



PEACE ★ EQUALITY ★ SOCIALIST DEMOCRACY ★ ALL POWER TO THE WORKING PEOPLE!

# The Red Phoenix

REAL NEWS FOR WORKERS, BY WORKERS ★ NEWSPAPER OF THE AMERICAN PARTY OF LABOR

AmericanPartyofLabor.com — RedPhoenixNews.com — Issue #35 — November 2024 — Donations accepted — Please copy and redistribute!

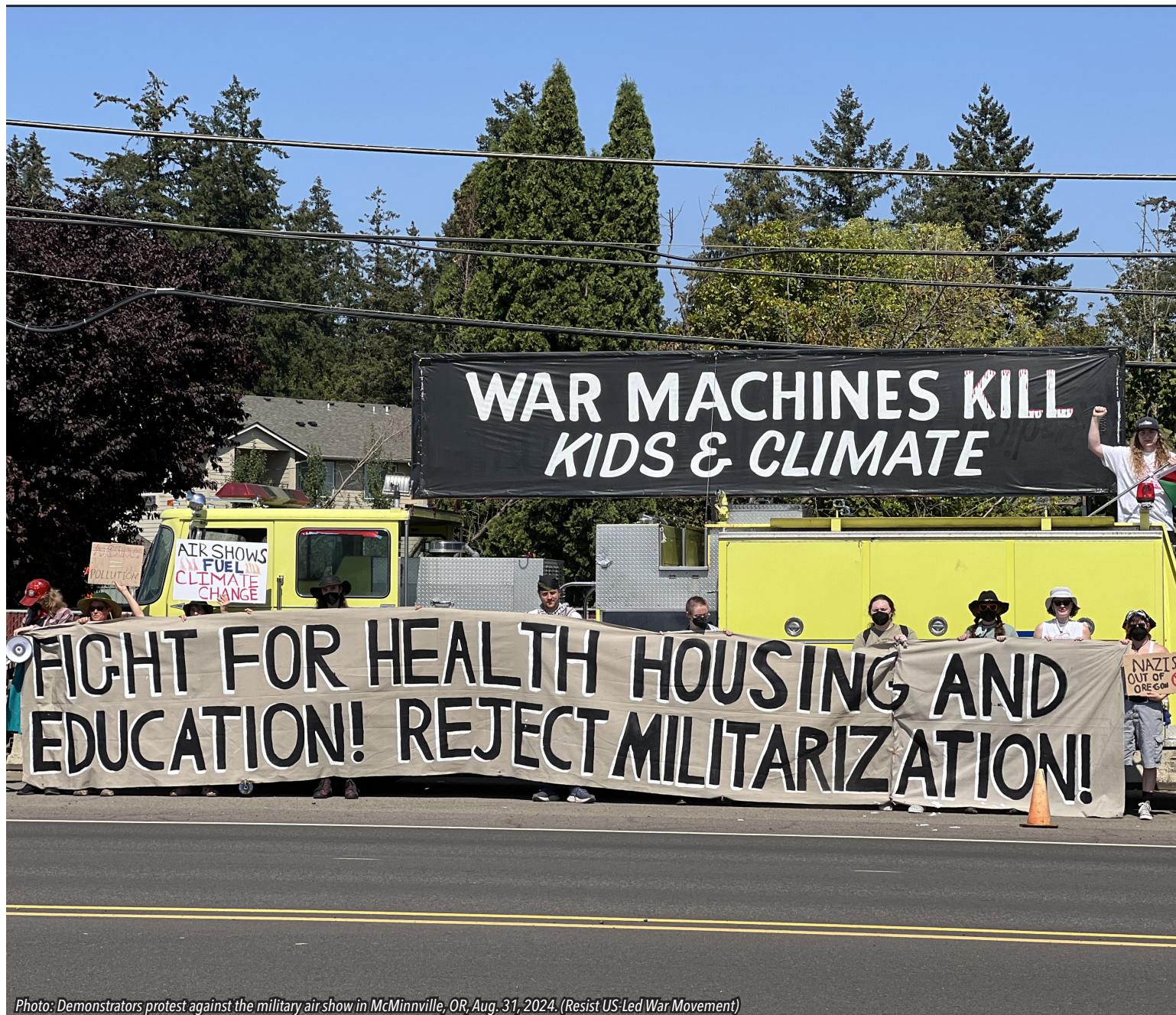


Photo: Demonstrators protest against the military air show in McMinnville, OR, Aug. 31, 2024. (Resist US-Led War Movement)

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## ELECTION 2024: FASCISM IS AT THE GATES



**Eris Rosenberg | Minnesota | Nov. 5, 2024**

"The American workers will not follow the bourgeoisie. They will be with us, for civil war against the bourgeoisie... I also recall the words of one of the most beloved leaders of the American proletariat, Eugene Debs, who wrote in the Appeal to Reason, I believe towards the end of 1915, in the article "What Shall I Fight For" that he, Debs, would rather be shot than vote credits for the present criminal and reactionary war; that he, Debs, knows of only one holy and, from the proletarian standpoint, legitimate war, namely: the war against the capitalists, the war to liberate mankind from wage-slavery."

– V. I. Lenin, *Letter to American Workers* (1918)

As Marxist-Leninists we again declare our opposition to the farcical circus that is bourgeois electoralism. We endorse no bourgeois candidates and support no arguments for lesser evil electoralism. Whether it is the bipartisan "civility" found in the 2024 Vice Presidential debate where fascist candidate J.D. Vance and run-of-the-mill imperialist Tim Walz patted each other on the back, Harris' declarations that transgender healthcare is not of concern to her and that voters will have to accept her support for Israel's genocide in Palestine, or the Democratic Party's tactic of allowing the GOP to implement antisocial policies while quietly continuing those policies when their turn at the helm comes, we can find no shred of progress in capitalist power-sharing schemes.

Through the use of gerrymandering, lobbying, and mass media, the bourgeoisie deftly block any and all attempts at reformism. Aside from the historical example of political bargaining whereby the bourgeoisie, fearful of a revolution, grants concessions to the working classes under the banner of social democracy, we are left lacking in examples of meaningful change within the confines of liberal electoral politics. In fact, these concessions are typically wrapped in red tape and full of disqualifying clauses, in addition to being gradually stripped away by the states that do give them. To further illustrate the disparity of power between workers and capitalists, even liberal academics have acknowledged the futility of voting in effecting change, declaring in academic terms that no democracy exists in the United States and that the average worker has near-zero influence on the political process. Thus, no matter which party wins at the ballot

in a bourgeois dictatorship, the proletariat always loses. Marx said it best: every few years the people get the choice to decide which member of the ruling class misrepresents them.

It has been established that voting on the national level has little to no effect on addressing the issues faced by the working classes. That said, while it is our duty to not take the high-sounding, empty slogans provided by bourgeois propagandists at face value, we must grapple with their rhetoric to find what kernels of genuine intent lie behind the façade. To broadly dismiss all bourgeois messaging as mere posturing and to pretend that the status quo will hold forever is to engage in dogmatism, is to reject dialectical and historical materialism, is to mislead the masses and set back the cause of revolution.

To be clear: we are finally in the midst of a resurrection of the communist movement after decades of setback by all colors of revisionists. But this resurrection is not taking place in a bubble. The forces of the revolution are still in the process of growing their numbers, raising their level of education and militancy, and building trust with the masses, as we have seen with the record growth of the union movement and the heroism of the student movement in standing with Palestine. And while it is true that we are currently observing a crisis of the upper classes in the United States, questions remain about the preparedness of both the various communist parties to lead, as well as the masses' preparedness to fight. Where are the large unions that can be mobilized for a general strike? Where are the soldiers who have prepared to throw their lot against their imperialist commanders? How many seasoned cadres do we have? And what level of discourse are mass organizations operating at? Workers' organizations across the United States are dealing with a lack of infrastructure and rigor in organizing that should have been cultivated ten, fifteen, twenty years ago – and they are doing so under the encroaching storm clouds of fascism, impending world war, and climate collapse. A cursory examination reveals we need more time and twice as much effort on the part of every revolutionary to succeed. To allow a misstep in either theory or practice at this crucial stage would doubtless result in a defeat for the proletariat an order of magnitude worse than in the previous century. To use a phrase coined by the author Martin Empson for his book of the same name and adapted from Luxemburg's famous quote: socialism, or extinction.

But it is not a mere matter of organizing and outreach – we must carefully consider our message to the masses while staying vigilant to avoid falling into error. The fundamentally incorrect position of declaring Harris to be equal to Trump would only serve to injure, and

as implemented by some of our contemporaries, has already injured the relationship of the working masses to various communist organizations. To state that a craven dime-a-dozen imperialist politician represents the same kind of threat to the working class as a fascist demagogue is to insult the working class' intelligence and argue they are incapable of perceiving existential threats to their existence. What do we mean by this? Donald Trump represents the momentary leader of the openly reactionary bourgeoisie. He and his running mate have declared to the world their list of targets to violently remove from the American political scene: 20 million alleged undocumented people, legal immigrants of various nationalities, the "radical left," women who do not adhere to traditional gender roles, and members of the LGBTQIA+ community, among others. He and his cohorts previously attempted to overturn the results of the 2020 Election, declaring intentions to pardon those convicted for their involvement on Jan. 6, 2021, and have threatened to contest the 2024 Election "violently" if they lose. These are not empty threats, as evidenced by two developments in particular: *Trump v. United States* (2024), and the former President's involvement with Project 2025.

In light of the above, the correct answer is neither to become a sycophant of the Democratic Party, which also represents the interests of our class oppressors and continues to enable unjust wars and genocide. Quite the opposite: it is a necessity that we double our criticisms of this compromising party given the false consciousness it pushes to the American workers, and emphasize the importance of building up independent proletarian political power. To quote Marx: "Even where there is no prospect of achieving their election the workers must put up their own candidates to preserve their independence, to gauge their own strength and to bring their revolutionary position and party standpoint to public attention. They must not be led astray by the empty phrases of the democrats, who will maintain that the workers' candidates will split the democratic party and offer the forces of reaction the chance of victory. All such talk means, in the final analysis, that the proletariat is to be swindled."

We must scrutinize the correctness of our line with twice the effort, and double our organizing and education efforts. We must field our own candidates for greater public reach at every level of electoral politics, and build up instruments of proletarian culture and proletarian news outlets. We must combat the inheritance of the student movement's fixation on organizing exclusively on campuses; we must branch out and agitate directly among the working masses, among the unions, and among veterans. Time is of the essence, and we have a world to win.

## AMERICAN PARTY OF LABOR ADMITTED INTO ICMLPO



### International Conference of Marxist-Leninist Parties and Organisations (ICOML)

**From the Secretariat of the American Party of Labor | Nov. 12, 2024**

The American Party of Labor is proud and humbled to announce its promotion to full membership within the International Conference of Marxist-Leninist Parties and Organizations (ICMLPO). The decision was made by a unanimous vote among the delegates of over 20 member organizations from around the world at the 2024 plenary of the Conference.

The APL was initially admitted under observer status in 2019. In the years since, our cadres have put in the diligent work of developing the revolutionary movement in the U.S., building the organizational structure of our Party, demonstrating consistent solidarity for the international working class, and rigorously adhering to the ideology and practices of Marxism-Leninism, refusing to bend to revisionist and opportunistic trends in the ongoing class war.

As a full member organization of the ICMLPO, our devotion to empowering the masses to liberate ourselves from capitalist oppression has never been stronger. Now is the time to redouble our efforts in our communities across the country, in the labor movement and in the struggles for all oppressed and working people. Our fight must span generations to ensure the ongoing victory of the proletariat, and the support of our international comrades is vital as we all struggle together to build working class power in every corner of the globe.

*All power to the working people!*



## APL DIVISION IN TWIN CITIES, MINNESOTA

**From the members of the American Party of Labor in the Twin Cities, MN | Nov. 19, 2024**

For a few years, individual members of the American Party of Labor have organized in the Twin Cities, MN, using that time to gain practical experience, to deepen our ideological understanding, and to build community connections. We have engaged with the struggles of workers and oppressed people in St. Paul and Minneapolis; we have built relationships with other progressive and revolutionary organizations; and we have come to understand and apply the St. Paul principles. At this point, we feel we can confidently say that the APL has a real presence in the Twin Cities. Therefore, we are proud to officially announce the formation of the Ernst Thälmann Division of the American Party of Labor.

### What is the APL?

The American Party of Labor, founded in 2008, is an anti-revisionist Marxist-Leninist party. We are guided by the theories and experience of the entire communist movement before us, especially by its most pre-eminent theorists: Karl Marx, Friedrich Engels, Vladimir Lenin, and Joseph Stalin. For his defense of these principles, and the critique of modern revisionism, we look to Enver Hoxha. For his critique of neo-colonialism, we look to Kwame Nkrumah. In line with these principles, we aim to develop a revolutionary class struggle to establish a dictatorship of the proletariat – i.e. a working class democracy, devoted to abolishing capitalism, imperialism, and all other oppression. In this fight,

we are resolutely opposed to imperialism, fascism, and everything reactionary. We do not give our support to any oppressor of the working people, whether rising or falling.

### Ernst Thälmann

Given recent events, we have chosen as our namesake Ernst Thälmann, the resolute fighter against German fascism and its enablers. An early leader of the Communist Party of Germany, Thälmann unwaveringly continued the fight for socialism during the rise of the Nazi Party, and rejected ideological opportunism and acquiescence to bourgeois electoralism. At the same time, he remained principled, and attempted to build fighting coalitions against the new Nazi forces. With Hitler's rise to power, Thälmann was first imprisoned, and then murdered on Hitler's direct order in 1944. In the face of rising fascism, Thälmann's resolve and courage stands as an inspiration to all communists. His martyrdom stands as a mandate to survive and to resist at every possible turn.

### Our Vow

We understand that strictly economic trade unionism fundamentally fails to recognize the need for a political revolution to completely destroy capitalism at the root. It fails to adequately address imperialism, and can also fall short in protecting marginalized and criminalized communities. Therefore, we will do everything in our power to build a working-class movement which

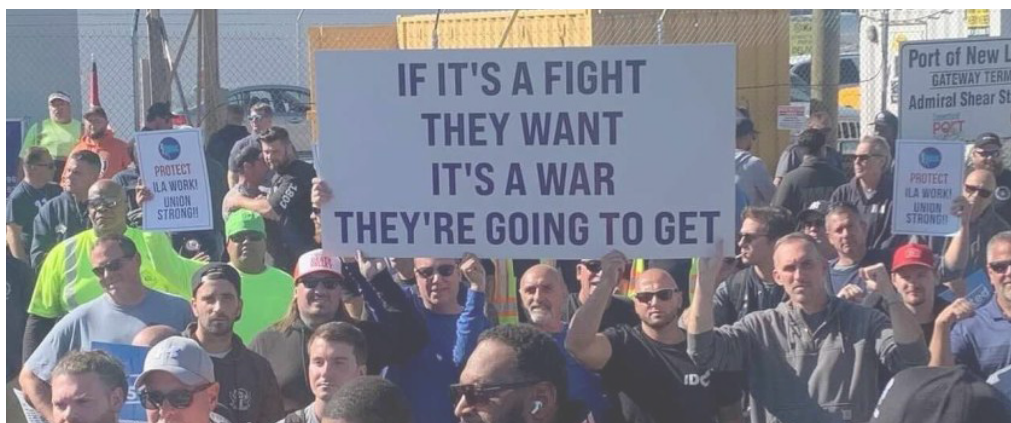
understands that every modern oppression is part of one integral whole, designed to preserve the profits of the capitalist class at the expense of the rights and dignity of the workers and oppressed masses. Intrinsic to this class struggle are the causes of those who are incarcerated, homeless, and disabled, and of immigrants, oppressed races and nationalities, and members of the LGBTQIA+ community. Moreover, as a member of the International Conference of Marxist Leninist Parties and Organizations (ICMLPO), we vow to fight U.S. imperialism for the freedom of our comrades in Europe, Latin America, Africa, and Asia.

### Get Organized

We invite all class conscious workers who are ready to fight oppression to join us, and to support our work through our newspaper, the Red Phoenix (RP). Visit us online at [AmericanPartyOfLabor.com](http://AmericanPartyOfLabor.com) and [RedPhoenixNews.com](http://RedPhoenixNews.com).



## FROM MAINE TO TEXAS, EVERY SINGLE PORT!



International Longshoremen's Association workers hold signs protesting unemployment and low wages amid contract negotiations. (Photo: ILA)

**R. Nesbitt | Maryland | Oct. 21, 2024**

On October 1, 2024, the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) launched a strike including several key ports all along the East Coast of the United States, from Boston and New York in the North, to New Orleans and Houston in the South. After two days of struggle, the ILA suspended the strike after reaching a "tentative" agreement on wages with the United States Maritime Alliance (USMX), an association of shipping companies located all over the country. The fight is not over yet; negotiations are ongoing between representatives of the ILA and the USMX over various other concerns of the Longshoremen, chiefly, restrictions on automation driving up unemployment and driving down wages and bonuses for dockworkers. This is pivotal as automation and semi-automation have been responsible for more job loss and underemployment than NAFTA, and with continuing innovations to automation and to artificial intelligence, its impact will be felt even more deeply. The ILA must be praised for bringing this issue to the forefront of national discussion.

As stated in our analysis of the collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge over the Patapsco River, much of the traffic going through Baltimore Port was diverted to other nearby ports like Wilmington, New York, and in Northern Virginia. The lost hours for Longshoremen in Baltimore and the heavy burden of labor on port workers in other cities, which in itself incentivized trends towards automation and partial automation, have all contributed in the desire of Longshoremen to secure commensurate wages for their onerous work and to protect their positions from the robotic shortcuts of the bosses.

These negotiations will terminate on January 15, 2025, if an agreement is not met between the negotiators before then. The cautious rise in wages for Longshoremen (as the distribution economy

reaches peak season) is a tremendous victory in itself for organized labor in this country, but already the representatives of the bourgeoisie are weaponizing this recent skirmish in the class war to their own ends. The Biden administration has touted itself as the most "pro-Union" administration since FDR, and while there is some truth to that, it only speaks to the depressing dearth of protections for the working class, and the cunning opportunism of the American bourgeoisie. Since 2020, unionized labor has reached heights of membership and activity not seen since the Great Depression, and even incredibly compact and unsteady industries in customer service, such as Starbucks, have unionized to great success these last four years.

Why then does the Biden administration "champion" the PRO Act (H.R.20, Protecting the Right to Organize)? Why have they issued so many federal contracts to union positions? Why have they cut down on the theft of overtime pay? The reformist faction of the bourgeoisie see which way the wind is blowing: they know their ability to leech off of the passive support of the masses will wane if they don't contribute even the most meager of gestures and incremental changes. Let us not forget that the mask was removed in 2022 when Biden signed legislation into law prohibiting the railway workers from going on strike.

It is in this vein of scrambling on the floor for his mask that Biden declared his support for the ILA in late September and that he was not going to evoke Taft-Hartley (union busting bill mandating that workers continue to work while negotiations drag on between the union and the company), and that the USMX must come to the table and listen to the ILA's demands. Conveniently, this political deception was thrown down only 30 days or so before the Presidential Election of 2024. Watch how the Biden administration responds to the ongoing negotiations after the election is over – that will be the real test.

On the other side of the tracks, as it were, the Republicans also made a big noise regarding the ILA strike, especially via the nationalist view of our economy "not depending so much on foreign nations for our necessities." This hew of "America First!" has a comforting melody to the workers dispossessed of their careers by NAFTA, CAFTA, and PNTR (permanent normal trade relations) with China. The Republicans, however, cannot cling even to this more alluring masquerade. Union-busting Donald Trump signed the largest free trade agreement in the world outside of the Trans-Pacific Partnership, the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement.

Of course it's nothing earth-shattering to point out the lies of the ruling class in their various tones, but the important thing is that we are not deceived, that the working class takes what really must be learned from this recent strike to heart. A cursory view of the strike lasting only two days will be somewhat demoralizing. The "support" of the Democrats – the mercy of the butcher not dropping the cleaver on its product – will be comforting, but we must look at the bigger picture. No one could know the full scope and depth of the impact of Hurricane Helene, which was a central part of the arguments from economists and politicians, urging Biden to initiate Taft-Hartley on the one hand, and for the ILA to call off the strike on the other, so that supply disruptions did not cut off aid to the beleaguered areas in the storm's path. Undoubtedly this, along with the threat to rising inflation, would have been important in convincing both the ILA and USMX negotiators to accept a piecemeal agreement while negotiations continue, aided not least of all by the political ramifications of this election season, and the workers and union representatives not desiring their natural and just struggle for subsistence to be weaponized by one party or another.

From where we stand, we cannot ever buy into the clumsy flirtations of either the Democrats or the Republicans. We cannot turn away from their records which always demonstrate their true class interests, and we must keep all eyes on the USMX in the course of these negotiations into their conclusion and beyond. We cannot permit fear mongering and the patronizing shaming of workers who "harm" the economy while the workers, the principal figures holding up the daily economy, are fighting for their very survival. That the ILA called off the strike is indicative of their solidarity with the communities suffering under natural disasters, and that this strike occurred at all in such a precipitous time is tremendously important for the strength, independence, and courage of the organized proletariat in the United States.

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This is not to say that all of the actions taken by the ILA have been laudable. While it is significant that it initiated the largest strike since the 1990s, if there is any influence of the concerns for inflation and the outcome of the election going against the Democrats, the working class will have to reckon with ideological dependence on the bourgeois parties and state. Even more insidious is the clause to continue shipping arms contracted through the USMX (see Biden's contracting of unionized jobs) to go to Israel. This stands in stark contrast to the strikes undertaken by workers at Baltimore Port, for instance, in refusing to load ships bound for Apartheid South Africa in the 1980s. To raise this issue is not some herculean task – the West Coast dockworkers union, the ILWU, has in many instances voiced the demand

to stop the supply of the Israeli murder factory even as recently as May.

For Marxist-Leninists, for revolutionaries, for progressives, we recognize the ongoing labor struggle for its subjective importance: developing the consciousness, association, and determination of workers in the heart of the empire. But as Marx and Engels wrote in the *Communist Manifesto*: "The real fruit of their battles lies, not in the immediate result, but in the ever expanding union of the workers," and as Lenin argued time and again for the elevation of existing economic struggles to political and revolutionary struggles on the basis of contacts and participation from the most advanced strata of the proletariat, the American Party of Labor identifies this

growing labor movement in general as both progress in the association of workers and as a challenge to revolutionaries: to make these connections, to make these exposures of the bourgeoisie, and to turn the workers' economic movement into an independent revolutionary struggle on the basis of our combined experience, education, and determination for our social emancipation. The compromised decision to fuel Israel's genocide on the Palestinian nation shows ever more clearly the importance of advanced workers and students going amongst and fighting alongside the proletariat overall, for the final victory in the class struggle, electoral circuses, imperialist lies, and economic fallacies be damned.

## VOTER SUPPRESSION FUELS DISILLUSIONMENT WITH UNDEMOCRATIC BOURGEOIS ELECTIONS



*Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton speaking during a news conference after the U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments in President Joe Biden's bid to rescind a Trump-era immigration policy that forced migrants to stay in Mexico to await U.S. hearings on their asylum claims. April 26, 2022. (Reuters)*

**Anna I. | Ohio | Sep. 24, 2024**

On August 20, the homes of several Democrats in Texas were raided by armed police in an attempt to prevent "voter fraud" in the words of the state's Attorney General, Ken Paxton. These Democrats were also part of the Latino civil rights organization, The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), which helps its members register to vote as one of its functions. LULAC has responded by formally requesting the justice department investigate Paxton for voter suppression. Ken Paxton, an unrepentant election denier and fervent MAGA supporter, who was previously impeached from his office, was a key player in Trump's attempt to challenge the 2020 election results. In that election, his team spent 22,000 hours uncovering a grand total of 16 instances of fraudulent ballots among the total of 17 million ballots. Yet, none of

this matters to the Attorney General because he is merely a foot soldier in an army of sycophants whose jobs are to fulfill one central task: to make sure Donald Trump wins in November so that profits stay as high as possible.

Voter suppression is consistently shown to favor reactionary parties over progressive ones, and there is hardly a place where it is more important for MAGA to disenfranchise as many people as possible than Texas. It's long been predicted that Texas, with demographic patterns taken into account, will soon become competitive between the two capitalist parties. Without Texas, the electoral math for the Republican party to win the presidency would become nearly impossible. Along with the raids on Aug. 20, Governor Greg Abbot has already purged one million people from voter rolls. It remains to be seen what else will be deployed in the state to this unscrupulous end.

Though mostly concentrated in strategic states like Texas, the effort to suppress the right to vote extends across the entire country. In Ohio, HB458 was passed, issuing new restrictions on acceptable identification at the polls. Ohio also had a voter purge as well, to the tune of 155,000 people. In Georgia, the election board has made it easier to delay certification of election results. A slew of lawsuits have been submitted to federal courts seeking to restrict voting rights across the country. These are only the challenges that have happened this year. There are already dozens of laws and court jurisprudence on the books from previous decades.

While Kamala Harris of course will do no better than any other bourgeois politician, a return of Trump would be preferable to some in the American capitalist class. While Biden has given

empty promises such as student debt relief or a ceasefire in Gaza, Trump does not and never will give any such pretense. Trump wants Palestinians bombed and sufferers of student debt firmly under the jackboot. The proposal of student debt relief sends shivers down the spine of the American finance capitalist, even if everyone, including Biden himself, knew it was destined to die in court. The thought of American bombs not selling to one of its biggest importers, Israel, is a nightmare to the American capitalist invested in the defense industry. They need to know for sure that the blood will absolutely not stop flowing until they've made as much money as possible.

Participation in the bourgeois elections will not bring about Socialism, but it is the duty of any communist to fight for the working class. Fascism is on the ascent in the USA. The only cure for it, as it always has been through history, is Socialism. We must spread the idea of Socialist democracy to the disillusioned workers who are sick of the sham that is the current system. To paraphrase Lenin, we must utilize these elections to our own ends – not as our only strategy, but as a single tactic in class struggle. Now is the perfect time to spread these ideas, as Americans are freshly reminded of how broken the bourgeois elections are. They deserve to ponder real solutions, so let's give them some.



**AMERICAN PARTY OF LABOR**  
**ALL POWER TO THE WORKING PEOPLE!**

## ICMLPO: 30 YEARS OF STRUGGLE AGAINST EXPLOITATION, IMPERIALISM, AND WAR – FOR SOCIALISM!



**From *Arbeit Zukunft* of the Organization for the Construction of a Communist Workers' Party in Germany, Oct. 22, 2024.  
Translated for the Red Phoenix by correspondent Artyom S.**

30 years ago, in August, 1994, fifteen Marxist-Leninist parties and organizations met in Quito, Ecuador, to found the International Conference of Marxist-Leninist Parties and Organizations after intensive preparations. This took place at a time of great political and ideological pressure and sharp attacks on Marxism-Leninism and the achievements of the workers' movement.

After a long period of betrayal and decline, the revisionist states of Eastern Europe had also thrown off the last "socialist" fig leaves and openly professed capitalism. The previous system of domination collapsed. The responsibility was put in the shoes of socialism, Marxism-Leninism, although these countries had long ago thrown all the principles of Marxism-Leninism overboard, carried out market economic reforms and installed a new exploiting class. Because this formally took place in "socialist countries," the collapse led to an enormous ideological and political disorientation. The ruling classes took advantage of the situation to present capitalism as the only perspective and to attack communism as a "wrong way." When, in 1990, socialist Albania, which as a small country alone had fought against revisionism for a long time and continued the construction of socialism, also collapsed under enormous political and economic pressure, the work of destroying capitalism seemed to have been accomplished. In 1989, the American political scientist Francis Fukuyama proclaimed the "end of history." Contrary to reality, capitalism was highly praised as the only possibility for a humane, just and social society.

The enormous ideological and political pressure, the confusion and the final defeat of the first attempt at socialism also had an influence on the Marxist-Leninist parties and organizations worldwide. True, for decades they had exposed the betrayal of the Revisionists in the USSR, China, the GDR and other countries, scientifically analyzed it and defended Marxism-Leninism. But the massive attacks on everything progressive and the temporary triumph of capitalism also led to resignation and opportunism among some of them. Individual parties disappeared in the course of this process without singing or sound. Others united with revisionist, Social-democratic, and Trotskyist organizations. But the vast majority of Marxist-Leninist parties and organizations fought against these phenomena and defended Marxism-Leninism.

Facing these circumstances, the 15 parties and organizations came together in August 1994 in Quito.

The Quito Declaration states that:

"In recent years, the communist and workers' movement has suffered some major setbacks. The process of the restoration of capitalism since the 20th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, which paved the way for developments such as in Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union, Albania, etc. the historical boundaries, inexperience, lack of theoretical development, underestimation of the internal contradictions of socialist society, bureaucratization and isolation of the Communist party from the workers and masses bear the traces of the actions of imperialism, reactionary forces, revisionists and pro-capitalists – all these are causes that contributed to the fact that the communists, the working classes and the peoples were unable to defend their achievements and prevent the restoration of capitalism. Moreover, we could not prevent the rebirth of a bourgeois class that pretended to be 'socialist,' seized power and destroyed socialism.

After the recent attack of imperialism and capitalism (which claims to have finally eliminated Marxism-Leninism, scientific socialism, communism, proletarian revolution and anti-imperialism), we are once again established on all continents."

The goal was clear: to build a Marxist-Leninist movement organized worldwide, to defend the revolutionary workers' movement. The struggle for revolution and socialism should be continued. The parties and organizations wanted to work together, support each other in solidarity and move forward together.

The first goal, a stabilization of the movement, was quickly achieved by the parties and organizations united in the ICMLPO. Even if individual parties and organizations still got into difficulties, the ICMLPO gave everyone orientation and a clear course. But that was only the first step.

In the following period, the ICMLPO expanded its influence. One of the means was the semi-annual international magazine "Unity & Struggle." It serves the ideological confrontation and orientation as well as the common struggle. New members were recruited and friendly contacts were established with anti-imperialist, progressive movements.

Just like the League of Communists established by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, the ICMLPO has the following goal:

"The purpose of the league is the overthrow of the bourgeoisie, the rule of the proletariat, the abolition of the old bourgeois society based on class antagonisms and the foundation of a new society without classes and without private property." (*Statutes of the League of Communists*)

The ICMLPO is working on the realization of this goal in many ways. At the biennial anti-fascist and anti-imperialist youth camps organized in various continents, thousands of young people were introduced to the struggle against fascism, imperialism and war. At the youth camps there were countless cultural, sports and educational offers that promoted the initiative of the youth. In Latin America and the Caribbean, women's meetings were organized to promote a proletarian women's movement. There were meetings for trade union activists in Europe. In Latin America there are annual meetings that are open to all anti-imperialist and revolutionary organizations and parties. In Europe, the Marxist-Leninist parties and organizations coordinate and consolidate the cooperation of youth organizations. With various resolutions, the ICMLPO has provided orientation and a perspective for our work. It has thus made an invaluable contribution to the consolidation of the revolutionary forces in the world, to the strengthening of their influence and to the development of the anti-imperialist and workers' movement. But it will not be stopped there.

### New tasks

As the contradictions escalate between the imperialist camps around the USA, NATO, the EU and Germany on the one hand, and China and Russia on the other, exploitation, environmental destruction and the danger of war are growing. For many countries, war is already real. It is often waged through proxies. In Gaza and Lebanon, tens of thousands were murdered by the Zionist state of Israel. With the war in Ukraine, the struggle of the imperialist camps is once again moving dangerously close to Europe and Germany. With the increasing danger of an open war between the major powers, the ideological and political pressure on the workers' movement and all progressive forces to submit to the

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logic of war, the alleged fight for “freedom” or the “fatherland” is also growing. Many “progressive” forces have lost their bearings. Some have switched to the positions of Russia and China and defend them as fighters against US imperialism and praise their “multipolar world order.” Others have gone over to the side of the US, NATO and German imperialism, calling for the arming of Ukraine and the “fight for freedom.”

At the same time, attacks on the working class and the people are increasing. They have to pay for rearmament and war – with wage theft, crisis, cuts in education, health care, pensions, etc.

Poverty is increasing rapidly around the world. Millions of people are starving. Millions are fleeing war, dictatorships and growing misery. Even in the large capitalist industrial countries, things are going backwards. The health system is deteriorating, the education system is deteriorating, housing is expensive and in short supply, and the low-wage sector is booming.

Environmental destruction is progressing. Ever worsening natural disasters are leading to tens of thousands of deaths and the destruction of the livelihoods of millions of people. Capitalism will stop at nothing for profit. But in 2023, 2.3 trillion US dollars were spent worldwide on armaments and war, on the competition between the imperialist powers.

Capitalism no longer offers any prospects, but instead resorts more to oppression, the abolition of civil democratic rights and the police state.

In this situation, the International Conference of Marxist-Leninist Parties and Organizations is of central importance. In the fight against imperialism and war, it has maintained a clear course against the USA, NATO and the West as well as against Russia and China. It represents the interests of the working class and the peoples in their struggle for liberation. International solidarity has become a practical necessity in order to withstand the pressure of the bourgeoisie and to organize the fight against rearmament and war, against exploitation, the destruction of the environment and increasing oppression. The capitalist system is showing its total inability to offer people a positive perspective. It is all the more important that the ICMLPO shows the way of the fight against imperialism and war, against exploitation and environmental destruction and for socialism.

# ARBEIT ZUKUNFT

ORGANISATION FÜR DEN AUFBAU EINER KOMMUNISTISCHEN ARBEITERPARTEI DEUTSCHLANDS

## REJECT THE TERROR CLASSIFICATION OF THE SAMIDOUN PALESTINIAN PRISONER SOLIDARITY NETWORK



Pro-Palestine demonstrators prepare to burn a Canadian flag at the Vancouver Art Gallery, Oct. 7, 2024. (Jarrod Jäger/Western Standard)

Ivanna J. | Washington | Nov. 28, 2024

In a press release dated Oct. 15, the Treasury Department announced that the Canadian government has joined the U.S., Germany, and many other countries, in classifying the Samidoun Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network as a terrorist organization. The condemnation and terror designation follows a public flag burning in Vancouver, B.C., on October 7, 2024, the one-year anniversary of the Palestinian resistance attacks on Israel. In addition, the United States has accused Samidoun of being a “sham charity” that “serves as an international fundraiser for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) terrorist organization.”

The false classification of Samidoun as a terror organization comes after social media accounts of Samidoun's local chapters being regularly banned from Instagram, Facebook, and X (formerly Twitter). In response to this, Samidoun attempted to launch a new set of socials called Unity of Fields, which also saw a unilateral ban in a matter of weeks. Silencing voices on social media platforms has been a widespread effort by the bourgeoisie to stifle the Palestinian liberation and solidarity movement across the globe. No aspect of Samidoun's actions on Oct. 7 in Vancouver could feasibly constitute an act of terrorism, nor do their fundraisers to aid Palestinian prisoners in Israel, nor their local grassroots activism within the Palestinian diaspora and Palestinian liberation and solidarity movements. Samidoun is accused of being a “front” for the PFLP given that their mission statement is in sending aid to Palestinian prisoners in Israeli prisons, with some of those prisoners being part of various Palestinian resistance organizations, including but not limited to the PFLP. We know, and have seen video evidence of, how Palestinian prisoners are treated by the Israeli prison system and IDF soldiers, such as the recent leak of a brutal sexual assault committed on one prisoner by a group of guards.

The label of “terrorist organization” is often used not only to describe actual terrorist organizations, but also to classify any group of people that resist U.S. and NATO interests abroad. The U.S. government has demonstrated decades of commitment to the “security” of Israel. Adjusted for inflation, the amount of money given to Israel since 1948 totals upwards of \$300 billion, according to the Council on Foreign Relations. The label of “terrorist organization” is simply another level of sanction against the Palestinian liberation movement as a whole, to stifle the efforts of organizers and silence the movement's supporters.

The incorrect classification of Samidoun as a terrorist organization by any state or non-state actor must be absolutely rejected by all. In addition, comrades around the world should absolutely get in touch with their local Samidoun chapters and assist in their current and future activism.

[www.Samidoun.net](http://www.Samidoun.net)



## EDITORIAL: TRUMP WINS; WE FIGHT ON, HARDER THAN EVER!



Trump and Biden puppets with blood on their hands at a demonstration protesting RIMPAC in San Diego, Calif., June 30, 2024. (Tyrell/Cancel RIMPAC)

### From the Secretariat of the American Party of Labor | Nov. 9, 2024

Donald Trump has been re-elected President of the United States. Although the election results for the U.S. House of Representatives have not yet been fully tabulated, the Republicans now have majorities in the Senate and the Supreme Court, and can be said to control all branches of the federal government.

Trump's re-election is yet another step towards open barbarism and the institutionalization of a reactionary form of politics representative of the general decline of the American capitalist system. Trump's victory opens a new period of potential violence against minorities, women, all marginalized peoples, and the working class at large, necessitating the organization of immediate resistance.

"The old world is dying, and the new world struggles to be born: now is the time of monsters."

– Antonio Gramsci

As some seem to have forgotten, Trump's previous term was marked by policies that served to enrich the capitalist class, caused setbacks in civil liberties, pursued imperialist geopolitical goals which are partially to blame for today's genocide in Gaza, and racist immigration regulations which ripped apart working-class migrant families. While the American people rejected Trump in 2020, as demonstrated by his loss in the popular vote, progressives have unfortunately failed to address the underlying material conditions which bolster Trump's popularity by settling for neoliberal candidates and policies which continue to drive increases in economic inequality and social degradation. At a time when many working-class Americans are living paycheck to paycheck, are stuck as permanent renters, and have seen real wage decreases among rising inflation and costs of living, it should be no surprise that they have broadly rejected the neoliberal policies of the Democrats and that so many refused to participate in the electoral process.

Key to fighting against this current iteration of reactionary politics is understanding that it has developed due to the increasing inevitability of crises within both society's economic base and social superstructure. American capitalism has long supported its continued growth and profit rate through the expansion of its markets globally, however in the current period of resistance to American imperialism, in addition to increased competition with other imperialist forces, American capitalism's ability to expand has become limited.

American capital simply cannot continue to manage its internal contradictions, as the need to continuously increase its profit margins leaves less surplus time and revenue to be devoted to maintaining the complex ideological apparatuses

which previously built a false trust between the working class and the bourgeois system. As a result of this dissipation of its hold over social life, capital is resorting to simpler and more direct modes of repression and control.

But Trump provides no answers to these contradictions. His disastrous and fascistic economic and social policies are bound to destroy the American economy. His tariffs will hike up prices and his planned deportations will overextend the budget, cripple the labor pool, and create a humanitarian crisis.

With this understanding of the true weakness of the capitalist system's grip on control, the lesson that must be learned from the progressive movement over the last four years is the urgent need for organization and program. There is no longer any election to wait for, there is no longer any time for procrastination, and there is no room for compromise with the growing fascist cancer in this country. Bourgeois elections were never going to save the American working class, but in today's period of crisis these elections have also stopped buying us time.

Throughout the 2024 presidential campaign, many "progressives" sought compromise with reactionary sections of the population in an attempt to present themselves as "reasonable" and "rational," yet in doing so, shifted rightwards on key policies regarding immigration, foreign policy, social program spending, and countless working-class issues, in favor of bourgeois and petit bourgeois interests. By capitulating in this way, they failed to present a true alternative to the current system which is destroying the lives of everyday people or the reactionary, nationalistic, and chauvinistic "solutions" of fascism. In the coming period of necessarily heightened resistance, socialists and progressives cannot back down to right-wing policy positions and goals.

Further, socialist and progressive forces must boldly present alternative solutions, which point to the contradictions of today's society as potential moments of rupture from this monstrous capitalist system. Between the vast build up in the capabilities of the productive forces over the last decade, with the development of technologies like AI in particular presenting the possibility for going beyond capitalist production more easily than ever before (but which, under the reign of the bourgeoisie, is instead being used to further exploit and disenfranchise workers), to the current state of social degradation which has destroyed people's trust in bourgeois institutions, we find a plethora of opportunities for organizing a real opposition to the barbarism of our oppressors. This real opposition can however only be created by abandoning the mediocre goals of liberalism, and the limits which parties like the Democrats have placed upon purportedly progressive movements.

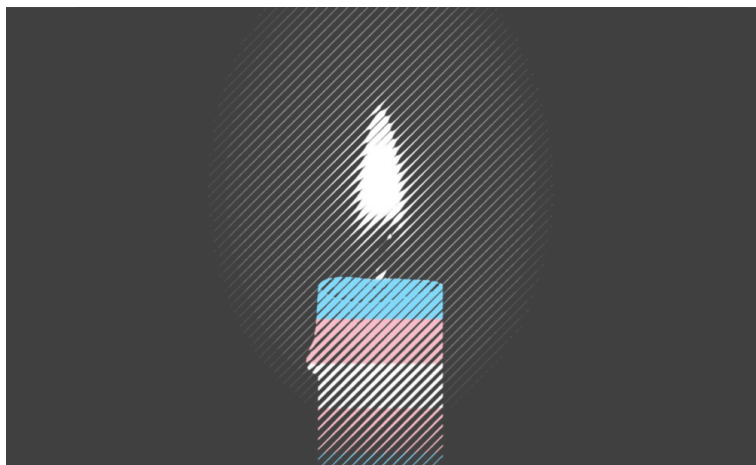
In the face of Trump's victory, democratic-minded, progressive, and socialist forces must come together to relentlessly fight against fascism's rise everywhere it rears its head. Plainly stated, when the contradictions of capital show themselves and the workers radicalize, there must be a communist party present and prepared to meet them.

The American Party of Labor has previously stated that "no matter who wins, we fight on." These words are truer now than ever before. That is why we must organize and heighten our solidarity with workers, LGBTQIA+ people, immigrants, people of color, disabled people, and all other marginalized groups fighting for their rights and very survival.

The American Party of Labor will be on the front lines to combat any and all fascists in the ongoing struggle of class war, until the working masses ultimately deal the death blow to capitalism and reaction. That is our mission. All power to the working people!



## TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE: UNTIL “NEVER AGAIN!”



R. Nesbitt | Maryland | Nov. 20, 2024

This Transgender Day of Remembrance falls on the solemn and ominous forecast of a second Trump administration, a Republican-controlled Congress, and the most conservative Supreme Court since perhaps the Civil War. We as Marxist-Leninists, as *queer* Marxist-Leninists, are under threat whether the levers of this capitalist oligarchy are controlled by Harris or Trump, Democrat or Republican. We find ourselves in a place where there is no choice but to fight for our rights, for our survival, and for our happiness.

Under Democratic or Republican administrations, far too many brothers, sisters, and siblings have been taken from us, with all of their gifts, either as the result of hate crimes or conditions which drive them to take their own lives, or deprive them of necessary shelter, healthcare, and employment. When we somberly remember these lives, and do not forgive the robbery of them by the capitalist system, we must join that to a will to fight! We must organize against all laws, state or federal, that seek to defund gender-affirming medical services; that seek to bar transgender youth from participating in sports, acumen and training; that gut our education and culture in order to *otherize* us, to dehumanize us, and to fertilize the soil of bigotry that thrives in these

decrepit times.

The American Party of Labor wholly and unequivocally stands behind the rights of the transgender community, and opposes any attempts for us to be used as a scapegoat for the advancement of the fascistization of this country – a tried and true tactic of the fascist right from Mussolini exiling homosexual men to volcanic islands in the Adriatic, to the Nazis burning queer art and attacking clinics performing gender-affirming medical care in Germany. Now, in the U.S., Trump and his ilk crusade for “parental rights” and “common sense,” while Harris and the right-running Democrats argued for “following the law” in their cowardly abandonment of the transgender community.

The bourgeoisie will not save us! We look at equal regret to our lost loved ones to the absence of a revolutionary workers’ movement in this country, which includes all workers, and we are prepared for the struggle that is necessary to vanquish the state which is so decrepit as even to question the human rights to which people of the LGBTQIA+ community are entitled.

Hard, medieval days await us. Our community will be our lighthouse, the buoy that holds us above water, but if there is any hope for reaching land, our community must adapt itself to organization, to education, and to constructing a new socialist working-class movement of students and workers, of straight allies and of queers, of cisgender and gender-nonconforming people, all oppressed under the boot of the ravenous capitalist class. Only in the establishment of socialism, of a democracy in which the majority have a true voice, a true interest, which disarms the most backwards strata of our society, and promotes a brave culture and encourages education, will we be safe. Only then will we no longer weep for the lives torn away from us; only then can we say to a truly free and equal land and declare with pride, “never again!”



## SUPPORT PALESTINE, PRIDE, AND THE AMERICAN PARTY OF LABOR!



The APL is hosting an ongoing fundraiser for Palestine.

100% of proceeds from our “Free Palestine” merchandise are being

donated to emergency relief efforts in Gaza.

We have various other collections including original Pride designs, tributes to socialist leaders and theoreticians, and *Red Phoenix* merchandise.

In addition, we have original printed publications including our theoretical journal, *Marxist-Leninist Currents*; the annual journal of the ICMLPO, *Unity & Struggle*; and a limited selection of other books and journals.

All store proceeds and donations go directly to our work. None of our members are paid from party funds. *No profits, ever!*

★ As observer members of the ICMLPO, we send members of our party to conferences, workshops, educationals, and work programs abroad.

★ We run Service to the People Programs where we provide necessary supplies to working class families free of charge.

★ We self-publish our newspaper, theoretical journal, and tabling materials, as well as perform all of the labor required to do so.

Our work is funded by our own members and grassroots supporters, including *Red Phoenix* subscribers and online customers. We accept financial contributions as well as donations of gently-used socialist literature to sell in our store.

Shop:



Donate:



Donations of literature can be mailed to us at:

**Red Phoenix Publishing**  
P.O. Box 607087  
Orlando, FL 32860

**AmericanPartyOfLabor.com**

## MAINSTREAM NEWS PRAISES COPS, IGNORES HEROISM OF THE PEOPLE



Protestors march in the street of Washington, D.C., Oct. 5, 2024. (R. Nesbitt / The Red Phoenix)

R. Nesbitt | Maryland | Nov. 28, 2024

On October 5, 2024, members of the Paddy Whalen Division of the American Party of Labor participated in a massive march and rally in Washington, D.C., held by the Palestinian Youth Struggle and other allied organizations and parties in protest of the year of open genocide waged against the Palestinian people. While those in attendance successfully saved the life of a protestor who self-immolated, mainstream media downplayed the intent of the protestor, minimized the heroic actions of those who responded on the scene while giving undue credit to police, and dismissed the clear messaging communicated by the event's participants.

Perhaps an hour or two into the rally, alarm spread among the chief organizers as they looked at received texts on their phones. Shrieks and silence spread to the farthest reach of the crowd going down Black Lives Matter Avenue, before the White House. After a few minutes of growing confusion, with growing concerns among the APL members in attendance that agitators, Zionist civilians, or cops had provoked a violent confrontation with the rally, the speakers informed the crowd that someone, later identified as Samuel Mena Jr., had attempted to self-immolate.

Medics were dispatched as soon as the messages were sent out, before the crowd was informed, and the person was stabilized and transported for emergency care via ambulance. Fear and dismay permeated the crowd at the solemn news, but all were firm in their resolve to continue the rally and begin the march. The organizers extolled the martyrdom of Mena, and compared their resolve to that of Aaron Bushnell and others who have self-immolated to condemn the genocide against Palestinians and to draw attention to its ongoing status. In this spirit of condemnation, the march began and lasted for another three hours.

Coincidentally, the end of the march brought the procession before the *Washington Post*

headquarters, where speakers rightfully railed against the shameful coverage of this last year in Gaza – the attempted characterization of the onslaught as a “war” or “conflict,” trussing up the capabilities and intentions of Israeli expansionism and conflating the Palestinian people with Hamas.

As if to prove the disconnected nature and the real interests of this pinnacle of capitalist press, that very night, as members of the Paddy Whalen Division disengaged, we observed a fresh article on the rally, describing Mena as a fanatical and disillusioned journalist who is entirely singular in their feelings of guilt – in their own words – of “the Palestinians killed because I allowed them to be branded as Hamas.” The *Post* also exaggerated the role of the Metropolitan Police, who were concentrated at the head of the rally, near the HQ of the *Post* and before the exterior gates of the White House, as having played a pivotal role in saving Mena's life. There was no mention at all of the role of the medics of the rally who rushed to the scene, and only a passing remark on the direct response of the ralliers themselves in extinguishing the fire.

The article goes on to minimize the size of the rally itself as “starting with a few hundred, and reaching up to a thousand” when the eyewitness accounts of American Party of Labor members estimated at least 1,500, not including bystanders on the street who accepted material from the march and temporarily joined in its procession. Alarm is raised by the *Post* about the march stopping before its headquarters and only seems to find it relevant to mention the demands for an arms embargo against Israel, which taken in this context is entirely inappropriate before the offices of the *Washington Post*. What this hit piece does not mention is the exposures and condemnation of the rally against the year of coverage by the paper on the genocide in Gaza.



A protestor's sign reads, “Long live the Palestinian people and resistance.” (R. Nesbitt / The Red Phoenix)

Not content to miss out on their streak of misinformation, the same article pivots from the march itself to contextualizing it with Hamas militants “pouring over the Israeli border” supposedly killing 12,000 Israelis. Of course the conservative death toll of 42,000 Palestinians is put last, after the veritable Hamas blitzkrieg that the *Post* clutches its pearls over. With perhaps a minuscule measure of self-awareness and desire to save face, the *Post* deigns to admit that Israel's “Defense” Ministry does not distinguish in its calculations between civilian and combatant casualties. What an admission! Buried as it is at the bottom of the article, completely out of context in relation to an absolute misrepresentation of a popular action calling out this imperialist rag-factory.

It's no shock to the people, the advanced proletariat, and all paying attention, that the capitalist class lies through its press. It is conversely the obligation, the duty of the worker's press, the people's press, to expose them, especially in connection to our own actions of education, solidarity, and resistance. The police did not save Mena – the medics did, the demonstrators did, the EMTs did, retroactively as they can only do – the **people** saved Mena in the middle of an act of martyrdom for a truly just cause. The police were busy forming a ring of bicycles around the head of the rally, before the major hotels and offices that rest outside of the White House and on the defenses of the White House itself. That is what the cops protect and serve, the property of their government and their class, not we the people who suffer at the hands of these institutions. Towards the end of the march, one MPD officer in white attempted to accost a photographer with the Palestinian Youth, waving his hand back to himself as if inviting a physical challenge and walking close behind the young man, before the cop was photographed full in the face and flipped off as cadre of the APL moved close with phones out to pressure the officer to back off.

Whether we save our own from acts of self-violence, or from the hawkish pursuit of the flying monkeys of the MPD on their bicycles, or agitation against real journalists and demonstrators, the APL, the PYS, the people of Maryland, Virginia, D.C., and of the entire country, proved that only we can save ourselves – not cops, not journalistic hacks, and not the ruling class.





# ONE YEAR ON, RESIST THE GENOCIDE AND THE BRUTAL ZIONIST INVASION



The Biden administration approved another \$20 billion in weapons sales to Israel in August, 2024. (Carlos Latuff / Mondoweiss)

**From the Secretariat of the American Party of Labor | Oct. 7, 2024**

"I am alone. The stress I am experiencing is hard to describe. Honestly, I don't see a future right now. We are starting to accept that we could die at any moment."

– Nancy, a Lebanese refugee.



The Zionist invasion of Lebanon is a criminal war of aggression, ethnic cleansing, and genocide in the service of imperialism. This attack is a war crime that must be condemned by all the peoples of the world. Despite statements from the bourgeois ruling politicians in the U.S. that a broader regional war would be avoided, they have once again proven themselves to be genocidal liars. Just as the U.S. Government claimed they would prevent Israel from a ground invasion of Rafah, yet continued arming Israel as they bombed refugee camp after refugee camp, the U.S. imperialists will continue to send billions of dollars of aid to Israel for Zionist expansion into Lebanon. Our rulers blatantly display their own hypocrisy and their true pro-war interests when they make braggadocious proclamations as Kamala Harris did at the 2024 Democratic National Convention: "As commander in chief, I will ensure America always has the strongest, most lethal fighting force in the world."

This brutal ground invasion and bombing campaign is an extension of the latest Zionist tactics—the explosion of telecommunications devices, which was done through an alliance with private capital and resulted in enormous civilian loss of life. Israel showed its thirst for blood with this attack, which

signaled its declaration of war against the sovereign country of Lebanon. This telecommunications attack is far from the "precision" strike that Israel and its allies purport it to be, instead killing dozens of people and injuring over 3,000, leaving some 300 in critical condition.

Thousands of Lebanese civilians are dead at the hands of the U.S.-made weapons wielded by the Israeli occupation forces since the start of the assault on Gaza, with orders of magnitude more Lebanese people being made refugees in their own home nation.

The genocide in Gaza and the current offensive on Lebanon are a culmination of decades of American empire expansion, which has armed Israel with all the tools it needs to commit mass murder without significant international consequence. Already, this year has seen the killing of almost 42,000 people according to the official count by the Palestinian Health Ministry, with the majority being women and children, amounting to ten times the losses from all other conflicts in Gaza since 2008.

Without support from the U.S., the Zionist regime would have been overthrown and left to the dustbin of history by the Palestinian resistance long ago. Instead, the strongest imperialist power the world has ever seen props up Israel as an outpost for American interests in the region, with no regard for the freedom and livelihood which is the right of Palestinians. Gaza is in rubble and ruin, with two-thirds of its buildings destroyed by bombs manufactured in the USA and signed by sadistic bourgeois politicians eager for a photo-op.



Nikki Haley, former governor of South Carolina and U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, signing an IDF shell during her visit to Israel, May, 2024. (Howard Beckett)

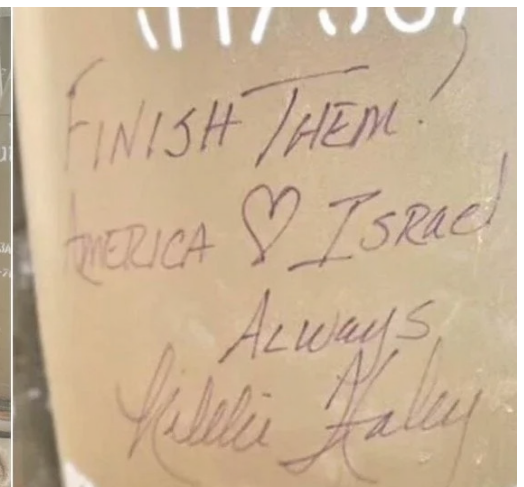
**We demand an end to the Zionist wars of aggression against Lebanon, Iran, and Palestine.**

**U.S. aid to the Israeli apartheid state must immediately cease.** Weapons manufacturers which have been supplying the United States Department of Defense and the Israeli Defense Forces should be held accountable for perpetuating genocide and subsequently shut down. Further, institutions which financially support these weapons manufacturers must immediately divest from and boycott them.

**We condemn sanctions placed on Iran by the United States and its allied economic powers,** as sanctions only serve as collective punishment—a war crime under the Geneva Convention—for the people of the country upon which they are placed.

**We call on all the progressive forces in the heart of imperialism to uphold the Palestinian resistance,** and to honor it by continuing the struggle against support for Zionism and escalations of imperialist war. This is a material fight that all peoples of conscience have a responsibility to partake in, whether by divestment campaigns, fundraising for Gaza, direct action, or any other way in which you can exercise your voice.

**The only viable answer to the question of Palestine is a one-state solution:** a unitary secular and socialist state in which all religious and ethnic groups have equal rights, along with the right of return for Palestinians ethnically cleansed since 1948, and reparations to the Palestinian people for development and for the economic losses they have suffered under Zionist genocide and occupation.



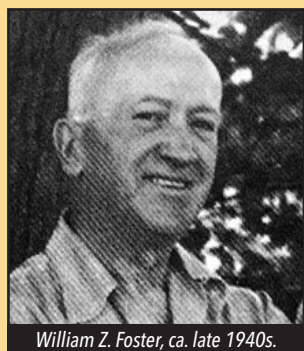
## About the Red Phoenix

*The Red Phoenix* is the mass voice of the American Party of Labor, published online regularly and printed bimonthly. It is a newspaper dedicated to providing a creative and original insight on what is happening in the United States of America and around the world. Along with analysis of important news, events, reviews, and commentary, the paper also includes interviews and letters from workers across the country. The goal of *The Red Phoenix* is to provide a platform for working people of all kinds, without the biases and mitigation of corporate media.

*The Red Phoenix* is aimed at revolutionary and progressive-minded people, activists, workers, and others who are fighting in firm opposition to the war against the poor and the oppressed. Our political stands are taken from a revolutionary perspective and our writing serves as a medium of expressing that sentiment.

*The Red Phoenix* was founded in the aftermath of the 2008 financial crash, as a way to give a platform and voice for working class people left outside popular media narratives. During the Trump presidential campaign and the George Floyd Movement, *The Red Phoenix* grew to have correspondents across the country seeking to interview workers, analyze the resurgent labor movement, and agitate for a true workers' democracy. In our era of misinformation and rising fascism and union-busting, the need for true working class stories, under the "blue and red" mythology, has never been greater.

To help us with our work by subscribing, donating, or submitting your own articles for publication, please visit us online at [RedPhoenixNews.com](http://RedPhoenixNews.com)



William Z. Foster, ca. late 1940s.

***"Organization does not happen; it is made to happen."***

**William Z. Foster (1881–1961)**  
***"Organize the Unorganized," 1926.***

**The Red Phoenix is published bimonthly by The American Party of Labor.**

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**PEACE,  
EQUALITY,  
SOCIALIST DEMOCRACY**

## About the American Party of Labor

**The APL 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 when billionaires have more wealth than the bottom 90% of Americans.

★ **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 uphold the anti-fascist legacy of the Marxist-Leninist movement. Members of the American Party of Labor are 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:

**[AmericanPartyofLabor.com](http://AmericanPartyofLabor.com)**

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.

### Why are we 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 see a problem with capitalism that could just be mitigated. Instead, he and his compatriots analyzed capitalism itself to understand how the system worked. Marx's ideas for revolution are based on 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.

**Powered by Labor and made possible by contributions from workers like you.**