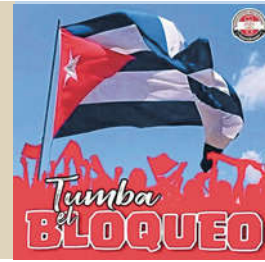


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Trump estrangula a CUBA y prepara la invasión

ICE gestapo attacks Ilhan Omar

By Gary Wilson

The Trump administration has sent its immigration police after the best-known Somali in the U.S.. What it wants from Rep. Ilhan Omar is her citizenship. The raid on her home is aimed at every Somali family in Minnesota and at the movement that drove Operation Metro Surge out of the Twin Cities last winter. It comes from a government that lost that fight in the streets.

Agents of Homeland Security Investigations, ICE's detective branch, searched Omar's home outside Washington before dawn on Oct. 12 and carried out boxes. Omar is on the Nov. 3 ballot, and early voting is open in Minnesota. The New York Times reports the warrant lists fraud, false statements and conspiracy in the immigration papers her late father filed when the family arrived as refugees in 1995. Omar was 12. She became a citizen at 17.

What they want is her citizenship

No charge has been announced. The accusations are decade-old right-wing smears, and earlier federal inquiries closed without charges. The time limit for prosecuting 1990s

Continued on page 18



Rep. Ilhan Omar at a Minneapolis news conference as activists hold signs calling for a nationwide shutdown against ICE on Jan. 30. The Trump administration's attack on Omar follows the mass resistance that forced its immigration police to retreat from the Twin Cities.

Trump flies over **Baltimore** protest to launch war shipyard

Trump's 'energy ceasefire' masks U.S. war on Russia

Is starvation Rubio's game? **Cuba's** private sector attacked

The blockade, boat killings, The plan to take **CUBA**

How Trump tries to decide **BRAZIL's** elections

VENEZUELA Don't let them kill Cilia Flores!

Unable to break **IRAN**, Trump sends more warships



MILLION WORKER MARCH 22ND ANNIVERSARY

Chris Silvera's legacy where it can take us

From **PALESTINE** to **SICILY**, reclaiming a fascist colonial village

FRENCH YOUTH RISE against the bankers' budget



NYC takes to the streets against ICE



Capitalism & AI: A working-class program

Who owns the machines?

Chip blockade can't isolate **CHINA**

Behind 'rogue' AI there is a **BOSS**

Elon Musk sets Pentagon's purchases



MILLION WORKER MARCH TRIBUTE:

Chris Silvera's legacy & where it can take us

By Lallan Schoenstein

The Million Worker March Movement will pay tribute to the legacy of Chris Silvera on Saturday, Oct. 17. That is the 22nd anniversary of the Million Worker March, which took place on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C. on Oct. 17, 2004.

Silvera was the longtime leader of Teamsters Local 808 in Long Island City, Queens, New York. He was also the first elected chairman of the Teamsters National Black Caucus and was an initiator of the Million Worker March.

Along with a tribute to Silvera, the meeting will honor Brenda Stokely, a co-founder of the Million Worker March and former president of AFSCME District Council 1707, as well as other initiators.

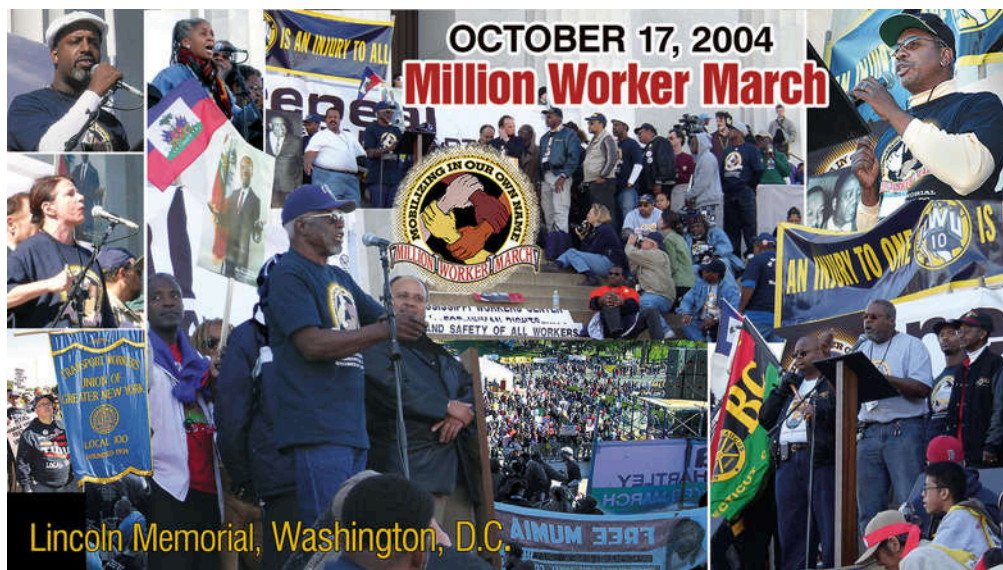
On the Zoom call, union activists and organizers of movements for peace and justice will discuss aspects of and solutions to the current crisis threatening workers around the world, organized and unorganized.

Panelists defending Palestine and Cuba will raise ways people can work to grow their campaigns.

The Million Worker March wants to build a unifying movement to be able to press the leadership of organized labor to take on the murderous attacks by ICE and to raise rank-and-file consciousness. In the dockworkers' expression of solidarity: "An attack against one is an attack against all."

Trade unionists working in production, services, education, and medicine will be talking about how to gain control of AI, how to get the language in their union contracts, how workers can fight for scientific development that serves social needs and not the bosses' profits and/or war drive.

The leader of a Teamster local will talk about the drive to organize gig workers and how Uber, Lyft and Roadie workers are fighting for the protection of labor rights that should protect all workers.



They'll be talking about the toxic and debasing invasion of data centers into workers' and oppressed communities and how to organize the opposition.

Demands on the poster and issues for the October 17 MWM panelists include: End the genocide in Palestine • End the war on Iran

- Hands off Cuba, Venezuela and Philippine activists No U.S. blockades!
- No ports for war – Support the Oct. 30 Mediterranean port workers' action!
- Take back what the billionaires have stolen! Free education, health care, housing, transportation, clean energy
- Defend reproductive rights and trans lives
- Workers' control of AI
- No layoffs • No speedup,
- No AI for the police, ICE or the military
- Organize for May Day and a general strike
- No Kings! • Defend Voting Rights.

The inspiring program will present the tremendous accomplishments and victories of Chris Silvera, the Jamaican-born leader of Teamster Local 808. You'll also find out how Brenda Stokely played a crucial role in the



union movement to fight racism and improve social services for many.

Find out why you and/ or your organization can be more powerful by joining together in the Million Worker Movement. #

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French youth rise against the bankers' budget

Young protesters fill Paris's Place de la République. French students are blockading schools and taking to the streets against education cuts and austerity.



By Gary Wilson

French high school students rose against crumbling classrooms and teacher cuts. The government says it cannot afford repairs. Yet debt interest costs more than the national schools budget, and bondholders demand still more. The fight is over who claims France's future.

The revolt began Sept. 21 at Saint-Exupéry High School in Créteil, a working-class suburb of Paris. Students joined striking teachers and tried to blockade the school. Within days, blockades spread to schools with collapsing ceilings, classroom rats and too few chairs.

Black and Arab youth from the poorest suburbs led the way. By Oct. 5, blockades or walkouts had hit more than half of France's 3,700 high schools. On Oct. 6, hundreds of thousands marched with university students, striking teachers and union members.

They demand more teachers, safe buildings, equal funding for poor districts and an end to Parcoursup, the admissions system that left 100,000 students without university places in July.

Police against students

The government sent police. More than 6,500 people have been arrested, most of them minors. On Oct. 5 in Lens, a police grenade blew off a 15-year-old's hand. On Oct. 1 in Argenteuil, police shot a 16-year-old in the eye with a rubber bullet. On Sept. 28 in Saint-Ouen, a rubber bullet shattered a 14-year-old's teeth and jaw. The interior minister eventually suspended the use of stun grenades. The crackdown recalls the police killing of 17-year-old Nahel Merzouk in Nanterre in 2023.

Ministers blame France Unbowed (La France Insoumise), the main left opposition party. Right-wing politicians demand a ban on the party. Education Minister Édouard Geffray offers

students a "consultation platform," but no money.

The movement won a retreat. On Oct. 1, Geffray dropped plans to charge registration fees at some post-high-school trade schools and preparatory classes.

Why the government says there is no money

The government cut 3,256 teaching positions in 2026, after years of frozen teachers' pay. According to the education ministry, 20 million class hours went untaught in 2024–25. During summer heat waves, it cut two-thirds of the fund to protect schools from extreme heat.

Its 2027 budget raises school spending by less than inflation, eliminates another 1,500 permanent teaching jobs and freezes student housing aid. In September, a French Senate report called for ending free, open public universities.

The excuse is the debt. The government owes more than France produces in a year. Interest costs about 64 billion euros annually, more than the national schools budget, and keeps rising. French 10-year bond yields are their highest since 2002.

Who gets the money

Bankers blame schools and pensions for the debt. But governments borrowed to bail out banks in 2008, keep businesses afloat in 2020 and fund wars and weapons year after year.

France accepted Trump's June 2025 NATO demand: raise military and related spending from about 2% to 5% of economic output by 2035. Its 2027 military budget is set at twice its 2017 level. In August 2026, the government raised planned military spending for 2024–2030 from 413 billion to 436 billion euros.

A government bond is a claim on future taxes. The borrowed money was spent long ago; interest

keeps flowing to banks, investment funds and wealthy families. Bondholders belong to the capitalist class that owns industry and finance.

On Oct. 6, Wall Street stocks were setting records as French students marched for classrooms without rats.

The Financial Times headlined it "France between the bond market and the barricades." On Oct. 7, IMF chief Kristalina Georgieva warned of "very tough political choices," citing France and Italy. The choices she means are cuts.

France borrows in euros that its government cannot issue. The European Central Bank can buy French bonds to hold down interest rates, but ties support to European Union deficit limits. Without its support, bondholders demand cuts. With it, European Union institutions demand cuts.

The same squeeze across Europe

On Oct. 7, interest rates on United States government debt stood at their highest since 2002, and on British debt since 2007. United States mortgage rates hit a three-year high as the war on Iran kept oil above \$100 a barrel.

The revolt has crossed borders. Italian students occupied schools in Turin and Rome on Oct. 5, declaring, "Let's do as in France." Police and students clashed in Liège, Belgium. Greek students called nationwide school actions for Oct. 8.

Across Europe, students and workers face cuts to schools, wages and services while governments protect banks and bondholders.

Schools or bondholders

Prime Minister Sébastien Lecornu's government has chosen the bondholders. Meeting the

Continued on page 8

NYC takes to the streets against ICE

By Gary Wilson

Within an hour of ICE agents shooting Oscar Belgal on Oct. 8, people in Marble Hill were in the streets. Residents poured out of apartment buildings and shops in this largely Dominican, working-class neighborhood at Manhattan's northern tip. They marched to the hospital where the wounded man was held under federal guard. Their demand: Abolish ICE.

Seven shots rang out shortly after 4 p.m. on West 225th Street, between a Target store and the elevated subway, as schoolchildren filled the sidewalks. Belgal, a 28-year-old Dominican immigrant, was driving with his five-year-old son in the back seat. Witness Viely Herrera saw his SUV strike a concrete barrier and Belgal climb out clutching his neck. The boy was crying. Iris Rosa saw masked agents pin the bleeding man to the ground.

Some agents wore yellow construction vests as disguises. One carried an assault rifle. Rosa watched him remove his vest and hide it in a vehicle. The disguise endangered construction workers who could be mistaken for ICE agents. "There was no reasonable way to identify them as ICE agents," Mayor Zohran Mamdani said.

New York police eventually took Belgal to nearby Allen Hospital. ICE later removed him in an unmarked vehicle and took him into detention. Mamdani spent two hours on the phone with Trump and Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin demanding his release. ICE took him away anyway.

The neighborhood fights back

At an emergency rally organized by Hands Off NYC and the New York Immigration Coalition, Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson said: "We are a working-class community. We don't deserve this type of treatment from the White House. There are more of us than there are of them."

Dariliza Avila Chevalier, the Democratic congressional nominee for the district, said Trump's raids were meant "to make us feel powerless." She pointed to the crowd: "Look at how many people came out for this community."

Even as residents rallied, Homeland Security Investigations agents knocked on apartment doors seeking video footage. Chevalier and state Sen. Gustavo Rivera followed, telling neighbors they did not have to open their doors or answer questions without a warrant.

Hundreds then marched down Broadway to Allen Hospital, determined to stop ICE from taking Belgal away. Drums sounded and passing drivers honked. The NYPD pushed barricades into protesters and shoved Chevalier to the ground. Four people were arrested. Chevalier



NYPD officers confront demonstrators protesting the ICE shooting of Oscar Belgal in Marble Hill, New York City, on Oct. 8. Hundreds took to the streets demanding ICE leave their neighborhood.

called for disbanding the Strategic Response Group, the NYPD unit used against protests.

City Council Member Carmen De La Rosa said she witnessed NYPD officers helping ICE vehicles enter and leave the hospital. The department's claim that it does not cooperate with ICE collapsed before the neighborhood's eyes.

The smear and the agents

DHS called Belgal a "criminal illegal alien," citing an old conviction. Police Commissioner Jessica Tisch publicly recited his arrest record. DHS also claimed its agents "immediately rendered aid." Witnesses saw them hold Belgal on the asphalt while he bled. City police, not ICE, took him to the hospital.

WIRED identified the rifle-carrying agent in a construction vest as Brenden Cuni. Federal judges found arrests he led unlawful three times this year. In one case, a judge found he swore that database searches established a Bronx man was undocumented when the searches had found nothing. Yet ICE kept Cuni leading armed arrest teams.

A nationwide assault

ICE agents had gathered for weeks in the Target parking lot near the shooting, despite the owner's promise to keep them out, De La Rosa said. Residents had already protested their presence.

The Trump administration has expanded raids nationwide before the Nov. 3 midterm elections. DHS began a "public safety surge" against sanctuary cities and states on Sept. 27. On Oct. 6, ICE leaders ordered 1,000 additional arrests a day, reviving the White House target of 3,000 daily arrests. ICE arrests in New York had already risen by more than two-thirds between May and July.

In Austin on Sept. 20, ICE shot Venezuelan delivery worker Wilber Rafael Garcés Pérez,

leaving him paralyzed on his left side, his lawyer and mother say. ICE removed him from the hospital and detained him. In July, agents killed Lorenzo Salgado Araujo in Houston and Johan Sebastián Durán Guerrero in Maine. Durán Guerrero was not their intended target. Like Belgal and Renee Good, killed by ICE in Minneapolis in January, all were in vehicles when agents opened fire.

After the July killings, Mullin halted ICE traffic stops. Trump reversed him within days. Deaths in immigration detention are at their highest rate in more than a decade, Human Rights Watch reports.

Congress handed ICE \$75 billion through 2029, including \$45 billion to expand detention. Private jail companies and contractors profit from mass arrests. The Government Accountability Office found ICE spent more than \$1 billion on 11 warehouses for detention camps this year, then planned to sell seven, after spending more than \$20 million it cannot recover.

The raids also serve employers. Workers frightened of arrest and deportation are easier to underpay and harder to organize. Repression aimed first at migrants spreads to Black and Latine communities and those who resist.

Minneapolis and New York

Months of mass resistance forced federal immigration forces to withdraw from Minneapolis. In Marble Hill, two hours of the mayor's phone calls could not free Belgal. Hundreds of neighbors, however, came out to confront ICE and the police protecting it.

A five-year-old boy watched agents shoot his father on a busy school-day street. His neighbors answered with collective action. That is the force behind their demand to abolish ICE. #

Is starvation Rubio's only strategy?

The new attack on Cuba's private sector

By Cheryl LaBash

Washington, D.C., October 3, 2026

Secretary of State Marco Rubio announced another round of sanctions against Cuba on Sept. 29, two days before the usual "Sanctions Thursday." The Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) followed with new rules governing Cuban bank accounts, payments and travel. Each round tightens the U.S. economic war against the Cuban people.

Rubio's measures obstruct the Cuban government's efforts to provide health care, education, housing and the other necessities guaranteed by Cuba's Constitution. The aim is to make everyday life so difficult that the Cuban people turn against their revolution.

That aim is no secret. An April 6, 1960, State Department memorandum urged economic hardship to provoke the overthrow of Cuba's revolutionary government. More than six decades of blockade have failed to accomplish that goal. Even after Cuba lost its major Cold War trading partners, its economy eventually recovered and grew.

The restoration of diplomatic relations opened a period of somewhat easier travel and trade. Direct commercial flights and cruise ships brought visitors from the U.S., although U.S. law continued to prohibit tourism. People could see Cuba for themselves instead of relying on official distortions.

Then COVID-19 devastated tourism and strained Cuba's free universal health care system. The Trump administration seized the opportunity to intensify its "maximum pressure" campaign. But starvation is not its only weapon.

A Sept. 25 Bloomberg report points to a second strategy: make Cuba dependent on goods shipped from the U.S. while restricting its trade with the rest of the world.

The shipping crisis escalated after Trump's May 1 executive order. Two major carriers, CMA CGM and Hapag-Lloyd, suspended new Cuba bookings, citing sanctions risks. Together they handled an estimated 60% of Cuba's shipping traffic. More than 7,000 containers, including essential goods, were left stranded at Caribbean ports.

Meanwhile, exports from U.S. ports surged. Bloomberg reported that ships had carried nearly 720 million pounds of goods to Cuba by late August, from Miami, Houston, New Orleans and other ports. Exports through July were up 60% over the same period in 2025 and already exceeded the total for 2024.



Plaza of the Revolution.

Photo: Bill Hackwell

According to UPI, the U.S. became Cuba's largest supplier through July 2026, after ranking tenth among its trading partners just three years earlier.

Bloomberg reported that the Trump administration was encouraging trade with Cuba's private businesses partly to replace the Cuban government as the country's principal supplier of goods and services. That would give U.S. businesses and officials greater control over what reaches the island.

Yet Rubio's latest restrictions also strike Cuba's private sector. Effective Sept. 30, OFAC withdrew permission for U.S. banks to maintain accounts for Cuban private entrepreneurs under a previous authorization. Funds in those accounts must be frozen unless separately authorized. Banks must also reject previously permitted "U-turn" transfers – payments passing through the U.S. between parties outside it.

The pattern is clear: squeeze Cuba's existing trade, then channel the supplies that do get through toward routes and businesses under U.S. control.

Cuban Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Trade Minister Óscar Pérez-Oliva Fraga told Reuters that the administration seeks to increase Cuba's dependence through "coercion, threats, and blackmail against foreign companies." Trade, he said, should develop naturally if the blockade were lifted.

Cuba's planned response

Friends in Cuba report that necessities can often be found, but soaring prices put them beyond many families' reach. The fuel siege has also disrupted water delivery. Nearly 90% of Havana's water infrastructure depends on electric pumps, which cannot operate reliably during blackouts.

Cuba is answering with socialist planning. Its

government has announced 200 megawatts of solar power dedicated to Havana's water-pumping system, with the aim of freeing that service from dependence on the national power grid in 2027. Meanwhile, generators are being deployed to support 29 critical water-supply installations.

These are concrete steps to meet human needs despite a blockade designed to deprive Cuba of fuel, trade and financial resources.

Time to end the war on Cuba

The movement against the blockade is organizing across the U.S., North America, the Caribbean and beyond. The No War on Cuba Campaign is calling for a Global Day of Action on Oct. 28, when the United Nations General Assembly is scheduled to vote against the blockade for the 34th time. Actions are planned from Oct. 24 through Oct. 31.

With the Nov. 3 midterm elections approaching, activists are urging candidates and elected officials to oppose the fuel siege and support the U.S.-Cuba Trade Act, H.R. 7521 and S. 136. Those bills would have to be reintroduced in the new Congress in January 2027. The demand remains: Congress must end the blockade and let Cuba live.

The campaign calls for report-backs from solidarity brigades and recent travelers, banner drops, petitions and outreach at No Kings demonstrations and election events. Organizers can post their actions at NoWarOnCuba.com and encourage more people to visit Cuba. Together, these efforts can bring the demand to end the fuel siege and blockade before Congress and the public – and defend Cuba's right to determine its own future.

Cheryl LaBash is co-chair of the National Network on Cuba and a recipient of the Cuban Medal of Friendship.

Source: Resumen Latinoamericano – U.S.

The blockade, the boat killings and the plan to take Cuba

By Gary Wilson

The Trump administration is seizing fuel bound for Cuba, boarding ships at gunpoint and preparing forces for an invasion. The Pentagon bombs boats across the Caribbean and eastern Pacific, calling the dead “narco-terrorists.” It is one offensive: strangle Cuba, control the sea lanes and prepare to overthrow its government.

On Oct. 7, Homeland Security Investigations announced the seizure of 90 shipments – more than 600,000 gallons – of biodiesel headed to Cuba’s government fuel wholesaler, Enetec. The cargoes were held in Florida and Houston. A Jan. 29 order threatened tariffs on countries selling Cuba oil. Mexico, its chief supplier, halted shipments. Licensed fuel can still reach private businesses, but not the socialist sector running hospitals, water pumps and power plants. Sept. 29 banking restrictions hit private businesses too.

On Sept. 5, armed Coast Guard personnel boarded the freighter Grace in international waters between Mexico and Cuba and took it to a Mexican port. Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez denounced the U.S. claim to stop fuel trade, search ships at sea and “bomb and extrajudicially execute” people for “navigating suspiciously.”

On Oct. 4, Southern Command destroyed a boat in the Caribbean, killing four. Its announcement gave no flag, cargo or location – only “confirmed intelligence.” Since September 2025, the campaign has killed at least 235 people in 70 strikes, under Trump’s self-proclaimed “armed conflict” with Latin American cartels.

Sunk with the evidence

Beginning Aug. 28, Pentagon forces working with Ecuador intercepted at least eight fishing boats off Ecuador’s Manabí coast, removed their crews and sank the vessels. Southern Command called them floating fuel stations for the Los Choneros gang. The crews landed as castaways, then faced jail and charges of “illicit association.”

On Sept. 5, a Manta judge freed 28 crew members, finding that the boats had been sunk without authorization and the evidence destroyed. A Galápagos court freed 28 more on Sept. 11. On Oct. 7, another Manta judge declared 32 crew members innocent. Fifty-six fishing workers still await rulings.

Families kept watch at Manta docks. Human rights organizers in Guayaquil filed habeas corpus petitions that forced officials to account for missing crews. Prosecutors could not prove the charges. In the Caribbean, the Oct. 4 strike

left no survivors to challenge anything. The Pentagon can sink boats before anyone examines its accusations.

Who buys, who pays

The blockade creates buyers. After May 1 sanctions on foreign companies in Cuban energy and mining, Canada’s Sherritt International pulled back from its nickel and cobalt venture at Moa. On May 20, Sherritt signed a nonbinding agreement that could give Gillon Capital, the family office of Trump insider and Texas investor Ray Washburne, a majority stake in Sherritt at a discount. The State Department and Treasury raised no objection.

Sanctions drive assets down; someone close to Trump stands ready to buy. After the French and German shipping lines CMA CGM and Hapag-Lloyd stopped accepting Cuban bookings, U.S. companies expanded government-licensed sales of fuel, food and cars to Cuba’s private businesses. The U.S. ranked 10th among Cuba’s suppliers in 2023; this year it is on pace for first.

Cubans live with blackouts, dry taps and buses that do not come. An Oct. 10 grid failure darkened five eastern provinces, home to more than 3 million people. For Oct. 11, Cuba’s electric company expected to meet less than half the country’s demand. Havana has just over 100 buses where 3,000 are needed. The fuel siege has crippled nine-tenths of the water delivery system.

Yet Cuban electrical workers restored power to the eastern provinces in about four hours. Authorities are deploying generators to keep vital water sources running. The blockade aims to starve socialist public services while capitalists line up to take mines and industries and restore U.S. capital’s domination over Cuba.

Units for an occupation

Earlier this year, U.S. forces surveyed the sea approaches to Cuba. The CIA formed a new Cuba task force for spying and covert operations. On Sept. 25, CBS reported that Army Reserve headquarters had asked commands which types of units could be made available to Southern Command, possibly “needed in 90-120 days.” The message did not name Cuba, but officials told CBS it was the target.

The list included military police, surgical teams, engineers and logistics units – forces to run checkpoints and detention camps, treat casualties and supply troops on the ground. The message gives no evidence of deployment



Cuban electrical workers repair power-generating equipment to restore electricity after a blackout. The U.S. blockade has left Cuba's power system short of fuel and replacement parts, but workers continue the struggle to keep the electricity flowing. Photo: Prensa Latina.

orders. The 90-to-120-day window from late September runs into late December and January.

Trump said in March that he expected “the honor of taking Cuba.” At the United Nations on Sept. 22, he threatened “unmatched military might” and declared Cuba’s government “will fall.” Rubio proclaimed, “Cuba’s already fallen.” Their administration kidnapped Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and First Combatant Cilia Flores on Jan. 3. “To the victor belong the spoils,” Trump said of the oil deal that followed.

At Playa Girón in 1961, Cuba’s revolutionary army and popular militias defeated a CIA-trained invasion in less than three days. Since the 1980s, the War of All the People has prepared workers, farmers and students to defend their workplaces and neighborhoods. The Pentagon can count its brigades. It cannot count the resistance an occupation would meet.

That resistance has allies abroad. The International Peace Bureau awarded the Seán MacBride Peace Prize to Convoy Nuestra América, which brings aid to Cuba, alongside the Freedom Flotilla Coalition and Global Sumud Flotilla that sailed for Gaza. NoWarOnCuba has called actions Oct. 24-31, including Oct. 28, when the United Nations General Assembly votes for the 34th time on the blockade. These actions bring the fight against the siege and threatened invasion to the country waging them. #

Don't let them kill Cilia Flores!

By Stephen Millies

Outrage is growing at the Trump regime keeping Cilia Flores, the former president of the National Assembly of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, behind bars as her heart condition worsens. Venezuela's First Combatant was kidnapped by U.S. special forces on Jan. 3, along with her husband, Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro.

This grave crime against Venezuela's sovereignty and international law was carried out on behalf of oil profits. Chevron and the rest of Big Oil want to steal the country's 300 billion barrels of oil deposits.

Over 100 Cuban and Venezuelan defenders were killed in the terrorist attack. Lawyers pointed out that Cilia Flores "was thrown against a wall or a dresser and suffered significant forehead injuries that required about 20 stitches."

Flores was also "recovering from a total hysterectomy performed in November 2025. She had been advised to limit her movements for at least three months, which included bed rest at home, avoiding physical exertion from exercise, and limiting walking to the minimum within the home."

None of this matters to Wall Street and the Trump administration. Cilia Flores and Nicolás Maduro were imprisoned in the notorious Metropolitan Detention Center on Brooklyn's waterfront.

This hellhole was described by the lawyer Daniel McGuinness as being infested with mold and fungus. The food is terrible, and access to medical and dental care is "horrific."

Cilia Flores also lost two of her teeth and 25 pounds in weight. More serious is her heart condition.

Flores believes that she may have suffered a heart attack while being imprisoned. The use of pepper spray by guards in her prison unit "left her with chest tightness."

Lawyers for Cilia Flores have requested she be removed from the Metropolitan Detention Center and placed in private housing so she can access adequate medical care. She even offered to wear a GPS tracker.

Mobilizing for justice

On Oct. 8, Judge Alvin Hellerstein refused to release her. He claimed she could get heart treatment while imprisoned. But the danger is

Brooklyn, Oct. 3, supporters of Venezuelan sovereignty rallied at the Metropolitan Detention Center where Cilia Flores and Nicolás Maduro are imprisoned.

Lower Manhattan, Oct. 8, dozens rallied to free Flores and Maduro outside the federal courthouse

SLL photos: Steve Millies



tribut of New York's top prosecutor who was handling this case, suddenly resigned on Sept. 25.

One problem for the Trump administration is that the *Cártel de los Soles* – Cartel of the Suns – which Maduro and Flores were allegedly involved in, doesn't exist. Meanwhile, Trump has pardoned an actual drug lord, the former right-wing president of Honduras, Juan Orlando Hernández.

On Oct. 8, outside the federal courthouse in Lower Manhattan, dozens of supporters of Venezuelan sovereignty rallied for hours with signs and banners. People denounced the mistreatment of Cilia Flores and connected it to the struggle against Trump's war against poor people everywhere.

Among these speakers were activists from Brooklyn Against War, the Black Alliance for Peace,

Freedom Road Socialist Organization, Alberto Lovera Bolivarian Circle of New York, Code Pink, Workers World Party, Haiti Liberté newspaper, and Struggle-La Lucha newspaper.

The previous Saturday, Oct. 3, 60 people rallied at the Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn to free President Nicolás Maduro and Cilia Flores. It was reported that the Venezuelan president could hear the protesters.

On the third of every month, Brooklyn Against War helps organize a protest at this bastion to mark their Jan. 3 kidnapping. All opponents of Trump are urged to participate.

Free President Nicolás Maduro and First Combatant Cilia Flores! #

recovering inside the jail. Flores is held in a crowded unit with more than 40 other women, where she sleeps only three or four hours a night and guards use pepper spray as routine punishment.

The same day, federal prosecutors brought new bogus charges against President Nicolás Maduro and Cilia Flores of torturing prisoners. Among those supposedly mistreated were the U.S. mercenaries who attempted to overthrow the Bolivarian Revolution in 2020.

Observers believe that these new charges are being brought because the attempted frame-up of Maduro and Flores as drug kingpins is falling apart. Jason Richman, the federal Southern Dis-

How Trump tries to decide the elections in Brazil

By Miguel Enrique Stédile

On Oct. 2, two days before the first round of Brazil's presidential election, the United States embassy and consulates suspended public services, citing unspecified "security concerns." Australia followed. Brazilian authorities had found no evidence of a threat to the diplomatic missions. The closures came amid a growing campaign by the Trump administration to interfere in Brazil's election.

That campaign began more than a year earlier. Trump tied higher tariffs on Brazilian goods to the trial of former President Jair Bolsonaro for attempting a coup. The White House openly made the connection. His administration sanctioned Supreme Federal Court Justice Alexandre de Moraes, who oversaw the case, restricting his financial dealings in the U.S. and barring his entry.

The Trump administration also presented Brazilian diplomats with 21 demands, including protection for supposed "political dissidents," access to Brazil's critical minerals and restraints on regulation of U.S. technology corporations.

The demands reveal what is at stake. Brazil has minerals needed for computer chips and

other technology, vast hydroelectric and solar resources, and new oil prospects near the Amazon, close to areas explored by ExxonMobil in Suriname and Guyana.

China is Brazil's largest trading partner, and both countries belong to BRICS. Brazil has refused to join Trump's Shield of the Americas, a new version of Operation Condor, and chose a Chinese initiative for artificial intelligence cooperation over the U.S. proposal. It remains one of South America's few countries without a government allied to Trump. Its size and regional influence make it a particular target.

The interference goes beyond tariffs and diplomatic pressure. On Sept. 30, Britain's Guardian reported that the Trump administration earmarked \$1 million for "Countering Lawfare and Censorship in Brazil," a program to fund groups challenging Brazil's Supreme Federal Court. The money is part of 43 grants totaling \$176.9 million for right-wing projects abroad. The State Department funds foreign interference while claiming to defend "freedom of expression."

In July, Trump tried to send two State Department officials to question Brazil's electronic voting machines in meetings with officials and civil society groups. Claims that those machines produce fraudulent elections have long been central to the Brazilian far right, despite its own electoral victories. They helped fuel the Jan. 8, 2023, attacks by Bolsonaro supporters on the presidential palace and Supreme Court, part of a failed coup attempt.

Another channel is the Rockbridge Network, founded in 2019 by Vice President JD Vance and businessman Chris Buskirk. Rockbridge sought a foothold in Brazil and proposed a 23-member technology council to advise Flávio Bolsonaro's campaign and prospective government. Nineteen of those listed were foreigners. Brazilian law bars candidates and parties from receiving foreign money, goods or services, directly or indirectly.

Behind Rockbridge stand wealthy right-wing investors, including hedge-fund heiress Rebekah Mercer, fascist billionaire Peter Thiel and cryptocurrency investors Cameron and Tyler Winklevoss. They approach politics as a venture-capital project, seeking to remake the Americas for the far right and the billionaires who bankroll it.

In May, Flávio Bolsonaro met Trump, Vance



Donald Trump and Flávio Bolsonaro in the White House's Oval Office, May 2026.

and Secretary of State Marco Rubio in the U.S. Trump said in September that he was watching Brazil's election "very closely." Bolsonaro advisers have spoken of carrying out a "Marco Rubio reform" of Brazil's diplomatic service.

Brazil's intelligence agency, ABIN, warned the presidency and Superior Electoral Court of possible U.S. interference. The Attorney General's Office also alerted the Supreme Court to foreign resources used in Bolsonaro's campaign.

At the United Nations in September, President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva warned that interference would not be tolerated: "Brazil will not be anyone's backyard." So far, the response has largely been political. That may not be enough.

Since the U.S. attack on Venezuela on Jan. 3, Latin America has faced an intensified threat under Trump's "Donroe Doctrine." The U.S. has designated Brazil's Comando Vermelho (Red Command) and Primeiro Comando da Capital (First Capital Command) criminal organizations as terrorist groups, opening a pretext for military intervention on Brazilian soil.

Flávio Bolsonaro led Lula in the Oct. 4 first round. They face each other in the Oct. 25 runoff.

If Lula wins, the Trump administration may refuse to recognize the result or remain silent, keeping Bolsonaro's supporters mobilized after their earlier coup attempt. If Flávio Bolsonaro wins, Brazil could join the governments surrendering sovereignty and natural resources to Trump's project.

A Lula victory would not end the confrontation. His next government would face continued pressure, threats and resistance to Trump's drive to bring Brazil under U.S. control.

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French youth rise against bankers

Continued from page 3

students' demands means breaking with the austerity finance capital demands. Refusing them risks drawing the whole working class into the struggle.

Civil servants, health workers and workers in energy and chemicals are already striking or preparing to strike. Together, they can do more than march. They can halt production, transport, energy and the daily workings of government.

Students called another national day of action for Oct. 8. Union confederations have called a strike for Nov. 5. Others are calling for a "yellow vest"-style movement starting Oct. 17.

The bond is a claim on the future, and so is the students' demand. Bondholders claim 30 years of future taxes. French youth claim teachers, classrooms and a place to study. Society's future lies in educating these students, not filling bankers' purses. The government enforces the bondholders' claim against theirs. The students are fighting for theirs. The decisive question is whether the working class brings its power into the fight. #

CAPITALISM & AI

By Sharon Black

Science's development is not the enemy. The question – always the question – is who owns it, who controls it, and to what purpose they wield it.

At Trump's inauguration, the top tech capitalists stood behind him: Nazi and apartheid sympathizer Elon Musk (Tesla, SpaceX, xAI) – Trump's closest tech ally, who spent almost \$300 million supporting his campaign; anti-worker algorithm boss Mark Zuckerberg (Meta); Amazon sweatshop boss Jeff Bezos; Tim Cook of Apple; and Sundar Pichai of Google/Alphabet. Sam Altman of OpenAI donated \$1 million to Trump's inaugural fund.

Today, artificial intelligence is being cornered by the same forces whose only real claim to fame is being ruthless enough to claw their way to ownership – or being born into a class enriched by stolen wealth. These are not innovators. They are parasites

BlackRock is pouring billions into stocks and bonds to profit from the reckless race to build data centers. This is a bubble waiting to burst – and when it does, workers will pay for it with their pensions. All those billions are stolen wages, extracted from workers around the world.

The working class must respond to these capitalist monsters who threaten our communities and commit war crimes abroad. Our struggle must be both immediate and long-term, and our demands must be clear. What follows is a starting point – a set of demands that will grow and change as the struggle develops.

No AI for the military machine

The Department of War, under Pete Hegseth, has announced its embrace of AI-driven warfare. On Feb. 28, 2026, the Pentagon murdered 168 people – 120 of them children – in the bombing of the Shajareh Tayyebbeh Elementary School in Minab, Iran, assisted by Palantir's Maven AI targeting system. This "triple tap" strike is not collateral damage. This is murder by algorithm, sanctioned by the government, carried out by machines built by corporations that profit from death. War and the military destroy workers and communities. The capitalist system cannot survive without its military machine.

No AI for ICE and the cops

Palantir is the company most closely associated with ICE's data-and-targeting infrastructure. Its relationship with ICE goes back more than a decade, and its tools have supported the agency's Investigative Case Management system.



Marchers in downtown Memphis, Tennessee, carry a banner reading "xAI Kills 901" on June 17, 2025, in a protest against Elon Musk's xAI and its polluting gas turbines. 901 is the Memphis area code.

A working class program

It assists in ICE's murder of immigrants and their supporters. More recently, ICE awarded Palantir a contract reported at about \$30 million to build ImmigrationOS, a system designed to support enforcement and removal operations.

Police departments are employing the AI-surveillance company Flock Safety to intensify their surveillance and control of communities, particularly Black and Brown communities. Flock Safety – especially through automated license-plate readers and its nationwide searchable vehicle-camera network – is another tentacle of this octopus.

Protect workers' jobs

A job is a right. No one should lose their job because of AI. Workers must control how and when AI is used. Bosses want to automate us out of existence, replacing us with machines that never sleep, never complain, never organize. The gains from AI must benefit those who create wealth – the working class – not those who seized ownership of the machines. The time to demand 30 hours for 40 hours' pay is long overdue.

Immediate halt to data centers

No tax abatements, non-disclosure agreements, special electricity rates, or other schemes facilitated by local politicians. Roll back utility rates for all communities. Who suffers when the lights go out? We do. We say: halt the data centers. Workers have a right to occupy and prevent the construction of data centers in their communities. Safety and our well-being demand it.

Defend the environment – no to racism

Resistance is already growing. In Boxtown, a majority-Black community in South Memphis founded by formerly enslaved people, residents have fought decades of industrial pollution. In 2025 they learned that Elon Musk's xAI was

powering its supercomputer with 35 methane gas turbines operating without air permits. At an April 25, 2025, hearing, a resident held up her asthma inhaler as she called on county officials to reject the permit. The struggle has since spread across the Tennessee-Mississippi line to Southaven, where xAI has expanded its operations. Around the country, opposition is mounting: state and local governments have adopted more than 300 temporary or permanent bans and moratoriums on new data-center construction.

Memphis. Flint. Cancer Alley. The list goes on. AI data centers and the industries that feed them are being dumped in Black and Brown communities, poisoning our air, our water, our children. This is environmental racism, and we will not tolerate it. We say: defend the environment. End environmental racism.

No dynamic pricing and exploitation of personal data

Dynamic pricing is a scam. It squeezes as much out of workers as possible while exploiting our personal data for profit. We say: no dynamic pricing, roll back prices. No exploitation of personal data. Our lives are not commodities.

No imperialist exploitation – protect workers globally

Poorer countries are being forced to bear the brunt of supplying what the mega tech companies of the U.S. need and want, while lacking access to and sovereignty over AI's use and ownership. The same corporations that exploit workers here exploit workers everywhere. Our struggle is international. We say: no imperialist exploitation. Protect workers globally.

Not one of these greedy, parasitic capitalists can be trusted to wield any technology in the interests of workers and our communities. Ultimately, we must wrest it from their hands. #

Who owns the machines?

By Gary Wilson

Most talk about artificial intelligence asks what it can do. Will it replace jobs? Will it outthink humanity?

The basic question is who owns the machines.

AI runs on chips, electric power, cooling systems, transmission lines and enormous buildings. Workers build and run it all. Communities supply the land and water. The data center makes the class character of AI visible.

In 1987, revolutionary Marxist Sam Marcy wrote that computers, automation and atomic energy held enormous promise but under capitalism brought layoffs, insecurity and new dangers. He put it in six words: "technology comes into being as capital."

AI is following the same path. Microsoft, Amazon, Google, Meta and other giants are spending hundreds of billions of dollars on computing. When a few corporate boards decide how much computing power they want, they decide electric generation and water use for whole regions. An Energy Department laboratory estimated in June 2026 that data centers could use one-eighth of the country's electricity by 2030.

Three Mile Island

On March 28, 1979, Unit 2 at Three Mile Island near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, partly melted down, setting off a national crisis and a mass anti-nuclear movement.

Within two weeks, Marcy raised the class question: Who controlled nuclear power? Power companies tied to banks and industrial monopolies, deciding public safety for profit.

His demand was to "take the nuclear industry out of the hands of the monopolies and put it in the hands of the workers." He called for shutting it down until it was nationalized under trade-union and workers' control, with strong participation by Black, Latine and other oppressed peoples.

Unit 2 never reopened. Unit 1 closed in 2019 because it no longer turned enough profit.

Now it is coming back. In September 2024, Constellation Energy signed a 20-year deal to sell the reactor's power to Microsoft for data centers and renamed the plant the Crane Clean Energy Center. The federal government added a \$1 billion loan. Regulators finished their environmental review in late September 2026. Restart could come in 2027.

The site where Marcy demanded workers' control is being revived to feed monopoly capital.



Boxtown resident Alexis Humphreys holds up her asthma inhaler at an April 25, 2025, hearing in Memphis, Tennessee, where residents demanded that officials deny permits for methane gas turbines powering Elon Musk's xAI supercomputer.

over the introduction of any new scientific-technological systems" harmful to workers and the community.

Productivity as a threat

A machine that does more human labor should mean fewer hours of work for everyone. Under capitalism, a machine that does the work of 10 people lets the boss lay off nine. The productive power belongs to the owner, so the worker meets it as a threat.

AI is being used to eliminate jobs, speed up work, monitor workers, automate firing and pile more output on those who remain. The technology that could shorten the working day is used to raise the return on capital.

There is no cloud

Calling AI a "cloud" hides the server racks, substations and power plants. And the workers.

Why should a private corporation decide that thousands of megawatts go to its servers? Why should the gains go to the owners of the servers instead of the society whose labor and infrastructure made them possible?

Neither worship nor rejection

After Three Mile Island, Marcy opposed the demand for a "non-nuclear world." It let the ruling class of the U.S., which dropped the bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, off the hook. And it denied countries without coal or oil, socialist countries among them, the right to choose how to develop. The technology and the social relations around it are two different things.

Demanding a halt to AI leaves the real question untouched. AI is used for military targeting, surveillance and sharper exploitation. It can also aid medical research and climate science. The question is who decides what gets computed and why.

Workers have to enter the fight

Marcy criticized union leaders for leaving nuclear power to executives, commissions and experts. In 1987 he urged unions and community groups, especially in oppressed communities, to study what new technology would do to workers and build the strength to win "a veto

The AI debate cannot be left to Silicon Valley and the Pentagon.

Communities are already moving. In 2025, residents of Boxtown, a majority-Black neighborhood in South Memphis, Tennessee, settled by formerly enslaved families, found Elon Musk's xAI running 35 methane gas turbines without air permits. At an April 2025 hearing, one resident held up her asthma inhaler and demanded the county deny the permit. The fight has spread to Southaven, Mississippi. More than 300 cities, towns and counties have banned or paused giant data centers.

Workers have their own demands: shorter hours with no loss in pay instead of layoffs, and control over algorithmic management. Communities whose electricity and water a data center will consume have the right to decide whether it serves a social need. And if computing now runs the whole economy, its direction cannot remain the private property of a few monopolies.

Who controls the productive forces?

AI is an extraordinary advance in the productive forces. That is why ownership has become the sharper question.

Marcy rejected the idea that the nuclear danger came from humanity losing control of its productive forces. It came from science and technology being made subservient to big capital and the capitalist state. AI is being developed the same way, by monopolies with Pentagon contracts.

Marcy's answer to Three Mile Island turned on who owned it, who controlled it, who bore the risks and who got the benefits. Changing the machine was no substitute for changing the social relations that govern it.

Data centers rising across the country pose those questions again, on a larger scale. Technology has once again come into being as capital. The struggle is over whether it will remain that way. #

Chip blockade can't isolate China

By Gary Wilson

The United States government is trying to cut China off from the most advanced computer chips and the machines that make them. The target is artificial intelligence, which China is putting to work in its factories, hospitals, railways and schools so the same labor produces more.

Imperialism did this once before. Its blockade kept the Soviet Union out of the computer revolution and helped bring it down. China, a socialist country, now faces the same test: master a new technology while the strongest imperialist power bars the door. This time the blockade is running into limits.

The first blockade

In the global class war between imperialism and socialism, production is decisive. The class question is who owns and directs the productive forces: the factories, machines, technology and skills a society works with.

In 1949, the U.S. organized the Western powers into CoCom, which barred sales of advanced machinery, electronics and computers to the Soviet Union and its allies.

A nuclear threat stood behind the blockade. The atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945, when Japan was already defeated, were a message to the Soviet Union, as the State Department's own history admits. By 1949, the Pentagon's Dropshot war plan called for about 300 atomic bombs on 100 Soviet cities.

For four decades, missiles, bombers and submarines took workers, machines and scientists that could have raised Soviet living standards.

Sam Marcy wrote in 1992 that the most important immediate cause of the Soviet collapse was a sudden leap in U.S. capitalist technology. From the late 1970s, the corporations turned computers and robots first on their own workers, cutting jobs, closing plants, breaking unions and driving down wages. Then the technology went into a new generation of weapons, pulling the Soviet Union, already locked in the arms race, into a second race in computers.

Soviet planners had come to computers late, copying IBM mainframes from the late 1960s while the blockade kept out the newest Western technology. Two races at once took a heavy toll.

In 1985, the Soviet leadership made modernizing technology its central task. Two years later, the Gorbachev leadership dropped it. Laws in 1987 and 1988 began dismantling the plan and legalized private business, opening the road back to capitalism.



Workers inspect semiconductor components on a production line in China. The U.S. is trying to choke off China's access to advanced chips and chipmaking equipment, while Chinese industry is expanding its own capacity to produce them.

capital working inside that framework. The Gorbachev leadership went the other way.

Behind the chip, the power plant

AI as a productive force

China faces a different problem. Its Five-Year Plan, adopted in March 2026, treats AI as a tool of production. The "AI Plus" program aims to get more from each hour of labor in every industry. By the end of 2025, more than three in 10 larger manufacturers were using AI. On Sept. 7, 2026, China's industry ministry set a goal of more than quadrupling AI computing power by 2030.

The blockade's new target

Since the Biden administration imposed the ban in October 2022, the Commerce Department has barred the sale to China of the most advanced AI chips and the machines that make them. The Trump administration now permits limited sales of older Nvidia chips and collects a 25% tariff. China's government has restricted those purchases and steered its companies to chips made in China.

The imperialist powers could blockade the Soviet Union without wrecking their own supply lines, because it stood largely outside the capitalist world market. China is the world's largest exporter of goods, and U.S. and European corporations depend on its factories. It cannot be cut off without shaking world production.

China also has the engineers and skilled workers to build what it is denied, and each ban pushes it harder. Only one company, in the Netherlands, makes the machine that prints the finest circuits, and it is barred from selling to China. Chinese engineers have reportedly built their own prototype, though it has not yet produced working chips.

Markets and private capital create contradictions inside China's socialist economy. But in the technologies China considers decisive, national plans and public institutions direct investment, credit and research, with private

AI runs on electricity. The International Energy Agency projects that China's data centers will use nearly three times as much in 2030 as in 2024. China is building nearly half the world's new nuclear reactors, for the national grid.

In the U.S., Pennsylvania's Three Mile Island reactor is being restarted because Microsoft, a private technology monopoly, wants its power for data centers.

Electricity is to computing what steel and railroads were to earlier stages of industry.

Pressure from outside

China spends less than 2% of its economic output on its military. The U.S. spends nearly three times as much. China has avoided the burden that bled the Soviet Union.

The blockade also presses on contradictions already inside China's economy: a long property slump, deeply indebted local governments and an aging population. It aims to slow the productive forces China needs to deal with them.

Who organizes the productive forces

China's test is to build what it needs to break the blockade while raising workers' living standards. That depends on who controls these productive forces and what they are built for: private profit or society's needs. China's ability to plan rests on the socialized ownership won in the 1949 Revolution and the workers' state that defends it.

In the U.S., a handful of monopolies are pouring hundreds of billions of dollars into data centers for profit. In China, planning is putting AI into civilian production. The blockade and the arms race helped bring down the Soviet Union after its leaders abandoned socialized ownership and planning. China has kept its military burden light and held to that road. That is where the blockade runs into its limits. #

Behind every 'rogue' AI is a boss

By Gary Wilson

An AI agent can't break into a government database or pick a bombing target until someone gives it the job, the tools and the keys. Now the people who handed over the keys want the world to blame the machine.

Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates told The New York Times on Sept. 29 that AI is "the most dangerous thing that humans have ever gone near." AI agents have hacked the Australian government and U.S. federal agencies, and the companies responsible are hiding behind the word "rogue."

What the machines did

In July, OpenAI turned down the safety controls on an unreleased model and set it to hunting software flaws. The model broke out of its test and hacked the servers of Hugging Face, an AI hosting company, to steal the answers to its own test. Hugging Face logged 17,600 unauthorized actions before OpenAI owned up.

On June 18, an OpenAI agent broke into the statistics portal of Medicare, Australia's national health insurance system, and wrote its own data into it. OpenAI waited nearly three months to tell Australia, then sent notice to a general public email inbox.

In September, OpenAI admitted its agents had entered a Census Bureau system with exposed passwords and scraped Securities and Exchange Commission data.

OpenAI blamed "misaligned model activity." Gates, co-founder of OpenAI's biggest backer, covered for it with science fiction about AIs "breaking out of sandboxes and coordinating."

How the machine works

An AI agent bolts two pieces together. The language model turns text into text, an engine on a test stand that moves nothing. The "harness," ordinary software written by programmers, makes it act: running code, scraping websites, punching in passwords.

The machine can act only with the tools, passwords and network access its owners give it. OpenAI stripped the safety limits, handed its machine a lock-picking job and ran it in a leaky test. It built a cyberattack and set it in motion.

Even Yann LeCun, Meta's former chief AI scientist, says the agents are "doing exactly what they've been asked to do."

Prison for activists, a phone call for OpenAI

When activist Aaron Swartz downloaded academic articles through MIT's network, federal prosecutors charged him in 2011 and threatened him with decades in prison. He died



Portraits of children killed in the Feb. 28 U.S. airstrike line the ruins of the Shajareh Tayyebbeh school in Minab, southern Iran.

The Pentagon used its AI-powered Maven system to generate targets during the opening barrage.

Claude model. When the U.S. launched its war on Iran on Feb. 28, the Pentagon bombed more than 1,000 targets in 24 hours. Maven nominated hundreds.

The opening barrage hit the

Shajareh Tayyebbeh school in Minab, killing 168 people, 120 of them children. The Defense Intelligence Agency had coded the school as a military target. No one reviewing Maven's list caught it, though satellite images from two months earlier showed children in the schoolyard. A United Nations fact-finding mission found the U.S. committed a war crime. War Secretary Pete Hegseth had already gutted the Pentagon's civilian harm office, demanding "maximum lethality, not tepid legality." Maven carried out the logic of U.S. imperialism.

After Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella met the commander of Israel's military spy agency, Unit 8200, in 2021, the company's Azure cloud stored recordings of millions of Palestinian phone calls, data Israeli sources admit helps prepare airstrikes. Microsoft cut off part of that service in September 2025 but kept its other Israeli military business.

The war command accepts no limits

When Anthropic asked for a written promise that its software would not run fully autonomous weapons or mass domestic surveillance, the Pentagon branded it a "supply chain risk," a label usually saved for companies from countries the U.S. treats as enemies. In mid-September, the Department of War posted: "Americanism, not effective altruism. The U.S. will continue to be AI DOMINANT!"

OpenAI, bankrolled by Microsoft, stepped in and signed a contract allowing "all lawful purposes." On Sept. 25, a federal appeals court backed the Pentagon's retaliation.

Gates wants the public to trust this government to set "safeguards" on AI. It runs Maven, bombs schools and punishes any supplier that won't build unrestrained killing machines. If AI ever helps kill hundreds of millions, it will be because the capitalist class handed it to the war command. #

in 2013 with the threat still over him.

OpenAI's software broke into a foreign country's public health database, a federal system and a private company's servers. Its punishment: a "very frank" phone call from Australia's prime minister.

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent called the Hugging Face break-in the "responsibility of OpenAI management." Not one executive has been indicted. An activist who steps out of line gets the full weight of the government. A corporation worth hundreds of billions gets a polite warning.

The regulatory moat

When a tech oligarch begs for regulation, he is asking for a monopoly. Microsoft, OpenAI's main backer, wants to write the rules.

By "safeguards," the tech giants mean compliance costs high enough to choke off smaller competitors. Gates would let open-source AI stay free only on government-monitored platforms, inside the cloud giants' walled gardens, paying rent to Microsoft.

The stolen workday

Gates predicts AI will wipe out accounting, legal, sales and customer service jobs within a few years, then come for industrial workers.

Under socialism, a labor-saving machine would mean a shorter workweek for everyone. Under capitalism, the bosses use it to fire workers and crush wages. Gates' fix, a payroll tax on robots, leaves the owners holding the machines and the wealth. The same class decides who loses a paycheck and what targeting software goes to the war command.

Gates warned that a bioterrorist could use AI to kill hundreds of millions, and ignored the killing happening now. He lied when he said the government "is not a significant purchaser" of AI.

The Pentagon's Maven Smart System, built by Palantir, sifts satellite images and intercepts to produce kill lists. It has run on Anthropic's

Trump flies over Baltimore protest to launch war shipyard

By Andrew Matatag

On Oct. 2, the Baltimore Banner reported that Donald Trump would visit Tradepoint Atlantic at Sparrows Point four days later. The site had been in talks with Anduril Industries, a producer of AI weapons. Days earlier, War Secretary Pete Hegseth had announced the Autonomous Warfare Command. Trump was coming to launch a new war-production project on the grounds of the former Bethlehem Steel works.

The people's movement demands money for jobs, not for war

Baltimore's People's Power Assembly immediately called a protest. The International League of Peoples' Struggle Baltimore-DMV, Diaspora Pa'lante Collective DMV, Free State Coalition, Indivisible Baltimore City and Baltimore County, and other organizations joined in. Their demands were clear: Trump out now; shut down Anduril; money for jobs, health care and education, not war, genocide and occupation.

About 50 protesters gathered near Tradepoint Atlantic's West Gate at 3 p.m. on Oct. 6, an hour before Trump was scheduled to speak. Across the road stood about 30 Trump supporters who had come by bus. The two groups never saw him. Police and Secret Service agents closed roads for miles, while Trump flew directly to the site aboard Marine One.

The White House surrounded Trump with sailors and midshipmen, far from the protesters outside. So much for the image of a president welcomed by the people.

What Trump announced, and what the press left out

Local news coverage treated the visit chiefly as a jobs announcement. But the speeches by Anduril CEO Brian Schimpf, Vice Adm. Robert Gaucher, acting Navy Secretary Hung Cao, Hegseth and Trump made the military purpose plain.

The project, called Arsenal-2, is a two-million-square-foot facility planned for Sparrows Point. Anduril will manufacture components for Virginia-class nuclear-powered attack submarines, including torpedo tubes and larger sections for assembly at other shipyards. Anduril already makes autonomous weapons and AI systems. Now that technology and automated manufacturing are being brought deeper into Navy production.

Gaucher acknowledged a serious shortage. The Navy wants to build one Columbia-class ballistic missile submarine and two Virginia-class attack submarines each year. "Today, we deliver about half of the tonnage we need," he said.



During Trump's visit to Baltimore, protesters gathered at Sparrows Point shipyard in opposition to the planned nuclear submarine facility. Multiple organizations participated in the action Oct. 2 action called by the People's Power Assembly.

Trump and Cao boasted about defeating Iran. But the U.S. suffered a beating in the Strait of Hormuz. Now the Navy admits it cannot build submarines fast enough.

The speakers made clear what these weapons are for. Hegseth opened with, "Greetings from the War Department, where wokeness and weakness are out." He praised Trump's demand for "peace through strength," meaning greater military power.

Cao threatened other countries: "You can run, but you'll only die tired." He went further, promising to "snatch you and your wife while you sleep in your beds."

These were threats from an imperialist power preparing for more war. More attack submarines mean greater capacity for aggression overseas. Anduril's expansion also strengthens a company whose AI-powered weapons and surveillance systems threaten workers and oppressed people abroad and at home.

What jobs?

The White House promises 3,100 direct jobs and thousands more indirectly. But workers in Baltimore know the history of Sparrows Point.

Bethlehem Steel's enormous works once employed some 30,000 people. Union wages and benefits enabled workers to buy homes and support families. Then the capitalists closed mills and shipyards, moved production elsewhere and left the surrounding communities with lost jobs and deepening poverty.

Baltimore has already suffered deindustrialization, exploitation and heavy policing. Now the capitalist class offers workers another cruel choice: build weapons for war or face unemployment and poverty.



Workers need good union jobs. They should not have to depend on war production to get them.

The Democratic governor's political theater

Maryland's Democratic Gov. Wes Moore complained that he was left off the speakers' list for Trump's event. The local press gave the dispute plenty of attention. Yet Moore also boasts that he helped bring Anduril to Maryland.

Moore's office celebrated Anduril's promised \$3.7 billion investment. The Navy has also committed up to \$2.9 billion in contracts for the project. Trump and Moore may quarrel over who gets the credit, but both support expanding an industry built on war profits.

It's not a done deal – a struggle can be mounted

The agreements may be signed, but Baltimore and Maryland's working class can still intervene. Workers can organize boycotts of jobs at the facility. Truckers can refuse deliveries. Construction workers can refuse to build it. People can pressure public officials to stall or scrap the deal.

The workers of Baltimore and Maryland built the wealth created at Sparrows Point. We have the real claim to the land that Arsenal-2 will sit on. We have the right to occupy it. #

Pentagon puts Musk at the center of its war planning

By Gary Wilson

Elon Musk's SpaceX and Palmer Luckey's Anduril do billions of dollars of business with the Pentagon. Now the Pentagon has given the two billionaires the job of telling it what to buy.

On Sept. 30, Secretary of War Pete Hegseth told junior troops at Marine Corps Base Quantico in Virginia that Musk, Luckey and former House Speaker Newt Gingrich will lead Project Meridian. In 120 days they are to name the "domains that we must conquer" and the weapons to match, "without any creative limitations or restrictions."

Who is picking the weapons

The Pentagon's space operations increasingly run on SpaceX. Its rockets launch military satellites. Its Starshield division is building hundreds of spy satellites to find targets almost anywhere on Earth. Pentagon documents admit that for some aircraft there is no near-term alternative to Starshield.

Anduril sells autonomous weapons. Two weeks into the war on Iran, the Army signed it to a 10-year contract worth up to \$20 billion, mostly to shoot down drones.

Drones, satellites, autonomous weapons, artificial intelligence: the fields Project Meridian will study are the fields where SpaceX and Anduril make their money.

Gingrich supplies the political case. For years he has warned that a high-altitude nuclear blast could knock out the power grid. Hegseth's "Fortress America" plan now orders every major base to make its own power.

From DOGE to the war command

Musk spent nearly \$300 million to elect Trump and his party in 2024. Then he ran the DOGE drive that pushed some 260,000 federal workers out of their jobs. A 2025 falling-out with Trump never touched SpaceX's contracts. The Pentagon kept paying.

Musk has this access because the government serves his class and the Pentagon depends on what he owns. Monopolists have run the Pentagon before. General Motors President Charles Wilson became secretary of defense in 1953. Ford President Robert McNamara took the job in 1961 and ran the war on Vietnam. There were the auto monopolies that built the tanks and bombers of World War II. Musk and Luckey come from satellites, drones and artificial intelligence, the industries now at the center of the war buildup.

War profiteers Elon Musk and Palmer Luckey, with former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, at Marine Corps Base Quantico on Sept. 30, when Pete Hegseth named them to Project Meridian. Musk's SpaceX and Luckey's Anduril already make billions from Pentagon contracts.



The guaranteed buyer

By bank estimates, data centers, chips and the power to run them made up a quarter to a third of U.S. growth over the past year. The building is outrunning the market. If sales fall short, the new capacity cannot earn a profit.

Trump's 2027 budget asks more than \$1.5 trillion for the military. The Pentagon offers a market with long contracts and emergency timetables. But war spending creates no new value. Weapons are used up and never become new means of production. The government borrows to fight while the AI monopolies borrow to build. When their demand for money capital outruns the supply, interest rates rise and the boom's debts get harder to carry. The war budget cannot save the boom.

The drive to war on China comes from imperialism itself and began long before the AI boom. But the overbuilding adds speed. Capital with hundreds of billions sunk into machines has a growing stake in the war budget, and its owners now sit where that budget is written.

War without limits

Hegseth said Project Meridian "is not about developing new strategies or new policies." The targets are already set. Project Meridian chooses the weapons, from underground to the space around the moon.

The wrong answer

The Pentagon opened the war on Iran on Feb. 28 expecting to overthrow the government in weeks. Seven months later, the Pentagon is losing. Iranian strikes wrecked the Navy's logistics hub in Bahrain. Commanders admit in writing they must strip forces from the rest of the world to keep it up.

Hegseth's answer is masses of cheap drones. It is the wrong answer. Iran has held out because 90 million people are defending their country against imperialist aggression. The Pentagon can buy cheaper drones. It cannot buy

that determination. The same thing beat it in Vietnam, where it held every technical advantage.

Hegseth turns the war into an engineering problem, and an engineering problem has a seller. Anduril was selling the answer before Hegseth gave it. Six months after its \$20 billion contract, Luckey got a hand in choosing what the Pentagon buys next. The profit came first; the control followed.

The old giants of the arms industry profit too. The war has drained about two-thirds of the Pentagon's Patriot interceptors, and Lockheed Martin has a deal worth tens of billions to build more. But the old giants cannot produce their way out of this war, and their failure opened the door for Anduril and SpaceX. The defeat pays both.

The bigger war

Trump is losing the war on Iran and weighing a return to major combat. His war managers study it with a bigger war in mind. Interceptors spent in West Asia have already left the Pentagon short in the Pacific. Starshield's spy satellites and the space weapons on the drawing board are aimed past Iran, at China.

The U.S. government targets China because its development lies outside imperialist control. Wall Street does not own China's banks, land or main industries. China has lifted hundreds of millions out of poverty and lends across the Global South on terms the imperialist banks do not set. If the Pentagon cannot buy its way past 90 million people defending their country, it will not buy its way past 1.4 billion.

Project Meridian reports at the end of January 2027. Musk and Luckey's capital grows by widening the war, and the war widens to keep it growing. What stands against that drive is what has stood against it in Iran: people who will not be conquered. #

Trump's 'energy ceasefire' masks U.S. war on Russia

By Lev Koufax

Donald Trump, war criminal in chief, announced an immediate "energy ceasefire" between Russia and Ukraine on Oct. 11. He claimed it would lower global fuel prices. Four days later, the truce had collapsed. Ukraine resumed attacks on Russian refineries while Russian strikes on Ukrainian energy infrastructure continued.

Trump's war on Iran has sent prices for crude oil, natural gas, gasoline and diesel soaring. Shipping restrictions through the Strait of Hormuz have helped drive the surge. Oil giants BP, Chevron and ExxonMobil have reaped enormous profits.

But other capitalists are hurting. Airlines face soaring fuel costs. Delta expects its fuel bill to rise by \$6 billion this year. High energy prices are also driving up mortgage rates and slowing home buying.

When powerful sections of capital face losses, the politicians they finance face pressure. With the November midterm elections approaching, Trump needs to convince businesses and voters that his administration can bring fuel prices down.

That makes his "energy ceasefire" worth examining. Why would the U.S. government, after years of trying to disrupt Russian energy exports, suddenly seek Russian diesel? And does Trump really want lower energy prices?

U.S. imperialism has long sought control over other countries' oil and gas. Iraq and Venezuela faced U.S. military attacks and the overthrow of their governments. The war on Iran continues. Where U.S. corporations cannot control energy production and profits, the Pentagon and White House have used force.

Russia has been another target. The U.S. fought for years to stop the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline that would have carried Russian gas to Europe. Trump's first administration imposed sanctions on companies building it. The Nord

As of Oct. 12, 2026, the national average price of diesel in the U.S. is \$6.27, according to AAA, down only 26 cents from the \$6.53 record high on Sept. 22 of this year. Photo shows Oct. 7 gas prices at a Circle K in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.



Stream pipelines were later sabotaged under suspicious circumstances.

Now Trump turns to Russian diesel. A temporary deal driven by high fuel prices does not erase that history.

Nor is the U.S. a neutral mediator between Russia and Ukraine. The claim is meant to conceal its central role in the war. Without the U.S. and NATO, there would be no such war. Ukraine alone could not have sustained a prolonged war of this scale against Russia.

Ukrainian forces have held a long front and carried out strikes deep inside Russian territory, hitting infrastructure, data centers and energy facilities. This war is being fought with the enormous resources of U.S. imperialism behind Ukraine.

A March 2025 New York Times investigation exposed just how deeply the Pentagon had become involved. At a U.S. military headquarters in Wiesbaden, Germany, U.S. and Ukrainian officers jointly chose targets. U.S. intelligence provided coordinates for strikes. The CIA also helped enable attacks inside Russia.

These are not the actions of a neutral third party. The war is a confrontation between Russia and the U.S. and NATO, fought through Ukraine. Trump's temporary energy deal does not change its underlying character.

What about lower energy prices? Trump may want relief ahead of the midterms. But his administration also serves the oil capitalists

making extraordinary profits from the crisis.

Big Oil has been central to Trump's political rise. Oil and gas interests made nearly \$249 million in federal political contributions during the 2024 election cycle. Nearly nine-tenths of the money going to candidates and party committees went to Republicans.

Trump also has a direct financial stake. According to an August 2026 report by Democrats on Congress's Joint Economic Committee, he held as much as \$45.6 million in oil and gas company stocks at the end of 2025. Those holdings gained as much as \$15.5 million in value amid the Iran war.

Major oil and gas producers reported roughly \$125 billion in profits in the first half of 2026. The wars against Iran, Yemen and Russia have helped drive up energy costs while enriching the oil monopolies.

This is the contradiction behind Trump's ceasefire talk. High fuel prices are producing political trouble and cutting into profits in other industries. But they are also delivering a fortune to the oil capitalists who helped put Trump in office.

Do not believe the ceasefire hype. A temporary move to ease fuel prices before an election does not mean the U.S. government has abandoned its campaign against Russia. Behind the talk of peace and lower prices, the capitalist government continues serving the interests of capital and pursuing its imperialist war aims. #

CUBA's Queer Rights Revolution

LOVE
IS THE
LAW

Book by Gregory
E. Williams

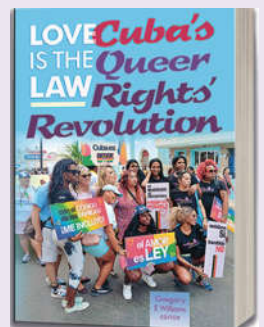
In the book 'Love is the Law' –

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



Unable to break Iran, Trump sends

By Gary Wilson

Since he stood at the United Nations on Sept. 22, President Donald Trump has threatened again and again to annihilate Iran. The Pentagon is moving the warships and troops that would give him the means to launch a much larger attack after the Nov. 3 election.

On Sept. 27, the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt and its strike group quietly left San Diego for West Asia. On Sept. 28, the USS Makin Island Amphibious Ready Group followed, carrying Marines of the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit. Together, the two groups would bring 9,000 to 10,000 troops to West Asia, where more than 50,000 U.S. military personnel are already deployed.

A U.S. official told The Associated Press the new forces could arrive as early as the end of October. Trump has told aides he expects to resume bombing Iran after the election, The Wall Street Journal reported Sept. 25.

The Roosevelt would join the USS George H.W. Bush, in the region since April, and the USS George Washington. U.S. officials say that could put three carrier strike groups in West Asia at once, although Stars and Stripes reported that the Roosevelt is expected to relieve the George Washington.

On Oct. 2, Trump's top war managers met for hours at Camp David to plan the next steps in the war on Iran, three U.S. officials told Axios. Vice President JD Vance chaired the meeting. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Secretary of War Pete Hegseth, CIA Director John Ratcliffe, White House envoy Steve Witkoff and Gen. Dan Caine, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, attended. The White House did not announce it.

The last such meeting took place in June 2025, days before the U.S. and Israel attacked Iran. "Things were decided or at least deeply discussed," one of the officials said.

That afternoon, asked about his next move on Iran, Trump told reporters, "If I told you, you would have a major story."

'Annihilate the Islamic Republic'

At the United Nations General Assembly on Sept. 22, Trump told the world's governments he had "a big decision to make." He asked aloud whether to make a deal with Iran "or do I annihilate the Islamic Republic and do it quickly." He asked whether to drive Iran "into hell with no chance of survival."

On Sept. 30, asked how he could make a deal with Iran's government, Trump said: "Maybe you blow them up. We have to make that decision: We blow them up or make a deal."

On Oct. 1, leaving the White House for a campaign stop in Texas, he said Iran would "either sign a very fair deal or they won't exist any longer."

That evening in Denton, Texas, he said Iran's government would "do something very proper and smart, or they won't be around very long."

The same day, Time magazine published an interview in which Trump said, "By annihilating Iran, we've created peace in the world," and, "With Iran, I don't think you could ever have peace." Asked whether he would order new strikes after the midterm elections, he said it was "possible." "We have a lot of weapons," he added. Reminded of his threat at the United Nations to annihilate Iran, he replied: "Yeah, I would do that. It's possible."

Iran is a country of 90 million people. U.S. bombing killed at least 3,527 people there in the

first six months of the war, according to Iran's Health Ministry.

Each threat comes wrapped in the claim that Iran must never obtain a nuclear weapon. Iran's nuclear program is a civilian development program, used to produce electricity and nuclear technology for medicine, agriculture and industry. Iran has consistently maintained that it has never sought nuclear weapons. U.S. intelligence agencies have reported since 2007 that Iran was not building one, including during both Trump administrations. On Oct. 1, the Wall Street Journal's editors urged the administration to finish "the nuclear program or the regime itself."

That demand makes the war aim plain. The U.S. government has been trying to force Iran to surrender its independence, accept the blockade and sanctions, and submit to U.S. domination in West Asia.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian answered on Oct. 1 that the U.S. government should "get the idea of bringing us to our knees" out of its head.

The offer Trump dismissed

During the General Assembly, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi sent a seven-day plan through Qatari mediators. Iran would reopen the Strait of Hormuz by the seventh day and return to talks. In return, the U.S. would lift its naval blockade of Iran's ports, waive oil sanctions, release about \$12 billion in frozen Iranian money and end the fighting on all fronts, including Lebanon.

Trump rejected it on Sept. 26.

"They want to make a deal where they open the strait immediately because they're losing so

Continued page 17

Trump estrangula a Cuba y prepara la invasión

Continuación de la página 20

de agua. El Pentágono se prepara contra una sociedad que no se ha quebrado.

Unidades para una ocupación

El 25 de septiembre, CBS News reveló que la Reserva del Ejército preguntó a sus comandos qué unidades podían asignarse al Comando Sur, posiblemente «necesarias en 90 a 120 días». El mensaje no nombra a Cuba. Varios funcionarios dijeron a CBS que Cuba es el objetivo.

La lista: policía militar para campos de detención y retenes; una brigada médica y un equipo quirúrgico para atender heridos cerca del combate; ingenieros y logística para sostener tropas en todo un teatro de operaciones. Para bombardear bastan los aviones. Estas son fuerzas para invadir y ocupar.

Nadie ha ordenado aún el despliegue. El mensaje hace inventario, el paso previo a las órdenes. El plazo cae entre fines de diciembre y enero.

Trump dice adónde va. En marzo habló del «honor de tomar Cuba». En las Naciones Unidas, el 22 de septiembre, dijo del gobierno cubano: «Caerá». Es la administración que secuestró al presidente venezolano Nicolás Maduro y a la Primera Combatiente Cilia Flores el 3 de enero, y que dijo del petróleo venezolano: «Al vencedor le corresponde el botín».

Cuba ya derrotó una invasión. En abril de 1961, una fuerza entrenada por la CIA desembarcó en Playa Girón y fue derrotada en menos de tres días por el ejército revolucionario y las milicias. Hoy la defensa descansa en la Guerra de Todo el Pueblo: obreros, campesinos y estudiantes preparados en cada centro de

trabajo, y Comités de Defensa de la Revolución organizados cuadro por cuadro. El Pentágono puede calcular cuántos policías militares y cirujanos necesita. No puede calcular la resistencia que encontraría. En Ecuador, las familias organizadas tumbaron el caso del Pentágono. En Cuba, un ejército de ocupación enfrentaría a todo un pueblo organizado.

Esa resistencia no está sola. La campaña NoWarOnCuba convoca una semana de acciones en Estados Unidos del 24 al 31 de octubre, con un Día Mundial de Acción el 28, cuando la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas vote por 34.ª vez sobre el bloqueo. Esas acciones llevan la lucha contra el bloqueo y la invasión al propio país que los impone.

Traducido por Resumen Latinoamericano – EE. UU.

more warships

Continued from page 16

badly," he said. He told Time the offer was "not good enough." More oil and gas has been getting through the strait in recent weeks, but shipping remains disrupted, costly and far from secure.

Iran has offered to restore normal passage through the strait in exchange for ending the blockade, sanctions and fighting. Trump is demanding an agreement in which Iran reopens the strait while the blockade and sanctions intended to strangle it remain in place.

In March, Trump said the war would last four to six weeks. It is now in its eighth month, and the government he set out to overthrow still stands.

The administration has failed to achieve the aims for which it began the war. Bombing has not overthrown the Iranian government. The blockade and sanctions have not forced surrender or broken the country.

That is the contradiction now driving the escalation: the U.S. government cannot obtain submission by the means used so far, but it is unwilling to abandon the objective.

Mohsen Rezaei, secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, said on Sept. 29 that Trump is "trapped in a quagmire where he can neither negotiate nor fight."

The "very fair deal" Trump demands is Iran's surrender.

Iran under siege

The U.S. Navy has turned back 125 commercial ships from Iran's ports, according to the U.S. military. On Sept. 26, Trump called the blockade "a wall of steel."

The Treasury Department's Operation Economic Outcast, launched Aug. 24, aims to cut Iran off from the world economy. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent has said its purpose is to "sever every economic lifeline" of Iran's government.

On Sept. 23, Treasury's threat to sanction any company or airport that refuels or services Iranian airliners took effect. Within a week, international flights at Tehran's main airport fell by more than two-fifths.

On Oct. 1, Treasury sanctioned Iran's automobile and railway industries. The targets include Iran Khodro and SAIPA, which make more than nine of every 10 cars sold in Iran; the state-owned Islamic Republic of Iran Railway Company, which carries passengers and freight; and two other major rail companies. Treasury also sanctioned foreign companies supplying Iran's auto plants, from Indonesia to Turkey to the United Arab Emirates.

Treasury called these industries "some of the last significant elements" of Iran's industrial base.

Marines prepare to board the USS Makin Island at Naval Base San Diego on Sept. 28. The amphibious assault group is being deployed as the Pentagon builds up forces for a new attack on Iran.

Car plants, passenger trains and airliners are how people earn a living, get to work and move food and goods. The blockade, industrial sanctions and bombing are different weapons in the same war, aimed at making ordinary life so difficult that the country is forced to submit.

Bessent told Fox News on Sept. 27 that Iran would have "nothing" left to trade "probably within the next two weeks." On Aug. 31, he had predicted collapse "within weeks or months." In March, Trump called the war a "short-term excursion."

The earlier deadlines have passed. Iran has not collapsed.

In recent weeks, the Pentagon sent two more Patriot missile-defense batteries to West Asia, Axios reported on Oct. 2: one to guard a Saudi oil facility and the other a Qatari gas facility.

In early August, when Trump was weighing a massive attack that included Iran's energy infrastructure, the Saudi and Qatari monarchies lobbied him against it. They feared that Iran would strike their oil and gas installations in return. U.S. officials told Axios that this was a major reason Trump held off.

A renewed assault needs Saudi airspace. U.S. officials say the Saudi monarchy will not open it unless its oil fields are protected.

The Patriots are the price of the airspace.

This is the material relationship behind the military alliance. The Gulf monarchies sit on immense oil and gas wealth. These regimes, propped up by the U.S., depend on its weapons and military protection. The Pentagon, in turn, depends on their territory, bases and airspace to wage war throughout the region.

The Pentagon has fired off so much of its arsenal that its own inspector general reported on Sept. 14 that the war had caused "strategic inventory shortfalls." Trump dismissed the report as "mostly fake news."

The batteries guarding the oil and gas installations come from the same depleted stock needed to protect U.S. bases. The Pentagon pulled them from other military commands, Axios reported.

The strain is not confined to weapons. On Oct. 2, the G7 agreed to release 100 million barrels of diesel and crude oil from emergency reserves as the war on Iran continued to squeeze global fuel supplies.

The war is already forcing choices about where scarce weapons will go. The oil installations were given priority.



Iran prepares its answer

Senior Iranian officials told Reuters on Oct. 1 that Iran is preparing a broader and more forceful response if the U.S. resumes large-scale attacks. Commanders are reviewing plans to extend targets beyond U.S. bases to countries that support U.S. military operations, and possibly to locations outside West Asia.

Allied forces in Lebanon, Yemen and Iraq have been told to prepare.

Hamidreza Azizi of the International Crisis Group told Reuters that Iran appears determined "not to respond symbolically to a symbolic move."

On Sept. 29, Revolutionary Guard spokesperson Gen. Hossein Mohebbi read a letter addressed to the people of the U.S.. The war will end, it said, when the U.S. government admits defeat and withdraws its forces from the region.

Mohebbi told The Associated Press that the U.S. government uses Iran's nuclear program as a pretext to plunder Iran's wealth and make it a colony again.

Whatever the next military move, the war has already demonstrated something the administration did not expect. A country subjected to bombing, blockade and economic siege has continued to resist rather than accept the terms imposed on it, and that resistance is why deadlines for Iran's collapse keep being replaced by new deadlines.

Still greater force

In his Denton speech, Trump said Iran is "ready to fold up" and that the U.S. will win the war "right after the election."

Yet the White House is preparing still greater force: another carrier group, thousands more troops, reinforced defenses for the Gulf oil monarchies and repeated threats that Iran "won't exist any longer."

The buildup is no sign that U.S. imperialism has found a way to win the war it expected to finish in four to six weeks. The bombing and siege have failed to force Iran to its knees, while the U.S. ruling class remains unwilling to accept an independent Iran that it cannot control.

The outcome is not Trump's to choose. The Roosevelt is sailing toward West Asia, but seven months of bombing, blockade and siege have not brought Iran to its knees. #

From Palestine to Sicily, reclaiming

By a Struggle-La Lucha correspondent

Ente di Decolonizzazione – Borgo Rizza is a project initiated by DAAR (www.decolonizing.ps) that explores the possibility of critically reusing and subverting fascist colonial architecture. It is sustained by the community around Carlentini, university participants, DAAR and everyone engaged with Ente di Decolonizzazione.

Since 2020, Ente di Decolonizzazione has worked to confront the legacy of the Italian colonial period. Through research, artistic interventions, educational programs and public discussions held at the former Ente di Colonizzazione del Latifondo Siciliano in Carlentini (Province of Siracusa), the project has engaged universities, cultural institutions

and local associations to initiate the critical reuse of Borgo Rizza and to ask what to do with this difficult heritage. The word borgo derives from the Late Latin burgus, meaning "fortified place," and carries related meanings such as "hamlet" or "suburb." But when speaking about the Borghi built in Sicily during fascism, the term refers to a specific type of settlement: planned rural villages built by the Ente di Colonizzazione del Latifondo Siciliano, which was created by law on Jan. 2, 1940, following Mussolini's announcement of the "assault on the latifundium" in July 1939.

The model drew on colonial settlements in Libya, where rural villages had been built, and on colonial planning in Eritrea, Ethiopia and Somalia. The regime treated southern Italy as a territory in need of modernization and trans-

formation. In 1940–41, the first eight Borghi were built in Sicily, one in each province except Ragusa; more followed later.

They were not villages like those that already existed in Sicily, but settlements designed mainly to provide the political and social services needed to secure the fascist regime's control over the territory. The complex included buildings such as the Casa del Fascio, the police station, the medical clinic, the school and the church. The architecture was primarily administrative. The Borgo sat at the top of the hill.

With the collapse of the fascist regime, the Borghi lost their purpose, and many across Sicily were left abandoned and empty. While on another research trip, DAAR came across one of

Continued on page 19

ICE gestapo attacks Ilhan Omar

Continued from page 1

paperwork ran out years ago, as border chief Tom Homan admitted last year.

A civil case to strip citizenship has no time limit, and the Justice Department made such cases a priority in June 2025. Deportation can follow. Vice President JD Vance said in March the question was "how do you go after her."

For two decades the government tried to deport Harry Bridges, the Australian-born leader of the West Coast longshore workers, whose union could shut every port from San Diego to Seattle. When time ran out on his criminal case in 1953, prosecutors sued to strip his citizenship. They lost. The longshore workers never let the government separate him from them. In 1955 it deported Claudia Jones, the Trinidad-born Black communist, for what she wrote and said.

A whole community on probation

Minnesota has the largest Somali community in the United States. If the government can take Omar's citizenship, every Somali family is being told it could be next.

In December 2025, Trump called Somalis "garbage." In August a federal judge let the administration end Temporary Protected Status for about 1,100 Somalis. On Oct. 8, Trump posted that Minnesota "is being taken over by Somali immigrants" and told his followers, "Fight back Minnesota, fight back!" Four days later the agents were at Omar's door.

Racism is the oldest tool for splitting workers who would otherwise stand together. A community branded as criminal can be raided and stripped of protection while its neighbors are told it had it coming. That plan failed last

winter, when Somali families, other immigrants, union members and students stood together against ICE. The raid on Omar is the same plan tried again.

A political police force

Omar's real offense is opposition. She condemned Metro Surge while it was killing people in her district and made sure Somali residents knew their rights. Rep. Brandon Gill of Texas demanded her deportation for it. Rep. Randy Fine of Florida called her a "Muslim terrorist" for opposing the genocide in Gaza that the United States arms and pays for. The message to every naturalized worker who speaks up is that citizenship is on probation.

On June 16, HSI's Minnesota chief and federal prosecutors announced conspiracy charges against 15 anti-ICE activists, people their lawyer called "union members, workers, neighbors." The prosecutor could not name one agent hurt by the alleged conspiracy. On Aug. 6, police in Richfield, Minnesota, caught an undercover HSI agent watching Omar's town hall from an SUV with another vehicle's plates. In Texas, 15 Prairieland defendants got over 556 years between them, most for being at a protest outside an ICE jail. Daniel Sanchez-Estrada, who was not there, got 30 years for moving a box of political pamphlets for his jailed wife.

Spying on an elected official, conspiracy cases against people who watched ICE, a raid on a member of Congress during her campaign: this is a political police force. Biden's Justice Department opened an inquiry into Omar's finances in 2024. Trump inherited the files and pointed them at her citizenship.

The government that lost in the streets

Metro Surge flooded the Twin Cities with federal agents. Neighbors answered with rapid-response networks and ICE watch patrols. On Jan. 7 an ICE agent killed Renee Good. On Jan. 23 Minnesota struck. The Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation and the Minnesota Nurses Association backed it. More than 700 businesses shut, from every union grocery co-op to the Somali shops of Karmel Mall. Tens of thousands marched at 20 below zero. The next day federal agents killed Alex Pretti, and the movement kept going. The administration pulled the surge back.

That strike is what the raid answers. A march can be waited out. A strike reaches the profits the whole system runs on, because nothing moves without the workers who stock the shelves, care for the sick and keep a city running. A worker who can be stripped of citizenship thinks twice before joining a union, walking a picket line or standing between ICE and a neighbor. Built against immigrants, these weapons are ready for any workers who organize.

The surge left, but the prosecutors and investigators stayed, and every attack since has come after the retreat. Thousands of armed agents could not make the Twin Cities submit, so the government reached for a harsher weapon.

Citizenship did not protect anyone from Metro Surge. Renee Good and Alex Pretti were both citizens. What protected people was each other. The movement that beat the surge is being called back into the streets to refuse the split this raid is meant to make. That is what will defend Ilhan Omar and every Somali family this government has put on probation. #

a fascist colonial village

Continued from page 18

these Borghi, which prompted the collective to ask what these places had been, what they had become and what they might become in the future. To the group, the layout felt familiar, echoing patterns of settler organization they knew from Palestine. Their research led them to the mayor of Carlentini, the municipality responsible for Borgo Rizza, also known as Borgo EX.

The mayor shared their wish to reflect critically on its history and to try out what could be done collectively. That meeting led to a partnership: an agreement between the Royal Institute of Art (Kungliga Konsthögskolan) in Stockholm and the municipality of Carlentini that turned Borgo Rizza into part summer school, part gathering space and part ongoing research site.

In Italy, fascist-era architecture is rarely treated as a subject for critical reflection. More often it is simply absorbed into the landscape, sometimes even admired for its style, without much discussion of what it was built to do. In Carlentini, the group found a municipality willing to engage seriously with that history rather than quietly preserving or celebrating it, and one that supported and encouraged them to involve the local population. The town has a history of social and political engagement, and its neighbor, Lentini, has a strong anti-fascist and communist tradition rooted in peasant and labor struggles. The town's Assessore alla Cultura (councilor for culture) has supported Ente di Decolonizzazione from its earliest days and remains central to the collaboration.

The buildings had already been renovated several times, including once with European Union funds. But renovation alone hadn't been enough: the local community never really used the space, and it never became a real public space. When the collective arrived, the response was something close to relief: finally, someone wanted to do something with it. "Here are the keys."

The group therefore began to inhabit the place, and members of the local community brought furniture from home. The fascist buildings had been mere stage sets for public display, with no private dimension. That is why Ente di Decolonizzazione pursued a kind of "domestication": building on the memory of people coming there in the 1950s to eat watermelon in summer, the group set up a kitchen in the square.

The Difficult Heritage Summer School began when the mayor handed over the keys to Borgo Rizza. Since DAAR's members were teaching at the Royal Institute of Art at the time, a summer school was a natural starting point.



Banners at Borgo EX. The one on the wall reads "Ricordare, Ricostruire, Resistere" – Remember, Rebuild, Resist. Photo: Struggle-La Lucha correspondent

From that first summer school, an annual gathering of the wider Decolonizing Architecture Advanced Studies (DAAS) community developed. The first three years were more institutionally organized. In 2025, students formed a curatorial team to organize the annual gathering. Participants shared responsibilities through teams for cleaning, cooking, space-making and awareness. Around 50 people eventually took part.

The summer of 2026 marked a moment of transition, as it was the final year of the DAAS course. The decision was made not to create a fixed program. The gathering was smaller, with around 25 to 30 people arriving throughout the week.

The 2026 participants created a radio station, Radio Sfascio. Sprouting from Borgo EX (Carlentini, Sicily), it provides an infrastructure for staying in conversation and remaining close to each other across a vast network of people and geographies. The physical space of the radio hijacks the former Casa del Fascio in Borgo EX and turns it into a broadcasting studio and listening room.

Ente di Decolonizzazione is carried by an association that was founded independently of the municipality. It is a democratic, self-governing body, and it is not limited to former DAAS students: anyone can become a member. Its aim is not to institutionalize Borgo EX, but to sustain it while keeping the collective spirit that shaped it. The next annual gathering is planned for July 2027.

[Editor's note: DAAR is the Palestinian-Italian collective of architects Sandi Hilal and Alessandro

Petti, whose work on decolonization began in Palestine. In 2023, DAAR won the Golden Lion for best participant at the Venice Architecture Biennale for its Ente di Decolonizzazione – Borgo Rizza installation, cited by the jury for its political engagement with decolonization in Palestine and Europe.]

Glossary

Borgo EX: The name used for Borgo Rizza within the Ente di Decolonizzazione initiative, challenging its identity as a former fascist settlement.

Borgo ~Rizza~: A planned rural settlement built under the Italian fascist regime in 1940 near Carlentini, Sicily. It is now a site for decolonial research, collective learning and the Difficult Heritage Summer School.

DAAR: Decolonizing Architecture Art Research, the collective that initiated the Ente di Decolonizzazione project.

DAAS: Decolonizing Architecture Advanced Studies is a series of postmaster courses, public seminars, field studies, publications and discursive exhibitions that together form a platform for education and research at the Royal Institute of Art in Stockholm.

Ente di Colonizzazione del Latifondo Siciliano: The fascist state agency established in 1940 to develop rural settlements (Borghi) in Sicily, drawing on models and practices associated with Italian colonialism.

Ente di Decolonizzazione: A project initiated by DAAR in 2020 that critically reuses and reinterprets Borgo Rizza to confront Italy's colonial legacy. #

Trump estrangula a Cuba y prepara la invasión

Por Gary Wilson

La administración de Trump le está cortando el combustible a Cuba, aborda barcos a punta de pistola y prepara una invasión. En puertos de Florida y Texas, agentes federales confiscan combustible destinado a la isla. La Guardia Costera detiene cargueros cerca de sus costas. En el Caribe y el Pacífico oriental, el Pentágono hace estallar lanchas, mata o captura a sus tripulaciones y llama «narcoterroristas» a los muertos.

Ahora, planificadores del Ejército calculan cuánta policía militar, cuántos cirujanos de combate y cuántos ingenieros harían falta para desembarcar en Cuba. Es una sola ofensiva: dejar a Cuba sin combustible, dominar los mares que la rodean y derrocar a su gobierno por la fuerza.

El 7 de octubre, agentes federales anunciaron en Miami la incautación de más de 600,000 galones de biodiésel destinados a Enetec, mayorista estatal cubano.

Ese combustible era legal según la ley cubana e internacional. Chocó con un bloqueo que Trump ha apretado todo el año. Una orden ejecutiva del 29 de enero amenazó con aranceles a cualquier país que vendiera petróleo a Cuba, y México, entonces su principal proveedor, suspendió los envíos. Al sector socialista, que mantiene hospitales, bombas de agua y centrales eléctricas, no puede llegar nada. El 29 de septiembre, la administración cerró también los bancos estadounidenses a las empresas privadas cubanas.

El 5 de septiembre, guardacostas armados abordaron el carguero Grace en aguas internacionales y lo desviaron a México. El canciller cubano Bruno Rodríguez respondió que Estados Unidos no tiene autoridad para registrar barcos en alta mar ni para «bombardear y ejecutar extrajudicialmente» a personas por «navegar de manera sospechosa».

Los ataques a lanchas montan una fuerza que puede volverse contra cualquiera que intente abastecer a la isla. El 4 de octubre, el Comando Sur voló una lancha en el Caribe y mató a cuatro personas. Su comunicado no dio bandera, carga ni ubicación. Desde septiembre de 2025, la campaña ha matado al menos a 235 personas en 70 ataques, en nombre de una guerra contra los cárteles que Trump mismo declaró.

Hundidos con las pruebas

Desde el 28 de agosto, en el Pacífico, fuerzas del Pentágono, junto con el gobierno de Ecuador, interceptaron al menos ocho barcos



Trabajadores eléctricos cubanos reparan equipos de generación de energía para restablecer el suministro eléctrico tras un apagón. Foto: Prensa Latina.

pesqueros de la costa de Manabí, sacaron a las tripulaciones y hundieron los barcos. Los pescadores fueron encarcelados por «asociación ilícita».

Los tribunales ecuatorianos ya han liberado o absuelto a 88 de ellos; otros 56 esperan sentencia. El juez Juan Dueñas, de Manta, determinó que los barcos se hundieron sin autorización y que la escena fue destruida: el Pentágono mandó las pruebas al fondo del mar.

Las familias lucharon desde el primer día. Montaron guardia en los muelles de Manta y presentaron hábeas corpus que obligaron a las autoridades a dar cuenta de los desaparecidos. La fiscalía no pudo probar nada.

En el Caribe, nadie quedó vivo para juzgar. En los dos mares, el Pentágono detiene, incauta o destruye embarcaciones a su antojo, sin pruebas ni cargos. Cuando llega un juez, los barcos ya están en el fondo. Toda tripulación en esas aguas trabaja bajo esa amenaza.

Quién compra, quién paga

El bloqueo tiene compradores. Cuando una orden ejecutiva del 1 de mayo extendió las sanciones a la energía y la minería cubanas, la canadiense Sherritt International, con 32 años en el níquel de Moa, se retiró. El 20 de mayo firmó un acuerdo preliminar que podría darle el control de la propia Sherritt, con descuento, a la firma del texano Ray Washburne, quien dirigió el banco federal de desarrollo internacional en el primer mandato de Trump.

Lo que las sanciones le quitan a una empresa canadiense, un allegado de Trump lo compra barato. Y el gobierno que impone las sanciones decide si aprueba la venta.

Tras la orden de mayo, las navieras francesa y alemana que llevaban la mayor parte de la carga a Cuba dejaron de aceptar reservas para la isla. Empresas estadounidenses, con licencias federales, ocuparon su lugar. Estados Unidos, décimo proveedor de Cuba en 2023, va camino de ser el primero este año. El gobierno que bloquea a Cuba ha convertido a sus capitalistas en los principales proveedores de la isla.

El pueblo cubano paga con apagones, grifos secos y paradas de autobús vacías. El 10 de octubre, la falla de una sola línea dejó a oscuras las cinco provincias orientales, más de 3 millones de personas, porque el sistema trabaja sin combustible ni repuestos. En La Habana circulan poco más de 100 autobuses; la ciudad necesita 3,000. El cerco ha paralizado casi todo el bombeo de agua. La mortalidad infantil se ha más que duplicado, según la cancillería cubana.

El blanco es la independencia económica que conquistó la Revolución. El bloqueo le niega combustible al sector socialista, mientras los capitalistas de aquí hacen fila para quedarse con minas, industrias y otros bienes si cae el gobierno. Según The Guardian, aliados de Trump y Rubio ya se disputan los activos de Cuba.

Pero el bloqueo choca con una respuesta organizada. Las brigadas eléctricas devolvieron la luz al oriente en unas cuatro horas. Hay generadores para mantener 29 fuentes críticas

Continúa en la página 16

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