



Stop imperialist aggression on Yemen!

See workers.org for latest on the escalation of the genocide in Palestine.

Workers World Party has consistently shown solidarity with all currents and forms of the Palestinian resistance, including armed struggle, against the U.S.-backed terrorist, Zionist regime of Israel — even before the Al-Aqsa Flood took place on Oct. 7, 2023. And this anti-imperialist solidarity has been extended to the whole Axis of Resistance, whether in Lebanon, Iraq, Iran or Yemen.

WW STATEMENT

Forces in these various countries continue to do their part to resist the daily genocidal war thrust upon their Palestinian siblings in Gaza who suffer from cowardly air strikes, forced starvation, torture of prisoners and who lack electricity, clean water, medical care, shelter and much more — ceasefire or no ceasefire.

For example, the Ansarallah movement in Yemen since Oct. 7, 2023, has targeted ships carrying goods to and from Israel in the Red Sea and vowed not to stop until the siege of Gaza is lifted and humanitarian aid is allowed in. This movement has organized protests of millions of people throughout Yemen in solidarity with Palestine and its allies worldwide.

And now as punishment for its solidarity, U.S. and British imperialism sent fighter jets to viciously bomb residential neighborhoods near Yemen's capital of Sana'a on March 15, resulting in the deaths and injuries of civilians, including children.

Other members of the Axis of Resistance immediately condemned imperialism for this act of aggression against Yemen, one of the poorest countries in the world.

Hezbollah in Lebanon wrote: "The targeting of civilians and vital facilities in Yemen once again reveals the true and ugly face of the U.S. administration, which practices terrorism and bullying against nations that oppose its hegemonic policies in the region and the world. This barbaric attack constitutes a war crime and a blatant violation of international laws and norms. It aligns with the "israeli" aggression — backed by the United States — against Gaza, Lebanon, Syria and the region."

Hamas stated: "We in the Islamic Resistance Movement strongly condemn the criminal U.S.-British air aggression that targeted a residential neighborhood in the Yemeni capital, Sanaa. We consider it a blatant violation of international law and an attack on the sovereignty and stability of our brotherly Yemen."

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine stressed: "This barbaric aggression will not succeed in breaking the will of the free Yemeni people, who have never hesitated to support Palestine and have embraced the cause of Gaza despite the siege and aggression they themselves face."

Kataeb Hezbollah in Iraq said: "Once again, America proves that it is the official sponsor of crime in the region and the world by targeting dear Yemen, striking its civilian infrastructure and causing the martyrdom of several civilians."

Yemeni Supreme Political Council declared: "Targeting civilians proves U.S. weakness; this will not deter us from supporting Gaza but will instead escalate the situation to something even stronger and more severe. We reassure the



WW PHOTO: JASON COHEN

Demonstration in Times Square, New York City, Jan. 11, 2024.

steadfast Yemeni people and affirm that the aggressors will be punished in a professional and painful manner.

"The U.S., along with the Zionist entity, will fail and retreat in disgrace and defeat, just as they did during the Al-Aqsa Flood battle. We call on the international community to fulfill its responsibilities in the face of U.S.-"israeli" recklessness, which will have consequences for all. Yemeni naval operations will continue until the siege on Gaza is lifted and humanitarian aid is allowed in."

Workers World proudly adds its condemnation to this chorus of members of the heroic Axis of Resistance and encourages other anti-imperialist movements, especially inside the belly of the beast, the U.S., in declaring: "Hands Off Yemen! From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free!"

All quotes come from the Resistance News Network posted on March 15, 2025 and were lightly edited.

New York

Protest hits another state-sanctioned lynching



WW PHOTO: TONI ARENSTEIN

March 14, 2025, protest, New York City.

**Special to Workers World
New York City**

The state, its police and its prisons actively HUNT and END the lives of poor and oppressed people — Black men in particular. On March 1, correctional officers from Mid-State Correctional Facility located in Marcy, New York, brutalized 22-year-old Messiah Nantwi, beating him to death. They pounded him repeatedly as National Guard troops not only REFUSED to intervene BUT enforced protocols that ENSURED his murder.

Just weeks earlier at Marcy Correctional Facility, correctional officers beat to death a handcuffed, bedridden 43-year-old Robert Brooks.

These killings are not random. They are a function of this racial, capitalist, imperialist system that we live under. The system is not broken; it is operating exactly as intended.

From their inception, police and prisons were created to quell people's rebellions against injustice, to control marginalized groups and stamp out dissent. Police and prisons as we know them only started popping up after the releasing of enslaved people across the U.S. This is no coincidence.

The police exist to shut down protest, to protect billionaires (and their corporations), to shut down workers' strikes and ultimately to maintain the genocidal status quo. This is their function. This is what WE pay for with OUR tax dollars. We are financing our own oppression.

We call on all working-class and oppressed people — especially those who face this terror daily — to join the struggle. Organize, agitate, build collective power!

Our fight is not just against a few violent individuals; our fight is against the violent system of capitalism, imperialism

and all those who work to defend it.

On March 14, a coalition of anti-imperialist, abolitionist organizations took to the streets outside of the courts in downtown Manhattan to protest these murders and call for the destruction of borough-based jails being constructed in Brooklyn, the Bronx, Queens and Manhattan.


Participating organizations included Black Intifada, Workers World Party, Bronx Anti-War Coalition, Workers Movement for Liberation, December 12th Movement, Black Star, Mutual Aid & Scientific Socialism (MASS) and Misandry Coalition, among others.

Speakers talked about the urgent need for system change, mass organizing and defense of those suffering from the brunt of ruling-class attacks. The rally then marched through downtown Manhattan, stopping at precincts and passing out literature to folks along the way. □

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Workers World: International Women's Day means solidarity

MUNDO OBRERO
WORKERS WORLD 
this week



International Working Women's Day march, New York City, 2019. WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

The essence of International Working Women's Day is solidarity, as propounded by its European socialist founders in 1910. In the spirit of this special day, commemorated on March 8, Workers World newspaper hails women workers, oppressed people and those of many genders in the U.S. and worldwide — from the Global South to the Global North — especially those under the gun of imperialist war, occupation, sanctions and exploitation.

Today we honor the brave Palestinian women and girls who have been injured, denied life's necessities, imprisoned, tortured and sexually assaulted by Israeli soldiers, yet remain strong against the U.S.-backed Israeli siege in Gaza, the occupied West Bank and their siblings elsewhere in West Asia facing the same oppressors. Our articles express this solidarity not only in March but throughout the year.

IWWD's history resonates with workers' and anti-imperialist struggles, beginning with demonstrations against the looming World War I in 1911. This year, WW hails the Palestinian resistance forces and their allies.

On IWWD, WW condemns the Trump/Musk racist, xenophobic pogroms against migrant workers, affecting thousands of women and their families. We denounce their anti-worker scheme to fire federal employees — women, Black and other people of color, youth, LGBTQIA2S+ and disabled individuals — and their slash-and-burn plan to cut federal benefits for millions of low-income and oppressed women, among others. We hail reproductive justice activists fighting the ultraright's misogynist

campaign to ban abortions, sanctioned by the unelected Supreme Court, despite public opinion.

WW honors women organizers in the historic Civil Rights, Black Liberation and Puerto Rican independence movements, anti-imperialists, socialists and communists and fighters for rights for women, gender-oppressed people, workers, immigrants, prisoners and Indigenous, Latine, Asian, Arab, LGBTQIA2S+ and disabled people.

Socialists have long recognized the only way to fundamentally improve women's lives is through the independent, anti-capitalist struggle. WW espouses this view and boldly states that socialism is the only system that can ensure real liberation for women, workers and oppressed people here and worldwide.

Be a WW Supporter!

This pro-worker newspaper depends on our readers' backing. The WW Supporter Program was launched 48 years ago to help produce this socialist newspaper and, 30 years ago, fund workers.org where new articles are posted daily, and the weekly paper's PDF is displayed.

Workers.org contains news and analyses of global and U.S. struggles, bulletins from national liberation movements and articles translated by our staff. Mundo Obrero publishes articles in Spanish. Our writer-organizers report on anti-capitalist struggles and people's movements against racism and war and for the rights of women, migrants and other oppressed peoples, prisoners, workers, LGTBQIA2S+ and disabled people. **The website is a resource for political activists.**

While WW's staff are volunteers, the 12 annually printed issues, workers.org and social media sites incur expenses. Although many online publications require payments to read their articles, WW does not. **Our articles are free to all readers.**

Can you donate \$50, \$100 or \$200 a year? Contributing \$50 or more will entitle you to receive the print issues and five weekly emails linking to articles posted online.

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Join us in the fight for socialism!

Workers World Party is a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist party inside the belly of the imperialist beast. We are a multinational, multigenerational and multigendered organization that not only aims to abolish capitalism, but to build a socialist society because it's the only way forward!

Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world and the planet itself in the neverending quest for ever-greater profits.

Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, attacks on im/migrants, misogyny, LGBTQ2S+ oppression and mistreatment of people with disabilities. It means joblessness, increasing homelessness and impoverishment and lack of hope for the future. No social problems can be solved under capitalism.

The U.S. is the richest country in the world, yet no one has a guaranteed right to shelter, food, water, health care, education or anything else — unless they can pay for it. Wages are lower than ever, and youth are saddled with seemingly insurmountable student debt, if they even make it to college. Black, Brown and Indigenous youth and trans people are gunned down by cops and bigots on a regular basis.

The ruthless ruling class today seeks to wipe out decades of gains and benefits won by hard-fought struggles by people's movements. The super-rich and their political representatives have intensified their attacks on the multinational, multigender and multigenerational working class. It is time to point the blame at — and challenge — the capitalist system.

WWP fights for socialism because the working class produces all wealth in society, and this wealth should remain in their hands, not be stolen in the form of capitalist profits. The wealth workers create should be socially owned and its distribution planned to satisfy and guarantee basic human needs.

Since 1959, Workers World Party has been out in the streets defending the workers and oppressed here and worldwide. If you're interested in Marxism, socialism and fighting for a socialist future, please contact a WWP branch near you. □

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Trump's anti-trans attacks undermine Eighth Amendment

By Lolo Serrano

This article is dedicated to Jerome "Hoagie" Coffey and his aunts Denise and Lisa Smith.

On his first day in office, President Trump 2.0 signed Executive Order 14168: "Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government." EO 14168 sets in motion an attack on trans people throughout the country — then, using trans people as a springboard, an attack on incarcerated people as a whole.

Within weeks of Inauguration Day, Trump's Federal Bureau of Prisons (FBOP) announced plans for implementing EO 14168. FBOP officials told the less-than-two-dozen trans women housed in women's facilities that they would be summarily transferred to men's prisons. The FBOP also banned any transition-related medical care for hundreds more trans people in its custody and control.

Two federal courts have already placed temporary restraining orders on the FBOP, preventing the transfers and medical bans from moving forward for now. The law backstopping these orders is well-established Eighth Amendment precedent — precedent that exists in its current form

because of the struggle of an incarcerated trans woman, Ms. Dee Farmer.

In 1989, Farmer was teaching herself how to practice law while incarcerated in the FBOP. After an arbitrary transfer to a men's prison notorious for violence, Farmer was physically and sexually assaulted. By this time, Farmer was well aware of her Eighth Amendment right to be free from cruel and unusual punishment. She filed suit against prison officials pro se. Farmer's case was dismissed by the district court and rejected again at the Seventh Circuit, so she appealed her case to the Supreme Court of the United States.

Farmer v. Brennan, 511 U.S. 825 (1994) has been cited over 80,000 times. It established a foundational, uniform standard for Eighth Amendment "deliberate indifference"; if prison officials know of and fail to remedy a "substantial risk of serious harm," they lose. Ms. Farmer's litigation profoundly shaped constitutional law. Farmer has been cited in scores of medical cases: cases about trans people's medical care, to be sure, but also cases about heart disease, smoke exposure and Abu-Jamal v. Kerestes, securing critical

hepatitis C treatment.

Farmer is cited in Brown v. Plata, ordering tens of thousands of people to be transferred out of California's dangerously overcrowded prisons. Farmer is cited in the Department of Justice's scathing 2014 report on solitary confinement in the PA DOC.

Here we are again, with a generation of new Dee Farmers in the FBOP at risk. Under the law Farmer established, arbitrary transfers into dangerous environments and politically motivated cessation of medical care are plainly unconstitutional. Trump's FBOP should not be able to endanger trans people today as long as the Farmer precedent holds. If Farmer is eroded, a generation of Eighth Amendment litigation preserving basic human dignity goes with it.

The choice of trans people as ground zero for this legal battle is no coincidence. Trump and his elite cabal of legal strategists, fresh from the [right-wing] Federalist Society and Heritage Foundation, are aware that an open platform of immigration and cruelty is unlikely to gain popular support.



Dee Farmer, first transgender petitioner to have a case accepted by the U.S. Supreme Court.



They have picked the smallest and most vulnerable minority they can find, hoping that trans people in federal prison will not have allies to support them.

They are hoping that other incarcerated people will not catch on to their legal strategy and will not realize the need for solidarity. Their goal is to divide and conquer, pitting our communities against each other over internal divisions of race, gender, sexuality and identity while concentrating power into fewer and fewer hands. We must oppose every move together.

The fates of trans people and incarcerated people are not only intertwined, because some people are both incarcerated and trans. As Angela Davis reminds us, intersectionality is not only about the intersection of bodies and experiences, but of struggles.

Modern Eighth Amendment precedent exists in its current form because of Dee Farmer's efforts. Abuse of trans people in federal prison will place an enormous strain on Farmer v. Brennan. All incarcerated people have a stake in this constitutional standard — so all have a stake in opposing EO 14168 and standing with the trans community against intensified repression.

Serrano is a law student and history Ph.D. candidate.

Pennsylvania prisons – inedible food

By Cindy Lou

During a recent video visit with a person incarcerated at SCI Pine Grove in Pennsylvania, I was told they had been cautioned not to eat the country-fried steak being served, because "it came in moldy." The food comes in all the time in boxes marked "Not For Human Consumption" and then is hastily transferred to unmarked storage bags. In addition to the cautionary label, an incarcerated person at SCI Camp Hill also reported that meat served is often moldy.

Sauces are often used to camouflage the mold. At SCI Pine Hill, one person has a prison job as a kitchen worker, letting them regularly "liberate" fresh fruit and vegetables and consume them. But what

about all those who cannot obtain fresh fruit or vegetables?

Throughout the years, the quality of food put out in prisons to incarcerated people has long been a point of angry discourse between families, elected officials and prison management. These complaints have not only been about the food itself but the portions and the way it is "served."

There have been numerous complaints and demands that this situation be rectified, only to have restrictions grow tighter and tighter. Nearly every service in prisons is privatized, and food is no exception. Aramark, a multibillion dollar Fortune 500 global corporation, holds the bid to supply Pennsylvania prisons with food. Their bid came in at a figure of \$1.02 per individual meal.

In decades past, loved ones and families could send or bring food into those in captivity. George Jackson's letters home often asked his mother to send sausages or other foodstuff!

Not too long ago there was a working vegetable garden at Pennsylvania's SCI Muncy, which provided the women incarcerated there with fresh produce in their meals. Families were once permitted to bring in food for visits where they all could gather with their loved ones and share a meal.

But that is now gone.

A quick perusal of prison menus, standardized at all institutions throughout Pennsylvania, lists mainly pasta, soy meat and sauces — used to cover-up questionable items.

Pennsylvania political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal, incarcerated in SCI Mahanoy, underwent double heart bypass surgery in 2021, and his doctor prescribed a heart-healthy diet. To this day, all he is provided with are high-sugar, high-salt, high-carb, highly processed foods.

When questioned about another issue pertaining to the health and well-being of prisoners, an official for the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections responded with an answer that went like this: "We are not going to change; it's only our job to provide basics, nothing further than that."

Change has to come from the activists, the people united! □

Community members challenge ICE

By Betsey Piette

Hundreds of South Jersey Haddon Township residents showed that collectively community members can push back against President Donald Trump and Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents and win — in this case mobilizing and fighting on behalf of a well-loved immigrant couple.

Immigrants from Türkiye, Celal Emanet, 51, and Emine Emanet, 47, came to the United States legally in 2008 — Celal on an R-1 visa granted to religious leaders, with Emine's status based on his application. When the visa expired, the Emanets applied for a green card.

Their immigration status has been pending since 2016, while they worked with an immigration attorney to secure permanent residence, waiting nine years for the government to approve their application. Like many immigrants in the U.S., government delays left them in limbo.

In 2020, the couple opened a Halal Mediterranean grill called Jersey Kebab.

It became popular with surrounding communities, frequently offering food to people who couldn't afford it.

ICE agents raided the restaurant on Feb. 25 and took the Emanets into custody. While Celal was later released with an ankle monitor, Emine, the family's matriarch, continued to be held in a detention center in Elizabeth, New Jersey.

When news of Emine's detention reached her neighbors, hundreds quickly sprang into action, holding demonstrations and vigils and launching a GoFundMe campaign to help pay for legal fees and support for the family while the restaurant was closed. Since Feb. 25, the campaign has raised over \$324,000 from nearly 8,000 donations. While the restaurant was forced to close due to Emine's arrest, community members posterized hundreds of paper hearts on the restaurant windows with well wishes for the family.

Although the restaurant was officially closed during one of the demonstrations, the couples' son Muhammed Emanet cooked food and provided it for free to

participants. Cooper River Indivisible, a grassroots group advocating for progressive immigration policies, organized the demonstration to support the family and also as a way to fight the Trump administration.

Many participants held signs criticizing ICE while chanting "No fear! Immigrants are welcome here."

Their persistence through protests and other actions that gained publicity for the family finally resulted in Emine's being granted an immigration hearing on March 11 where a judge set a \$7,500 bond. All 23 seats in the hearing were filled by area supporters and family members. She was finally released in the late afternoon on March 12.

ICE argued that Emine should be held in jail because she posed a flight risk, and it released a statement claiming its decisions about who to arrest "focus on the greatest threats to homeland security." At her hearing, attorney Joseph Best argued that she had strong reasons to stay, including her extended family in Cherry Hill, New Jersey,



Emine Emanet and Celal Emanet inside their Jersey Kebab restaurant, Haddon Township, New Jersey.

and her ownership of the popular family restaurant: "She has no criminal history, is not a flight risk and is not a risk to public safety or national security." (Philadelphia Inquirer, March 11)

It is highly likely that the family was targeted, because they are Muslim.

At an impromptu press conference outside the detention center in Elizabeth, Emine Emanet addressed the media as her son interpreted. When asked how she survived her incarceration, she cheerfully responded, saying she kept busy helping other women detainees, showing them how to use tablets for communication and explaining what to expect from the system. □

Say no to Trump's tariffs and anti-China policy

The following statement has been issued by the Friends of Socialist China U.S. Committee in response to the Trump administration's announcement of new tariffs on Chinese imports. The statement was posted on socialistchina.org on March 14, 2025.

The Trump administration's decision to slap additional tariffs on the People's Republic of China is something that should be condemned by every person who cares about peace and progress. These moves are making the world a more dangerous place and are part of a larger anti-China policy being pursued by the Trump administration — a policy begun under the [Barack] Obama administration and deepened during the [Joe] Biden administration.

These tariffs are in effect a tax on working people here in the United States and will result in rising prices for our necessities and wants. They will have no impact whatsoever on the lifestyles of the billionaires. Indeed, the money raised from increased prices will be used to fund the Trump regime's tax cuts for the superrich. Furthermore, these tariffs will harm the U.S. economy more than China's. People's China has a more diversified economy, more trading partners and a greater share of world trade.

To quote Mao Zedong, "Lifting a rock only to drop it on one's own feet" is a Chinese folk saying to describe the behavior of certain fools." This certainly applies to Trump and his wealthy backers.

The tariffs against China exist in a larger context. The U.S. empire is in a state of

stagnation and decline, while People's China is developing at an incredible speed. Wall Street and the Pentagon are working to "contain" and encircle China. They are increasing the spending for war preparations, attempting to draw countries in the region into hostile alliances aimed at China and encouraging separatist forces in Taiwan, Tibet and Xinjiang. The tariffs supplement the hundreds of U.S. sanctions against China in textiles, solar energy, computers and more.

For the past decade, U.S. policy makers have talked about "decoupling" the U.S. economy from that of China. Washington, D.C.'s trade war is a part of that process, and it cannot be separated from preparations for other kinds of war in the Pacific, including those fought by military means. Socialist China has made incredible

achievements. China has waged a real war on poverty, while the U.S. government is waging a war on working people. China is by far the world leader in renewable energy production, electric transport, biodiversity protection and afforestation. China takes public health seriously. That's why its life expectancy consistently goes up. Here in the U.S., we have measles outbreaks and vaccine "skeptics" running the show. China wants peace. No serious person can say that about the U.S. today.

We demand that the tariffs directed at China be rolled back. We oppose the Trump administration's anti-China policy, including any and all preparations for war. And we stand in solidarity with socialist China as it heads into a bright future.

The statement has been lightly edited.

Brazilian autoworkers stage an assembly in solidarity with the 2023 UAW strike. This is the kind of global solidarity the UAW needs to be promoting now.



PHOTO: METALWORKERS UNION OF GREATER CURITIBA

UAW leaders get it wrong

Trump's tariffs will not save autoworkers' jobs

By Martha Grevatt

The United Auto Workers union posted a "Statement on new tariff action" on March 4. It begins by stating that, "For 40 years, we've seen the devastating effects of so-called 'free trade' on the working class" and blasts corporations for "killing good blue-collar jobs" by moving work to low-wage countries where workers are super-exploited. (uaw.org)

So far, so good.

But the statement continues, promulgating the myth that "tariffs are a powerful tool in the toolbox for undoing the injustice of anti-worker trade deals." The union, one that staunchly opposed President Donald Trump during his election campaign, adds "We are glad to see an American president take aggressive action on ending the free trade disaster that has dropped like a bomb on the working class."

This position continues the UAW leadership's shift to the right, expressed in an op-ed piece by its President Shawn Fain in the Jan. 19 Washington Post, where he said he was "willing to work with Trump." (Workers World, Feb. 5) Now there's not only "willingness to work" with the ultraright-wing president, but high praise for the bigot-in-chief.

This is shameful. It represents a return to the chauvinistic "Buy American" line that the union embraced in the past, a line that undermines global working-class solidarity. The UAW seems to be moving away from the class struggle unionism of the 2023 "Stand-up strike" against Ford, General Motors and Stellantis, which garnered solidarity messages and visits to the picket lines from unions all over the world.

Moreover, the statement, which presumably President Fain either authored or

approved, is misleading. Tariffs are hardly "a powerful tool" in the struggle to protect autoworker jobs. It's true that the union can, and should, oppose any attempt to make workers and/or consumers absorb the cost of tariffs. But the UAW should keep in mind the words of African American lesbian poet Audre Lorde: "The master's tools will never dismantle the master's house."

Tariffs are a capitalist tool, used by capitalists to punish other countries whose interests conflict with theirs. A tariff is essentially a tax surcharge paid by companies which import goods — such as vehicles or their component parts — from the targeted countries. Rather than take a cut in profits, the company will either raise prices for the consumer and/or cut jobs and worker compensation.

The ensuing trade wars don't benefit workers in the U.S., Canada, Mexico or China. They serve to shift the blame for capitalist trade policies onto workers in other countries. We are told that other workers are "stealing our jobs." But it is the ruling class of billionaires that has destroyed our livelihoods and communities, not only by moving jobs to low-wage countries but through automation and restructuring.

The working class has no future in "working with the White House," regardless of which party has the presidency. The union movement needs to make a clean break with national chauvinism in every form and build global, working-class solidarity whenever the opportunity presents itself.

Martha Grevatt is a retired Stellantis worker who served on the executive boards of UAW Locals 122 and 869.

Airport security

Musk's chainsaw clashes with union steel

Special to Workers World

The Department of Homeland Security, which oversees the Transportation Security Administration, announced March 7 that TSA employees no longer had the right to collective bargaining. That move could allow the government to fire the TSA's 50,000 workers and to privatize the security screenings now done by them. Their union says it won't submit.

The TSA was set up in 2001 as a response to the security failures exposed by the Sept. 11, 2001, attack on the World Trade Center's Twin Towers. The law setting up the TSA explicitly allowed it to avoid granting bargaining rights to its employees.

But the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) won limited bargaining rights in 2011. That got the Transportation Security Officers (TSO) pay increases of as much as 30%, plus sick pay and other benefits.

AFGE and the TSA signed a seven-year contract last May, which in the opinion of many TSOs brought significant improvements in working conditions.

According to the March 7 Wall Street Journal, the 903 million airport screenings that were done in 2024 could have been done cheaper.

Strong union response

AFGE National President Everett Kelley accused the department of retaliating against the union for its various legal challenges, saying: "[Nearly] 47,000 Transportation Security Officers show up at over 400 airports across the country every single day to make sure our skies are safe for air travel. [Today Homeland Security Secretary Kristi] Noem and the Trump administration have violated these patriotic Americans' right to join a union in an unprovoked attack."

Kelley continued: "They gave as justification a completely fabricated claim about union officials, making clear this action has nothing to do with efficiency, safety or homeland security. This is merely a pretext for

attacking the rights of regular working Americans across the country, because they happen to belong to a union." (govexec.com, March 7)

In Boise, Idaho, AFGE Local 1127, which includes the Boise Airport's TSA members, issued the following statement: "The removal of our collective bargaining agreement is a direct attack on our freedom of speech and our right to organize. This is a calculated first step by the administration toward dismantling the TSA and reverting to privatized airport security — where the priority is cutting costs, not ensuring safety.

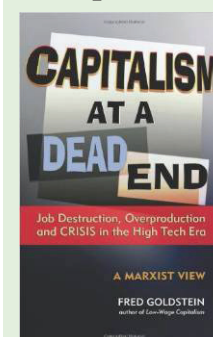
"Our union has fought tirelessly for the rights and protections we have won, and no single signature can erase the power of solidarity. Even more concerning is the manner in which this decision was communicated — TSA officers were informed just 30 minutes after Fox News had already reported on it. How is it that a private news outlet was notified before the agency's own workforce? That reeks of corruption and a blatant disregard for the people who safeguard our nation's airports."

The statement continues: "Despite this administration's clear attempts to undermine us, AFGE 1127 will not back down. We have fought for fair wages, break times, and paid parking — because we know that strong benefits attract skilled professionals, ultimately leading to safer skies. The reckless decision to strip away our rights jeopardizes not only TSA officers but the security of every traveler.

"AFGE 1127 stands firm: we will continue to fight for the rights and dignity of TSA officers in Idaho and beyond. This administration may expect us to surrender, but we refuse to let that happen." (idahopress.com, March 7). □

Capitalism at a Dead End

By Fred Goldstein



The author uses Marx's laws of capitalist accumulation, and the diminishing rate of profit, to demonstrate why global capitalism has finally reached a tipping point.

For more information on these books and other writings by the author, go to LowWageCapitalism.com.

Available at major online booksellers.

Elon Musk: How did he come to wield so much power?

By Betsey Piette

Just who is Elon Musk and why is he such a threat to workers and oppressed people in the U.S. and around the world?

While known as one of the world's richest people, lesser known is Musk's background as a privileged white "Afrikaner" born in Pretoria, South Africa, in 1971 under settler-colonial apartheid. Under an economic system designed to benefit whites, Musk's family was very wealthy.

His ideological outlook appears to be inseparable from his upbringing in apartheid South Africa as reflected in his frequent racist comments, hostility to unions and support for deregulated markets. Often using profits from Tesla, Musk openly supports racist politicians like Trump and right-wing causes across Europe. Through his ownership of the social media platform X (formerly Twitter), Musk provides an unrestricted platform for far-right views.

Afrikaners in South Africa often portrayed themselves as "victims" who needed apartheid to protect their privileged culture and very existence. Musk is vehemently in alliance with Trump and his "anti-woke," anti-diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) policies and with other reactionary Silicon Valley CEOs like PayPal's Peter Thiel and David Sacks, who also grew up with incredible wealth and privilege due to systemic racial hierarchy under apartheid. (New York Times, March 6)

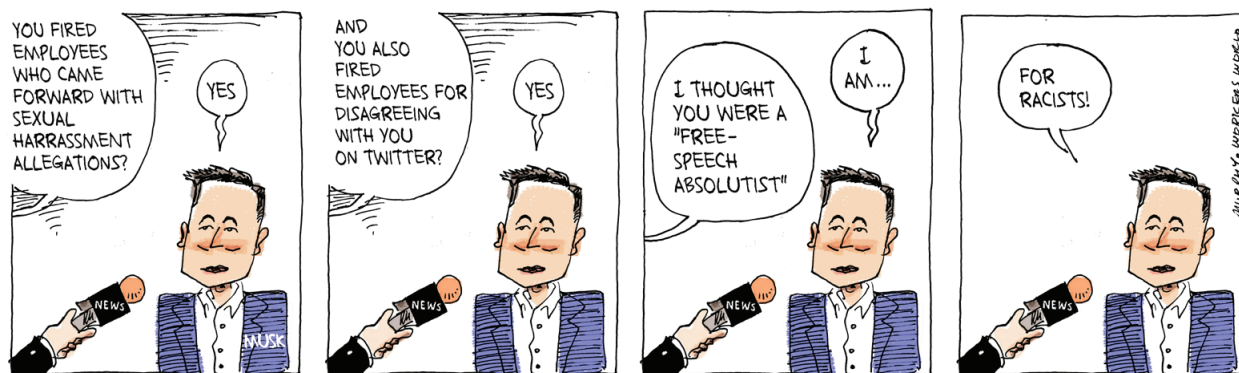
'Hotbed of racist behavior'

Contrary to Musk promoting his own ingenuity and risk-taking policies as the source of his wealth, his profits depend on his superexploitation and all-out attacks on Tesla and X workers and opposition to workers' efforts to unionize. In April 2024, Musk laid off 15,000 U.S. workers and then ramped up the use of H-1B visas for temporary foreign workers.

Many of the laid-off U.S. workers were senior engineers with higher compensation rates than their replacements who were junior engineers from abroad working for lower pay and putting in longer hours. Musk often pushes Tesla employees to work 60-80 hours per week.

Some 240 Black workers at Tesla's Fremont, California, plant filed a class action lawsuit in 2017 accusing Musk of "pervasive racial abuse." In 2021 the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) added federal charges to the California lawsuit.

The EEOC found: "The racial misconduct was frequent, ongoing, inappropriate, unwelcome and occurred across all shifts, departments and positions. ... [F]actory walls had graffiti including swastikas, nooses



and threats, including on vehicles rolling off production lines. ... Black workers routinely endured racist slurs ... used casually and openly in high-traffic areas." (Al Jazeera, Sept. 29, 2023)

Black workers at Tesla who complained were given undesirable shifts, written up and even fired. In a separate lawsuit, women workers at Tesla's Fremont plant complained about sexual harassment.

On Feb. 29, 2024, Alameda County Superior Court Judge Noël Wise opened the way for nearly 6,000 Black workers to sue the company because of Tesla's "pattern or practice" of failing to take reasonable steps to prevent discrimination. Wise called the Tesla factory production floor a "hotbed of racist behavior."

Ridding states of corporate oversight

Even before heading up Trump's Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), Musk conducted actions over several decades to rid states where he conducts business of corporate oversight regulations.

Even though Delaware has a reputation for being friendly to corporations, Musk pressured the state government to strip away court-sanctioned shareholder protections and to roll back long-standing transparency requirements that allow consumers to file lawsuits for damage done by companies like Tesla.

Musk suggested Tesla would move its headquarters from Delaware to deregulated Nevada. Musk is pressuring individual states to compete with each other regarding shielding corporate executives from legal actions that hold them accountable for wrongdoing. (The Lever, Feb. 26)

Bargain among thieves

Getting appointed to head up DOGE didn't come cheap. Musk paid \$288 million in campaign donations to become Trump's "hatchet man" and the largest of his inner circle of political donors, which includes several people now appointed to cabinet positions. While

touting cuts to government, Trump's budget changes since his inauguration have delivered \$86 million to Musk's rocket company SpaceX.

While claiming that DOGE was created to address concerns about bloated federal spending, Musk could have saved a lot of time and federal workers' jobs by looking for government waste closer to home. For decades Musk's companies profited from federal government support, receiving over \$38 billion in contracts, including \$15 billion from NASA. (Washington Post, March 8)

Meanwhile, Musk makes disparaging comments about federal workers and people who rely on federal benefits, including Medicaid and Social Security, which he falsely labeled a "Ponzi scheme." Now DOGE is coming for the U.S. Postal Service, where U.S. Postmaster General Louis DeJoy is welcoming them with open arms.

The cost of serving Trump

Since openly aligning with Trump and carrying out massive attacks on federal workers and federal programs, the value of Tesla's shares has plunged around 40% since December 2024, wiping out all gains made during the 2024 election campaign. Around the world, demonstrators have flocked to Tesla showrooms to protest Musk, and many people are returning leased Tesla cars. European Tesla sales dropped nearly 50% in January. Anger against Musk has turned violent with Molotov cocktails thrown and gunfire discharged at Tesla lots. (Washington Post, March 8)

But Elon Musk is only one of hundreds of global billionaires hoping to maximize their profits under Trump who would put private corporations in control of government functions and end any regulations that restrict their drive for profits.

While it is currently popular to attack Musk, we can't lose sight of the reality that his and Trump's offensives are trying but failing to prop up a dying capitalist system. □

Musk/Trump war on trans people, workers of color includes veterans

By Renée Andrea Imperato
New York City

The author is a transgender veteran, retired from the Veterans Administration.

Virginia psychologist Dr. Mary Brinkmeyer, who coordinated care for transgender, non-binary and other LGBTQIA2S+ veterans at the Hampton Veterans Administration hospital in Hampton, Virginia, resigned in protest on Feb. 12, calling the agency's recent directives on transgender veterans' health care "unethical." (The Advocate, March 3)

Her statement follows a fascist executive order issued by President Donald Trump that eliminates federal recognition of transgender and other non-binary identities in governmental programs, including at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Trump's executive order bars funding for gender-affirming care and orders the removal of policies recognizing gender identity. Trump's government is declaring that transgender and non-binary people do not exist. For Dr. Brinkmeyer, this was an ethical dilemma.

Dr. Brinkmeyer, who oversaw care for an estimated 300 to 400 veterans at the Hampton VA hospital, said, "Staff were told to start identifying anything in medical

records, training, materials on patient resources that could be considered 'gender ideology.'"

Transgender patients are outraged about losing their medical care. Many who rely totally on the VA and don't have any other health care or insurance fear that there will be a rush on other services if the VA eliminates gender-affirming care. These services are provided now by Planned Parenthood, APICHA [Asian & Pacific Islander Coalition on HIV/AIDS] Community Health Center, Callen-Lorde, online providers or other community-based clinics.

The VA has historically provided a wide range of gender-affirming care, including hormone therapy, speech therapy, prosthetics such as chest binders and breast forms, fertility, preservation, medically necessary hair removal, mental health services and letters supporting surgery.

Cuts to VA already happening

I was at the Manhattan VA hospital March 10. As I entered the lobby, I noticed a gathering for a meeting of guards and information workers, something I had never noticed before. I asked one of the guards if anyone was being fired. Their answer was "not yet," as their eyes rolled towards the ceiling.

Then, for the first time I can remember, the coffee



Veterans protest cuts to their health care, Milwaukee, March 7, 2025.

shop was closed with a sign saying this was due to lack of staff. I went up to the cafeteria, and I saw that what was provided was half of what was available a week earlier.

The criminals Trump, Musk and their fascist racist junta, supported by the billionaire class, have as their goal to completely sabotage the VA, so people will complain. They will then try to use veterans' complaints to argue for privatizing the VA. We will have to fight against their plans to privatize our health care.

Now is the time for all workers and oppressed people to unite: Black, Brown, Latine, Indigenous and Asian people; trans, LGBTQIA2S+, cisgender and straight people; women and gender-oppressed people; and people with disabilities — in every way and by any means available.

Let the billionaire class know: Stonewall means fight back, and fight back we will, until all these cuts are restored and justice reigns supreme in our communities. □

Solidarity with pro-Palestine students

Free Mahmoud Khalil!

It should come as no surprise that the MAGA administration has targeted activist students. Or that they have especially focused on international students who need permission to stay in the United States. No surprise first because the Trump cabal aims for the throat. Second because they see the student movement as an internal threat to their drive to world domination.

All the more should the workers' movement, the progressive movement, the anti-imperialist movement and the revolutionary movement for socialism show 100% support to the students under attack. That's whether the assault is from the Trump crowd, from the university's management or from Israel itself.

Starting soon after October 7, 2023, the campus reaction to Israel's genocidal attack opened a path to an enduring struggle protesting U.S. policy as well as Israeli-initiated genocide. It's a struggle that the courage of the Palestinians has nourished. It's a struggle that the Trump-Musk cabal is trying to crush, but the MAGA crowd has no chance of succeeding.

We call the college administrators managers. They manage in service of the ruling class. These sharp political crises expose the real role of the privileged university administrations. While pretending to defend free

discussion, they buckled under the pressure of "Genocide Joe" Biden. They have collapsed under Trump.

College administrators are finding out that, no matter how much they kiss the ring on the hands of the Trumps and Musks, they will get slapped. The announcement cutting \$400 million in government grants to Columbia University is an example of a hard slap. And it's a threat to all other universities dependent on government spending.

Much media attention in 2022 has focused on Barnard College, part of Columbia University. The same focus happened during the campus struggles last year. The media often focus attention on the Ivy League and other "elite" schools, including the University of Pennsylvania where the president was ousted for not stopping alleged "antisemitic" protests even when none had occurred.

Last year students attending public universities also waged courageous struggles and also faced repression, police bullying and arrests, but with less publicity.

In 2023 and 2024, when the Biden administration was feeding the genocide with weapons, billionaires threatened to withhold endowment donations to universities that did not go far enough to repress campus protests. Now, in 2025, under the ultraright MAGA and billionaires' rule, the universities

face cuts of government funding, and students are threatened with expulsion and deportation.

The Trump regime has threatened to deport any students on student visas who have participated in protests. It accuses them of being Hamas supporters and thus "terrorists." That's no matter what university they attend.

That's exactly what happened March 8 when Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents arrested Palestinian Mahmoud Khalil in his Columbia University apartment in New York City, taking this action without showing a warrant. Khalil, who graduated from Columbia last December, held a green card allowing him to reside and work in the U.S. The State Department said it would revoke his green card.

Anyone who knows the true history of West Asia and Palestine could rightly counter that the current occupants of power—including the formerly in power Democratic Party crowd—are supporters of Israel's state terrorism. If backers of the Israeli terrorists were removed from Washington, there would be hardly anyone left from either the Democratic or Republican parties.

A movement has already mobilized to defend Khalil, who is being held in detention



WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

Foley Square, New York, March 12, 2025, demanding: "Free Mahmoud Khalil!" and "Free Palestine"

by ICE. Solidarity protest demonstrations have been held constantly since March 10 in various cities and on campuses around the country.

The quickly organized protests convince us at Workers World that the students who protested genocide will find ways to continue resisting. We are equally confident that the mass resistance to the Trump-Musk autocratic rule will find ways to organize and grow.

As this anti-imperialist movement grows, it must also take up the defense of the students who, inspired by the Gazans, have steadfastly sat-in, occupied space and raised day after day the demand to stop the genocide, liberate Gaza and grant amnesty for expelled student protesters.

Free Mahmoud Khalil! Free Palestine!

Sign petition to free Khalil:

www.tinyurl.com/mahmoudkhalil □

Defend the right to self-defense!

For over 16 months since the Al-Aqsa Flood on October 7, 2023, Workers World has shown solidarity with the besieged Palestinian people's right to conduct an armed liberation struggle—from Gaza to the West Bank—against the U.S.-backed, Zionist, genocidal occupation.

That same solidarity should be shown towards the majority African American community of Lincoln Heights, Ohio—located on the outskirts of Cincinnati and very close to the Mason-Dixon line—where people chose self-defense when armed neo-Nazis began to terrorize the residents beginning on Feb. 7.

At least a dozen of these armed fascists had the arrogance to show up unexpectedly in pickup trucks for a march within the same vicinity of Black children leaving from Lincoln Heights Elementary School. One can just imagine how traumatizing and intimidating this event was for these youth and their parents.

Two weeks later, these same fascists appeared again tossing KKK flyers into the same community. And to no one's surprise, the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office did nothing to drive these fascists out of the Black community. In fact, community residents saw firsthand how the police protected the fascists who were a clear danger to their community. One fascist was merely cited for "littering."

It's important to know that Lincoln Heights has been a self-governing community for years, where residents actively try to reverse the lack of public services, underinvestment and neglect on the part of the local white power structure. This is why Lincoln Heights has been subjected to an outside police presence.

Cops work hand in hand with fascists

Showing no clear signs of intimidation, members of the Black community formed the Lincoln Heights Safety and Watch Program, and armed themselves with weapons. Its members patrol 24 hours a day to defend their community from invasion by these white supremacists.

Dominic Brewton Jr., a community resident, said, "When we saw that the police

wasn't helping us, every able-bodied man in the neighborhood, with or without a gun, has stood guard and has been standing guard ever since." (Washington Post, Feb. 27)

Self-defense is absolutely necessary. When Kyle Rittenhouse, a white supremacist who murdered two Black Lives Matter activists in Kenosha, Wisconsin, following the police shooting of Jacob Blake in August 2020, the police were seen giving Rittenhouse aid and comfort hours after the murders.

When white supremacist Dylann Roof murdered nine Black parishioners in Charleston, South Carolina, in 2015, the police got him a hamburger after his arrest. It is not a stretch to say that many police wear badges by day and KKK hoods by night.

There is a historic precedent of the Black

community arming itself against the repressive state apparatus, the police, along with the extra-legal arm of the state, neo-Nazis and the Klan. During the 1960s and 1970s, Black people set up armed self-defense squads in the South and North.

The Deacons for Defense and Justice was formed by Black workers in November 1964 in Jonesboro, Louisiana, to protect Civil Rights activists from KKK terror during the struggle for voting rights. Black activists Robert Williams and Mabel Williams organized armed self-defense against the KKK in Monroe, North Carolina, following struggles to desegregate a swimming pool in the late 1950s, where they were joined by Black Liberation leader Mae Mallory.

The Black Panther Party, originally

founded in 1966, formed armed community defense squads in Oakland, California, and in other large urban areas against police occupation and brutality by citing the Second Amendment, which guarantees the right to bear arms.

The Lincoln Heights Safety and Watch Program is carrying on this heroic tradition of people of color defending their right to protect themselves and communities from white supremacists who have been given the go-ahead to carry out their message of bigotry and hate with impunity from the police and sanctioned by the current White House administration.

And this tradition must continue to be defended by progressive and revolutionary forces from Palestine to the U.S. □

Two centuries of struggle

Women mill workers

By Martha Grevatt

Working-class women and gender-oppressed people have a long, proud history of struggle.

An early movement of women textile mill workers began in the 1830s in Lowell, Massachusetts. About 8,000 workers labored under terrible conditions; 13-hour days were the norm, and child labor was common.

In 1834, after the mill owners cut their pay, the women and girls went on strike. Harriet Hanson Robinson, still a girl at the time of the strike, led the women working in a room with her in what was called a "turn-out." She recalled: "As I looked back at the long line that followed me, I was more proud than I have ever been since at any success I may have

achieved and more proud than I shall ever be again until my own beloved state gives to its women citizens the right of suffrage."

As an adult Robinson became an activist for women's voting rights.

The strikers marched from mill to mill, calling on the workers to join the strike—which they did. This was an early example—perhaps the earliest in the U.S.—of what became known as the "flying squadron."

The strikers from the different plants held a mass rally where they declared on a petition: "We will not go back into the mills to work unless our wages are continued." (afl-cio.org)

The workers did not win their demand, but they did not give up. In 1836, they held a second strike bigger than the first, also over wages, which was again defeated. But in the 1840s, the women and girls of Lowell formed the Lowell Female Labor Reform Association, which pressed for the 10-hour day in the mills through its newspaper, Voice of

Industry. Thousands of signatures were collected on petitions raising that demand to the Massachusetts state legislature.

The movement spread to other mill towns in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. But the Massachusetts legislators failed to pass any workday hours legislation, and the legislation passed in New Hampshire had no mechanism for enforcing it.

The achievement of this early movement of working-class women wasn't winning better wages or shorter hours. It was proving that even the very downtrodden could organize and fight back.

As one mill worker put it: "They have at last learnt the lesson which a bitter experience teaches; not to those who style themselves their 'natural protectors' are they to look for the needful help, but to the strong and resolute of their own sex." (afl-cio.org)

Fighting tradition continues

Since that time, women and gender-oppressed workers in the garment and textile



Masthead of "Voice of Industry," newspaper of Lowell Female Labor Reform Association.

Continued on page 7

Protests against former Philippines president

Portland rally

By Lyn Neeley
Portland, Oregon

A militant crowd gathered in downtown Portland, Oregon, on March 14, calling for the prosecution of former Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte for orchestrating the violence and extermination of over 30,000 Filipino people during his tenure in office (2016-2022).

The rally was part of a National Day of Action. People all over the world are celebrating this people's victory with the demands: Prosecute and imprison Duterte! Justice for victims of Duterte! And demand accountability from President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.!

Duterte, while in Hong Kong with supporters for a March 9 rally, was arrested March 11 on a warrant from the International Criminal Court. He is now in custody at The Hague in the Netherlands.

The demonstration was organized by BAYAN Oregon, Malaya Portland and the International Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines. Speaking at the rally, Branden from the Malaya movement said that Duterte has finally been arrested for years of impunity and violence against the Filipino people. He called Duterte's arrest by the ICC a critical first step towards accountability for the victims of Duterte's "war on drugs."

Malayamovement.com reported: "We are cautiously optimistic about this recent development but will remain vigilant given the

political instability this will no doubt cause, especially leading up to the 2025 Philippine Midterm Elections."

Nina from BAYAN Oregon and Gabriela Portland said: "Duterte's arrest was a victory for the Filipino people who Duterte ironically labeled as terrorists. Filipino workers are not expendable commodities. Duterte is just one of many heads of the beast, just one of the large forces of imperialism and capitalism."

Dan Shae with Veterans for Peace said there is no difference between Marcos and Duterte. He told the crowd that when he went to the Philippines on a trip organized by BAYAN, Marcos Sr., in power then, was calling for martial law. Shae described the brave Filipino people he saw who were defying the law and speaking out against it.

U.S. out of the Philippines and everywhere! □

Philadelphia vigil

By Cindy Lou
Philadelphia

Members of Anakbayan held a heartfelt and carefully planned vigil in Philadelphia on March 14 to uplift and memorialize the 30,000 citizens of the Philippines murdered by [former President] Rodrigo Duterte during his rule of terror (2016-2022) under the guise of a "war on drug addicts."

Duterte was recently arrested and sent to The Hague in the Netherlands for trial before the International Criminal Court for 43 counts of crimes against humanity. For years, Filipinos—parents, spouses, siblings and other loved ones of those murdered—pressed for Duterte's arrest

and punishment, in some cases marching almost weekly. Activists and lawyers filed lawsuits, signed petitions, wrote articles and demonstrated in the streets.

For years, the pressure never stopped. So this win belongs to the people!

The vigil was held outdoors in Clark Park in West Philadelphia. It opened with a prayer by Sister Gertrude, a member of a progressive and socially-oriented order of nuns.

Protesters displayed a large sign with names of some people who were killed. There was a brief explanation of events, and activists shared their memories of those murdered or maimed in the killings.

Bombs killed volunteer teachers when bombs were dropped on their schools. An organizer with Food Not Bombs spoke of the murder and torture of four Food Not Bombs volunteers. A statement from Brandon Lee, a prominent freedom fighter who was paralyzed by military forces, was read.

A table was set up with roses and pictures of some of the people who were slain. Candles were lit and flowers individually placed on the altar before the vigil ended with music. Throughout the service, resistance chants were heard, reminding participants that while this is a win, our job is not yet over. RESIST! □



WW PHOTO: LYN NEELEY

Militant crowd demands 'Imprison Duterte.' Portland, Oregon, March 14, 2025.

More repression at Columbia University

By Martha Grevatt

The kidnapping and arrest of Palestinian Mahmoud Khalil, a recent graduate, by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was perhaps the most heinous example of collusion between the government and university administrators in repressing the Palestine solidarity movement on campuses in the U.S. People fighting for Khalil's release have held huge demonstrations, gathered millions of signatures on petitions and protest letters and raised large sums of money for his defense.

The targeting of solidarity activists at Columbia, however, continued after Khalil's March 8 arrest. On March 13 the university expelled United Auto Workers Local 2710

President Grant Miner, a Ph.D. student. Because Miner's job is that of a graduate student-worker, his expulsion meant he was also fired. Local 2710 includes the Student Workers of Columbia-UAW, which was scheduled to begin contract negotiations with the university on March 14.

Earlier on March 13, Columbia decided the discipline cases of 22 students who participated in the Palestine solidarity encampment in 2024 that demanded the university divest from Zionist apartheid. All were given expulsions, suspensions or degree revocations. Then on March 14 a second Palestinian student activist

at Columbia, Leqaa Kordia, was detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) with university complicity.



Columbia University students and workers protest repression by the administration against pro-Palestine activists and demand freedom for Mahmoud Khalil, March 14, 2025.

UAW Region 9A, which includes Columbia University workers, stated on March 13,

"The shocking move is part of a wave of crackdowns on free speech against students and workers who have spoken out and protested for peace and against the war on Gaza." (Columbia Spectator, March 14)

Student Workers of Columbia-United Auto Workers (SWC-UAW) held a rally on March 14, coinciding with the start of bargaining, to protest the repression meted out to students and to demand freedom for Khalil. At the last minute Columbia called off the negotiating session. □

Statement condemns massacres in Syria, hails resistance

By Workers World bureau

The massacres the new Damascus regime carried out in coastal Syria in early March has left hundreds if not over a thousand people, mainly civilians of all ages, killed in the provinces of Tartus and Latakia. This regime, which goes by the initials HTS

operates under a "Takfiri" ideology that allows it to murder people who interpret religious questions at variance to its own.

Since the HTS military overturned the prior government of Syria in December with the support of the U.S., Türkiye and Israel, it has received little criticism of its massacres from those sources.

HTS forces entered the coastal provinces in 2025 and immediately carried out murders of civilians there, especially members of the Alawite group, a minority Shi'ite sect within Islam. As a result, people from the region founded the multiethnic Syrian Resistance — organized under the Military Council for the Liberation of Syria. According to reports, the resisters were able to inflict casualties on the HTS.

The HTS regime's response was to step up the slaughter. Reports are of over 1,000 civilians killed of all ages, some of it captured on video. While the gross character of the killing has been obscured or distorted in the imperialist media, some international opposition exists.

On the Syrian coast, the Russian Air Base at Hmeimim opened its gates to provide shelter for civilians. Alawites, Christians, Druze and other minorities sought protection there. (Junge Welt, March 10)

Statement by Bronx Anti-War Coalition

Within the United States, the Bronx Anti-War Coalition has condemned the HTS regime and its backers in a statement issued March 7, at the end of which it made the following appeal: "The Bronx Anti-War

Coalition urgently calls upon students, independent journalists, human rights advocates and the international community to:

"Expose HTS's public executions: Unmask the systematic use of military hardware and drones against unarmed civilians.

"Acknowledge the deliberate targeting of civilian populations: Recognize that hundreds of lives have been lost and entire communities shattered by these state-sanctioned massacres.

"Reject hypocritical geopolitical maneuvering: Denounce the expansion of Israeli occupation forces and the false facade of 'free Syria' that serve to provide cover for these ongoing atrocities.

"We insist on accountability for both the perpetrators on the ground and the media propagandists who whitewash these crimes. The fate of Syria — its territorial sovereignty, the integrity of its diverse society and the dignity of its people — depends on a unified, informed resistance against state-sponsored terrorism and the propaganda that normalizes it.

"Expose the lies. Demand accountability. End the massacres. Support the Syrian Resistance." □

Women mill workers

Continued from page 6

industries have on many occasions demonstrated fierce determination and militancy. In 1909, the "Uprising of the 20,000," a strike of garment workers in New York City, was the largest strike of primarily women workers up to that time.

Yet despite winning better pay and shorter hours, on March 25, 1911, 146 workers died in the infamous Triangle Shirtwaist fire in downtown Manhattan. They could not escape from their burning factory, because the bosses had locked the emergency exit doors. Over 350,000 people joined the funeral march for these murdered workers,

many of them immigrant women and girls.

The 1912 "Bread and Roses" strike in Lawrence, Massachusetts, pushed back a pay cut imposed by the factory owners and won better working conditions. The textile strike of 1934 shut down mills from Maine to Alabama. The fictionalization of real-life union organizer Crystal Lee Sutton in the 1979 film "Norma Rae" depicted the still-deplorable conditions for Southern mill workers.

This tradition of struggle continues today as garment workers in low-wage countries such as Bangladesh fight for justice and union rights. □



Residente armado en Lincoln Heights, Ohio, 17 de febrero de 2025.

Defender el derecho a la autodefensa

Durante más de 16 meses desde la Inundación de Al-Aqsa el 7 de octubre de 2023, Mundo Obrero ha mostrado su solidaridad con el derecho del asediado pueblo palestino a llevar a cabo una lucha armada de liberación —desde Gaza hasta Cisjordania— contra la ocupación genocida sionista respaldada por Estados Unidos.

Esa misma solidaridad debería mostrarse hacia la comunidad mayoritariamente afroamericana de Lincoln Heights, Ohio —situada en las afueras de Cincinnati y muy cerca de la línea Mason-Dixon— donde la gente optó por la autodefensa cuando neonazis armados empezaron a aterrorizar a los residentes a partir del 7 de febrero.

Al menos una docena de estos fascistas armados tuvieron la arrogancia de presentarse inesperadamente en camionetas para una marcha en las mismas inmediaciones en las que salían niños negros de la escuela primaria Lincoln Heights. Uno puede imaginarse lo traumatizante e intimidatorio que fue este acontecimiento para estos jóvenes y sus padres.

Dos semanas después, estos mismos fascistas aparecieron de nuevo lanzando octavillas del KKK en la misma comunidad. Y para sorpresa de nadie, la oficina

editorial

del sheriff del condado de Hamilton no hizo nada para expulsar a estos fascistas de la comunidad negra. De hecho, los residentes de la comunidad vieron de primera mano cómo la policía protegía a los fascistas que eran un claro peligro para su comunidad. Un fascista fue simplemente citado por «tirar basura».

Es importante saber que Lincoln Heights es desde hace años una comunidad autogobernada, en la que los residentes intentan activamente revertir la falta de servicios públicos, la infraestructura y el abandono por parte de la estructura de poder blanca local. Esta es la razón por la que Lincoln Heights se ha visto sometida a una presencia policial exterior.

La policía trabaja mano a mano con los fascistas

Sin mostrar signos claros de intimidación, los miembros de la comunidad negra formaron el Programa de Seguridad y Vigilancia de Lincoln Heights y se armaron con armas. Sus miembros patrullan las 24 horas del día para defender a su comunidad de la invasión de estos supremacistas blancos.

Dominic Brewton Jr., residente de la comunidad, dijo: «Cuando vimos que la policía no nos ayudaba, todos los hombres

sanos del barrio, con o sin pistola, montaron guardia y han estado montando guardia desde entonces». (Washington Post, 27 de febrero)

La autodefensa es absolutamente necesaria. Cuando Kyle Rittenhouse, un supremacista blanco que asesinó a dos activistas de Black Lives Matter en Kenosha, Wisconsin, tras el tiroteo de la policía contra Jacob Blake en agosto de 2020, se vio a la policía prestando ayuda y consuelo a Rittenhouse horas después de los asesinatos.

Cuando el supremacista blanco Dylann Roof asesinó a nueve feligreses negros en Charleston, Carolina del Sur, en 2015, la policía le regaló una hamburguesa tras su detención. No es exagerado decir que muchos policías llevan una placa de día y capuchas del KKK de noche.

Existe un precedente histórico de la comunidad negra armándose contra el aparato represivo del Estado, la policía, junto con el brazo extralegal del Estado, los neonazis y el Klan. Durante las décadas de 1960 y 1970, los negros crearon escuadrones de autodefensa armados en el Sur y en el Norte.

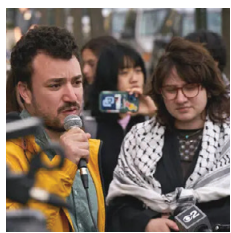
Los Diáconos por la Defensa y la Justicia fueron formados por trabajadores negros en noviembre de 1964 en Jonesboro, Luisiana, para proteger a los activistas de

los Derechos Civiles del terror del KKK durante la lucha por el derecho al voto. Los activistas negros Robert Williams y Mabel Williams organizaron la autodefensa armada contra el KKK en Monroe, Carolina del Norte, tras las luchas por la eliminación de la segregación en una piscina a finales de la década de 1950, donde se les unió la líder de la Liberación Negra Mae Mallory.

El Partido de las Panteras Negras, fundado en 1966, formó escuadrones armados de defensa de la comunidad en Oakland, California, y en otras grandes zonas urbanas contra la ocupación y la brutalidad policial citando la Segunda Enmienda, que garantiza el derecho a portar armas.

El Programa de Seguridad y Vigilancia de Lincoln Heights continúa esta heroica tradición de la gente de color que defiende su derecho a protegerse a sí misma y a sus comunidades de los supremacistas blancos que han recibido el visto bueno para llevar a cabo su mensaje de intolerancia y odio con la impunidad de la policía y la sanción de la actual administración de la Casa Blanca.

Y esta tradición debe seguir siendo defendida por las fuerzas progresistas y revolucionarias desde Palestina hasta EE.UU. □



Mahmoud Khalil

Solidaridad con los y las estudiantes pro Palestina

¡Liberen a Mahmoud Khalil! editorial

No debería sorprendernos que la administración MAGA se haya centrado en los estudiantes activistas. O que se hayan centrado especialmente en los estudiantes internacionales que necesitan permiso para permanecer en Estados Unidos. No es ninguna sorpresa primero porque la cábala de Trump apunta a la garganta. Segundo porque ven al movimiento estudiantil como una amenaza interna a su afán de dominación mundial.

Con más razón el movimiento obrero, el movimiento progresista, el movimiento antiimperialista y el movimiento revolucionario por el socialismo deberían mostrar su apoyo al 100% a los estudiantes atacados. Ya sea que el ataque provenga de la gente de Trump, de la dirección de la universidad o del propio Israel.

Comenzando poco después del 7 de octubre de 2023, la reacción del campus al ataque genocida de Israel abrió un camino a una lucha duradera que protesta contra la política estadounidense así como contra el genocidio iniciado por Israel. Es una lucha que el coraje de los palestinos ha alimentado. Es una lucha que la cábala Trump-Musk está tratando de aplastar, pero la multitud MAGA no tiene ninguna posibilidad de tener éxito.

Llamamos gestores a los administradores universitarios. Gestionan al servicio de la clase dominante. Estas agudas crisis políticas ponen al descubierto el verdadero papel de las privilegiadas administraciones universitarias. Mientras fingían defender la libre discusión, se doblegaron bajo la presión del «genocida Joe» Biden. Se han derrumbado bajo Trump.

Los administradores universitarios están descubriendo que, por mucho que besen el anillo en la mano de los Trump y los Musk, recibirán una bofetada. El anuncio de recortar 400 millones de dólares en subvenciones gubernamentales a la Universidad de Columbia es un ejemplo de bofetada dura. Y es una amenaza para todas las demás universidades que dependen del gasto gubernamental.

Gran parte de la atención mediática de este mes de marzo se ha centrado en el Barnard College, que forma

parte de la Universidad de Columbia. El mismo foco de atención se produjo durante las luchas del campus el año pasado. Los medios de comunicación suelen centrar su atención en la Ivy League y otras escuelas de «élite», incluida la Universidad de Pensilvania, donde el presidente fue destituido por no detener supuestas protestas «antisemitas», incluso cuando no se había producido ninguna.

El año pasado los estudiantes de las universidades públicas también libraron valientes luchas y también se enfrentaron a la represión, el acoso policial y las detenciones, pero con menos publicidad.

En 2023 y 2024, cuando la administración Biden alimentaba el genocidio con armas, los multimillonarios amenazaron con retener las donaciones de dotaciones a las universidades que no fueran lo suficientemente lejos para reprimir las protestas en los campus. Ahora, en 2025, bajo el régimen ultraderechista de MAGA y los multimillonarios, las universidades se enfrentan a recortes de la financiación gubernamental, y los estudiantes están amenazados de expulsión y deportación.

El régimen de Trump ha amenazado con deportar a cualquier estudiante con visado de estudiante que haya participado en protestas. Les acusa de ser partidarios de Hamás y, por tanto, «terroristas». Eso sin importar en



MO FOTO: BRENDA RYAN

Foley Square, Nueva York, 12 de marzo de 2025: ¡Liberad a Mahmoud Khalil! y ¡Liberen a Palestina!

qué universidad estén.

Eso es exactamente lo que ocurrió el 8 de marzo cuando los agentes del Servicio de Inmigración y Control de Aduanas (ICE) detuvieron al palestino Mahmoud Khalil en su apartamento de la Universidad de Columbia en Nueva York, tomando esta medida sin mostrar una orden judicial. Khalil, que se graduó en Columbia el pasado diciembre, era titular de una tarjeta verde que le permitía residir y trabajar en EE.UU. El Departamento de Estado dijo que revocaría su tarjeta verde.

Cualquiera que conozca la verdadera historia de Asia Occidental y Palestina podría rebatir con razón que los actuales ocupantes del poder —incluida la multitud del Partido Demócrata, antes en el poder— son partidarios del terrorismo de Estado de Israel. Si los partidarios de los terroristas israelíes fueran expulsados de Washington, apenas quedaría nadie ni del Partido Demócrata ni del Republicano.

Ya se ha movilizado un movimiento para defender a Khalil, que está detenido por ICE. Se han celebrado manifestaciones de protesta solidarias durante toda la semana a partir del 10 de marzo en varias ciudades y en campus de todo el país.

Las protestas rápidamente organizadas nos convencen en Mundo Obrero de que los estudiantes que protestaron contra el genocidio encontrarán formas de seguir resistiendo. Confiamos igualmente en que la resistencia de masas al gobierno autocrático de Trump-Musk encontrará formas de organizarse y crecer.

A medida que este movimiento antiimperialista crece, también debe asumir la defensa de los estudiantes que, inspirados por los gazatíes, se han sentado firmemente, han ocupado espacios y han levantado día tras día la exigencia de detener el genocidio, liberar Gaza y conceder amnistía a los estudiantes manifestantes expulsados.

¡Liberad a Mahmoud Khalil! ¡Liberen a Palestina!

Firme la petición para liberar a Khalil: www.tinyurl.com/mahmoudkhalil □