



# THE RED PHOENIX

NEWSPAPER OF THE AMERICAN PARTY OF LABOR

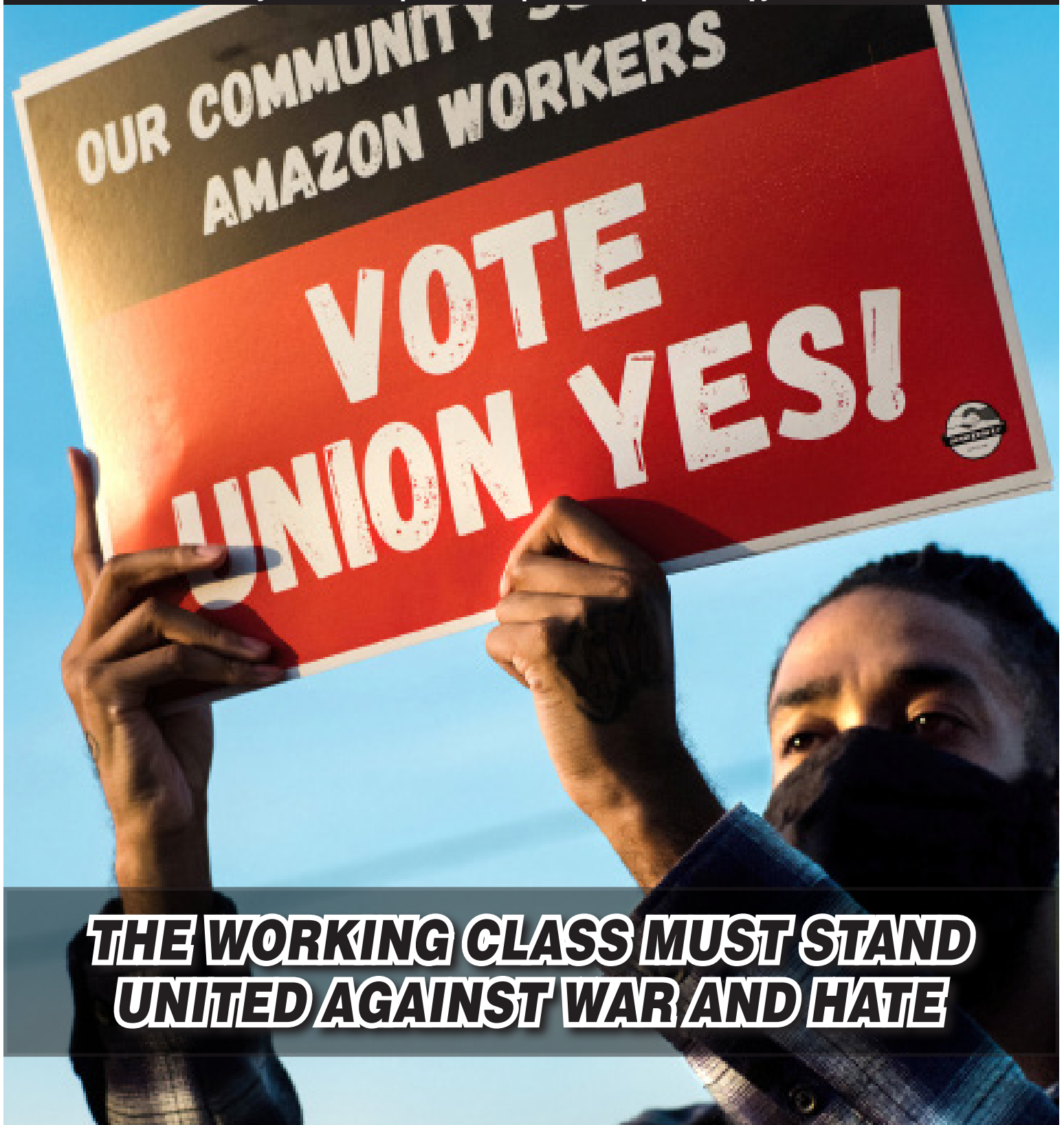
PEACE

EQUALITY

SOCIALIST  
DEMOCRACY

ALL POWER TO  
THE WORKING  
PEOPLE!

AmericanPartyofLabor.com | Issue #24 | Fall 2022 | Please Copy and Redistribute



**THE WORKING CLASS MUST STAND  
UNITED AGAINST WAR AND HATE**

# END INFLATION BY ENDING WARS



*The reason given for limited or no student debt relief has often been inflation.*

**By Shane Mahadeo, August 26, 2022**

Many people on the right claim that social spending programs drive inflationary pressures. Most of those who make these claims are misinformed on what inflation measures, the history of inflation rates, and the mechanisms employed by mainstream liberal economists to control inflation. Of course, the discussion is not complete without touching on the current inflationary woes of today.

When we think of inflation the metric that is most often cited is the CPI (Consumer Price Index). CPI measures a "basket of goods and services," consisting of some of the primary needs to sustain oneself such as food, housing, transportation, and medical care. If there were to be any underlying changes in these components, we can see a corresponding inflation increase. The last major inflationary period in the United States happened in the 1970s.

Another interesting facet of inflation is the expectation of future inflation. Expecting prices to rise can create something of a self-fulfilling prophecy. For example, if during one month the inflation rate is 8%, and folks believe that the rate will rise to 10% in the future, then capitalists will increase their prices to compensate, thereby creating actual inflation. Sentiment can be a component of inflationary pressures, but I shall keep the analysis to that of the consumer price index to avoid the behavioral economics subfield of the discipline.

CPI numbers were at their highest in two key periods in the past 80 years – the 1970s and the 1940s. The condition that these periods had in common was US participation in war. In the 1970s, war broke out in a place where we still have warzones today, the Middle East. At

this time the Yom Kippur War took place and a subsequent reduction in oil exported to the U.S. by OPEC was in force. This inflationary period can be concluded to have been caused by what economists refer to as a supply shock. Energy price increases impact all components of CPI. All goods must be transported overland.

Capitalism has given us two options to control inflation: monetary policy and fiscal policy. Some people on the right may espouse that government spending can only do harm. To counter this belief, I will include a discussion on fiscal policy measures momentarily. Monetary policy consists of the actions taken by central banks to pursue their stated mission as an entity. Here in the U.S., our central bank, the Federal Reserve ("the Fed") has a dual mandate to control inflation and have "full" employment (aside: full employment actually means around a 5% rate of unemployment, so a healthy capitalist economy will always have some level of unemployment).

Monetary policy can be carried out by the Federal Reserve by influencing the supply of money in the market. One possible pathway that the Fed can take is to conduct open market operations, an elaborate way of saying that the central bank will buy or sell bonds. In the case of an inflationary period, the Fed will sell treasury bonds with greater gusto, thereby decreasing the circulating supply of money and increasing the federal funds' interest rates, which underpins all interest rates charged on everything from home mortgages to credit card rates. In short, given the action taken by the Federal Reserve, the working class would see a rise in financing costs which could stretch an already difficult budget, while those who hold claim to the debts – banks, lending institutions, and capitalists in general – would see a rise in the income generated by their debt holdings like issued mortgages and credit cards.

Fiscal policy is what could be thought of as "government spending" and has frequently been a topic of debate by capitalists and their political allies on the right. It includes government action to control inflation, among other things. These policies can be more varied than the actions undertaken by the Fed. In the past inflationary periods, most recently in the 1970s, we have seen actions such as rationing of fuel and geopolitical posturing. There are three key approaches for fiscal policies. Firstly, the government can introduce

price fixing measures. Secondly, they can introduce quantity fixing measures, like the fuel rationing seen in the 1970s. Lastly, they can influence the tax rates. In the 1970s, none of these government policies were effective save for geopolitical posturing during the Yom Kippur War.

Unfortunately, not much has changed in the last 50 years when it comes to the cause of inflation. Looking at the CPI of today, we see price increases in both housing and energy. Let's examine these in depth.

Housing price increases have been centered on those who rent rather than those who buy or own a home. Both have become more expensive in recent years but rental rates have had a higher increase. Using the bourgeois economic laws of supply and demand, this should not have happened. To this day, we still have more than enough housing for everyone, which – according to supply and demand – should have led to a reduction in housing costs. But instead the opposite is true. Why has this happened? I can only point towards the greed of the dying landlord class as a means to explain the increase. This can be thought of as a reprisal for the rent pause during the COVID-19 pandemic to make up for the loss of income for landlords.

Energy costs are another major contributor to the inflation rate today. Similarly, due to military conflict, the fossil fuels we use to power our lives have exhibited a supply shock. Russia, a key provider of petroleum exports, has cut the flow to western European nations in light of the war in the Donbass region of Ukraine. The impact of this is not felt as strongly here in the U.S. due to the already high domestic oil and gas production, but nonetheless it has had an impact given that the shortfall of Russian oil affects U.S. and NATO allies.

Some may throw around the word inflation loosely, but what truly constitutes inflation is often a mystery. CPI is the measure used to represent inflation and an increase or decrease in each category determines the overall inflation measure. Energy or fuel costs have been the primary driver of inflation today, similarly to the 1970s oil crisis period. Suffice to say, if you want to stand against increasing prices you have to stand against war. Stand against war in 2022 like our predecessors did in the 1970s. Your bank account will thank you.

## UPS AND THE US HEATWAVE: BOSSES PROFIT ON DEADLY CONDITIONS

By Devin B, Red Phoenix Correspondent  
NYC, September 12, 2022

In the United States, there are 702 heat-related deaths per year and roughly 67,512 visits to the emergency room due to heat. As of the publication of this article, 37,864,278 people have been under heat alerts in the midst of a summer in which June temperatures registered as the 15th-warmest June readings in 128 years. In July, Salt Lake City reached triple digit temperatures 16 times. Climate change has created these seemingly 'freak' occurrences and is continuing to create conditions that will only bring more intense and more deadly weather events. As these conditions worsen, more and more people will be put at risk, particularly those individuals who work outdoors or are involved in work that requires repetitive movement and physical labor.

The delivery drivers and warehouse workers are aware of this very danger, as over the course of these past Summer months, UPS employees all across the country were succumbing to extreme cases of heat exhaustion and at times fatal instances of heat stroke. Delivery drivers across the nation were reporting temperatures as high as 116 to 120 degrees in their trucks. Drivers typically have anywhere from 150 to 200 stops a day, with as many as 300 packages to deliver during shifts that last up to 14 hours. Yet, the trucks they drive lack air conditioning due to the company's claim that it would be "ineffective," but one could easily argue that allowing the trucks to reach temperature



*A reading inside a UPS truck this July (2022), Florida.*

ranges that the National Weather Service classifies on the heat index as 'Danger' level is immoral and "ineffective" in itself. Buildings can reach similar temperatures given the right conditions, and often the trucks reach triple digit temperatures even while they're still parked on company grounds. It all sets up the ideal foundations for the very suffering which we witnessed not only in these past months but in these past few years. Such practices are the same that killed Jose Cruz Rodriguez Jr. In Texas and Esteban Chavez Jr. in southern California.

All this suffering and death came out of the world's largest package delivery company which collected \$97.3 billion in revenue in 2021. Within the first 9 months of that year, the company "generated more profit than any full year in our history," said CEO Carol Tomé. This immense amount of revenue is openly enjoyed by the top executives and investors who indulge in their increasing wealth, while the working class endures ever increasing hardships. The pandemic's consequences have caused around 97 million more people to live on less than \$1.90 a day. While the majority of people experience new problems in conjunction with worsening economic and ecological conditions, the ruling class will continue to rake in record profits by exploiting our labor and restricting our rights worldwide.

These are the expected results of the capitalist mode of production; a greater saturation of wealth amongst an exclusive minority that benefits directly from the extraction of surplus

value from the laboring majority. To survive in the capitalist system, private companies are encouraged to provide the least amount of amenities possible to their workers and to constantly strive to lower employees' wages in order to extract maximal profits from production. The less they are obliged to pay their workers, and the less they are required to invest in workers' safety and security, the more profits can be dedicated towards expanding production and the personal indulgences of the bourgeoisie. Sadly, it doesn't stop there. This economic and political system is not only financially inequitable and exploitative, it is also environmentally damaging and unsustainable.

Capitalist production functions on a system of limitless growth – profits must rise year over year or else a company is deemed unprofitable. This means that in the case of UPS, executives and management personnel are encouraged to continuously increase the number of trucks deployed and packages delivered each and every year despite the effects that emissions, pollution, and waste will have on our already fragile ecosystems. Corporations' so-called green initiatives, such as the shift toward manufacturing electric and hybrid vehicles, will only dampen the drastic consequences of these practices. Even these types of 'green' alternatives aren't sustainable! The only way to achieve true sustainability is to establish a workers' democracy that ensures the proletariat's rights and that aims to protect the planet.



## OHIO POWER OUTAGE DURING HEATWAVE DRIVEN BY INEQUALITY

By Robin H, Red Phoenix Correspondent Ohio, July 2, 2022

A storm that swept through Ohio in June left a wake of destruction which also damaged the power grid. American Electric Power, an energy provider for the Columbus area, decided to shut off power to "keep outages from spreading and make it harder and longer to restore power". Hundreds of thousands of residents went without electricity, as AEP affirms that this decision was science based.

Many people spent several days without power, most of whom received no warning. This is especially significant considering the massive heat wave across America that week. The other noteworthy factor regarding the planned outages is that densely populated lower income neighborhoods, like Linden and Hilltop, had their power shut off while more rural and well-off areas maintained power.

The outages could have been profit motivated, as AEP was ordered by state regulators to refund 7 million dollars in 2010 for profits that were "significantly excessive". 84 million dollars were refunded for 14 other cases in 2017. A Columbus City Council member, Rob Dorans, was told by AEP that residents would not be getting compensation for the blackouts. On June 16th, Dorans wrote on Twitter, "I deleted some tweets from earlier today encouraging folks to file claims with @AEPOhio for losses associated with these blackouts. Unfortunately, @AEPOhio contacted me this afternoon, for the 1st time during their outages, to tell me they would not compensate residents."

AEP must now be feeling the heat. The company withdrew from Columbus Pride, citing that they wanted pride to be about the community. They are also offering a measly 1 million dollar reimbursement, which amounts to less than 6 dollars per person affected by the outages. CEO Nicholas Akins made 15 million in 2020 according to AFL-CIO, and AEP Ohio earned about 2 billion in profits.

However, an ex-AEP worker and control systems engineer Joshua 'TI' Herald explained that the shut downs are not caused by profit – at least, they are not caused by profits gained by withholding electricity from residents. Instead, TI argues three main points:

1. Power is cut in order to prevent fires and an even more widespread system failure. This practice is called "load shedding." The load shedding was a result of legally enforceable orders to AEP by another company called PJM. Because an electrical fault could either be a simple fix or a complicated multifaceted problem, repair times can vary widely. Hence there really was no malice with how AEP or PJM operated given the conditions. The malice, however, lies in the next two points.

2. The response was not properly executed. AEP should

have notified residents, held multiple press conferences, and done all that they could to alert the people of imminent power outages. The problem with load shedding, according to TI, is that AEP did not know ahead of time which lines would be turned off. The turning off of power lines was done remotely based on system data and not necessarily by neighborhood income levels.

3. These outages disproportionately affected poorer neighborhoods due to the privatization of the service. Because it is privatized, the quality of the electrical grid is subject to the difference of income from neighborhood to neighborhood – a phenomenon called the uneven development of capitalism. There is no means of allowing for an even, equal, and fair updating of all systems. Hence, while some could speculate on how much AEP is overcharging here and there, or how hateful towards impoverished people they could be, the real root of the problem is that AEP, or any private energy firm, even exists in the first place. It is precisely because of the private nature of the firm that causes the unevenness of repairs and upgrades to the system.

In the middle of this catastrophe, worker solidarity has sparked change. Groups like Food Not Bombs, Housing Ohio, First Collective, the Sierra Club, Sunrise Columbus, and the community at large have come together to provide aid to those who have lost power. Assisting with such tasks as water distribution, food distribution, and transportation to cooling centers, the mutual aid networks of Columbus have kicked into high gear. Blackout Mutual Aid Resources is a website that provides assistance such as locations of cooling centers, heat stroke resources, outage maps, free fans, and even demanding compensation from AEP.

The following is an unedited statement by Sunrise Columbus: "American Electric Power Corporation (AEP) displayed their incompetence and lack of regard for human life allowing thousands of homes to go without power last week. As reports from across the city of Columbus on Tuesday and Wednesday revealed that more than 170,000 people were plunged into a blackout, it was not AEP, but neighbors, mutual aid organizations, and community organizations that mobilized to care for our community. Sunrise Columbus communicated across networks to assess and respond to community needs and determine who to hold accountable so this would never happen again. Members developed and updated a resource page (editors note: this is the Blackout Mutual Aid Resources website) to provide information on how to get support during the blackout. We formulated demands with input from partner organizations, and organized a protest in front of the well-lit AEP building on Wednesday evening, even as large swaths of Columbus remained without electricity. As households slowly regained power on Thursday, Sunrise Columbus provided ice, water, popsicles, sunscreen, and other necessities to neighbors in Linden while hearing their stories from the past week. We heard

about dangerous intersections without stop lights, children unable to communicate with their parents because their phones died, heating food by running hot water over canned goods, fridges and freezers of spoiled food, and heat making it hard to breathe. It is clear we cannot trust AEP or city leaders to be prepared for the next climate-induced extreme weather event and our organization is already in conversation around how to prepare for the high temperatures expected next week. As a youth-led climate justice organization, we know that extreme-weather events are only going to become more likely. We also believe that we deserve a world where utilities and government take seriously the need to address climate change while implementing mitigation strategies for the effects of extreme weather events that we are already experiencing. We will continue to work to keep our community safe and to demand accountability from AEP and our government."

Another group has also been hounding state legislatures. B.R.E.A.D. argues that this move affects people with breathing problems like COPD or asthma, is an environmental concern, and hurts the poor and disadvantaged. B.R.E.A.D. represents 44 diverse congregations with over 20,000 members in central Ohio. "This is a justice issue, and B.R.E.A.D. will continue to work with and press officials to act," said board member Diane Jackson.

State Legislators finally listened when 9 Democratic representatives from the House sent a letter demanding answers: "We find it troubling that AEP has no issue with customer notifications when bills are due, but when customers are faced with historic heat, limited resources and great needs, there seems to be limited or no communication about planned outages that impact the health, safety and welfare of customers. We appreciate your attention to these important matters and believe a further detailed accounting of and investigation into these events is warranted."

TI ended his Facebook rant with an eerie warning for the future: "...this isn't the end. With climate change causing more record-breaking temperatures and storms, along with lagging infrastructure, there will be more outages like this. Even more, there will eventually be larger scale and longer outages in the future – particularly if generating capacity is taken offline in conjunction with downed transmission lines in a single storm and high temperature event across the state. Welcome to the future."

The answer to austerity, and the resulting human cost, is to get organized and get active, to gather folks together for the coming troubles. We need mutual aid and working class solidarity to build a future lead by workers. The future of our planet and our neighborhoods depends on it.

# THIS LABOR DAY, CELEBRATE THE RESURGENT UNION MOVEMENT'S VICTORIES AGAINST PANDEMIC CAPITALISM

By John Palameda, Red Phoenix Correspondent Chicago, September 4, 2022

In the United States, those of us who are leftist workers have a vexed relationship with this labor day, the first Monday in September. The day was a refuge for the American state and compromising union leadership from the May Day riots, namely Haymarket, and has since then become a state-recognized and confined day off for all workers in the US, matched with the expected sales and marketing campaigns.

Yet, Labor Day in September did begin with mass demonstrations of laborers with the Knights of Labor, AFL, and other unions in New York City in the last two decades of the 19th century. The first Labor Days were celebrated with picnics and demonstrations, finished with rousing speeches from early labor leaders. And recently, there have been preliminary attempts and rumblings to bring the red spirit of May Day to our official holiday in the US.

If there ever is a time to revisit Labor Day with this perspective, it is now. Workers across the country face mounting attacks post-Janus and in the turbulent post-pandemic job market. As we've reported, trans workers are having their workplace rights attacked, tenant eviction protections have elapsed, inflation is on the rise, women's rights are under attack, and anti-working class right wing terror is on the rise.

Resurgent unionism has nonetheless risen in these conditions. Countless strikes organized at the workplace from fast food fights for 15, to graduate student unions, to rideshare strikes emerged in 2019, which led to the huge growth in union efforts at some of the largest companies in the US, including Starbucks and Amazon. These movements have come to define the growing leftist movement in the United States, despite corporate attacks and sabotage. The DSA Convention, largely panned for its procedural "difficulties" and reformist perspectives, nonetheless clearly declared democratic unionism to be the beating heart of the American left. This growing movement demands greater organization than what currently exists, and workers have risen, often autonomously, and against the reformist democratic party and moderate union leadership, to that challenge. Bringing the militancy of our May Day marches to this day in this context, reflects the general turn in American left strategy to bring our politics to the American worker, to merge our spaces, and make left spaces less exclusive and distinct from the lives of American workers.



The American Party of Labor flag at the Haymarket Martyrs Monument, 2021, Forest Park, IL. (Photo credit: The Red Phoenix)

In this spirit, we mark Labor Day not half-heartedly, but with the full strength of our voices as American workers. Our labor did not, as moderate union leaders will no doubt say on this day, "create the middle class," as if our identity as workers is a transitory state between poverty and wealth. On this day we remember the millions of US workers, many of them immigrants, who made the American labor union the most militant movement in recent American history, and we appreciate the progress we are making in reforging that movement. We look to our emerging working class leaders in our locals and nationally. In the face of increasing attacks on immigrants and our unions, we say emphatically that, in the words of David C. Coates, radical union labor organizer:

*"An Injury to One is an Injury to All."*

# JUSTICE FOR DONOVAN LEWIS! (1/2)

**By: Robin H., Red Phoenix Correspondent**  
Ohio, September 12th, 2022

If you would like to help, you can share and donate to the family's fundraiser ([gofundme.com/f/donovan-lewis](https://gofundme.com/f/donovan-lewis)) and sign the petition demanding justice for Donovan ([change.org/p/justice-for-donovan-lewis](https://change.org/p/justice-for-donovan-lewis)).

## Who was Donovan Lewis?

Donovan Lewis was born May 14, 2002. Donovan wanted to become famous for his music. Upon discovery of his partner's pregnancy, he wrote a song called "Letter to My BabyMama." He regularly posted music he made on his YouTube Channel. Donovan loved sports; his favorite football team was the Dallas Cowboys. He played football for Westerville Central High School. He was a good friend – always reliable, and there for people who needed him. Teachers loved him. His community loved him. Donovan was always looking out for others, according to his father Daryl Lewis.

"I want to be known as someone who is passionate about music, someone who likes sports, is smart, and has a good sense of humor. That is who I am and will always be." – Donovan Lewis, according to the Washington Post.

Donovan Lewis loved his partner, LaTonya Lewis. However, troubles came when he shoved her in August, prompting her to call the police. Donovan also had outstanding warrants for improper handling of a firearm and domestic violence.

## Murder of Donovan Lewis

Police served the warrant around 2:00 AM on Tuesday, August 30, using a K9 unit. When they located Donovan, he was in his bed. It took less than a second for officer Ricky Anderson to fire, striking him in the chest. Afterwards they stripped him nearly naked and hauled him outside. People at a protest over his murder chanted about the officer's treatment seeming like he was "handling a piece of meat." He died in a hospital from his wounds. They found no weapons, and only a vape pen. The footage can be found using this link.

The cost of the murder of Donovan Lewis includes the loss of community support that he provided, the loss of a potential musical career, the loss of his kind contribution to all of his friends' lives, and the loss of a father, son, and partner. The cost to the community is the fear of potentially being shot in bed. The cost is the realization that the "right to fair



(Photo source: [change.org/p/justice-for-donovan-lewis](https://change.org/p/justice-for-donovan-lewis))

trial" is a façade.

## Protests of the Murder

Protests were held throughout Labor Day weekend, with a rally at the police headquarters on Friday night, a free meal service courtesy of Food Not Bombs and JUST Saturday afternoon, and further protests on Saturday night on OSU campus. The American Party of Labor participated in the first night of protests and the Saturday meal service.

Many organizations were in attendance on Friday night. Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America is an organization that specifically tackles gun violence and demands stricter gun laws. The Brady Campaign demands control of firearm manufacturing and gun laws. Columbus Police Accountability Project is an African American-lead effort to gain federal protection from police officers that violate the civil rights of community members. Food Not Bombs and Food Soldier brought a wagon of free t-shirts, food, and water to distribute to attendees. The American Party of Labor contributed masks and hand sanitizer, and helped dispense food and water. The APL also brought blank posters and markers for people to create their own protest signs. The Party for Socialism and Liberation was present to provide sound equipment, and their members carried a banner with thousands of names of people who have been unjustly killed by Ohio police officers. The Dntowners had one of the most radical speeches. Notably, they said that the system needs to change, that Democrats and Republicans were two wings of the same bird, that the only thing the ruling class cares about is money, and that the people in power fear the protesters even when all we carry are signs and markers. Members of Donovan's family were in attendance and gave their own speeches. After the speakers were finished, protesters marched through the

streets, with Donovan's family leading the crowd. They played Donovan's original music, sang songs, and chanted slogans, while police cars monitored from afar. At the end of the protest, the protesters gave a list of demands:

1. The termination and arrest of officer Ricky Anderson, and the donation of his pension to Donovan Lewis' family.
2. Prohibition of warrants served between midnight and 8:00 AM.
3. An in-person meeting between the Lewis family and the chief of police, Elaine Bryant; Mayor Andrew Ginther; and public safety director, Robert Clark.
4. An independent investigation into Donovan's death, adjacent with that of the Bureau of Criminal Investigation.
5. An end to qualified immunity.
6. Diversion of police funding to mental health services and grassroots organizations dedicated to social services.
7. A ban on the use of K9 units for offenses not related to drugs.

They gave the city seven days from September 2nd to comply.

The Saturday meal service was provided by JUST and Food Not Bombs/Food Soldier. Food Soldier is a service headed by a military veteran who is waging a war on hunger. They gave away clothing, personal care items, food, reading materials, and hot meals, courtesy of JUST. **(Continued on page 6)**

## JUSTICE FOR DONOVAN LEWIS! (2/2)

### *Police Corruption and Systemic Racism*

Americans are frequently denied their right to a fair trial by jury. Nationwide, 97% of criminal cases are settled through plea bargains, in which sentencing is reduced when a defendant admits guilt, and there is no questioning of the police testimony. Plea bargains account for 68.2% of murder cases, 100% of burglary cases, 86.7% of arson cases, and 87.5% of sexual abuse cases. For most other crimes the rate is over 90%. Think about the implications: 90% of the time, police evade cross examination by the defendant. The judge and jury have a diminished role compared to the prosecution. Thus, our conception of a fair and just judicial system in which all have a right to a jury typically constitutes less than 10% of all real legal cases. Typically, the reasons for this include financial burdens. Challenging a misdemeanor allegation can cost between \$3,000 to \$5,000 for the defendant, while challenging a felony could range from \$10,000 to \$20,000. For a severe case with life sentencing as a possibility, the cost could be up to \$40,000 in lawyer fees alone.

Complaints on average need four layers of review in disciplinary cases. For some agencies there can be as few as one layer, and others may have as many as six or seven layers. Complaints about the use of force by a police officer result in punishment only 7% of the time. The consequences for filing "false" complaints is considered a violation of free speech, since the remaining 93% could be constituted as fabrications. Derek Chauvin, before his day of infamy, had 18 prior complaints against him with only two leading to disciplinary action.

Police officers are known to be dishonest, yet continue to serve long after their lies have been proven. Researchers studying police action have found that perjury is typical in cases of narcotic sales, rape, and child neglect. Perjury is also common among officers seeking overtime or a promotion. It is frequent among police who have already been known to lie on or embellish their police reports. Two thirds of the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics' data on complaints of excessive force is apparently missing when compared to that same data from the websites of individual police agencies.

It is undeniable that systemic racism goes hand in hand with police violence, but to substantiate it, here are a few pieces of information. According to researchers, black men are 2.5 times more likely to be killed by cops than white people, and twice as likely as white people to be unarmed when shot by police. Law enforcement officers are 5 times more likely to shoot in predominantly black neighborhoods. Black

officers were less likely to shoot than white officers in black neighborhoods. Overall, 1 in every 1,000 black males are killed by police.

Research on police activity has been crude and sparse. Robin Engel, director of the Center for Police Research and Policy in Cincinnati, says, "We're operating in the dark about what are the most effective strategies, tactics, and policies to move forward with." The data we do have says it all: we have very little oversight, and it is desperately needed to start the process of dismantling systemic racism and police brutality.

### *Conflict and the Police*

In Sarah Schulman's book *Conflict is Not Abuse*, she talks about the complex nature of conflicts as multifaceted phenomena. She explains that conflict is not always an entirely victim-perpetrator situation, and that all sides of a dispute need to be heard before acting hastily. The conclusion of her book is that abuse and conflict are often confused – abuse involves power over another person, and a conflict is an issue taking place between two people who have shared responsibility for the situation. She wrote about police violence as it pertains to conflict:

"... we all know that many women and children are still subjected to unrestrained violence and severe domination without recourse. We also know that the state over-polices vulnerable communities based on race, poverty, legal status, sex work, or being transgender and other contested existences, and therefore the state itself is often the source of violence. So here we find ourselves in a multi-part conundrum: (I) Some of us are able to use the police to help resist violence and domination. (II) Some of us continue to experience violence and domination despite the police. (III) Some of us experience the police themselves as the source of violence and domination. (IV) Some of us call on the police because we don't know how to solve problems. (V) Some of us use the rhetoric of violence and domination to avoid the discomfort of facing our own aggression. (VI) Some of us use the police to reinforce our own unjust social power. These are not "equal" experiences. For some, the pain caused by these imbalances defines the meaning of advantages that the same inequalities create for others. More importantly, the simultaneity of these realities, experiences, and relationships to the state can serve as a model of how to understand that structures can have different meaning for different people at the same time. This is the fundamental reason why everyone needs to be heard in order for conflict to be resolved." (Sarah Schulman, *Conflict is Not Abuse*, p. 85-86)

Donovan Lewis' partner, LaTonya Lewis, told the Washington Post, "I never wanted him to get in trouble. I wanted him to figure out his life. I'll never understand this." Instead of acting as a mediator for conflict resolution, the officer Ricky Anderson killed him without any discussion, and without an opportunity for a fair trial and a just punishment had the relationship between Donovan and his partner been found abusive. Police operated not along lines of conflict resolution, but instead chose to resolve things their way, permanently ending the conversation before it even began.

### *Community Control of Police*

- The American Party of Labor stands for Community Control of Police. This was originally a Black Panthers strategy to fight racism and white supremacy. Community Control of Police entails the following demands:
- A directly-elected all-civilian council
- Final authority over police policy, oversight policy, and budget, including writing and reviewing
- Full authority on disciplinary measures and legal recourse, including subpoena power and the convening of grand juries
- Hiring and firing power over the police chief or superintendent, all officers on the force, the head of any existing oversight or review boards and offices, and the members of those
- Full access to all investigations by the oversight or review institutions
- Broadening of the scope of investigations to include all allegations of misconduct, including sexual assault
- Negotiation on police union contracts
- Exclusion of all current and former law enforcement agents from serving on the board

To read more, visit the websites of The American Party of Labor, and the National Alliance Against Racist & Political Repression.

Continue to struggle on the streets, make local connections, and organize with friends and locals. March in the streets, demand justice, and make changes in our communities.

# ICMLPO: THE LEFT, THE WORKERS, AND THE PEOPLE IN THE FACE OF IMPERIALIST WAR

## Final Declaration of the 26th International Seminar: Problems of the Revolution in Latin America, August 20, 2022

The invasion of Ukraine by Russian imperialism has turned that country into the scene of a war in which the economic, political and geostrategic interests of several capitalist-imperialist countries are at stake. This aggression and the immediate intervention of US imperialism and its allies of the European Union and NATO in the conflict shows the sharpening of the inter-imperialist contradictions, to the point of leading them to the military field, turning this conflict into a war of an inter-imperialist nature.

Although the military battlefield is centred on Europe, its repercussions are global in nature, with economic, commercial, political and social implications. The effects of a military conflict, added to the sanctions adopted by the bloc of the US and European Union against Russia, and the response it has given to these measures, has led to the exacerbation of some phenomena that already existed and the appearance of other problems, such as the increase in levels of inflation, the aggravation of the energy crisis, the risk of famine in some regions of the planet and the decrease in international trade. The most disturbing phenomenon concerns the slowdown in the growth rate of the world economy, to the point of warning of the risks that a new economic crisis of capitalism has been ignited.

Particularly in Europe, the war fever has led governments of different kinds (neoliberals, social democrats, fascists) to increase their military budgets, to reform NATO's budget and the number of its military personnel, while the workers and peoples are paying higher rates for public services such as energy, fuel and food and they are continuing to lose their jobs in branches where the effects of war are greater. There is no doubt that wars are big business for the monopolies and that the peoples are the main victims of these conflicts in which the interests of the owners of big capital are concerned.

But the impact on the living conditions of the workers and peoples is global. The serious problems created by the economic crisis of capitalism of 2020 and by the Covid 19 pandemic have not only not been overcome but, in the current situation, are getting worse. Latin America is one of the regions of the planet in which the lowest levels of economic growth are projected, with all the negative implications that this has for the living conditions of the workers and people; it is a continent in which, also, there are the highest levels of increase in poverty and extreme poverty.

This explains the rise of the struggle of the masses, who are taking to the streets so that the governments provide a positive response to their urgent material needs, but also to fight for political rights, for social transformation, in defense of water and the environment. The yearning for change is present among the peoples of our region and that yearning is accompanied by struggle, in which the workers, youth, women and indigenous peoples have a particular role. They are actions that come existed before and now are raised to higher levels of social conflict.

We live in a world in which the contradictions between capital and labor, between the workers and capitalists, between the peoples and imperialism are sharpening; in which the monopolies and the imperialist countries are counterposed to each other.

Inter-imperialist contradictions are not only present in the current conflict in Ukraine; they are various; they even exist among those who now act as allies to confront those they consider as the common enemy. Now attention is focused on the struggle between the bloc of the US and the European Union and Russia,

but we must not lose sight of the fact that the contradiction between the two largest economies on the planet, the US and China, sets the tone for the world economic and political scenario. Today we are witnessing a new episode of this confrontation, provoked by the visit of delegations of US imperialism to Taiwan.

In these circumstances, we reiterate our rejection of the invasion of Ukraine and the imperialist war and raise the banners of peace. We express our solidarity with the Ukrainian workers, youth and people who are the main victims of this conflict and are resisting. We know that, as long as the capitalist-imperialist system exists, the danger of war will be present, and that it can even take the form of a world war. Therefore, the struggle for peace is inextricably linked to the struggle against capitalism-imperialism and to the triumph of the social revolution and socialism. We demand the dissolution of NATO and of all military blocs, the destruction of nuclear weapons and an end to the programs aimed at their creation; we demand an end to the arms race and to allocate those resources for education, health and the creation of jobs.

We call for strengthening the unity and organization of the workers and peoples to confront the owners of capital, that this unity be anti-imperialist and anti-fascist and expresses the internationalist character of the struggle.

From this America, in which the peoples are struggling to win their emancipation, we express our solidarity with all the peoples of the world who are fighting for jobs, for life, for freedom. We are united by the same ideals; we know that we are right and we also have the strength.

### Attending Signatories:

Revolutionary Communist Party – Argentina  
 Revolutionary Communist Party – Brazil  
 Communist Party of Labor – Dominican Republic  
 Popular Revolutionary Front – Mexico  
 Communist Party of Mexico (Marxist-Leninist)  
 Single Union of the Workers of Notimex – Mexico  
 Union of Revolutionary Youth of Mexico  
 Union of Education Workers – Mexico  
 General Union of Workers of Mexico  
 Popular Democratic Bloc of Peru  
 Peasant Confederation of Peru Justiniano Minaya Sosa  
 Popular Democratic Front of Peru  
 Popular Antifascist and Anti-Imperialist Front of Peru  
 Provincial Federation of Peasant Communities and Agrarian Organizations of San Ignacio – Peru  
 Peruvian Marxist-Leninist Communist Party  
 Union of Student Youth of Peru  
 Towards Marxist-Leninist Unity, New York – United States  
 Unitary Confederation of Neighborhoods of Ecuador  
 Unitary Confederation of Retail Merchants of Ecuador  
 Revolutionary Youth of Ecuador  
 Popular Front – Ecuador  
 Federation of Secondary Students of Ecuador  
 Federation of University Students of Ecuador  
 Women for Change – Ecuador  
 General Union of Workers of Ecuador – UGTE  
 National Union of Educators – UNE – Ecuador  
 Popular Unity – Ecuador  
 Marxist-Leninist Communist Party of Ecuador



# THE STRUGGLE TO END ILLEGAL EVICTIONS IN PORTLAND



**By Isabelle B, Red Phoenix Correspondent Northwest, September 4, 2022**

In the state of Oregon, the eviction moratorium ended on June 30, 2021.

Since then, evictions have returned to their pre-pandemic rates as rental assistance programs close and expire. However, this does not mean the evictions over the past year, or prior to the expiration of the eviction moratorium, are just, or even fully legal.

Due to eviction cases being filed outside of criminal court (i.e., in civil court), tenants facing eviction do not have the right to legal counsel in most states. Landlords have a lawyer representing them in eviction cases, while tenants very frequently do not. This is largely due to the class divide between landlords and tenants—landlords are able to pay high legal fees (no doubt because of the rent they collect from working-class people), while tenants can not. A landlord with a lawyer and a tenant without legal representation, in a bourgeois judicial system, is a situation with all cards stacked against the tenant. Landlords and their lawyers are able to exploit legal loopholes and fabricate evidence against the tenant, virtually without dispute.

However, there is growing support in Oregon for this to change. Eviction Representation for All (ERA) is working to get an initiative on the Multnomah County ballot that would guarantee all tenants the right to legal counsel. If passed, tenants facing eviction would have a lawyer to represent them in civil court at absolutely no cost of the tenant. In other regions around the country, where similar measures have passed, up to 84% of legally represented tenants were able to stay in their homes, compared to reports of only 5% of tenants winning their eviction cases in areas without the right to legal counsel.

Today, ERA is in the collecting signatures stage of getting the right to legal counsel for tenants passed in Multnomah County, OR. ERA needs 30,000 signatures to get the initiative on a ballot, and with a growing group of working-class volunteers canvassing Portland residents, they are well on their way. Members of the American Party of Labor in the Portland area are working with ERA to build tenant power and solidarity.

Of course, building tenant power and fighting back against the backwards practices of landlords will not end when Multnomah County has the right to legal counsel for tenants. It is essential for renters to be aware of the exploitative actions of their landlords and find support with fellow tenants. For help finding and connecting with a tenants union, visit this map (<https://atun-rsia.org/tenants-unions>) of tenants unions in North America.

Housing is a human right! Stop evictions!

Solidarity with tenants movements everywhere!

Read more about ERA at [www.eratenants.org](http://www.eratenants.org)

# LIBERATION WORKER TOBY EMMER AND WHAT SHE LEFT BEHIND



Toby Emmer

**Ekim Kılıç, NY Co-Chair at National Writers Union, July 5, 2022**

I think that being pushed little by little towards the frontlines of battle, while our friends and coworkers suffer, is at the base of the fear and trepidation many of us feel. We, who are still striving to get out from underneath the ruins of the past to create a new world before it is too late, we who often feel alone, but never truly are. At every corner of the movement for a world that only belongs to working people, there are and were magnificent workers to be found.

If you are a nice kid in the working class movement, you will find those people. Evelyn Toby Emmer was one of them. When I received the news that we lost her, I felt that same fear again. Her example is irreplaceable for me and for most of us with her energy, passion, and diligence for a world of the working class. Toby worked for the black liberation and Puerto Rican independence movement throughout her life tirelessly. She was a different brand of internationalist, telling me that they were on the side of the people who wanted the Vietcong to win the war in the anti-war movement. She continued her work as a Union Maid and brought her educational work with her to District 65, later merged into UAW Region 9A, for which she ran the Education Fund the rest of her life. She always fought for more support to give to community education for non-members.

Again, Toby Emmer was a different brand of internationalist. She was asking my name with a deep respect and tender care, unlike so many. Originally being a Polish Jew, she was also aware of the brutal indifference of whiteness, and its tokenism. She was always working class gentle. Her family fled the oppressive atmosphere in Eastern Europe. Her great-grandfather was a doctor in the Jewish workers' association—the Bund. Her mother and father were members of the Communist Party of USA. As Gibb states, "She was a red diaper baby, whose parents were blacklisted and consequently poor, spied upon, and otherwise persecuted during the McCarthy era."

Her own life was always spent defending the oppressed peoples without knowing any fatigue or whining. Toby was such a brave person that as soon as one mentions the sorrows of other people, Syrian, Kurdish, Yemeni Arab, her heart would burn. One could see it in her eyes. She is the child of a Jewish immigrant family in an Anglo-Saxon-Germanic country. She has defended the most marginalized and humiliated communities, blacks and immigrants in the years when racism was at its height. She sided with the liberation guerrillas back in the Vietnam anti-war movement. She says that we invaded those countries and displaced people from their homes. Toby was a tiny aunt. But her heart was so big that thousands of people, dark-eyed, dark-haired, children would fit in.

Now I write for Toby Emmer. Because the youth of our movement have to know their history, magnificent, unknown, ordinary workers in the face of racist Republican and hypocrite Democrat capitalists, in the face of sell outs, and the bourgeoisie's "leftist" agents. The youth like me, like my comrades, have to know that there have been those workers who have carried from hand to hand the fire that Prometheus stole from the gods.

As I said, she was a magnificent worker. There was always a moment between us when Toby would mention her plans to visit Puerto Rico for some campaign to get in solidarity, visit her comrades. As soon as she comes back, she would jump in her car, drive to Ohio from New York to see her family. Toby Emmer was always forwarding me all those emails about political prisoners who have tons of different names, from different liberation movements. Toby

Emmer never left the side of her generation, even if they got in the deep and dark prisons of the empire. This makes her a role model for us in these days that we the new generations are trying to overcome sectarianism and individualism in the movement.

Toby's legacy has a huge mark on us—me. I am a teacher now. And in a class we talked about how Puerto Rico was colonized on Thursday, May 12, I did feel instinctually that I have to mention about this Toby. She would love to hear that. I could tell Puerto Rico's story, because Toby made me feel their pain. I never had that chance to tell Toby.

She was like my second mom, an elder sister that I could make gossip with. Before everything, Toby Emmer was one who would like to be called Toby instead Toby. She was a revolutionary spirit in a skinless individualistic world. She brought me an organic tomato, and two pieces of the best corn I ever had from her long trip from Ohio. Back on the way, can someone remember her friend in NY, and get some vegetables from a farmers' market before she leaves there?

Hence, Toby Emmer's greatness is at her simplicity—which is a beauty to belong to the working class people and its children. Junior's Restaurant and Bakery, and then that Irish restaurant we ate together with Toby for the last time. It was 2021 December as I recall, before I took off for Turkey for a while. We shared a Jumbo Hot Dog. Her appetite was so lively, youthful, and simple.

I wrote this article. When labor historian Mark Rogovin who I had a chance to meet shortly but felt like I had known him for thousands of years had passed away, I couldn't write anything for him. I feel regretful about it. Now I write for Toby Emmer. Because the youth of our movement have to know their history, magnificent, unknown, ordinary workers in the face of racist Republican and hypocrite Democrat capitalists, in the face of sell outs, and the bourgeoisie's "leftist" agents. The youth like me, like my comrades, have to know that there have been those workers who have carried from hand to hand the fire that Prometheus stole from the gods.

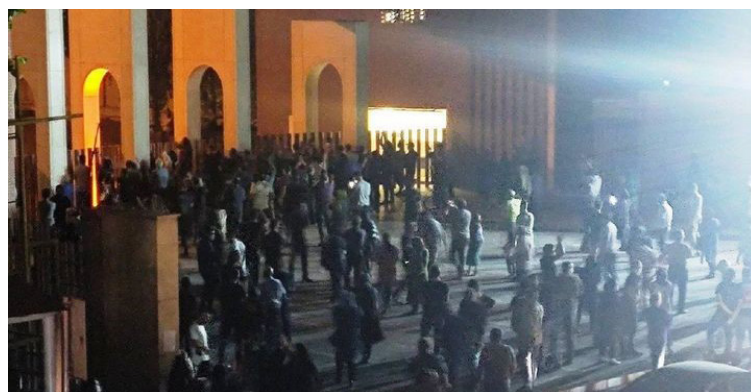
Con la lucha, Toby!

# **PARTY OF LABOR OF IRAN (TOUFAN): SOME IMPORTANT LESSONS FROM THE RECENT POPULAR PROTESTS**

**The Party of Labour of Iran (Toufan), September 25, 2022**

1. "Mahsa Amini", a 22-year-old woman from city of Saqqez went into a coma after being assaulted by the government's "Guidance Patrol". She died and left a nation in mourning. "Mahsa Amini" was not the first nor will she be the last victim at the hands of the Regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran. As a result of the indifference of the government to the living conditions of the masses, this murder was the spark that turned into a flame all over Iran and dealt a severe blow to the Islamic Republic. Angry crowds, including youth, teachers, workers, and students came together once again and demanded the dissolution of "Guidance Patrol" as a reactionary, repressive, and illegal organization. They used the slogan "repeal of compulsory hijab" as a flag against the rule of the capitalist Islamic Republic that has brought misery to the nation. With the vast participation of men, angry women challenged the government's indifference to their humane and rational demands by setting on fire their mandatory headscarves, a symbol of tyranny and humiliation. They challenged the Islamic Republic and its repressive police force and showed what an important role the women of our country will play in the coming revolution. The shining sympathy and general outpouring of people all over Iran show the extent to which the people of Iran hate and want to dismantle the regime of the Islamic Republic and all its oppressive organs. The murder of "Mahsa Amini" took place in a situation where poverty, skyrocketing prices, discrimination, corruption, embezzlement, sanctions, and foreign pressure plague the whole of society. The presence of dissatisfied crowds on the streets, the inflamed atmosphere, and the anger and hatred that unrolled throughout Iran sparked fear in the Islamic Republic and its police forces. The radicalization of the slogans of the people of Iran and the unity and solidarity of different layers of the urban communities are a response to the regime's indifference and lack of respect for the will of the majority in Iranian society. This treatment added to people's anger and encouraged people to join the protests with extreme slogans in unsuitable conditions. They made demands that did not have the chance to materialize. But despite that, we must respect this courage and selflessness and learn that dedication and self-sacrifice in the struggle for freedom and social justice are necessary and essential. We must add that such sacrifice alone is not sufficient. It does not lead to liberation from the darkness of capitalist tyranny. This spirit of fighting and courage must be combined with political awareness and organization and must be guided in the best direction possible.

2. The protests by the masses showed once again that, despite the loss of its forces and internal contradictions and international pressures, the capitalist regime of the Islamic Republic is still able to collect and concentrate its forces to suppress the people's struggles and protests. The more radical and violent the people's struggles become, the more concentrated and intensive the counter-revolutionary violence will be. The repressive forces of the regime, including the Revolutionary Guards, Mobilization (Basij) forces, agents in civilian clothing, lumpen proletariat, secret terrorist gangs, anti-riot repressive forces, law enforcement officers, and dozens of open and hidden groups are mobilized to prevent people from coming to the streets to fight the regime. The regime has installed facial recognition cameras at all the strategic points of the cities and roads so they can pursue the protesters after calm returns to the streets. The suppressing policy of the regime is organized in all arenas. At this moment, the balance of power is still in favour of the government. However, the flare-up of people's protests and their scope and depth and speed of their expansion surprised the regime. Subversive slogans, as opposed to logical and specific demands that are supported by most people, will not advance the protesting movement. Chanting subversive slogans are actions without thoughtful plans. They are spontaneous and emotional, and they



consequently isolate the legitimate movement of the people. The foreign media support these subversive and short-sighted actions, which only target the regime and have no beneficial plan of action for the future of Iran. They put forward slogans that will ultimately benefit their imperialist masters. The invitation to turn Iran into Libya and Iraq by the Zionist and imperialist counter-revolution in New York is one of these efforts. Unfortunately, due to the lack of revolutionary leadership, the people's protest movement was unable to draw a clear demarcation line with foreign enemies and their affiliated media and agents. It could not challenge their misuse of the people's struggle. A movement that cannot distinguish between friends and enemies is doomed to failure. The policy of imposing "mandatory hijab" and having Guidance Patrol on the streets has failed in Iran. This is also reflected in the internal differences within the government. The government of the Islamic Republic will be finally forced to ban the "Guidance Police". This is a victory for this protest movement.

3. The recent popular protests showed that the reactionary ruling class can suppress all movements that lack revolutionary leadership. To be victorious in a class struggle and in a social revolution, a leading and politically conscious force is needed. In order to win, the people's movement must have a headquarters in the battle. In the battle that takes place between the lower classes and the rulers, the people should have their own practical and theoretical leaders. Masses without leaders and leaders without an army can never win. Those who negate political leadership and unified command and those who promote anarchy, chaos, and liberalism are the enemies of the people. They cause the movement to fail. The current movement, regardless of its just core and legitimate cause, was a spontaneous movement. It was a temporary rebellion, filled with emotions and lacking in perspective. It easily fell into the anti-revolutionary hands of monarchists, terrorists, subversive sects of Rajavi of Mojahedin, and ethnic separatists. For enemies of Iran, women's rights is not an issue, and the lives of the Iranian people have no value. The unrest and misuse and the increase in the number of victims, which unfortunately has reached many dozens, have borne political fruit for them. Blind rebellion ends in despair. It should not be encouraged by politically conscious and responsible forces.

The most important lesson of the recent popular protests, like the popular movements of 1999, 2017, and 2019, is that a united revolutionary party of the working class is needed for final victory over the capitalist regime of the Islamic Republic and for crushing its repression machine. The mass of the people and the working class that lacks its powerful party are the cannon fodder of the bourgeoisie. The working class cannot and will not be able to liberate themselves and other oppressed people without the organization and leadership of a communist party. Resorting to unrealizable demands in inappropriate conditions only strengthens the counter-revolution and foreign enemies who want to sanction and dismember Iran.

**The American Party of Labor is a revolutionary working class organization.**

Our aim is to abolish the capitalist system and replace it with a socialist, working democracy, a system based on the principle laid out by Marx, "from each according to his ability, to each according to his need." There can be no true freedom or democracy, we argue, when billionaires have more wealth than the bottom 90% of Americans.

**Why be Marxist-Leninists in the USA in the 21st century?**

There is an important fundamental difference between Marxism and other so-called anti-capitalist or "third way" theories. Marx, unlike many thinkers of his day, did not just see a problem with capitalism that could be mitigated. Instead, he and his compatriots analyzed capitalism itself to understand how the system worked. Marx's ideas for revolution are based off of that analysis, and the experiences of the struggles in Europe of 1848. Solutions to the problems of capitalism can only be reached by understanding and observing the system itself, textured with the political reality of the country and historical struggles. This is why we think revolutionary history is worth talking about, and making part of our platform.

Regarding the regulation of capitalism and emergent social democratic reform movements, it is not uncommon that capitalist states restrict the private sector for various reasons. The problem is that political power is still stacked in favor of the ruling class, they have every avenue and all the resources necessary undo reforms and regulations. What truly led to the collapse of the socialist bloc was not that these countries pursued communism, which was ultimately too radical, but rather that these nations pursued market style reforms until they had more or less become capitalist countries. As we have seen in the US, liberal victories are short-lived.

Today, social democratic movements would have us do much the same, if not less - regulate capitalism, nationalize some industry, and try to maintain a welfare state- without expropriating the ruling class, without giving the nation a clear direction for the future, and worst of all, without putting the working class in power. We cannot face climate change, resurgent fascism, police brutality, the exploitation of oppressed nations, and the threat of American imperialism around the world without a revolutionary, centrally organized movement.

**How is the American Party of Labor Different From Other Organizations?**

**An Anti-Revisionist, Internationalist Party:** The American Party of Labor is a dedicated anti-revisionist party, opposed to concessions to capitalists, and critical of all imperialist actions by the US, Russia, and China. The APL is an observer member in the International Conference of Marxist-Leninist Parties and Organizations (ICMLPO), and participates in the international anti-revisionist struggle.

**A Party of Working Class People:** The American Party of Labor is made up of workers fighting for workers rights. Many of our members are in active union and unionization struggles, and we all do our political work after clocking out.

**A Party of Equals:** The APL is active in the fight for the rights of women, oppressed nations, the LGBTQIA+ community, and immigrants, and for the community control of police departments. In 2019, the APL was a founding member in the National Alliance Against Racist & Political Repression.

**Forever Anti-Fascist:** We take the anti-fascist legacy of the Marxist-Leninist movement. Members of the American Party of Labor are dedicated anti-fascists, and active in movements against the Far-Right on college campuses, and the barbaric treatment of immigrants at the border.

### **Who Can Join? How Do I Get Involved?**

Every working person who is open to our plan for change, agrees with our Program and Platform and is over the age of 18 is welcome to apply.

To look at our joining procedure, activity, membership FAQ, and more, please visit:

**[bit.ly/JoinTheAPL](https://bit.ly/JoinTheAPL)**

You can find everything that you should know about us here, and you can contact us and connect to members in your area.

If we don't have a presence in your city, we'll get to know you and help you establish one.



***"I firmly believe that the philosophy of my ancestors lines up quite tidily with the philosophy of communism. I make no apology for my principles."***

**— Lee Maracle**

**Indigenous activist, writer, and teacher**



**Legalize Workers - No More Detentions, No More Deportations, Abolish I.C.E.!**

**Guaranteed Work and a Livable Income!**

**Socialized Healthcare For All!**

**Nationalized Healthcare!**

**Free Education For All!**

**Equal Rights, Pay, and Housing For All!**

**End All Wars of Aggression!**

**Abolish Private Prisons, Free All Political Prisoners!**

**No Platform for Fascists!**

**Abolish Profit Made By the Exploitation of Labor!**

**The Red Phoenix is published bi-monthly by The American Party of Labor.**

**<https://TheRedPhoenixAPL.org>**

**<https://AmericanPartyofLabor.com>**

**To Subscribe: <https://bit.ly/RedPhoenixSub>**

**Editorial Board:** Victor Vaughn, Alfonso Casal, Sebastian Lemba, Benjamin Rizzo, June V.

**Managing Editor:** John Palameda.

**Staff:** Shane Mahadeo, Devin B, Robin H, John Palameda, Isabelle B, Ekim Kılıç.

**Made Possible By Contributions from Workers Like You**

### **Our General Line**

1. The American Party of Labor comes from and represents the American working class. From time to time and place to place there may be individuals who are admitted to the Party who do not have a working class background, or are not currently considered to be working class by Marxist-Leninist ideology and principles. Such individuals are exceptions to the general rule, as they have in effect transcended their class through conscious application of Marxist-Leninist ideology.

2. The American Party of Labor maintains that value in society is produced by human action within the material world. That is to say, value is created by the consumption of labor power. The working classes, which have only their labor power to sell for their daily sustenance, therefore make production possible. We call for the reorganization of society to provide the means of production to the working class to be administered either under an elected or selected management or collectively through a council system.

3. The American Party of Labor demands the abolition of private property and that all means of production be in the hands of the working class. Profit under capitalism is extracted surplus value from the consumption of labor power and constitutes a theft from the working class by the capitalist ruling class. Under our system, the working class will be paid the full value of their

production less the necessary deductions to support the state and its various cultural, economic and social support projects.

4. The American Party of Labor demands that all oppressed nations within the context of the American Empire, including, but by no means limited to, Indigenous peoples, Native Hawaiians, Guamanians and Puerto Ricans (within the context of Puerto Rico), be given national self-determination as to whether or not they wish to remain in the American socialist state, which shall be constructed on the remnants of the United States. We call for the end of the so-called commonwealth system in all U.S. imperial possessions. The nations in these political organizations should either choose to become a U.S. state or an independent country.

5. The American Party of Labor demands the cancellation of all current debt held by developing countries to the U.S. These loans were not made with the intention of helping the people of these countries, but rather to enslave those countries with debt.

6. The American Party of Labor is a party against all imperialism. We are opposed to all wars of aggression on the world stage and all other threats of war and military intervention. We call for the immediate withdrawal of all U.S. troops from abroad. We stand shoulder-to-shoulder with all

occupied peoples and with all nations living underneath neo-colonial regimes. We call for the end of foreign aid to Israel, Colombia and other outposts of capitalist and imperialist aggression.

7. The American Party of Labor is an internationalist party. All peoples around the globe struggling for their emancipation from their own systems of exploitation are our allies. We extend our hands to all revolutionary organizations guided by Marxism-Leninism worldwide and to national liberation movements of exploited peoples of all countries because our cause is one and the same.

8. The American Party of Labor demands the U.S. withdrawal from NATO and other imperialist alliances.

9. The American Party of Labor stands fully against the militarization of the U.S.-Mexican border. It supports the rights of immigrants and the ending of neo-liberal policies in other countries, particularly in Latin America and the Caribbean, that drive sustenance farmers off their lands and to the United States due to a lack of economic opportunity in their native countries.

10. The American Party of Labor has a more generalized list of our demands and positions in a separate document called the Party Platform.