollar system and imperialist power throughout West Asia. Israel is an instrument of that project. Washington wants more than an ally receiving an annual check. It wants Israeli weapons production fused to the Pentagon for a longer and wider war.

Section 219 grew out of the bipartisan U.S.-Israel FUTURES Act. Its sponsorship reflects a bipartisan policy.

The Senate has not passed its defense bill, and Section 219 is not law. But its version states the same goal: long-term integration of U.S. and Israeli military capabilities.

The House vote was not Israel taking control of the U.S. war machine. It was the U.S. war machine voting to lock its forward base more tightly into place for the wars ahead. #

U.S.-armed massacres continue in Gaza as Israel seizes Palestinian land

By Gary Wilson

An Israeli drone struck a funeral procession near the Ahmad Yassin Mosque in Gaza's Nuseirat refugee camp on July 17, killing eight mourners and wounding 20. The funeral was for a Palestinian killed by Israeli forces earlier the same day. It was one of a series of attacks on markets, funerals, homes and civilian gatherings that killed more than 25 Palestinians in 72 hours – all of it carried out with U.S. weapons, U.S. money and U.S. protection.

Gaza's Health Ministry said July 18 that Israeli violations of the October 2025 "ceasefire" have killed 1,144 Palestinians. Haaretz reported that 274 of them were children – an average of one Palestinian child killed every day since the "ceasefire" began.

The Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project recorded more than 40 Israeli air and drone strikes in Gaza during June, about 40% more than in April and the highest monthly level since the "ceasefire" took effect. Shelling declined, making the U.S.-backed assault easier to ignore from a distance but no less deadly. The U.S. war on Iran has turned attention away from Gaza and given Washington more cover to expand the assault there.

Gaza's population cannot escape. Israel seals the borders, controls food and medicine and drives families across a shrinking map with U.S. weapons.

Israel seizes more of Gaza

During the night of July 16, Israeli forces entered Gaza City's Zeitoun neighborhood, firing heavily. They killed one Palestinian, wounded three, destroyed homes and shops and forced families to flee, according to Drop Site News.

The October agreement drew a withdrawal boundary called the Yellow Line, leaving Israel in control of roughly half of Gaza. By July 17, Israeli forces had pushed the line westward to Salah al-Din Road, Gaza's main north-south artery.

Israeli forces are steadily seizing more of Gaza. They controlled 53% when the "ceasefire" began, about 60% by June and between 67% and 70% by July 16. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had announced a goal of taking 70%. Within about a month, Israel said it had reached it and they are not stopping. The seizure is being carried out with U.S. arms and political support.



Mourners carry the body of a Palestinian killed in an Israeli airstrike during a funeral procession in Nuseirat, central Gaza, on July 17. An Israeli drone struck the procession, killing eight mourners and wounding 20.

West Bank: raids, funerals and land seizure

The same U.S. political protection covers the seizure of Palestinian land in the occupied West Bank.

Seventeen-year-old Fadi Hamdallah al-Naasan died July 18, a week after

Israeli forces shot him in the village of al-Mughayyir. Occupation forces sealed the village before his funeral and fired tear gas toward a local school, as raids and arrests continued across Ramallah, Jenin, Bethlehem, Tulkarm, Nablus and Al-Khalil.

As of July 14, as U.S. bombing of Iran dominated the news, Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich announced \$434 million for 34 settlements in the West Bank had already been approved, with another \$358 million planned for roads. The 34 settlements bring the number established under Smotrich to 103. Washington also subsidizes the settlement drive through its tax code. An investigation by Haaretz documented a network of U.S. tax-exempt nonprofits channeling hundreds of millions of dollars to settlements, with the U.S. government subsidizing every deductible donation. An undercover Al Jazeera investigation released the week of July 13 found donors in Britain and Canada evading charity law. They funded settlements, Palestinian home demolitions and military equipment for settlers.

The U.N. humanitarian office recorded at least 35 settler attacks causing injury or property damage in a single July week. The 2026 total has passed 1,200 incidents in more than 240 Palestinian communities – about six attacks a day. The settlement drive and settler attacks continue under Washington's protection.

Israel functions as a U.S. military garrison in West Asia, and Washington remains responsible for what Israel does in Gaza and the West Bank. The U.S. supplies the aircraft and bombs that kill Palestinians, the money and political protection that sustain Israel's war on the Palestinian people, and the cover under which Palestinian land is seized. #

Defense Minister Israel Katz said he felt "good" seeing Jabaliya and Shuja'iyya destroyed. He said Israeli forces would remain in Gaza.

The weapons are named

An Al Jazeera investigation published Feb. 10 reported that Gaza Civil Defence had identified 2,842 Palestinians who were known to have been at Israeli strike sites but whose bodies could not be recovered. After exhaustive searches, rescue crews found only blood spray or small fragments of flesh. The investigation attributed this pattern to thermal and thermobaric weapons that generate extreme heat and pressure.

The report named U.S.-made weapons used in Gaza, including the 2,000-pound MK-84 bomb, the BLU-109 bunker buster and the GBU-39. Washington keeps replenishing the arsenal used to bomb Gaza.

The assault does not end when the bombs fall. Israel's prisons are another front of the same U.S.-backed war.

Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya, former director of Kamal Adwan Hospital, has been held without charge since December 2024. Israeli forces seized him after he refused to abandon his patients during a raid. He told lawyers July 14 that guards had beaten him again. He remains in underground solitary confinement, without treatment for an eye injury or pain medication. "Do everything possible to get me out of this place," he said.

A U.N. commission reported June 23 that Israeli forces had deliberately killed and maimed hundreds of thousands of Palestinian children – and kept killing children after the "ceasefire" began. A case accusing Israel of genocide remains before the International Court of Justice. U.N. bodies and major human rights organizations have concluded that Israel's campaign in Gaza amounts to genocide.

Reclaman Independencia para PUERTO RICO

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

El pasado sábado 18 de julio se llevó a cabo en San Juan una Marcha por la Independencia convocada por 20 organizaciones y partidos independentistas.

¿Por qué es esto significativo?

Porque mientras en este país, esta colonia, Puerto Rico, despertamos cada día con noticias desesperantes que señalan cada vez más el inmenso deterioro y la asquerosa corrupción de la clase gobernante local, estas organizaciones independentistas han dicho ¡Basta! para que su membresía y toda persona que aspira a un país libre, marcharan en una demostración de unidad en acción.

Porque si bien el desastre que estamos viviendo lo causa de forma inmediata el gobierno local, no es menos cierto que esta administración de la gobernadora Jeniffer González, es solo una gerencia achichincle del gobierno gringo de Trump y representa los intereses del imperio. Así como las que la precedieron, aunque no con tanto fervor asimilista como la actual.

El creciente sufrimiento y las carencias que experimenta nuestro pueblo por la falta de agua, de energía, de salud, de vivienda asequible, de buenas escuelas públicas y en general de todo lo necesario para una llevar una vida digna y en paz, está conduciendo a que más y más boricuas abandonen el archipiélago en busca de un ingreso fijo, separando a generaciones dentro de una misma familia.

Así que después de más de un siglo de la invasión yanki, queda demostrado claramente el fracaso del susodicho Estado Libre Asociado, la colonia propiamente, y se requiere lo más pronto posible, nuestra soberanía que la da únicamente la Independencia. Y como cada vez más se van cayendo las fachadas, las excusas y las mentiras que han sostenido al estado colonial, el pueblo se va definiendo. Sabe que no quiere la ignorancia, Sabe que no quiere la inestabilidad económica, Sabe que no quiere la corrupción asquerosa del gobierno ni la destrucción de nuestras costas y nuestros bosques.

Por eso, más y más personas ven la independencia como una posibilidad real. Sin embargo, han sido años de indoctrinación colonial a la cual nos enfrentamos, pero que sabremos combatir con proyectos de concientización popular.

Por eso fue tan exitosa la Marcha por la Independencia. Porque a ella se unieron muchas organizaciones comunitarias y



personas que en su carácter individual ya están cansadas del estado de sometimiento colonial y lo expresaban en una frase coreada constantemente, “yo solo sé tres palabras en inglés: Yanki, go home!”

¡Que Viva Puerto Rico Libre!

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



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