

Free Nicolás Maduro! Free Cilia Flores!

By Brenda Ryan
New York City

More than 150 activists from 12 organizations rallied in front of the Manhattan federal courthouse on March 26 in support of Venezuela President Nicolás Maduro and First Combatant Cilia Flores. They attended their second court hearing since Maduro and Flores were abducted by the U.S. government on Jan. 3 and falsely charged with narco-terrorism and drug trafficking.

Judge Alvin Hellerstein considered a motion by Maduro and Flores to dismiss the charges against them due to the Trump administration preventing the government of Venezuela from funding their defense costs as required by Venezuela's laws. The interference is a violation of their Sixth Amendment right to counsel.

Gathering early on a weekday morning, protesters carried signs and banners demanding the freedom of Maduro and Flores. They were swarmed by reporters from media outlets, including many from other countries. For four hours they denounced the atrocities

of the U.S. government and its murder of people in Cuba, Iran, Palestine and Venezuela, through bombings, sanctions and blockades.

In a well-organized defense, with militant chants and signs, demonstrators pushed back against a raggedy gaggle of right-wingers and mercenaries, who support returning Venezuela's rich resources to U.S. control. One of them carried a large puppet of Maduro.

NBC News reported that Judge Hellerstein said he would not dismiss the case. The judge has yet to decide whether Maduro can use Venezuelan government funds for his defense. According to Reuters, the judge appeared skeptical of the U.S. prosecutor's claims that U.S. sanctions blocking the payments were based on national security and foreign policy interests. He said: "The defendant is here. Flores is here. They present no further national security threat. The right that's implicated, paramount over other rights, is the right to constitutional counsel." (March 26)

For more on the court case and conditions in which Maduro and Flores are being held, go to: tinyurl.com/2fbbjbk8



Demonstrators outside Manhattan federal courthouse, March 26, 2026.

WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

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WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Philadelphia, March 28, 2026. At 'No Kings' demonstrations, while organizers' main goal was to replace the MAGA regime with Democrats, many participants openly opposed the U.S. war against Iran, U.S.-backed genocide in Palestine and ICE terror in the U.S. Read more at workers.org/2026/03/91787

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U.S., Israel isolated as U.N. passes historic reparations resolution

By Monica Moorehead

On March 25, the United Nations General Assembly — with 123 yes votes, three no votes and 52 abstentions — passed a historic resolution presented by John Mahama, the president of Ghana, to officially characterize the enslavement of millions of African people as the “gravest crime against humanity.” While the resolution is non-binding, it also requested that the U.N. member states apologize for the institution of enslavement and more concretely, that these states make a financial pledge towards a reparations fund for people of African descent.

March 25 has been designated by the U.N. as an International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade.

It was appropriate for President Mahama to present this resolution since millions of Africans were transported in chains from Africa between the 16th and 19th centuries. This resulted in Ghana especially having the largest number of enslavement forts and castles in the world.

“The trafficking of enslaved Africans and the centuries of racialized chattel enslavement that followed have not been resolved,” stated Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa, Ghana’s foreign minister on March 24. (New York Times, March 25)

The U.N. resolution coincides with the African Union, which represents the aspirations of all countries on the African continent, declaring 2026 until 2035 as the Decade of Action on Reparations. The kidnapping of millions of African people for enslavement laid the material basis for Africa evolving into the most underdeveloped continent.

Who voted no? Who abstained?

To no one’s surprise, the United States, Israel and Argentina voted against the resolution. The U.S. began to enslave African people in the early 1600s until the Civil War, which ended in a military defeat of institutionalized Southern slavery in 1865. However, the legacy of slavery continues today and is now embodied by the white supremacist President Donald Trump and his reactionary administration.



President John Mahama of Ghana speaks at U.N. in 2025.

Trump issued an edict when he took office over a year ago to remove and defund all federal exhibits and monuments referring to the atrocities under enslavement and the resistance to it that lives on today. In reference to the teaching of enslavement, Trump states that he wants to eradicate the “radical indoctrination in K-12 schooling” to show that “slavery was not that bad” (ad nauseum). (New York Times, March 25)

Israel is an illegal, settler-colonial, racist, Nazi-like, apartheid state. Even before its founding in May 1948, Zionist forces had violently and systematically displaced millions of Palestinians. Israel has occupied Palestinian lands by heinous criminal acts, including a current genocide in Gaza and illegal Zionist settlements in the West Bank. And Argentina is currently led by a right-wing U.S. puppet, President Javier Milei.

Regarding the 52 abstentions, half of them were made by member countries belonging to the European Union. It is important to know that a number of these members — rich capitalist countries like Belgium, Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Portugal and Spain — are all former colonizers of Africa and handsomely profited off enslavement, including the transatlantic slave trade.

Connection to other crimes

Some of the countries that abstained stated that the Ghanaian resolution was limited to just one crime of humanity and not to others. And while it is true that there are nationally oppressed peoples, historically and presently, who have

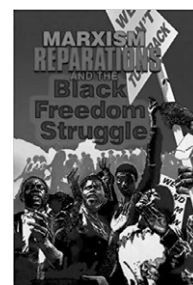
been superexploited by imperialism for the theft of their labor resulting in low wages, theft of their lands and resources, this should not be used as an excuse to not show support for the Ghanaian resolution. No oppression should be pitted against another. Each has its own merit.

Not supporting this resolution lets imperialism off the hook regarding taking political and financial responsibility for their sordid roles for other crimes against humanity, like the genocide of Indigenous peoples throughout the Americas beginning with Christopher Columbus in 1492; the occupation of Palestine; apartheid in southern Africa that legally ended over 30 years ago; the U.S. war in Southeast Asia, including Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos; the criminal 60-plus years of the U.S. blockade against the Cuban Revolution; and the current U.S.-Israeli war against Iran. These examples are just the tip of the iceberg.

Many of these same 123 countries, also worthy of reparations rooted in imperialist domination, still chose to show solidarity with African peoples with their yes votes.

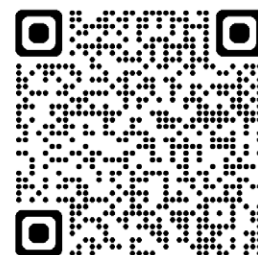
This passing of the resolution has once again helped to elevate the global struggle for reparations not seen since the historic 2001 World Conference against Racism held in Durban, South Africa, sponsored by the U.N.

The writer is the editor of “Marxism, Reparations and the Black Freedom Struggle” that can be downloaded at workers.org/books



COVER GRAPHIC: SAHU BARRON

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ICE Out of everywhere!

The crisis at U.S. airports is big news. Because of the partial government shut-down, employees of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) were not paid for 42 days. Understandably, many workers did not show up for work. Some had to go to other jobs so they could earn money to pay essential housing costs and other bills. Others were simply unwilling to work for no pay.

This led to long lines at airport security checkpoints and passengers having to spend 6-8 hours or more in these lines.

So what was Trump's first solution? Send Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents to airports, supposedly to assist those TSA agents in screening passengers. Many people believed they were really sent to airports to harass and intimidate Black, Brown, Indigenous and migrant passengers and airport workers. ICE agents were even sent to airports where there had been no problem with long lines.

The policy of sending better paid ICE agents to do TSA workers' jobs — jobs they were doing without pay — proved extremely unpopular. In fact, for those workers who are immigrants, the presence of intimidating ICE agents working alongside them might be another reason not to show up for work.

At airports ICE agents did not wear masks — essentially throwing out Trump's argument that masks are necessary for their work.

The Senate then voted to pay the TSA

airports once TSA workers return to work at previous employment levels.

What's clear is the immediate need to call for "ICE out of airports." But anti-ICE demands need to go much further.

ICE agents are nothing but fascist stormtroopers with a racist agenda and a vendetta against migrant rights activists. In addition to committing outright murder, they have arrested and detained thousands of people — undocumented, documented and U.S.-born — including the infamous detention of five-year-old Liam Conejo Ramos and his father.

Migrants, primarily women, have been raped, with the most recent

cases in a for-profit detention center run by Core Civic in California. The seven reported cases are only being investigated by the company itself — law enforcement isn't even bothering to deal with these horrible crimes.

While these terrorists commit rape, beatings, murder and other crimes, calling for reduced funding is hardly enough — although Republicans in the House refused to go along with even that, holding up pay for TSA workers — who should be paid.

Workers World states that ICE should be abolished! Not one penny for these terrorist, white supremacist, xenophobic thugs! ICE out of everywhere! □



Philadelphia, Jan. 8, 2026.

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

workers, but the bill was killed in the House of Representatives, where the Republican majority complained that the bill lacked a provision to fully fund ICE. Congressional Democrats only seek to reduce funding for the hated ICE, which has drawn public fury due to its many crimes, including the cold-blooded murders of Renee Good, Keith Porter Jr., Alex Pretti and others.

Now Trump is saying he will bypass Congress and pay the TSA workers, and they received their first back paychecks in over a month on March 30, but they aren't sure if they will be paid consistently. And it's unclear if ICE will be removed from



Dr. King: Reparations means paying unpaid wages

This April 4, 2026, will mark the 58th anniversary of the assassination of Civil Rights leader Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. while he was supporting striking sanitation workers in Memphis, Tennessee. The following quotation from Dr. King

comes from his 1964 book "Why We Can't Wait" on the ongoing struggle for reparations for people of African descent.

"No amount of gold could provide an adequate compensation for the exploitation and humiliation of the Negro down through the centuries. Not all the wealth in this affluent society could pay the bill. Yet a price can be placed on unpaid wages. The payment should be in the form of a massive program of special, compensatory measures which could be regarded as a settlement in accordance with the accepted practice of common law."

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No a los reyes, no al imperialismo, no al capitalismo

El 28 de marzo se están llevando a cabo miles de manifestaciones contra Trump en todo Estados Unidos bajo el lema «No a los reyes». Su mensaje es que la gente quiere vivir en una «democracia», no en la «dictadura» hacia la que se encamina Trump —situación que los organizadores de las protestas comparan con que el presidente se autoproclame rey.

Aunque estas acciones tienen un sesgo progresista, el programa se limita a derrotar a los candidatos republicanos en las elecciones de mitad de mandato de noviembre. Los organizadores de No Kings —y de 50501, Indivisible, «Hands off», etc.— están vinculados al Partido Demócrata y pretenden «recuperar el Congreso». Eso, en el mejor de los casos, solo frenaría el avance hacia una dictadura de derechas.

Lo que la clase trabajadora mundial necesita es que las masas en las entrañas de la bestia vayan más allá de las consignas contra Trump y se conviertan en firmemente antiimperialistas. No basta con decir que la guerra contra Irán es de alguna manera «perjudicial para EE. UU.».

La administración ha lanzado esta guerra brutal en beneficio de las grandes empresas, las petroleras y el imperio. Es perjudicial para la clase trabajadora estadounidense. Es terrible para los pueblos de Asia Occidental y, especialmente, para Irán. El movimiento para hacer retroceder la agenda de Trump debe apoyar y defender al pueblo iraní y a su gobierno frente a esta guerra.

Es necesario adoptar una posición clara contra el genocidio y todas las guerras imperialistas y actos de agresión. Esto implica actuar en solidaridad con Palestina, Cuba, Venezuela —y con Irán y el Líbano— y con cualquier otro país que se encuentre en el punto de mira de Washington. También significa arriesgar nuestras vidas en la lucha contra el Servicio de Inmigración y Control de Aduanas (ICE) y en defensa de los derechos de los migrantes.

¿Qué democracia?

El otro problema del movimiento No Kings es que plantea la lucha contra el trumpismo como una lucha para «defender nuestra democracia».

De hecho, los derechos democráticos de la clase trabajadora y de los pueblos oprimidos están extremadamente restringidos bajo el modo de producción capitalista. El capitalismo se basa en la explotación de la gran mayoría de la población por parte de una clase minoritaria de multimillonarios y billonarios. Los trabajadores tienen más derechos si cuentan con un sindicato, pero incluso los mejores convenios —que cada vez son más difíciles de conseguir— solo mitigan las condiciones de la explotación.

La represión estatal en el país y la agresión militar en el extranjero se producen independientemente de qué partido capitalista ostente la mayoría política.

El sistema capitalista de lucro tiene que expandirse económicamente para sobrevivir. Esto es lo que impulsó lo que el líder revolucionario ruso del siglo XX, Vladimir Lenin, denominó «imperialismo, la fase superior del capitalismo». Por eso los países imperialistas lanzan guerras —incluida la actual guerra contra Irán— para colonizar o recolonizar el resto del mundo en beneficio de la clase rica. La bestia capitalista es especialmente despiadada cuando su sistema está en declive, como ocurre en la actualidad.

Los marxistas-leninistas —entre los que se incluye el Partido Mundo Obrero— suelen referirse al dominio capitalista como «la dictadura de la burguesía». Esta definición se aplica independientemente de si el Estado es una democracia capitalista, un Estado fascista, una dictadura militar, un Estado bajo la ley marcial o está gobernado por un monarca —ya sea de forma real o metafórica—. El término «dictadura de la burguesía» significa que la burguesía —la clase capitalista— es la clase dominante. Trump puede parecer irracional, pero sigue siendo un representante de la clase dominante.

La guerra contra Irán, a la que se opone la mayoría de la población de EE. UU., es un claro ejemplo de lo antidemocrático que es realmente el dominio burgués.



MO FOTO: BRENDA RYAN

Contingente sindical de la ciudad de Nueva York en la marcha «No Kings», 18 de octubre de 2025.

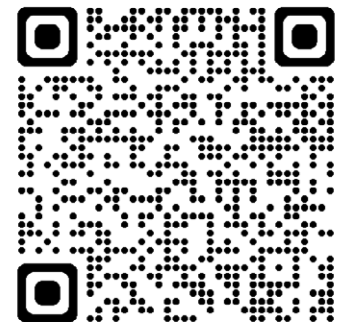
Una dictadura fascista es la forma más pura de la dictadura de la burguesía. El peligro del fascismo es una característica inherente al dominio capitalista.

Para garantizar realmente que «no haya reyes», debemos acabar con el capitalismo y establecer lo que los marxistas-leninistas han denominado «la dictadura del proletariado». Esto significa que la clase mayoritaria —el proletariado, o la clase trabajadora— dirija la sociedad en beneficio de todos. Esto es verdaderamente «cómo es la democracia».

Para acabar de una vez por todas con la amenaza que representan Trump y el trumpismo, la clase trabajadora, los oprimidos y sus aliados deben acabar con el capitalismo por completo. □

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