MUNDO OBRERO
WORKERS WORLD

Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite!
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Historic win for PECO workers

By Betsey Piette
Philadelphia

Workers at PECO, the electric company in Philadelphia, who went on strike just before midnight on July 4. The 1,600 workers won a tentative agreement only minutes before midnight on July 6.

With their three-day strike — the first walkout in the company's 145-year history — the International Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 614 won a five-year contract that includes 3% to 4.5% wage increases over each year. It also restored defined benefit pensions and retirement health benefits for 600 newer workers, hired since 2021 but deemed ineligible by the company for the same benefits as more tenured workers.

The agreement also guarantees a 24-hour notice of mandatory overtime for call center workers and an increase in upgrade pay as compensation for filling in for a higher-paid position.

Profits at PECO, an investor-owned utility and monopoly owned by Exelon, skyrocketed by $814 million over the previous year after rate hikes in 2025. This represents an increase of almost 50%.

The workforce includes line workers, gas technicians and call center workers at Pennsylvania's largest electric and natural gas utility. IBEW Local 614 business manager Larry Anastasi called the strike a "historic win." He stated: "This is the beginning of a new era at PECO, one where greed does not go unchecked, and the workers who make modern life possible get the respect and dignity we are owed.

"For years, PECO has disrespected, devalued and denigrated the men and women who keep the lights on and gas flowing. Management stole our pensions, eroded our medical benefits and exploited our wages while jacking up rates, recording record profits and skimming the fat for the C-suite. This contract begins to right those wrongs." (WHYY, July 7)

Timing was everything with Philadelphia being the center of the 250th anniversary celebration of the U.S. adoption of the Declaration of Independence. Massive Fourth of July celebrations were planned to include a giant concert in Center City and the hosting of World Cup games. The strike also took place during a heat wave, with temperatures 100 degrees and above for multiple days. Violent storms on July 4 also knocked out power to over 57,000 customers. ☐

PECO strikers, Philadelphia, July 4, 2026.

Boston: Nurses, home care workers strike

Instead of negotiating a fair contract with the Massachusetts Nurses Association, Mass General Brigham hospital in Boston forced over 4,500 nurses and MGB home care clinicians to strike on July 8.

While MGB's top 14 executives took home $35.9 million in compensation, they have offered nurses a 0% cost of living raise. Caregivers are fighting for safe patient limits, recruitment and retention, fair costs for their own health insurance and a livable wage. The nurses' strike ended on July 9, but MGB locked out nurses until July 13. MGB home care clinicians are striking until July 15.

– Report and photo by Liza Green

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Houston: People's Pride

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Join us in the fight for socialism!

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

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

Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, attacks on im/migrants, misogyny, LGBTQIA2S+ oppression and mistreatment of people with disabilities. It means joblessness, increasing homelessness and impoverishment and lack of hope for the future. No social problems can be solved under capitalism.

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

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

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

Since 1959, Workers World Party has been out in the streets defending the workers and oppressed here and worldwide. If you're interested in Marxism, class solidarity, and joining us in the fight for a socialist future, please sign up at **www.workers.org/join-form** and an organizer will get back to you. Or contact a WWP branch near you. □

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Thousands protest ICE murder of Lorenzo Salgado Araujo

WW COMMENTARY

By Gloria Rubac
Houston

Gloria Rubac wrote this firsthand report on July 12, 2026.

Angry? Yes, people in Houston are absolutely furious!

Sad? Broken hearts are everywhere! Every time one of Salgado Araujo's sons speaks, on TV or in person, people's tears are flowing.

Action? Over 2,000 people packed two blocks and a major intersection the day after the news got out.

Solidarity? The family of Lorenzo Salgado Araujo is receiving a huge outpouring of love from around the Houston area. A GoFundMe appeal to raise $250.00 is now way over $25,000!

Swearing? Absolutely! "F-ck ICE" can be heard at every single rally, and rallies are being held every day, sometimes twice a day. And signs reading "F-ck ICE" are everywhere, in English and Spanish. My Workers World sign reading "Chinga La Migra y Trump También" was so popular that people begged me for it!

But, none of this should be happening.

Salgado Araujo was murdered by racist Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents before sunrise on Tuesday, July 7, as he was on his way to work with three coworkers. All of a sudden, two black cars started following Salgado Araujo's work van. Within a minute, ICE agents fired shots into the van's windows, and Salgado Araujo fell to the street bleeding. Agents took his wallet and all of his personal possessions, and he was pronounced dead at the hospital as a John Doe.

ICE is now detaining the three men who were in Salgado Araujo's work van, and ICE is encouraging them to self-deport. Their attorneys say that if they self-deport, then they cannot testify in what will surely be a massive lawsuit against ICE for murdering Salgado Araujo.

This latest ICE murder happened exactly six months to the day that ICE agent Jonathon Ross shot and killed Renee Good in Minneapolis.

Mass marches, rallies, speakouts against ICE

The day after the murder, thousands and thousands of people gathered near the murder site in Houston. The cops didn't dare ask anyone for permits. Rallies were held in Spanish and English.

A militant march took place and while thousands were marching, those who could not march spoke at a vigil held by Alianza Latino Internacional. A memorial with photos and candles was set up immediately and has grown each day, with balloons, flowers and messages being added.

Right now, as I write, there is live music and a novena taking place at the memorial site. (A novena is a day of prayers that is repeated for nine successive days.) People are informally gathered and are praying and singing. Many are bringing food and drinks. One car just dropped off a huge platter of tacos de fajitas!

Lorenzo Salgado Araujo

Speakers at the many rallies include some of Houston's leading immigrant rights activists and leaders: Cesar Espinosa with FIEL (Familias Inmigrantes y Estudiantes en Lucha), Teodoro Aguiluz with CRECEN (Central American Refugee Center) and Martina Grifaldo with Alianza Latino Internacional.

As Aguiluz said in Spanish at a City Hall rally: "Lorenzo may no longer be with us, but his story has multiplied in the hearts of thousands. His name now represents the dignity, hard work and resilience of so many immigrant families."

Also, U.S. Congress members Sylvia Garcia, Al Green and Christian Menefee were at many of the rallies and press conferences. Green announced he would once again file a bill to impeach Trump.

Yesterday, the AFL-CIO held a vigil at the Service Employees Union hall in Houston; it was packed, with a hundred or so people who could not get inside.

Also, LULAC (League of United Latin American Citizens) has raised almost $500,000 for his family.

As I write this, there was another rally at City Hall today. Yesterday, people rallied in the rain for hours at City Hall and then marched to oppose the horrific murder of this much-beloved man.

Who was Lorenzo Salgado Araujo? He was a 52-year-old worker, a family man with three sons and a spouse he had been with since they were teenagers in Mexico. He owned a small business and had built houses in the Houston area for 35 years. He went to work before the sun rose and came home as it set.

After dinner, he liked to sit on his front porch with his dog that he loved. He sent all three sons to college. He loved the Mexican soccer team. His spouse wants his belongings returned, so she can wash his lunch box one more time.

Does this sound like a dangerous man who should have been shot down? Obviously not!

Get involved in the struggle!

On Tuesday, July 14, people are encouraged to sign up to speak at the public comments section of the City Council meeting and also gather outside to demonstrate.

On July 16, at the Old Galveston County Courthouse, a candlelight vigil will be held to remember Salgado Araujo, co-sponsored by Galveston LULAC Council 151 and Galveston Island Democrats.

ICE has terrorized Houston for many years, but now it is so bad that people have stopped going to work, are not sending their kids to school, are skipping doctor visits and monitoring sites that report where ICE is located around the city. Just today, ICE agents are about 10 blocks from my home.

ICE is funded by the federal government, and last year a $170 billion spending bill for ICE and the Department of Homeland Security was passed to arrest, detain and deport immigrants. How criminal is it that people in Houston and around the country need homes, jobs, healthcare, groceries, gas and childcare — but people's needs are not a priority.

People must demand that the government spend trillions of dollars on workers' needs and immediately stop funding terrorists like ICE. Stop all deportations!

Lorenzo Salgado Araujo, ¡presente! ☐

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Stop terrorizing migrants! Abolish ICE!

There has been no letup in the racist terror campaign by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) against migrants and communities of color. The latest outrage making major headlines is the July 7 murder in Houston of Lorenzo Salgado Araujo, a Mexican immigrant and father of three who had lived in the U.S. for 35 years.

Houston protest, July 12, 2026. WW PHOTO: GLORIA RUBAC

Salgado Araujo was not even who the ICE thugs were looking for, but an ICE agent fired multiple shots into his car. Salgado Araujo died at the hospital several hours after the shooting. He could be heard screaming, "They are killing me," while ICE allowed him to bleed out in the street without any medical care. Salgado Araujo, a construction business owner, was on his way to a job site with three employees when ICE agents in unmarked vehicles stopped him over an alleged traffic violation.

Now, typically, the ICE terrorists are blaming the victim, saying Salgado Araujo "weaponized" his vehicle against them. All three passengers in the car, along with members of Salgado Araujo's family, have independently disputed this absurd claim, for which no evidence has been produced.

Not only is the Houston community holding daily protests calling for justice for Salgado Araujo, but the Mexican government is demanding that his murder be brought before the United Nations.

This is not a case of the ICE agents being "just a few bad apples." The killing of Salgado Araujo was entirely consistent with the real mission of the fascist ICE — which is the mission of the whole capitalist state apparatus, one of repressing the working class and oppressed people.

The late chairperson of Workers World Party, Sam Marcy, explained the class character of the state: "Whatever its form, its essence is determined by which class is dominant economically and consequently also dominant politically. In contemporary society, this means the rule of the imperialist bourgeoisie over the proletariat and the oppressed nationalities." ("A Marxist Defense of the LA Rebellion," 1993)

ICE is showing its true nature, not only by its murder of Salgado Araujo but in its aggressive roundups of over 2,000 people per day — a number that could likely increase. An example is the detention of two Detroit high school students in Buffalo, New York. Twin 18-year-old sisters Alexka and Angely Jerez-Medina were in Buffalo for a summer job until they were detained by ICE on June 24 and held at a detention center in El Paso, Texas.

Activists in Buffalo have protested the detention and at least nine Michigan elected officials have demanded the students' release, as have their pastor and teachers at Western International High School.

The ICE terror campaign has made immigrants afraid to go to work or school or attend religious services.

ICE — like the cops, the prisons, the courts and the whole capitalist state apparatus — can't be reformed. Nor is the solution to replace ICE with some "kinder, gentler," maybe a little less xenophobic version of itself. ICE must go!

Workers World joins with the thousands of protesters in Houston and all over the country in saying: "Abolish ICE!" ❐

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16 de julio de 2026

Cuando la historia se repite

Una ola de calor extremo provocó la cancelación de lo que habrían sido repugnantes muestras públicas de patriotismo y chovinismo en Washington D.C., Filadelfia y otros lugares. El motivo era el 250.º aniversario de la denominada fundación de los Estados Unidos con la proclamación de la «Declaración de Independencia» el 4 de julio de 1776.

A pesar de la expectación generada en torno a eventos como este, los aniversarios han ido y venido. Sin embargo, su legado no puede ignorarse.

La pancarta reza: «Abolir el ICE [la Migra], abolir los beneficios»

En este caso, cuando se firmó la Declaración, los pueblos indígenas ya habían sufrido durante siglos un atroz robo genocida de sus tierras en todas las Américas, que tuvo su origen en el explorador criminal Cristóbal Colón. Asimismo, en el momento de la firma, casi 50 de los firmantes, encabezados por Thomas Jefferson, eran esclavistas de pueblos africanos secuestrados.

Como afirmó el difunto cómico con conciencia social George Carlin en uno de sus brillantes monólogos, existía un «doble rasero» por parte de los firmantes, que deseaban liberarse del dominio colonial británico al tiempo que defendían la institución de la esclavitud. Esto no puede subestimarse. Además, muchos de estos firmantes se convirtieron en acaudalados propietarios gracias a las tierras indígenas robadas.

Eso fue entonces, pero ¿qué ocurre 250 años después? ¿Cuál es hoy el legado de lo que ocurrió hace 250 años? ¿Se han erradicado las relaciones de clase, incluidos el racismo y la opresión nacional? ¡La respuesta es un rotundo NO!

El gobernante n.º 47 es un acérrimo supremacista blanco, misógino, xenófobo, belicista y anti obrero. Ha intentado promover una versión edulcorada de los horrores de la esclavitud en los parques federales y otras instituciones nacionales. Su administración dio luz verde a cientos de fascistas blancos —muchos de ellos partidarios del grupo MAGA del n.º 47— para que desfilasen por las calles de Washington D.C. el 4 de julio, mezclando banderas estadounidenses con las de la Confederación de los esclavistas, con el rostro completamente cubierto. No hubo informes de que la policía acosara a ninguno de estos fascistas, como suele hacer con los manifestantes en una marcha antirracista.

Hace un siglo, el 4 de julio de 1926, tuvo lugar una marcha similar organizada por el Ku Klux Klan en Washington, D.C., cuando el supremacista blanco Calvin Coolidge era presidente. Vaya si la historia se repite.

El 47.º jefe del Estado capitalista estadounidense también ha desatado a sus matones fascistas, los agentes del Servicio de Inmigración y Control de Aduanas (ICE), contra los migrantes, especialmente los procedentes del Sur Global. Esta guerra racista ha provocado oficialmente la muerte de más de 50 migrantes desde 2025, principalmente en centros de detención opresivos. Si bien un presidente republicano es responsable de estos crímenes, no debe olvidarse jamás que, cuando el presidente demócrata Barack Obama ocupaba el cargo, su administración deportó a una cifra récord de 2 millones de migrantes —otro ejemplo de cómo la historia se repite.

Obtener enormes beneficios mientras los trabajadores sufren

Además de toda la represión que el n.º 47 ha desatado, otro delito es la suma de 2.000 millones de dólares que él y su familia han amasado desde que comenzó su segundo mandato, abusando del poder presidencial. Ha incrementado la fortuna familiar principalmente gracias a las inversiones realizadas en su criptomoneda especulativa denominada $TRUMP —unos 636 millones de dólares solo procedentes de $TRUMP— . Muchos otros inversores perdieron dinero con el mismo esquema especulativo.

Quizá esta gran estafa sea la razón por la que declaró públicamente que le encanta la inflación —el aumento de los precios que ha rebajado el nivel de vida de los trabajadores.

El n.º 47 es multimillonario desde la década de 1970, pero la principal diferencia ahora es que es un multimillonario que ocupa la Casa Blanca. Entre sus principales funciones se encuentra la de administrar el enorme aparato estatal capitalista, que incluye el Pentágono, el Departamento de Seguridad Nacional (incluidos el ICE y la Patrulla Fronteriza) y el Departamento de Justicia, entre otros.

No es el único que posee esta riqueza. Las masivas protestas «No Kings» del último año se han centrado en los delitos del n.º 47 como multimillonario a título individual, pero forma parte de la clase multimillonaria que, colectivamente, mueve los hilos políticos del aparato estatal, independientemente de si es un republicano o un demócrata quien ocupa la Casa Blanca. Su sistema capitalista da prioridad a los beneficios a costa de satisfacer las necesidades de los trabajadores y los pueblos oprimidos.

No es de extrañar que el entusiasmo de la población estadounidense por el 250.º aniversario fuera menor de lo que esperaban los gobernantes. Millones de personas comparan el genocidio sionista en curso contra el pueblo palestino, respaldado por EE. UU., y la guerra contra Irán con la exagerada propaganda sobre la «independencia», y se dan cuenta de quién es el criminal. Y otras decenas de millones de personas han comenzado a darse cuenta de que están pagando por estas guerras criminales.

Es hora de que los trabajadores y los oprimidos reconozcan que el n.º 47 no es la única causa de estos crímenes, sino que es toda la clase multimillonaria y su sistema podrido lo que debe ser erradicado. □

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