



Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite!

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Cleveland activists say 'Flock No!'

By Martha Grevatt
Cleveland

FlockNo! protested Flock cameras put up by the Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) by holding a "Back-to-School Birding Expedition" on Aug. 30. The group, organized to oppose automatic license plate readers (ALPRs) used by the city of Cleveland and the CMSD, held gatherings on the city's West Side and East Side. Both actions — where activists donned birding gear, including binoculars, to spot the unpopular surveillance cameras — were held outside two schools among the 30 that CMSD has closed within the past two years.

FlockNo! has explained the many arguments against the contracts Cleveland and CMSD signed with Flock to provide ALPRs. Reasons to cancel the contracts include that the cameras "violate our right to privacy" and "put undocumented people and other vulnerable communities at risk." (flocknocle.com) Local police departments have been exposed for sharing ALPR-generated data with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

The group also charges that Flock

devices "are expensive and don't make us safer," pointing out that, "Vendors like Flock say they're focused on ending crime, but no independent research exists to support their claims." CMSD is spending \$603,000 per year on its contract with Flock, which includes posting cameras outside closed schools that no students currently attend. That money could be used to rehire hundreds of recently laid-off teachers and reopen schools, such as Newton D. Baker School of the Arts or Collinwood High School, where the Aug. 30 protests took place.

Cleveland has over 300 ALPRs inside city limits. In addition to Cleveland, almost 60 surrounding suburbs in Cuyahoga County have Flock cameras installed. Campaigns against Flock are active in a number of these communities, including Cleveland Heights and Shaker Heights.

Parallel groups opposed to the surveillance cameras have emerged on a countrywide and local level in many municipalities. □



Clevelanders protest use of Flock surveillance cameras in the city's public schools. One automatic license plate reader outside Collinwood H.S. can be seen behind demonstrators.

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Union nurses and allies held actions in eight cities on Aug. 27 to protest hospital corporations' collaboration with Palantir.



PHOTO: NATIONAL NURSES UNITED



Protesting military contractors outside the convention center, Philadelphia, Aug. 26, 2026.

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

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itself in the neverending quest for ever-
greater profits.

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im/migrants, misogyny, LGBTQIA2S+
oppression and mistreatment of people
with disabilities. It means joblessness,
increasing homelessness and impover-
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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, edu-
cation or anything else — unless they can
pay for it.

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able 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
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tigender and multigenerational working
class. It is time to point the blame at —
and challenge — the capitalist system.

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An appreciation of Dolly Parton

By Dianne Mathiowetz

The announcement of Dolly Parton's death at age 80 on August 25, was shocking not only for her devoted fans worldwide but for the countless people who benefited from her well-known community development programs, such as the Imagination Library or Dollywood as well as less publicized financial contributions to Nashville's Black community and COVID vaccine development.

The lyrics to her songs resonate with so many who experience discrimination, disparate treatment, lack of respect and poverty. Her lyrics as well as her own life highlighted the importance of having confidence in yourself, as well as the value of family, friends and community.

She was a sassy, bold, exuberant woman with more flashy outfits, rhinestones and wigs who relished being herself without apology. How cool was that to women in particular but also to all those denied their humanity in the LGBTQIA2S+ and Black communities within a bigoted society?

She was an international star who supported Black Lives Matter, unions and workers, women's rights and trans rights, and promoted peace and human dignity. She refused to accept the Presidential Medal of Honor twice from President #47 and once from President Joe Biden. In the days since her death from cancer, countless statements have detailed her life with so many other performers of all kinds praising her kindness and the concern she exhibited over the decades of her career.

She kept her own personal life with Carl Dean, her late spouse of 59 years, out of the public eye despite relentless efforts by the press to get a sensationalized "scoop."

Dolly Parton was not a conscious "political" person in the sense that a newspaper like Workers World would have covered in these pages to explain critical issues of imperialist aggression or racist terror.

But WW pays homage to her fundamentally innate social consciousness of the



value of working and poor people. Many of her songs' lyrics reflect that she was never ashamed of growing up in extreme poverty near the Great Smoky Mountains of Tennessee as one of 12 children living in a one-room shack. She made her home in Tennessee until she took her last breath. Her wealth came from her hard work and talent within a very sexist and exploitative industry. Dolly Parton was well-known for managing her own career and supporting other artists' endeavors.

In a very early example of that independence, she turned down an opportunity to let Elvis Presley record her 1973 song, "I Will Always Love You," because his manager, Colonel Tom Parker, demanded half the rights to it as part of the deal. She very much admired Whitney Houston's 1992 rendition of this song. Dolly was a prolific songwriter with an estimated 3,000 songs to her credit. They are all part of her enduring legacy.

Dolly never had children, saying it was a conscious decision she never regretted. She has scores of nieces and nephews who all have stories of their own about her love and compassion. She often read books to children as part of her Imagination Library program that began in 1995 and continues today in the U.S., Britain, Ireland, Canada and Australia.

The fact that her father was illiterate

motivated Dolly to launch this program which provides children one free book a month by mail from birth to their fifth birthday. One cannot even imagine the excitement of these children to get a book in the mail every month. To this day, the program has provided over 330 million books worldwide. Parton's family has requested donations be sent to the Library to honor her memory.

And no review of Dolly Parton's life can fail to talk about the social impact of the 1980 film, "9 to 5" and her Oscar-nominated, Grammy-winning song of the film's name. The film focuses on office work as a mainstay of women's employment where exam-

ples of overt sexism were the norm. This writer had many typical "women's jobs" in offices, restaurants and stores where blatant sexist and discriminatory remarks and examples of male privilege were to be anticipated daily.

Dolly Parton's example of determining her own path to achieve her goals while always providing a helping hand in solidarity with others is why she is a working-class heroine and deserves recognition. She will be beloved and admired now and for generations to come.

Monica Moorehead contributed to this article.

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The real criminals

While president #47 continues to lead his administration's terrorist war on Iran, along with his junior partner, the apartheid State of Israel, he is also promoting a terrorist war on the home front against migrants originating from the Global South.

A Washington Post article stated that during the month of July, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents detained more than 49,000 migrants, whether they had "criminal" records or not. (Aug. 28) Countless videos expose armed ICE thugs randomly pulling migrant workers out of their cars and homes, throwing them to the ground and tasing them even if they are handcuffed. Many of these migrants are not even allowed to show documents they possess proving their right to work and live in the U.S. with their families.

Congress handed over an additional \$170 billion to the Department of Homeland Security in 2025 to train more ICE and Border Patrol agents, build more detention facilities and develop high-tech surveillance equipment. Meeting a daily quota of 2,000 arrests of migrants is the main goal of the DHS.

Human Rights Watch (June 25) documented that over 50 migrants have died in detention from when #47 officially took office on Jan. 20, 2025, until June 4, 2026. At least eight migrants have been fatally shot while being arrested by ICE since January 2025. (New Americas Now)

Another major aspect of this crack-down on migrants is the cancellation of the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for migrants seeking political asylum in the U.S. due to repression and extreme poverty or natural disasters in their home country. TPS cancellation impacts 350,000 Haitian migrants who now face deportation from the U.S. Many Haitians being deported were forced to come to the U.S. due to the 2010 devastating earthquake in Haiti. The first group of over 160 Haitians were deported Aug. 21 back to

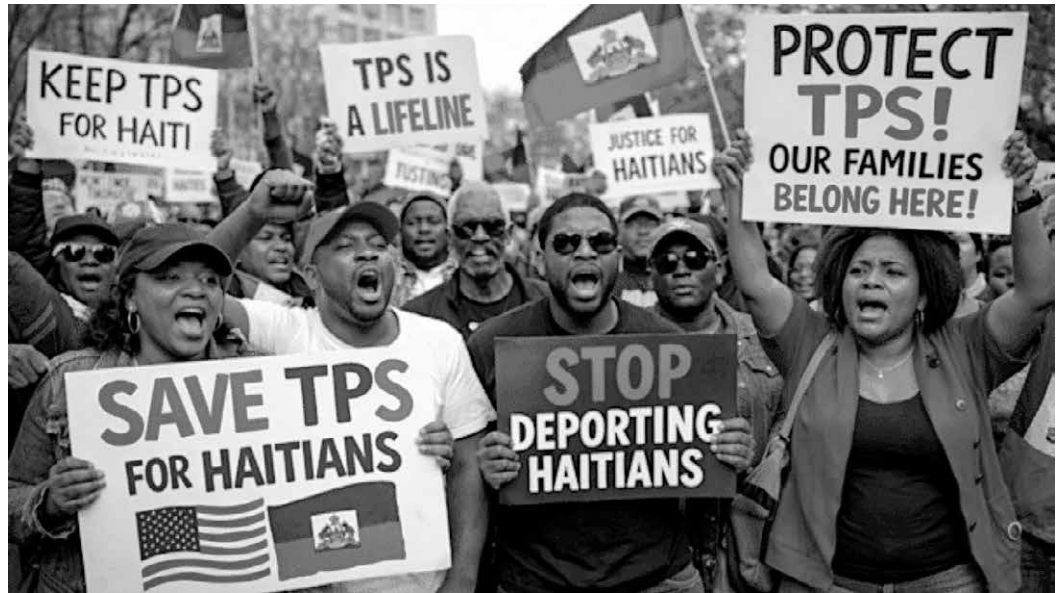


PHOTO: HAITI LIBERTÉ

Haiti, some in chains.

Important sectors of the U.S. economy, including healthcare, food and agriculture, will suffer greatly from deportations of Haitian workers and other migrants of color, particularly those from the Philippines.

The only migrants not targeted by ICE are 7,000 white South Africans who are being encouraged and welcomed with open arms by the racist U.S. administration.

Solidarity is key!

The criminality of ICE agents invading whole neighborhoods, schools, restaurants and airports has created a groundswell of broad solidarity for migrants. U.S. residents have organized their own ways of alerting their migrant friends and neighbors of when ICE thugs are present. The legal community informs migrants of their rights if ICE comes knocking at their homes or workplace. Local supporters organize demonstrations and rallies demanding that ICE be abolished.

Caring residents have even given their lives in defense of migrants. For example, Renée Nicole Good and Alex Pretti, who posed no threat when they were shot to death by ICE agents last January in Minneapolis.

This administration wants to create a xenophobic climate of fear against migrants from developing countries that for decades have seen their economies pillaged by imperialism. No matter their location or social status, migrants of the world have a common enemy — the billionaire ruling class and their repressive apparatus like ICE — and a common ally, the entire global working class.

Solidarity on all fronts must continue to grow and intensify for migrants and all the oppressed. An injury to one is an injury to all!

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Respuesta a la carta en *The Guardian* sobre Irán

¿De qué lado estás?

En opinión de Mundo Obrero, la tarea de los activistas y las organizaciones progresistas, especialmente los de los países imperialistas, consiste en promover, tanto en la teoría como en la práctica, estrategias unidas para debilitar y derrotar al imperialismo. El enemigo es la clase dominante de EE. UU. o de los demás países imperialistas del Norte Global. Esa tarea debe excluir las posturas hostiles hacia cualquier país que luche por su propia supervivencia y por su independencia frente a la dominación imperialista extranjera.

Manifestamos esta opinión porque una publicación británica, *The Guardian*, publicó el 20 de agosto una carta abierta titulada «A los presos políticos de Irán, atrapados «entre las dos hojas de unas tijeras». El primer subtítulo bajo el título dice: «Por un lado, se enfrentan a la dominación de la República Islámica; por el otro, a las fuerzas imperialistas contra las que esa república afirma luchar».

En este editorial, expresamos en los términos más enérgicos por qué el periódico Mundo Obrero y la organización a la que representa, el Partido Mundo Obrero, condenan y se niegan a firmar esta carta abierta, y también instamos a otras fuerzas que se consideran antiimperialistas a que no añadan sus nombres.

Ya estamos siendo testigos de que algunas de las personas que firmaron la carta abierta están retirando públicamente sus firmas, lo cual es una buena señal. Esta carta está utilizando indebidamente la cuestión de la justicia para los «presos políticos» en un intento de socavar al Gobierno iraní, cuando dicho Gobierno se encuentra, simple y llanamente, en una lucha a vida o muerte para repeler la agresión imperialista.

En primer lugar, dejemos claro cuál es el papel de *The Guardian*. Sus editores afirman representar el periodismo «independiente». Y es cierto que *The Guardian* adopta en ocasiones posturas ligeramente progresistas sobre ciertos temas. Pero sigue formando parte de los medios de comunicación corporativos que se posicionan del lado del imperialismo en cuestiones fundamentales de guerra y paz.

Las posturas progresistas ocasionales de *The Guardian* pueden generar confusión a la hora de comprender quiénes son nuestros verdaderos aliados y quiénes nuestros verdaderos enemigos en la lucha de clases contra el imperialismo. Esto es especialmente cierto cuando se trata de una guerra, como la que Estados Unidos e Israel llevan librando contra

Irán desde el 28 de febrero. El imperialismo es imperialismo, ya se ejerza con mano blanda o con mano dura.

Esta carta abierta acusa al Gobierno iraní de utilizar la guerra entre Estados Unidos e Israel para mantenerse en el poder y, al mismo tiempo, le imputa la represión de presos políticos (o de la disidencia) en Irán. La carta tiene incluso la osadía de comparar históricamente a estos presos con los presos políticos negros estadounidenses de principios de la década de 1970, periodo conocido como el «Agosto Negro», una etapa de la historia de Estados Unidos desencadenada por la difícil situación y la legítima resistencia de revolucionarios negros encarcelados, como George Jackson, que exigían la liberación nacional.

Señalamos aquí que las fuerzas imperialistas nunca han apoyado ni defendido a los presos políticos estadounidenses. ¡Nunca!

¿De qué lado estás?

Cuando se trata de una guerra imperialista impuesta a un país que, en el último siglo, ha sido prácticamente una posesión del Imperio Británico y, posteriormente, un Estado cliente del imperialismo estadounidense, la pregunta más importante que hay que responder es: ¿De qué lado estás?

Desde principios del siglo XX hasta 1951, las ricas reservas de petróleo de Irán estuvieron controladas por la entonces Anglo-Iranian Oil Company (actualmente British Petroleum o BP). Esto supuso grandes beneficios para los magnates petroleros británicos, pero también extrema pobreza y represión entre las masas iraníes.

Una vez que Mohammad Mosaddegh fue elegido democráticamente como primer ministro de Irán en 1951, durante los dos años siguientes su Gobierno trató de nacionalizar los recursos del país para contribuir a mejorar el nivel de vida de la población. Sin embargo, un golpe de Estado de derechas, liderado por la CIA y el Reino Unido, derrocó violentamente al Gobierno de Mossaddegh e instaló al monarca Mohammad Reza Pahlavi como sha de Irán en 1953.

Veintiséis años más tarde, la Revolución Iraní de 1979, liderada por fuerzas islámicas, derrocó el brutal régimen del sha Pahlavi, un títere complaciente del imperialismo estadounidense.

Durante los siguientes 47 años, Estados Unidos ha recurrido a medidas de carácter

bélico, especialmente sanciones, en un intento por derrocar al Gobierno iraní y sustituirlo por un Gobierno proimperialista complaciente, que se plegara a los intereses corporativos de la clase dominante multimillonaria de Estados Unidos y de sus socios secundarios en Irán.

A pesar de las perjudiciales sanciones económicas impuestas por EE. UU., a pesar de los asesinatos de sus líderes, como el ayatolá Ali Hosseini Jamenei, y a pesar de los ataques militares contra la infraestructura de Irán, incluido su programa de energía nuclear, Irán está ganando la guerra contra EE. UU. y el Estado sionista de Israel. Esta resistencia iraní supone un enorme revés para un sistema imperialista ya en decadencia.

Desde el 28 de febrero, millones de iraníes han salido a las calles para defender a sus líderes, que representan su soberanía e independencia. El pueblo iraní sabe quiénes son sus verdaderos enemigos: el imperialismo estadounidense y sus aliados.

Y, francamente, los movimientos contra la guerra del Norte Global, especialmente en Estados Unidos, deberían aprender una lección del pueblo iraní. Y esa lección consiste en priorizar de qué lado se está cuando el imperialismo es el principal culpable. No se debería permitir que publicaciones proimperialistas como *The Guardian* dicten o desvíen la perspectiva independiente de ninguna organización ni movimiento de izquierda.

Los países del Sur Global han sufrido, tanto material como históricamente, todas las formas de desigualdad dentro de sus sociedades, causadas por el subdesarrollo económico derivado de la opresión capitalista. No hay mejor manera de mostrar solidaridad con sus pueblos que ponerse de su lado en su heroica y justa lucha contra el imperialismo. □

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