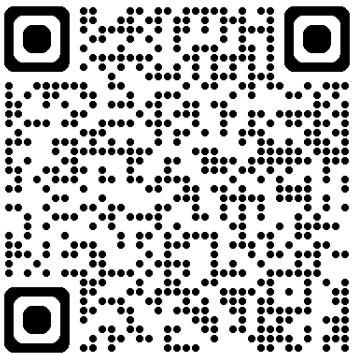




World Cup fans agree:

‘Boycott the U.S.!’

By Steve Gillis
Boston

Activists with the Boston Coalition for Palestine (BCFP) joined with the Anti-Fascist Football Coalition (AFFC) on June 13 and 19 in outreaching in the streets to tens of thousands of international World Cup football enthusiasts. The groups explained how fans can join the international campaign to combat FIFA’s (Fédération Internationale de Football Association) complicity with U.S. war crimes, including genocide — from Palestine, Lebanon and Iran to Cuba, Venezuela and Nigeria.

Fans from Brazil, Cabo Verde, Haiti, Morocco, Scotland and elsewhere embraced the Coalition’s message that now is the time to spread the call worldwide to “Boycott the U.S.!” Fans dressed in tartan kilts and other national fabrics or wrapped in their countries’ flags stopped to get souvenir pictures taken with BCFP’s banner that reads: “FIFA: Move the World Cup OUT of the U.S.! Boycott the U.S. for war crimes!”

Many fans said they hadn’t heard of the U.S. boycott before arriving in Boston, but now that they know, they’ll be raising demands back home to move future sporting and cultural events such as the 2028 Olympics, currently scheduled for Los Angeles, out of the U.S.

At Boston’s South Station, where tens of thousands of fans were boarding trains to the out-of-town stadium on June 13,

BCFP activists held their ground when initially surrounded by police brass and FIFA security, with surveillance drones buzzing overhead. The cops claimed that protesters’ presence in the “FIFA permitted” public street was not allowed. But thousands of fans witnessing the scene soon turned the balance of forces by embracing the pro-Palestine activists, accepting and waving hundreds of Palestinian flags supporters were passing out to the crowd.

A flier that the BCFP activists distributed in the thousands laid out the AFFC’s clear reasons why the U.S. should be targeted, including U.S. support for Israel, previously for apartheid South Africa. The fliers advocated an international boycott, divest and sanctions campaign: “The demand by the Anti-Fascist Football Coalition to move the World Cup out of the United States due to blatant violations of human rights worldwide has been ignored. The Boston Coalition for Palestine, therefore, has joined the international call by Black Alliance for Peace to ‘Boycott the World Cup!’ ‘Expel Israel from FIFA!’ and ‘Boycott the U.S.!’”

The flier continued: “The United States is a dangerous place to host ‘the beautiful games.’ Providing support for ongoing genocide in West Asia, waging illegal wars of aggression against Cuba, Nigeria, Venezuela and many other countries and profiting from the ICE [Immigration Customs and Enforcement] imprisonment of people from the same countries



A fan of Scotland’s national team raises a Palestinian flag at Boston’s South Station, June 13, 2026.

WWW PHOTO: STEVE KIRSCHBAUM

the World Cup claims to celebrate, the United States has shown it cannot be trusted and is an illegitimate venue for all international events.

“Each passing day, officials, players and fans attempting to visit the U.S. find racist and discriminatory barriers to their entry, whether by inhospitable reception on arrival, by harassment and interrogation for hours, or by denying visas and entry to the U.S. As it is our duty from the belly of the beast, Boston Coalition for Palestine is proud to be in solidarity with all who have been subjected to human rights abuses by the war regime in Washington, D.C.”

AFFC-organized actions at World Cup games throughout Canada, Mexico and the U.S. have been taking place daily since the tournament began, spreading the word globally that now is the time to target the U.S. — the source of the many wars being inflicted on the world’s working-class and oppressed peoples who are everywhere in heroic resistance to U.S. imperialism. To learn more about the FIFA boycott and to join the growing global movement to “Boycott the U.S.!” go to: tinyurl.com/54nnx2ac. □

250 years of racism, genocide, imperialism,
theft and lies – a hybrid forum:

THE WORLD IS
BRINGING
DOWN THE EMPIRE!



Thursday
July 9
7 p.m. -- 9:30 pm
(guest speakers
to be announced)

Forging Global Solidarity in the Belly of the Beast

The super-rich are so intoxicated with their stolen wealth that they may temporarily avoid being haunted by Iran’s victory over the U.S. war machine on July 4, the U.S. ’s birthday, but not for long. Their defeat in Iran and the 250th anniversary of the U.S., will be remembered as turning points in the decline of the U.S. imperialist empire. Global resistance against the empire, especially in the Global South, is winning. Join our July 9th forum to consider the revolutionary possibilities of a world in transformation, and what the main tasks of U.S. activists should be to help make this a reality.

Pre-register online at: tinyurl.com/283r3trx
In person: 121 West 27th St., Suite 404, New York City
Sponsored by Workers World Party



PRIDE! 6-7

Boston, Cleveland,
Philadelphia

Real heroes of Pride

Minnie Bruce Pratt
remembered



Juneteenth Legacy

Seattle hotel workers 3

250 years of hypocrisy 5

U.S. racism still exists 8

Black youth in the U.S. 9

Chris Silvera ¡presente!	3
Buffalo tenants fight back	3
UAW divests from Israel bonds	5
Support the Swarthmore 9	7
Defend anti-ICE protesters	7
Portland: Report from Cuba	10
Klan terror in 1964	11
Editorials	
U.S.-Iran talks: No peace yet	10
Musk: despicable trillionaire	10

4



A bizarre death
row story

Letter from inside

Legal lynchings
in the U.S. today

Workers World declares: ‘U.S. hands off Cuba!’

The Cuban Revolution has inspired workers, farmers, oppressed people, socialists and communists worldwide since its 1959 victory. The socialist country has shown what international solidarity means with military and medical aid brought to peoples around the globe.

Despite U.S. escalation of military aggression, a stricter blockade than that imposed over 60 years ago, stronger sanctions and prohibitions against countries shipping oil to Cuba, causing great hardships, socialist Cuba lives on, even developing new cancer treatments.

Workers World has steadfastly supported the Cuban Revolution in words and in deeds, in our newspaper, at meetings and in the streets.

In 1992, Workers World Party mobilized with other forces to bring thousands of Cuba supporters to New York City’s Javits Center for the historic Peace for Cuba Appeal.

And a year later, Sam Marcy, the late chairperson of WWP, met with Cuba’s leader, Fidel Castro, in Havana to show support for the Revolution.

Workers World newspaper covered the phony trials and imprisonment of the Cuban 5, heroes held for many years in U.S. dungeons for the “crime” of protecting their homeland from ultraright violence. Our members joined other forces in working for their freedom — which was ultimately won.

In 2025, the Cuban government joined South Africa’s lawsuit at the International Court of Justice against Israel’s genocidal war on Gaza and opposes the imperialist war on Iran and Lebanon. Its leaders and people staunchly defend the Revolution from the imperialist U.S., as shown by the 250,000 Cubans who amassed in Havana on May 22 to defend revolutionary hero and former President Raúl Castro from U.S. indictment.

WWP members have joined multiple marches, organized and attended many meetings supporting Cuba, especially since the Trump regime’s missile attacks in the Caribbean Sea and its worsening of the blockade and sanctions against the socialist country this year.



Brooklyn, New York, June 3, 2026.

For over 50 years, WWP has participated in the Venceremos Brigade, sending activists to Cuba to break the travel blockade. WWP has collected funds for emergency medical aid following hurricanes and an oil refinery explosion.

Workers World will continue our unwavering support for this socialist country in our newspaper and at countless activities to come.

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 30 years ago, support workers.org, where new articles are posted daily and the weekly paper’s PDF is posted and archived.

Workers.org contains news and analyses of global and U.S. struggles, bulletins from 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, LGTBQIA2S+ 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 issues and workers.org incur expenses. Although many online publications require payments to read their articles, WW does not. **Our articles are free to all readers.**

Can you donate \$50, \$100 or \$200 a year? Contributing \$50 or more will entitle you to receive 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 address to Workers World, 121 West 27th St., Rm. 404, New York, NY 10001. □

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, LGTBQIA2S+ 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. □

If you are interested in joining Workers World Party contact:

National Office 121 W. 27th St., Suite 404 New York, NY 10001 212.627.2994 wwp@workers.org	Houston P.O. Box 3454 Houston, TX 77253-3454 713.503.2633 houston@workers.org
Atlanta 404.622-7517 atlanta@workers.org Workers World Party - Atlanta on Facebook	Minnesota minnesota@workers.org
Boston 284 Amory St. Boston, MA 02130 boston@workers.org instagram: @wwpboston	Philadelphia P.O. Box 5634 Philadelphia, PA 19129 610.931.2615 phila@workers.org
Buffalo, N.Y. 335 Richmond Ave. Buffalo, NY 14222 716.883.2534 buffalo@workers.org	Portland, Ore. portland@workers.org
Cleveland cleveland@workers.org	San Antonio sanantonio@workers.org
Durham, N.C. 919.322.9970 durham@workers.org	Seattle 206-218-4417 seattle@workers.org
	West Virginia WestVirginia@workers.org

MUNDO OBRERO WORKERS WORLD this week

♦ In the U.S.	
World Cup fans agree: ‘Boycott the U.S.!’	1
Chris Silvera: ‘Defeat the guest-worker program’ . .	3
Public housing tenants demands	3
Hotel workers strike on Juneteenth	3
Juneteenth and 250 years of hypocrisy.	5
UAW convention votes to divest from Israel	5
Boston Pride: Solidarity with Palestine.	6
Protest over cop attack after Philly Pride march . .	6
‘Pride in the CLE’ brings out queer workers.	6
Who are the real heroes of Pride?	6
Swarthmore 9 trial for Palestine encampment. . . .	7
Minneapolis rallies for anti-ICE protesters	7
Remembering Minnie Bruce Pratt.	7
For 250 years, U.S. racism has never ended.	8
The worth of a Black youth’s life in the empire . . .	9
Klan terror in 1964 and voting rights in 2026 . . .	11

♦ Around the world	
International May Day Brigade to Cuba	10
Tech giants support imperialism and vice versa . .	11
♦ Tear down the walls	
A bizarre death row story	4
Legal lynchings in the U.S. today.	4
Letter from a prisoner.	4

♦ Editorial	
MOU talks in Switzerland: No peace yet.	10
More than a billionaire — a trillionaire!	10

♦ Mundo Obrero	
El «Juneteenth» y 250 años de hipocresía	12
iCierren Delaney Hall!	12

Workers World
121 W. 27th St., Suite 404
New York, NY 10001
Phone: 212.627.2994
E-mail: wwp@workers.org
Web: www.workers.org



Vol. 68, No. 25 • June 25, 2026
Closing date: June 24, 2026
Editors: John Catalinotto, Martha Grevatt, Deirdre Griswold, Monica Moorehead, Betsey Piette
Web Editors: ABear, Harvey Markowitz, Janet Mayes
Tear Down the Walls! Editor: Teddie Kelly
Production & Design Editors: Gery Armsby, Sasha Mazumder
Copyediting and Proofreading: Paddy Colligan, Steve Gillis
Contributing Editors: G. Dunkel, K. Durkin, Sara Flounders, Otis Grotewohl, Gloria Rubac
Mundo Obrero: Deborah Rodriguez, Carlos Vargas
Copyright © 2026 Workers World. Verbatim copying and distribution of articles is permitted in any medium without royalty provided this notice is preserved.
Workers World (ISSN-1070-4205) is published monthly by WW Publishers, 121 W. 27th St., Suite 404, New York, NY 10001. Phone: 212.627.2994.
Subscriptions: One year: \$36; institutions: \$50. Letters to the editor may be condensed and edited. Articles can be freely reprinted, with credit to Workers World, 121 W. 27th St., Suite 404, New York, NY 10001. Back issues and individual articles are available on microfilm and/or photocopy from NA Publishing, Inc, P.O. Box 998, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-0998. A searchable archive is available on the Web at www.workers.org.
A headline digest is available via e-mail subscription. Subscription information is at workers.org.
Periodicals postage paid at New York, N.Y.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Workers World, 121 W. 27th St., Suite 404 New York, N.Y. 10001.

In memory of Chris Silvera

‘Defeat the guest-worker program’

Workers World Party is deeply saddened by the sudden death of Chris Silvera, Secretary-Treasurer, Teamsters Local 808; Chair of the Teamsters National Black Caucus and leader of the East Coast Million Worker March Movement. He succumbed to a heart attack on June 12 while traveling to a labor conference. The following talk was given by Silvera at a Workers World Party national conference entitled “Preparing for the Rebirth of the World Struggle for Socialism,” held in New York City, on May 13-14, 2006. The talk first appeared in the May 26, 2006, Workers World print issue. Chris Silvera, rest in power!

— Monica Moorehead

This is the 130th anniversary of Haymarket, which was mostly led by immigrant workers. The labor movement and immigrant rights movement have always been one, while the boss seeks to create divisions to weaken that

movement. So, I do not believe that we created something new on May 1. I think we struck a chord that made people get up and risk everything to be on the front line of change.

I believe that labor needs to make some of the same demands that capital has made. Capital has said that it wants to tear down borders and have unfettered freedom to search the globe looking for profit. If that is true, labor must have the same unfettered right in looking for work.

What we have to do here is to build and make this movement significant, so we have got to tie in mainstream labor, and we have to make sure the mainstream labor movement has a focus that is purely in the interest of workers from a global perspective.

So where is the labor movement in this struggle? What is the demand of labor and is it different from the Democratic Party and does the Democratic Party have a demand that is even worth listening to? The Democratic Party is a failure, certainly

for working people. I suspect that if you are on the upper side of a quarter million dollars a year, the Democratic Party is as favorable to you as the Republican Party.

I cannot tell you what the significance of the immigrant rights movement is, but what I can tell you is that we have positioned ourselves to become an important part of this resolution. But Congress is running with a group of people who you did not see in the [May Day] march. Most are on the payroll, and those people are going to be the ones to say yes to guest worker programs.

In enslavement time you had those enslaved and indentured servants. The indentured servant is the original guest worker, and their situation was so bad that at many times, they banded with enslaved people to seek freedom. So the guest worker is an absolute no-starter in trying to resolve this issue. It has got to be defeated up front!

If the unions properly got on board with this solution, I believe we would



WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

Chris Silvera and Monica Moorehead, May Day 2018, New York City.

have three million, four million members quickly. We have an opportunity that we have not had since 1886.

The eight-hour day did not just come in one day because of Haymarket. Haymarket was one day in years of building what is known as “Eight-Hour Leagues.” So, we are going to have to continue to fight. We must build a series of actions that are coordinated and effective, because we have proven we have the numbers and the power. □

Public housing tenants demand humane conditions

By Casey Parker
Buffalo

Beginning with a public hearing held by the Buffalo Common Council in December 2025, tenants of the Buffalo Municipal Housing Authority (BMHA) and their supporters have been organizing to put pressure on the BMHA to address the deteriorating and inhumane conditions in the city’s public housing. They include lack of heat in the winter, hazardous mold, recurring sewage back-up and widespread vermin infestation.

The housing authority has an over \$13 million budget for maintenance, but it’s hard to imagine where the money is going given the current condition of the buildings. BMHA’s Board of Commissioners and CEO Gilliam Brown have followed up with many promises to “do better” but have not delivered substantively.

‘Affordable housing’ = privatization

The ongoing neglect of the city’s public housing is occurring in the context of the national trend of defunding public housing and moving towards a model of “affordable housing.” The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD),



PHOTO: ATLYS C

Sandra Garrett of the Commodore Perry apartments gives public comment to the Buffalo Housing Municipal Authority Board of Commissioners, June 18, 2026.

the federal office that oversees local housing authorities, has been facing extreme cuts since the beginning of Trump’s second term. This is in line with a decades-long effort to defund public housing.

The “affordable housing” model emphasizes the inclusion of private developers in the construction and redevelopment of public housing and the transfer of public housing into the hands of private landlords, in part through the Rental Assistance Demonstration. Far more public subsidies and funds are available to housing authorities that embrace this

model than to support traditional public housing.

So while Buffalo’s current public housing buildings are in a state of disrepair and neglect, a billion-dollar project is underway to build and redevelop over 1,250 “affordable” public housing units. However, for all the shine and promise of these kinds of projects, they result in the reduction of the total number of public housing units and the turnover of public property into private hands.

June board meeting

On June 18, tenants gathered at the Martha Mitchell Community Center for the BMHA’s Board of Commissioners meeting, the first in two months after the previous month’s was canceled due to a purported lack of quorum.

Before opening for public comment, the board had several agenda items of note. The board heard a presentation from Ehrlich Pest Control, where the company claimed that lack of tenant cooperation was one of the greatest

barriers to its work.

The board also approved the purchase of biometric time clocks at the cost of \$69,120, citing a need to prevent time theft by BMHA employees. They also approved an outside contractor, CVR Associates, to continue servicing their Housing Choice Voucher Program.

The company receives a percentage of the administrative fee that HUD gives BMHA for each voucher they take on. CVR Associate’s representative estimated that they make about \$80,000 per month from these administrative fees. It must be asked if these are effective uses of public money.

Multiple tenants spoke about their deplorable living conditions. Emma Mallory, a resident of the Kenfield-Langfield development had moved from another BMHA property because of an infestation, only to move to an apartment that was missing a stove and refrigerator. She asked the board, “Do you guys sleep like that at night?”

How many ways can public money be used to fund private enterprise instead of public good before people demand better? □

Hotel workers strike on Juneteenth



WW PHOTO: JIM MCMAHAN C

UNITE HERE Local 8 pickets Seattle Embassy Suites hotel on Juneteenth, June 19, 2026.

By Jim McMahan
Seattle

In what is also called a World Cup strike, hotel workers struck the Embassy Suites hotel in Seattle on Juneteenth, June 19. The workers set up a loud picket line in front of the hotel as tens of thousands of football/soccer fans flocked into the stadium to see the U.S. play Australia right behind the hotel. The Embassy Suites is part of the Hilton hotel empire, and it towers over the stadium.

The workers of UNITE HERE Local 8 are demanding the right to strike if federal immigration agents like ICE (Immigration Customs and Enforcement) threaten their safety.

In Seattle, most of the 113 workers on strike are people of color and/or immigrants. They need the right to walk off the job if threatened by ICE. They are also striking against low wages and for better pay, year-round health benefits and for other advances.

In Los Angeles, 2,000 UNITE HERE Local 11 workers threatened the bosses at SoFi stadium with a 96% strike vote to strike if they didn’t get this protection for the World Cup and beyond. They won! The protection clause is in their new contract. UNITE HERE workers in other cities are considering strikes over these emergency contract issues.

Since the hotel workers struck on Juneteenth, African American Emancipation Day, the Juneteenth organizers from the International Longshore

Workers Union (ILWU) Locals 19 and 52 came in support. After picketing with the hotel workers for an hour, the ILWU and UNITE HERE held a joint solidarity rally.

Gabriel Prawl, ILWU Local 52 former president, declared solidarity with the strikers and talked about how the ILWU had won a day off on Juneteenth in their contract demands.

The Longshore workers then marched, gaining visibility through the huge soccer crowds, for two miles past the waterfront which they had shut down for the day. The march ended at the Longshore hall where they held a barbecue with an open microphone. Many Black workers from the ILWU and other unions spoke out and shared their experiences related to fighting the enforced austerity of the billionaire Trump government. □

A bizarre death row story

By Gloria Rubac

Clarence Curtis Jordan, or C.C., as his friends on the row called him, was on Texas death row for half a century — but for 40 of those years he did not have an attorney.

His life story is one you could not make up. And it is one that adds to the long list of stories that illuminate why the death penalty should be abolished immediately.

Jordan’s young life was filled with poverty and mental health challenges. After his mother died when he was 12 years old, he dropped out of school and his life began a downward spiral. He began committing petty crimes to support himself. The Texas juvenile justice system conducted an evaluation when Jordan was 15 and his IQ was measured at 56, well below 70, which is generally the cutoff for intellectual disability.

In 1978, Jordan was sentenced to death for killing a man in a grocery store. At a competency hearing, he testified about little creatures inside his body that tortured him. He said he heard the voice of his late mother, and he said he had a wife and three kids, which he did not. Jordan testified that he was not born but had come down from the sky through computer time and that he was fighting green creatures with pointed ears. Yet he was judged fit to stand trial!

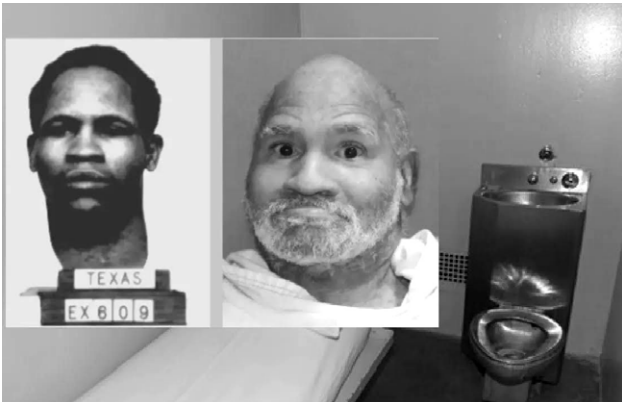
In 1988, 38 years ago, the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals declared Jordan to be so mentally ill that the Eighth Amendment precluded his execution. And 38 years ago, Jordan was largely forgotten about by the Texas criminal legal system.

The Death Penalty Information Center wrote on April 20: “The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals (TCCA) found him incompetent to be executed in 1988. But Mr. Jordan then fell through the cracks of an inefficient prison system, and he languished on death row without an attorney for the next four decades.”

Defense attorney Benjamin Wolff, Director of the Texas Office of Capital and Forensic Writs, accidentally met Jordan in 2023 while visiting a mentally ill client, Syed Rabbani. Jordan was the neighbor of Rabbani at the medical unit. Wolff discovered Jordan had not had a lawyer since he had been found incompetent to stand trial in 1988. Wolff took Jordan’s case and filed a petition to the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals asking that the death sentence be vacated.

Death sentence vacated

Finally, this year, on Jordan’s 70th birthday, April 9, his death sentence was vacated! A resentencing hearing was held in the trial court in Houston.



Inset shows Clarence “CC” Jordan when he first arrived at death row and now.

It was great news and the Harris County District Attorney declared he would not ask for a death sentence again. The only option was a life sentence with the possibility of parole. And because Jordan had done 50 years, he would immediately be up for parole.

Wolff went before the trial court and obtained a favorable ruling from Judge Katherine Thomas, who

recommended Jordan be evaluated for a type of medical release — known as Medically Recommended Intensive Supervision — that releases some incarcerated people from prison, typically if they are either terminally ill, elderly or require long term care.

According to the Houston Chronicle on June 8: “It’s not guaranteed that Jordan will be granted medical release. More than 200 inmates — out of more than 1,700 inmates whose cases were presented — have been granted medical release since 2021, according to Texas Board of Pardons and Parole data.”

The good news ends here. The Parole Board, all of whom were appointed by Texas Governor Greg Abbott, will decide Jordan’s future.

The bad news begins

After several strokes, Jordan was taken off death row in 2010 and moved to a medical prison, the Estelle Unit, just outside of Huntsville. His health has declined so dramatically that he is now totally incapacitated. He is quadriplegic. He has many eye diseases and is functionally blind and cannot speak. He is unable to feed himself or properly swallow food and requires an endoscopic gastric tube to obtain nutrition. He is basically confined to bed.

Jordan was not able to be in court for his resentencing.

In a press statement given to media at the resentencing, the Texas Death Penalty Abolition Movement stated: “We demand that Jordan be placed in an excellent assisted living center in Houston, the best that can be found. And, that the State of Texas pay the bill as long as Jordan is alive.”

It is abhorrent that any incarcerated person should be neglected legally, medically and physically for decades and decades. Jordan developed a multitude of health problems, many of which could have been prevented if health care in Texas prisons wasn’t so horribly lacking.

Prisons are a horrific crime and must be abolished. □

Letter to the Editor

June 6, 2026

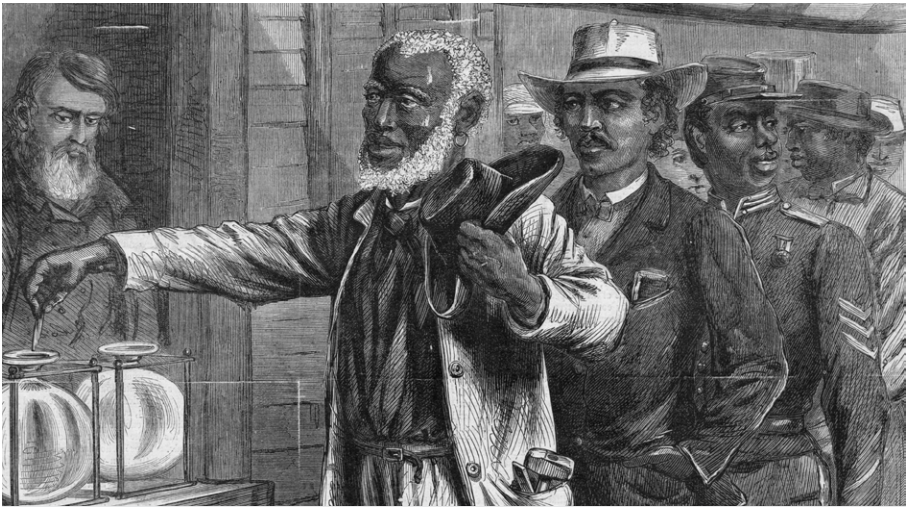
Dear brothers and sisters,

I am writing this letter in response to the article printed in the May 21, 2026, WW print edition. The article was written by Monica Moorehead entitled “Behind the SCOTUS attack on the Voting Rights Act.” (workers.org/2026/05/92471)

Sister Moorehead did a very good job on putting the article together. She schooled me on much I didn’t know about such a very serious issue. Please give Sister Moorehead my

thanks on her article. Also how can I get more information on this topic? Thanks for your time and thanks to all the paper staff and writers at Workers World who take the time to provide the people with good and much-needed knowledge.

Respectfully,
Lawrence Gaines
State Correctional Institution-Forest
Marlenville, PA 16239



Depiction of the first vote by African American men under Reconstruction in 1867.

Legal lynchings in the U.S. today

By Gloria Rubac

Dramatic changes in the U.S.’s use of the death penalty are happening. Frequently!

Just days before Juneteenth, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine publicly announced that his state should abolish the death penalty. DeWine, who helped write the state’s capital punishment law in 1981, said that the death penalty is not an effective deterrent to crime, outraging his fellow Republicans and pleasantly surprising abolitionists.

A horrific milestone in Texas took place on May 15 as Edward Busby became the 600th person legally lynched in Texas since the death penalty was reinstated in 1976 by the U.S. Supreme Court. Busby was a person whom all experts, from the defense to the state, agreed was intellectually disabled and was therefore legally ineligible for execution.

The Texas Death Penalty Abolition Movement held a press conference the morning of this execution. Speakers included State Representative Jolanda Jones, a member of the Texas House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee, and Minister Abdul Haleem Muhammad with Houston’s Nation of Islam Mosque 45. Muhammad was the spiritual adviser and execution witness for two Texas innocent men: Gary Graham, aka Shaka Sankofa, and Odell Barnes Jr. The American Civil Liberties Union gave a statement as well.

For decades, lethal injection was most states’ preferred way to execute those incarcerated on death row in the U.S. But recent problems obtaining and administering the drugs

have led some states to consider alternative methods.

A new method of executing people began in Alabama — nitrogen asphyxiation. Kim Chandler, a reporter for the Associated Press, gave this report to the public broadcasting station after witnessing Kenneth Eugene Smith’s execution in January of 2024: “Smith began to shake and writhe violently, in thrashing spasms and seizure-like movements, at about 7:58 p.m. The force of his movements caused the gurney to visibly move at least once.

“Smith’s arms pulled against the straps holding him to the gurney. He lifted his head off the gurney and then fell back. The shaking went on for at least two minutes. The spiritual adviser, Jeff Hood, repeatedly made the sign of the cross toward Smith. Smith’s wife, who was watching, cried out. Smith began to take a series of deep gasping breaths, his chest rising noticeably. His breathing was no longer visible at about 8:08 p.m.”

Nitrogen gas has been used in eight executions nationally. Seven of those were in Alabama and one in Louisiana.

An Alabama man, Jeffrey Lee, facing execution by nitrogen gas was spared June 11, as the U.S. Supreme Court refused to set aside a lower-court ruling that found the method is unconstitutionally cruel. Dani Allen, activist and host of The Prison Show on Houston’s Pacifica radio station, told this reporter she was pleasantly surprised by the Supreme Court’s decision: “I can’t believe Trump’s court did anything good for those on death row! But they actually did!”

The federal judge’s ruling in Lee’s case means

nitrogen gas is no longer an option for executions in Alabama, and that could stop its use in the whole country.

Oklahoma, which has executed more people per capita than any other state, finally did something good. Richard Glossip was on death row for almost 30 years but walked out of prison on bond this May while he awaits a retrial. He had nine execution dates, had eaten three last meals and was prepared to be murdered by the state nine times. Glossip’s case attracted international attention after actress Susan Sarandon took up his cause. Glossip’s case also was featured in the 2017 documentary film “Killing Richard Glossip.”

Vietnam veterans targeted

Many veterans have been executed without a jury ever hearing meaningful information about their service. A capital defendant’s military service is an essential part of their story for a jury to consider.

According to the Death Penalty Information Center (DPIC), many veterans suffer from the physical and psychological hazards of military service, including Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI) and neurotoxin exposure. According to the Council on Criminal Justice, these conditions are “significantly associated with a greater likelihood of criminal justice system involvement among veterans.”

DPIC reports at least 226 military veterans have been executed — 14% of all people executed in the modern era

Continued on page 5

Juneteenth and 250 years of hypocrisy

By Monica Moorehead

Almost two weeks before the 250th celebration of the “founding” of the U.S., Juneteenth, a federal holiday, will take place on June 19. Making Juneteenth a federal holiday in 2021 was a long overdue recognition that on June 19, 1865, enslaved Black people were liberated in Galveston, Texas — two and a half years after the enactment of the Emancipation Proclamation made by President Abraham Lincoln.

This historic day did not prevent Black people from being kidnapped from Texas to countries like Cuba or Brazil, where slavery still existed until the late 1880s, or even murdered by Texas enslavers.

Juneteenth is viewed by Black communities as the “second day of independence,” following the U.S. “independence” from Britain in 1776. Even before Juneteenth — also known as “Freedom Day” — was made a legal holiday, Black people celebrated this anniversary countrywide with marches and rallies, along with an array of social and cultural events.

Fast forward 161 years and the real meaning of Juneteenth — the ongoing fight for full social equality for Black people — continues to be under assault by an outright white supremacist U.S. president. Once #47 took office for the second time, he wasted little time laying off hundreds of thousands of federal workers, a hugely disproportionate number of them Black women. Many of these same workers were among those whose Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits were temporarily suspended.

#47 passed an executive order to dismantle DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) — programs recognizing the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, Black History

Month, Juneteenth and Women’s History Month, among others, for federal workers, many of them African American and/or gender oppressed.

He also passed an executive order to remove all monuments and remnants from federally funded parks and other institutions that recognized even in a modest way the horrors of the enslavement of Black people. In other words, his administration seeks to whitewash and bury the Black struggle against white supremacy, then and now, in an effort to squash any forms of current and future resistance.

The struggle for social equality continues

Juneteenth will remain a constant symbolic reminder that Black people as an oppressed nation, no matter their location, face systemic white racism in all forms. There are too many examples to list, but it is important to highlight a few additional attacks on Black workers.

The U.S. Supreme Court 6-3 reactionary ruling on April 29 severely limits the consideration of race in drawing voting maps, an important component of the 1965 Voting Rights Act. This legal attack ruled “unconstitutional” any redistricting of these maps that bolsters electoral victories for Black, Latine, Muslim or Indigenous candidates to gain greater political representation for marginalized communities in local and statewide elections.

There is the ongoing police occupation of Black communities resulting in racial profiling, beatings, unwarranted arrests and killings of children, such as 12-year-old Tamir Rice in 2014. In Senatobia, Mississippi, on June 14, one-year-old Kohen Kartier Wiley, was fatally shot in a car by a white police officer while Kohen’s mother was driving out of a Walmart parking lot. Kohen’s mother was accused by store management of “stealing” diapers



Kohen Wiley CREDIT: LEFTNEWS.NEWS

that she had already paid for. The officer was put on administrative leave and not one charge has been filed against the cop for this act of domestic terror. Despite police repression, protests are being organized by the Black community to demand justice for Kohen.

Vigilante murders also steal lives, including 14-year-old Cyrus Carmack-Belton in 2023, 17-year-old Trayvon Martin in 2012 and 15-year-old Latasha Harlins in 1991. Their killers were set free by biased jurors, another reminder of how Black life is dehumanized under white supremacy.

If you have not guessed by now, there is nothing for Black people — along with other people of color, including migrants and the working class in general — to celebrate on the 250th anniversary during the July 4 weekend. It will no doubt be a nauseating display of jingoistic, militaristic and patriotic bullsh-t pageantry in a desperate attempt to put on a pretty face to hide the ugliness of a decaying U.S. empire. □

UAW convention votes to divest from Israel Bonds

By Martha Grevatt

The United Auto Workers (UAW) has become the largest U.S. union to divest its funds from Israel Bonds. On June 18, delegates to the UAW’s quadrennial Constitutional Convention voted 321-287 in favor of amending the union’s constitution to end current and block future investment in bonds that support the Zionist state. The current investment is reportedly about \$400,000.

The vote took place amid a complex process to bring resolutions and amendments submitted by UAW locals to the convention “out of committee.” Convention rules required a threshold of 128 delegate votes for submitted amendments and resolutions to be brought to the floor for debate and a vote. About 900 delegates, elected by their locals, attended the 2026 convention, which took place in Detroit.

Delegates who belong to Unite All Workers for Democracy (UAWD) initially motioned to bring a stronger amendment against genocide and imperialist war — which five locals had submitted — to the floor. Although enough delegates supported bringing the stronger amendment out of committee, it was voted down. Then an amendment limited to the divestment issue was brought to the convention for a vote. This amendment passed!

UAWD, a rank-and-file-led caucus organized around “class struggle unionism,” had only a handful of members elected as delegates to the convention. But the vote

demonstrated that there is strong sentiment within the UAW membership to divest from Israeli genocide. For example, all 40 delegates from Local 600, which represents a large number of workplaces including the Ford Rouge complex, voted in favor of divestment. Strong support came from union members in legal services and higher education, as well as UAW Labor for Palestine.

The divestment amendment did, in the end, win the support of UAW President Shawn Fain and other members of the union’s International Executive Board (IEB).

This historic vote was the culmination of over five decades of struggle to end the union’s support for Israeli apartheid. In the early 1970s, the UAW Arab Workers Caucus picketed and even held a wildcat strike to pressure the union to divest from Israel Bonds. While the UAW put out statements in 2023 and 2024 calling for a ceasefire in Gaza and an end to U.S. arms shipments to Israel, the IEB voted down a motion to disallow future investment in Israel Bonds.

UAWD explains: “The stronger version of the UAWD amendment would’ve enabled weapons workers in the U.S. to take action to shut down the flow of weapons to Israel by giving them job and pay protections while striking or if they face retaliation. UAW’s divestment shows the potential for greater militancy and labor solidarity action within U.S. unions, coming as the working

class around the world has mobilized to fight genocide.” (dailystruggle.org, June 18)

It is imperative that all unions follow the UAW’s example and break all financial ties with Israel. But this is only a first step — U.S. unions must honor the Palestinian workers’ picket line and refuse to manufacture and ship weapons used to commit genocide.

Martha Grevatt is a retired member of UAW Local 869 — one of five unions that sent the UAWD amendment against genocide and imperialist war to the UAW Constitutional Convention — and belongs to UAWD.



University of California Los Angeles workers, represented by UAW, show support for Palestine, May 23, 2024.

Legal lynchings in the U.S. today

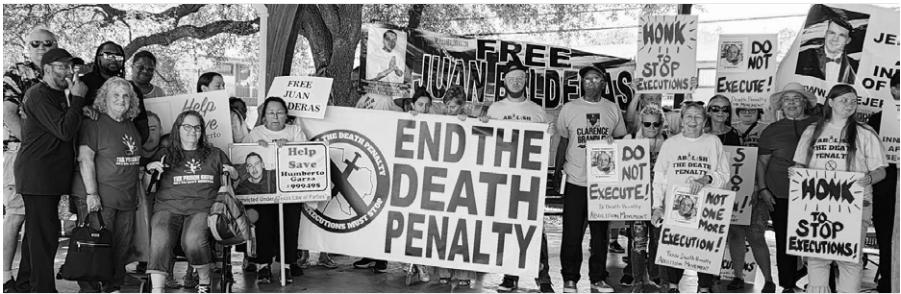
Continued from page 4

(1972-present). And veterans are overrepresented on death rows across the U.S. About 200 veterans remain on death row — 10% of people facing execution today, while just 6% of the public are veterans. The vast majority, 66% of death-sentenced veterans who served in active-duty combat, served in Vietnam. A third of these individuals have been executed.

The Vietnam War impacts capital cases to this day: 75-year-old Vietnam veteran Joseph Ables was sentenced to death this year; 79-year-old Vietnam veteran Richard Jordan was executed; and 20 others remain on death row.

Last week the Supreme Court denied relief to an innocent Charles Flores who has been on death row in Texas for over 25 years.

Why do I say he is innocent? Because the one witness to a murder in Dallas changed her original report. Right after the crime, Jill Barganier described the two killers as being tall, skinny white kids, with long, dirty, stringy hair. Charles is short, rather stocky, Latine and not white. Also, he has little or very short hair. She could not pick out



Family members of people on Texas death row with Deloyd Parker, director of the S.H.A.P.E. Center in Houston.

Flores from photo displays.

But over a year later, the police hypnotized Barganier and, lo and behold, in court she picked out Flores as the killer. Hypnotizing witnesses is no longer allowed and is considered junk science. Texas passed a junk science law, but it is never enforced. Nor is it retroactive. See FreeCharlesFlores.com for more information.

According to a Gallup poll: “Overall support for the death penalty in the U.S. has fallen to 53% today, a level not seen since the early 1970s. Less than half of U.S. adults born after 1980 — those in the Millennial and Generation Z birth cohorts — favor the death penalty.”

Youths are our future. Listen to them, and fight to end the racist and anti-poor death penalty! □

Boston Pride: Solidarity with Palestine

By Workers World Boston bureau

A sea of humanity joined in celebrating Boston's 56th annual "Pride as Protest" march, held on June 6. The march honored the presence and resistance of LGBTQIA2S+ people throughout history and their rich diversity, culture, intersectionality, rebellious spirit and determination to resist the Trump cabal's right-wing attacks.

Numerous antiwar, immigrant rights, pro-socialist and workers' organizations marched to thunderous cheers. They included 1199 Service Employees Union Healthcare Workers East, Massachusetts Teachers Association, hotel and dining hall workers with Local 26 UNITE HERE.

Also demonstrating were electrical workers, Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists, stagehands with International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees Local 481 and the National Association of Government Employees. They were joined by numerous community groups, including Boston Alliance of LGBTQ+ Youth, Multicultural AIDS Coalition and groups supporting housing for unhoused LGBTQIA2S+ minors.

A contingent of pro-Palestine activists was sponsored by Boston Democratic Socialists of America, whose members drove a sound truck and led rousing chants.

The contingent was joined by the Boston Coalition for Palestine, Jewish Voice for Peace, Boston South Asian Coalition and Workers World Party.

They received passionate cheers, shouts and fist bumps from tens of thousands of spectators lining the two-mile march route from Copley Square to Boston Common. The crowds enthusiastically chanted, "Free, Free Palestine!" while waving hundreds of Palestinian flags distributed by marchers along the route.

March watchers embraced the group's hundreds of fliers demanding an end to Massachusetts state government support for U.S.-Israeli war crimes in Palestine, Lebanon and Iran. The marchers carried signs and banners reading "No Pride In Genocide!" and "From Stonewall to Palestine, Pride Means Fightback!"

Chants rang out emphasizing

"ICE Out," immigrant rights, trans rights and abortion rights. The chant, "What do we want? Rent control! When do we want it? Now!" also fired up the crowd, as millions of people face an extreme housing crisis in Massachusetts, and a ballot struggle over rent control is coming up in November. □



Boston LGBTQIA2S+ Pride march, June 6, 2026.

WW PHOTO: STEVE KIRSCHBAUM

Protest over cop attack after Philly Pride march

By Joe Piette
Philadelphia

Pride was born from resistance. It was a response to police harassment, government control and the policing of queer existence.

Philadelphia police, acting as if the Stonewall Rebellion never happened, violently attacked Philadelphia's Gayborhood after the annual Pride Parade on June 7, targeting Black and Brown members of the LGBTQIA2S+ community, arresting 15 people.

Dozens of activists came out to protest



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Philadelphia protest against cop attack on Gayborhood, June 8, 2026.

the next day, June 8, gathering at the 13th Street and Walnut Street location where the police rampage took place. Carrying signs saying "No pride for cops!" and "Pride is still a riot!," the demonstrators picked up more participants as they marched through the neighborhood, growing to 100 activists by the time they reached police headquarters on North Broad Street.

Speakers at the "Pigs brutalized Pride! Fight back!" march condemned the police punching of pedestrians celebrating Pride, the use of batons and tasers, masked officers and the 150 cops and mounted units that were used to clear out the Gayborhood.

The homophobic, transphobic, and racist aggression by the police was directed at the LGBTQIA2S+ community. Barricades created gridlocks that left people with nowhere to go, escalating an already tense situation. Cops openly disrespected community members, misgendering transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

The militarized over-policing by the Philadelphia Police Department during Pride Month must be resisted. It should also be seen as a warning of a disjointed, concerning and unpredictable safety risk for queers and people of color during this summer's many events in Philadelphia, including World Cup games, the Baseball All Star game and the reactionary 250th year celebration of U.S. capitalism, along with other festivals. Solidarity with the LGBTQIA2S+ community! □

'Pride in the CLE' brings out queer workers

By Martha Grevatt
Cleveland

The LGBTQIA2S+ community of Cleveland has been participating in Pride events for nearly half a century, but each year the march and festival still grows and now draws tens of thousands of people. Among the popular chants during the June 6 march was, "Hey, hey, ho, ho, transphobia has got to go!"

The biggest number of contingents were those of workers marching under the banner of their employers or of their religious congregations. There was only one sizable union contingent, that of the Cleveland

Teachers Union, with a few other small union groupings. Nevertheless the march showed the eagerness of working-class people to either come out proudly as LGBTQIA2S+ or express solidarity with their queer coworkers.

Although few in number, groups that marched with an overtly progressive message — antiwar, antiracist, pro-migrant, pro-socialist or opposed to the city's use of surveillance cameras through contracts with Flock — received the loudest applause.

Last to march was a young, multinational group of hundreds of "unaffiliated" activists. □



WW PHOTO: MARTHA GREVATT

Sex Workers Alliance in LGBTQIA2S+ Pride march, Cleveland, June 6, 2026.

WW COMMENTARY

Who are the real heroes of Pride?

By Felicity Hossner

This Pride month marks the 57th anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion. The early pioneers of the LGBTQIA2S+ movement, most notably Sylvia Rivera and Marsha P. Johnson, were trans women of color who had little to no money. Yet some queer "historians" put more emphasis on gay capitalists than on our real leaders.

In an effort to learn more about LGBTQIA2S+ history, I

recently checked out from the library "The Book of Awesome Queer Heroes: How the LGBTQ+ Community Changed the World for the Better," by Eric Rosswood and Kathleen Archambeau. The book is organized by topic (religion, the arts, sciences, etc.). Each section contains a collection of short biographies of various queer figures who were important in some way to that topic.

In the business section, there is an article on Tim Cook, who

created the iPhone. It reads: "Tim Cook became CEO of Apple in 2011, and three years later, became the first openly gay man to run a Fortune 500 company, after coming out of the closet in a Bloomberg article. Apple became the first one-trillion-dollar publicly traded U.S. company under his leadership." It goes on, "In his role as CEO of the largest tech company in the world, Tim Cook has proved that LGBTQ+ people can be great business leaders."

While the authors may have been well-intentioned in writing this book, they are clearly bourgeois liberals trying to co-opt the Pride movement. We see this in the centering and adoration of capitalists. (The book goes on to

praise Beth Ford, CEO of Land O' Lakes, among others.)

Let us not forget our history, and let us keep focused and centered on proletarian revolution, which will end the capitalist system of exploitation! □



Leslie Feinberg's series on LGBTQ history, "Lavender & Red," appeared in the Workers World newspaper in 2004-2008.

Download a PDF from workers.org/books

Swarthmore 9 on trial for pro-Palestine encampment

By **Betsey Piette**
Philadelphia

Students at Swarthmore College, outside of Philadelphia, held a nonviolent, pro-Palestine encampment on campus in May 2025. They protested the college administration’s support, through a \$2.7 billion endowment, of companies supporting Israeli genocide in Gaza, specifically Cisco Systems. The encampment was named after Palestinian journalist Hossam Shabat, who was killed by the Israel Occupation Forces.

Despite the college’s liberal legacy of supporting peaceful protests, campus President Valerie Smith and Vice President Stephanie Ives refused to negotiate. Instead, on May 3, 2025, they called in 40 police officers from eight different municipal police departments to clear the encampment. The police brutalized and arrested nine protesters. Two Swarthmore students, who were among the nine arrested, were suspended, forced out of campus housing and denied the right to complete their studies.

All nine were charged with third-degree misdemeanor defiant trespassing and face up to a year in prison for exercising their First Amendment-protected free speech.

Speaking at a press conference outside the courthouse



Jace Boland speaking at Swarthmore 9 press conference in Media, Pennsylvania, June 9, 2026.

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

in Media, Pennsylvania, on June 9, Swarthmore student Jace Boland, one of the defendants, stated: “Swarthmore’s \$2.7 billion endowment invests in war and destruction. Our central demand was that Swarthmore sever all ties with Cisco Systems, a leading tech company assisting Israel’s military.

“Swarthmore’s administration called us a ‘threat to the community,’ but what community are they protecting? Their investment was their main concern. If we lose,

Swarthmore becomes a college where police are the norm.”

The Swarthmore 9 have all pleaded not guilty. Winona Malcarney, another defendant, stated: “This trial is a massive escalation in the repression of pro-Palestine activists in the Philadelphia area. This political trial is an effort to silence pro-Palestine activism and distract the public from the war crimes that educational institutions and the federal government are complicit in.”

Students attending the press conferences noted that this is not the first time that Swarthmore College administrators have cooperated with the state against student demands. In the 1960s, they collaborated with the FBI against Black students demonstrating on campus.

Boland noted: “The arrests have had a chilling effect. Many students are hesitant to

engage in free speech on campus. The administration’s repression is because they are afraid of us. We have come to understand our own institution’s complicity in the maintenance of genocide and how they profit from it.”

A request by lawyers for the nine defendants to dismiss their charges was denied by Judge Dominic Pileggi on June 22. The case will now go to a jury trial on July 1.

Visit Swarthmore9.com for more information.

Minneapolis rallies against indictments of anti-ICE protesters

By **Esper Garcia and Mira Altobell-Resendez**

The following article appeared online June 18 at fightbacknews.org.

Minneapolis — On the morning of June 15, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) announced charges against 15 anti-ICE protesters for “conspiracy to impede or injure a federal officer” and other bogus charges. That same morning, 12 out of the 15 protesters had their homes raided and were arrested in relation to the federal indictment.

After the arrests, the DOJ held a press conference where U.S. Attorney Daniel Rosen claimed that the accused had assaulted a federal officer and destroyed government property, among other charges. When asked, Rosen did not respond to any questions regarding the injuries or the number of agents injured by the indicted or about the investigations of the federal agents who killed Renee Good and Alex Pretti.

In response to the outrageous charges, the Minnesota chapter of the National Lawyers Guild (NLG) announced an anti-repression press conference at the same time as the DOJ conference. As part of the press conference, attorney Nekima Levy-Armstrong and other community organizers spoke in solidarity with those arrested.

Minnesota Immigrant Rights Action Committee (MIRAC) member Montana Hirsch stated that MIRAC “stands in unwavering solidarity with all anti-ICE protesters,” further stating that “protesting is not a crime,



PHOTO: FIGHT BACK! NEWS

Twin Cities rally against the federal indictment and arrest of anti-ICE protesters.

and protesting ICE is the right thing to do.”

After the press conference, NLG put out another call for the community to show up at 1:30 p.m. to the Federal Building in Saint Paul to pack the court for the first hearing of the arrestees. Dozens showed up to demand the release of the arrestees.

When the courtroom filled to capacity, the officials refused to offer an overflow room for additional viewing, and the U.S. Marshals deployed chemical irritants on the crowd for trying to enter the building in support of the wrongfully indicted. This did not deter the community from remaining steadfast in their solidarity.

The People’s Action Coalition Against Trump (PACAT)

and MIRAC held a rally outside the courthouse at 5 p.m. and remained until the arrestees were released. One hundred people remained on the plaza of the federal courthouse six hours after the start of the previous action and after the brutality by the U.S. Marshals.

Drew Harmon of the Minnesota chapter of 50501 told the crowd: “They want us to back down. This is to instill fear in us, so we have to do the opposite. Since Metro Surge officially ended, we’ve been seeing a drop-off in rapid response, in mutual aid, in food delivery. People, now is the time to get back involved!”

Jess Sundin from the Freedom Road Socialist Organization (FRSO) spoke at the rally: “The 15 people who were indicted this morning are us. They are rapid responders. They are protesters. They are organizers —

They are you, and they are me.” She also went on to say: “They stood with us. Minnesota said no to ICE, no to the targeting of our immigrant neighbors.”

Other speakers included representatives from About Face: Veterans Against the War, Twin Cities Coalition for Justice, Minnesota Anti-War Committee, Sunrise Movement Twin Cities and Democratic Socialists of America.

Community members chanted until all 12 people who were able to be released the same day were allowed to leave, but with stipulations restricting their further participation in protests and communication with organizers. □

Remembering Minnie Bruce Pratt

By **Monica Moorehead**

This article was originally posted on July 20, 2023. For more remembrances of Minnie Bruce Pratt go to workers.org/?p=72439.

Minnie Bruce Pratt was already a renowned lesbian poet, author and anti-racist activist even before she joined Workers World Party over 20 years ago. She became a managing editor of Workers World/Mundo Obrero newspaper following the death of her longtime partner and spouse, Leslie Feinberg, in 2014.

Minnie Bruce and I became political kindred spirits, working together as managing editors and on the education

committee. We were both born in segregated Alabama — she in Selma and me in Tuscaloosa, she being white and me being African American. Although our experiences growing up were different as night and day, our hatred of white supremacy and our joining the Party as a vehicle to fight it brought us even closer.

In 2016, when I was the WWP presidential candidate, Minnie Bruce organized a dynamic meeting of young people in the town where she was living, Syracuse, New York, for me to speak on our program of revolutionary struggle. The next day as we drove to Rochester for another meeting, we talked about taking a trip together to Seneca Falls, New York, where the feminist movement arose in the 1800s and

also to the Adirondacks to visit the gravesite of abolitionist John Brown.

Since Minnie Bruce died on July 2, [2023], I feel painful regret that we never took that trip together to deepen our camaraderie. I am grateful that Martha Grevatt and I were able to visit her in hospice care on June 23.

I will miss everything Southern about her — her voice, her warmth, her personal and political sensitivity and most of all, her lifetime commitment to the abolishment of the most horrific scourge known

to humankind — capitalism. Minnie Bruce Pratt, your legacy will live on now and for future generations of revolutionaries until a better world is truly in birth.

Go to minniebrucepratt.net. □



Minnie Bruce Pratt and Leslie Feinberg.

PHOTO: GENDER OUTLAWS

For 250 years U.S. racism has never ended

WW STATEMENT

By Benny Schaft

“I see America through the eyes of the victim. I don’t see any American dream, I see an American nightmare.”

These words spoken by comrade Malcolm X 63 years ago sum up the entire history of what is now known as the United States. From the moment the first colonizers arrived, this country has committed multiple crimes against humanity. Throughout the history of this decadent country, the U.S. capitalist class has unleashed a monopoly of violence and exploitation upon the people, and that legacy has never stopped.

But for the Black proletariat, who have been subjected to centuries of state sanctioned brutality at the hands of the ruling class, the weight of that history is felt more deeply than most. In the words of Frederick Douglass: “This Fourth of July is yours, not mine. You may rejoice;

years after the United States supposedly banned the importation of enslaved people, a ban the government knew was being violated and deliberately ignored. The clearest examples of this were the slave ships that continued to make their runs. The Clotilda is widely considered the last slave ship to deliver enslaved people to Mobile, Alabama, in 1860. Just two years before, the Wanderer and the Echo had attempted the same, though they were fortunately intercepted and failed.

Twelve U.S. presidents were slaveholders, with eight of them being enslavers during their terms.

U.S. racism did not end with enslavement

The continuation of the trade in enslaved Africans was only one part of the story. The U.S. government made it a mission to crush any rebellion mounted by enslaved people, from the colonial era to the end of the Civil War.



Depiction of Nat Turner and comrades planning rebellion.

I must mourn.” And mourning is far more than something Black people do only on the eve of this 250th anniversary. It is something carried across every anniversary, every year, every generation since the birth of the United States empire.

Is it really so bad for the Black community? Are we disenfranchised? The powers that be say this while they kidnap members in the Latine community and send them to the various concentration camps occupying this land. And still they say that this empire must be saved while they continue the genocide of Indigenous nations here and commit genocide abroad throughout the Global South — victimizing and tormenting people whose only crime is wanting the right to self-determination, to decide their own destiny, without the U.S. pressing a gun to the back of their heads in service of capitalism.

To understand what makes this 250th anniversary so objectionable, we must look back honestly at the history of the U.S. and understand, in particular, why Black people should greet this anniversary with nothing but contempt.

U.S. enslavement

To begin with, there would be no United States, and certainly no capitalist system, without the kidnapping and enslaving of people of African descent. Reactionaries often claim that it wasn’t enslaved labor that built the stolen wealth of the U.S. Not only do these historical revisionists downplay this, they also push the false claim that the United States was the first country to have abolished the slave trade, which is false.

From 1619 to 1860, kidnapped Africans were brought to the United States and sold into bondage, continuing for 52

years after the United States supposedly banned the importation of enslaved people, a ban the government knew was being violated and deliberately ignored. The clearest examples of this were the slave ships that continued to make their runs. The Clotilda is widely considered the last slave ship to deliver enslaved people to Mobile, Alabama, in 1860. Just two years before, the Wanderer and the Echo had attempted the same, though they were fortunately intercepted and failed.

There was the U.S.-backed coup against Prime Minister Patrice Lumumba in 1961, in which both the United States and Belgium overthrew the democratically elected government of the Congo for the simple reason that Lumumba dared to stand up to the Belgian colonizers and the U.S. imperialists and call for the self-determination of Congo and all of Africa. He would later be murdered on the collective orders of both governments.

In 1966, the United States played a significant role in the overthrow of President Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana. And in 1983, the U.S. government overthrew the government of Maurice Bishop in Grenada and was complicit in his murder.

The racist COINTELPRO program

At home, the ruling class pursued the same strategy through the FBI’s COINTELPRO (Counterintelligence Program) of the 1960s and 1970s, one of the most infamous examples of repression of Black revolutionary activity in U.S. history. The explicit aim of COINTELPRO was to destroy any revolutionary and mass organizing within the Black community, whether through coordinating with state officials to arrest and frame revolutionaries or through outright political assassination.

Among those killed were Black Panthers Bunchy Carter and John Huggins in Los Angeles, George Jackson in California’s San Quentin prison, Fred Hampton and Mark Clark in Chicago and Carl Hampton in Houston.

The state also responded to popular rebellions with overwhelming force, such as in the Watts Rebellion of 1965, the Detroit Rebellion of 1967 and the Newark Rebellion of 1967. In each case, the government responded by sending in the military against people who had been pushed to resist by the violence and deprivation that capitalism imposed on their communities. Even during the Civil Rights Movement, the National Guard was deployed against Black communities that attempted to defend themselves against white supremacist violence.

And all of these policies are still being carried out today by the ruling class, as both last year and this year have made painfully clear. Several Black people have been found lynched or killed at the hands of white supremacists in different parts of the U.S. Trey Reed was infamously found lynched on the campus of Delta State University in Cleveland, Mississippi. Tory Medley suffered the same fate, his body found hanging from a tree at a golf course in Brookfield, Wisconsin. Then the body of 58-year-old Earl D. Smith was found hanging from a tree in downtown Albany, New York. And most recently, in February of this year, Georgia State University student Kyle Bassinga, just 21 years old, was found hanging from a tree in a wooded area of Fair Oaks Park in Cobb County.

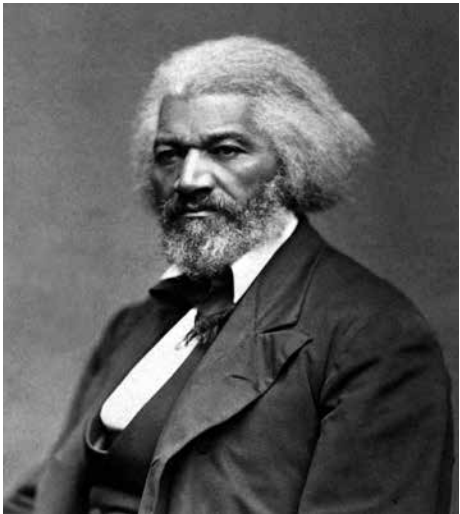
But the terror visited upon Black people does not come only in the form of the noose. On Feb. 16, in Savannah, Georgia, Dr. Linda Davis, a Black woman, was killed when a person being pursued by ICE agents struck her car during a chase. Her death was a direct consequence of the state’s occupation of Black and Brown communities, and it must be named for what it is: another life taken by the machinery of this system.

The killing of Black people in this country has never stopped, it has only been ignored.

Racist disenfranchisement, occupation

On top of these murders, the ruling class has also moved with open enthusiasm to strip away what little political power Black people hold in this country. In April of this year, the Supreme Court of the U.S. effectively gutted the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Tennessee responded by gerrymandering Memphis, dismantling the political power of Black people there.

Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana and other states have followed suit. In Alabama, Republican Gov. Kay Ivey called a special legislative session for the explicit purpose of redrawing the state’s U.S House map in a way the Supreme Court had previously found would dilute Black voting power, a brazen act of disenfranchisement.



Frederick Douglass

And making matters worse still is the open, unapologetic military occupation of Black communities across this country. Both ICE and the National Guard have been deployed into Memphis, New Orleans and other predominantly Black cities, under the banner of fighting crime. That is the justification the Trump administration has offered. But what it amounts to is occupation, plain and simple. The state has never stopped treating the Black community as enemy territory.

So this raises the question: What do we do to end the terror that the state continuously unleashes on the Black community? First, we must ensure that Black voices are heard and centered. We must recognize that the struggle for Black liberation is just as vital to ending capitalism as the liberation of the working class as a whole, because the Black proletariat is a major part of the working class.

The struggle for Black liberation cannot be reduced to a matter of class alone. We cannot fall into the trap of class reductionism, into the naive belief that

Continued on page 9



Dr. Linda Davis

The worth of a Black youth’s life in the empire

By Benny Schaft

On June 1, a jury in South Carolina found Chikiei Rick Chow not guilty of the murder of 14-year-old Cyrus Carmack Belton. Chow had accused Belton of stealing, chased him down for 130 yards and shot him in the back, killing him.

Both Chow and his defense team’s main claim is that Belton, while being chased by Chow and his son, turned and attempted to aim a gun at them. This claim was debunked by the prosecution through the evidence of the gun, which turned out to be a nonlethal airsoft gun that had fallen out of Cyrus’s pocket while he was being chased. It was also contradicted by Chow himself: in bodycam footage, Chow talked about everything except the claim that Cyrus Carmack Belton had pulled a gun on him or his son, Andy. (WISTv.com, Nov. 4, 2025)

With this evidence and more, Chow should have been found guilty. But here, in the belly of the beast, the “justice system” does nothing for the oppressed, it merely maintains the status quo. Even in the rare cases where the system “works” and a conviction is handed down, the sentences are often laughably light compared to the crime.

Take the case of Elijah McClain, who was assaulted by police and killed after paramedics administered an illegally high dose of ketamine in 2019 in Aurora, Colorado. When convicted, officer Randy Roedema received only a 14-month sentence, while the two other officers involved were acquitted.

Centuries-long tradition of enslavement, lynching

It has become a tradition under this reactionary system to murder and lynch the Black working class and Black youth specifically, a tradition with roots going back to enslavement, when violence against Black children was routine and open.

One example comes from the autobiography of Harriet Jacobs, a formerly enslaved woman turned abolitionist. Jacobs, born and enslaved for 29 years in North Carolina, recounted the story of a young boy named Luke, who was enslaved by a wealthy landowner. She described how the enslaver treated him: he kept a cowhide beside him, and for the most trivial occurrence, would order Luke to bare his back and kneel beside him while he whipped Luke until the master’s strength was exhausted.

Some days Luke wasn't allowed to wear anything but his shirt, so he'd always be ready to be flogged. The last time Jacobs saw Luke, he was chained to his enslaver’s bedside.

Luke’s treatment wasn't some rare act of cruelty. It was carried out openly and brazenly, as a matter of course.

Another example is François Trepagnier, a Louisiana enslaver notorious for his brutality. Trepagnier kept a young Black child named Gustav on a leash, often on the porch of his home, calling him his pet and throwing him scraps like an animal. Trepagnier kept this up until 1811, when he was killed during the German Coast Uprising by enslaved Black people who stormed his home and killed him while liberating their comrades.

This kind of state-sanctioned humiliation and violence against Black youth didn't end with slavery’s abolition. It continued, and continues, in the United States.

Lynchings and pogroms

The fascist movements of the Black Legion, the KKK and other reactionaries took their playbook from their European counterparts, who targeted both the working class and ethnic minorities. In Russia, the White Army carried out the White Terror against revolutionaries and pogroms against oppressed groups.

The KKK reemerged after World War One. In 1919 the U.S. experienced a wave of white supremacist violence in dozens of cities that became known as Red Summer. The ruling class understood that the next generation carries the revolutionary fire forward, and so this movement made a specific point of slaughtering the youth to choke that fire out before it could spread.

This is the lineage that gives us Jesse Washington, 16 years old, lynched in 1916 for allegedly killing a white woman. His murder was photographed and turned into postcards sold across the South. It gives us the East St. Louis Massacre of 1917, when fascists burned down the Black section of the city while police and National Guard troops stood by and in many cases joined in the lynching, killing Black youth and children alongside everyone else.

The next year, in 1918, sisters Alma and Maggie Howze and brothers Major and Andrew Clark were lynched on the false claim that they murdered a white physician. Both sisters were pregnant at the time of their deaths. The horrific history of lynching gives us Eugene Willams, whose killing sparked the Chicago race riot of 1919, and decades later Ernest Green and Charlie Lang, 14 and 15 years old, lynched in 1942 from that very same bridge the Howze sisters and Clark brothers were lynched from.

Two years later it gives us Geroge Stiney Jr, 14 years old, executed by the state of South Carolina after being railroaded on false charges of murdering two white girls. In that same year Willie James Howard, 15 years old, was lynched in Florida in front of his own father for writing a Christmas card to a white woman.

And most infamously, this tradition gives us Emmett Till, 14 years old, whose 1955 murder became the defining symbol of the ruling class’s policy toward Black youth: Do whatever it takes to stop the next generation. The rulers treated his killing like those before and after as either justified or a mere inconvenience.

These murders are not historical footnotes. They are the blueprint, and the ruling class has never stopped working from it, which is why the sabotage of Black liberation movements continues and why the genocide of Black people in this country continues. Cyrus Carmack Belton, chased down for 130 yards and shot in the back, is proof that this tradition is alive and well.

Imprisoned for being Black

It isn’t just murder. It’s also prison, being sentenced for the crime of being Black. Look at 19-year-old Karmelo Anthony, whose only crime was defending himself from



Cyrus Carmack Belton

an assault. In a state — Texas — that loves to romanticize self-defense, Anthony was demonized for it: An all-white jury took less than three hours to convict him and sentence him to 35 years imprisonment in the killing of a white high school athlete.

Now compare that to Kyle Rittenhouse, who killed two people taking part in an anti-racist protest and attempted to kill a third. Rittenhouse was turned into a media darling, with the ruling class and its allies inventing every excuse imaginable to justify what he did. Rittenhouse was acquitted.

This is the same double standard that has played out on a global scale. Examples from history include France’s brutal repression of the Algerian liberation movement and Britain’s brutality against Kenyan youth during the Mau Mau rebellion.

The capitalist class dehumanizes Black youth, because it understands, on some level, exactly what it’s afraid of — that the conditions facing the Black community, and Black youth especially, are precisely the conditions that produce revolutionary theory, revolutionary thought and, ultimately, revolutionary organizing among the oppressed.

The Chow Trial is over, and injustice was the verdict, as it always is under this system. So what do we do? We organize. We educate. And critically, we let Black comrades lead this struggle, especially the struggle to end capitalism, because Black comrades, along with other comrades of color and oppressed peoples, understand how this system functions and what has to be done to it: It has to be removed and replaced with a dictatorship of the proletariat.

But before any of that can happen, there has to be a real connection with the people. And that connection is built by struggling alongside the people, especially Black people, as it becomes increasingly clear that Black people, as well as Latine, Indigenous, LGBTQIA2S+, women and gender-oppressed people and other oppressed peoples are the primary targets of ruling-class terror. Only by building that connection, by helping carry this struggle forward together, can we win, not just workers’ liberation, but Black liberation too.

And right now, that’s not just one front among many for the socialist movement. It’s the front that determines whether the movement survives at all. □

U.S. racism has never ended

Continued from page 8

abolishing capitalism will automatically resolve the contradictions of white supremacy, misogyny, ableism and other forms of chauvinism that have become the bones of this society. Those confrontations will not disappear on their own.

We must also be clear-eyed about the dangerous tendency that exists within certain sections of the working class, among people who call themselves revolutionary yet still operate from the premise that Black liberation is somehow a distraction, or those who, consciously or not, still believe that Black people should step back and allow white people to lead. This tendency is not just wrong. It is dangerous. It is exactly the kind of division the ruling class depends on to keep the working class

fragmented and unable to fight back.

The 250 years of terror directed at Black people is not only a crime against the Black community, it is a wound inflicted on the entire multinational, multigendered and multigenerational proletariat.

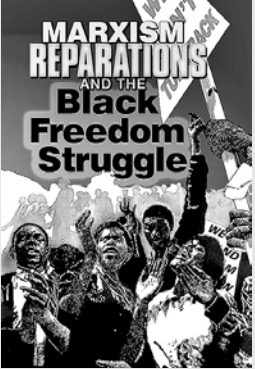
That is why we must constantly build solidarity, through revolutionary education, through recognizing and supporting whatever direction Black people choose in pursuit of their own liberation. It is not our place to prescribe that direction. It is our place to stand alongside it. Only by doing all of these things together can we ensure that we do not find ourselves, 50 or 100 years from now, marking 300 or 350 years of the same terror, the same occupation, the same nightmare that Malcolm X named all those decades ago and that has never truly ended. □

Marxism, Reparations & the Black Freedom Struggle

An anthology of writings from Workers World newspaper
Edited by Monica Moorehead

Racism, National Oppression & Self-Determination Larry Holmes • **Black Labor from Chattel Slavery to Wage Slavery** Sam Marcy • **Black Youth: Repression & Resistance** Leilani Dowell • **The Struggle for Socialism Is Key** Monica Moorehead • **Black Reconstruction: The unfinished revolution** Minnie Bruce Pratt • **Black & Brown Unity: A Pillar of Struggle for Human Rights & Global Justice!** Saladin Muhammad • **Harriet Tubman, Woman Warrior** Mumia Abu-Jamal • **The U.S. role in Darfur Sudan** Sara Flounders • **Haiti Needs Reparations, Not Sanctions** Pat Chin • **Alabama’s Black Belt: Legacy of Slavery, Sharecropping & Segregation** Consuela Lee • **Africa needs reparations, not occupation and sanctions** Deirdre Griswold • **The May Day uprising of 2006** Larry Holmes

Available at workers.org/books and major booksellers.



COVER GRAPHIC: SAHU BARRON

MOU talks in Switzerland: No peace yet

June 21 — After the Memorandum of Understanding between the Iranian government and U.S. imperialism, talks have finally begun today in the resort town of Bürgenstock, Switzerland. An MOU is far from a peace treaty, and the two main aggressors in this war, the U.S. and Israel, remain treacherous warmongers, so those who oppose imperialist war must stay alert for provocations.

Just as war has been described as “a continuation of diplomacy by other means” by early 19th-century Prussian military theorist Carl von Clausewitz, so is imperialist diplomacy war by other means. Workers World does not direct this warning to the Iranian negotiators — they understand their enemy as well as anyone does.

No, we speak to war opponents in the U.S. and to movements in the Global North and to all those who consider themselves Leninists, whose task is to obstruct future war moves by the U.S. imperialists and their Israeli cronies. We consider the imperialist diplomats treacherous, including toward the workers they rule over in their own countries.

The results of the battle that the current administration in Washington and its pit-bull collaborator in Tel Aviv started Feb. 28 have been almost universally called a defeat for the imperialist side. Though the judgment of the war was similar, there were two completely different motivations for various analysts of this setback

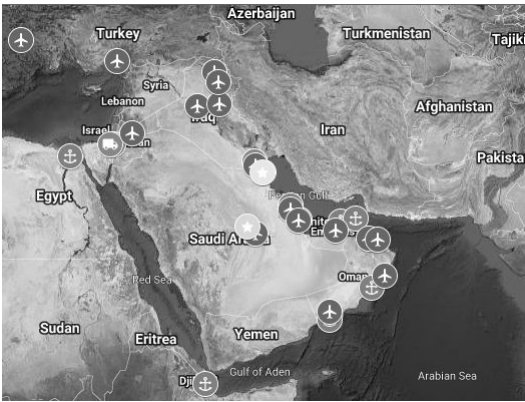
to world imperialism. Revolutionaries worldwide were elated by the Iranian people’s ability to withstand great physical and human losses and the Iranian government’s skillful use of asymmetric warfare. This included using inexpensive drones against super-expensive U.S. weapons systems and disrupting the world economy by controlling the Strait of Hormuz.

The revolutionary conclusion is that the U.S. superpower has been forced to retreat from its bold call for “regime change” and “destroying Iranian civilization.” On the contrary, the Pentagon’s network of U.S. bases in West Asia is in shambles. The war has shown that the U.S. can no longer simply threaten violence to control the 8.3 billion people of the world and manage the world economy.

U.S. relations with its feudal clients in the region, especially the monarchies in the Gulf, have been weakened. Relations with former European allies are shaky.

This loss of U.S. hegemony the revolutionaries consider an extremely positive first step for humanity. Workers World agrees. It is also a blow to the superreactionary, xenophobic and racist MAGA regime.

Another telling consequence of the setback was the MAGA administration’s sharp public criticism of the Israeli regime, the first such public U.S. break with its junior partner since the



Nearly all pre-Feb. 28, 2026, U.S. bases in West Asia were hit by Iranian drones or missiles following U.S.-Israeli aggression against Iran.

October-November 1956 French-British-Israeli seizure of the Suez Canal and other Egyptian territory.

Pro-imperialist analysts had a similar conclusion to that of the revolutionaries but from different motives. U.S. corporate media (New York Times, Wall Street Journal) and imperialist think tanks fed up with what they consider the incompetence of the MAGA administration describe the U.S. decision to accept the MOU with Iran as a defeat for U.S. interests. Even some Senate warmongers from both parties have attacked #47—for losing.

These forces, however, support U.S. hostility to Iran. They too want to crush the Palestinian resistance factions and Hezbollah. They evaluate the Feb. 28

attack, however, as a blunder that — at enormous cost to the U.S. treasury — has left Iran in a stronger position than before the attack.

Anti-imperialists in the U.S. need to remain wary of those who oppose the result of the U.S.-Israeli attack but still promote fully arming the Pentagon. Republican or Democrat, they are still enemies of humanity if they still vote for new weapons systems for the Pentagon and still support arming Israel (to carry out genocide). It is no virtue that they consider the MAGA regime to be sycophants of the president and incompetent and utterly corrupt

defenders of U.S. imperialist interests who have accelerated the decline of the U.S. empire.

Voting on the new government bill for replacement funds for the Pentagon (funds spent for the aggression on Iran) will expose those in both parties who support imperialist war.

Despite all the challenges and threats faced by the Iranians, they have had the organization and the courage to confront the most destructive reactionary powers in the world and to thwart their aggression. Those of us who dream of a human society freed from imperialist plunder and capitalist exploitation, those of us who want a socialist future, owe the Iranians our solidarity. □

More than a billionaire — a trillionaire!

The saying “the rich get richer and the poor get poorer” is not just a cliché. It’s the truth.

Take the case of the rotten, fascist, white supremacist known as Elon Musk. Before the Initial Public Offering of SpaceX stock he was “just” a multibillionaire. The sale of stock at \$135 per share gave Musk’s 42% of SpaceX shares a valuation of \$648 billion. Combined with the rest of his ill-gotten wealth, he is officially the world’s first trillionaire.

This is not to say that he has \$1 trillion in the bank, only that his combined holdings are currently valued at over \$1 trillion. Musk’s “worth” — if you can call it that — surged even higher as the price of SpaceX stock, currently at \$185 per share, increased. At one point it reached the peak price of \$225 per share.

While Musk has more money than he could possibly count, the 2024 U.S. Census Bureau data showed almost 36 million people — 10.6% of the population — lived below the poverty rate of \$31,812 for a family of four. The percentage is even



Protest against Elon Musk outside a Michigan Tesla dealership, Feb. 15, 2025.

higher for people of color — 15% for Latine, 18.4% for African American and 19.3% for Indigenous people. These numbers include 14.3 million children under the age of 18. (americanprogress.org)

As head of the notorious Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), Musk eliminated some 300,000 federal jobs — disproportionately those of women of color — before DOGE was terminated in May 2025.

Musk’s fabulous fortune puts the spotlight on the glaring inequality in capitalist

society. It makes the very existence of a trillionaire an outrage — it’s outright criminal!

Of course, inequality is nothing new under capitalism. Writing in the 19th century, Karl Marx recognized the “intimate connection between the pangs of hunger of the most industrious layers of the working class, and the extravagant consumption, coarse or refined, of the rich.” (Capital, Vol. 1)

A bubble waiting to burst

As disgusting as this case of “rich getting richer” is, Musk’s trillionaire status may be ephemeral. If the stock value falls enough, he loses this trillionaire status — which only Musk would regret.

The value of SpaceX could continue to drop, with investors reacting negatively to its acquisition of artificial intelligence (AI) coding agent Cursor. According to Morningstar, an investor research firm, SpaceX is substantially overvalued and has an estimated “fair value” of \$62 per share. (Mashable.com, June 19)

While Musk has stated that he would

be “surprised if revenue were not greater than \$1 trillion in 2031,” the world’s richest person has a history of overpromising. (Barchart.com, June 21)

Stock prices reflect anticipated profits — in Marxist terms, anticipated surplus value, which is the portion of the wealth created by wage laborers that the capitalists keep for themselves. When the anticipated profits are lower than expected, investors lose.

Marx explained long ago that wealth based on speculation — or gambling on the stock market — was “fictitious capital.” He explained that “it is only the capital actually invested in the working process which produces any surplus value.” (Capital, Vol 2) The inflated incomes of the billionaire — and now trillionaire — class can fall just as quickly as they rise.

Workers World agrees with Marx: The only real solution to the gross inequality under capitalism is a socialist revolution, throwing Musk and his fellow superrich into the trash bin of history. □

Report on International May Day Brigade to Cuba

By Lyn Neeley
Portland, Oregon

Leo Palacio and Cody Forrester gave an inspiring, educational report-back at a meeting in Portland on June 20 about their trip to Cuba with the 19th International May Day Brigade 2026. This year the brigade took three times the amount of material aid than in years past, including an expensive imaging machine that tests for ovarian cancer. When Forrester delivered the equipment to the Cuban doctor, she immediately called a patient in for a diagnosis.

Among the places visited by the Brigade were the Latin American School of

Medicine (ELAM), an international public medical school, and the Solidarity with Panama school for children with special needs. Brigadistas also toured the Hana Gaddafi kindergarten school, named after former Libyan Prime Minister Muammar Gaddafi’s infant daughter, who was killed by U.S. bombs.

The Cuban Communist Party said that 80% of Cuban youth support the Cuban Revolution.

This year the Brigade was joined by a charter plane carrying material aid collected by

the National Network on Cuba (NNOC), consisting mostly of medicines and

medical supplies for Cuba’s public health system. In a statement, NNOC said: “Each year, the May Day Brigade brings hundreds of thousands of dollars in material aid, but this year is different. As the U.S. intensifies its belligerence to crush the Cuban Revolution, we also intensify our defense of Cuba.” (misiones.cubaminrex.cu, April 27)

To read about the latest developments in Cuba, go to tinyurl.com/y72k8mth □



Leo Palacio (left) and Cody Forrester reporting on their trip to Cuba at a meeting in Portland, Oregon, June 20, 2026.

Klan terror in 1964 and the attack on voting rights in 2026

By Dave Welsh

In early 1964 I was working as a city reporter for a mass-circulation daily paper, the Detroit News. In June of that year I decided to quit my job and drive to Mississippi to cover Freedom Summer, a voter registration project of the Civil Rights Movement, as a freelance reporter. At that time, only about 7% of eligible Black voters in Mississippi were registered to vote.

I'd barely arrived in Mississippi when I learned that three young Civil Rights workers — James Chaney, a Black Mississippian, and Andrew Goodman and Mickey Schwerner, white volunteers from New York — had disappeared on June 21, after being released from jail. This was the first day of Freedom Summer.

Their burned-out car was found in a swamp in Neshoba County, Mississippi, two days after their disappearance. Their bullet-pierced bodies were not found until Aug. 4 that year, concealed in an earthen dam.

On June 23, Buford Posey, a white liberal member of the NAACP and prominent resident of Neshoba County, fled the state for Tennessee, under threat by the Ku Klux Klan. He said at the time that “I got out within an inch of my life.”

I interviewed Posey on June 23, 1964, near Knoxville, Tennessee, and made a quarter-inch tape of the interview. I called in the story to the Civil Rights Information Service in Chicago so that they could distribute the Posey interview to a network of Black radio stations.

Recently, in April 2026, I went looking through boxes of materials about 1964 Freedom Summer and discovered tapes I had made for the Civil Rights Information Service, including the Posey tape. I had it digitalized and listened to the following exchange, transcribed here:

Q (David Welsh): Mr. Posey, you believe the three missing Civil Rights Workers are dead? Why do you think so?

Posey: Because the Ku Klux Klansmen in Neshoba County are boasting they killed them. The killers are seen as heroes [by many in the white community] for doing it.

Q: Mr. Posey, is the Klan strong in Neshoba County?

Posey: I'd say the majority of the white men in the county belong to the Klan. If you don't belong, you're in trouble.

Q: [On Tuesday, June 16, 1964, Klansmen had burned the Mount Zion church in nearby Longdale and brutalized the Black parishioners] Mr. Posey, could you describe the men who did this?

Posey: There were about 30 people, 20 hooded, 10 not. Sheriff Lawrence Rainey was there.

Q: Was Sheriff Rainey wearing a hood?

Posey: He didn't need a hood; he was wearing a badge.

Posey went on to name the individuals who were present at the lynching of Chaney, Goodman and Schwerner on June 21, 1964 — including Deputy Sheriff Cecil Ray Price, who eventually served four years in prison for his participation in the murders. I gave the names of these suspects to comedian and political investigator Dick Gregory. He passed the names of the lynch party on to the FBI, who “showed no interest” per Gregory.

In October 1967 the federal government stepped in. They charged 18 men with a role in the killing and convicted seven. Years later, a local Klan leader, Edgar Ray Killen (also named by Posey), was sentenced to 60 years for his key role in the lynching. Killen died in prison.

In 1964, most people across the country watched the TV news at night and the lynching of these three young men was a big news story. This contributed to the passage of the Voting Rights Act by Congress in 1965, following intense pressure from President Lyndon Johnson and Black leaders as well as a lot of public outrage.

The Voting Rights Act

Now, in May of 2026, the Supreme Court has overruled and gutted section two of the Voting Rights Act, claiming this law is “no longer necessary” to protect Black voters. In effect, they have legitimized gerrymandering, which can divide up the Black areas of a state and reduce Black representation. This can make it harder for many Black voters to elect a candidate they support.

In Louisiana, for example, one third of the population



PHOTO: SUSAN SHERELL

Three young supporters of Freedom Summer lynched in Philadelphia, Mississippi, in June 1964.

is Black. Yet the state has never had a Black senator or governor since the Reconstruction era, which followed the victory of Union forces in the U.S. Civil War. No Congressional district other than a majority-Black district has had a Black representative.

After the recent Supreme Court ruling, Louisiana Governor Jeff Landry interrupted the state's congressional primary election. Other Republican-dominated states have rushed to pass gerrymanders that may shut many Democrats out of power. In the southern states applying this now, it divides up the Black areas of the state and reduces Black representation.

I returned to Mississippi in 2024, 60 years after Freedom Summer. I asked about the changes that have taken place since 1964. For example, the state now had Black police officers and better schools, and Black people did not risk death when registering to vote. “Yet,” several Black people told me, “the people we want never seem to get elected.”

Georgia Senate Minority Leader Harold Jones II said about the recent Supreme Court ruling: “The biggest bloc of middle and working-class voters are Black people. When Republicans strip Black people's power away ... it strips political power from every single middle- and working-class person and hands it to billionaires and large corporations.” □

How the ‘Imperial Six’ support imperialism and vice versa

Part 3: Microsoft

By Zev Rosen

This is part 3 of a six-part series on the “Imperial Six,” companies deeply involved in supporting the Zionist apartheid state of Israel. Read the first two parts at workers.org/?p=92651 and workers.org/?p=92850.

In March 2026, Iran announced that six specific U.S. corporations are fair game in its ongoing war against U.S. imperialism: Google, IBM, Microsoft, NVIDIA, Palantir and Oracle. At Workers World, we've been publishing deep dives into these “Imperial Six” companies, in solidarity with freedom fighters in Iran and around the world. In this third installment, we're focusing on a company that has had its hands in every inch of U.S.-based technological imperialism for decades: Microsoft.

Microsoft is among the companies most deeply connected with the ongoing Zionist genocide in Gaza and elsewhere in Palestine. The corporation has signed lucrative deals with the Israel Occupation Forces (IOF) for hardware, including phones, laptops and surveillance glasses; software including artificial intelligence and cloud storage for data on Palestinians; and other support in the form of courses for high schoolers through active-duty soldiers. It has also made millions of dollars from selling technology to Israeli police, U.S. border patrol and prisons.

Microsoft is also a crucial part of the technology ecosystem within the Zionist entity, lending credibility to Zionist tech-washing public relations. Just since 2014, Microsoft has purchased 10 tech startups founded by IOF veterans.

In an entity obsessed with surveillance of Indigenous Palestinians, it's not surprising that many of the startups purchased by Microsoft specialize in cybersecurity, including Hexadite for \$100 million, Cyberx for \$180

million and Adallom for \$320 million. And it has cracked down on its own employees making their voices heard — in 2025, it fired two employees active with No Azure for Apartheid, a pro-Palestinian group within Microsoft, for their activism.

Role of the Gates Foundation

But Microsoft's role in upholding U.S. imperialism goes deeper than its role in Zionist genocide. Bill Gates, the founder of Microsoft, has used his billions of dollars from Microsoft profits to create one of the world's most powerful NGOs: the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (now the Gates Foundation). Around the world, from health to education to agriculture, the Gates Foundation has functioned as a crucial entity pushing a neoliberal capitalist agenda of private property over humanity.

During the early COVID-19 pandemic, targets of neo-colonialism in the Global South called for a People's Vaccine free from pharmaceutical industry patents. But the Gates Foundation, whose budget is larger than that of the World Health Organization, said no.

Instead, it followed the same strategy it had used when weaponizing earlier outbreaks of Ebola and HIV — aiding poor countries to help them buy drugs, while stridently defending the “rights” of monopolistic drug corporations. Public outcry forced the foundation to reverse course, while still insisting that it only supported temporarily waiving property rights and did not support the notion of healthcare as a universal human right.

A similar dynamic holds true in the Gates Foundation's agricultural work. It praises the “Green Revolution” in India and is the major funder of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa. It's not hard to see why — the Green Revolution model is essentially a turbocharged emphasis on capitalist land relations and particularly on synthetic fertilizers and pesticides.



Pro-Palestinian demonstrators protest outside the Microsoft Build conference at the Seattle Convention Center, May 19, 2025

This emphasis results in greater dependency on U.S. and other international agribusinesses, pushing developing countries further into peonage. It's no surprise, then, that the Gates Foundation has given its “Goalkeepers” award to Narendra Modi, the conservative prime minister of India who happily accepts a status as U.S. proxy.

Finally, the Gates Foundation — paid for by Microsoft profits — also champions colonial relations inside the U.S. It's a vocal supporter of charter schools, which typically use corporate money to impose draconian discipline on poor, Black, student communities, bypassing teachers' unions and community activists in the process.

Microsoft money thus helps close the door on any possibility of education as a path towards justice, preferring instead to train colonized students to become conditioned to alienation.

This is the face of Microsoft — upholding genocide in Palestine, “green” colonialism around the world and white supremacy at home.

Solidarity with all oppressed peoples, and down with Microsoft! □



El «Juneteenth» y 250 años de hipocresía

Por Monica Moorehead

Casi dos semanas antes de la celebración del 250.º aniversario de la «fundación» de los EE. UU., el 19 de junio se celebrará el «Juneteenth», un día festivo federal. La conversión del «Juneteenth» en festividad federal en 2021 supuso un reconocimiento largamente esperado de que, el 19 de junio de 1865, las personas negras esclavizadas fueron liberadas en Galveston, Texas —dos años y medio después de la promulgación de la Proclamación de Emancipación del presidente Abraham Lincoln.

Este día histórico no impidió que personas negras fueran secuestradas desde Texas y trasladadas a países como Cuba o Brasil, donde la esclavitud aún existía hasta finales de la década de 1880, ni que fueran asesinadas por los esclavistas de Texas.

Las comunidades negras consideran el Juneteenth como el «segundo día de la independencia», tras la «independencia» de Estados Unidos respecto a Gran Bretaña en 1776. Incluso antes de que el Juneteenth —también conocido como «Día de la Libertad»— se convirtiera en fiesta oficial, la población negra celebraba este aniversario en todo el país con marchas y concentraciones, junto con una gran variedad de actos sociales y culturales.

Avancemos 161 años y el verdadero significado del 19 de junio —la lucha continua por la plena igualdad social de la población negra— sigue siendo objeto de ataques por parte de un presidente de EE. UU. abiertamente supremacista blanco. Una vez que el

n.º 47 asumió el cargo por segunda vez, no tardó en despedir a cientos de miles de trabajadores federales, entre los que había un número desproporcionadamente elevado de mujeres negras. Muchas de estas mismas trabajadoras se encontraban entre aquellas a las que se les suspendieron temporalmente las prestaciones del Programa de Asistencia Nutricional Suplementaria (SNAP).

El n.º 47 promulgó un decreto ejecutivo para dismantelar los programas de DEI (Diversidad, Equidad e Inclusión) —que reconocían, entre otros, el día festivo de Martin Luther King Jr., el Mes de la Historia Negra, el «Juneteenth» y el Mes de la Historia de la Mujer— para los trabajadores federales, muchos de ellos afroamericanos y/o víctimas de opresión de género.

Asimismo, promulgó un decreto ejecutivo para retirar todos los monumentos y vestigios de los parques financiados con fondos federales y otras instituciones que reconocieran, aunque fuera de forma modesta, los horrores de la esclavitud de la población negra. En otras palabras, su administración pretende blanquear y enterrar la lucha de la población negra contra la supremacía blanca, tanto en el pasado como en el presente, en un intento por aplastar cualquier forma de resistencia actual y futura.

La lucha por la igualdad social continúa

El «Juneteenth» seguirá siendo un recordatorio simbólico constante de que las personas negras, como nación oprimida, independientemente de su ubicación, se enfrentan al racismo blanco sistémico en

todas sus formas. Hay demasiados ejemplos para enumerarlos todos, pero es importante destacar algunos ataques adicionales contra los trabajadores negros.

La sentencia reaccionaria del Tribunal Supremo de EE. UU. del 29 de abril, conocida como «6-3», limita gravemente la consideración de la raza a la hora de trazar los mapas electorales, un componente importante de la Ley de Derechos Electorales de 1965. Este ataque legal declaró «inconstitucional» cualquier redistribución de estos mapas que favorezca las victorias electorales de candidatos negros, latinos, musulmanes o indígenas para lograr una mayor representación política de las comunidades marginadas en las elecciones locales y estatales.

Existe la ocupación policial en curso de las comunidades negras, que da lugar a la discriminación racial, palizas, detenciones injustificadas y asesinatos de niños, como el de Tamir Rice, de 12 años, en 2014. En Senatobia, Misisipi, el 14 de junio, Kohen Kartier Wiley, de un año de edad, recibió un disparo mortal dentro de un coche por parte de un agente de policía blanco mientras la madre de Kohen salía en su vehículo del aparcamiento de un

Walmart. La dirección de la tienda acusó a la madre de Kohen de «robar» pañales que ya había pagado. El agente fue suspendido de sus funciones y no se ha presentado ningún cargo contra él por este acto de terrorismo interno. A pesar de la represión policial, la comunidad negra está organizando protestas para exigir justicia para Kohen.

Los asesinatos a manos de justicieros se cobran vidas, como las de Cyrus Carmack-Belton, de 14 años, en 2023; Trayvon Martin, de 17 años, en 2012; y Latasha Harlins, de 15 años, en 1991. Sus asesinatos quedaron en libertad gracias a jurados prejuiciosos, lo que constituye otro recordatorio de cómo se deshumaniza la vida de las personas negras bajo la supremacía blanca.

Si aún no lo ha adivinado, no hay nada que celebrar para las personas negras —junto con otras personas de color, incluidos los migrantes y la clase

trabajadora en general— en el 250.º aniversario durante el fin de semana del 4 de julio. Sin duda, será un repugnante espectáculo de pomposidad chovinista, militarista y patriótica, en un intento desesperado por poner buena cara para ocultar la fealdad de un imperio estadounidense en decadencia. □



«Los niños negros merecen llegar a la vejez». A Latasha Harlins, Tamir Rice y Cyrus Carmack-Belton les arrebataron la vida de forma violenta.

MUNDO OBRERO editorial

¡Cierren Delaney Hall y todos los centros de detención de ICE!

1 de junio — Una huelga de hambre de entre 300 y 400 inmigrantes detenidos en el Centro de Inmigración y Aduanas Delaney Hall de Newark, Nueva Jersey, gestionado por GEO Group, que comenzó el 22 de mayo, ha desencadenado manifestaciones diarias frente a las instalaciones, en las que los manifestantes han sido brutalmente agredidos por matones del Servicio de Inmigración y Control de Aduanas (ICE).

Mundo Obrero apoya la protesta contra la mala ventilación, la comida incomedible, la falta de atención médica y la explotación laboral de los inmigrantes detenidos, y exige el cierre inmediato de Delaney Hall y de los más de 225 centros activos del ICE en todo Estados Unidos.

Los contratos con el ICE le están costando actualmente al Gobierno alrededor de 165 dólares por persona detenida al día. GEO Group tiene actualmente contratos para gestionar centros con capacidad para más de 26.000 detenidos. En el primer trimestre de 2026, los beneficios de GEO ascendieron a 705,2 millones de dólares, lo que supone un aumento del 17 % con respecto al año pasado.

En Delaney Hall, los ejecutivos de GEO Group maximizaron los beneficios contratando al menor número posible de trabajadores externos. GEO obligó a los migrantes detenidos a realizar tareas esenciales, como la limpieza y la preparación de alimentos. GEO les pagaba tan solo 1 dólar por hora, si es que les pagaba algo.

El Departamento de Seguridad Nacional (DHS), que supervisa al ICE, alega que



Manifestación para cerrar a Delaney Hall, Newark, Nueva Jersey, 31 de mayo de 2026.

GEO Group puede pagar tan poco a los inmigrantes debido al Programa de Trabajo Voluntario del Gobierno federal y a una excepción de la 13.ª Enmienda de la Constitución que abolió la esclavitud: «salvo como castigo por un delito por el que la parte haya sido debidamente condenada». Se trata de un pretexto falso, ya que la gran mayoría de los detenidos por el ICE no tienen antecedentes penales y no han sido condenados por ningún delito.

Markwayne Mullin, secretario del DHS, en una publicación en X, mintió al afirmar: «No hay ninguna huelga de hambre en Delaney Hall. No hay condiciones precarias».

Numerosas protestas en las prisiones de ICE

La huelga de Delaney Hall es solo una de las varias acciones colectivas emprendidas por los inmigrantes detenidos en los últimos meses para protestar contra las

condiciones inhumanas y tortuosas de las prisiones de ICE. Estas condiciones han provocado 56 muertes bajo custodia, incluidos 10 presuntos suicidios. A principios de mayo, los presos inmigrantes del condado de Tarrant, en Nuevo México, y del centro del ICE del Noroeste en Tacoma, Washington, anunciaron la formación de La Unión de Secuestrados por el ICE (laresistencianw.org).

Según una carta de los detenidos en Delaney Hall, hecha pública por prospect.org el 20 de mayo, «el personal de GEO Group sirve comida en mal estado que contiene gusanos y no repara los baños, que se encuentran en condiciones terribles e inhumanas». La carta afirma que el personal ignora graves problemas de salud, sin tratar a las personas con gripe persistente, conjuntivitis, infecciones del tracto urinario, fiebre y tos.

Amy Torres, directora ejecutiva de la Alianza de Nueva Jersey por la Justicia para

los Inmigrantes, declaró: «Las condiciones eran tan malas que algunas personas perdieron sus embarazos. Eran tan malas que provocaron una plaga de piojos y que una cepa de gripe que ha estado circulando no recibiera tratamiento. Eso es lo que lleva a la gente a la huelga».

Delaney Hall también se encuentra en una zona industrial de Newark, rodeada de fábricas. The Guardian informa: «El aire junto a las instalaciones es pútrido, huele a aguas residuales y productos químicos» (27 de mayo).

Los medios de comunicación prestaron poca atención a la huelga de hambre de los detenidos. Fue necesario que la policía de ICE rociara con gas pimienta a varios políticos, entre ellos el senador de Nueva Jersey Andy Kim, para que el caso recibiera algo de publicidad. Sin embargo, pocos comentaristas corporativos señalaron que los políticos electos, como la gobernadora de Nueva Jersey, Mikie Sherrill, y Kim, tienen derecho a visitar estas instalaciones, financiadas con el dinero de los contribuyentes, sin ningún tipo de interferencia.

Mundo Obrero exige libre acceso a estas instalaciones. Exigimos la puesta en libertad, sin cargos, de todos los manifestantes detenidos fuera de las instalaciones durante la última semana.

Exigimos además una investigación exhaustiva de los beneficios obtenidos por GEO Group, Core Civic y otras empresas durante el último año gracias a la superexplotación de los inmigrantes detenidos.

¡Cierren Delaney Hall! ¡Cierren el ICE! □