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Europe erupts against austerity and war

By Sharon Black

Today's revolts – from France to Spain, from Italy to Portugal and Belgium, and east to Albania – are the product of years of capitalist austerity that have finally hit a boiling point, made all the more explosive by the U.S. proxy war in Ukraine and its war in West Asia. European rearmament against Russia, demanded by U.S. imperialism, is a major accelerant. The bankers' war is being waged against students, workers and tenants at home too – and they are fighting back.

France: from protest to rebellion

In France, the demonstrations began with high school students and teachers protesting run-down conditions in schools and poorly funded education. On Oct. 17, the protests erupted into rebellion. The labor unions – including the CGT, one of France's major union federations – and other groups, bringing an estimated 550,000 to 800,000 people into the streets across France, with clashes in cities including Paris, Marseille and Lyon.

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Dockworkers in 22 countries to stage global action against arms trade on October 30. The action, backed by more than 25 trade unions at 113 ports, was launched by dockworkers' unions in Italy, France, Greece, Türkiye and Morocco. Photo from Oakland, California in 2024.



JUSTICE for Koran Irvine!
Workers demand murder charge

From the MILLION WORKER MARCH to MAY DAY 2027



U.S. genocide decried in U.N. — countries vote: ¡CUBA SÍ! ¡BLOQUEO NO!

Shackled and defiant, Maduro and Flores reject bogus charges





INDIA clears way for Walmart and Google, voters purged

IRAN holds Hormuz, **YEMEN** won't bow

Pentagon rushes Japan's war buildup against **CHINA**



Google gags workers, sells AI for war

Mogadishu - Minneapolis, SOMALIS RESIST

Justice for Koran Irvine!

Workers demand murder charge against 'retired' cop

By Stephen Millies

Oct. 27 – Hundreds of workers came to Foley Square in lower Manhattan this afternoon to demand justice for their union brother Koran Irvine. The 46-year-old father of two children and Con Ed employee had been killed the week before by retired police detective Victor Romero.

Irvine was driving home from a 12-hour shift on Oct. 20, when his and Romero's vehicles nearly collided on the crowded approach to the George Washington Bridge. Romero's response – shown on video – was to aggressively tailgate Irvine's smaller car before firing his gun into its back window, killing Koran Irvine.

Despite this evidence of "malice aforethought," prosecutors initially arraigned the ex-cop for mere manslaughter. Only after Utility Workers Union of America Local 1-2 members filled the courthouse the morning of Oct. 27, did a grand jury upgrade Romero's charges to second-degree murder.

As the ex-cop left the courthouse, dozens of Con Ed workers righteously shouted "murderer" at him.

After Victor Romero killed Koran Irvine, he drove home and had dinner with his family. Meanwhile, Koran Irvine's wife Patricia Irvine was widowed, and his daughter and son became fatherless.

The former detective was allowed to turn himself in and stays free on $1 million bail. Thousands of poor people in New York City's Rikers Island jail who haven't been convicted of anything are kept locked up because they can't afford bail.

One of them was Kalief Browder, who was jailed there for three years before his false charges of stealing a backpack were dropped. The Black youth was so traumatized by his imprisonment that he hanged himself on June 6, 2015.

Where is Mayor Mamdani?

At the Foley Square rally that afternoon, union and family members spoke about their love for Koran Irvine, whose nickname on the job was "Flaco."



Protesters demand justice for Koran Irvine on Oct 27.

SLL photos: Stephen Millies

Many also questioned the kid glove treatment given by the police to his accused killer. Long-time friend Chris Demmerle told a WNBC reporter that, referring to Romero, it "seems like he's being protected and doesn't seem like it's fair at this point."

Frank Morales, the president of the Utility Workers Union of America Local 1-2, said that "the world lost a truly special person" when Koran Irvine was killed. It was recounted that the former union shop steward helped younger workers on the job.

Hawk Newsome, the co-founder of Black Lives Matter Greater New York, declared in reference to other victims of police killings, "We can't separate this from what it is. This is George Floyd. This is Eric Garner. This is Sandra Bland. This police is covering for police to kill Black people. … They let that man [Romero] go home sit out and chill."

Kerbie Joseph from the Party for Socialism and Liberation said that "this isn't just an injustice to his [Koran's] family; this is an injustice to all of us."

But so far there's been no word from Con Ed's CEO Timothy Cawley about the death of their employee who had recently completed 20 years on the job. Cawley, who raked in $14.1 million last year, heads up a corporation that locked out Koran Irvine and thousands of other workers for a month in 2012.

And where was Mayor Zohran Mamdani? His office in City Hall was only a couple blocks from the Foley Square rally.

Who did speak up for Koran Irvine in Foley Square was Linda Tigani, the chair of New York City's Commission on Racial Equity, whom the mayor wants to fire.

Mayor Mamdani didn't show up for the same reason he didn't fire Police Commissioner Jessica Tisch or disband the police department's brutal Strategic Response Group. These are questions of state power, the organized violence that keeps poor and working people down.

Only the power of the people can bring justice for Koran Irvine. #

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From the Million Worker March to May Day 2027





Chris Silvera, from Teamsters Local 808 and chair of the Teamsters National Black Caucus, speaking at the 2004 Million Worker March. Speakers and guests on the Oct. 17 MWM Zoom call, 'Mobilizing in Our Own Name,' paid tribute to Silvera. In the middle row are moderator Clarence Thomas (left) and Monadel Herzallah of the U.S. Palestinian Community Network (right).

What are the qualities of a working-class leader that make their work endure and infuse labor with power long after we've lost them, as we did with Teamster principal officer Chris Silvera when he died unexpectedly on June 12, 2026? This question was addressed in an emotional tribute to Silvera on an Oct. 17 Zoom call, "Mobilizing in Our Own Name," held on the anniversary of the 2004 Million Worker March (MWM).

Brenda Stokely, another labor leader, was also honored for her enduring impact in the MWM movement on the Oct. 17 call. Stokely spoke about the urgency and possibilities of organizing for May Day 2027, and for a general strike.

The Zoom call moderated by Clarence Thomas was a forum for a working discussion with speakers addressing urgent issues – taking forward the basic labor demands of MWM. The discussion included issues like how workers need to take union control of artificial intelligence (AI) to stop layoffs and speedups, to ban the use of AI for police control, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the military.

A strong focus of the call was about how to get rid of ICE. Gabriel Prawl, a leader of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) and MWM co-convener in the Pacific Northwest, raised the call to "Melt ICE!"

A goal of all speakers was to plan for May Day, May 1, 2027 – to fight for free education, health care, housing, transportation and clean energy – to defend reproductive rights, trans lives and voting rights.

International solidarity was a theme of the event. Monadel Herzallah, a co-founder of the US Palestinian Community Network, who appealed for support to end the genocide in Gaza, was met with unanimous and optimistic support for the liberation of Palestine.

Cheryl LaBash, co-chair of the National Network on Cuba, talked about the U.S. blockade of Cuba, a medieval siege meant to suffocate the entire population. She said the website nowaroncuba.com has info on the Global Week of Action Against US Genocide in Cuba, Oct. 24-31, with a day of action Oct. 28, when the United Nations General Assembly votes on the blockade.

Speakers on the Zoom call shared their experience of working with Chris Silvera, a co-founder of the 2004 MWM, the longest-serving principal officer in the Teamsters at Local 808 in Long Island City, Queens, in New York City, and the first chairman of the Teamsters National Black Caucus elected by its membership in 1999.

Silvera's righteous integrity and deep personal charisma characterized a lifetime of organizing all workers with recognition of their most crucial needs. According to Clarence Thomas, a retired member of ILWU Local 10, one of the initiators of the 2004 Million Worker March, an outstanding talent of Silvera was his "ability to get things done." For example, Silvera played a decisive role in reclaiming May Day in the labor movement.

His ability to win important gains on union contracts and force New York City to provide essential services was well known. Thomas recalled Silvera's uncanny ability to win the support of then-Teamsters President James P. Hoffa for the Million Worker March at a time when the AFL-CIO leadership was doing its best to crush the initiative of Black rank-and-file leaders and specifically, ILWU Local 10 dockworkers to raise union demands in the march before the 2004 elections.

Charles Jenkins, a transit worker with Transport Workers Union Local 100, New York City's transit union, spoke about Silvera and about Brenda Stokely, another co-convener of the MWM. Jenkins praised her empathy and wonderful accomplishments not only when she was president of AFSCME District Council 1707, the day care and social service workers union, but during years she organized support for the homeless and incarcerated people.

Stokely's daughter Zenzile Stokely, a teacher, talked about the strength of a woman raising a family who made time to be politically active with the goal of devoting herself to improving the lives of the most oppressed.

Richard Hooker, a Teamsters Local 623 member in Philadelphia, said Silvera was a mentor who enabled him to find a future as a Black leader in the union movement, in which the top leadership has a nasty history of racist segregation.

Craig Moore, a health care worker with 1199SEIU, shared experiences in union organizing with a view of where we go from here.

The discussion reconvenes Sunday, Oct. 25, at 4 p.m. Eastern (1 p.m. Pacific). On the agenda: support for the Oct. 30 International Day of Strikes and Actions by port workers in Europe and the Mediterranean; defending voting rights; stopping ICE; and organizing for May Day 2027.

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Google gags its engineers, sells AI for war

By Gary Wilson



Google workers stage a sit-in against Project Nimbus in April 2024. Google called police on protesting employees and fired dozens of workers during the campaign against its military technology contracts.

Google is putting its artificial intelligence to work for the Pentagon. Its Gemini system, already available to more than 3 million military and civilian employees, is moving onto classified networks used to plan missions and select targets. Engineers who built it are resigning, organizing and discussing a strike. Google DeepMind workers say their contracts forbid them from criticizing the company for life.

Sofia Liguori quit DeepMind in October over Google's work for the Pentagon and Israel's military. "In principle I'm not allowed to criticize Google for the duration of my life," she told the BBC on Oct. 21. She spoke anyway.

Andreas Kirsch, who resigned in September, said Google could neither control nor veto the Pentagon's use of Gemini, and barely knew how it was deployed.

The April 28 Pentagon contract permits Gemini for "any lawful government purpose," including classified work. It also requires Google to help alter safety settings on request. The contract says Gemini should not be used for domestic mass surveillance or autonomous targeting without human oversight. But the military keeps control: Google has no "right to control or veto" its operational decisions.

Secretary of War Pete Hegseth announced GenAI.mil, built on Gemini, on Dec. 9, 2025. "The future of American warfare is here, and it's spelled AI," he said. OpenAI, Amazon, Microsoft, Oracle, Nvidia and SpaceX have signed similar Pentagon contracts. Anthropic, which resisted demands to loosen its restrictions on autonomous weapons and mass surveillance, was branded a "supply-chain risk."

What Google's workers won in 2018

In 2018, more than 4,000 Google workers signed a letter opposing Project Maven, which used AI to identify targets in drone footage. Around a dozen resigned. Google let its contract expire and pledged not to develop AI for weapons.

Workers won that pledge. Google erased it on Feb. 4, 2025, shortly after CEO Sundar Pichai attended Trump's inauguration with other tech billionaires. Google's new principles promise "appropriate human oversight."

Maven continued under Palantir, the military contractor co-founded by Peter Thiel. Its system helped the Pentagon choose targets in the 2026 war against Iran.

On Feb. 28, U.S. Tomahawk missiles struck the Shajareh Tayyebeh girls' school in Minab, Iran, killing 168 people, most of them schoolgirls. Bloomberg reported that an unreleased Pentagon review found Central Command relied on Maven, which identified the school as a military site using outdated data. Hegseth had cut the civilian-harm review team from 10 to one. No one on that team reviewed the target.

"Speed defines victory in the AI era," Pentagon official Emil Michael said. Former OpenAI official Sarah Shoker told the BBC that operators faced with hundreds of AI-generated targets and little time cannot meaningfully review them.

Liguori warned against treating Minab as a mere targeting error. She opposes AI targeting itself. Even a system that never missed would let everyone in the killing chain pass responsibility to someone else.

Tested on Gaza

Google and Amazon signed the $1.2 billion Project Nimbus contract in 2021 to provide Israel's government and military with cloud and AI technology. In 2024 Google claimed Nimbus was separate from weapons and intelligence work. Now Google supplies the Pentagon's classified targeting networks. Israel is a Pentagon forward base in West Asia. Liguori told The Intercept that the AI warfare tested in Gaza was becoming the model for future wars.

Google workers fought Nimbus. On April 16, 2024, No Tech for Apartheid activists occupied company offices in NYC and Sunnyvale, Calif.. Google called police. Nine workers were arrested, and the company fired more than 50, including workers who had not joined the sit-ins.

At DeepMind, Liguori said managers deleted internal posts for using the word "genocide." She was told her tone was too aggressive and sent to complaint channels that produced automated replies. The company's public promise of "dedicated channels" meant little to the workers.

One DeepMind employee told the BBC, anonymously for fear of retaliation, that the company expected dissenters to leave and younger hires to replace them.

The workers organize

In February, Liguori and co-workers rallied in London beneath banners reading "No AI in the kill chain" and "No Gemini for Genocide."

In April, about 600 Google employees signed a petition against classified military work. DeepMind researcher Alex Turner gathered more than 250 signatures and proposed binding restrictions on military contracts. Management did not respond before signing the deal. Turner resigned in June.

DeepMind workers in Britain moved to unionize. 98% of participating Communication Workers Union members supported the drive. On May 5, workers demanded recognition for the CWU and Unite. They also discussed research strikes to stop improvements to Gemini.

Liguori said petitions were not enough. Workers needed to be ready to strike.

Google's workers build Gemini. Google's owners sell it. The Pentagon decides whom it targets. The workers have no vote – and DeepMind contracts try to deny them a public voice.

In 2018, collective action forced Google to abandon Maven. The firings, gag clauses and broken pledge aim to prevent another such victory. The union drive and the call for a strike take up the fight again. #

Shackled and defiant, Maduro and Flores reject new bogus charges

By Stephen Millies

Oct. 15 – Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro Moros and First Combatant Cilia Adela Flores were brought to a federal court in Manhattan this morning shackled and defiant. Facing Judge Alvin Hellerstein, both prisoners of war were arraigned on phony charges of torture. Neither is even accused of torturing anyone. They declared themselves innocent.

The week before this same judge rejected Cilia Flores request to be placed under house arrest because of her deteriorating health, which includes an untreated possible heart attack. Isn't that torture?

The same Trump regime that kidnapped President Maduro and First Combatant Flores on Jan. 3 has killed at least 238 people on the high seas for allegedly being drug traffickers. No evidence was produced, no trials were held and those accused died horrible, painful deaths.

That's not just torture committed by the Pentagon. These lethal attacks were **lynchings**.

These new torture charges are being brought because the U.S. government's case against Maduro and Flores as drug kingpins may be crumbling. Jason Richman, who supervised this case as national security co-chief in the federal prosecutor's office in Manhattan, suddenly resigned on Sept. 25.

The Cartel de los Soles – Cartel of the Suns – which Maduro and Flores were allegedly involved in, doesn't exist. Even the Justice Department quietly dropped that claim from its rewritten indictment in January. Meanwhile, Trump pardoned an actual drug lord, the former right-wing president of Honduras, Juan Orlando Hernández.

Both Maduro and Flores appeared in court dressed in their prison uniforms. Their jailers couldn't take away their dignity.



Caracas, Venezuela, Jan. 10, 2026 – protesters call for the release of Venezuelan leaders Cilia Flores and Nicolás Maduro, kidnapped by United States forces on Jan. 3, 2026.

This writer was part of a delegation in the courtroom that wore red to show our support. Its organizer was Lucy Pagoada, who is co-host of the Voices of Resistance radio program that runs on New York's WBAI (99.5 FM), on Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

Before President Maduro was seated, he turned around and raised his hands together in a gesture of strength. When Judge Hellerstein asked for his plea, Nicolás Maduro declared the charges false.

"I have seen [this indictment] in its entirety," he said. "I reject this document in its entirety." Representing President Maduro is Barry Pollack, while Mark Donnelly is Cilia Flores' attorney.

Judge Hellerstein has set the tentative trial date for June 2027, when he will be 93 years old.

After the court appearance, supporters went outside the Moynihan federal courthouse in Lower Manhattan – named for the pig who advised President Nixon to show "benign neglect" towards Black people – to talk to the media. They were able to get the truth out despite the presence of counterrevolutionaries.

These characters want to turn back the clock in Venezuela and have the country once again become a U.S. oil colony. They attacked reporters for teleSUR, who were able to defend themselves.

Remember the Panther 21!

Back in 1969, 21 members of the Black Panther Party in New York City were indicted on over 200 charges. These ridiculous counts included attempting to blow up a Macy's department store.

Because of a massive defense campaign, a jury acquitted the Panthers of all charges. We need to build such an effort to free President Nicolás Maduro and First Combatant Cilia Flores. #

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.
Leslie Feinberg's **'Rainbow Solidarity in Defense of Cuba**
tinyurl.com/Cuba-LoveisLaw
tinyurl.com/Read-LOVEistheLAW

NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING
Thursday, **November 26**, 2026 12 Noon
Cole's Hill (above Plymouth Rock), Plymouth, Massachusetts
Since 1970, Indigenous people & their allies have gathered at noon on Cole's Hill in Plymouth to commemorate a National Day of Mourning on the U.S. holiday. Many Native people do not celebrate the arrival of the Pilgrims & other European settlers. Thanksgiving Day is a reminder of the genocide of millions of Native people, the theft of Native lands and the erasure of Native cultures. Participants in **National Day of Mourning** honor Indigenous ancestors and Native resilience. It is a day of remembrance and spiritual connection, as well as a protest against the racism and oppression that Indigenous people continue to experience worldwide.
https://www.uaine.org https://tinyurl.com/DayofMourningFB

‘We have the streets’: New Orleans holds Canal Street for Palestine

By Gregory E. Williams



Hundreds marched in downtown New Orleans against the genocide in Palestine.

SLL photos: Gregory E. Williams

New Orleans, Oct. 17, 2026 – On Saturday evening, several hundred people marched for Palestine downtown, commemorating three years of resistance to the U.S.-Israeli genocide that intensified after Oct. 7, 2023. The march had originally been planned for the previous Saturday, but was moved over concerns about Hurricane Isaias. The one-week delay did not dissipate the movement’s energy.

The action was led by the New Orleans chapter of the Palestinian Youth Movement (PYM), New Orleans Stop Helping Israel’s Ports (NOSHIP), the Party for Socialism and Liberation (PSL) and other groups.

It began with a rally at historic Congo Square in present-day Armstrong Park. The square was one of the only communal spaces in the U.S. available to African people during slavery. This space is still a touchstone for the city’s Black community and other oppressed peoples. Following the rally, the march went down Rampart Street and then down Canal Street to the heart of tourism and business in the city.

There, the crowd stopped, taking up one side of Canal for an entire block at the intersection with Bourbon Street, one of the city’s busiest tourist corridors. The protesters held the block for over one hour. For a city that brought in 19.46 million visitors in 2025 who spent $10.8 billion, tourism is important and gives workers in the industry leverage: if masses of New Orleans’ low-wage hospitality workers were to go on strike, they could shut down a major part of the economy.

Speakers denounced the U.S. government’s funding of the genocide – enriching banks and weapons manufacturers – while working-class people here struggle to make ends meet. They denounced the use of New Orleans’ ports to send weapons to the Israeli Zionist forces.

During the hour-plus blockade, organizers led a prayer for all the murdered Palestinians who died with no one to pray for them. One PYM organizer who took to the mic said:

“If we were to stay here for one second for every single martyr just in the last three years, we’d have to be here for multiple days. So, we’ll hold it as long as we can because we have the power. We have the streets.”

Various studies support his claim. The post-Oct. 7 death counts in Gaza and the West Bank cited by capitalist media are probably under-counts, as it is difficult to verify given the ongoing crisis conditions and the Zionist government’s control of access to these places.

A 2026 study published in the Lancet – one of the world’s leading medical journals – puts the count of violent deaths in Gaza at 75,200 between Oct. 7, 2023 and Jan. 5, 2025. For the same period, they estimate 16,300 non-violent deaths, or 8,540 excess deaths compared with the pre-2023 death rate. The Gaza Health Ministry estimates that 1,493 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza since the start of the Oct. 10, 2025 “ceasefire.” In addition, a recent UN report estimates that Zionist forces and settlers killed 1,122 Palestinians in the West Bank between Oct. 7, 2023 and July 24, 2026. A 2026 study by the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research (MPIDR) and the Centre for Demographic Studies (CED), in contrast to the Lancet study, estimated over 100,000 violent deaths in Gaza between Oct. 7, 2023 and Oct. 6, 2025.

At one point during the street blockage, the protest’s security team came to the rescue of a bystander. The young man was walking down the sidewalk with a group of young people in evening dinner wear. For whatever reason, he went into anaphylactic shock and collapsed to the ground. Word quickly spread through the crowd and a PYM organizer on the mic called for anyone with an EpiPen to come forward. In under two minutes the security team administered the injection. They stayed with him, holding him upright and comforting him until an ambulance arrived. Their quick action may have saved his life, and showed both the deep humanism of the Palestine movement and how organized the movement has become since the start of the genocide.

The action on Saturday night shows the working class’ power in miniature. Working people keep society running and can shut everything down if we get organized. It is the organized working class that can stop the genocide and force governments to provide for people’s needs here. These things are connected, and Trump’s war on Iran has made that clearer than ever. Workers pay for imperialist war at the gas pump and the grocery store. Meanwhile, imperialist governments like those of the U.S. and Western Europe rack up record debt to carry off this mass murder, paying interest to the ultra rich who lend the money. This is a transfer of wealth from the working class to the billionaires who in turn buy elections.

Minneapolis showed how powerful the working class really is. At the beginning of 2026, during Trump’s ICE surge, the people of Minneapolis shut the city down, and within weeks the Trump administration was forced to end the surge. This was a political general strike, a mass work stoppage across industries, forcing the capitalists and their bought-and-paid-for politicians to make concessions. In July of 2026, students and workers in India shook that country with massive protests, forcing corrupt Minister of Education Dharmendra Pradhan to resign. And right now, students and workers in France and Belgium are in the streets, fighting war-mongering governments that have sold their futures. These youth and workers say no more. Youth and workers in the U.S. can do the same, including in New Orleans.

Fund the people, not genocide! #

From Mogadishu to Minneapolis, Somalis fight partition and repression

By Gary Wilson

The Pentagon wants military bases on Somalia's Gulf of Aden coast to control the Bab el-Mandeb, the strait linking the Red Sea to the Indian Ocean. Its wars against Iran and Yemen have made that control urgent.

Somalia's rival governments are competing to supply those bases. The Pentagon deals with each, using the country's divisions to expand its military reach.

Somalis are fighting back. In Las Anod, they drove out the army of the secessionist Somaliland administration. In Mogadishu, they marched against Israel's recognition of Somaliland. In Minneapolis, Somali workers and families organized against ICE raids. Rep. Ilhan Omar, who has opposed partition and ICE, now faces a federal investigation targeting her citizenship.



Mogadishu, Dec. 30, 2025. Demonstrators carry Somali and Palestinian flags during protests against Israel's recognition of Somaliland.

What the Pentagon wants

Somalia's northern coast faces Yemen across the Gulf of Aden. At the gulf's western end lies the Bab el-Mandeb. The Pentagon already operates Camp Lemonnier in neighboring Djibouti, its only permanent base in Africa. It wants more bases along the Somali coast.

Yemen's Ansar Allah has blockaded shipping connected to Israel since 2023 in solidarity with Gaza. The U.S. and Israel have bombed Yemen in response. In September 2026, Ansar Allah took control of Yemen's Red Sea coast up to the Bab el-Mandeb.

Across the gulf, the United Arab Emirates is expanding military facilities at Berbera, Somaliland's main port. Satellite images examined by Le Monde show underground ammunition and fuel storage under construction since October 2025. Sources told the newspaper the work serves the U.S. and Israel.

Farther east, the Pentagon has long operated from an Emirati-run base at Bosaso in Puntland. On Aug. 2, 2026, U.S. special operations commander Maj. Gen. Claude Tudor signed an agreement to expand the American base there.

Somaliland declared independence in 1991. It had been a British colony until joining the former Italian colony to form Somalia in 1960. On Dec. 26, 2025, Israel became the first government to recognize Somaliland as a separate country.

Somaliland's leaders have offered Washington exclusive mineral rights and military bases. President Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi has also offered bases to Israel. Republicans in Congress are pushing U.S. recognition.

Puntland remains part of Somalia formally but governs itself. Its forces fight Islamic State fighters with AFRICOM air support. In 2025, U.S. airstrikes in Somalia increased twelvefold. Puntland signed the Bosaso base agreement without consulting Mogadishu.

Somalia's federal government also cooperates with AFRICOM. In early 2025, it offered the Pentagon access to Berbera and Bosaso, although it controls neither port.

Behind these arrangements stands the United Arab Emirates. Its state port company, DP World, controls Berbera's port operations, while its subsidiary holds the concession at Bosaso. The Emirates operates military facilities and arms Puntland's coastal forces. Israeli officials told Axios that the Emirates helped arrange Israel's recognition of Somaliland.

The ports produce profits for Emirati capital while serving the Pentagon's military plans.

Las Anod drove Somaliland out

Somaliland claims all the territory of the former British protectorate. The people of Las Anod, the main city in the eastern Sool region, rejected that claim.

On Dec. 26, 2022, an opposition politician was assassinated. Students protested Somaliland's rule. Its troops opened fire, killing dozens. The protests spread.

On Feb. 6, 2023, local elders and leaders declared Sool, Sanaag and Cayn part of Somalia and established a 33-member governing council. Somaliland's army attacked Las Anod that same day. For months, its artillery struck homes, hospitals, schools and water wells. The people held out. On Aug. 25, their fighters overran Somaliland's main garrison and drove its army 60 miles west.

Somali Minnesotans rallied in solidarity. In January 2024, Omar opposed Ethiopia's agreement to obtain a naval base on Somaliland's coast in exchange for possible recognition. Republicans demanded an investigation and called for her deportation.

Las Anod's administration gained federal recognition in October 2023 and became the North Eastern State of Somalia in July 2025. It continues to contest territory held by Somaliland and Puntland.

Western reporting often reduces this struggle to a clan feud. The people of Las Anod fought an army trying to enforce secession along an old colonial border.

Mogadishu fills the streets

Israel's recognition of Somaliland set off protests across Somalia.

On Dec. 28, 2025, young people carrying Palestinian flags marched in Borama, inside Somaliland itself. Police arrested protesters. Two days later, tens of thousands marched in Mogadishu, Baidoa, Las Anod and other cities, carrying Somali and Palestinian flags.

Protests continued in January. On Jan. 11, thousands of women organized by the Banadir Regional Women's Organization blocked roads

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Iran holds Hormuz, Yemen won't bow

By Gary Wilson



Yemenis rally in Sanaa in July 2024 with Yemeni and Palestinian flags. They have rallied this way week after week since the war on Gaza began in 2023, through years of Saudi bombing and blockade.

The U.S. war on Iran and the Saudi war on Yemen are one war. Both serve the oil companies, Wall Street and the weapons makers. Iran broke free of their control in 1979. Washington has tried to force it back ever since.

The Pentagon attacked Iran on Feb. 28. Iran answered by taking control of the Strait of Hormuz, the passage out of the Persian Gulf. Eight months later, far less oil passes through. Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates use pipelines to bypass it. Kuwait and Qatar cannot.

Trump threatens more bombing while the two governments exchange messages. Iran offers to reopen the strait within a week if the Pentagon ends its naval blockade. It also demands the return of frozen Iranian funds, guarantees against renewed attacks and an end to fighting in Gaza, Lebanon and Yemen.

The corporate media blame Trump's ambitions or Netanyahu's political troubles. But the war continues because the U.S. ruling class wants Iran back under its control.

Where the oil money goes

On a 2025 Gulf tour, Trump claimed $4 trillion in investment pledges and announced a record Saudi arms deal.

The Gulf monarchies sell oil for dollars. Their wealth also rests on the labor of millions of workers, many migrants from South Asia and Africa. They spend it on U.S. weapons, invest it on Wall Street and lend it to the Treasury.

Lockheed Martin, Boeing and Raytheon collect the weapons orders. Banks and investment funds take their share. Loans help finance Washington's wars. The Pentagon, in turn, protects the monarchies with bases, weapons and intelligence. The oil wealth flows back to strengthen the power that keeps their rulers on their thrones.

Iran once played that role. In 1953 the CIA and British intelligence overthrew Prime Minister Mohammad Mossadegh after he nationalized Iran's oil. The shah then poured oil revenues into Wall Street banks and bought U.S. weapons.

In 1978, Iranian oil workers struck, cutting exports almost to nothing. Mass strikes and marches brought down the shah in February 1979. Iran took back its oil. Washington answered with sanctions, support for Iraq's war on Iran in the 1980s and now direct attack.

The aim goes beyond oil shipments. The U.S. ruling class wants to overthrow Iran's government and break its independence. On Oct. 20 Netanyahu said he and Trump were "committed to completing the elimination of the Iranian regime." An Iran that withstands the attack shows other countries that Washington can be defied.

The same war in Yemen

Saudi Arabia now sends oil across the desert to the Red Sea. But the southern exit, the Bab al-Mandab strait, runs along Yemen. Ansar Allah has stopped Saudi oil tankers there. A Yemen that refuses Saudi rule threatens both the monarchy and its oil route.

Ansar Allah took Sanaa in 2014, driving out the Saudi-backed president. Saudi Arabia began bombing Yemen in 2015 with U.S. weapons and Pentagon assistance. The war and blockade killed hundreds of thousands through bombing, hunger and disease, according to U.N. estimates.

A 2022 truce stopped most bombing, but not the blockade. Ansar Allah holds Sanaa and most of the populous northwest. The Saudi-backed council sits in Aden.

Fighting surged again this fall. Saudi-backed forces attacked on Oct. 5. Ansar Allah struck Riyadh's airport and Saudi Aramco headquarters. On Oct. 19 its missiles hit a camp training Saudi-paid recruits, killing at least 73.

Years of bombing failed to break Ansar Allah. Hundreds of thousands have marched in Sanaa for Palestine and against the war. The movement built missiles and drones able to reach the Saudi capital. Saudi Arabia buys U.S. warplanes and hires Sudanese and Yemeni fighters, but still cannot defeat it.

Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman asked Trump for U.S. troops in September. Trump refused. The Pentagon's forces are tied down in Iran. Its seven-week bombing campaign against Yemen in 2025 also ended with Ansar Allah still standing.

The forward base

Israel is Washington's forward military base in West Asia, receiving $3.8 billion a year in U.S. military aid. Israeli warplanes joined the attack on Iran and have bombed Yemen and Lebanon.

Palestinians face that same U.S.-backed system every day. On Oct. 16, settlers attacked olive harvesters near Ramallah, burned groves and cars, and beat a photojournalist. Palestinian volunteers fought the fires. The farmers keep harvesting. The olive harvest is part of holding their land.

Borrowed armies

Unable to win with its own forces, Washington wants other governments to supply soldiers. Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Pakistan signed a defense pact in August. In October they agreed to send forces against Ansar Allah. Their so-called "Islamic NATO" sent no army to defend Gaza.

Pakistan already sent 8,000 troops and fighter aircraft to Saudi Arabia in May. Turkey supplies air defenses, intelligence and drone operators. Britain is sending Typhoon fighters. Egypt's President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi seeks parliamentary approval to send troops too.

Gulf money has sustained Sisi since the 2013 coup. Egypt helps enforce the blockade of Gaza, yet its government would send soldiers to defend the Saudi monarchy. Pakistanis marched against joining the Yemen war. Police arrested opposition supporters and fired on protesters.

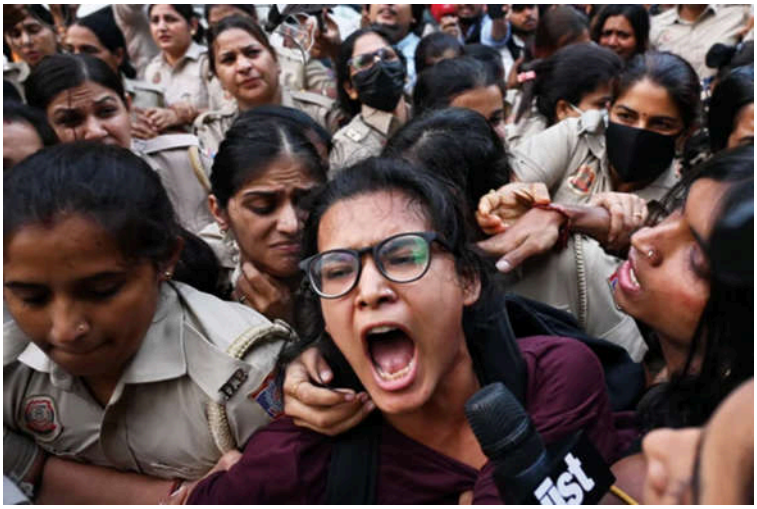
The war spreads

Washington supplies weapons and intelligence. The Saudi monarchy buys soldiers. Governments dependent on Gulf wealth prepare to send their soldiers into Yemen.

But the fighting brings resistance into new countries. Pakistanis oppose sending troops. Egyptians face another war while Gaza starves on their border. Millions of workers from both countries already produce the Gulf's wealth. In 1978, Iranian oil workers stopped that flow and brought down a U.S.-backed throne. #

Modi clears way for Walmart and Google, purges voters

By Gary Wilson



Student leader Neha Bora shouts slogans as police detain her during an Oct. 10 protest in New Delhi demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over the mass removal of voters from India's voter lists.

India's banks built a free payment network used by more than 500 million people. Now the Modi administration is clearing the way for fees that will enrich Walmart and Google. At the same time, it is striking millions from voter rolls and sending police against protesters.

A 0.4% fee on merchant payments above 2,000 rupees (about $21) through the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) was scheduled to begin Oct. 15. Smaller payments stay free. The government says 96% of merchant transactions are exempt. But the other 4% account for most of the money. Shopkeepers protested, and on Oct. 13 the fee was postponed until after Diwali on Nov. 8.

A free network, monopoly apps

India's banks launched UPI in 2016. That November, Prime Minister Narendra Modi abruptly outlawed the 500- and 1,000-rupee notes, which made up most of India's cash. Workers, farmers and small traders stood in bank lines for weeks. Modi claimed he would uncover hidden wealth. Almost all the banned cash returned to banks. Instead, the move pushed millions toward phone payments.

In 2020, the government banned UPI fees. Free payments spread from vegetable carts to rickshaws. But Walmart's PhonePe and Alphabet's Google Pay came to dominate the apps people use to reach the bank-built network. Together they handle four of every five rupees transferred. Now they stand to collect from a system they did not build. Analysts project up to $1.1 billion a year in app fee revenue by 2028, about $900 million for the two companies.

Washington demands its cut

In February, India promised digital-trade talks alongside tariff cuts. In March, the U.S. Trade Representative called India's ban on UPI fees a trade barrier. It demanded a "level playing field" for Visa and Mastercard against India's RuPay card network. It also opposed a planned 30% cap on any one UPI app. That cap, delayed until December 2026, would curb Walmart and Google. The Modi administration changed the fee law.

Brazil faces the same pressure. Its central bank owns Pix, another free payment network. Washington opened an investigation in July 2025. President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva replied: "Pix is from Brazil. It's public, it's free and it's going to stay that way."

Washington also imposed 50% tariffs on Indian goods in 2025 and now threatens 100% tariffs on countries buying Russian oil. Russia supplies about half India's oil. Yet on Oct. 9 Washington arranged to buy Russian diesel itself. U.S. sanctions have also stalled billions in payments for Russian arms, on which India's military depends. Meanwhile, Washington is spending about $686 million to maintain Pakistan's F-16s after the two countries fought in May 2025.

A capitalist government

India's phone networks are another prize. Mukesh Ambani's Jio and Sunil Mittal's Airtel control more than 80% of the phone and internet market. Elon Musk wants a share through Starlink.

Modi governs for India's billionaires, building up Ambani's Reliance and Adani's ports and power plants while welcoming U.S. monopolies. Their fight is over who controls essential networks and takes the profits from Indian labor. The sides are unequal: the U.S. monopolies have an imperialist power behind them, armed with tariffs and military force. But victory for Indian capitalists would not free workers from monopoly charges.

The fee first hits larger merchants. They can absorb it from profits or raise prices. Either way, a free network becomes a source of private profit.

Working people already face price rises from the U.S. war on Iran, launched Feb. 28. The war cut India's cooking-gas supplies from the Persian Gulf and drove the rupee to record lows. A Delhi vendor told Scroll that onions rose from 50 to 80 rupees and cooking gas from 400 to 1,000 rupees a cylinder.

Erasing voters

Meanwhile, the Modi administration has struck some 130 million people from voter lists. To regain their votes, people must produce records more than 20 years old or other documents. Poor people, migrant workers and women whose names changed after marriage face special obstacles. Removal can also threaten access to food rations.

The purge advances the ruling BJP's Hindu-chauvinist program against Muslims and other oppressed communities. In West Bengal, nine million names were removed before the April 2026 election, which the BJP won for the first time. Muslims were one-quarter of the population but one-third of those struck off. The BJP calls them "illegal Bangladeshi migrants."

Of appeals decided so far, nine in ten restored the voter.

Young people have led protests demanding an end to the purge and the resignation of election chief Gyanesh Kumar. The Cockroach Janta Party, named after the chief justice's insult against unemployed youth, helped force out the education minister in July and has joined student groups and left parties. On Oct. 10, police shut metro stations, stopped trains and internet service, and detained and beat thousands in New Delhi. The protests continued.

Now communist-led and independent union federations are joining. Their members have fought Modi's anti-union labor codes. Farmers showed what sustained resistance can do in 2021, forcing repeal of farm laws after a year of encampments.

"Only Adani and Ambani have flourished under him," migrant worker Mohit Paswan told Scroll.

The payment fee and voter purge are separate attacks, backed by the same capitalist government. Modi opens the country's payment networks to private profit while stripping working people of votes. Police have failed to stop the movement. Organized workers can bring to it the power to stop India's railways, ports, power plants and phone networks. #

The money is there

By Gary Wilson

The money exists. In France, in Britain and in the U.S., the wealth piled up at the top has never been greater.

The students who have shut down French high schools since September were told there is no money for their schools. Young people filling the streets of India are told there are no jobs. Workers everywhere are paying war prices for gasoline and bread.

Liberal economists have an answer ready: the wealth exists, so tax it and share it out. That answer leaves ownership alone. The wealth was produced by workers. Capitalists claim it because they own the means of production.

France in revolt

The revolt that began in French high schools in mid-September, over cuts to education and crumbling, overcrowded schools, has become a rebellion. On Oct. 17, students, teachers and unions poured into the streets across France, and the riot police answered with tear gas, stun grenades, rubber bullets and clubs. The revolt has spread to Italy, Spain, Portugal, Belgium and Albania.

Government spending per university student has fallen by about a fifth since Emmanuel Macron took office in 2017. In Seine-Saint-Denis, the working-class suburbs just north of Paris, half the secondary school teachers are on temporary contracts or just starting out. In Paris it is one in 10.

No jobs, no vote

India's young people have been told what the French students were told: there is nothing for you. The youth movement that calls itself the Cockroach Janta Party began in May, after the chief justice likened unemployed young people to cockroaches. A young college graduate in India is almost nine times as likely to be out of work as a young person who cannot read or write. As in France, the schools turn out graduates and the economy has no place for them.

Since Oct. 2 the movement has filled the streets of Delhi and Mumbai against the deletion of some 130 million names from the voter rolls. Poor Muslims, Dalits – the most oppressed castes – and migrant workers are the least likely to have the decades-old certificates now demanded to stay on the rolls. Papers decide who has rights, and the people stripped of them are the poorest and most exploited workers. The same government that has no future to offer young graduates is taking the vote away from the workers at the bottom.

Distribution follows ownership

Both governments say the money is not there. In 1970, private wealth in France equaled about three years of the country's total economic output. Today it equals about six years, with much of it concentrated at the top. Across the English Channel, 50 families own more than the poorest half of Britain.

In the U.S., the richest 1% hold nearly a third of all the wealth, the next 9% hold another third, and the other 90% of the country shares what is left. Between early 2025 and early 2026, the fortunes of the richest 1% grew by more than the poorer half of the country owns altogether. Not since 1929 has so much of the country's wealth sat in so few hands.

The figures show where the wealth is. They leave out that workers produced it.

Workers produce more in a day than they are paid in wages, and the capitalists who own the factories, offices, land and banks keep the difference. In 1875, when German socialists wrote "fair distribution" into their program, Karl Marx answered the argument that the problem was simply how wealth is shared out: "Any distribution whatever of the means of consumption is only a consequence of the distribution of the conditions of production themselves." Who gets the wealth follows from who owns the factories, the land and the banks. Workers can force the owners to give up a share of the wealth. As long as the owners keep the factories, the land and the banks, they keep the power to take that share back.

France has taxed its great fortunes before. In 1945 the working class had just come through the armed resistance to the Nazi occupation, much of it led by Communists, and the Communist Party was on its way to becoming the largest party in the country. A ruling class afraid of losing everything gave ground: a heavy one-time tax on the largest fortunes, the nationalization of Renault, the coal mines and the big banks, and the concessions of national health insurance and pensions.

The bosses gave ground, but kept the rest of the factories and the banks. In May 1947 the Communist ministers were thrown out of the government. The strikes of 1947 and 1948 were broken with troops. Over the following decades, as the balance of class forces shifted, the fortunes came back. The gains workers won in the U.S. in the 1930s went the same way, for the same reason.

A tax on the great fortunes is worth fighting for, and the fight can win it. But it is a concession, and a class that keeps ownership takes concessions back when the pressure eases.

So where is the wealth now, and what are its owners doing with it? Follow it and the same answer comes back at every stop: it was made by workers, it is held by capitalists, and it is being used against the people who made it.

Claims on profits not yet made

The first stop is the artificial intelligence boom, where a large share of the world's fortunes has gone looking for the next fortune. On Oct. 13 the International Monetary Fund warned that the consequences of an AI collapse "could be global." The Bank for International Settlements, the central bankers' bank, reported that more than half the investment money that went into AI companies from 2021 through 2025 came from other AI companies. The research firm Gartner estimates that by 2030 the owners of AI data centers will take in only about a fifth of the revenue they need to cover their spending, their borrowing costs and payment of the profits their investors expect.

Every share and every loan in this circle is a claim on profits that have not been made yet. Those profits must ultimately come from workers, who produce more value than they receive in wages. But investors have driven up the value of their claims far faster than production can yield the profits to back them.

Anthropic, one of the biggest AI companies, shows how far this has gone. In the first six months of 2026 it brought in about $16 billion and lost money, according to documents first reported by the Wall Street Journal. It is now preparing to sell shares to the public at a value investors put at around $1.5 trillion – a price that rests entirely on profits that have yet to be made.

When the profits do not come, the claims collapse. The companies lay off workers to restore what profit they can, the shares sink in the pension funds that bought them, and the owners turn to the government, as the banks did in 2008, when the Treasury rescued them while millions of working people lost their homes.

The war in the price of everything

The second stop is the war. The government that rescues the banks also makes the wars.

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'WAR AND LENIN in the 21st Century'

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

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





Students march against France's Parcoursup university admissions system in Toulouse, Oct. 6. Their banner reads, 'No to the struggle for places, yes to class struggle.'

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Monopoly capital in decline fights for control of oil, markets and trade routes, and the war on Iran is that fight carried out with bombs and blockades. Since the war began Feb. 28, gasoline in the U.S. has gone from about $2.90 a gallon to $4.33. World food prices are up too, and they hit hardest in the Global South.

Part of that rise is built into the cost of moving goods. Iran holds the Strait of Hormuz and runs passage through it. The Pentagon enforces a blockade, and the Treasury Department sanctions anyone who pays Iran for passage. No ship can obey both. Before the war, insuring a supertanker through the strait cost about 20 cents for every barrel of oil it carried. By September it cost $7 to $8. The giant firms that insure the insurance companies, like Munich Re and Swiss Re, met in Baden-Baden, Germany, in late October to recover a money-losing year through higher premiums on the policies that renew Jan. 1. Saudi-linked tankers in the Red Sea already pay about 10 times what other ships pay, since Yemen's Ansar Allah began enforcing a blockade of Saudi Arabia.

The insurer charges the war premium to the shipowner. The shipowner passes it to the oil trader and the grain merchant, they pass it to the refiner and the miller, and each one adds a little extra for itself, until it lands in the price of the gasoline, bread and heating oil that working people have to buy. The world market is being carved up along the battle lines of the war, and the owners of the insurers, the ships and the oil are setting their prices on the bet that it stays that way.

The workers who build it

Every fortune in the AI boom and every profit on a barrel of oil was produced by workers. The last stop is where some of those workers are: in the custody of the government that guards the owners' property.

Curo Churata stopped at a Home Depot on his way to work June 27. ICE agents took him. He was held at the Richwood detention center in Louisiana, and for three months he called or messaged his wife and three children every day to tell them he was all right. When he fell ill, a hospital was seven minutes away. It took the authorities hours to get him admitted. He died. The Washington Post counts 59 people dead in ICE custody since Trump returned to office in January 2025.

ICE finds these workers where they work. A worker who can be deported thinks twice before demanding unpaid wages, refusing an unsafe job or signing a union card, and the boss knows it. The threat hanging over one section of the workforce holds down wages for everyone working beside them. Neighbors, day laborers and unions have turned out against the raids from Minneapolis to Los Angeles to New York.

Who keeps it running

The class struggle is in the streets of Paris, Turin, Lisbon and Delhi, and in every one of those streets the question is the one the French students raised: the money exists, so who gets it, and who decides? The liberal answer is a tax. A wealth tax has a different political meaning when workers fight for it. Taken up in the streets and the workplaces, the demand becomes a fight between classes, and a fight can go further than its first demand.

Unions representing dockworkers at more than 40 ports in Europe and the Mediterranean have called for coordinated action against military cargo on Oct. 30, starting with strikes. France's CGT union federation, its rail workers among them, has called a strike for Nov. 5 together with the national student union. Spain's two major union federations have called a general strike for Nov. 11, for housing and for wages that can pay the rent, and Portugal's largest union federation is considering joining it. Italy's largest union federation, the CGIL, has called a general strike for Nov. 20 against low wages, the austerity budget and military spending, and to tax the wealthy.

A general strike can force the rich to pay. It also shows who keeps the ports, the railroads and the schools running.

The students in France were told there is no money. There is more than ever. It was produced by their parents, by the teachers in Seine-Saint-Denis and by a worker who stopped at Home Depot on his way to the job. It will go on piling up at the top until the workers who produce it own the factories, the banks and the data centers that it is produced with. #

Pentagon rushes Japan's war buildup

By Gary Wilson

For years the Pentagon has been building Japan into a military base and arms supplier for its war drive against China: Japanese troops, Japanese factories and Japanese islands within sight of Taiwan. The war on Iran has drained the Pentagon's missile stocks, and its own advisers admit that rebuilding them will take years. Now the Pentagon is pushing to accelerate the build-up in Japan. The people of Okinawa, forced to live on the launch pad, are fighting back.

On Oct. 19, the Pentagon and Japan's Self-Defense Forces opened Keen Sword 27, one of the largest war games the two militaries have staged together. About 45,000 Japanese troops and 12,000 U.S. troops are drilling through Oct. 29. Australia, Canada, France, Germany, the Netherlands, New Zealand and the Philippines sent forces; South Korea and Britain sent observers. European imperialist powers have sent their militaries half-way around the world to rehearse war on China.

The drills center on islands southwest of Japan's main islands, toward Taiwan. On Yonaguni, just 68 miles east of Taiwan, U.S. Marines set up NMESIS anti-ship missile launchers with a range of about 115 miles. Japan brought its new Type-25 missile to the same island, with a range of about 620 miles – far enough to reach mainland China. The U.S. Army placed a HIMARS rocket launcher on Ishigaki, a larger island about 80 miles east.

Gen. Hiroaki Uchikura, head of Japan's Joint Staff, denied the drills target any country. The drills target China.

The U.S. Army is also moving its Typhon launcher and more HIMARS to Kadena Air Base on Okinawa, Japan's Defense Ministry announced. Typhon can fire Tomahawk cruise missiles about 1,000 miles, from Okinawa deep into China. The ministry calls the move "storage" and gave no end date. On Sept. 28, Kadena Mayor Hiroshi Toyama demanded that the plan be withdrawn, warning that storage could turn into permanent deployment.

The U.S. Army's Pacific commander, Gen. Ronald Clark, told Britain's Financial Times he had never in his career seen it pour so many resources and so much firepower into the Pacific. He wants to display more of the Pentagon's most advanced weapons to "show the adversary some things that they should be concerned about."

Chinese military analyst Song Zhongping told China's Global Times that U.S. missiles on Yonaguni raise the danger of a miscalculation and could force China to hold its own drills in the area.

The arms industry can't keep up

In August, the Council on Foreign Relations, where Wall Street and the Pentagon hammer out foreign policy, published a report titled "Out of Ammo." Banker David Rockefeller long chaired the council, and it launched Henry Kissinger's career. The report says the war on Iran has "severely depleted" the Pentagon's stocks of air-defense interceptors and precision-guided munitions, and that the Pentagon's most expensive weapons cannot be replaced within two years.

Every interceptor fired at an Iranian missile since Operation Epic Fury began on Feb. 28 is one the Pentagon no longer has for the Pacific. Nearly eight months into the war, Iran is still fighting, while the Pentagon's advisers urge the U.S. military to learn from how Iran has fought it.

The report explains why the shortages cannot be fixed quickly. Advanced missiles, interceptors and warships take years to build. The giant arms makers rely on subcontractors for critical parts, many of them made in a single factory. Some take so long to make that the report recommends stockpiling them. And the arms makers will not expand production unless Congress guarantees their orders years in advance.

But money and guaranteed orders cannot create new factories, machine tools, materials or skilled workers overnight. The Pentagon's expanding military commitments are running into the limits of the private industry on which it depends.

The report calls for cheaper drones and sensors built in huge numbers on commercial assembly lines, faster contracts and looser purchasing rules. Its authors want a two-year

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From Mogadishu to Minneapolis

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into central Mogadishu.

The next day, Somalia's federal government canceled its agreements with the United Arab Emirates, including port and military deals. Somaliland, Puntland and Jubaland rejected the decision. DP World continued operating Berbera.

The federal government opposed the attack on Somalia's territorial unity while continuing to cooperate with AFRICOM. Its dispute with the Emirates did not end its dependence on the Pentagon. The strongest resistance to partition came from Las Anod and the streets.

Minneapolis fights back

The Trump administration opened another front against Somalis in December 2025. Trump called Somalis "garbage" and launched Operation Metro Surge, flooding Minneapolis and St. Paul with federal immigration agents. In January, his administration moved to end Temporary Protected Status for Somalis.

The community organized immediately.

Somali women in Minneapolis established networks to warn neighbors about ICE agents. In St. Cloud, residents packed a meeting to oppose the attacks.

On Jan. 23, 2026, the Twin Cities struck against the ICE surge. Karmel Mall, a major Somali shopping center, closed alongside more than 700 other businesses. Tens of thousands marched downtown despite temperatures around 10 degrees below zero.

By February, the surge had been forced out.

Somali workers already had a history of fighting powerful employers. In 2018, East African workers at Amazon's Shakopee warehouse organized through the Awood Center. They challenged work quotas and injuries and forced Amazon to meet with them. In July 2019, workers walked off the job on Prime Day.

Omar joined their struggle. She has also opposed ICE, Israel's genocide in Gaza and the partition of Somalia. On Oct. 12, Homeland Security Investigations agents raided Omar's Washington home over immigration documents filed when she was a child. Officials have openly targeted her citizenship. Within days, grand jury subpoenas went to her relatives.

The Republicans who demanded her deportation for defending Somalia's unity in 2024 now have federal immigration agents targeting her family.

One class, two fronts

The Pentagon's drive for bases on Somalia's coast and ICE repression in Minneapolis serve the same ruling class.

In Somalia, division strengthens the Pentagon's hand. Rival administrations compete for bases, weapons, air support and recognition. A united Somalia could refuse those bases and control its own coast.

In Minnesota, immigration raids threaten workers who have shown they can organize, strike and shut down businesses. The attack on Omar extends that threat to political opposition.

But Somalis have answered on both fronts.

In Las Anod, they drove out an army and established their own government. In Mogadishu, they filled the streets against partition. In Minneapolis, they organized against ICE and fought Amazon.

Their struggle joins the fight against imperialist control abroad with working-class resistance at home. #

against China

Continued from page 12

crash program to prepare for war over Taiwan, a province of China that the Pentagon treats as its own protectorate, because they assume such a war could come within two years.

Japan as arsenal and launch pad

Japan's buildup began long before the war on Iran. It installed military radar on Yonaguni in 2016. In December 2022, the government of then-Prime Minister Fumio Kishida adopted a plan to double military spending and buy hundreds of Tomahawk missiles from the U.S. Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi said in November 2025, before the war on Iran began, that Japan could go to war against China over Taiwan.

The shortages exposed by the war on Iran have increased the Pentagon's dependence on Japanese factories, territory and troops. Japanese companies can produce weapons. Japanese islands and troops give the Pentagon launch sites close to China and forces to fight beside its own, and that is what Keen Sword is rehearsing.

On April 18, Japan signed contracts to build three frigates for Australia's navy, its first postwar contracts to build warships for another country. On April 21, the Takaichi government approved a sweeping relaxation of restrictions on exporting weapons, opening the way for more sales of lethal arms abroad. Northrop Grumman and Japanese industry are splitting the work evenly on a new interceptor designed to shoot down hypersonic missiles. On Sept. 2, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries and NEC agreed to cooperate on military drones and the systems that direct them, the kind of weapons the Council on Foreign Relations report calls for.

Japan's first Tomahawk-armed destroyer returned from the U.S. at the end of August. Long-range missiles are now on Kyushu, Japan's southernmost main island, and Japan's military budget is the largest ever.

After defeating Japan in World War II, the U.S. imposed a constitution, written by its occupation officials, that renounced war and barred Japan from keeping an army. Within a few years it reversed course. When the Pentagon went to war in Korea in 1950, the occupation ordered Japan to build a new armed force, the start of today's Self-Defense Forces. It also freed jailed wartime leaders, among them Nobusuke Kishi, who had overseen munitions production for Japan's war. He was never tried, and in 1957 he became prime minister.

Ever since, the U.S. has pushed Japan to rearm, and Japan's ruling party has been eager to go further. Later governments restricted arms exports and pledged not to possess, produce or allow nuclear weapons into the country. The export restrictions are now gutted. The Liberal Democratic Party, which Kishi helped found, has long wanted to rewrite the constitution. Takaichi has pushed to review the ban on bringing in nuclear weapons, which stands in the way of U.S. nuclear-armed ships. At the Hiroshima memorial on Aug. 6, she would not commit to keeping that pledge.



A protester holds a sign outside the prime minister's office in Tokyo on Oct. 5, following the killing of Anna Yagi in Okinawa and the arrest of a U.S. Marine. The killing sparked renewed protests against the U.S. military presence on Okinawa

Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Japan's biggest arms maker, built warships and warplanes for Japan's last imperialist war. The same section of Japanese big business that profited from that war stands to gain military contracts at home, weapons exports and a share of the Pentagon's orders. But the interests go beyond arms-company profits. The Pentagon leads the alliance and sets its war aims; Japan's ruling class follows willingly because it wants military power of its own behind Japanese capital in Asia. The Takaichi government is advancing those interests.

Okinawa fights back

Japan is an occupied country. It holds more U.S. troops than any other country in the world, and most of them are on Okinawa. Expanding the bases for war on China deepens the conditions Okinawans have resisted for generations: seized land, crimes by U.S. troops and the danger of being dragged into a wider war.

On Oct. 3, Anna Yagi, 39, was found dead in a hotel in Naha, Okinawa's capital. She died of asphyxiation from pressure on her neck. Early on Oct. 4, police arrested Lance Cpl. Devin Jacob Ballard, 20, a U.S. Marine stationed at the Futenma air station, on suspicion of robbing and murdering her. He denies the charges.

People rallied on Oct. 4 outside the prefectural government building in Naha. The Okinawa women's group Femibridge said anger had boiled over and demanded answers. On Oct. 8, protesters gathered outside the Foreign Ministry in Tokyo with signs denouncing crimes by U.S. troops.

Even Okinawa Gov. Genta Koja, a conservative elected in September with backing from Takaichi's Liberal Democratic Party, said decades of promised discipline had failed and called for a review of the Status of Forces Agreement governing U.S. troops in Japan. Former upper house member Keiko Itokazu said: "As long as there are US military bases in Okinawa, such incidents will occur."

The Pentagon ruled Okinawa directly from 1945 until 1972, seizing land at gunpoint and bulldozing farms for bases. Today Okinawa, a sliver of Japan's land, holds more than two-thirds of the land in Japan set aside for the exclusive use of U.S. bases. Arrests of U.S. troops, base civilians and their families for crimes on Okinawa hit a 20-year high in 2024.

Okinawans have never accepted U.S. occupation. In 1995, after two U.S. Marines and a sailor raped a 12-year-old girl, the U.S. military refused to hand the three men over to Japanese police until they were charged. Mass demonstrations forced the Pentagon to promise to consider earlier handovers in murder and rape cases, though it kept the final say. In 2016, after a former Marine working on a base raped and murdered a 20-year-old woman, tens of thousands marched again.

The protests against crimes by U.S. troops, the fight against the bases and the opposition to new missiles arise from the same military domination. Local officials say opposition forced Japan's Defense Ministry to scale back this year's Keen Sword from what was first planned. Kadena and neighboring towns are also fighting the Typhon deployment. The Pentagon needs land, ports, roads, airfields and cooperation from local governments to carry out its preparations. The less its own arms industry can supply, the more the Pentagon relies on Japanese territory for its war plans, and the more that resistance stands in its way. The war drive against China has to go through the people of Okinawa. #

From Genoa to Oakland, dockworkers refuse to load the war

By Lallan Schoenstein

Dockworkers on four continents stopped work Oct. 30 to keep the world's harbors from serving the wars of the United States and Israel. They marched under one banner, "Dockworkers do not work for war," and it stretched from the Mediterranean to San Francisco Bay.

The second International Day of Action of Dockworkers and Port Workers reached 113 ports in 22 countries, with more than 25 unions taking part, according to Italy's Unione Sindacale di Base (USB). The first, on Feb. 6, involved 20 ports in seven countries. The jump came after unions from more than 35 ports met in Istanbul, Turkey, in May and signed a declaration calling for ports free of weapons cargo and setting Oct. 30 as the date to act.

Markos Bekris, who leads the Greek dockworkers' union ENEDEP at Piraeus, Greece's main port, put the strategy plainly to Al Jazeera: "Weapons need transport, infrastructure, and workers' hands to reach their destination." Bombs, shells and missile parts move through the same terminals as sneakers and grain. Every crate of war goods passes through the hands of a worker who can refuse to lift it.

Where the work stopped

In **France**, the CGT dockworkers' union called a 24-hour walkout at about two dozen ports, including Le Havre, Marseille-Fos and Dunkirk. CGT General Secretary Tony Hautbois predicted French ports would be 95% shut down.

In **Italy**, port workers struck for 24 hours nationwide in Genoa, Livorno, Trieste, Ravenna, Ancona, Civitavecchia and Gioia Tauro, the giant transfer port in the country's far south. USB widened the action into a general strike, with protests called in more than 40 cities.

In **Greece**, seafarers' unions tied up the ferries for 24 hours at Piraeus, Rafina, Lavrio, Patras and Igoumenitsa, while Piraeus dockworkers held a three-hour stoppage. Dockworkers in Morocco's Tangier Med, one of the busiest transfer hubs in the Mediterranean, and in Mersin, on Turkey's southern coast, joined the action.

The coalition reached far beyond the Mediterranean. **Germany**'s ver.di union joined through its Hamburg port section. **Ireland**'s SIPTU and **Denmark**'s 3F signed on. In **India**, the Water Transport Workers Federation brought in about a dozen ports, including Nhava Sheva, the country's biggest container port, near Mumbai. Dockworkers in Veracruz, **Mexico**, took part. In the **U.S.**, International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 10 brought San Francisco and Oakland into the day of action. Seventeen Palestinian unions and federations endorsed it.

Each union chose its own tactics, from full-day strikes to work stoppages of a few hours to rallies at the port gates. The joint call bound them to one aim: "a shared commitment to prevent the loading of death and destruction."

The Pentagon's supply line

The campaign researchers at No Harbour for Genocide tracked more than 300 shipments of parts for Elbit Systems, Israel's largest arms maker, through 56 commercial ports in 29 countries between August 2025 and September 2026. All 56 ports were on the strike list. The group says the striking Mediterranean ports handle nearly two-thirds of the container traffic on that sea.

The war cargo does not stop at Israel. Eight days before the strike, on Oct. 22, Livorno dockworkers showed what a refusal looks like. The container ship Sunaid X was carrying supplies for the Pentagon's Defense Logistics Agency, bound for Naval Air Station Sigonella in Sicily. Sigonella is a hub for U.S. drones and tanker planes in the war on Iran, and U.S. cargo flights have run from there to Israel's Nevatim air base during the genocide in Gaza.

Three sailboats from the Global Sumud Flotilla moved to block the harbor mouth while USB and the Autonomous Port Workers Group picketed the terminal gate. The ship was held at anchor for hours. Once it docked, the workers assigned to load it struck, shift after shift. The cargo was still sitting on the dock the next day. Italy's financial police seized the three boats and charged the activists with interrupting a public service. The dockworkers won a meeting with the provincial government, the terminal operator and the port authority over keeping such cargo out.

Livorno sits a few miles from Camp Darby, the largest U.S. weapons depot outside the U.S. Workers there have blocked military ships bound for the base before.

The Istanbul Declaration names the war directly. It demands an end to the wars of aggression the U.S. and Israel are waging across West Asia and against Iran, and it pledges full solidarity with Cuba, Venezuela and Sudan. The Oct. 30 action comes eight months into the Pentagon's war on Iran, launched Feb. 28, 2026.

Jobs, wages and the machines

The day of action also carried the dockworkers' own fight on the job. Under the slogan "Ports for Peace, Jobs with Dignity," the unions demanded higher wages, permanent jobs, safe workplaces and the right to bargain collectively. The Istanbul Declaration rejects automation and artificial intelligence when the port bosses use them to cut dock jobs.



Protest outside Haydarpasa port calling for the end of shipments to Israel, in Istanbul, Turkey, Oct. 30. The banner reads: 'No to war, no to armament!'.

The same shipping and terminal companies that move the arms are the ones pushing automated cranes and driverless trucks onto the docks. The workers they want to replace are the workers who can stop the war cargo.

The capitalist governments of Europe answer with police and prosecutors. Bekris faces prosecution in Greece for a protest in October 2024 in which Piraeus dockworkers blocked the loading of a container holding about 23 tons of ammunition bound for Israel. Italian journalist and activist Linda Maggiore told Al Jazeera that the European Union is close to approving a "military mobility" regulation that would make it easier to move arms without scrutiny.

The Italian government has also turned Livorno's port into a corridor for war goods. Customs data reported by the Italian magazine Altreconomia show hundreds of tons of explosives shipped out of Livorno in 2025 alone.

A long tradition

Dockworkers have done this before. In 1978, members of ILWU Local 10 and Local 34 in San Francisco found the Pentagon secretly shipping weapons to the Pinochet dictatorship in Chile and helped force the Carter administration to stop the shipments. In 1984, Local 10 refused to unload South African cargo in protest of apartheid. In 1997, when dockworkers in Liverpool, England, were locked out, an international solidarity campaign reached 105 ports and cities in 27 countries.

Harry Bridges, the ILWU's first president, was once asked whether union workers should interfere with the foreign policy of the country. His answer: "Sure as hell!"

The Pentagon's wars need ships, cranes and docks, and they need workers to run them. On Oct. 30, workers in 113 ports showed that the war machine depends on them, and that they can stop it. #

‘That’s our job, that’s our right, that’s our privilege’

Clarence Thomas is a retired executive board member of International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 10 in the San Francisco Bay Area. He issued this statement for the Oct. 30 International Day of Action of Dockworkers in Solidarity with Palestine

By Clarence Thomas.

Solidarity greetings, all, on this second International Day of Action of Dockworkers in Solidarity with Palestine, Against Genocide and Militarism! This is the largest worker movement against war in history. And it’s being initiated by dockworkers, the most critical workers in the supply chain of international commerce, “the mother’s milk of capitalism!”

Dockworkers possess a long history of solidarity with international workers’ struggles against authoritarianism, fascism, imperialism and racism. “ILWU policies and actions on foreign affairs have always been built on the belief that international labor solidarity and world peace are the cornerstones of social and economic justice for all workers, including the membership of the ILWU.”

ILWU Local 10’s international solidarity actions started in the 1930s with longshoremen blocking the shipment of supplies to the rising fascist movements in Europe and Asia. In December 1938, members walked off the job and refused to load 8,500 tons of scrap iron onto the SS Spyros, a Greek freighter.

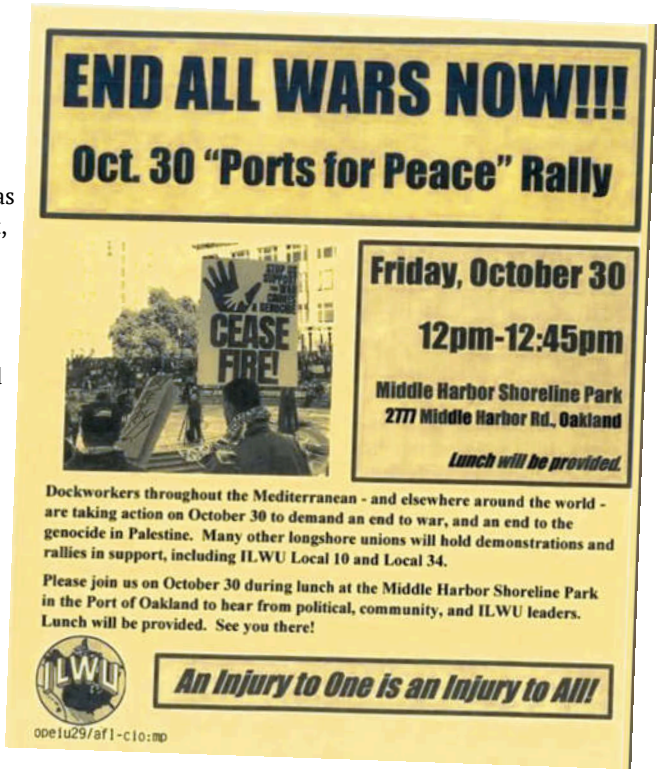
Led by Harry Bridges, our union’s first international president, this action was taken for two reasons: standing in solidarity with Chinese Americans and with China, which was being occupied by Japan, and protesting raw materials from the United States being manufactured into Japanese munitions used against Chinese civilians.

When Bridges was questioned about this strategic and effective rank-and-file solidarity action at the point of production, in clear defiance of United States foreign policy regarding trade with Japan, he said: “Interfere with the foreign policy of the country, sure as hell! That’s our job, that’s our right, that’s our privilege.”

In July 1940, Congress finally granted President Franklin D. Roosevelt authority to restrict and ultimately ban defense exports and scrap metal to Japan. The union’s anti-fascist action was fully vindicated less than three years after the Spyros walkout, following the attack on Pearl Harbor.

It’s in that tradition and spirit that dockworkers in France, Greece, the Basque Country, Italy, Morocco and Turkey are saying no to shipments of weapons of war to Israel to be used against the Palestinian population in Gaza, the West Bank and other occupied Palestinian territories.

These courageous dockworkers are taking the most concrete measures workers worldwide can take when their respective governments refuse to say no to genocide, displacement, and the destruction of all social, political and economic structures of Palestinian life. Workers are withholding their labor, disrupting the supply chain. In maritime ports throughout the world, the ships will not be sailing on time today! Shipping, rail, trucking and commercial aviation schedules will be disrupted like a massive configuration of dominoes falling one after another. #





Clarence Thomas, center, with Philippine activists Langdon and April Gabriela of the Defend Negros NorCal Coalition.

Right, at the Oct. 30 ‘Ports for Peace Rally,” Beau Logo along with ILWU Local 10 President Michael Villeggiante welcomed union members from California Nurses Assoc., UC Faculty Assoc., UAW.





Speakers included Lara Kiswani (above) of the Arab Resource & Organizing Center, the Palestine Youth Movement.



Europe erupts against austerity and war

Continued from page 1

The protests have been joined by the Yellow Vests, the movement against fuel prices and the cost of living that first rose up in 2018. Members of Parliament from Jean-Luc Mélenchon's France Unbowed, the left-wing anti-austerity party the prime minister has singled out for attack, have joined to protect students from the police. The Palestinian flag is prominent across all the protests.

The government's response has been brutal. The notorious French riot police have repeatedly fired tear gas grenades, stun grenades and rubber bullets at students and beaten them with batons; as a result, one student has lost an arm, another an eye, a third a hand and a 14-year-old's jaw was shattered. Thousands have been arrested. This is what the "democratic" French state does when the children of the working class demand a future.

Italy

Resistance has broken out in Italy. Rome, Florence, Milan and Bologna have all seen mass anti-austerity protests that were also directly anti-war, demanding that the government of far-right Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni abandon its austerity program. The same government has capped the number of immigrant students allowed in each classroom.

Spain

In Spain, mass housing protests continue after forcing Socialist Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez to call an early election for Nov. 29. The protests erupted after the televised eviction of an 87-year-old woman in Madrid, and protesters set up a camp that has occupied the city's main square. The vote will test whether Sánchez has made enough concessions to keep voters on his side. The streets, not the ballot box, are setting the terms.

Portugal

In neighboring Portugal, mass street demonstrations exploded. Answering a call from the CGTP – Portugal's biggest union federation – tens of thousands marched through central Lisbon against rising living costs and a worsening housing crisis. Since Trump's attack on Iran, higher food and fuel prices have pushed the cost of living up faster than at any time in three years. House prices have more than doubled since 2017, and rents for new leases have nearly doubled.

Belgium

In Belgium, protests have been banned. High school students in Liège condemned as authoritarian the police ban on gatherings there, imposed after recent clashes. Their protests began in Liège on Oct. 1 and spread to Brussels last week, targeting rising education costs, overcrowded classrooms and reforms they fear will make higher education less accessible. Banning protest is the only answer the capitalist government has.

Albania

In Albania, police and protesters clashed in Tirana on Oct. 18, the sixth straight day of student-led demonstrations over corruption, unemployment and poor education. That anger has turned incendiary: the Ministry of Education has been set ablaze, police stations have been attacked, and fires have broken out at the prime minister's office itself. The movement began months ago, when Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner moved to buy Albania's coast for a $1.6 billion resort on land prosecutors allege was bought with forged deeds and laundered drug money. That corruption, and the government's servility to it, is what exploded.

1968: questions for the movement

This is possibly the largest Europe-wide protest movement in a generation, already being compared with the watershed European revolt of 1968. Protesters have revived the old 1968 slogan: "London, Rome, Paris, Berlin, we will fight and we will win."

While youth have been the catalyst in the streets, unions and workers are becoming increasingly involved. In France, the CGT – including rail transport workers – and the national student union have called a general strike for Nov. 5.

Dockworkers in more than 40 ports in Europe and the Mediterranean are planning an Oct. 30 strike against military cargo and the war economy. The strike was called by dockworkers' unions in France, Greece, the Basque Country, Turkey, Morocco and Italy, including the World Federation of Trade Unions and the Italian Unione Sindacale di Base.

An "Iberian General Strike" has been called for Nov. 11 by Spain's two major trade unions (CCOO and UGT) together with Portuguese union leaders, forming a joint general strike across both countries. Italy's largest union federation, the CGIL, announced a one-day general strike for Nov. 20, to protest low wages, the 2027 austerity budget and increased military spending, and to demand taxing the wealthy. Nov. 20 is also the date of a Europe-wide student strike.

The movement faces two key questions: Will these developments produce organizational forms adequate to the crisis? Will these and future events find expression in a revolutionary program and actions that raise the question of power?

"No viable class or nation in modern capitalist society can hope to take destiny in its own hands by spontaneous struggles alone. Spontaneity as an element of social struggle must beget its own opposite: leadership and organization. Consciousness of this will inevitably grow."

– "**A Marxist Defense of the LA Rebellion**," Sam Marcy

Will repression crush the movement?

The French bourgeoisie – in fact, all of the European ruling classes – has reached for more repression, justified by anti-immigrant and racist rhetoric. In France, the center-right has dangled the specter of the election of far-right Marine Le Pen.

Predictably and hypocritically, the Oct. 17 rebellion has been denounced by all the mouthpieces of the French elites as the intolerable work of outsiders and migrants – though even the Associated Press has admitted that authorities have not linked immigrants to the rioting.

Donald Trump claimed that France was being "conquered, looted, and burned to the ground by migrants, jihadists, and communists." Emmanuel Macron has objected, but his government answered the rebellion with curfews in Paris, Lyon, Lille and other cities – imposed to protect the stores.

The destruction of a Louis Vuitton luxury store that sells women's handbags for thousands of dollars, and the damage to the buildings of a government that has ignored the pain and suffering of workers languishing in what the French refer to as the banlieues, the working-class suburbs that ring French cities, have been elevated to the worst crime in history, not France's exploitation and murder in Africa or the present genocide in Palestine.

These same voices do not condemn the violence of the oppressor – the U.S. imperialist war machine, whose missiles killed more than 100 children at the Shajareh Tayyebeh Primary School in Minab, Iran, on the first day of the war, and the genocide of the Palestinian people. Their outrage is reserved for the oppressed who fight back; for the oppressors, there is only silence.

V.I. Lenin defended the violence of the oppressed in "Two Tactics of Social-Democracy in the Democratic Revolution": "Revolutions are the locomotives of history, said Marx. Revolutions are festivals of the oppressed and the exploited."

So far, violence by police and gendarmes in defense of the bankers and militarists has not crushed the struggle.

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Connections to the international struggle

The French revolutionary upsurge of 1968 was in part a product of the Vietnam War. The heroic struggle of the Vietnamese people created a wave of solidarity in both the U.S. and Europe. There are, of course, differences – particularly in the present state of capitalism itself, which was still in its postwar boom in 1968 and is in decline today.

Today it is solidarity with Palestine and with the resistance in West Asia.

Iran – its people, its military and its government – has done what would have seemed impossible: it is holding off the colossal U.S. imperialist war machine and its puppet, Israel. It has made a number of U.S. military bases in West Asia inoperable – the Navy's top officer has admitted it won't be back in its Fifth Fleet headquarters in Bahrain anytime soon – and it effectively controls the Strait of Hormuz. Its resistance is changing the equation in the Gulf.

Ansar Allah – the Yemeni resistance movement the corporate media calls the Houthis – which governs the areas where most Yemenis live, has shown that it can target oil-rich Saudi Arabia – long the holiest of holies for U.S. big business. The attacks on Aramco, the Saudi oil company, and on its headquarters have shaken the reactionary U.S.-backed Saudi regime and threaten to change U.S. imperialism's long-standing relations in the region.

Events in West Asia have clearly reverberated in Europe. The resistance of Iran, Yemen, Lebanon and Palestine has already had – and will continue to have – an impact in the very metropolis of capitalism, the U.S.



Students demonstrate under the slogan "do like in France," in Turin, Italy, Oct. 16, 2026.

In the U.S.

At present, a large part of the working class and the general population is focused on the Nov. 3 midterm elections. They will certainly be a barometer, but at the same time they will solve nothing for the masses of people in terms of relief from runaway inflation, low wages, underemployment or unemployment, lack of health care, racist violence and – most importantly – ICE attacks, murders and detention.

Undoubtedly, the resurgence of class struggle taking place in Europe and around the world will have an impact on workers in the U.S.

The struggle is boiling far beyond Europe: from the "Cockroach Movement" in India and huge protests against Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government, to the recent strikes in Senegal, angry protests in Argentina, and defiant youth protests in Brazil against the far-right Bolsonaro family's bid to retake the presidency.

This is a revolt against capitalism and the imperialist war machine. The resistance of the workers and poor of West Asia has brought about what Malcolm X called "the chickens coming home to roost." And the roost is the metropolis of capitalism itself. #

Million Worker March at 22: Organizing in our own name

Continued from page 3

Clarence Thomas prepared these remarks to open the MWM Oct. 17 call.

Solidarity greetings to everyone joining us to mark the 22nd anniversary of the Million Worker March (MWM), held on Oct. 17, 2004, at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.

On this anniversary, we pay tribute to Brother F. Christophe "Chris" Silvera, longtime secretary-treasurer of Teamsters Local 808, and Sister Brenda Stokely, former president of AFSCME District Council 1707. Brenda and Chris both served as MWM East Coast co-conveners.

The MWM was initiated by International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) Local 10 in San Francisco, the only predominantly African American longshore local on the West Coast. Local 10 has a long history of being in the vanguard of the labor movement, fighting for economic and social justice for the working class and oppressed people at home and abroad.

As our sister Angela Davis, an honorary member of ILWU Local 10, declared: "Whenever the ILWU takes a stand, the world feels the reverberations."

In the 1930s, Local 10 refused to handle shipments to fascist Italy and militarist Japan. It opposed the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II and stood with Martin Luther King Jr. and the civil rights movement in the 1960s. In the 1980s, it helped advance the struggle against South African apartheid.

Local 10 has supported the struggle to free Mumia Abu-Jamal and all political prisoners. It supported the anti-capitalist Occupy movement and the Palestinian solidarity movement, including "Block the Boat" actions and the boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel's genocide in Gaza and its occupation of the West Bank and other Palestinian territories.

The MWM was organized because we believed workers could no longer depend on the Democratic Party establishment to address their needs: universal health care, a national living wage, free public education, an end to imperialist wars, workers' and immigrant rights, taxing corporations and the rich, protecting the environment and enforcing all civil rights.

The MWM called for an independent workers' agenda to confront the unrestrained class warfare against working people and fight for democracy for the entire working class.

It was a call for working and oppressed people to build a mass movement for fundamental change in society. It called on workers and their organizations to mobilize in their own name, using their collective power to fight for workers' democracy, self-determination and solidarity with the struggles of working and oppressed people throughout the world.

As Saladin Muhammad of Black Workers for Justice warned, the fragmentation of left and progressive social movements, together with the lack of political independence of the trade unions, poses a grave danger to the democratic rights won through hard-fought struggles over the past two centuries.

The MWM received active support and endorsements from African American and Latine worker organizations, including the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU), the Teamsters National Black Caucus (TNBC), immigrant rights organizations and the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC). Their participation brought some of the most oppressed sectors of the working class to the forefront of the movement.

The Million Worker March, which was broadcast on C-SPAN, attracted thousands of organized and unorganized workers, anti-war activists, immigrant rights groups, community organizations, social movements, youth and trade unionists from around the world, including Canada, Europe, Haiti and Japan.

Twenty-two years later, the need for an independent working-class movement remains as urgent as ever. We honor Brenda Stokely and Chris Silvera by carrying forward the call to organize in our own name, build working-class unity and strengthen international solidarity. #

‘You’re lying again,’ Cuban foreign minister rebukes U.S. ambassador to the U.N.

By Ed Newman

Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla responded Oct. 27 to United States Ambassador to the United Nations Mike Waltz during the General Assembly debate on the draft resolution calling for an end to the economic, commercial, and financial blockade against the island.

In a point of order, the Cuban foreign minister accused the United States government of resorting to falsehoods, exerting pressure on member states, and disrespecting the people and government of Cuba.

“The United States not only lies in a crude and arrogant manner; it also undermines the dignity of member states, exerts pressure, and offends the dignity of the people and government of Cuba,” he said.

Rodríguez Parrilla addressed Waltz directly and challenged his arguments during the session. “Mr. Waltz: you are lying again. I hope you have better performances in your future political posts on the National Security Council, because here, at the United Nations, your performance is very poor. Familiarize yourself better with the document you have in your hand before coming to read it,” he stated.

The head of Cuban diplomacy rejected attempts to divert attention from the central theme of the session – dedicated to the United States blockade – through accusations he described as baseless.

“We will not accept Washington’s attempt to replace the debate on the blockade — which is what this Assembly is examining — with a string of unsubstantiated accusations,” he maintained.

The foreign minister added that the United States delegation came to the United Nations to repeat falsehoods and pressure other countries, rather than engage in dialogue and listen to member states.

Washington puts on a fictional show before the General Assembly

The United States delegation opened its statement with a history lesson so creative that even the timeline had to speak up: it portrayed Ronald Reagan warning the Cuban people in 1979, when he was not yet president — he arrived at the White House in 1981.

With such “rigor,” the rest of the narrative sounds more like a fictional script than a multilateral debate: a succession of grandiloquent assertions, conveniently adjusted dates, and well-timed silences, presented to the Assembly as if they were revealed truths.



Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla challenged U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Mike Waltz during the General Assembly debate. He rejected attempts to divert attention from the central theme of the session – the U.S. blockade – ‘The U.S. not only lies in a crude and arrogant manner; it also undermines the dignity of member states, exerts pressure, and offends the dignity of the people and government of Cuba,” he said.

The usual litany followed — confiscations, prisoner camps, forced labor, and a supposed 67-year-long lesson — all delivered in the tone of someone who believes that repeating an accusation many times turns it into proof.

Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla asked the president of the General Assembly to call the United States representative to order for the insults directed at the Cuban delegation.

Likewise, the Cuban foreign minister thanked Washington for the publicity it is providing, as he put it, for Cuban tourist destinations and demanded that United States citizens be allowed to travel freely to the island.

This is the 34th time that the United Nations’ highest deliberative body has submitted for consideration the draft resolution titled “The Need to End the Economic, Commercial, and Financial Blockade Imposed by the United States of America Against Cuba,” which will be put to a vote Oct. 28.

Source: Radio Havana Cuba

Overwhelming Victory for Cuba at the U.N. General Assembly

The vote on the resolution before the UN General Assembly — calling for an end to the U.S. blockade of Cuba — represented another overwhelming victory for Cuba. This marks the 34th time that the vast majority of countries of the world have stood up for the blockaded island nation.

After debates on Tuesday and today, Wednesday, the vote was taken:

130 countries voted in favor of ending the U.S. blockade, 17 countries voted against (in effect, voting for maintaining Washington’s blockade against Cuba) and 25 nations abstained. A few other countries did not vote at all including longtime ally Venezuela.

This overwhelming show of support comes despite a despicable heavy handed campaign of threats of sanctions to countries voting in favor of Cuba, orchestrated by US Secretary of State Marco Rubio.

Source: Resumen Latinoamericano – US



In the United Nations General Assembly 130 countries voted in favor of ending the U.S. blockade on Cuba inspite of intense pressure from the U.S. to vote for the genocidal blockade.

Ebola workers strike in Congo as the U.S. goes after the mines

By Gary Wilson

The United States government has a detailed plan for the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It covers Congo's copper and cobalt, and the mineral rights the United States says it is getting. For the Ebola epidemic that has killed more than 5,000 people in Congo's northeast since May, it has no plan. The health workers fighting that epidemic have not been paid for months, and they have started to strike.

On Oct. 29, workers at the Ebola treatment center in Tchomia, in Congo's Ituri province, stopped work. They are owed four months of wages. They had given the Congolese government a 72-hour ultimatum, and it expired with no answer. Five confirmed Ebola patients and 10 suspected cases were in the center when they walked out.

"We are tired of requesting our salaries," one of the strikers, Moise Mugenyi, told the Associated Press. "Today, being able to feed our families has become a real problem."

Ituri is in Congo's far northeast, on the border with Uganda. Tchomia is one of several places there where Ebola response workers have stopped work. In the Nia-Nia health zone, the teams that trace cases, inform communities and control infection began an unlimited strike on Oct. 22. They have not been paid since August. They had sent a written request on Oct. 2, issued an ultimatum on Oct. 5 and struck for two days on Oct. 10 and 11. They suspended that strike after a meeting with the African Union's disease control agency and the World Health Organization, and nothing changed. In Rwampara, outside the provincial capital of Bunia, response workers counted 77 days without pay. They charged that the payrolls were padded with fictitious names and demanded a joint commission to check them. Treatment center workers in Rwampara had already struck over unpaid wages in July.

The acting head of the Ebola response in Ituri, Dr. Justin Mukonkole, told the strikers to be patient while the government responds.

The deadliest outbreak in Congo's history

Congo's health ministry declared the outbreak on May 15. Ten days later, more than 230 deaths had been reported. By Oct. 31, Congo had reported 10,351 confirmed cases and 5,026 deaths, according to the Associated Press. The disease has spread from three health zones in May to 67, across eight provinces. Nearly half of the people confirmed to have it have died. It is the fastest-growing and deadliest Ebola outbreak in Congo's history.



Health workers protest unpaid bonuses in Ituri province, Congo, Aug. 6, 2026. Their sign demands a meeting with the governor, rejecting the diversion of money owed to them. The protesters include nurses, hygienists and laboratory technicians.

The virus is the Bundibugyo strain of Ebola. No vaccine or treatment for it has been approved. The first trial vaccinations began in Ituri only in late October.

A genetic study by Congolese and international scientists, released in October, estimates that the outbreak emerged in late February. The first suspected case the World Health Organization identified was a health worker who fell ill on April 24, three weeks before the outbreak was declared, and died at a medical center in Bunia.

The Trump administration had shut down the disease-detection programs in Ituri before the outbreak began. On its outbreak page, updated Oct. 30, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says the risk to the American public remains low.

What was not cut

On June 27, 2025, Congo and Rwanda signed a peace agreement in Washington, D.C. Secretary of State Marco Rubio presided. The agreement committed the two countries to economic cooperation on critical minerals.

President Donald Trump said what the United States got out of it at a White House press conference that day. "We're getting, for the United States, a lot of the mineral rights from the Congo," he said.

The fighting in eastern Congo, where the Rwandan-backed M23 armed group holds territory, has not stopped. The agreements over Congo's minerals kept moving. On Dec. 4, 2025, the United States and Congo signed a separate Strategic Partnership Agreement governing mineral investment.

Congo produces about three-quarters of the world's cobalt. Congo is also the second-largest producer of copper.

Two maps of Congo

Congo's big copper and cobalt mines are in Lualaba province, in the far south. The epidemic began in the gold-mining area around Mongbwalu in Ituri and has spread across the north and east.

When the outbreak was declared, investors wanted to know one thing: would it touch the mines? In May, a research unit of the Fitch credit rating agency told them it would not. Copper and cobalt mining was unlikely to be seriously affected. Even mines inside the outbreak zone, including the Kibali gold mine in Haut-Uélé province and the Bisie tin mine in North Kivu, were expected to keep producing.

The epidemic caused one problem for the minerals program. In July, Reuters reported that Ebola was disrupting travel and delaying meetings on the minerals partnership.

The United States government has signed agreements for Congo's copper and cobalt while the fighting goes on in the east. It shut down disease detection in Ituri before the outbreak began. The people fighting the outbreak are Congolese health workers, and they have gone up to four months without pay. In Tchomia, Nia-Nia and Rwampara, they are on strike for their wages. #

Suicidios y privatización de servicios

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci



Trabajadoras y trabajadores marchan en San Juan el 1 de mayo de 2025 contra las políticas de la Junta de Control Fiscal, los recortes a los servicios públicos y la privatización.

Son muchas las crisis que azotan a esta colonia llamada Puerto Rico. Su raíz desde luego, es su condición de subordinación, de estar dominada por una potencia extranjera, los Estados Unidos de América que se beneficia económica y militarmente de nuestro territorio.

Sin embargo, dentro de este sistema colonial, hay una administración local que lleva a cabo los mandatos del imperio invasor, probando e imponiendo el Neoliberalismo como si fuera su propia razón de ser. Pero no nos es extraño que sirvamos de laboratorio de experimentos. Ya EUA nos utilizó para probar métodos de esterilización de mujeres, para bombardear e intervenir países hermanos. Porque esa es otra función de la colonia, ser laboratorio experimental.

Ahora, el experimento es cómo profundizar el Neoliberalismo mediante las privatizaciones de todo servicio que beneficie el pueblo.

Vemos cómo estas privatizaciones que sólo atraen subcontrataciones corruptas y mafiosas, desplazan a miles de trabajadoras y trabajadores de nuestras agencias públicas, dejando un ejército de desempleados. La plantilla de contratistas privados supera en muchas agencias, la de la fuerza laboral, la que verdaderamente presta los servicios tan necesarios para nuestro pueblo. Hay escasez de servidores públicos, pero sobran supervisores subcontratados privados que no aportan nada, pero que sí se llevan millones de dólares del fisco.

El resultado es lo que considero un Genocidio, la eliminación de un pueblo. Ya sea por la migración forzada o por las muertes diarias reportadas como feminicidios, asesinatos, accidentes en las carreteras, o suicidios. Al día de hoy, ya van 146 suicidios en lo que va del año, 41 sólo entre julio y septiembre. En una población de tan sólo 3.1 millones de seres. Añadimos la corrupción rampante en el departamento de la Familia que falla en atender el sinhogarismo tan prevalente incluso en los jóvenes. Y en todas las agencias que supuestamente están para ofrecer una mejor calidad de vida a nuestro Pueblo.

Desde la colonia a la deriva, Puerto Rico, para Radio Clarín de Colombia, les habló, Berta Joubert-Ceci.

Programa de viviendas asequibles

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci



Desplazadas nunca más»: La Colectiva Feminista en Construcción protesta en la Milla de Oro, el distrito financiero de San Juan, en marzo de 2023.
Foto: Juan C. Dávila, cortesía de La Colectiva.

Dentro de la atmósfera que estamos viviendo, de grandes escándalos de corrupción creados por este gobierno colonial que obedece a las políticas de Trump y que han traído un gran sufrimiento a la población boricua, se ha reportado un magnífico proyecto de viviendas que ha sido como un oasis que nos hace recordar que aún dentro del sistema colonial, y mientras logramos nuestra independencia y soberanía, se pueden lograr programas que benefician a las comunidades. Sobre todo a las más necesitadas y marginadas.

Me refiero al Programa Banco de Tierras creado en el 2023 en el municipio de Hormigueros al oeste de Puerto Rico.

Pero antes de describirlo, quiero poner en contexto la importancia de este programa. El archipiélago de Puerto Rico tiene 78 municipios, y sólo nueve de ellos operan bancos de tierra. Aquí tenemos un grave problema de escasez de viviendas asequibles porque el gobierno ha querido transformar nuestro país en un paraíso para millonarios extranjeros. Un ejemplo reciente fue la venta al productor estadounidense Tyler Perry de una mansión por $25 millones que se había vendido en $40 millones en el 2022.

Mientras, muchas familias jóvenes boricuas han tenido que emigrar por no conseguir ni trabajo, ni vivienda.

Volviendo a Hormigueros.

Ese municipio tiene 348 estorbos públicos, casas y edificios abandonados y deteriorados. Producto primordialmente de esa misma pobreza y emigración. Unas veces quienes se han ido a los Estados Unidos por no encontrar trabajo, abandonan sus casas al no poder costear los impuestos locales, otras, los propietarios cuando mueren, no han dejado herederos y se encuentra la propiedad en un limbo legal.

Bajo el programa de Bancos de Tierra, el municipio las compra, las rehabilita y las vende a precio de la tasación, sólo a hormiguereños, con muchas facilidades y subsidios existentes para que las familias puedan tener un techo digno y asequible.

Desgraciadamente, de 78 municipios, sólo el municipio de Hormigueros y en menor medida el de Vega Baja han puesto en práctica exitosamente este valioso programa. Sin embargo, sirve como ejemplo para todos los municipios y organizaciones comunitarias, de las posibilidades para lograr una mejor calidad de vida para nuestra población. #