

Answer to 250-year propagandafest Military veterans drive anti-gov't protest

By Joe Piette
Philadelphia

Chanting “No more rich man’s wars,” hundreds of veterans and active-duty GIs marched at an “Independence from Billionaires” parade in Philadelphia on the 4th of July.

Coming from as far away as California, Maine and Florida, the veterans and GIs contingent made up the majority of the large “Peoples Parade” during a mile-long march that was led by an “Independence from Billionaires” blue and red banner.

Critical of mass deportation, forced displacement, climate crisis, and international wars, local and national groups organized the event as counter-programming to the official 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

The Veterans Against Fascism contingent featured dozens of black and white signs and banners targeting U.S. forever wars. The signs attacked Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) kidnappings and fascism as the military veterans and family members took the streets despite temperatures over 100 degrees.

Current military members who oppose U.S. support for genocide in Palestine walked side-by-side with veterans of U.S. wars against Afghanistan,

Iraq and Vietnam.

A short rally took place near Independence Hall, where the Declaration of Independence was signed 250 years ago. Representatives from Veterans For Peace, About Face, Military Families Speak Out, and Fayetteville Resistance Coalition raised the necessity of military personnel active and no-longer-active to speak out against unjust wars and attacks against democratic rights.

Speakers emphasized the right of active-duty military members to refuse illegal or immoral orders. □



Protest targets state repression. Buffalo, New York, July 4, 2026.

Read online.

PHOTO: ATLYS C.



Veterans Against Fascism banners raise the big issues in Philadelphia, July 4, 2026.

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

In this issue

♦ Editorial

When history repeats itself. 3

♦ Mundo Obrero

¡Liberen a los acusados de Prairieland! 4

Articles at workers.org

♦ In the U.S.

The declaration of hypocrisy tradition of exploitation .. LINK

Buffalo: Confronting the ‘two 250s’ LINK

On the picket line: Ohio, NYC, Philadelphia LINK

Hotel strike wins 36% wage and benefit increase. LINK

Joyce Kanowitz, rest in power! LINK

Swarthmore 9 case resolved: no time in prison LINK

For Starbucks workers, Pride means organize LINK

♦ Around the World

Cuba hails 105th anniversary of the Chinese CP LINK

U.S. and media vultures prey on Venezuela. LINK

Return Venezuela’s stolen wealth for full quake recovery. . LINK

How NVIDIA supports imperialism LINK

China says no to H200 chips LINK

U.S. empire crumbling – A new world in birth LINK

A major victory for Portuguese workers LINK

Hezbollah: Lebanon-Israel agreement ‘null and void’ ... LINK

Cuban brigade expands Venezuela quake response. ... LINK

♦ Tear Down the Walls

Protesters say: ‘Make July 3 Mumia Liberation Day!’ LINK

♦ Mundo Obrero

Una gran victoria de los trabajadores portugueses LINK



Picnic in solidarity with socialist Cuba, July 4, 2026, Portland, Oregon. Read online.

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with disabilities. It means joblessness,
increasing homelessness and impover-
ishment 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, edu-
cation 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, mul-
tigender and multigenerational working
class. It is time to point the blame at —
and challenge — the capitalist system.

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When history repeats itself

An extreme heat wave caused cancellations of what would have been nauseating public displays of patriotism and jingoism in Washington, D.C., Philadelphia and elsewhere. The occasion was the 250th anniversary of the so-called founding of the U.S. with the announcement of the “Declaration of Independence” on July 4, 1776.

Despite the build-up for events like this one, anniversaries have come and gone. But their legacies cannot be ignored.

In this case, when the Declaration was signed, Indigenous peoples had already suffered centuries of a heinous, genocidal theft of their lands throughout the Americas that originated with the criminal explorer, Christopher Columbus. Also at the time of the signing, almost 50 signers, led by Thomas Jefferson, were enslavers of kidnapped African peoples.

As the late, socially conscious comedian, George Carlin, stated in one of his brilliant routines, there was a “double standard” of the signers wanting to be free of British colonial rule while uplifting the institution of enslavement. This cannot be underestimated. In addition, many of these signers became rich property owners off of stolen Indigenous lands.

That was then, but what about 250 years later? What is the legacy today of what happened 250 years ago? Have class relations, including racism and national oppression, been eradicated? The answer is emphatically NO!

Ruler #47 is a staunch white supremacist, a misogynist, xenophobic, pro-war and anti-worker. He has attempted to promote a sanitized version of the horrors of enslavement in federal parks and other national institutions. His administration gave the green light to hundreds of white fascists, many of them supporters of #47’s MAGA group, to parade through the streets of Washington, D.C., on July 4, mingling U.S. flags and flags of the enslavers’ Confederacy, with their entire faces covered. There were no reports of the police harassing any of



The billionaire ruling class and its capitalist system are at the root of ICE’s vicious state repression. Houston, June 28, 2018.

these fascists as they usually would do to demonstrators at an anti-racist march.

A similar march took place a century ago on July 4, 1926, by the Ku Klux Klan in Washington, D.C., when white supremacist Calvin Coolidge was president. Talk about history repeating itself.

The 47th head of the U.S. capitalist state has also unleashed his fascist goons, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents, on migrants, especially migrants from the Global South. This racist war has officially resulted in the deaths of over 50 migrants since 2025, mainly in oppressive detention centers. While a Republican president is responsible for these crimes, it should never be forgotten that when Democratic President Barack Obama was in office, his administration deported a record 2 million migrants—another example of history repeating itself.

Making huge profits while workers suffer

Along with all the repression that #47 has unleashed, another crime is the \$2 billion he and his family have pulled in since he began his second term by abusing presidential power. He increased family wealth mainly from investments made in his speculative cryptocurrency called \$TRUMP—some \$636 million alone from \$TRUMP. Many other investors lost money from the same speculative scheme.

Maybe this big ripoff is why he publicly stated that he loves inflation—higher prices that have lowered workers’ standard of living.

#47 has been a billionaire since the 1970s, but the major difference now is that he is a billionaire who occupies the White House. His main task includes being the administrator of the huge capitalist state apparatus, incorporating the Pentagon, Homeland Security (including ICE, the Border Patrol), the Department of Justice, etc.

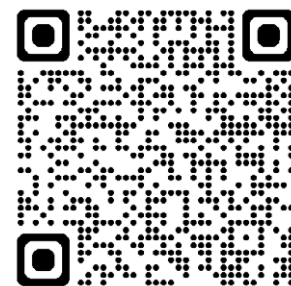
He is not alone with this wealth. The massive “No Kings” protests over the past year have focused on the crimes of #47 as an individual billionaire, but he is part of the billionaire class

that collectively pulls the political strings of the state apparatus, whether a Republican or Democrat occupies the White House. Their capitalist system prioritizes profits at the expense of meeting the needs of the workers and oppressed peoples.

It is no wonder that there was less enthusiasm for the 250th anniversary among the U.S. population than the rulers expected. Millions of people compare the ongoing U.S.-backed Zionist genocide of the Palestinian people and the war on Iran with the over-the-top propaganda about “Independence” and realize who the criminal is. And tens of millions of others have begun to realize they are paying for these criminal wars.

It is time for the workers and oppressed to recognize that #47 is not the sole cause of these crimes, but it is the entire billionaire class and their rotten system that must be uprooted. □

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¡Liberen a los acusados de Prairieland!

El juicio y la sentencia de los acusados de Prairieland, así como las grotescas penas que se les impusieron el 23 de junio — entre 30 y 100 años de prisión para cada uno de los ocho acusados — fueron lo más parecido a los linchamientos reaccionarios y legales que han sido demasiado habituales en la historia de Texas.

Y recuerden: Texas es un estado cuya clase dominante estaba formada por esclavistas que se apoderaron de las tierras de la población indígena y se establecieron en ellas, y cuya fundación se basó en una guerra de conquista contra la nación mexicana.

En cuanto a los hechos de la manifestación y protesta del 4 de julio de 2025 contra la persecución gubernamental de los trabajadores migrantes —y de cualquier persona que los guardias fronterizos, las tropas de asalto de inmigración o la policía local racista creyeran que pudiera ser un trabajador migrante o su familia—, Mundo Obrero acepta las explicaciones de los acusados de Prairieland (véase prairielanddefendants.com) como lógicas y coherentes con nuestras propias experiencias como organizadores de protestas contra la violencia del Estado capitalista.

Reconocemos que la versión de los hechos presentada por las autoridades estatales, los agentes de las «tropas de asalto» del Servicio de Inmigración y Control de Aduanas (ICE) y sus ideólogos fascistas de la administración MAGA (como Stephen Miller) no es más que una invención de quienes están al servicio de los gobernantes supremacistas blancos del imperialismo estadounidense.

En resumen, Mundo Obrero da crédito a los acusados de Prairieland. No creemos ni una sola palabra de lo que dicen las autoridades estatales.

Asimismo, tenemos nuestra propia visión sobre el impacto político de los acontecimientos y sobre cómo la política influye en la forma en que nosotros —y cualquiera que esté del lado de los oprimidos en este país, cualquiera que defienda la justicia— deberíamos reaccionar.

Las fuerzas a favor del ICE y de la supremacía blanca —en definitiva, la Administración



Un juicio farsa ha dictado sentencias escandalosas en un intento por sofocar este movimiento de solidaridad obrera.

MAGA — han puesto en el punto de mira a los acusados de Prairieland en un intento de intimidar a todas las personas que detestan al ICE y la ideología supremacista blanca.

Las magníficas protestas masivas de Minneapolis contra los asesinatos de Renee Good y Alex Pretti, así como las movilizaciones de personas en docenas de ciudades y cientos de pueblos para defender a sus hermanos migrantes y a sus familias de la violencia de ICE, han aterrorizado a los supremacistas blancos de MAGA. La administración eligió a un juez reaccionario en un distrito reaccionario de un estado reaccionario para celebrar un juicio farsa e imponer estas sentencias grotescas, con el fin de intentar sofocar este movimiento de solidaridad obrera.

¡Apoyo incondicional a los 8 de Prairieland!

Para revertir la injusticia de Prairieland y reforzar la confianza de millones de trabajadores que simpatizan con sus hermanos migrantes, debemos brindar todo nuestro apoyo legal y popular a los acusados de Prairieland.

Esto significa combatir la ficción de la fiscalía de que hubo una conspiración para cometer actos violentos. La conspiración es un invento del Estado cuando, incluso bajo las leyes capitalistas, no existe un delito real.

Esto también implica brindar todo el apoyo jurídico y popular a Benjamin Hamil Song, el único acusado condenado a 100 años de prisión, presuntamente por intento de asesinato. Song, veterano de la Infantería de Marina e instructor de armas de fuego, afirma que el agente al que hirió

había adoptado una postura que indicaba que estaba a punto de disparar contra uno de los demás manifestantes, que se encontraba huyendo.

Atención: El Cuerpo de Marines de los Estados Unidos enseñó a Song a disparar. Song logró aprender, a través de su propia experiencia vital, quiénes eran sus verdaderos aliados y quién era el enemigo. Y hacia dónde apuntar su arma.

Por ello, constituye un ejemplo positivo para muchos otros veteranos estadounidenses, que se han visto obligados a cometer

crímenes de guerra al acatar las órdenes ilegales e inconstitucionales de los regímenes imperialistas de EE. UU. También ellos pueden aprender de Song quiénes son sus aliados de clase y quiénes son sus enemigos. Solo por eso, Song merece el apoyo popular.

El régimen de MAGA ha calificado a los acusados de formar parte de «Antifa», que en realidad no existe como organización. Significa «antifascista»; es una idea según la cual la gente debe unirse en solidaridad para luchar contra los elementos de la clase dominante que utilizan la ideología supremacista blanca y el fanatismo para dividir a los trabajadores y mantenerlos encadenados. Es una buena idea. Antifa no existe como organización, pero quizá debería existir.

¡Todos somos Antifa!

¡Liberen a los acusados de Prairieland! □

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