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Puerto Rico

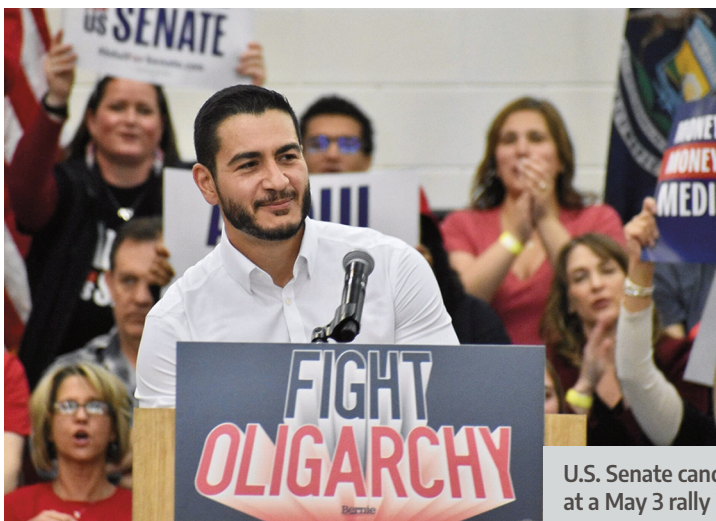
Working-class voters reject austerity & war Michigan chooses jobs, health care

By Lev Koufax

The Aug. 4 primary election victories of progressive Democrats in Michigan has been a cause for consternation among both the Democratic Party establishment and MAGA Republicans. Fox News would have the working class believe that Donavan McKinney and Abdul El-Sayed's election victories signal an impending doom for all free people. Establishment Democratic leaders would have the working class believe that these candidates are outliers and "radical freaks."

Both of these groups represent bourgeois society and both of these groups widely miss the mark. To be clear, neither Abdul El-Sayed nor Donavan McKinney are revolutionary socialists. Neither are committed to the downfall of capitalist

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U.S. Senate candidate Abdul El-Sayed speaks at a May 3 rally in a Detroit High School.

Justice for Corey Ruiz

Police called on trans men in Kansas

Mumia Abu-Jamal's support at the UN

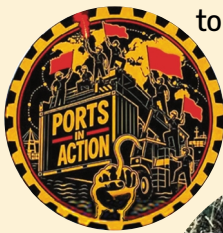
Corona, Queens says No! to ICE round-ups

LA honors Joe Crosby

Dr. Fauci and his inquisitors

Dockworkers worldwide back ILWU Local 6 struggle to save contract at C&H Sugar refinery

The Fanjuls, enemies of Cuba: practice forced labor & union-busting



Iran's resistance runs the Pentagon short of missiles

U.S. war on Iran shakes Japan's economy

They came to Cueta, Spain looking for work



'CUBA IS NOT ALONE'
INTERNATIONAL COLLOQUIUM

Fidel Castro Centennial
Decisions shaped a revolutionary



Justice for Corey Ruiz

Struggle against police terror continues in Madison

By Melinda Butterfield

Struggle-La Lucha spoke with Dorothy Brown of the Madison-based Wisconsin Bail Out the People Movement (WiBOPM) about the racist police murder of Corey Ruiz and how the people's movement there is resisting state repression.

Struggle - La Lucha: What happened in Madison after police killed Corey Ruiz?

Dorothy Brown: A rainbow of people immediately set up a vigil at what became known as Corey's Corner, at the intersection of Williamson and S. Baldwin streets, where Corey Ruiz was publicly executed by Madison Police on July 22. The vigil led to the people setting up barricades on each street in every direction leading to the vigil site. The entry points to the barricades were staffed by people's volunteers.

Since then, mass protests have taken place with marches, actions at City Hall and the jails to bail protesters out, and much more.

Corey's Corner became a special community, with contributions of food and water, a People's Library, barbers and hair stylists giving free cuts, a medical tent, assistance for the unhoused, and much more. The encampment was a place for community members to grieve, meet friends and to develop relationships with those that are horrified and outraged by the killers of Corey Ruiz and many others.

Many traveled from across Wisconsin and beyond – including from George Floyd Square in

Minneapolis – to pay their respects to Corey and his family.

SLL: Who is participating in the movement for Justice for Corey? What are the movement's demands?

DB: A diverse range of participants were at the encampment 24 hours a day, including union members, students, parents, teachers, workers of all kinds, and organizations such as Freedom Inc. Even after the encampment was destroyed by the city on Aug. 4, when many were arrested, people still hold space daily at the site where Corey was murdered by the cops. And the cops continue to menace the people and arrest some at the site.

The family of Corey Ruiz is presenting these demands:

1. Arrest the officer responsible for Corey Ruiz's killing [identified as Kiel Baitinger-Peterson, a 10-year police veteran].
2. Require the Madison Police Department (MPD) and Wisconsin Department of Justice Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) to fully comply with the Office of the Independent Police Monitor by providing any information, evidence, and materials requested for an independent review.
3. Give the Civilian Oversight Board meaningful disciplinary authority so it can hold officers accountable for misconduct.

The family has retained the firm of civil rights attorney Benjamin Crump to represent them.

SLL: How have the Madison Police and local government responded to the people's protests and demands?

DB: Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway and the police are in full opposition to the movement. The police in Madison and the surrounding metro area have



"Justice for Corey Ruiz! Arrest killer cops!" rally at the Wisconsin State Capitol in Madison, organized by Freedom Inc., August 3, 2026.

Photos: WiBOPM

murdered and brutalized many over the years – mostly Black and Brown people, but also poor white workers as well.

The mayor's attack on Corey's Corner confirmed her role as the bankers', speculators', developers' and corporations' representative in City Hall to keep the profits rolling at the expense of the people. Gentrification in Madison is reaching an extreme level. Rents in particular have skyrocketed.

There were numerous opportunities for the mayor to visit the site, but she never did. Instead she chose to send in the police, the protectors of the rich.

SLL: Why did the police target the memorial at Corey's Corner last week?

DB: The area where Corey Ruiz was murdered by the police is quickly being gentrified, with many forced to move out of this historically student and working-class neighborhood. This neighborhood has been a stronghold of people's resistance for decades.

Despite the challenges in Wisconsin due to capitalism and imperialism, including personal challenges present at times at the Corey's

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Corey's Corner

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Police called on trans men using women's restroom as required by Kansas law

SLL note: This piece was originally published by Erin in the Morning on Substack, Aug. 11, 2026.

Some of the activists who spoke to Erin in the Morning did so on the condition that their last name not be published, citing safety and privacy concerns.

On August 8, police arrived on the scene of Long Branch Lagoon Water Park in Dodge City, Kansas, to the sight of three self-described “bearded, burly men” who had been in the women’s bathroom and changing area. The manager of the municipally run property allegedly screamed and rushed children out the door.

The men knew this was likely. They didn’t agitate any of the women; they didn’t remove their clothes or make crass comments. They simply used the gendered spaces that the state of Kansas requires them to use by law, because these men are transgender.

“Supporters of SB244, including Attorney General Kris Kobach and Senate Majority Leader Ty Masterson, billed it as a way to keep men out of women’s spaces; it clearly requires some men to enter women’s spaces,” a press release sent to news outlets reads. So, these men took action—using malicious compliance to prove their point.

“Segregating people by suspected genitalia does nothing to improve public safety; it does quite the opposite by opening Kansans up to sexual harassment and discrimination. At no point should anyone be asking anyone else what genitalia they have in public.”

The men, dressed in yellow “Compliance Crew” shirts, were part of a small group of trans-masculine Kansans who used the women’s room at facilities across the state that day in a coordinated action. They were also spotted at a zoo, a library, a museum, and other parks. They were in Emporia, Great Bend, Garden City, and Dodge City. At the library, at least one patron complained; at other places, the men used the bathroom and received dirty

looks, and simply left the space without confrontation.

But at Long Branch Lagoon, members of the Kansas Compliance Crew resorted to having to describe their genitals to police in order to resolve the matter and avoid arrest.

“The men had a discussion with the manager and police and explained the situation, including uncomfortable descriptions of their bodies,” the press release said. Furthermore, both the manager and the police reportedly said “they had never heard of SB244 nor been notified by any government entity of its passage.”

“I could easily continue using the men’s restroom under the radar,” said Ray Vieux, who participated as one of the demonstrators.

SB244 passed in February. It enshrined biological, immutable, and unscientific sex definitions into state law, established bathroom bans in many government owned buildings, and purported to invalidate driver’s licenses of trans Kansans who had changed their gender marker.

Since the bill passed, Vieux continued to use the men’s room in public spaces “enough to land me in jail several times over if I had been reported,” he said.

“As a trans man, I have the immense privilege of blending in. But these laws force me to choose between safety and obeying the law,” Vieux told Erin in the Morning. “I want people outside of Kansas to understand that many of us don’t want to leave, no matter how bad it gets. But every time I drive with an ‘F’ on my license or use the restroom, I fear for my safety.”

Charles, a 52-year-old ranch hand, said he participated to show the impacts of the bill. “It was pushed as a way to keep men out of women’s spaces,” he said. “As trans men and transmasculine people, we have a really unique opportunity to demonstrate, with

action, visually, just exactly how wrong that was. That the law does not actually do what it was advertised to do.”

The group emphasized that they believed it was important for all trans people, but that trans women, in particular, were bearing the brunt of this anti-trans rhetoric about so-called “men” in women’s spaces. They’re not the only ones taking similar action; Samantha Boucher, a trans activist in Topeka, used the restroom at the statehouse to protest the bill, and law enforcement declined to intervene. Police seemed to selectively enforce a similar ban during an action in Texas.

Meanwhile, in states like Arizona, Florida, Massachusetts, South Carolina, and Louisiana, transgender and cisgender people alike have been accosted by law enforcement and/or civilians determined to enforce bathroom sex segregation, even in places where no such law applies. It has resulted in multiple arrests and physical altercations.

In February, the ACLU of Kansas sued the state on behalf of two transgender men who had their driver’s licenses invalidated due to SB244, which a senior attorney for the organization called “a transparent attempt to deny transgender people autonomy over their own identities and push them out of public life altogether.”

In the aftermath of Saturday’s action, Theodore, another demonstrator who is a case manager and transgender man in his 30s, said he was surprised by the sheer level of vitriolic backlash. But for the most part, in his experience, it wasn’t in the bathrooms. It was on social media.

When news broke of their small but mighty protest, there were threats of rape and violence, of people calling them pedophiles, of people spewing anti-trans conspiracies and hatred.

“I’m just a boring dad,” Theodore said, looking at some of those comments. “I’m out here trying to keep my kids safe, too.” #



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



Corona, Queens says No! to ICE round-ups

By Stephen Millies

Aug. 10 — Hundreds of people came to Corona Plaza in Queens, New York this afternoon to say no to Trump's round-ups of immigrant workers and their families. The working-class neighborhood has been targeted by the ICE Gestapo for round-ups of immigrant workers and their families.

People carried colorful signs declaring ICE = Gestapo and Hands Off New York. Overhead rumbled the No. 7 subway train. People chanted "¡El pueblo unido jamás será vencido!" — "The people united will never be defeated!"

Speakers emphasized the role of immigrants as essential workers, especially in health care. They denounced the revoking of Temporary Protective Status for hundreds of thousands of Haitians and demanded that ICE be abolished.

Among the groups that helped organize the action were Make The Road New York; New York Immigration Coalition; Las Doñas; Hands Off NYC; and the ACLU. Speakers included NYC Council members Tiffany Cabán and Shekar Krishnan, and State Assembly member Catalina Cruz.

After the rally volunteers went around to stores dropping off cards with information on how people can defend their rights against La Migra. Abolish ICE! #

Working-class voters reject austerity & war

Continued from page 1

society. However, both represent the working class's growing frustration with capitalist austerity and war. This is the same frustration and desire for better lives that propelled Zohran Mamdani to his mayoral victory and made Bernie Sanders a household name.

The importance of these developments is not in the candidates themselves, but the reasons why the candidates galvanized working-class people — from Michigan to Manhattan. One only has to look to the positions of Michigan's two progressive outsiders to see why they garnered working-class support. The reasons these two Michigan candidates won are very similar to the reasons that Zohran Mamdani prevailed in New York's mayoral election. Like Mamdani, El-Sayed and McKinney embraced messages of working-class empowerment and anti-racist advocacy.

El-Sayed's campaign for a Michigan Senate seat championed Medicare for all and called for curtailing U.S. foreign aid to apartheid Israel. He also ran against big money, arguing that grassroots organizing can outmaneuver and defeat billionaire one percenters. After the primary, he framed the result as proof that the power

of many is greater than the power of the wealthy.

On his way to victory over a well-funded Democratic incumbent in Michigan's 13th district, Donovan McKinney focused his campaign on fighting climate change, ending mass incarceration, and investment in everyday people. McKinney rightfully critiqued incumbent Shri Thanedar as a multimillionaire who spent millions to buy a seat in Congress, and as someone with more in common with Donald Trump and Elon Musk than with the people of the district.

These Michigan races follow a pattern that has repeated in recent progressive challenges. A clear program helps, but so does a clear opponent. When a campaign names the role of wealth in politics, it gives people language for what they already feel. When it pairs that with concrete promises like universal health care and campaign finance reform, the message is harder to dismiss as mere anger.

This country's working-class and oppressed communities should be tired of "waiting their turn." Throughout the entire history of the United States, some obscenely rich racists have called the shots. Every section of the U.S. working class is tired of this. Whether they are Black, Brown, LGBTQIA+, Immigrant, Indigen-



Anti-ICE protesters gathered in Queens.

SLL photo: Stephen Millies

ous, or any other form of oppressed working-class person, they are tired of the same song.

What the working class wants is free health care, guaranteed education, good jobs, and an end to war. They want to enjoy the immense fruits of their labor, currently being stolen by billionaire oligarchs who produce no value themselves. This is why the message of these progressive candidates resonated across Michigan's multinational working class.

As the general election for both these candidates draws closer, the racist, panicked outcry of the wealthy and powerful will only increase. For the progressive working-class movement, this should mean a response of solidarity and support for candidates like McKinney and El-Sayed. This support should not come from a place of genuine belief in capitalist reform, but from a genuine belief in the working class. Elections can be an arena where the working class develops its own point of view and learns to fight. Such campaigns do not replace the need to organize in unions or to build an independent working-class party.

Ultimately, no election will mean victory or defeat for the working class. That answer only comes from revolution; however, these victories are an important barometer. Working people don't want war, austerity, and repression. They want education, health care, and jobs. One day, socialist revolution will win exactly that. #

Mumia Abu-Jamal legal supporters appeal to UN to examine his case

By Gloria Verdieu

Mumia Abu-Jamal – a prolific writer, human rights activist, voice for the voiceless – told the Guardian in a telephone interview, “Hope is an element of Struggle, is it not?” He said, “As we used to say in the old days, ‘A luta continua.’”

Mumia Abu-Jamal is the most recognized political prisoner in the world. His case is known and supported nationally and internationally. Mumia Abu-Jamal is a grandfather, award-winning broadcast journalist, prolific author, and former Lieutenant of Information for the Philadelphia Chapter of the Black Panther Party. He has devoted his reporting career to supporting Black liberation and exposing brutality and corruption within the police and prison system. On Dec. 9, 1981, he was arrested by the Philadelphia Police Department on suspicion of the murder of a police officer after being shot himself. He was convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to death.

Mumia was initially detained pretrial at the Detention Center and Holmesburg Prison, from December of 1981 through May of 1983. He was held in continuous solitary confinement on death row at SCI Greene and Huntingdon for 28 years from 1983-2011. In 2011, his death sentence was overturned, and he was resentenced to life in prison without parole, also known as “Death By Incarceration.” From 2012 to present, he has been detained at State Correctional Institution (SCI) Mahanoy, a state prison operated by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

In September 2024 the Pennsylvania Superior Court denied Abu-Jamal’s sixth petition to reverse his 1982 conviction. A request to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court for permission to appeal was denied on March 26, 2025. Abu-Jamal is approaching his 45th year of detainment under the authority of the law of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Considering all the efforts nationally and internationally to release Mumia, with legal appeals exhausted, Mumia’s legal team petitioned the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention to examine Mumia’s case and support efforts to release him. The petition was submitted on July 28, 2026 by the Abolitionist Law Center, American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), Center for Constitutional Rights, California Coalition for Women Prisoners (CCWP), and Release Aging People in Prison Campaign (RAPPC).

The 20 pages of background and 48 supplemental materials submitted to the U.N. points out that Death by Incarceration is inherently arbitrary and RACIST.

Revolutionary activist, journalist, and author, Mumia Abu-Jamal, has been imprisoned for nearly 45 years following a racially biased trial, compromised by misconduct from judges and prosecutors, including exclusion of relevant evidence.

Free Mumia and All Political Prisoners. NOW!



(Submission to United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention on Behalf of Mumia Abu-Jamal) This petition says:

“Mr. Abu-Jamal is one of a staggering number of individuals in the United States condemned to die in prison. As of 2020, 203,865 people in the United States were serving life or virtual life sentences, of whom 8,252 were in Pennsylvania; 56,245 people in the United States are serving formal sentences of life without parole, of whom over 5,000 are in Pennsylvania. While Black people represent only 10.9% of the total Pennsylvania population, they constitute 62% of all those serving life sentences in the state prison system. A growing consensus of international authorities have condemned Death by Incarceration sentencing in the United States as violative of international prohibitions on racial discrimination.”

Mumia is 72 years old, served 44 years, has declining health, and does not present a risk to the public. He was released from death row and solitary confinement into the prison’s general population in 2012. Given the violations of international law inherent to life sentences without parole, will this working group find a legal basis for challenging Mumia Abu-Jamal’s sentence of Death by Incarceration?

Hope is an element of Struggle. We said it in the old days and we say it now.

The Struggle continues! #

Los Angeles honors Black working-class organizer Joe Crosby

By John Parker

Los Angeles, Aug. 5, 2026 – Harvard Boulevard Block Club President Joe Crosby died in July from a stroke at 78-years old. He and Essie Crosby started the Block Club in 1987, which expanded to include other streets in the South Central neighborhood of Los Angeles. The Club was unique in its emphasis on building unified community relations and featuring speakers and activists with messages relevant to the needs of the people living in South Central Los Angeles. The events spanned from holiday parties to protests in close collaboration with then the Service Employees International Union Local 660 (SEIU) against the bank foreclosures that hit Black and Brown communities the hardest.

The funeral service raised the continuation of work empowering communities and was insisted upon by the surviving family, neighbors and community leaders. Joe was also a veteran, understanding the challenges of other veterans denied care. At the service, many pastors from various Black churches, from as far away as San Diego, paid their respect for Joe. And they saw his life as a reflection of Jesus Christ and, without contradiction, some saw it as a reflection of the best of humanity working towards a better world right here.



Los Angeles, 2017 – Some members of the L.A. Block Club that defeated the cops, with Edith Simpson in the middle, Joe Crosby, club president, second from left, and Sekou and John Parker on the right with Diamond.

He and his beautiful wife, the mother and father of our community, made sure that our neighbors had a place to raise concerns, to exchange gifts, to help replace police

Sekou Parker, Maggie Vascassenno and John Parker were members of the Harvard Boulevard Block Club. John, in addition to being a pallbearer, was assigned to give one of the reflections on the life of Joe Crosby, which follows below:

I don't know if I deserve to speak about Joe, and I could go on for hours about this beautiful, important person – but I'll keep to my two minutes.

Let me make a list about Joe: selfless leader of our community; had a political understanding of this system's contradictions; would not tolerate injustice and imperialist wars targeting people who looked like us; would not tolerate the wars here against the hard-working people here from other lands; would not tolerate a world of poverty and the denial of the wealth built on our labor.

And in doing this, he would prioritize the needs of our community with conversations to check in on our families.

intervention with a process of community safety through organization with the Harvard Boulevard Block Club – and providing a place where we have Block Parties – a day of communal partying with children, to play dominoes, eat hotdogs, sing karaoke and – just feel the warmth of our neighbors.

You don't have to be a revolutionary to see and feel the benefit of their work, and Joe made sure even after the death of his loved one Essie, that the road to revolutionary change to a better world would continue.

Everyone may not understand the importance of the example Joe set in his life; they may not understand how love and concerns and conversations in community are the building blocks for a better world – but the first time our family came here, we could see it in our first conversation with Joe.

Joe also let you know what your responsibility to community was – and I know I have not done enough, but that look from a tall, intense leader when you haven't been doing what you needed to be doing – that picture in our heads will keep our family on the path of love and keep us passing on that joyful message to our universe.

Thank you, Joe. We love you. #



Dr. Fauci and his inquisitors

By Stephen Millies

Capitalism vs. public health

Dr. Anthony Fauci's appearance before the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs on July 29 was a throwback to the days of Joe McCarthy and the witch hunt.

The retired director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases was allegedly called before the panel to account for his actions during the coronavirus pandemic. It was really a trap set by committee chair, Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul.

The aim was to get the 85-year-old scientist to contradict his earlier testimony and then have him indicted for perjury or obstruction of justice. That's an old tactic used during the anti-communist hysteria during the late 1940s and 1950s.

Richard "Watergate" Nixon jump-started his political career by framing former State Department official Alger Hiss as a "Soviet spy." Hiss was actually convicted — in his second trial, the first one ending with a hung jury — of supposedly lying about whether he knew the informer Whittaker Chambers.

Like many of the witnesses badgered by Joe McCarthy, Dr. Fauci invoked his Fifth Amendment right not to answer the Senate committee's baiting questions. Rand Paul kicked Anthony Fauci's lawyer out of the committee hearing and is demanding that Fauci be prosecuted for "obstruction of justice."

On Aug. 6, the Senate committee voted 8-5 to hold Fauci in contempt. This right-wing offensive includes the red-baiting House Ways and Means Committee subpoenaing BreakThrough News, The People's Forum, and the Tricontinental Institute for Social Research.

The attacks on Dr. Fauci are capitalist revenge for any interruption to their profit-making, even during a deadly global pandemic. On March 25, 2020 — at the beginning of public health measures to contain the coronavirus — The Wall Street Journal ran an editorial and three opinion pieces demanding their end.

One of these articles, co-authored by Jay Bhattacharya — who is now Trump's director of the National Institutes of Health — was entitled "Is the Coronavirus as Deadly as They Say?" Over 1.2 million people in the United States would eventually die of the virus, with at least 7 million people dying worldwide.

Refrigerator trucks filled with bodies lined up outside Elmhurst Hospital in Queens, New York. Meanwhile, socialist China shut down much of the country, saving millions of lives.

What wasn't asked

What needs to be investigated is why the U.S. response to COVID-19 was so inadequate, even



Washington, D.C., July 29 — Dr. Anthony Fauci's appeared before the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

compared to other capitalist countries. President Trump was recommending bleach to combat it.

In the early days of the pandemic, nurses and other workers at Manhattan's Mount Sinai West Hospital were forced to wear Hefty garbage bags as protective clothing. Thousands of health care workers died of the virus.

The United States had a 70% higher death rate than Germany. That's because Germany had a more universal health care system owing to a stronger labor movement. Despite being economically blockaded by the U.S. for decades, socialist Cuba's death rate from COVID was less than a quarter of Uncle Sam's.

Senator Paul and his fellow witch hunters never asked about the greater death rates for Black, Indigenous and Latine people. During the pandemic, life expectancy for Black and Latine people dropped by three years. In the Navajo Nation, 1,771 people died of Dikos Ntsaaígíí-19 (COVID-19).

Enemies of the people

Nobody should be fooled by Rand Paul's occasional anti-war noises. His targeting of Fauci is part of his campaign to blame the People's Republic of China for the COVID-19 pandemic.

The senator is a vicious reactionary who, when he first ran for a Kentucky Senate seat in 2010, said that companies had the right to racially discriminate.

Black lung disease kills in a horrible way by strangling miners' lungs with coal dust. Miners in Kentucky and other states are suffering from the disease at a 50-year high rate. Yet Rand Paul opposed legislation to tighten safety regulations to combat it.

Last year the Kentucky statesman introduced anti-labor legislation to make the Taft-Hartley state-by-state ban on union shops mandatory in all 50 states. Rand Paul's daddy — longtime Texas congressperson, presidential candidate and all-around nut job Ron Paul — published racist newsletters.

Paul's fellow committee member, Wisconsin

Sen. Ron Johnson, is no better. Running against Mandela Barnes, the state's first Black lieutenant governor in the 2022 election, Johnson ran bigoted ads attacking Barnes.

The Wisconsin senator should be inquiring why Black babies in the Badger State are more likely to die before their first birthday than anywhere else in the United States. State Representative Shelia Stubbs declared that "Wisconsin is the worst place to raise a Black family."

Hospital closings = death

Nobody on the Senate committee inquired about the 50-year-long campaign to close hospitals across the country. Manhattan Borough President Percy Sutton, who had been Malcolm X's lawyer, led 5,000 people in a march to save Harlem's Sydenham Hospital on March 25, 1976.

Sydenham was saved then, but in 1980 Mayor Koch closed the first hospital in New York City that allowed Black physicians to admit their patients. Koch shut down other municipal hospitals while across the country 190 hospitals were eliminated in the next seven years.

Just in New York State, more than 30 hospitals have closed since 2000. Several of them, including St. Vincent's Hospital in Greenwich Village, have been turned into luxury condos. That's also happening to Philadelphia's Hahnemann University Hospital, which shut down in 2019.

It's even worse in rural areas, where from 2005 to 2023, 146 hospitals closed or eliminated overnight stays for patients. This wave of hospital closings went hand-in-hand with millions of factory workers losing their jobs.

Those beds were necessary, as the largest pandemic in a century proved. There has to be an "excess" of hospital beds in order to handle emergency situations. Their elimination amounted to social murder.

But the billionaire class was determined to eliminate hospital beds while they slashed social programs and benefits. Leading the charge was the ultra-right Manhattan Institute, with financial backing from Richard Mellon Scaife.

The slimy New York Post — which, like The Wall Street Journal and Fox News, is owned by

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Dockworkers worldwide back striking ILWU Local 6

The International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) Local 6 announced on July 27, 2026, that they have agreed to 60 days of contract negotiations with the California and Hawaiian Sugar Company (C&H Sugar). The union represents around 100 warehouse workers at C&H in Crockett, California. The company has attempted to take away retiree health care, reduce overtime pay, eliminate the seniority system, reduce sick leave, and unfairly schedule weekend work. Workers went on strike on June 15, 2026, forcing the company back to the bargaining table.

Below are solidarity statements with C&H workers from unions in Greece, Spain, Japan, and France.

Struggle-La Lucha earlier published a solidarity statement from the National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa (NUMSA) and an analysis of the struggle through July 31, drawing on interviews with Jarvis Payne of ILWU Local 6 and Local 10 retiree Clarence Thomas.

GREECE: ENEDEP Stands in Solidarity with the Strike of ILWU Local 6 and the Dockworkers of ILWU Local 10

ENEDEP, the dockworkers' union of Piraeus Port, expresses its class-based and internationalist solidarity with the workers of ILWU Local 6, who have been on strike at C&H Sugar in Crockett, California, and with the dockworkers of ILWU Local 10, who are standing firmly by their side.

The workers of Local 6 are striking against the company's attempt to impose a poverty-level collective bargaining agreement, with cuts to healthcare, overtime, leave and seniority rights. The company is seeking to crush the workers' organised strength, undermine the union and put its profits above their lives and needs.

The dockworkers of Local 10 refused to unload the Tai Herald, proving that solidarity is the workers' most powerful weapon. Faced with this determination, the company attempted to bypass the strike by moving the vessel to another terminal and employing a strikebreaking operation.

We condemn employer intimidation, the use of strikebreakers and police repression against workers defending their right to organise, to fight for better wages and working conditions, and to strike.

The strike at C&H Sugar concerns all dockworkers and workers who face the same profit-driven policy: work intensification, cuts, attacks on collective bargaining agreements, the undermining of trade unions and the repression of workers' struggles.



Crockett, California, July 23, 2026 – ILWU Local 6 members were joined on the picket line by officers from ILWU Local 13, ILWU Canada President Tom Doran, as well as officers and leaders from Canada Locals 500, 502, and 505, and representatives of the Oakland Education Association (OEA).

Photo: ILWU Facebook page

From Piraeus to the ports of California, workers share common interests and face a common enemy. Shipowners, multinational corporations, the states and the governments that serve them in Greece, the United States and the European Union want workers divided and afraid, forced to bow their heads for the profits and wars of a handful of exploiters.

From Greece to the United States, we respond with organisation, class unity and internationalist solidarity.

Hands off the strikers and the trade unions!

End all prosecutions and persecution of trade unionists and protesters!

Sign a collective bargaining agreement now that meets the workers' demands and needs!

Victory to the strike of ILWU Local 6!

Solidarity with the dockworkers of ILWU Local 10!

Workers throughout the world have the power when we struggle together, organised and united!

SPAIN: Statement of support and international solidarity from Coordinadora to ILWU

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Coordinadora Estatal de Estibadores Portuarios (the Spanish Dockworkers' Union) has been following with great concern the labor dispute you face at C&H Sugar. We express our full support for your defense of fundamental rights, including retiree healthcare, seniority rights, and decent working conditions. These legitimate demands have the full solidarity of dockworkers throughout Spain.

Our solidarity is far more than a symbolic gesture. It is part of a long tradition of mutual support among dockworkers worldwide. During the 2000 struggle of the Charleston Five, dockworkers across Spain stood with the ILWU. Dockworkers in the ports of Valencia, Algeciras, and Barcelona refused to handle cargo from Charleston-loaded vessels diverted away from that port's dockworkers. We remember it because what happens in one port is never just a local issue: an attack on one port is an attack on all of us.

Unity and solidarity are our greatest strength in times like these. You have the full support of Coordinadora and Spanish dockworkers. We will continue to follow developments closely and stand ready to support international solidarity initiatives

for a fair and just resolution of this dispute.

In solidarity,

Antolín Goya González Coordinador general de Coordinadora Estatal de Estibadores Portuarios (Spain)

JAPAN: Railway workers stand with ILWU

Dear Friends of ILWU,

We, International Labor Solidarity Committee of Doro-Chiba, strongly protest the union-busting, assaults and arrests of 10 union members and their supporters perpetrated by C&H Sugar Refinery and the police against ILWU Locals 6 and 10 and their allies. It is also clear that C&H was involved in the massacre of 19 sugarcane workers and their friends in Negros Occidental in the Philippines last April. They have repeatedly committed such wars against workers and farmers. We condemn these outrageous colonialist, imperialist atrocities.

The courageous strike by ILWU Local 6 against C&H, and the picket line established by Local 10, are legitimate struggles to protect working conditions and trade unions, and serve as a model of international working-class solidarity. We are proud to support these struggles.

In Solidarity, International Labor Solidarity Committee of Doro-Chiba (National Railways Motive Power Union of Chiba)

FRANCE: Le Havre dockworkers offer full support to ILWU strikers

Dear comrades,

We are outraged to learn of the discrimination you have faced — and continue to face — for your trade union activities defending your legitimate rights at the C&H Sugar refinery.

The criminalization of trade union action is a weapon used by the powerful to silence workers like us, in one of the few sectors able to fight to improve working conditions. Such repression is becoming increasingly common across the globe. The authorities' conduct toward the protesters is unacceptable.

We offer you the full support of all the Le Havre dockworkers whom we represent, and extend that support to the comrades who were injured or subjected to repression, and to their families. Please accept the fraternal greetings of the Le Havre dockworkers.

Le secrétaire général, Johann Fortier #

THE FANJULS: forced labor abroad, union-busting at home, a favor from Trump

By Lallan Schoenstein

Shortly after Donald Trump's second inauguration, his administration quietly removed the ban on sugar imports from the Fanjul family-controlled Central Romana company. The ban began in 2022 when it was disclosed that the Fanjuls' sugar plantation, based in the Dominican Republic, used forced labor and child labor.

In November 2022, the U.S. imposed the import ban citing five key indicators of forced labor — a modern form of debt bondage in which workers are trapped by poverty, isolation, and threats and cannot freely leave. The indicators included abuse of vulnerability, withholding of wages, excessive overtime, isolation, and abusive working conditions.

Research by the Corporate Accountability Lab (CAL) at the Central Romana farms had reported on the vulnerable condition of the sugar workers, mostly undocumented Haitians, as well as elderly workers who had not received retirement benefits. CAL also identified additional forced-labor indicators, including intimidation and threats and debt bondage. It documented other abuses as well, including forced evictions and inadequate housing without potable water or electricity.

The Fanjul family controls American Sugar Refining (ASR), one of the world's largest sugar monopolies. They acquired C&H Sugar refinery in Crockett, California, in 2005. ASR recently made headlines after the International Longshore and Warehouse Union ILWU Local 6 went on strike to protest ASR's demands for union-busting concessions, saying, take it or leave it.

On July 27, the ILWU strike forced ASR to withdraw its declaration of impasse and agree to 60 more days of contract negotiations. Local 6 members returned to work July 29 under the existing contract while bargaining continued through at least Sept. 30. According to ILWU sources, "Union solidarity in fighting against concessionary bargaining with our Local 6 sisters and brothers at the bargaining table with C&H Sugar will set the stage for Longshore Division contract negotiations in 2028. Across the country, even internationally, many are calling for support for Local 6 in this key confrontation for labor."

Rescinding the sugar import ban on Fanjul's Central Romana company in the Dominican Republic without concrete proof of improved labor conditions and the U.S. government's dismissal of allegations of forced labor was a



One sugar worker said that the company assigns jobs and makes decisions about how much someone is owed: "They are always underpaying us, but we can't fight for them to pay us justly because we don't have that kind of power." A study by the U.S. Department of Labor described living conditions on plantations as "inhumane" and "abusive."

historical throwback to acceptance of enforced unpaid labor.

It should be viewed in light of Pepe Fanjul's close political ties to Trump. In 2024, the Fanjul Corporation donated \$1 million to MAGA and \$413,000 to the Republican National Committee. Pepe Fanjul also hosted a \$50 million fundraiser for the Trump campaign in May 2024, The New Yorker reported.

On Oct. 15, 2025, at a White House dinner for Trump's ballroom donors, the president praised Fanjul's contributions.

"Pepe, you were fantastic," the president said. "He's got his little sugar business. He has a monopoly on the world's sugar — I would say that's a good business." He added, "He's been great and a supporter right from the beginning for years."

The Fanjuls also protected their abusive labor practices with a \$1.3 million lobbying drive, from the beginning of 2023 through the end of 2025, according to tracking from OpenSecrets, a nonprofit campaign finance group. The company hired several well-connected lobbying firms, Akin Gump, Barsa Strategies and Patino Brewster & Partners. Those firms employed former officials from the Department of Homeland Security, which oversees Customs

and Border Protection (CBP) and the import bans, as well as a former U.S. ambassador to the Dominican Republic.

Before the 1959 Cuban revolution, the Fanjuls ran one of the largest sugar plantations in Cuba, covering 90,000 acres of property. 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. The U.S. government supported inflated prices, some three times higher than those in the rest of the world. The difference was said to cost U.S. consumers billions of dollars a year, earning Big Sugar its label as the "candy-coated cartel."

For decades, the Fanjuls' labor, environmental and business practices have been toxic. Environmentalists accused their company, Florida Crystals, of spoiling the Everglades with chemical runoff from their 180,000 acres of cane around Lake Okeechobee.

From the Philippines to the Caribbean, the Fanjuls' sugar empire has built its profits on exploitation and attacks on workers. Those profits bankroll the right-wing Cuban-exile political machine, pouring millions into political campaigns aimed at attacking socialist Cuba. #

‘Cuba is not alone’: voices from around the world unite at the international colloquium

HAVANA — On Aug. 12, the Havana Convention Center hosted a solidarity gathering of more than 100 delegates from around the world, part of the First International Colloquium “Fidel: Legacy and Future.”

The forum, “Anti-Imperialist Tribune: Solidarity Cannot Be Blocked,” drew Miguel Díaz-Canel Bermúdez, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba’s Central Committee and president of Cuba, along with Political Bureau members Roberto Morales Ojeda, secretary of organization; Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla, foreign minister; and Teresa Amarelle Boué, secretary-general of the Federation of Cuban Women.

The event denounced the U.S. economic, commercial and financial blockade of Cuba, along with political interference and war in all its forms, and raised a call for rights and social justice.

“Your presence here demonstrates once again that Cuba is not alone,” said Noemí Rabaza, first vice president of the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP), opening the meeting. Her words rang through Hall 1 of the Convention Center as an answer to the imperialist siege.

The gathering brought together delegates from solidarity organizations across Latin America, Europe, Africa and Asia, who carried messages of support for the Cuban people and condemned U.S. aggression.

“This blockade is a form of genocide in the 21st century being waged against the noble people of Cuba,” said the vice president of the Vietnam-Cuba Friendship Association, who pointed to a bond that spans generations and grows stronger through resistance to the economic siege.

From Mexico, Magdalena Rosales, coordinator of the Mexico-Cuba Brotherhood Group, recalled the historic friendship between the two nations. “Cuba has always stood with the Mexican cause, just as Mexico has always stood with the Cuban cause,” she said, stressing the demand to lift the blockade.

“We know that one of the most sensitive issues is energy. We need all the peoples of the world to demand that the blockade be lifted. There can be no doubt about medicine. There are essential medicines. Why are Cuban children dying due to a lack of technology that is already established — the best in the world?” she asked.

Puerto Rican activist Soan Tanis was blunt: “We must say it plainly: the blockade against Cuba is a war.” She added that Puerto Rico, as a U.S. colony, understands firsthand the meaning of imperialist domination.

Gloria La Riva, coordinator of the Hatuey Project and a U.S. activist, gave one of the forum’s most stirring speeches, recounting a story of the Cuban people’s resistance. “Whatever it takes, Fidel — that remains the motto of the Cuban people,” she said.

La Riva recalled a speech by Fidel at a congress of the Federation of Cuban Women, where the Comandante warned of the sacrifices that would follow the fall of the Soviet Union. “He said, ‘If Cuba were the only socialist country, we would raise the flag high tomorrow to defend socialism until the last Cuban,’” she recounted. “He did this to prepare the people for what was to come. And those were times when many said: we cannot survive without the Soviet Union. But he did it through the unity of the people.”

La Riva pointed to material aid as a form of solidarity. “Right now, the primary struggle — in addition to what we’re doing in the streets — is material aid,” she said.

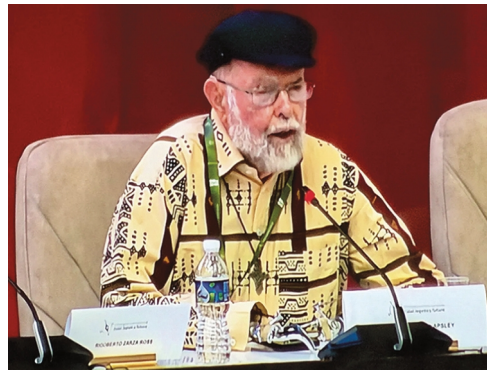
She said her organization has sent medicines and supplies to Cuba despite the blockade. “We’ve heard of many cases of children who would have died but were saved by what we sent. When we arrived at the hospital, the doctors told us, ‘What you’re bringing is exactly what we need.’”

Onyesonwu Chatoyer, co-chair of the U.S. Network of Solidarity with Cuba and a board member of the Venceremos Brigade, reaffirmed the commitment of U.S. activists to the Cuban Revolution. “Solidarity with Cuba is unshakable. We will defy the blockade as long as it exists,” she said.

From Europe, Italian professor Luciano Vassapollo was emphatic: “Cuba is humanity, Fidel is humanity; he is part of humanity’s heritage.” He hailed the commander in chief’s legacy as a beacon for popular movements around the world.

From Portugal, a member of the International Tribunal Against the Blockade called the initiative “more than a tool: it is a weapon of struggle” that brings the crimes of the economic blockade to light and rallies public consciousness against imperialist aggression.

Michael Lapsley, honorary president of the South Africa-Cuba Friendship Society and a survivor of apartheid, spoke of his country’s debt to Cuba for its support in the struggle for liberation. “Fidel’s legacy inspires us to continue fighting for justice,” he said.



Michael Lapsley, a survivor of apartheid, spoke of his country’s debt to Cuba struggle for liberation.

Photos: Bill Hackwell

Sun Xueqing, vice president of the Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, reaffirmed China’s support for the Cuban resistance. “The friendship between the peoples of China and Cuba is unbreakable,” he said.

Iraklis Tsavdaridis, executive secretary of the World Peace Council, praised Cuba’s commitment to peace and denounced the unjust U.S. blockade, holding up the Cuban people’s resistance as an example for the world.

The forum closed on a note of unity. As Norberto Galiotti, coordinator of the Latin American and Caribbean Continental Solidarity Network, put it: “A single drop is very little, but another makes a downpour, and that is the meaning of this solidarity.” It was a call to join forces against the blockade and to prove that, as Noemí Rabaza said at the start of the meeting, Cuba is not alone.

Source: *Cubadebate*. Translation: *Resumen Latinoamericano*.



U.S. worker pays tribute to Fidel from the Fidel Castro centennial in Cuba

By Andrew Matatag

President of the Republic of Cuba and First Secretary of the Cuban Communist Party Miguel Díaz-Canel, at the opening of the First International Colloquium of Fidel: Legacy and Future, described Comandante Fidel Castro as a "relentless worker and permanent student."

There is no more apt description of Fidel. And there is no better example of revolutionary leadership.

So many stories told during the Colloquium describe not only a leader who guided the building of a revolutionary nation, but of one who was deeply involved in every aspect — a relentless worker.

So many stories were of Fidel listening and learning, to profound effect, from the many cadres and workers involved in carrying out that construction of a revolutionary nation — a permanent student.

Fidel did not only embody these qualities himself — his exemplary action taught everyone around him to do the same.

One medical worker from the Henry Reeve brigade told of her time supporting births in an Indigenous Kichwa community in Ecuador. She recounted: "I thought I knew everything about giving birth. But the Kichwa community showed me what a physiological birth really was." She, too, is a permanent student.

Fidel's qualities were not only based on his merits as an individual. They flowed from his understanding of the scientifically determined interests of Cuba's working class and oppressed. He understood them so thoroughly because he genuinely integrated with the masses not only to learn their conditions, but to formulate solutions alongside them.

Revolutionaries in the United States — the center of world imperialism — should aspire to be like Fidel. We should aspire to be relentless workers and permanent students.

¡Viva Fidel!

¡Viva Cuba Socialista y soberana!



A poster by Cuban artist
Aristides Esteban Hernández Guerrero
is displayed at a centennial event
for Fidel Castro in Havana.

SLL photo: Andrew Matatag

"CUBA POSTCASTRO"

100 AÑOS
CON FIDEL

Aristides Esteban Hernández Guerrero. CUBA. 1963.

Justice for Corey Ruiz

Continued from page 2

Corner encampment, there was also a depth of real conversations and relationships building and evolving hour-by-hour and day-by-day.

With social media in the hands of many people's fighters at the site, people around the world were watching. People of all nationalities, genders, sexualities and ages were working together to cook, to have poetry readings, to take notes, share, produce art and to love and grieve with each other – and to organize on a working-class basis. The unhoused had tents and supporters at the encampment.

Corey's Corner also had an international component, with Palestinians and others educating participants about the intimate connections between the Israeli Occupation Forces in occupied Palestine and police of all kinds in the U.S.

The potential for future organizing is what scared the mayor, her capitalist backers, and their police servants.

SLL: *What kind of social and economic conditions are working-class people confronting in the city and state?*

DB: In Madison, Black and Brown residents face a variety of structurally racist obstacles, including lack of access to living-wage union jobs, adequate and safe housing and public education that meets the needs of oppressed people's communities. Wisconsin has some of the highest rates of incarceration and infant mortality for Black people.

Since the implementation of Act 10 in June 2011, Wisconsin has faced some of the most unrelenting austerity in U.S. history. Act 10 eliminated almost all collective bargaining rights for public-sector workers statewide and stipulated that public workers had to pay for their health care and pension contributions – amounting to big wage cuts.

In addition to this, Wisconsin became a right-to-work-for-less state in 2015 when the right-wing legislature and governor signed this Jim Crow-based law into existence. These two anti-worker and racist laws ushered in a period of austerity. Most tenant rights laws were eviscerated. Attacks on the LGBTQIA+ community and women's rights were rampant.

The right-wing Bradley Foundation used Milwaukee as a laboratory for the implementation of charter schools and so-called "welfare reform" in the 1990s, and then Wisconsin as a whole was used as a laboratory for what's now being done federally.

Madison and Milwaukee residents have faced a variety of other racist and anti-worker attacks from the right-wing legislature, including a massive drop in state shared revenue (taxes) sent back to these cities for desperately needed services. This austerity by the rich since 2011

has resulted in the robbery of tens of billions of dollars from working-class communities throughout the state in the form of increasing debt service to the banks, privatization and other IMF/World Bank-type procedures similar to what Wall Street did in Eastern Europe after the collapse of the USSR.

SLL: *What's next for the fightback? How can people outside Madison support the struggle?*

DB: The struggle for justice for Corey is taking place daily in a variety of ways. Many continue to visit Baldwin and Williamson streets to pay their respects and to resist the cops.

Those arrested and brutalized after the encampment was raided are healing and getting back into the streets to organize. Educational events and protest events are in the planning

stages. Much more is ongoing.

We urge people to call the Dane County district attorney and demand action: (608) 266-1221.

Supporters can make contributions to Corey Ruiz' family here: www.gofundme.com/f/justice-for-corey-telling-his-story

People can also elevate the demands of the family, share information about upcoming protests, join them or hold solidarity ones in their communities, and raise up Corey's name.

For coverage of actions in Wisconsin and more information about the ongoing struggle for justice for Corey Ruiz, follow WiBOPM on Instagram and wibopm.org, Freedom Inc. and Madison 365. #

Dr. Fauci and his inquisitors

Continued from page 7

the Rupert Murdoch family — campaigned for more hospital closures.

So when the coronavirus swept New York, there were nowhere near the beds that were needed. New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, a sexual predator, shoved thousands of seniors with the virus into nursing homes to open up hospital beds.

COVID-19 spread like wildfire, killing thousands of elderly patients. Hospital closings kill.

Struggle pushed back AIDS

Dr. Fauci was appointed director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases in 1984 as the HIV/AIDS pandemic was surging. Over 44 million people have died of it. Two-thirds were Africans.

The Reagan administration treated this immense tragedy as a joke. Bigots stoked homophobia as fascist preachers like Jerry Falwell blamed those who died. Haitians were demonized.

But the pandemic wasn't confined to the poor and oppressed. AIDS was killing members of the well-to-do set as well.

Dr. Fauci's appointment as head of NIAID reflected that. Yet it was thousands of activists in ACT UP and other organizations — many of whom were dying — that forced the government to do something.

Transgender people were not included in early studies and reports.

Despite people living in Jersey City having a higher rate of HIV infection than Haitians, Haitian people were barred from donating blood. Dr. Fauci went along with this racist prohibition.

It was 60,000 Haitian people marching across the Brooklyn Bridge on April 20, 1990, that smashed the Bush Administration's refusal to accept Haitian blood. Even after this mobilization, the New York Times ran an editorial endorsing a ban on Haitian blood.

People have a right to be skeptical of a capitalist public health system that conducted the Tuskegee syphilis experiments, which killed at least 100 Black men. Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore stole cancer cells from the dying Black mother Henrietta Lacks.

Dr. Anthony Fauci is one of the better-known figures of the \$4 trillion medical-industrial complex, although the real power is in the corporate boardrooms.

Senator Rand Paul is not our friend. Neither are quacks like Bobby Kennedy Jr. and Dr. Oz. These criminals support the Trump regime kicking millions off Medicare and Medicaid and ICE rounding up Haitian and other immigrant caregivers.

Health care is a human right. We have to overthrow capitalism to make it so. #

'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



Fidel Castro: The decisions that shaped a revolutionary

By Alejandra Garcia

Being a revolutionary is an identity built through the decisions a person makes, the positions they take, and the paths they choose to follow. In Fidel Castro's case, that identity began to take shape from his earliest years.

He could have followed the traditional channels of politics. Even under a dictatorship in the 1950s, he could have become one of the many leaders of the Orthodox Party who advocated negotiated solutions, electoral participation, and the pursuit of political power within the established limits. But he chose a different path. It was the most difficult one: the revolutionary path.

On July 26, 1953, leading a group of largely unknown young men, Fidel Castro spearheaded the assault on the Moncada Barracks, one of Cuba's main military strongholds outside Havana. The action caught a country by surprise and ended in military defeat and harsh repression against its participants. Yet Moncada marked a turning point. From that moment on, Fidel's political trajectory became closely associated with an idea that would recur throughout his life: the possibility of turning what seemed impossible to many into reality.

That became a constant in his political history. Fidel repeatedly made decisions that challenged conventional calculations about what was possible and what was not. His revolutionary politics rested, to a significant extent, on the belief that the limits imposed by circumstances could be transformed through political will and social mobilization.

In 20th-century Latin America, the fall of a dictatorship did not necessarily mean a break with the structures that had sustained the previous order. In many cases, political changes simply gave way to new forms of economic-elite dominance and the continued influence of major powers.

The overthrow of Fulgencio Batista on January 1, 1959, could have resulted in a limited transition: the end of the dictatorship, the reorganization of institutions, and the restoration, under new forms, of many of the economic and political structures that had existed before the 1952 coup.

Instead, the Cuban Revolution moved toward a profound transformation of the country's economic and social structures. Agrarian reform, nationalizations, the literacy campaign, and the expansion of education and healthcare were accompanied by a gradual rupture with



the United States and the construction of a new political and economic model.

Cuba found itself confronting the world's leading power. The Bay of Pigs invasion in 1961 and the subsequent confrontation with Washington placed the island at the center of the Cold War. The U.S. economic blockade became one of the main factors shaping Cuba's economic life in the decades that followed. Fidel had taken on a challenge that far exceeded the dimensions of his country.

From a small Caribbean nation, with limited material resources and shaped by a colonial and

Cuba's influence began to be felt across different international arenas. Education, healthcare, international cooperation, and solidarity became some of the main instruments of that projection. See n here with Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega and Grenadian Prime Minister Maurice Bishop.

neocolonial past, the revolutionary project sought to build an alternative to the dominant capitalist model and to project its ideas beyond the island's borders.

Cuba's influence began to be felt across different international arenas. Education, healthcare, international cooperation, and solidarity became some of the main instruments of that projection. Cuban professionals traveled to different countries, and the island acquired an international presence far greater than its geographic size or

economic weight might have suggested.

In this way, Fidel Castro's figure acquired a dimension that transcended Cuba. The island became a symbol of sovereignty, resistance, and emancipation in the face of the great powers. Even those who disagree over Fidel's legacy can hardly deny the historical magnitude of his impact. He did not emerge from a major economic power or from the center of the world system, but from a small island located on the periphery of the headquarters of global capitalism.

Source: Resumen Latinoamericano – US

Iran's resistance runs the Pentagon short

By Gary Wilson

In late July, after 13 straight nights of bombing Iran, the Pentagon drew up a multistage assault to hit the country's coastal defenses, missile launchers, power plants and ports. President Donald Trump's own advisers talked him out of launching it.

The big campaign stayed on the shelf. The war, now in its sixth month, did not stop. On July 29 the U.S. resumed bombing — but with a smaller punishment round, not the multistage assault its commanders had drawn up. That gap is the measure of Washington's position: it can still level homes and provincial towns, but it cannot even mount the campaign meant to break Iran's resistance.

It has run short of missiles it can fire without leaving its bases exposed, and cannot replace them fast enough for the next round.

Gen. Dan Caine, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, warned that the military's shrinking munitions stockpile could limit operations against Iran, the Associated Press reported, citing a U.S. official. Firing the heavier assault, commanders said, would draw down the Patriot and other interceptor missiles that shield U.S. bases across West Asia and leave those bases exposed to Iranian retaliation. The most heavily armed military on earth was made to hold back its biggest blow because five months of resistance had run its stockpiles low.

But the shortage is only one side of Washington's trap. Joe Kent, who resigned as director of the National Counterterrorism Center in protest of the war — the highest-ranking official to quit over it — warned openly that there is no military solution, that more bombing will not force Iran to open the Strait of Hormuz or accept a deal, and will only harden its stand. He called it "a bombing campaign in search of a strategy."

That trap holds regardless of who occupies the White House. It is the material condition of an imperialist power that cannot arm the long war its own aims demand.

Launched in weeks, replaced in years

Every interceptor the Pentagon has burned through was fired to stop Iranian missiles and drones. By late April — in the first phase of the war alone — it had launched more than 1,200 Patriot interceptors, each costing over \$4 million, against Iranian fire. Thirteen more nights of bombing and Iranian counterstrikes drove the remaining supply lower still. The Congressional Research Service reported in May that Iran had damaged or destroyed 42 U.S. aircraft, among them F-15E Strike Eagles, an F-35 and KC-135 refueling tankers. By July the Pentagon had lost around 30 Reaper drones, at roughly

\$30 million apiece — close to \$1 billion in drones alone. Round-the-clock U.S. air cover over the Gulf runs an estimated \$1 million an hour.

This did not happen accidentally to the Pentagon. Iran did it, and it did it on purpose. Its commanders announced early in the war that they would strike harder and more often — heavier warheads, more missiles, wider targets — to overwhelm U.S. defenses and burn through their interceptors. They named the opening phase — degrading U.S. radar and draining U.S. interceptor stockpiles — a deliberate objective, and called it largely complete. Behind Iran stand Yemen's Ansar Allah and the resistance across Iraq, widening the war against U.S. bases, shipping and Saudi oil infrastructure. Iran also has China and Russia at its back, with land and trade routes that no naval blockade can close. The empire's missile stocks are running dry because an oppressed nation and its allies have forced them dry.

The Pentagon can expend in weeks what U.S. arms factories need years to build. Its Patriot stockpile stood at some 2,330 interceptors before the war; by late July the U.S. had fired away roughly two-thirds of it, leaving fewer than 830. In June, Trump invoked the Defense Production Act to force the pace of missile manufacturing — an open admission of the shortage, even as the Pentagon tried to deny one existed.

Guaranteed profits, no capacity

Why can't the wealthiest military on earth keep itself supplied? Part of it is real: the chase for higher profits sent the base of the supply chain — castings, microelectronics, the processing of rare earths — abroad. But that is only the surface. The same drive for profit runs deeper, into the arms monopolies themselves.

Lockheed, Raytheon, Boeing, General Atomics and the rest have feasted on the military budget for decades on terms that guarantee their profits no matter what they deliver. They charge \$4 million for a single interceptor and \$30 million for a drone — monopoly prices, set by a handful of firms protected from effective competition.

What those guaranteed profits have never required them to build is the productive capacity a prolonged war demands. Idle capacity earns nothing. A thin production line turning out a few high-priced missiles a month earns a great deal.

This runs against the usual pattern. Left to compete, capital tends to build too much — firms race for market share, flood the market and choke on the glut that breeds capitalist crisis. Arms capital is spared that race. It answers to a single buyer at guaranteed prices, and no rival can seize the market by building first. Shielded from the pressure that drives other capital to overbuild, the monopolies do the opposite and under-build by design — thin lines, high prices, no plant left to sit idle between wars. The same drive for profit that gluts other industries starves this one of capacity.

So the monopolies kept production thin, pocketed the guaranteed profits and left the Pentagon without the plant, workforce or supplier base needed for a long war. Now the same monopolies demand billions more to supply what decades of military spending never produced. On July 29, the Army awarded Lockheed Martin a Patriot missile contract worth up to \$58.6 billion over seven years. Even under that contract, production capacity is not expected to catch up before 2032.

The result is an arsenal that empties faster than it fills. And it is worth being plain about what that means for workers: the working class has no stake whatever in the war machine being resupplied. The "jobs" it provides are labor robbed from housing, transit and health care to arm a war on Iran's people. An empire that cannot rearm to bomb Iran's water plants and bridges is no loss to the people of the United States. The arms monopolies' failure to build for war is a failure only for them and for the war machine they feed.

Reloading, not victory

The shortage has already shaped the war. It helped force Washington's retreats in April and

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CHINA: Building socialism in an imperialist world By 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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of missiles

Continued from page 14

June, and War Secretary Pete Hegseth called the pause that followed a time for "reloading."

Washington has run this play before. Against Iraq it kept up a siege of sanctions and periodic bombing for 12 years between the wars of 1991 and 2003, grinding the country down before the final invasion. A losing empire keeps fighting; it besieges what it cannot yet invade. But the siege that broke Iraq depended on isolating it, and Iran cannot be isolated the same way. It has answered every escalation with heavier fire, holds the Strait of Hormuz shut, and has land routes to China, Russia and Central Asia that no naval blockade can close. Iraq faced the siege largely alone; Iran faces it with allies across the region and powers at its back. The next assault is already in preparation — and Iran is preparing too, stronger and angrier than when the war began.

The empire must be beaten, not waited out

The imperialist press explains all this through Trump — that he flails, that he lacks the stomach for a long war. That misses the point. The next president will inherit the same empty weapons stocks and the same arms monopolies that emptied them. The problem is not the man; it is a ruling class that lets its war contractors collect guaranteed profits while the capacity for its wars goes unbuild.

But no one should imagine the empire will run down on its own. Imperialism does not collapse under its own weight; it has to be defeated. A wounded empire is more dangerous, not less — Trump, cornered, reaches for wider bombing and threatens a ground invasion precisely because he cannot win the war he started. The force draining Washington's arsenal is struggle: the resistance of an oppressed nation that shares an enemy with the workers of the United States. Iran's people are already defeating this war. The task on this side of the guns is to finish it: stop the bombing, break the blockade and oppose the rearmament already underway. #

AGAINST FASCISM

Reclaiming populism's legacy for today's class struggle

Gregory E. Williams

Populism: progressive farmers' movement of 1890s

- + Contemporary trans struggle
- + Silicon Valley-MAGA connection
- + Abortion rights movement in South

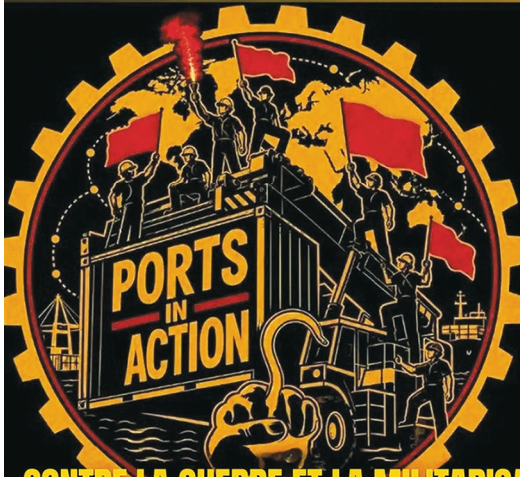
'SOUTHERN POPULISM AND BLACK LABOR'

tinyurl.com/Populism-book



A Lockheed Martin Patriot interceptor on display. On July 29, the Army awarded the arms monopoly a contract worth up to \$58.6 billion as Washington rushed to rebuild missile stocks depleted by Iran's resistance.

30 OCTOBRE 2026



**CONTRE LA GUERRE ET LA MILITARISATION
NON À LA DÉRÉGLEMENTATION !
NON À L'AUTOMATISATION !
DES PORTS POUR LA PAIX. DES EMPLOIS DIGNES**

**JOURNÉE INTERNATIONALE
D'ACTION DES DOCKERS
ET DES TRAVAILLEUR-SES
PORTUAIRES**



They came to Spain looking for work

By Gary Wilson

On July 30 and 31, tens of thousands of Moroccan workers crossed into the Spanish-held enclave of Ceuta. At least 72 drowned or were crushed on the way. The toll kept rising as bodies washed ashore. Within two days, most had returned to Morocco. Many went back voluntarily; Spanish soldiers escorted others to the border.

They were poor, out of work and mostly young. Many told reporters they had come looking for a job. Ajoub el-Arrot, 24, put it plainly to the New York Times: everyone came because there is no work in Morocco.

The ruling-class press on both sides of the Atlantic reached for one word: invasion. Donald Trump, whose approval has sunk into the low 30s ahead of the November midterms, told Republicans to make the crossings a "talking point." The U.S. State Department joined the fascist-style racist campaign. It recast a desperate movement of unemployed Moroccan workers as "mass illegal migration" and blamed Spain for it.

Sánchez had already angered the right with Spain's more open immigration policy. In April 2026, his government allowed more than one million undocumented migrants already living in Spain to apply for legal residency. The Ceuta crossings became a weapon in Trump and the European far right's campaign against that policy.

Nigel Farage took up the cry for Reform in Britain. Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni suspended passport-free travel with Spain under the Schengen system for a month and demanded that Spain be expelled from the system altogether. Poland and Finland backed her. Alice Weidel's far-right Alternative for Germany party, known as AfD, and Spain's far-right Vox party joined the attack. German Chancellor Friedrich Merz demanded that Morocco take back the migrants "immediately." Denmark's Mette Frederiksen, a Social Democrat, urged other governments to consider suspending Schengen as well, carrying the campaign into the social-democratic center. Twenty-two of the European Union's 27 member states signed a letter to European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen demanding an emergency meeting of interior ministers, set for Aug. 4.

Their letter called the crossings a "hybrid threat" — security-state language that turns unemployed workers into a military attack. Ceuta and Melilla are outside the Schengen zone. Suspending Schengen rules could not stop anyone crossing from Morocco into the

enclaves. It only restored border checks between Spain and the rest of Europe, turning the crossings into a pretext to isolate Spain.

Not an invasion – a movement of workers turned back

Set the word "invasion" against the facts and it collapses. These were unarmed, unemployed workers, not an army. The troops Spain rushed to Ceuta were ordered to back up the Civil Guard with logistics and surveillance, while the police handled the crowds. Within two days most of the roughly 60,000 who had crossed were back in Morocco, more than 48,000 in the first 48 hours. Most turned back on their own. They did so because Ceuta gave them nothing to stay for: no work, no food, no shelter. The reception center overflowed, the shelters for unaccompanied children ran at 16 times capacity, and people slept in parks and on sidewalks. Spain moved the returns fast – the Interior Ministry clocked departures at 150 a minute – and soldiers escorted some to the border. For the sea arrivals the Supreme Court had just ruled could not be summarily pushed back, there were no hearings.

What the cameras recorded was a wave of poor workers answering messages that promised an open route into Ceuta and access to jobs, only to find the promise empty and turn back.

The tinder was unemployment: young Moroccans with no work and no future at home. The spark was a campaign of false messages that twisted a Spanish Supreme Court ruling. The court had only ruled that people reaching Ceuta or Melilla by sea could not be immediately pushed back under the special procedures used at the border fences. Those spreading the messages turned that limited ruling into a promise that anyone who reached the enclaves by sea could stay in Spain and find work. That was false. They could still be returned through the ordinary legal process.

Those behind the campaign deliberately flooded social media with disinformation, turning the court's limited ruling into a false promise that anyone who reached Ceuta by sea could stay in Spain and find work. Videos and messages spread across Instagram, TikTok and other networks saying the border was open and that anyone who reached Ceuta by sea would be safe from deportation and able to look for work. One 16-year-old told Reuters that he and his cousin saw the videos and set out for Ceuta, a 12-hour drive away.

A Moroccan human-rights activist said the departures had been promoted. He said the message that the border was open came first, followed by claims about the court ruling. That sequence, repeated rapidly across several

platforms and followed by the movement of tens of thousands of people, was a sign of coordination, not a rumor spreading by accident. Many in Spain and Morocco believe the disinformation campaign was part of the wider attack on Spain.

The false messages explain why the workers came. What turned the movement into a crossing of tens of thousands was the Moroccan government pulling its forces back from the border. A crowd that size could not have reached the fence in a day otherwise. The withdrawal confirmed that the disinformation campaign and the opening of the border were coordinated parts of the same attack on Spain.

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez blamed smugglers and a misreading of the court ruling rather than name the Moroccan government or the forces behind the coordinated attack. Doing so openly would threaten a relationship Madrid wants to preserve. Yet his own defense minister described Morocco's actions as blackmail.

Morocco had used the border this way before. In 2021, after Spain admitted Brahim Ghali, leader of the Polisario Front, for medical treatment, the Moroccan government loosened its border controls and about 8,000 people crossed into Ceuta. The Polisario Front leads the struggle for an independent Western Sahara.

Why Spain is in the crosshairs

Washington put Spain in its crosshairs after the Sánchez government broke with it over Iran, Palestine and NATO military spending. Spain refused to let the jointly operated Rota and Morón bases be used for the U.S. war on Iran. It recognized the state of Palestine in 2024, called the slaughter in Gaza a genocide and opposed military cooperation with Israel. That same year, Spain turned away a U.S.-flagged ship carrying weapons for Israel at Algeciras. The cargo was rerouted through Morocco, which also let an Israeli warship refuel at Tangier.

On July 20, days before the Ceuta crossings, Sánchez flew to Algiers and signed a deal for more Algerian gas. Algeria has overtaken the U.S. as Spain's biggest gas supplier, sharply cutting U.S. energy sales. The visit defied Morocco and undercut Washington's energy interests while it wages war in West Asia partly to control the flow of gas and oil.

Spain has refused to fall in line on military spending as well. It is the one NATO member that would not accept the 5% military-spending target Washington drove through the alliance, holding at about 2%. At the NATO summit in Ankara on July 7 and 8, Trump called Spain a

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"terrible partner," told the alliance to "cut off all trade" with it, and called Spaniards "hopeless, bad people."

Spain is not one of the dominant imperialist powers. It is a capitalist state tied to the imperialist camp and subordinate above all to Washington.

Sánchez heads that state, but his government has broken with Washington on key questions. Its course cuts across the U.S. war drive in West Asia and weakens the NATO unity Washington works to enforce.

Washington and its allies move against Spain

As the images spread, Israeli officials moved against Spain. Israel's U.N. ambassador, Danny Danon, taunted Spain over its "colonial enclaves in Africa." Spain still holds Ceuta and Melilla, remnants of the centuries-old Iberian conquest of North Africa. National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir mocked Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez and told Spain to take in Palestinians expelled from Gaza.

Their attacks raised open questions about Israel's role in the crisis. Actor Javier Bardem shared posts with millions of followers saying that, while it was unclear who had "engineered" the crisis, Israel and the Western far right stood to gain by using it to attack Spain over its support for Palestine. Antonio Maíllo of Izquierad Unida and Spanish Transport Minister Óscar Puente, both part of Sánchez's governing coalition, also pointed to Israel.

Israel acts, but it never acts alone. Behind it stands Washington. Morocco is a neocolony, ruled by a monarchy tied to U.S. and European capital and dependent on Washington. The U.S. uses Israel and Morocco in different ways to pressure governments that resist it.

Washington has the power, the motive and the record of using human misery to pressure governments that resist it.

The border opening was not the whole attack. The campaign that followed was open and coordinated. The U.S. State Department blamed Spain within hours. Trump turned the deaths into a campaign issue. Israeli officials attacked Spain over Gaza. Far-right parties across Europe used the images to stir hatred against Muslim and migrant workers.

They all moved in the same direction because they serve the same system. Washington stood at the center, using Israel and the European far right to force the Sánchez government back into line.

The monarchy serves imperialism

Morocco carried out its part of the attack, but the monarchy did not direct the larger operation. Morocco is a neocolonial country



Young Moroccan workers walk toward the border under Spanish military escort in Ceuta on Aug. 1.

ruled by a reactionary monarchy tied to U.S. and European imperialism. Under King Mohammed VI, the monarchy has moved closer to Washington and away from its older dependence on France and Spain. He marked 27 years on the throne on July 30, the day the border opened.

In 2020, the monarchy normalized relations with Israel in defiance of the Moroccan people's overwhelming support for Palestine. In return, Washington recognized Morocco's annexation of occupied Western Sahara. Since then, the monarchy has expanded its military, intelligence and drone ties with Israel, even as Israel devastated Gaza.

At home, Morocco serves as an assembly platform for European capital. Workers build cars and airliners for export, while the technology, ownership and profits remain in foreign hands. Unemployment, illiteracy and rural poverty drive young people toward the sea.

The monarchy has no trouble sending police to crush protests. But at Ceuta, it pulled its forces back when that served Washington. It turned its own workers into a weapon against Spain. Seventy-two or more are dead. Morocco's own interior ministry counted just 11, against Spain's 72 – the monarchy playing down the cost of what it had set in motion. One man who made the crossing put it plainly to the Financial Times: the government had opened the border to let the workers through. "We were exploited," he said.

The colonial enclaves are real – and so is the cynicism

Behind the talk of decolonization lies a strategic prize. Ceuta and Melilla sit on the African side of the Strait of Gibraltar, only eight miles wide at its narrowest point. Much of the

shipping between the Atlantic and the Mediterranean passes through it. Control of the African shore means leverage over one of the world's key sea lanes.

In late April, a U.S. House Appropriations Committee report broke with decades of Washington policy. It described Ceuta and Melilla as Moroccan territory under Morocco's claim. For the first time, Washington took sides on the enclaves – and backed Morocco.

Danon and the Moroccan monarchy are right about one thing: Ceuta and Melilla are colonial possessions on African soil. Spain has held Ceuta since 1580. The anti-colonial movement does not defend either enclave.

But Danon is not fighting colonialism. Israel occupies Palestinian land and works closely with the same Moroccan monarchy that claims Ceuta. Washington backs that claim against Spain while it still holds Puerto Rico and Guam as colonies and occupies the naval base at Guantánamo on Cuban soil against Cuba's demand that it leave.

Israel and Washington use Ceuta and Melilla to attack Spain for naming the genocide in Gaza. The enclaves are colonial relics. But the powers now raising the issue have no concern for African or Arab workers. Their aim is to force the Spanish government back into line.

Their record at the U.N. exposes the fraud. On March 25, 2026, the General Assembly declared the transatlantic slave trade the gravest crime against humanity and called for reparations. Only the U.S., Israel and Argentina voted no. Spain and the rest of the European Union abstained. The whole imperialist camp evaded the crime. But the U.S. and Israel – now making the loudest use of Ceuta's colonial status – were two of only three governments on earth that voted no. #

U.S. war on Iran shakes Japan's economy

By Gary Wilson

The U.S. war on Iran is driving up Japan's oil bill and exposing a deep weakness in its economy.

Japan buys nearly all its oil from West Asia, most of it shipped through the Strait of Hormuz. The war has choked tanker traffic and driven up the cost of oil, shipping and insurance.

Oil is bought in dollars, and the scramble for dollars has made the yen worth less. In late July, it took more yen to buy one dollar than at almost any time in the past 40 years — making every barrel of imported oil cost even more.

For Japanese workers, that means higher prices for food, fuel and daily necessities. Japan's economy was already barely growing: real GDP is little higher than it was in 2018. Consumer prices have risen about 12% since 2021, while real wages are about 7% below their 2018 level. The war is making that squeeze worse.

The damage is now reaching Japan's banks.

For years, Japan's banks, insurers and pension funds lent the government enormous sums, buying its bonds when interest rates were near zero. Those bonds looked safe. They aren't. On July 9, the government's cost of borrowing hit its highest in nearly 30 years, and the old low-interest bonds are now worth far less than the banks paid. They are stuck holding mountains of them.

The Bank of Japan is cornered. Raising interest rates could slow the yen's fall, but it would drive down the value of those bank-held bonds still further. It would also make business and housing loans more expensive and threaten companies that have survived for years on cheap credit. Keeping rates low lets the yen keep sliding, driving up the cost of imported oil, food and raw materials.

There is no safe way out. The war did not create these weaknesses, but it is driving them together and pushing Japan toward a currency and economic crisis.

An unequal imperialist alliance

Japan is not a colony or a poor country dominated by foreign capital. It is an imperialist power with powerful banks, industrial monopolies and investments around the world.

But its alliance with the United States is unequal.

Japan's formal U.S. occupation ended in 1952, but the troops never left. About 54,000 U.S. troops remain stationed across a vast network of bases and military installations in Japan — the largest permanent U.S. garrison in any foreign country. Okinawa makes up less than 1% of Japan's territory but carries about 70% of the land reserved exclusively for U.S. bases.

Japan remains, in military terms, an occupied country. No other major capitalist power carries a foreign military occupation on this scale.

Germany comes closest, with more than 36,000 U.S. troops — another military presence that grew directly out of Washington's occupation after World War II.

The occupation of Japan is one piece of a U.S. military grip on the whole region. Washington also stations about 29,000 troops in South Korea, an occupation that began when it seized the southern half of Korea after Japan's defeat in 1945. The 1953 armistice halted open fighting, but the U.S. war on Korea never ended.

Japan's postwar constitution, written under the U.S. occupation, renounced war. Japan created Self-Defense Forces in 1954. But Article 9 — backed by a powerful antiwar movement — kept them largely to home defense for decades and out of Washington's wars.

That limit benefited Japanese capitalism. While Washington supplied the main war machine, Japan could put more of its wealth into factories, technology and exports instead of maintaining armed forces for war abroad. West Germany prospered under a similar arrangement during the Cold War.

Over the past decade, Washington has pushed Japan to cast aside the limits its own postwar occupation put in place. New laws allow Japanese forces to fight in support of the United States. Tokyo is buying long-range missiles and rapidly increasing military spending for the U.S. buildup against China.

Japan's armed forces are growing, but they are being built into the U.S. war machine. Japan's southwestern islands, especially Okinawa, form the northern anchor of the "first island chain" — the line of bases, missiles and warships Washington is building along China's coast.

Washington controls the larger military apparatus.

The occupation also built the political order that still governs Japan. Washington strengthened the conservative ruling bloc against the labor and communist movements. After the Liberal Democratic Party was formed in 1955, the CIA secretly financed the party that ruled Japan for most of the next seven decades.

The arrangement serves both ruling classes. U.S. military power protects the sea routes, investments and foreign markets on which Japanese capital depends. Japan supplies bases, industrial capacity and financial support for the U.S.-led imperialist system.

The two powers cooperate to defend capitalist property, confront China and preserve the dollar-centered financial system. They also compete over markets, technology and profits.

Washington holds the dominant position. It controls the alliance's main war machine and issues the dollar used for most world trade.

The war on Iran shows how the unequal alliance works.

Washington made the decision and launched the attack. Japan did not send its own forces to bomb Iran, and Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi held back from Trump's demand for Japanese warships in the Strait of Hormuz.

But Japan is not outside the war. Two U.S. destroyers based at Yokosuka — the USS John Finn and USS Milius — were sent to the Arabian Sea for the attack on Iran. The Milius fired Tomahawk missiles during the operation. Japan also keeps a destroyer and patrol aircraft in the Gulf of Oman and northern Arabian Sea, gathering information on shipping.

Tokyo backed statements blaming Iran for the disruption of the Strait and said it would consider sending Japanese forces to clear mines from the Strait once the fighting stopped.

Japan's ruling class helps supply the bases, money and political support behind the U.S. war machine. But it does not control that machine. Washington launches the war, while Japan absorbs part of the damage through higher energy costs, a falling currency and turmoil in its banks.

Japan helps finance U.S. power

The unequal alliance is financial as well as military.

For decades, Japan sold cars, machinery and electronics across the world and took in dollars. To keep those goods cheap abroad, Tokyo pushed the yen down, buying up still more dollars to do it. The hoard grew enormous.

Japanese banks, insurers and government agencies have lent Washington about \$1.1 trillion by buying U.S. Treasury bonds. That money helps finance the U.S. government, its military and its wars.

The arrangement also helps Japan's biggest corporations. When one dollar buys more yen, Japanese companies can charge less for their cars and machinery abroad without taking in less money at home. The dollars they earn overseas also bring them more yen when they bring the profits back to Japan.

But it ties Japanese finance to Washington.

To stop the yen from losing more value, Japan can use some of the dollars it has saved to buy yen. But much of Japan's dollar wealth is tied up in U.S. government bonds. If Japan sells large amounts of those bonds, their price falls and Washington has to pay more interest to borrow money. The bonds Japan still owns also lose value.

On Aug. 1, Washington joined Japan in buying yen — the first such U.S. intervention since 1998. The yen recovered part of its losses.

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U.S. officials also urged Japan to use a Federal Reserve lending program that would let it borrow dollars against its Treasury bonds instead of selling them.

Washington had its own interests to protect. Large Japanese sales of U.S. government bonds could raise Washington's borrowing costs. And as investors sold yen and bought dollars, the dollar became more expensive, making U.S. goods harder to sell abroad. But the intervention did nothing about the war's oil bill or the demand for dollars pushing the yen down.

The dependence runs both ways, but Washington holds the upper hand.

Too many data centers

Japan's financial danger extends beyond its holdings of U.S. bonds. For years, speculators borrowed yen at near-zero interest and used the money to buy stocks, bonds and other assets around the world. That flood of cheap credit helped inflate technology stocks tied to the AI and data-center boom.

Now Japanese interest rates are rising. That makes borrowing yen less attractive.

Speculators who borrowed yen to buy stocks and other investments may have to sell those investments and buy yen to repay what they owe. When that happened suddenly in August 2024, stock markets around the world fell sharply. A larger selloff could hit technology companies already depending on enormous spending and easy credit.

Washington has demanded that Japan spend more on war and build up its armed forces for the U.S. confrontation with China. Takaichi has folded that buildup into her economic program, sharply increasing military spending and weapons production. At the same time, her government is directing public and private investment toward industries such as AI, semiconductors and aerospace.

That may keep orders flowing for a time. But it also adds debt, electricity demand and productive capacity just as energy and credit are becoming more expensive. The same program meant to rescue Japanese capitalism may deepen the crisis already taking shape.

The oil shock is hitting a capitalist economy already loaded with debt, speculation and excess productive capacity. The data-center boom is one of the clearest examples.

Japan is part of a worldwide boom in AI and data centers, much of it driven by the biggest U.S. technology corporations. Their spending creates orders far beyond the United States — for chips, electrical equipment, machinery and power infrastructure, including products made by Japanese companies.

Amazon, Microsoft, Alphabet and Meta plan to spend more than \$700 billion in 2026, much of it on data centers, chips, servers and the power systems needed to run them. Each is



Shoppers at a Tokyo supermarket. The U.S. war on Iran has driven up Japan's oil and shipping costs, while the falling yen makes imported food and fuel still more expensive.

The oil shortage is not itself the capitalist crisis. But it may bring the deeper crisis of

betting that it will capture a large share of the future market for artificial intelligence. The boom creates huge orders for steel, concrete, servers, transformers and electrical equipment. Rising stock prices and easy credit make the expansion appear limitless.

But the technology companies do not plan production together. Each builds for its own profit without knowing how much total computing capacity can actually earn a profit. The industry may find it has built more than the market can support — not more than society could use, but more than can be run at a profit.

The expansion depends on cheap power and cheap credit. Both are becoming more expensive. If projects are delayed or canceled, orders for chips, transformers, construction materials and power equipment will fall. Suppliers will then cut their own orders.

For workers, that is when the boom becomes a crisis: production is cut, jobs disappear, and families lose the wages they depend on to live.

Credit hides the crisis

Capitalist crises are crises of general overproduction — more commodities are produced than can be sold at a profit, leaving factories and other productive capacity idle.

Credit hides the problem during the boom. A new data center creates orders for servers, steel and electrical equipment. Suppliers expand and borrow in turn.

Then costs rise and banks pull back. Projects are canceled. Orders fall. Factories cut production. Weaker companies collapse.

There is no contradiction between scarce oil and too many cars, chips or data centers. Oil can be expensive while other industries have built more than the market can support.

Japan's falling yen and bond losses show the strain is already building. If it spreads, construction projects will be canceled, goods will pile up unsold, banks will cut lending, factories will cut production and workers will lose their jobs.

A deal over Hormuz might calm markets. It cannot erase the debts and losses already created.

general overproduction into the open.

Japan helps provide the bases, money and industry for a U.S. war machine it does not control. Now Washington's war on Iran is driving up Japan's costs and pushing its economy toward crisis.

Japanese workers get the bill first: a weaker currency, costlier food and fuel, and wages that buy less. They had no say in the war being waged in their name. #

El pueblo sufriendo, y la gobernadora fiestando

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contrataciones de compañías privadas que quieran prestar servicios a la Autoridad de Energía Eléctrica pública, no sólo han fracasado en su trabajo, sino que se han convertido a su vez, en partes activas de corrupción gubernamental avalando firmas fatulas y compañías inexistentes. Así que ahora hay un corre y corre en la Junta de Control Fiscal, el gobierno local y las agencias federales para cancelar contratos y lavar la cara de la corrupción.

Pero el pueblo reclama, no sólo por la inseguridad de la luz y el agua, sino una larga lista de exigencias. Hay muchas manifestaciones de sectores de nuestra población. Entre ellas, por la falta de pagos a transportistas escolares y de las pensiones de jubilados del magisterio y de la autoridad de Energía, la privatización de servicios, el robo y el uso de tierras para desarrollo de megaproyectos de lujo.

Mientras tanto, la gobernadora Jennifer González celebra su cumpleaños con dos fiestas en un lujoso hotel de la capital. El primero tiene un costo de \$2,500 por persona y el segundo, \$250. Parecería que su lema es la frase atribuída a María Antonieta "Si no tienen pan, que coman pasteles."

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



Sequía en PUR

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

Esta semana, la gobernadora de Puerto Rico, Jeniffer González, ha declarado un estado de Emergencia en el país debido a la sequía prolongada que ha afectado un 80% del archipiélago. Junto a esa declaración, se ha impuesto un plan de Racionamiento de agua en la zona Metropolitana que incluye a San Juan, la capital y es el área más densamente poblada de la isla.

Esta sequía se debe a tanto a un evento histórico de falta de lluvia, como a las altas temperaturas sostenidas por semanas, y a la presencia de lo que aquí llamamos los Polvos del Sahara, que son nubes que se originan en África llenas de aire caliente y con partículas de arena y minerales que previenen la formación de lluvia. Esto ha reducido de forma crítica el nivel de los embalses de agua que no pueden llenar las tuberías para la distribución a la población.

Pero lo peor es la irresponsabilidad del gobierno local junto a las imposiciones de la Junta de Control Fiscal impuesta por el Congreso estadounidense hace ya 10 años y que supuestamente venía a solucionar los desmanes fiscales del gobierno. Esta Junta ha empujado un proceso de austeridad que ha empeorado las funciones de la Autoridad de Acueductos y Alcantarillados, la agencia a

San Juan, Puerto Rico, el 10 de junio de 2026 – Bryan Pérez, un residente del complejo de vivienda pública Villa Kennedy, carga un bidón de cinco galones de agua hacia su apartamento



cargo del sistema de agua, recortado su presupuesto de tal manera que la ha convertido en una agencia inoperante. Esto, sumado a la incompetencia y la corrupción del gobierno local que nombra a ejecutivos por conveniencia, no por su pericia en el manejo de acueductos, convierte un problema en una enorme crisis de país.

Sumemos también los planes del gobierno para privatizar y desarrollar terrenos protegidos ecológicamente para beneficio de constructores de viviendas lujosas que destruirán acuíferos y le privarán de agua a comunidades enteras.

Hay en adición, problemas que por desidia gubernamental, ha tenido por años la Autoridad, como los salideros que desperdician más de un 50% del agua potable que maneja y

que ahora el Pueblo le señala a la gobernadora cuando ésta le pide al pueblo que “sea prudente” con el uso del agua.

El sufrimiento del pueblo es patente. Acarrear galones de agua para nuestra población envejeciente es no solo una dificultad, sino una tortura. La ineptitud del gobierno al anunciar un Racionamiento de agua por zonas donde alternarán períodos de sequía con períodos con agua no ha funcionado, lo que aumenta la rabia y la frustración del pueblo.

Por esto ya el pueblo está saliendo a la calle exigiendo acceso al agua.

Desde la Zona 2 de racionamiento de agua en Puerto Rico, para Radio Clarín de Colombia, les habló Berta Joubert-Ceci



El pueblo sufriendo, y la gobernadora fiestando

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

Hoy quisiera compartirles a vuelo de pájaro, el estado de esta colonia donde el Pueblo expresa de varios modos que ya no aguanta más el deterioro. El sufrimiento y el agotamiento se nota en las reacciones de la gente: impaciencia, conduciendo agresivamente, violencias, deterioro de su salud física y mental, exilio...

¿Qué pasa en Puerto Rico?

Ha habido un calor intenso por varias semanas debido al cambio climático. Hay apagones de luz frecuentes. Hay sequía y racionamiento de agua. Todo esto era predecible, pero ahora sufrimos las consecuencias porque el gobierno nunca atendió las propuestas de mitigación que hizo el grupo de expertos y científicos locales.

Al contrario, privatizó servicios esenciales, cortaron árboles, arrasaron costas, sembraron cemento.

Forzado también por la criminal Junta de Supervisión Fiscal, que este año cumple 10 años actuando como gobierno no electo a nombre del Congreso de los EUA.

El resultado de la privatización:



Respondiendo al llamado de la coalición Exigimos Agua, comunidades protestaron en San Juan, Loiza, Canovanas, Las Piedras y otras áreas. Muchos residentes han pasado meses sin acceso continuo al agua.

un 100% de generación de energía renovable para el año 2050, la han ignorado, imponiendo compañías estadounidenses para generar y distribuir la luz.

La generación está a cargo de GeneraPR cuya matriz es New Fortress, una compañía de gas metano en quiebra a la cual el gobierno de PR le otorgó en exclusividad mediante un contrato leonino, un muelle en el puerto de SJ para que sus enormes barcos con gas atraquen, poniendo en riesgo a los residentes de esa zona portuaria.

Ahora hay un escándalo enorme donde las agencias fiscalizadoras del gobierno, que tienen la obligación de velar por la pulcritud en las

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desregulación, falta de coordinación entre las agencias y compañías. Compañías fatulas que llegan a PR como buitres para aprovecharse de los fondos federales que EUA le debe a PR por ser su propiedad.

Pero enfoquémonos en la generación de energía. Mientras que hay una Ley para alcanzar

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