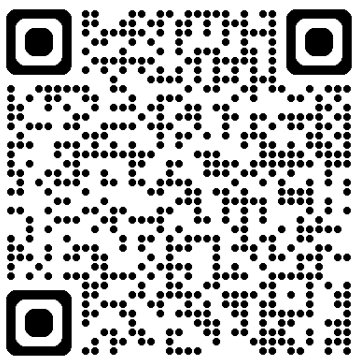




On May Day 2026

Resist U.S. imperialism

Since its origins in 1886 in the United States, May Day — declared International Workers Day at a socialist conference in 1889 — has been commemorated by millions of workers, especially in the Global South, with strikes, rallies, marches and other acts of

WW STATEMENT

This year inside the U.S., the AFL-CIO federation has issued a national call for May Day actions in many cities, which is a progressive step forward. But Workers World states that this call falls short of

militant protests against capitalist exploitation and imperialist plunder.

what is needed to connect all issues to the current war crisis.

May Day was born out of the class struggle — the struggle of the exploited working class fighting for better working conditions versus the exploitative class of the bosses.

But since every issue is a worker's issue, how can any call for May Day ignore what is taking place in West Asia and centered right now with the U.S. war on Iran? May Day is a perfect opportunity to demonstrate that there is a class difference between being generally against wars and being anti-imperialist — one that shows which side of a war you are on.

U.S. and Israeli war on Iran

On Feb. 28, the MAGA administration and its crony, the apartheid Zionist illegal state of Israel, declared war on the sovereign country of Iran by massacring close to 170 children who were attending school in Minab, Iran. They also assassinated

the beloved Islamic leader, Seyyed Ali Khamenei. The U.S. committed these war crimes while supposedly negotiating with Iran.

Iran has been in the crosshairs of U.S. imperialism for almost 50 years since its people carried out a revolution in 1979 and regained the rightful control of its oil and other precious resources from the colonial grip of the British and U.S. Big Oil profiteers. The U.S. and Israel have targeted Iran for Iran's consistent material support for the liberation of occupied Palestine.

Citing the United Nations Charter (Article 51), Iran struck U.S. military bases and installations located throughout West Asia, as well as Israel's major city, Tel Aviv. At the same time, Iran established control of the Strait of Hormuz, making Iran the gatekeeper for 20% of the world's oil and natural gas exports.

Since Feb. 28, the U.S. government has

Continued on page 10



Solidarity with Palestinian prisoners, New York City, April 17, 2026. WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

Mumia Week, April 19-25

Mumia Week 2026 kicked off in Philadelphia April 19 with an exciting gathering of the Church of the Revolution at the Tabernacle United Church. Pam Africa (inset photo), Baba Mohammad Zayid, YahNé Ndgo and Anthony Smith energized the crowd with strong messages for the necessity to free our political prisoners, including Mumia Abu-Jamal. Their counsel was followed up with comments from the audience that continued the theme of united resistance. Afterwards, everyone joined together in a community dinner that included a recognition of the participants who marched 103 miles over 12 days from Philadelphia to SCI Mahanoy last December.

— Report and photos by Joe Piette



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Mumia's message to United Nations

Rodney Reed denied justice, again

Palestinian Prisoners' Day



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Workers World says: In the spirit of May Day, Stop all U.S. wars!

May Day — commemorated by workers worldwide — arose out of the 1886 struggle when workers around the U.S. joined a general strike on May 1 demanding an 8-hour workday. Chicago police attacked demonstrating workers in Haymarket Square three days later. In 1889, international socialists named May 1 International Workers Day to commemorate this struggle, honor Chicago’s martyrs and promote global solidarity among workers.

Today Workers World hails the workers of Iran, Lebanon and Palestine who remain resolute in the face of U.S. and Israeli bombings which have killed thousands of their people and destroyed cities, infrastructures and antiquities. We denounce these imperialist, expansionist and racist wars. We also oppose attacks and threats against socialist Cuba and its ally, Venezuela.

WW hails international unions and labor federations which have opposed these wars and expressed solidarity with the besieged peoples. We call on the U.S. labor movement to pressure Washington to stop the bombings and collaboration with and arming the Israeli regime. We laud unions and workers who have joined demonstrations against this militarism, as have our staff members.

Our articles have truthfully covered U.S. and Israeli attacks on Iran, Lebanon and Gaza, refuting corporate media lies. WW stanchly supports countries under imperialist fire and hails resistance forces. We say “U.S. out of Western Asia!” and oppose imperialist and Zionist occupations, repression and schemes to grab lands which belong to the region’s peoples. They deserve sovereignty and self-determination.

In the spirit of May Day, WW calls for solidarity with migrant workers in the U.S., scapegoated by the Trump administration, terrorized by Immigration and Customs Enforcement and living in fear, imprisoned and deported. We call upon unions, their members and all workers to fully support migrant workers, their families and allies.

WW agrees with May Day’s founders: End capitalism!

Fight for socialism! We add: End U.S.-Israeli genocide! Cease wars on Iran, Lebanon and Palestine! U.S.: Hands off Cuba and Venezuela! Stop detaining and deporting migrant workers!

Be a WW Supporter!

This pro-worker newspaper depends on our readers’ backing. The WW Supporter Program was launched 49 years ago to help publish this socialist newspaper and, over 35 years ago, to support workers.org, where new articles are posted daily and the weekly paper’s PDF is posted and archived.

Workers.org contains news and analysis of global and U.S. struggles, bulletins from Palestinian and other national liberation movements and articles translated

by our staff. Our writer-organizers report on anti-capitalist struggles and people’s movements against racism and war — and for the rights of Black, Latiné, Arab, Asian and Indigenous people, women, workers, migrants, prisoners, LGBTQIA2S+ communities, low-income, elderly and disabled individuals. Prisoners receive all print issues for free. **The website is a resource for political activists.**

While WW’s staff is voluntary, the 12 annually printed

and mailed issues and workers.org incur expenses. Although many online publications require payment to read their articles, WW does not. **Our articles are free to all readers.**

Can you donate \$50, \$100 or \$200 or more a year? Contributing \$50 or a higher amount will entitle you to receive all print issues and five emails per week linking to online articles.

Your donations help get class truth to more readers — and are appreciated. Write monthly or annual checks to Workers World. Mail them with your name, address and email to Workers World, 121 West 27th St., Suite 404, New York, NY 10001. □



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Washington, D.C., protest, Nov. 4, 2023.

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, LGBTQIA2S+ 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, class solidarity, and joining us in the fight for a socialist future, please sign up at www.workers.org/join-form and an organizer will get back to you. Or contact a WWP branch near you. □

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Mumia gives U.N. ‘inside impression’ of death row

By Mumia Abu-Jamal

Mumia Abu-Jamal submitted the following in February 2026 to the United Nation’s Special Rapporteur’s call for contributions “on the death penalty in relation to the prohibition of torture and other forms of ill-treatment and the protection of human dignity.”

When we think about death row, I must remind you all who hear these words or read these words, it is not a movie. Don't think of a movie. Instead imagine a reality where for years, for many years, people are locked down in their cells for 23 hours a day. Which began as 24 hours a day on the weekends and after years and years, became 22 hours a day.

Also imagine that for what may be the rest of your life you could not hug, nor kiss, nor caress your children, your wife, your brothers, your sisters, your parents, because non-contact was the rule.

What did that mean in the real world? And why was it established? What it means is the state separating you from all people that you love and who love you. And what does it mean? It meant that this physical isolation, this true solitary confinement, separated you from the people who naturally care about you. And separated them from you. What is the purpose of that? The purpose is simple, to dehumanize the accused, the death-row person, and to separate them from humanity itself.

In some states, mostly the South, it has become custom that when a death-row prisoner is escorted throughout the prison, the guards usually shout: “Dead man walking. Get out of the way. Dead man walking.” Now that will remind you of a movie, but that only reminds you of a movie, because it happened in real life.

To separate people from other people, it is to deprive people of what it means to be human. To be social. And

this is something that has become “expertise” in U.S. prisons, North, South, East or West. This tradition continues in much of this country and is designed to make people lose hope, so that they can be more easily executed, or as the state says, “put to death.”

This too is not just a word or description or even a movie. I've known men who spent time on death row with me who committed suicide, for a variety of reasons.

Sometimes, they were suffering health issues and could not bear to continue to suffer those health issues. Sometimes they were depressed, because they knew that they should have gotten a new trial, but instead they got a resentencing hearing.

I knew a guy who I had played handball with, up at SCI Greene, he was an excellent young handball player, because he'd played it in the world. And we gave each other a good challenge, the old man and the young guy, and he was in excellent health until his appeal got denied, and he was given a life sentence instead of the new trial that he knew, he knew he deserved and by law should have gotten. Within a week he tied himself to some bars in his cell and killed himself.

For him, a life sentence, what people call “slow death row,” was too much like death row itself, for him to leave death row, it was another kind of death row. A death row on life row. I have met people who I have known on

death row who were executed by the government of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. One guy was about two or three cells away from me when we were at Graterford in Eastern Pennsylvania. He was an older guy.

I sent him a note and said, “Listen man, fight your stuff.” And he called down and said, “Jamal, I am tired;

I got nothing here, I got nothing to live for. I'm ready to go.” And so he did. He volunteered to be executed. And the State of Pennsylvania took him up on his invitation. When people are given no way out, given no hope, does it surprise you that men in such conditions commit suicide?

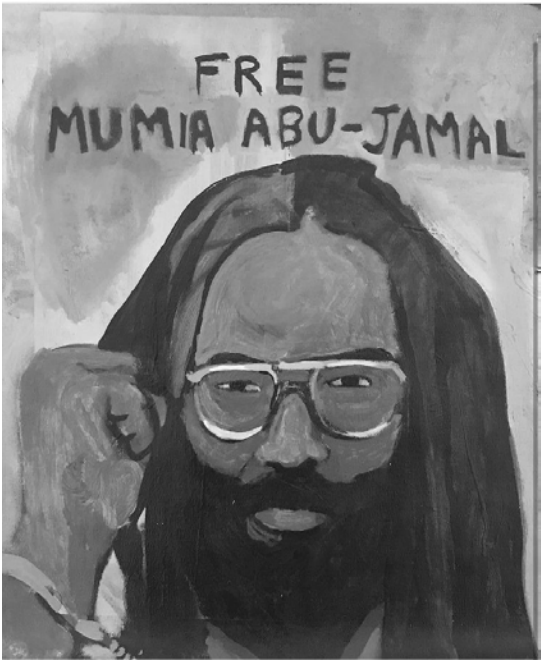
If you think about it, this guy commits suicide by the state. The other Puerto Rican brother I talked about committed suicide because of his deep disappointment that the state could not treat him according to the law as written in their books.

But what was killed was hope. And that is what it was designed to do. That is what death row is designed to be.

And that is what death row and slow death row really is. Not just in this state but in several states in a country called “the land of the free.”

I wanted to give you an inside impression. I hope I have been successful.

Love not Fear,
Mumia ABU-JAMAL



Rodney Reed denied justice in death penalty case

By Gloria Rubac
Houston

For well over a decade, Texas death row prisoner Rodney Reed has tried to get a court to grant him the right to have DNA testing done on the murder weapon in his capital murder case.

On March 23, the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) denied Reed’s petition for a grant of certiorari. Texas courts and lower federal courts have so far backed prosecutors’ refusal to allow for the testing, which Reed’s defense team would pay for.

Reed, 56, has been on death row for almost 30 years following a conviction by an all-white jury for the 1996 murder of Stacey Stites. An African American man, he was unjustly convicted of murdering a white woman who he was in a consensual relationship with in Bastrop, Texas — a small town near Austin known for its racist history.

Reed’s family and the thousands of activists who support him, continuously ask: “What is the District Attorney, the courts and the local police hiding? Why not test the murder weapon for DNA?”

The only logical answers

His real crime was having an affair with a white woman, and a DNA test would likely show that the real killer of Stites was her fiancé, Jimmy Fennell, a white ex-police officer, and not Rodney Reed.

Fennell was a local police officer in 1996. He and Stites were planning to marry. But she was involved with Reed at the same time. Reed’s mother, Sandra Reed, told this reporter that she knew Stites, because she had been at her house with Reed several times.

In 2008, Fennell pled guilty and served a decade in prison for kidnapping and raping a woman he had arrested at a traffic stop.

The Innocence Project in New York has been representing Reed. They say a confession by Fennell has been discovered. On Oct. 29, 2019, Arthur Snow, a former member of the Aryan Brotherhood and Fennell’s prison mate, disclosed that Fennell had confessed to murdering Stacey, stating, “I had to kill my n*****-loving fiancée,” in a jail conversation. (innocenceproject.org)

The murder weapon that prosecutors have refused to allow to be DNA tested is a webbed belt that was used to



WW PHOTO: GLORIA RUBAC

Rodney Reed in Bastrop County court for a 2015 hearing.

strangle Stites as she made her way to work at a supermarket in Bastrop.

According to the March 23 The Texas Tribune: “The killer held that belt tight against her throat for minutes and must have left his sweat and skin cells — and thus his DNA — where he gripped the belt, both on the surface and deep within the webbing.” Texas claims that the chain of custody has been broken, and many people have touched the belt. However, the state routinely uses contaminated evidence in prosecutions. Plus modern DNA testing is now capable of generating accurate results even when the evidence has been contaminated.

The March 23 New York Times quoted Reed’s attorneys: “Given everything we now know, it is inexplicable why Texas would not want to test the murder weapon and confirm the truth.” Reed’s legal team said it will “continue to pursue avenues to obtain relief.”

Texas legislators have tried to strengthen the legal path for prisoners to pursue innocence claims using forensic and technological advancements. However, state prosecutors have succeeded in blocking that path in virtually every capital case, according to The Death Penalty Information Center.

Denial of DNA testing ‘inexplicable’

After SCOTUS denied certiorari, Justices Sonia Sotomayor, Ketanji Brown Jackson and Elena Kagan issued this dissent: “It is inexplicable why the Bastrop County District Attorney’s Office refuses to allow DNA testing of the belt that was used to kill Stites, despite the

very substantial possibility that such testing could exculpate Reed and identify the real killer.”

The justices concluded with, “The State will likely execute Reed without the world ever knowing whether Reed’s or Fennell’s DNA is on the murder weapon, even though a simple DNA test could reveal that information.” (Death Penalty Information Center)

Reed’s case has generated support from many public personalities, such as Beyoncé, Kim Kardashian, Dr. Phil McGraw, Rihanna and Oprah Winfrey.

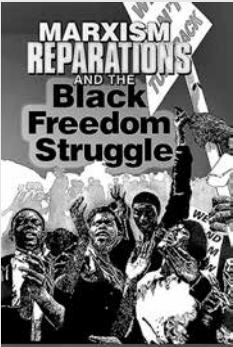
Texas has carried out two executions this year, and four more are scheduled. Reed does not currently have an execution date, but this latest ruling means Texas could set a date any day. □

Marxism, Reparations and the Black Freedom Struggle

An anthology of writings from
Workers World newspaper

Edited by Monica Moorehead

Racism, National Oppression & Self-Determination • Black Labor from Chattel Slavery to Wage Slavery • Black Youth: Repression & Resistance • The Struggle for Socialism Is Key • Domestic Workers United Demand Passage of a Bill of Rights • Black & Brown Unity • Harriet Tubman, Woman Warrior • Racism & Poverty in the Delta • Haiti Needs Reparations, Not Sanctions • Alabama’s Black Belt: Legacy of Slavery, Sharecropping & Segregation • Are Conditions Ripe Again Today? Anniversary of the 1965 Watts Rebellion



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NO whitewashing enslavement!

By **Betsey Piette**
Philadelphia

In an ongoing effort by the Trump administration to whitewash U.S. history, on April 8, the National Park Service uploaded renderings of 11 proposed revisionist new panels for the Presidents House exhibit near the Liberty Bell. The proposed new panels seek to sanitize George Washington’s role as the enslaver of nine individuals at the first “White House” in Philadelphia by putting the first U.S. president in a more sympathetic light.

The Avenging the Ancestors Coalition (ATAC) advocated and led the work over 20 years to establish the site — one of the only federal memorials recognizing the lives of enslaved Africans. ATAC’s press release issued April 9 called the proposed changes unacceptable, “deeply offensive” and “yet another troubling attempt to distort and censor American history.”

On April 10, the Third Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the Trump administration is prohibited from making changes to the site while its appeal of a lower court injunction from February remains in force.

Offensive nature of Trump panels

Trump’s effort to sanitize Washington’s role in enslavement includes panels with statements like: “Slaves living in the President’s House experienced a greater modicum of autonomy than elsewhere in

the South such as to explore the city and sometimes even attend the theater, with Washington buying the tickets.”

In his effort to portray Washington more favorably, the same panel titled “Presidents Washington and Adams on Slavery” says: “Caught between his private doubts about slavery and his public responsibility as president, George Washington navigated a nation deeply divided over slavery. ... Privately, George Washington often expressed discomfort with the institution and a desire to see it abolished, yet as a Virginia plantation owner, his wealth and livelihood were deeply tied to it.”

Two of the proposed new panels titled “Celebrating Independence Throughout the Years” detail milestones the administration felt worthy of note, including the Union Army in the Civil War and the role they claim Christianity played in the abolition movement. What’s left out, among many things, is the importance of the artifacts related to enslavement that were found during the archaeological dig, especially in the basement where the nine people enslaved by Washington to serve him while he was living in the President’s House in Philadelphia carried out tasks.

The Dirty Business of Slavery

The original panels that were removed on the administration’s orders in January 2026 tell a far different story. They explained that Washington held nine Africans in bondage

in Philadelphia, despite prohibitions against enslavement in Pennsylvania. The graves of some of those enslaved were uncovered in 2002 during the relocation of the Liberty Bell.

One panel at the President’s House depicted Washington’s hand holding a quill signing the infamous 1793 Fugitive Slave Act that put those who escaped enslavement at risk of recapture for the rest of their lives. A posse of white men with clubs and guns are in the background shooting at four Black men escaping from enslavement.

Another of the original panels called “Life Under Slavery” illustrated the deprivation of food, clothing and shelter, whippings, beatings, torture and rapes endured by enslaved people. There was never a mention of alleged “theater tickets.”

While the new panels claim to tell the story of enslavement in the United States, they gloss over the specific history of the nine people enslaved by Washington in Philadelphia: Austin and Paris — horse-men and stable hands; Hercules — the chief cook; Christopher Sheels — Washington’s personal attendant; Richmond — Hercules’ son and kitchen worker; Giles — a driver and stable hand; Ona Marie Judge — Martha Washington’s personal maid; Moll — nurse-maid to the Washingtons’ grandchildren; and Joe Richardson — a stable hand.

Since court hearings on the administration’s initial actions in removing the panels and then failing to restore them as ordered



WW PHOTO: BETSEY PIETTE

President’s House panel depicts George Washington signing the infamous 1793 Fugitive Slave Act. Posse of armed white men in the background are shooting at four Black men escaping from enslavement.

by U.S. District Judge Cynthia Rufe on Jan. 21 are still pending, this struggle is a long way from resolution. But it’s not enough to rely on the courts. The battle must be returned to the streets where it first began.

ATAC founder Michael Coard said: “No one person — no president, no administration — has the right to dictate what history we tell. The truth is not optional. We will not stand by quietly while anyone attempts to erase, distort or whitewash the reality of slavery and its legacy in this country.” (ATAC press release) □

United JBS meatpackers win contract!

By **Viviana Weinstein**
Denver

There was 99% unity of 3,800 workers to walk out on March 16 and strike for three weeks against the JBS beef packing plant in Greeley, Colorado. The threat of a fourth week brought the union and management back to the negotiating table and resulted in a new contract on April 13 with raises and company-paid safety equipment.

The plant is one of the largest in an industry which has not had a strike in over 40 years. This was the first strike at the JBS beef plant. The strike resulted from eight months of unproductive negotiations. This courageous job action was led by a majority

migrant workforce facing fierce federal government repression against immigrants.

The United Food and Commercial Workers Local 7 announced that the contract, which needs to be ratified by the workers, gives workers \$1.50 per hour pay increases by April 2027 and a \$750 bonus with the ratification. Workers will also receive a one-time payment of \$500 in April 2027.

In the past decades the meat packing industries have moved out of the major U.S. cities into small, isolated farming and fracking towns. They hire immigrants whose immigration status is precarious and in

the past undocumented and have even used illegal child labor for which JBS was fined.

The majority of workers are documented now but Haitians with Temporary Protected Status never know from day to day if they will be detained and/or deported, as their



Striking workers outside JBS plant in March 2026.

TPS, has been unpredictably revoked by the Trump administration and reinstated more recently by a court.

Meat cutting plants have very high levels of worker injuries. The conditions are cold and wet, and the line speeds are fast. Exposure to animal blood, feces and diseases are a threat to worker health. According to the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration, 30 out of 100 workers are injured in a year.

Workers complained of low wages and minimal raises and at the same time were charged by JBS as much as \$1,100 for safety equipment to protect themselves or to replace worn equipment. The new contract states that these costs are to be paid by the company. □

Working people oppose corporate railroad merger

By **Otis Grotewohl**

Rail workers and small family farmers are united in opposition to the proposed \$85 billion merger between Union Pacific (UP) and Norfolk Southern (NS). The idea was first proposed by UP-NS bosses and capitalist shareholders in July 2025. The merger would combine the two major railroad companies, which span tracks across 43 states, and would create the first single-line railroad linking the North American coasts.

Several labor unions and organizations representing small farmers have raised concerns about how the merger would impact their jobs and raise costs for consumers. Critics argue the merger will inevitably lead to service disruptions, higher prices, job losses and weakened oversight.

Among the unions that oppose the merger are the Teamsters-affiliated Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BLET) and Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division of the Teamsters (BMWED-IBT), who together represent over half the UP and NS workforce. Railroad Workers United (RWU), a rank-and-file caucus composed of members of multiple rail



unions, has come out strongly against the merger.

Other unions that have voiced criticism include American Train Dispatchers Association (ATDA) and the International Association of Machinists (IAM) District 19 Rail Workers.

The American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) and the American Chemistry Council share concerns similar to those of unions. Farmers argue the UP-NS merger will lead to fewer rail options and higher transportation costs, causing an increase in food prices impacting both consumers and farmers. Trump’s tariffs have already negatively impacted the food supply, and the National Black Farmers Association has voiced particular concerns about that issue.

Statements of opposition

Other unions and labor leaders have taken positions condemning the merger. The United Electrical Workers (UE) Rail Crew Transportation Conference Board released a statement in November 2025: “The Union Pacific—Norfolk Southern (UP-NS) merger prioritizes monopoly profits over worker welfare and public safety, making it a clear detriment to both labor and the environment. We

rail crew drivers suffer these consequences, since the more monopolized the railroads are, the more they can force rail crew transport contractors to only offer poverty wages.” (UE, Nov. 27, 2025)

Transportation Workers Union (TWU) President John Samuelson publicly stated that “there is no world where Union Pacific should be controlling a coast-to-coast rail network.” (twu.org, July 29, 2025)

TWU Rail Division Director John Feltz shared similar thoughts: “Union Pacific cut railroad jobs even as other freight railroads ramped up hiring after the pandemic. They are not to be trusted by railroad workers nationwide and the TWU will fight any attempt to ram through a merger that Wall Street might like but is bad for railroad workers and the safety of everyone.” (twu.org, July 29, 2025)

UP-NS merger epitomizes capitalist greed

The possible merger between the two major railroad companies comes three years after Norfolk Southern caused an explosive train derailment in East Palestine, Ohio. NS’s freight trains were carrying hazardous materials and several trains were on fire for at least two days. Many people in the community are now reporting major health issues that are directly related to the crash.

Some people have even brought lawsuits against NS for damages.

NS is also the subject of controversy in the Chicago suburb of Hammond, Indiana. The company promised to help pay for a pedestrian overpass at a dangerous rail crossing in Hammond, and the bosses are now backing down from the agreement, according to a recent ProPublica report. (March 25)

Rail workers and farmers distrust the tentative merger because the railroad companies have repeatedly lied to them.

While there is working-class opposition to the UP-NS merger, the Trump administration has praised the idea.

The railroad industry is driven by profit under capitalism. UP-NS bosses are unable to fulfill their promises to workers, farmers and consumers because they have opposing class interests.

In contrast to the capitalist U.S., People’s China has the world’s longest high-speed rail network that services the highest ridership. Unlike the U.S., China has a centrally planned, socialist economy. The U.S. is unable and unwilling to guarantee the same transportation conveniences for people here. The UP-NS merger will not improve the lives of workers or consumers, and it will only materially benefit bourgeois shareholders. □

Trump’s war equals corporate windfall profits

By Betsey Piette

U.S. President Donald Trump’s criminal attacks on Iran have been called a “war of choice.” But the question remains: whose choice? It is highly unlikely that the U.S. capitalist class would let Trump or any U.S. president engage them in a war without their consent and backing.

Trump supporters include major defense contractors — Lockheed Martin, RTX, Boeing and Northrop Grumman — which gained a \$200 billion windfall from this war, according to Time Magazine, due to increased weapons production plus the need to replace multiple expensive military aircraft downed by the Iranian military. (Mar. 19)

But the bigger capitalist winners are energy companies, which stand to make \$234 billion by the end of 2026 if the price of oil continues to average \$100 a barrel, according to an analysis by Global Witness. The world’s top 100 oil and gas companies “banked more than \$30 million every hour in unearned profit in the first month of the U.S.-Israeli war in Iran,” according to the Guardian (April 15).

War profitable for LNG exporters

Globally, so far, the biggest beneficiaries of Trump’s war have been Saudi Aramco, Gazprom, Chevron and ExxonMobil, but the war has also been a big profit boost for U.S. energy companies that export liquefied natural gas (LNG).

LNG company CEOs from Energy

Transfer Partners, Occidental Petroleum and Continental Resources donated over \$96 million to Trump’s 2024 campaign, according to Brennan Center for Justice. (Sept. 15, 2025) As payback, Trump promoted reducing any remaining environmental restrictions on the production of fossil fuels — of concern because of their high release of methane gas — while cutting funding and eliminating existing federal programs promoting renewable wind and solar energy.

Since the technology became possible, both Democratic and Republican administrations have promoted exporting LNG. After decades of restrictions on U.S. gas exports, former President Barack Obama authorized the first permits for commercial LNG exports during the shale gas (fracking) boom, setting the stage for the U.S. to become a major global energy exporter.

In his first term, Trump prioritized LNG exports to achieve “energy dominance.” Regulatory hurdles were reduced, and export capacity was greatly increased, expanding U.S. LNG sales globally. Bowing to environmental concerns, former President Joe Biden was slower to approve exports, but in his second term Trump reversed Biden’s restrictions, returning to more aggressive expansion of LNG exports by prioritizing deregulation.

A notable exception under Biden was the U.S.-backed sabotage of Russia’s underwater Nord Stream 1 and 2 oil pipelines that supplied Europe with gas early in the Ukraine war — an attempt to force

European Union countries to accept the alternative U.S. LNG imports.

Yet due to the high cost and complex steps involved in liquefying natural gas, on top of shipping expenses, U.S. LNG imports are not seen as a viable alternative to gas imported from West Asia or Russia. EU nations also have environmental restrictions against importing LNG.

With his early 2025 tariff demands, Trump made the import of U.S. LNG a key, even explicit part of trade negotiations. The U.S. pressured allies, including South Korea, Japan, the European Union and East Asian countries including India, the Philippines and Vietnam to import more LNG.

While blocking Chinese LNG vessels from docking at U.S. ports, Trump pressured Taiwan, Korea and Japan to invest in a pipeline project in Alaska and LNG shipbuilding in the U.S. (New York Times, April 24, 2025)

China’s renewable energy options

Multiple wars in West Asia have been fueled by the drive for energy industry profits and regional domination, but the key difference this time is that countries previously dependent on fossil fuels now have a viable alternative through renewable energy.

China’s advances in renewable energy sources offer alternative choices even for Taiwan. Officials in the Philippines are now looking to advance solar capacity in order to reduce reliance on fossil fuels. Vietnam



WW PHOTO: JOHN CATALINOTTO
New York City, April 8, 2026.

is developing a nuclear power plant while expanding offshore wind. Indonesia is advancing a major hydropower plant for its industrial sector. Spain, one of the EU countries most opposed to the U.S. war in Iran, has developed renewable energy sources making it 75% independent from fossil fuels.

Trump and his corporate energy backers may have seen the war on Iran, including restricting energy exports from West Asia, as an opportunity to increase demand for their more expensive LNG exports. But the opposite may be happening, as more countries decide to seek renewable energy sources based on the Chinese model.

Whatever the outcome of this war — and it appears that Iran’s position will prevail — a key demand has to be that oil and gas companies, along with weapons manufacturers, must pick up the devastating costs of this war, including the impact on consumers and reparations to Iran. □

Guns versus bread

By Phebe Eckfeldt

Working and poor people in the U.S. are wondering every day about whether they can make ends meet with the added effect of the U.S.-Israeli war on Iran. Gas prices, now astronomical, were one of the first things that popped in their faces. Workers are facing looming budget cuts. How has U.S. government spending for human needs affected people? How has this developed historically across the world?

The U.S. spent heavily on arming Western Europe against the Soviet Union during the period of the Cold War. Troops and weapons were spread across the continent, purportedly to deter the Soviet Union. U.S. imperialism now wants European countries to spend more on their militaries and turn the region into one big military base. Germany has spent much less on its military compared to the U.S., prioritizing cradle to grave health care and pensions for its people.

However, in Europe the population is aging faster; more time is spent collecting pensions due to longer life expectancies, making pensions cost more. As a result, countries raise taxes, cut benefits and borrow money — actions not popular with poor and working people. France will spend 3.5% of its budget to improve

its military. That would require a 10% increase in taxes, including the wealth tax. France will likely cut spending for social services. Welfare spending is one-third of the French government’s budget, making things like “overhauling pensions” highly unpopular.

Europeans are now urgently demanding relief at the gas pump.

Here in the U.S., workers are also facing a crisis. Mary Kaessinger and Edward Yudelovich wrote in Workers World in 2017: “The looming budget cuts proposed in the U.S. Congress would decimate Medicaid, often a lifeline for elderly and disabled people. Loss of funding for needed services would mean a death sentence for untold numbers.” (workers.org/2017/07/32338). The situation is far more dire in 2026. For example, right-wing capitalist politicians want to cut personal attendant services by \$68 million. These funds enable people with disabilities to stay out of institutions and live in their own homes. Service Employees Union Local 1199 is among those mobilizing against this cut.

In the U.S., 6 million households receive assistance with heating and cooling bills, often from the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), a federal aid program that President Donald Trump



WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN
Poor and working people need their money spent on human services, not war. New York City, Jan. 20, 2025.

seeks to terminate. Instead, Trump wants to fund a larger and more expensive military: “military protection above all else” is his mantra. Overall, Trump wants to slash \$73 billion next year in education, health care, childcare, food subsidies, etc., and increase the military by \$400 billion. (costsofwar.watson.brown.edu/).

Eric Morrisette, former Acting Under Secretary of Commerce under the Biden-Harris Administration, explained: “In total, from October 2023 through September 2025, the U.S. spent between \$9.65 billion and \$12.07 billion on military activities across the wider Middle East.” This was before the current war on Iran. Morrisette added, “Economists estimate that every \$10 rise in crude translates to roughly 25 cents at the pump.

This is on top of “an estimated average cost of \$600 to \$800 per household in 2026, with that figure rising toward \$1,000 should remaining tariffs be made permanent, according to Yale Budget Lab’s analysis following the Supreme Court’s February 20th ruling on emergency tariffs.”

Morrisette concluded that the cost of war “falls hardest on those who fill their tanks, buy their groceries and pay their bills: the poor, the underemployed and those least equipped to absorb rising prices and stagnant wages.” (Bay State Banner, March 26)

The seeds of an uprising are present. Let us continue to “Organize, organize, organize!” □



AB Hernandez, right, a transgender high school athlete. The IOC ruling keeps her from participating in the 2028 Olympics.

Bigoted Olympic rule against trans women

By Felicity Hossner

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has announced that, starting with the 2028 Olympics, it will no longer allow transgender women to compete in the female category. IOC President Kirsty Coventry appeared in a video on the IOC website, explaining, “The

policy that we have announced was based on science, and it has been led by medical experts with the base interest of athletes at its heart.” (olympics.com, March 26)

According to Yahoo! Sports, athletes hoping to compete in the Olympics “will be screened via saliva, cheek swab or blood sample, per the IOC. Any athlete who tests negative for the

sex-determining region Y (SRY) protein will be eligible to compete in the women’s category at the Olympics.” (March 26)

Transgender folks in sports, especially trans girls and women of color, have historically been demonized from both a transphobic standpoint as well as a racist standpoint. Not only will this Olympic rule affect trans women,

but it also puts DSD (Differences in Sex Development) and intersex athletes, such as Caster Semenya, in a precarious position by upholding a gender binary.

The announcement from the IOC is outrageous, setting a precedent of genderphobia, racism and panic around sex ambiguity. It is not based on science and is rooted in anti-trans bigotry. □

Support for Palestine

By Martha Grevatt

The first prisoner exchange between the Palestinian Resistance and the Zionist state took place on April 17, 1971. In 1974, the Palestinian National Council designated April 17 as Palestinian Prisoners Day.

This year, Israel’s Knesset (parliament) passed a discriminatory law allowing for the execution of only Palestinian prisoners. Demonstrations were held across the U.S. on and around April 17, while numerous actions took place internationally.



Cleveland, April 18, 2026. WW PHOTO: MARTHA GREVATT

Samidoun Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network issued a statement on April 17, which reads in part:

“Each year, on 17 April, we mark Palestinian Prisoners’ Day — the international day of action and struggle for the liberation of Palestinian prisoners, commemorated since 1974 as a day to demand the liberation of imprisoned Palestinians and salute their leading role in the resistance and revolutionary struggle for the liberation of Palestine, from the river to the sea.

“This year, on 17 April 2026, Palestinian Prisoners’ Day is particularly urgent and important for global mobilization, as Palestinian prisoners face the most extreme forms of torture and isolation inside the Zionist jails as well as the new ‘Prisoners’ Execution Law’ promulgated by the openly fascist Netanyahu-Ben Gvir-Smotrich government of the Zionist regime. ...



Hebron, Occupied West Bank, April 16, 2026.

“This is the time to globalize the intifada, to take the streets in mass mobilization and direct action, to rise up for the prisoners, who sacrifice their freedom and their lives for the liberation of Palestine and the defense of humanity. It is our responsibility to organize and act to save the lives of the prisoners and free them from the horrors of captivity with an uprising for the prisoners, not only in Palestine but everywhere around the world.

“There are currently over 9,600 Palestinian prisoners in Zionist jails, including 350 children, 86 women, and over 3,500 held in “administrative detention,” imprisonment without charge or trial, indefinitely renewable. There are at least 1,250 Palestinians abducted from Gaza and imprisoned by the occupation, and over 21 Lebanese abducted from Lebanon and held in the occupation jails.

“There have been at least 89 identified Palestinian prisoners martyred inside the occupation prisons since Oct. 7, 2023, since the Al-Aqsa Flood and the launch of the intensified Zionist genocide in Palestine, among 326 martyrs of the Palestinian prisoners’ movement since 1967. The occupation continues to imprison the bodies of the martyrs in death; they continue to imprison over 766 martyrs’ bodies, including 97 of the martyrs of the Palestinian prisoners’ movement.

“Of course, the imperialist powers, led by the United States, are also fully responsible for the ‘Execution Law’ and the ongoing genocide and assassination campaign, providing the Zionist entity with ongoing military aid, support and trade, intelligence cooperation, and the imprisonment and repression of Palestinian communities and Palestine solidarity actions inside the imperial core.

“The ‘Execution Law’ also aims to strike at the Palestinian prisoners for the role they play at the heart of the Palestinian liberation struggle, as leaders of the Resistance and the Palestinian Revolution.” (samidoun.net, April 17)

The following excerpted press statement was issued April 17 by Zaher Jabareen, the head of Hamas in the

West Bank:

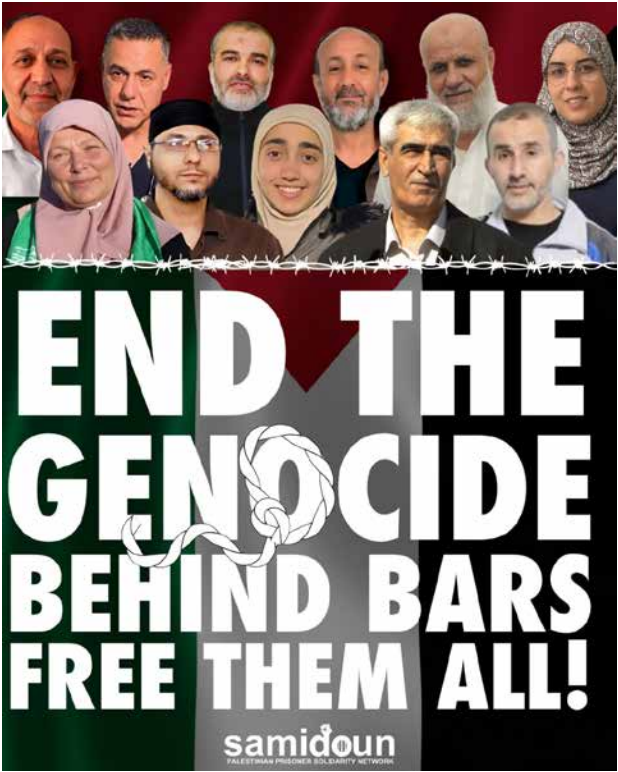
“On this day, we extend our highest salute to our heroic prisoners in the occupation’s prisons, who have turned cells into fortresses of steadfastness and chains into badges of honor on the wrists of dignity. Salute to every male and female prisoner, and to every grieving family that has turned pain into a ladder toward victory.

“The reality inside the prisons today is bloody and catastrophic, as the occupation subjects them to the harshest forms of abuse, depriving them of food, water, and medicine, turning cells into graves for the living. Yet despite this grim picture, the determination of our prisoners reaches the skies, and their resolve remains unbroken, no matter how long the night, how tight the chains, or how brutal the occupation becomes. ...

“We affirm that the prisoners’ cause will remain at the forefront of our priorities, and that efforts toward their freedom will not cease. The liberation of prisoners is a pledge the resistance has made to itself — one it will not abandon, regardless of time or challenges, until the prisons are emptied. We also stress that the occupation’s measures at Al-Aqsa Mosque — closures, restrictions, and settler incursions — will not succeed in altering its identity or our

rightful claim to it. The steadfastness of our people will thwart all plans to Judaize it, and it will remain a beacon for the nation aspiring to its liberation.

“We call on our great people to unite



under the choice of resistance in all its forms to confront this occupation and its settler mobs, and its malicious plans to eliminate our cause. We also call on the people of our wider nation to unify their efforts in confronting the occupation’s schemes, which target the region, seek to destroy its capabilities, and threaten its peoples.” (Samidoun Telegram channel, April 17)

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine also issued a statement on



Philadelphia, April 18, 2026.

WW PHOTO: CINDY LOU

nian Prisoners' Day

April 17, which reads in part:
“The 17 of April — the National Day for the Palestinian Prisoner — comes this year at a pivotal historical moment, in which the will of our people



New York City, April 17, 2026. WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

is embodied in the arenas of heroism and engagement with the zionist system of extermination. In light of this scene, the fascist aggression intensifies with the approval of the so-called ‘execution of prisoners law,’ which represents a dangerous shift toward legalizing systematic killing and turning prisons into slaughterhouses for execution under a criminal and racist legal cover.
“On this day, we recall the epic struggle that our female and male prisoners have written inside the cells, transforming them into spaces of resistance and schools for revolutionary consciousness; to become the experience of imprisonment a living embodiment of the battle of will between freedom and

repression. The prisoner movement has proven that it is an unbreakable vanguard of struggle, and that the shackles are a helpless tool that shatters on the rock of the Palestinian human's steadfastness and their belief in the justice of

their cause.” (Resistance News Network Mirror Telegram channel, April 17)

Additional statements were released by other factions of the Palestinian Resistance.



Barcelona, April 16, 2026. PHOTO: SAMIDOUN

Hezbollah's resistance prevails

By Sara Flounders

What is clear from the recent ceasefire in Lebanon is that Hezbollah has survived, regrouped and rearmed. This is a fact on the ground despite numerous news articles and statements in the Zionist media and the U.S. corporate media claiming that Hezbollah was defeated and totally destroyed.
Hezbollah is the party and liberation organization, with massive support, that drove the Israeli occupiers out of southern Lebanon in 2000. Hezbollah has agreed to past ceasefires as it has to the present ceasefire, but based on concrete experience with decades of past brutal Zionist occupations, its leaders have always refused to surrender or disarm.
Following the temporary U.S.-Iran ceasefire of April 8, the Israeli army launched waves of attacks on Lebanon even more extensive than earlier ones. Israel used scorched earth tactics, including wiping out villages throughout southern Lebanon and bombing entire neighborhoods in Beirut, Lebanon's capital.
Both the Israeli and the U.S. governments claimed a ceasefire in Lebanon was not part of the U.S. / Iran agreement. Iran insisted that Lebanon most certainly was included in the ceasefire agreement. The Iranian government said there would be no motion in developing agreements unless all attacks on the Axis of Resistance ceased. The Axis of Resistance consists of the Iranian state and the pro-liberation fighters in Iraq, Hezbollah in Lebanon, Ansarallah in Yemen and the Palestinian liberation organizations.
The Zionist forces, with full backing of U.S. imperialism, have openly violated previous ceasefire agreements. Israel now has five army divisions occupying southern Lebanon. By mid-April 2026, more than 1.2 million people, representing roughly 20% of Lebanon's population, were displaced due to the Israeli air strikes and ground invasion.

While the Israeli attacks caused massive damage and left thousands of civilian casualties, they failed once again to destroy Hezbollah.
Trump and Netanyahu
Just the manner in which U.S. President Donald Trump ordered an end to the massive Zionist bombing then underway in Lebanon exposed the nature of U.S.-Israeli relations. Washington treats Israel as its attack dog in West Asia to be unleashed or pulled back based on immediate U.S. interests in the region.
Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu well understands that for the Zionist project to survive, it must obtain generous subsidies, weapons and investments and that this depends on maintaining U.S.imperialist domination of West Asia. If the U.S. hold on the region falters, the Zionist project will collapse. Israel has no way to exist independent of U.S. imperialism.
Trump simply declared in an April 17 Truth Social post that “Israel will not be bombing Lebanon any longer. They are PROHIBITED from doing so by the U.S.A. Enough is enough!!!” The Times of Israel reported that Netanyahu was “stunned and alarmed” by Trump's statement, having learned of it from the media.
Sheik Naim Qassem, the Secretary-General of Hezbollah, who replaced Hassan Nasrallah after a massive Israeli bomb attack assassinated him Sept. 17, 2024, said, “The battlefield has proven it is the final arbiter.” Qassem thanked Iran for its support in the face of Israeli aggression and said the closure of the Strait of Hormuz forced the United States and Israel to agree to a ceasefire in Lebanon. (PressTV, April 18)
Hezbollah — a force of resistance
The U.S.-Israeli position is that Hezbollah is an outside force that must be disarmed and rooted out. Hezbollah's consistent demand is that Israel is the invading

force that must withdraw from Lebanon.
Hezbollah is a home-grown resistance movement that emerged among the poorest, most marginalized Shi'ite Muslims of South Lebanon, who were expelled from their homes by the 18-year brutal Israeli occupation of South Lebanon that began in 1982 with the driving out of the Palestinian resistance forces. Lebanon almost ceased to exist as a country during those years.
During the Israeli occupation, U.S. and French imperialism built a huge military base at the Beirut airport. On Oct. 23, 1983, two truck bombs were detonated in the U.S. Marine Corps barracks there, killing 241 U.S. military personnel. Another truck bomb killed 58 French paratroopers.
This stunning blow forced the withdrawal of U.S. occupation forces. After 1983 the U.S. relied on the Israeli military as the occupation force in Lebanon.
But the entire Zionist military failed to defeat the steadily growing resistance movement, led by Hezbollah. By May 24, 2000, the Israeli occupation of Lebanon ended in a rushed, chaotic retreat south to the border and the collapse of the Israeli collaborators called the South Lebanon Army (SLA). Thousands of Lebanese people and Palestinian prisoners were released.
The forced withdrawal of the Zionist army of occupation was the first time any land occupied by Israel was won back through armed struggle. In 2006 Hezbollah and its allies again repulsed Israel's attempt to reinvade Lebanon.
Hezbollah led the forces that liberated southern Lebanon, fundamentally changing social relations and regional security. In 2018 Hezbollah and its allies held a majority of seats in the Lebanese Parliament. It ran Lebanon's first non-corrupt government agencies and oversaw the building of schools, hospitals and infrastructure.
Hezbollah has overseen the building and rebuilding of housing for hundreds of thousands of Lebanese displaced by Zionist bombings. Within Lebanon's dysfunctional state apparatus (a leftover from French



colonialism), Hezbollah has existed as a state within this state for 40 years.
Hezbollah was inspired by the revolutionary fever and depth of the Iranian revolution, which electrified and mobilized millions. Like other resistance forces in the region, Hezbollah has applied asymmetric warfare strategically with revolutionary determination and has been capable of challenging the vastly superior money, massive military equipment and international resources of the U.S. and Israel.
Hezbollah came to the aid of Syria during the decades of war to pull Syria apart. It opened a second front in the north to aid the Palestinian resistance in Gaza.
A temporary ceasefire
The Lebanese media reported 60 different towns were struck in hours leading up to the ceasefire. (Dropsite news, April 16) Defense Minister Israel Katz said the 10-day ceasefire is “temporary,” and the Israeli military “holds and will continue to hold all the areas it has cleared and captured” in Lebanon, including a 10-kilometer buffer zone. (Times of Israel, April 17)

Continued on page 9

Can march to war be stopped by troops saying, ‘No way’?

By John Catalinotto

April 19 — Is the U.S. heading toward World War III or will the MAGA crowd find an “off ramp” to a settlement? With no crystal ball available, this commentary will focus on signs the U.S. rulers are preparing a larger war. And it will describe a growing war opposition within the U.S. military.

In March, the MAGA regime met with seven corporations that are part of the military-industrial complex to get them to accelerate weapons production. On April 15, the Wall Street Journal reported that Pentagon officials have also held talks with top executives of companies, including General Motors and Ford Motor, about shifting production toward weapons.

Apparently, Iranian asymmetric warfare has already brought about a rapid depletion of U.S. weapon reserves.

Toward a wider war?

Despite the increased use of high tech weapons, the U.S. military still needs human beings. The MAGA regime recently bumped the upper age for recruits from 35 to 42 years old, increasing the available pool by about 29%.

Then in April it introduced automatic draft registration, using existing online data, for people in the U.S. classified as male and 18 to 26 years old, to begin December 2026. It changes little, but its timing raises the question: Is this a first step toward reinstating a conscription (draft) armed forces? The draft ended in 1973 following massive popular resistance to the war against Vietnam.

This also comes after the current head of the Pentagon, Pete Hegseth, fired dozens of the Pentagon’s most experienced generals and admirals, including Army Chief of Staff Gen. Randy George, Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen.

CQ Brown and Adm. Lisa Franchetti. Hegseth rejected four colonels the Army was about to appoint as one-star generals. They included two women and two African American men, out of 29 colonels.

Hegseth’s targets have been Black or women officers, or those he considers “too woke.” Since more than 40% of today’s U.S. military are people of color, and 20% are women, his firings, done without explanation, have been a slap in the face to many active duty troops.

Opposition builds within the military

Some high-ranking officials of the U.S. Armed Forces have resigned rather than carry out the administration’s orders. Last fall, Admiral Alvin Holsey, head of U.S. Southern Command in the Caribbean Sea (which was blowing up civilian motorboats, killing the crews), resigned only a year into his command.



Some 13 billboards are already up near military bases.

Six Democratic senators and representatives — themselves all military or CIA veterans — produced a video last fall informing service members of their right and their duty to disobey illegal orders. Retired Lieutenant General Mark Hertling made the same point at a recent news interview.

The opposition from the top retired officers mainly shows their critique of the tactics of the MAGA regime, rather than opposition to the military goals of U.S.

imperialism. There is, however, also opposition among the rank and file, who are workers in uniform.

No military unit could be more like a factory than one of the large U.S. warships. Sometimes there are more than 4,500 sailors on an aircraft carrier. When sailors on the USS Gerald Ford were ordered to spend up to 10 months continuously at sea in the last year, the order collapsed.

When toilets broke, sailors stuffed the pipes with T-shirts. Then a suspicious fire started and destroyed 600 bunks. The USS Gerald Ford has been in a Greek port since March getting repaired, its crew finally on land.

The Center on Conscience and War encourages and aids troops to apply for conscientious objector status. The group helps run the 24-hour GI Rights Hotline, set up to inform service members of their options for military discharge. It reports three to four applications a day instead of the three to four a month before the Feb. 28 attack on Iran. Its organizers say the service people who call often refer to the bombing of the primary school in Minab, which killed over 160 children, as the cause of their interest.

Veterans For Peace is another organization that has been reaching out to active duty troops, publicizing the troops’ right to disobey illegal orders. VFP reported that it has put up 13 billboards near military bases around the U.S. publicizing the right and duty to disobey illegal orders.

If the current administration is marching toward a cataclysmic war, the antiwar movement must find a way to stop it. One possible way is to help the troops organize to refuse the orders from the rulers. It was effective in other U.S. wars. It may be effective now under new conditions.

Catalinotto is author of “Turn the Guns Around: Mutinies, Soldier Revolts and Revolutions,” 2017.

Automatic draft registration: What does it mean?

By Benny Schaft

The news of automatic registration in the Selective Service System for young men between 18 and 26 years old shocked many. Since the news came as the U.S. was launching a major war with Iran, it felt like the military draft was about to be reinstated. Enlistment in the U.S. military would no longer be a career choice but an unpleasant and dangerous requirement.

The report — as of now — is that by December of 2026, any eligible men in the United States will be automatically registered for the draft. There has been no military draft, that is, conscription, in the U.S. for 53 years. The draft officially ended in January 1973, after most U.S. troops had been withdrawn from Vietnam.

The end of the draft was due largely to the revolutionary resistance carried out by the working-class youth who were a leading force in the antiwar movement of the 1960s and 1970s, from rebellions on campus to resistance by troops in Vietnam. Troops organized actions that disrupted the war machine, anything from displaying symbolic messages against war to killing officers by rolling fragmentation grenades into their tents to joining the Vietnamese revolutionaries in their fight for liberation.

Revolutionary antiwar movements have been present in other wars. During World War I, the first imperialist world war, there was a surge in revolutionary action taken by people in the U.S. It included organizations like the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) and the Socialist Party of America, whose leader Eugene Debs was infamously arrested in 1918 for telling the truth about the war.

In a speech in Canton, Ohio, on June 16, 1918, Debs said: “The master class has always declared the wars, the subject class has always fought the battles. The subject class has had nothing to gain and all to lose, especially their lives.” (Zinn Education Project)

What the movements in 1918 and 1968 had in common was not only their opposition to the war but also their opposition to the draft. Both exposed what the military draft really is — a system to continue the exploitation of the people, to send them off to their deaths so that capitalism can survive and continue to exploit. It wasn’t the ruling class that ended the draft in 1973; it was the will and struggle of the people that forced them to end it.

And what replaced it, the volunteer system for a professional military, had its own predatory character. The



From ‘Stop the Draft Week’ in 1967 to protests against registration in the early 1980s, youth in the U.S. have resisted forced conscription.

new system allowed the ruling class to use the material needs of working-class youth for an education, jobs and an income to push them into the military where they might have to kill or be killed. Some people called it an economic draft.

It’s a ruling-class policy

So now, with all of this said, you're wondering how we make sense of the possible reinstatement of a military draft and what we do about it. The most important thing we must recognize is that the decision to bring back the draft and what’s going to happen in December is not merely a Trump policy or a Republican Party policy. It is

a capitalist policy.

The draft will only be reinstated if a sector of the ruling class and its political and military representatives recognize that their system is in decline, and they are ready to take desperate military measures to restore their world dominance.

It’s why we’re seeing the MAGA regime take the mask off of U.S. imperialist domination and publicly embrace fascist tactics.

To stop the draft from being reinstated, we must organize and educate the people, because these two things are essential when dealing with a situation like this. We recognize that when it employs the military draft, it needs to keep the working class so disorganized and uneducated that they will believe the war propaganda.

If they succeed, it can make people believe that the war or other atrocities the capitalists are committing is somehow justifiable and in their best interest, when in reality it is to make the people willing to kill and die for the capitalists’ interests.

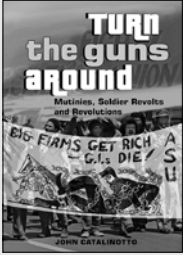
That’s why we must educate and organize ourselves and the people around us. We must break down every piece of what the draft means, if necessary. If it means taking to the streets in demonstration, even if the state attempts to intimidate us, then we must do it. Because we cannot allow ourselves, especially now, to be propagandized into turning weapons against our siblings in the Global South, many of whom have already paid with their lives as they resisted imperialism. □

TURN THE GUNS AROUND

by John Catalinotto

“If schools in the United States really wanted to impart historical truth, John Catalinotto’s ‘Turn The Guns Around’ would be required reading. He tells the true story of this epoch. Few participants know more about the massive GI rebellion against the Vietnam War, the anti-war veterans’ movement or the history of soldier revolts from the Paris Commune to the Portuguese coup.”

– Pvt Larry Holmes,
GI resister, organizer for the American Serviceman’s Union 1972-74.



Available at online booksellers.

WAR WITHOUT VICTORY

by Sara Flounders

“By revealing the underbelly of the empire, Flounders sheds insight on how to stand up to the imperialist war machine and, in so doing, save ourselves and humanity.”

– Miguel d’Escoto Brockmann,
President, U.N. General Assembly,
2008-2009; Foreign Minister of Nicaragua’s Sandinista government.



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China’s aid to Cuba

Solidarity against U.S. embargo

By Lee Siu Hin

April 13 — China has supported Cuba since its revolution in 1959. Shortly after, Che Guevara visited China in 1960 to secure comprehensive support for the newly born socialist island nation.

China played a critical role as a true friend in times of U.S. threat

For the past year, since Donald Trump returned to the White House in 2025, he has continued the imperialist policy of all-out blockade against Cuba — first during his initial term (2017 – 2021) and then under Biden (2021 – 2025). In response, China has offered timely and critical assistance to Cuba when it was needed most. The Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson declared on Jan. 27 that China “calls for immediate lifting of blockade and sanctions on Cuba. We will continue to support and assist Cuba.” (Spokesperson of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China on X)

According to the Cuban government’s 2025 report to the United Nations, the ongoing U.S. economic blockade and sanctions caused an estimated over \$7.6 billion in damages from March 2024 to February 2025. (cubaminrex.cu, May 2025)

Since Jan. 3, when the U.S. invaded Venezuela — killing over 100 people and kidnapping President Nicolás Maduro and First Combatant Cilia Flores to New York — President Trump has increased sanctions and threatened to invade Cuba. Losing oil imports from Venezuela and facing food shortages due to the U.S. blockade, Cuba received immediate humanitarian aid from China (food) and Russia (oil).

As of April, China has delivered 30,000 tons of rice; furthermore, an additional 60,000 tons have been pledged, bringing the total volume of food aid to 90,000

tons — enough to feed one million people for one year. (Embassy of the Republic of Cuba in the People’s Republic of China on X, March 19)

This is in addition to other Chinese humanitarian aid delivered last year. On Nov. 17, 2025, China sent aid to Cuba following Hurricane Melissa. The shipment included food, solar lighting and roofing materials totaling 30 tons and completed in six flights. (en.cibercuba.com, Nov. 17, 2025)

In 2025, Chinese medical donations included over 44,000 three-way stopcocks destined for Cuban hospitals treating critical patients — an item Cuba



Chinese donors with humanitarian donation of rice to Cuba, 2026.

cannot obtain internationally due to the U.S. economic embargo. China is also collaborating with Cuba to install 5,000 solar systems in hospitals, polyclinics and maternal homes, aimed at stabilizing the electrical supply to the health care network facing an energy crisis created by the U.S. blockade. (KPL/Prensa Latina, March 11, 2025)

China is not just ‘giving’ but also helping Cuba upgrade its infrastructure

The economic aid provided by China constitutes a comprehensive,

multi-pronged strategy, encompassing not only firm and robust political backing but also extensive, substantive assistance across vital sectors such as energy, food security and public welfare.

First, finance and infrastructure: In January 2026, Chinese emergency financial aid totaling \$80 million was approved (cubasi.cu, Jan. 21). Then, in early April 2026, the two nations signed another 29 cooperation agreements, covering a wide spectrum of fields, including credit financing, port infrastructure development, technology transfer and biotechnology.

One good example is the public transportation project: In 2025, China provided spare parts for buses, including engines, tires and batteries, to rehabilitate the Chinese Yutong bus fleet in Cuba. Over 100 previously sidelined buses in Havana were restored to service.

Another project is energy structure transition: China’s export of solar photovoltaic (PV) equipment to Cuba skyrocketed from approximately \$5 million in 2023 to \$117 million in 2025. Plans are currently in place to assist in the construction of over 92 solar power stations by 2028. (discoveryalert.com.au, March 29)

With Trump 2.0’s full-scale oil blockade against Cuba, Chinese solar technology will provide the opportunity for the country to break away from a petroleum-only energy structure. Confronted with the U.S. strategy of severing Cuba’s energy supply chains, China has chosen to address the issue at its root by assisting Cuba in constructing an independent and sustainable economic system.

Specific projects include aid for a 35-megawatt PV power plant (projected to save 18,000 tons of fuel annually), a 120-megawatt PV project and the

Turkish ship restores electricity in Cuba

A floating power plant sent by Türkiye, the Belgin Sultan, has helped reconnect parts of Cuba to electricity as the island grapples with worsening outages driven by fuel shortages caused by U.S. sanctions limiting its ability to receive oil shipments.

The vessel, operated by Turkish energy conglomerate Karpowership, resumed generating power using its plug-and-play system to quickly feed electricity into the grid, Turkish media reported.

Belgin Sultan, with a capacity ranging from 15 MW to 76 MW, joins two other Turkish ships, Suheyila Sultan and Erol Bey, already operating in Havana. Together, they support electricity generation across several regions, helping restore supply after repeated disruptions.

Read the entire article at turkiyetoday.com/April8. □

donation of 5,000 sets of residential solar power systems.

What Chinese and Russian aid to Cuba can teach Western activists

Western, mainly white-run activist groups always have their unrealistic fantasies. They believe that a few sit-ins, letter-writing campaigns or small-scale aid missions can change the world. They never consider — even discredit — the efforts of the people, organizations and governments of the Global South.

Everyone has a vital role to play in international solidarity. Western activists can also learn a great deal from the positive experience of the Global South, notably from China.

Lee Siu Hin is a Chinese American immigrant rights activist born in Hong Kong, China, and from Los Angeles. He is the founder of the China-US Solidarity Network (CUSN), National Immigrant Solidarity Network (NISN) and Panda Aid. He is a long-term organizer in community, labor, antiwar and immigrant rights activities and is committed to grassroots struggles. He was also a long-term, unpaid reporter, producer and war correspondent for Pacifica Radio (KPFK in Los Angeles), and has worked in war zones in the Middle East, Europe and Africa.

This article was lightly edited.

Hezbollah’s resistance prevails

Continued from page 7

Israel, under the 10-day ceasefire agreement, is permitted to carry out strikes in Lebanon as long as it claims they are in “self-defense.” Article 3 reads: “Israel shall preserve its right to take all necessary measures in self-defense, at any time, against planned, imminent or ongoing attacks. This shall not be impeded by the cessation of hostilities.” (Dropsite news, April 16)

Hezbollah said in an April 17 statement that it would respect the ceasefire but that its hands “will remain on the trigger, vigilant against the enemy’s treachery and betrayal.” The resistance group’s Military Media announced that between March 2

and April 16, the Islamic Resistance issued 1,828 statements detailing the execution of 2,184 distinct military operations against the Israeli enemy.

Hezbollah last agreed to a 21-day ceasefire hours before a massive bomb obliterated an entire block that martyred the revolutionary leader Sheik Hassan Nasrallah and many others in the Hezbollah leadership on Sept. 27, 2024. This assassination of the leadership as they were meeting, following negotiations with the U.S., was similar to the U.S. bombing of the Iranian leadership and the martyrdom of Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei and other top leaders in Iran.

But Hezbollah as a mass movement had roots too deep to be eliminated with the

U.S.-provided bombs. It has proved capable of reorganizing and moving forward. This is also true of the Iranian state organizations.

Ceasefires are temporary pauses in a continuing and determined struggle for liberation and sovereignty. □

Doctors Against Genocide ‘tax day’ action in D.C.

By Marta Guttenberg

April 15 — Hundreds of doctors, health care workers, medical students and supporters converged from across the U.S. in Washington, D.C., this “tax day.” They rallied to hear speeches from Doctors Against Genocide and

Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D-Michigan).

Then they filled the halls of the Capitol Building, engaging in over 50 meetings with their electeds. The message: Stop funding genocides and killer sanctions around the world with taxpayer money. □



Emergency solidarity rally with Lebanon, Philadelphia, April 10, 2026. WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE



Washington, D.C., April 15, 2026. WW PHOTO: MARTA GUTTENBERG

On May Day 2026, Resist U.S. imperialism

IWW STATEMENT

Continued from page 1

wasted billions of dollars for a criminal war that has led to higher gas prices and a huge spike in the costs of food, fertilizer and other essential goods worldwide, including here at home.

Our enemy is imperialism not Iran

Whenever the world’s workers and oppressed peoples are fed up with corporate and banking interests destroying their local economies with fiscal demands, low wages or military aggression, the U.S. regime falsely claims that these peoples’ governments are a “threat to [U.S.] national security.” This ploy is used to justify more and more U.S. tax dollars being diverted towards military spending instead of funding essential social programs and repairing crumbling infrastructures at home.

It’s not Iran that shut down U.S. hospitals and schools. It’s not Iran that caused rising houselessness. It’s not Iran that cut funding from public assistance, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). It’s not Iran that cut Medicaid, Section 8 housing, childcare, etc.

It’s not Iran that sent armed thugs from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the Border Patrol

to detain and deport our migrant siblings, causing the deaths of at least 50 migrants.

When the U.S. government is not scapegoating Iran, it is scapegoating China, Russia, Venezuela and Cuba for the ills caused by U.S. capitalism. These are countries deciding their paths of social development for their own populations, denied to them by decades of underdevelopment policies by imperialism. These paths are referred to as the right to self-determination and are recognized by the United Nations.

Solidarity with the resistance is a May Day issue

When the U.S. declares war on working and oppressed peoples, they demand the oppressed disarm. Yet, what other alternative is there besides armed struggle to liberate a nation of people living under the boot of an oppressive foreign power? How can nonviolent tactics achieve lasting peace when an enemy is armed to the teeth and hell-bent on destroying liberation movements or overthrowing progressive and revolutionary governments?

Imperialism is an economic system that cannot survive for one second unless it profits from low wages for workers, from theft of whole countries’ resources and by using white supremacy to divide the working class.

The billionaire ruling class — not just individuals — is

the outgrowth of capitalism on a global scale. Inside the U.S., the two major capitalist parties — Democrat and Republican — fundamentally exist to uphold the interests of this oppressive system. The MAGA president, as depraved as he clearly is, owes allegiance to this class like all the presidents who preceded him.

The people of Iran, occupied Palestine, Cuba, China, Venezuela, Lebanon and the majority of the world are demanding with their actions that populations located in the richer countries in the Global North join them in their struggles against imperialist aggression — our common enemy. This starts openly by siding with the resistance.

Those forces resisting imperialism are exposing the reality that global capitalism — imperialism — cannot be reformed. This decaying system must and will ultimately be disposed of on a global scale and replaced by a socialist system that will empower the collective labor of the working class to bring about full equality for all.

So let’s make this year’s May Day a day of solidarity with the resistance movements in Iran, Palestine, Lebanon, Cuba, along with the growing resistance against ICE, mass incarceration, job layoffs and racism at home.

The workers struggle knows no borders. An injury to one is an injury to all! □

May Day hero

Lucy Parsons: union organizer, anti-capitalist fighter

By Monica Moorehead

This article was originally posted on May 7, 2023, on workers.org.

Lucy Gonzalez Parsons, an original founder when May Day launched in 1886, was born into enslavement in the early 1850s on a Virginia plantation. She, her mother and others were able to escape and move to Texas. There, she met her future spouse, Albert Parsons, a former Confederate soldier who helped register newly freed people to vote during Reconstruction. This action made him a target of the KKK, which threatened to lynch him.

Lucy and Albert were forced to leave Texas due to the anti-miscegenation laws that legally outlawed mixed race marriages. They eventually moved to Chicago in 1873, where great labor struggles were taking place in the factories to demand an eight-hour day. Without union protection, the industrial workers, many of them poor immigrants from Europe, were forced to toil 10 to 16 hour days under horrendous working conditions.

Both Lucy and Albert not only became union organizers, but also developed radical anarchist and anti-capitalist ideas. After Albert lost his printing job due to his political beliefs, Lucy opened a dress

shop in her home to support him and their two children and hosted meetings for the International Ladies’ Garment Workers Union (ILGWU).

On May 4, 1886, following a workers’ rally in Haymarket Square in Chicago, the police threw a bomb in the crowd, killing eight people and one of their own. Albert and seven other union organizers were targeted and framed for killing the officer. Four of them, including Albert, were falsely convicted and then hanged in the Square in 1887, forever becoming known as the Haymarket Martyrs.

Two years later, May Day was officially declared as International Workers Day in 1889 at an international socialist conference.

A fighter for workers and oppressed peoples

Lucy Parsons championed political rights as well as workers’ rights. For instance, she joined the worldwide campaign to stop the executions of two Italian immigrant union organizers, Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti, who were framed for murder in 1920. They were executed in 1927.

Lucy fought for the freedom of the Scottsboro Brothers, nine young Black men falsely accused of raping two white women in 1930 in Alabama. A worldwide



Lucy Parsons

campaign led by socialists and communists eventually exonerated them.

Lucy was a fighter until her death at the age of 91 on March 7, 1942, in a fire in her home. Suspected of setting the blaze, the Chicago Police Department (CPD) confiscated her precious books and writings that never saw the light of day again. Parsons was proud of being declared by the CPD as “more dangerous than a thousand rioters.”

Lucy Parsons was a militant and defiant anti-capitalist anarchist and a socialist, who wanted to empower the workers through revolution.

Lucy and Mary Harris “Mother” Jones, a coal miner organizer, were the first two women to join the Industrial Workers of the World. The union welcomed all workers, regardless of nationality, religion, gender or skill, into its ranks. Lucy organized campaigns against hunger and

for unemployed councils on behalf of the IWW.

Some of Lucy’s most notable quotes from speeches include:

- “Never be deceived that the rich will permit you to vote away their wealth.”
- “Let us sink such differences as nationality, religion, politics, and set our eyes eternally and forever toward the rising star of the industrial republic of labor.”
- “So many able writers have shown that the unjust institutions which work so much misery and suffering to the masses have their root in governments, and owe their whole existence to the power derived from government, that we cannot help but believe that were every law, every title deed, every court and every police officer or soldier abolished tomorrow with one sweep, we would be better off than now.”

The spirit of Lucy Parsons continues to live in every revolutionary who abhors all forms of exploitation, oppression and inequality, who fights to abolish every ugly feature of capitalism and who fights for a socialist future for the liberation of all humanity. Lucy Parsons, ipresente! □

Iran’s drones, Strait of Hormuz, the new world order

By Sara Flounders

Read full article at workers.org/2026/04/91955.

This is a moment in history when everything is changing, abruptly, violently.

The whole colonial structure of West Asia is unraveling. Israel, the U.S.-British-created proxy in the region, their unsinkable aircraft carrier, has been under relentless attack.

The artificially created Gulf monarchies and Emirates are facing collapse. The war is exposing all the subterranean cracks and fault lines. The U.S.-initiated war to totally destroy Iran has instead improved Iran’s strength and dramatically shifted the balance away from U.S. domination of the entire region...

U.S. imperialism is confronting an unsolvable problem. Its vulnerabilities have been exposed. Its weapons

are not all powerful. Its dollars are no longer the only global currency option. U.S. imperialists are losing the ability to enforce their horrific economic sanctions.

The U.S. attack on Iran was another desperate attempt to reverse U.S. decline and reassert U.S. dominance. Iran flipped the script and is proving to be more resilient.

By developing their own low-tech weapons, sharing their skills and technology and asserting their control of the region in ways that benefit the developing world, Iran’s resistance is birthing a new world order that is painfully emerging out of imperialist domination and chaos. □



Iranians celebrate ceasefire in Tehran, April 8, 2026.

The race for moondust

Behind the Artemis moon mission

By Janet Mayes

Due to the recent “moon joy” surrounding the Artemis II lunar mission, this article updates and supplements “The race for moondust: U.S. imperialism vs. China” (workers.org/2023/08/73123), republished in “China Changes Everything.” (World View Forum, 2025)

There is much fanfare surrounding the National Aeronautics and Space Administration’s (NASA) Artemis II recent mission around the moon, a crucial step toward the United States striving to build a permanent moonbase there before China does.

When the Artemis project was first announced, NASA boasted that the firstperson of color and the first woman would be traveling to the moon, with implications that they would be landing there. The current Artemis II launch actually only sent them in an orbit around the moon. The future lunar landing crew has yet to be announced. Last year NASA removed from its website that it was committed to diversity, equity and inclusion.

The establishment of a permanent moonbase partially depends on the success of centibillionaire Elon Musk’s super rocket, the SpaceX Starship, designed as a lander to ferry astronauts from lunar orbit to the moon’s surface and back.

In 2021, SpaceX won a \$2.89 billion NASA contract to develop this super rocket, but so far its performance has been seriously lacking. In 2023, the rocket’s unsuccessful launch spewed explosive brown grime and dust onto populated areas in Texas’s Boca Chica area, which Musk called “a wasteland.” (New York Times, Apr. 21, 2023)

The blasts are destroying the fragile surrounding ecostructure, replete with endangered species. (ESG Hound, Apr. 16, 2023) In March of 2025, their super rocket exploded again, spewing debris on the Bahamas (bahamas.com, March 7, 2025) and temporarily grounding flights at Florida airports. (CBS News, March 6, 2025)

Several months later, Starship finally achieved a “largely successful” test flight. (New York Times, Aug. 26, 2025) But Artemis is still behind schedule, now expected to land astronauts on the moon no earlier than 2028. Another centibillionaire Jeff Bezos’ Blue Origin is competing with SpaceX for the first landing assignment.

The China National Space Administration, meanwhile, has already successfully tested a lunar lander. (New York Times, Aug. 26, 2025)

A global clean energy solution or a multibillion-dollar market?

What is this really all about? The U.S. is hellbent on building mining stations on the moon before China does because of another kind of dust, moondust, replete with helium-3, touted to be the fuel for an emerging technology that will provide clean, abundant energy.

In 2021, Beijing’s Research Institute of Uranium Geology announced that China’s lunar Chang’e 5 mission, launched in November 2020, had collected 1,731 grams of lunar samples of this precious, rare, stable isotope of helium on the moon.

Helium-3 fusion technology promises to produce clean energy — nuclear energy without radioactive waste. Fossil fuels, which the U.S. heavily relies on, and even current nuclear power plant technology would become obsolete.

Three space missions bringing back the helium-rich moondust could provide the entire planet with energy for a year. (China Daily, July 26, 2006) One cargo bay load (about 25 tons) on a space shuttle would power the entire U.S. for a year, representing a value of about \$3 billion per ton.

“The country that controls the source of

energy that keeps technological civilization running will control the Earth,” according to an article in The Hill in 2022, elaborating: “The moon could become the Persian Gulf of the mid-to-late 21st century. Clean and abundant fusion energy would change the world in ways that can barely be evaluated.”

China, along with Russia, plans to complete construction of a lunar base by 2035. Then it will mine the helium-3 rich crystal “Changesite-(Y),” which is contained in vast quantities on the moon’s regolith (the layer of unconsolidated rocky material covering bedrock). The Hill’s analysis described the crystal sample returned by the Chang’e probe as “exceedingly tiny, about one-tenth the size of a human hair. ... The helium-3 that it contains has the potential to change the world.” (The Hill, Sept. 18, 2022)

Since China has accelerated plans for lunar exploration and future mining, the panicked imperialist countries, particularly the U.S., cannot just sit by and watch.

They are horrified at the possibility that China could be the first country to gather the moondust that contains helium-3. If they lose this space race, imperialist governments and corporations will lose the opportunity to corner this multibillion-dollar market and sell this potentially planet-saving technology for profit.

In preparation for landing people on the moon before China does, NASA has engaged several private companies to gather moondust samples, which, according to SpaceNews, is “part of an effort by the agency to establish a precedent for ownership and use of space resources.”

The ultimate value, of course, is mammoth profits for the U.S., its imperialist allies and its private companies if they control the mining, transporting and fusion processing of helium-3. Given the fragile condition of Western economies, it is a space race the imperialists cannot afford to lose. With artificial intelligence (AI) rapidly emerging as the wave of the future, larger availability of helium-3, which is extremely rare on earth, will also ultimately reduce power consumption by this technology. It is known by investors as the “fuel of the quantum era.”

“China has also announced its intention to mine helium-3, aiming to gain a lead in both energy and quantum supremacy. For Washington, allowing rivals to dominate this resource would mean ceding technological leadership. That’s why contracts and grants are already flowing into the companies attempting to solve the extraction challenge.

“In other words, helium-3 isn’t just about economics — it’s a matter of national security. Whoever controls this resource controls a critical bottleneck in the quantum race. ... NASA estimates alone suggest a potential supply worth trillions if even partially tapped. That’s why contracts are already being written and why venture capital is quietly pouring in.” (annasviews.com, Oct. 3, 2025)

A mountain of lies exposed

The U.S. and its imperialist allies rationalize spending billions of taxpayers’ dollars to beat China to the moon by repeating unsubstantiated lies and the standard China-bashing.

U.S. officials and media figures often claim that China must be prevented from “ruling” the world and frequently lie in support of this accusation. In 2022, warning of a new “space race” with China, NASA chief Bill Nelson was quoted by the Global Times as being “very concerned about” the joint Chinese-Russian lunar research base and baselessly accused China of wanting to “occupy the moon.” (July 3, 2022)

The right-wing U.S. news outlet Washington Examiner attacked China in 2023 with the fabricated, ominous statement: “If the West turns away from space,



PHOTO: BATHAYAR/CHINA DAILY

Staff workers with the return capsule of Chang’e-5 probe in Siziwang Banner, North China’s Inner Mongolia autonomous region, on Dec. 17, 2020. The lander unfurled the first Chinese flag on the moon.

China, which cares little for human rights ... will forge ahead. A Chinese-dominated space frontier is not a future that anyone should want.” (April 12, 2023)

China’s humane approach to battling climate disaster

Actually, it is clear that a “Chinese-dominated space frontier” is a future that everyone should want. If our planet is to survive the climate disaster, it is imperative that the imperialists lose the race to the moon.

Far from being profit motivated, China’s approach to international energy production is geared toward protecting the planet. As Martinez explains when discussing China’s “green energy” solution in his abundantly-researched book, socialist China’s international humanitarian policies are aimed at saving the globe from climate catastrophe. (“The East is Still Red: Chinese Socialism in the 21st Century” (Praxis Press, 2023)

China is not driven by the profit motive and will not seek world domination by harnessing helium-3 technology.

A 21st-century gold rush

In 2020, NASA, the U.S. Department of State and the newly re-established National Space Council created the Artemis Accords. The document sounds benign, promising cooperation among signatory countries, all sorts of safety protocols and preservation of lunar historic sites, such as the first Apollo landing site. However, a sleight of hand embedded in the Accord’s wording about “safety zones” actually grants control of lunar mining sites to whichever countries and corporations lay down a stake first — except for China!

Both China and Russia have criticized the concept of “safety zones” laid out in the Accords.

Not surprisingly, 24 of the 50 signatories to the Accords are NATO members, and the others fall within the economic and strategic influence of the U.S., including Israel and Japan. The U.S. Congress in fact voted against inviting China to sign, being against cooperating with their chief competitor.

Bezos versus Musk

Blue Origin, owned by centibillionaire Jeff Bezos — founder and current executive chairman of Amazon and owner of the Washington Post — is competing with SpaceX to be the first to ferry astronauts to the moon. Bezos and Musk are also rivals in their long-term goals to send their rocket ships to Mars. (National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Feb. 9, 2023) The moon will become the launching pad for these ventures.

In all the hype about Artemis, major capitalist news media emphasize the wonders of U.S. space feats and scientific research, along with wide-eyed plans to travel to Mars, only mentioning helium mining in passing. Musk — the notorious owner of Tesla and X and briefly President Trump’s closest advisor — infamously advocates detonating atomic bombs over Mars’ polar regions to make it more livable! (Space, Aug. 17, 2019) His SpaceX super rocket was originally designed for colonization of Mars, where, he envisions, a self-sustaining colony could escape the possible demise of humanity on Earth.

While corporations scheme to gain riches, the Pentagon’s militarization of space is intensifying to protect capitalist interests and uphold U.S. domination. In 2019, the U.S. Department of Defense established a sixth branch of the military, the U.S. Space Force.

The establishment of the Space Force sent a clear warning to Russia, China, Iran and any other countries that the U.S. views as global competitors, informing them that the imperialist U.S. is staking its claim to supremacy over space technology — and over outer space itself.

Billions of taxpayers’ dollars, sorely needed for the health and welfare of human beings worldwide, are being funneled into these corporate or militarized space programs. As usual, as exciting and as visionary the exploration of space appears to be, capitalists manipulate scientific curiosity and discovery into profit-making ventures.

Janet Mayes is an amateur astronomer and the author of “Beyond the Horse’s Eye, a Fantasy Out of Time,” a science fiction novel about U.S. hegemony in space, under the pen name Janet Rose. A PowerPoint summary of her chapter “The race for moondust: U.S. imperialism vs. China,” in “China Changes Everything,” is at youtube.com/watch?v=Pc2oC8oSpBc.

China Changes Everything

An anthology by social justice activists, journalists and commentators

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MO FOTO: MARTHA GREVATT

Manifestación «No Kings», Cleveland, 28 de marzo de 2026. «¡Dinero para las escuelas, no para la guerra!»

¡Dinero para el cuidado infantil, no para la guerra!

El 6 de enero de 2026 — Atrapado en una guerra de su propia creación, el presidente Donald Trump anunció sus prioridades de gasto para 2027 durante un almuerzo en la Casa Blanca el 1 de abril: «Estados Unidos no puede hacerse cargo de las guarderías. No nos es posible ocuparnos de las guarderías, de Medicaid, de Medicare, de todas esas cosas por separado. ... Tenemos que ocuparnos de una sola cosa: la protección militar».

Mientras que EE. UU. ya gasta más de 1.000 millones de dólares al día en la guerra contra Irán, Trump afirma que el Pentágono necesita un presupuesto anual de 1,5 billones de dólares —y que los 50 estados de EE. UU. tendrán que hacerse cargo de los gastos de guarderías, asistencia sanitaria y otros programas sociales.

A lo largo de sus dos campañas presidenciales, Trump prometió a sus seguidores que daría prioridad a la financiación de las necesidades de los trabajadores, al tiempo que se alejaba del apoyo a las guerras imperialistas. Pero los capitalistas recurren cada vez más a la recolonización como forma de reactivar su sistema moribundo.

En consonancia con la visión capitalista de que el Gobierno federal es un servidor

de las personas más ricas de EE. UU. (incluida la familia de Trump), en lugar de gravar a los multimillonarios para financiar los programas sociales, ataca a los más vulnerables de la población.

En el primer año de su segundo mandato, Trump aprovechó un cierre del Gobierno para recortar drásticamente la financiación de las prestaciones del Programa de Asistencia Nutricional Suplementaria (SNAP) para millones de familias. En su segundo año, el cuidado infantil parece ser su objetivo preferido. Como parte de la guerra contra las comunidades de inmigrantes, Trump ya estaba atacando las guarderías gestionadas por comunidades somalíes en Minnesota, utilizando denuncias falsas de fraude presentadas por «investigadores» de la derecha. Desde enero, la administración ha congelado activos federales por valor de más de 10.000 millones de dólares destinados a guarderías en cinco estados.

Los padres que dependen de los servicios de cuidado infantil para poder trabajar pagan, de media, entre el 8,9 % y el 16,0 % de sus ingresos por el cuidado a tiempo completo de un niño. Dependiendo de la ubicación, los costes anuales oscilan entre más de 6.500 y 15.600 dólares, o incluso

más, según la edad del niño. En ocasiones, los costes de la guardería son superiores a los de la vivienda.

Actualmente, la financiación federal para el cuidado infantil ronda los 30.000 millones de dólares, repartidos entre el Fondo para el Cuidado y el Desarrollo Infantil y Head Start. En general, la proporción del gasto federal destinado a la infancia ha descendido del 11,98 % en 2021 al 8,57 % en 2025. Si bien la «gran y perversa ley de impuestos» de Trump incluía desgravaciones fiscales para el cuidado infantil, estas beneficiaron principalmente a los contribuyentes con mayores ingresos.

Pero, ¿por qué necesita el Pentágono 1,5 billones de dólares al año? En las primeras cuatro semanas de la guerra contra Irán, EE. UU. utilizó más de 850 misiles «Tomahawk», con un coste cercano a los 4 millones de dólares cada uno. Y luego están los aviones derribados por el «devastado» sistema de defensa aérea de Irán. A fecha de 5 de abril, estos incluyen cuatro F-15E, cuatro KC-135 (aviones de reabastecimiento), además de un AWACS y un A-10 destruidos durante los ataques de Irán contra bases militares. La sustitución de estos aviones de combate

multimillonarios podría ascender a miles de millones.

Desde el inicio de la guerra, Irán ha atacado las 17 bases militares estadounidenses repartidas por Asia Occidental, dejando 13 de ellas prácticamente inhabitables. Según warcosts.org: «Estados Unidos mantiene la mayor red de bases militares en el extranjero de la historia mundial: más de 694 instalaciones en 112 países y territorios, además de 824 bases nacionales repartidas por los 50 estados. Ningún otro país se le acerca». (3 de marzo)

Las 100 principales empresas mundiales dedicadas a la producción de armas obtuvieron beneficios récord gracias a las guerras en Ucrania y Gaza: 679.000 millones de dólares en 2024, lo que supone un aumento del 5,9 % con respecto a años anteriores. (The Economic Times, 1 de diciembre de 2025) Por el contrario, la mayoría de los trabajadores de guarderías ganan apenas algo más que el salario mínimo, incluso cuando cuentan con un alto nivel de formación y cualificación.

Debemos exigir: ¡Dinero para los trabajadores y los pobres, no para la guerra del Pentágono! □

¡Fuera el ICE de todas partes!

La crisis en los aeropuertos estadounidenses es noticia de primera plana. Debido al cierre parcial del Gobierno, los empleados de la Administración de Seguridad en el Transporte (TSA) no cobraron su salario durante 42 días. Como es comprensible, muchos trabajadores no acudieron a sus puestos. Algunos tuvieron que buscar otros trabajos para poder ganar dinero con el que pagar los gastos básicos de vivienda y otras facturas. Otros, sencillamente, no estaban dispuestos a trabajar sin cobrar.

Esto provocó largas colas en los controles de seguridad de los aeropuertos y obligó a los pasajeros a pasar entre 6 y 8 horas, o incluso más, en esas colas.

¿Cuál fue, pues, la primera solución de Trump? Enviar a agentes del Servicio de Inmigración y Control de Aduanas (ICE) a los aeropuertos, supuestamente para ayudar a los agentes de la TSA en el control de pasajeros. Muchas personas creían que en realidad se les había enviado a los aeropuertos para acosar e intimidar a los pasajeros y trabajadores de los aeropuertos negros, latinos, indígenas y migrantes. Se envió incluso a agentes del ICE a aeropuertos en los que no había habido ningún problema de largas colas.

La política de enviar a agentes del ICE, mejor remunerados, a realizar el trabajo de los trabajadores de la TSA —un trabajo que estos realizaban sin cobrar— resultó extremadamente impopular. De hecho, para aquellos trabajadores que son inmigrantes, la presencia de agentes del ICE intimidatorios trabajando a su lado podría ser otra razón para no acudir al trabajo.

En los aeropuertos, los agentes del ICE no llevaban mascarillas, lo que esencialmente desmontaba el argumento de Trump de que las mascarillas son necesarias para su trabajo.



Houston, 10 de enero de 2026.

MO FOTO: GLORIA RUBAC

El Senado votó entonces a favor de pagar a los trabajadores de la TSA, pero el proyecto de ley fue rechazado en la Cámara de Representantes, donde la mayoría republicana se quejó de que el proyecto carecía de una disposición para financiar íntegramente al ICE. Los demócratas del Congreso solo pretenden reducir la financiación del odiado ICE, que

ha despertado la ira pública debido a sus numerosos delitos, incluidos los asesinatos a sangre fría de Renee Good, Keith Porter Jr., Alex Pretti y otros.

Ahora Trump afirma que pasará por



alto al Congreso y pagará a los trabajadores de la TSA, y estos recibieron sus primeros salarios atrasados en más de un mes el 30 de marzo, pero no están seguros de si se les pagará de forma regular. Y no está claro si el ICE será retirado de los aeropuertos una vez que los trabajadores de la TSA vuelvan a trabajar con los niveles de plantilla anteriores.

Lo que está claro es la necesidad inmediata de exigir que «el ICE salga de los aeropuertos». Pero las demandas contra el ICE deben ir mucho más allá. Los agentes del ICE no son más que tropas de asalto fascistas con una agenda racista y una vendetta contra los activistas por los derechos de los migrantes. Además de cometer asesinatos descarados, han arrestado y detenido a miles de personas —indocumentadas, documentadas y nacidas en EE. UU. —, incluida la infame detención de Liam Conejo Ramos, de cinco años, y su padre.

Los migrantes, principalmente mujeres, han sido violados, y los casos más recientes se han producido en un centro de detención con ánimo de lucro gestionado por Core Civic en California. Los siete casos denunciados solo están siendo investigados por la propia empresa; las fuerzas del orden ni siquiera se molestan en ocuparse de estos horribles delitos.

Mientras estos terroristas cometen violaciones, palizas, asesinatos y otros delitos, pedir una reducción de la financiación no es suficiente —aunque los republicanos de la Cámara de Representantes se negaron incluso a eso, reteniendo el pago a los trabajadores de la TSA —, a quienes se les debe pagar.

¡Mundo Obrero afirma que se debe abolir el ICE!

¡Ni un solo centavo para estos matones terroristas, supremacistas blancos y xenófobos!

¡Fuera el ICE de todas partes!