



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

The Red Phoenix

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Demonstrators protest against the inauguration of Donald Trump in Washington, D.C., Jan. 20, 2025. (Photo: The Red Phoenix)

COMMUNITY DEMANDS JUSTICE FOR RA'LASIA WRIGHT, END TO TRANSPHOBIC TERROR



Framed photos of Ra'Lasia Wright are surrounded by flowers and candles in the snow during the Dec. 22 vigil in Minneapolis, MN. (Eris Rosenberg / Red Phoenix)

Eris Rosenberg and Sofia D. | Minnesota | Dec. 28, 2024

On the evening of Dec. 22, the South Minneapolis community came together for a solemn vigil for the late Ra'Lasia Wright, a 25-year-old Black transgender woman who fell victim to what was likely a tragic hate crime at the beginning of this month. Together, all in attendance shared stories and left candles to celebrate the life that Ms. Wright led. The organizers also presented a list of demands to the Minneapolis Police Department regarding the investigation of her murder, and a wider call for the perpetrator to be brought to justice.

Ms. Wright was a transplant from Gary, Indiana, and moved to Minnesota at the age of ten, as she expressed during interviews with the internet talk shows *Live on Lake Street* and *Address !T*. She came out as transgender at the age of eleven, began her transition at twenty, and has been a beloved community icon ever since. At the vigil, her loved ones recounted her confident, caring, and joyful personality, and her unashamed representation of the transgender community at home, online, and when going out. They emphasized the importance of bringing the community together now to prevent further copycat hate crimes in the future, to prevent reactionaries from becoming emboldened to harm our communities, and to maintain the relatively safe environment that Minnesota has for transgender people.

The *Star Tribune* reported earlier this month that family members lost contact with Ms. Wright overnight on Nov. 30, and that by using a location-sharing app, they found her body the following day in a neighborhood where she had no ties, dead

from a gunshot wound.

The Minneapolis Police Department is said to be investigating Ms. Wright's death, but they have been unsympathetic to her family and friends: they are withholding information about the status of the investigation and circumstances of the killing such as nearby camera footage and autopsy details.

The police's handling of this brazen murder echoes their previous enabling of terrorism against minorities just a few weeks ago in November, after two transgender women were assaulted by a group of six at the Hennepin light rail station. In that event, the police not only refused to investigate under a cheap pretext of the perpetrators being unidentifiable despite the omnipresence of surveillance cameras, but directly insulted those women and blamed them for being beaten bloody in an altercation they did not provoke. Speakers at Ms. Wright's vigil emphasized the importance of coming together as a community to force the MPD to investigate and prosecute the case so that it does not get covered up, and barring that, to use resources such as crime-watchers to find the perpetrator.

As Marxist-Leninists, we understand that the police are the first line of coercive state power wielded by the bourgeoisie, not an impartial force standing above society to enforce justice or the rule of law. The police claim to "serve with courage, protect with compassion," but who are they protecting? They have no interest in the lives of working-class citizens, but only in protecting private property – murders mean little to them, unless they represent a threat to private property, capital, or profit for even small business owners. Police serve and protect the bourgeois capitalist order. Moreover, they justify this callous disregard for human life by employing their preexisting social biases such as racism, misogyny, and queer- and transphobia. These biases are actively encouraged by mainstream media to protect the police from scrutiny when they neglect to put their resources into protecting the lives of the people in their communities.

Moreover, we see that the police do not merely look the other way when the victim of a murder is a member of the working class. These same police forces, with special emphasis given to the police of the Twin Cities, are responsible for both atrocities and violations of the bourgeois-democratic civil liberties granted to those workers. In their ongoing pattern of brutality and murder of Black and brown workers such as George Floyd and Breonna Taylor, in their blatant terrorism as in the 1985 Philadelphia MOVE Bombing, in their illegal eviction of homeless encampments during the middle of winter as we saw last year with Camp Nenookaasi in Minneapolis, we see the real character of the motto "to protect and serve."

The two-tiered nature of the bourgeois press and policing is further demonstrated when we compare the response to Ms. Wright's murder with the killing of former United Healthcare CEO Brian Thompson. Ms. Wright was killed presumably for her status as a transgender woman of color; by comparison, Mr. Thompson ruled at the top of a hierarchy responsible for the social murder of tens of thousands of Americans annually. We leave it to the reader to imagine which of these two was repeatedly dead-named, misgendered, and subjected to character assassination; while the other has had armies of bought-off fascist "influencers," talk-show hosts, newspapers, and bourgeois politicians insist that we, the people, express sympathy. This blatant obsession of the instruments of capitalist rule ignores and even promotes the real terrorism that workers, particularly workers of color, experience on the job, in the street, and at home every day in the United States. Ra'Lasia Wright was a victim of that same terrorism.

While pressuring the Minneapolis police to find Ms. Wright's murderer, we must also renew calls for community control of the police as an interim reformist measure to reduce the harm the bourgeois state directly or indirectly inflicts on the masses, particularly those of minority origin. At the same time, we must continue to work towards the formation of a proletarian vanguard party, and must build

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proletarian community organizations that promote safety, solidarity, and education so that no other innocents lose their lives.

Ms. Wright's friends and family have published a list of four demands:

1. **Release.** Release all relevant traffic camera footage and any available dash-cam footage from MPD vehicles involved on the night of the murder.
2. **Disclose.** Provide full transparency regarding the investigation into Ra'Lasia's murder. She deserves a thorough and dedicated investigation with the necessary

resources allocated to ensure justice is served.

3. **Community Unity.** We must stand united as a community, supporting one-another with strength and solidarity. It is essential that we come together to advocate for the rights of all, including our trans siblings. Trans people deserve to be treated with the dignity and humanity that every individual deserves, and it's on us as a community to create spaces of acceptance and love.

4. **Uphold Dignity.** Stop misgendering, dead-naming, and circulating negative

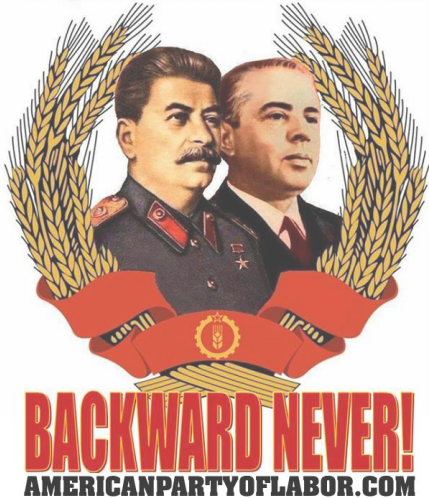
images of Ra'Lasia in death. She deserves to be remembered with the dignity and respect that every individual deserves.

Rest in Power, Ra'Lasia Wright.



A NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE FROM THE HEART

FORWARD EVER!



Camilo Lazo | National Chair of the American Party of Labor | Jan. 1, 2025

Comrades, I would like to take the opportunity to wish everyone a happy and triumphant new year.

Many, the usual types, are greeting 2025 in a mood of despondency and despair. A second Trump administration fills them fear with and anxiety. In response, they are falling back on the same old strategies and slogans that failed to defeat Trump in 2016 and failed to prevent his return in 2024. Others, not as usual, but perhaps becoming more and more common, have drawn the wrong conclusion from the ajusticiamiento of United Healthcare CEO Brian Thompson.

The first have fallen into the rut of defeatism and “business as usual.” The second are tap dancing in the minefield of adventurism. The one suffers from a lack of innovation and flexibility; the other from an excess of momentary enthusiasm. Both errors can and will have catastrophic consequences for the Peoples’ Struggle in this country.

One often hears repeated Malcolm X's famous maxim: “By any means necessary.” However, one rarely sees that quote in its entirety. We, in contradistinction, stand by Malcolm's full statement: “By any means necessary, provided that it is intelligently conceived and designed to get results.”

As Marxist-Leninists, we are scientists; and, as scientists we take a dispassionate stance towards questions of political strategy. We strive to analyze a given political situation and apply the tools and tactics most appropriate to that political moment. The tools and tactics best suited to achieve the maximum results and get the job done.

We are not pacifists; but neither do we deny the importance of peaceful, non-violent forms of struggle and protest. We do not glorify or romanticize violence; but we do not reject the necessity for armed struggle in the proper time and place and under conditions that call for it.

This is not a game. The class struggle is a nasty, vicious business, and the

stakes are often life and death. We recognize that fact and are not afraid to get our hands dirty. Our approach is rational, considered, and painstakingly meticulous. And that is why, unlike anarchists and “ultras” of all types, we tend to win.

2025 does indeed promise to be a year of uncertainty, toil, and peril. But that is nothing new for us. As communists we have suffered worse and we have prevailed. Guided with the invincible theory of Marxism-Leninism; tempered with the accumulated wisdom of our Party; and strengthened by our comrades and our leadership; we have the necessary tools to endure and triumph.

As 2025 unfolds, we must seize every opportunity to organize and advance the class struggle, and to give direction and leadership to a movement that is all too often rudderless and adrift. We must also seek to reach out to and organize those whom the mainstream Left either ignores or paternalistically assumes will merely follow their lead. It is our duty to organize all the marginalized, exploited and oppressed. It is our obligation to provide them with a realization of their latent power, and a strategy for victory.

Now is the time when we earn the right to call ourselves communists and revolutionaries.

Forward, comrades! The future is ours!



PROFIT MOTIVE IN PUBLIC TRANSIT COSTS WORKERS TIME, MONEY, HEALTH

Michael G. | New Jersey | Jan. 9, 2025

For countless American workers, the daily grind not only involves work with horrible conditions and low pay, but also a constant struggle with unreliable and unsafe public transportation. New Jersey Transit and Amtrak, two of the primary transit systems in the American Northeast, have become plagued with a fit of delays and suspensions. On the week of June 24 alone, there were 3 total stoppages of all service for hours on end. Besides this, many trains were outright canceled or delayed throughout the week due to electrical issues from high temperatures caused by the worsening climate crisis.

These delays keep thousands of workers stranded in the city, where they either have to wait for an unknown amount of time, usually hours, until the problem is fixed, or pay exorbitant fees for a taxi just to get home. One commuter reported to the Red Phoenix that they end their workday at 5:30 PM and arrive home at nearly 9:00. After long and difficult working days, workers face yet more degradation navigating the crumbling public transit system.



Retired Los Angeles streetcars, ca. 1950s. The once-robust LA railroad system was replaced with buses after a major privatization effort by General Motors in 1949.

Crumbling here is used in both a metaphorical and literal sense. The infrastructure critical to the operation of both Amtrak and NJ Transit is in dire straits. The Portal Bridge, a key cause of delays, is the busiest railroad bridge in the Western Hemisphere. Built in 1910, it handles around 450 commuter trains daily as they cross the Hackensack River. Similarly, the North River Tunnels, the only rail tunnels from New Jersey into Manhattan, were also opened in 1910 and are long overdue for replacement. The overhead wires in the North River tunnels, which often cause delays, date back to the FDR administration. This infrastructure is older than most people alive today.

While the U.S. Department of Transportation promised in 2021 to replace these aging infrastructures by 2035, skepticism remains about whether these lofty promises will be fulfilled. US news outlets serving the ruling class praise these plans but it is clear that this is the bare minimum. In stark contrast, China's Zhengzhou-Wanzhou high-speed railway, an 815-kilometer (506 mi) project, was completed in less than five years. China's success in rapidly building and updating its railways highlights the realistic potential of a nationalized, planned approach to infrastructure—something the U.S., with its privately owned

railroads focused on profit, will not adopt. The Moscow Metro, built in the Soviet Union starting in 1935, is still considered the best metro in the world. This is precisely because it was built along planned lines.

The USA was once the international leader of railroads. It had the most efficient, fastest, and most technologically advanced trains in the world, and it was partially thanks to this that the USA had its rise as an industrial world superpower. The first big rail projects like the transcontinental railroad were heavily subsidized by the government, and during World War I the US temporarily nationalized the railroads which led to increased development. The rapid decline of railroads since has been directly caused by privatization and the rise of the automobile industry which was far more profitable, even if it is worse for the public good.

The quality of transit service continues to decline, with delays and suspensions worsening, affecting those who rely on public transportation the most. On July 1, 2024, NJ Transit increased fares by 15 percent and introduced a policy where tickets expire within 30 days of purchase, increasing the chance of tickets expiring before they can be used.

This all spells increasing fares for worsening service. In one particularly egregious example, the CEO of NJT, Kevin Corbett, paid only \$19.42 for his five-acre property in property taxes by classifying it as a goat farm.

Even New Jersey is an exception in the U.S., where public transportation is almost non-existent. Nationwide, 45 percent of Americans have no access to public transportation. Six percent of U.S. adults have missed medical appointments, work, and other critical activities due to a lack of transportation options. Disabled people are in even worse circumstances. Native populations and Black communities are particularly affected, with 17.1 percent and 9.2 percent, respectively, lacking reliable transportation.

The 2023 train derailment in East Palestine, Ohio, and last year's collapse of the Baltimore Key Bridge in Maryland continue to remind us to what extent the bourgeoisie is willing to go with their underfunding of infrastructure. Ultimately, it costs money to perform maintenance checks and to regularly update infrastructure. This short-sighted focus on near term profits means that problems are only addressed after it is too late to mitigate the effects suffered by the working class.

We must understand that the problem lies not with a few bad apples running the system, but in the very way the system is organized: with profit motive. Putting a new person in charge will not lessen the need for a search of profit at the expense of workers.

The central question is this: **is this an effective and rational way to organize society, production, and transport?** We know the answer to be a resounding “no.” A planned economy and nationalization of industries are essential to solving the
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problems that we face today, which must ultimately culminate in the abolition of private property and profit-driven market economics.

The ongoing struggles with Amtrak and NJ Transit serve as a glaring example of how capitalism fails to meet the basic needs of society. The daily hardships faced by workers, coupled with the crumbling infrastructure and rising costs, highlight the urgent need for change and organization. At a time when American workers are woefully unorganized, the bourgeoisie intensifies

exploitation and degradation more and more in all facets of daily life to line their pockets at the expense of the masses.

The only way the American people can effectively combat the continuous advances in the interest of capital at the expense of the working class is through mass organization. Only when workers of all industries can work and organize together to demand better, will we be able to start clawing back the concessions previous generations had worked so hard for and ensure a better quality of life.

EDITORIAL: ON THE DAWN OF TRUMP'S SECOND TERM, U.S. IN CRISIS, THE FUTURE IS NOW!

Camilo Lazo | National Chair of the American Party of Labor | Jan. 22, 2025

On Monday, January 20, 2025, Donald J. Trump was sworn in as President of the United States for the second time.

Within 24 hours, Trump signed a plethora of Executive Orders, among which, he has:

- Pardoned 1,500 fascist insurrectionists who stormed the Capitol building on Jan. 6, 2021;
- Allowed home-builders to cut corners in construction;
- Stripped job protections, such as discrimination protections or the right to unionize, for federal employees;
- Deregulated drilling for oil, further violating the sovereignty of Native American nations;
- Unconstitutionally revoked birthright citizenship;
- Declared a national emergency at the southern border, in what amounts to an ethnic cleansing of migrants from the southern US.

Additionally, Trump revoked Executive Orders from the Biden Administration, which included:

- Orders that reduced prescription drug costs;
- Measures that increased voting accessibility, in particular for linguistic minorities;
- An act to nullify federal contracts with private prisons;
- Measures that improved workplace safety of federal employees to protect against COVID-19.

For his cabinet, Trump has selected foxes to guard the hen house.

- Robert Kennedy Jr., whose vaccine misinformation campaign in Samoa contributed to the deaths of 83 people, has been appointed as the Secretary of Health and Human Services.
- Peter Hegseth, who was deployed to the torture camp in the occupied Guantanamo Bay of Cuba, has been appointed as the Secretary of Defense.
- Lori Chavez-DeRemer, who is supported by the traitorous labor aristocracy of major unions who work to limit the militancy of rank-and-file union workers, has been appointed as the Secretary of Labor.
- Kristi Noem, who accused Native American nations of

hosting drug cartels, has been appointed as the Secretary of Homeland Security.

- Lee Zeldin, who voted down the “Recovering America’s Wildlife Act,” has been appointed as the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

This is merely the beginning of the new administration’s plans for the U.S.

The oppressed and working masses of the world look on with anxiety and disgust at the inauguration of Donald Trump for his second term as President. Although his victory cannot be of any real surprise to the victims of the Democratic Party’s abandonment of queer, women’s, immigrants’ and workers’ rights, as well as their support for open genocide against the Palestinian people in Gaza and in the West Bank.

Just as the American Party of Labor struggled against Trump in his first term, against the threat of world war, the validation of fascist gangs, the sponsoring police violence against unarmed peaceful demonstrators, and the bungling of an historic recession and pandemic, our struggle now continues with redoubled energy and vigor.

The American Party of Labor declares that problems of the U.S. in crisis and the ongoing process of fascistization merit only radical solutions. We are fighting and will continue to fight these fascist measures in our communities and nationally, and we invite you to join us in that fight! We call upon all democratic, progressive, popular, and revolutionary-minded individuals and organizations to join the struggle to save and extend what few political rights we have, to protect the most vulnerable among us, and to build a future without poverty, hunger, and exploitation.

We urge all to join youth organizations, student groups, trade and tenants’ unions; to get in touch with local anti-fascist organizations; and to enter the people’s struggle at every level. Educate yourselves and your comrades — talk to your neighbors, friends, family, and coworkers, and pull them into the struggle!

The future is now! The solution is revolution!

All power to the working people!

LABOR PARTY OF TURKEY: THE ONE-MAN ADMINISTRATION MUST WITHDRAW ITS SUPPORT FROM JIHADISTS IN SYRIA!



An Emek Partisi (Labor Party) banner reads, "Against war and exploitation. Work, peace, freedom." (EMEP.org)



Seyit Aslan | Chairman of the Labor Party of Turkey (Emek Partisi) (EMEP) | Dec. 2, 2024

The HTS (Hayat Tahrir al-Sham), a continuation of Jabhat al-Nusra, ISIS' first organization in Syria, and the Syrian National Army, which includes structures trained, equipped and paid by Turkey, have entered Aleppo. This coalition, which calls itself the Fateh al-Mubin (Heralded Victory) Operations Room, is composed of groups on the United Nations' "terrorist list."

After Gaza, Lebanon and Iran, Israel's attacks on Syria are known to have paved the way for the advance of these jihadist groups into Aleppo. On the other hand, Sean Savett, spokesman for the White House National Security Council, said in a statement that the United States is closely monitoring the situation in Syria and that "the Assad regime's continued refusal to participate in the political process set out in UN Security Council Resolution 2254 and its reliance on Russia and Iran have created the conditions that have now emerged, including the collapse of the Assad regime lines in northwest Syria." This statement confirms that Israel and the United States are pursuing a policy of joint support for these jihadist groups.

Although the Turkish Foreign Ministry has expressed concern about the

developments and expressed concern about a new wave of migration across the Turkish border, the fact that groups trained and equipped by Turkey have joined this jihadist coalition is a sign that Turkey is supporting this jihadist movement. The Russian and Iranian media accuse Turkey of opportunism and betrayal for failing to fulfill its responsibility under the Astana, Sochi and Moscow agreements to keep these jihadist groups under control at certain points. Turkey's ruling media, on the other hand, has been enthusiastically supporting this jihadist movement for days.

By defining the YPG, which is fighting against organizations such as ISIS in the region, as a terrorist organization, and by calling jihadist groups, which are on the terrorist list of the UN and other international organizations, "opposition forces" and supporting them, the AKP government is also revealing its side regarding the future of Syria, whose territorial integrity it claims to respect. While the one-man government is calculating to be permanent in Syria through the jihadist forces it trains and equips in Syria, it is also making Turkey an open target.

Pursuing a policy on the side of the jihadist groups in Syria together with the US and Israel pushes Turkey into an occupying position in the eyes of many

of its neighbors in the region, especially Syria, Russia and Iran.

The AKP government, which has turned the Kurdish presence in the north of Syria, the indigenous population of Syria, into a justification for its intervention in Syria under the pretext of the "terrorist threat," is also imposing the economic cost of the military bases in Syria and the jihadist forces it supports on the workers and laborers of Turkey in order to maintain this policy. Insisting on this policy also means insisting that the bread of the workers and laborers of Turkey shrinks a little bit more every day.

Achieving a democratic and populist solution to the Kurdish question in Turkey will also remove the justification for Turkey's intervention in Syria. This is also essential for Turkey to be a party to a peaceful future with its neighboring peoples in the region.

Turkey should withdraw its military forces from Syria and end its support to jihadist organizations. This policy, which is tried to be legitimized by presenting it as a necessity to become an effective regional power in the changing regional conditions, keeps Turkey constantly in the fire. A lasting peace is not possible without the withdrawal of imperialist powers from the region, the termination of trade and military agreements with imperialists and Israel, the exit from NATO and the closure of all bases. The need to raise the struggle together with the peoples living in the Middle East for democracy in the country and peace in the region is more important than ever.



FOR COMRADE EROL “ARIF” BÜYÜKKARACA, THE STRUGGLE LIVES ON



Camilo Lazo | National Chair, American Party of Labor | Jan. 27, 2025

Comrade Erol “Arif” Büyükkaraca has died.

Comrade Arif was a long-time member of the Executive Board of the Labor Party of Turkey (Emek Partisi), and a life-long proletarian internationalist and revolutionary.

Many of us got to know Comrade Arif at various international conferences where his devotion to Marxism-Leninism and his fighting spirit were an inspiration and an example for all to follow. We in the American Party of Labor join our hearts with, and extend our hands to, our siblings in Turkey and around the world in mourning the passing of an exemplary communist, a committed

revolutionary, a comrade and friend.

Comrade Arif has died, but his cause and his struggle lives on. A cause that is immortal and ever-victorious. As is Comrade Arif.

Long live proletarian internationalism!

Long live the militant friendship of the Turkish and American working class!

Erol “Arif” Büyükkaraca – Presente!

SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE: CARING FOR NEIGHBORS, UNITED IN CLASS STRUGGLE



APL Pacific Northwest (John Reed Division) | Washington | Jan. 9, 2025

The evening of Dec. 28, members of the John Reed Division of the American Party of Labor ran one of our *Service to the People* programs in downtown Seattle, distributing free sandwiches, toiletries, drinks, and snacks to people of the local homeless community, including Halal and Kosher options.

As Marxist-Leninists, we understand that homelessness and extreme poverty are not problems which “just happen.” Rather, they emerge out of the frictions and contradictions within the social system of work, production, and distribution.

No one is “naturally” poor, no one is “predisposed” to homelessness – these conditions are entirely a result of the way production, labor, and distribution is organized. Your individual ability to get a



job, shelter, or food is based on the whims and decisions of individual employers concerned entirely with increasing profit, and *not* with providing dignified work to all. From a birds-eye-view, an employer wants to pay their workers as little as possible; therefore, by refusing to provide you a job, they are trying to make you more desperate for work, and willing to work for less, under worse conditions.

In order to hide the callous search after profit which underlies this “policy” of underemployment and low wages, the U.S. government, the employers themselves, and the educational and media landscapes all work together to preserve and intensify the cultural and social legacy of slavery, racism, genocide, and xenophobia: this makes underemployment for the sake of *profit* appear as if it were underemployment for the sake of *racism*. In other words, racism is one tool of capitalist society to “cover the tracks” of capitalist profit-seeking.



Members of the homeless population are working class – they are not separate, lesser, or removed from the class struggle. They, like all workers, deserve to live in dignity, with readily available and healthful food, water, and shelter. The system which casts workers out from our shelter, and which makes regaining shelter criminally difficult, is not just a governmental policy, or societal quirk – it is a fundamental feature of the capitalist mode of production.

As long as things are made to be sold, and not made to be used; as long as profit, and not human need, governs production; as long as political, social, and ideological power is held by those employers and bosses who profit off of misery, rather than by those who produce, the working class will never be free of homelessness. The fight for the rights of the homeless is a piece of a much larger fight against capitalism itself.

PARTIAL AMNESTY FOR LEONARD PELTIER IS INSUFFICIENT, BELATED SCRAMBLE TO APPEAL TO MASSES



From the Secretariat of the American Party of Labor | Jan. 27, 2025

On the last full day of his presidency, Joe Biden granted partial amnesty for Leonard Peltier, a political prisoner who has so far served 46 years of his unjust two consecutive life sentences. It is imperative to stress that Peltier is not granted full clemency, he is simply remanded to house arrest for the remainder of his life. A rare breach in the merciless, ironclad face of the bourgeois legal apparatus, but ultimately characteristic of the Biden presidency: The art of the delayed half-measure. It is a consolation to the oppressed, before the shambling state

rears up again for sweeping repression and intensified exploitation under the Trump administration.

Leonard Peltier is a veteran of the American Indian Movement (AIM), a political organization of Indigenous Americans struggling for undeniable autonomy, pan-indigenous nationalism, and civil rights. In the 1970s, a time of great advances in the global class struggle as well as in America, the US government, spearheaded by the FBI, launched a series of brutal reprisals, infiltration, and persecutions against various revolutionary organizations in the US, such as the Brown Berets, the Black Panther Party, and the American Indian Movement among many others. Leonard Peltier, a worker and activist, organizing and supporting many protests in Seattle, WA (such as those in solidarity of the famous Wounded Knee Occupation), was already a persecuted and targeted member of AIM when he was charged with the murder of two FBI agents in a shootout in the Pine Ridge Reservation, South Dakota in 1975.

Lasting two years, protests raged at the time over the gross misconduct of Peltier's trial, including the absence of any eyewitness, the misrepresentation of ballistics evidence, a biased jury, the withholding of key evidence, and an unlawful extradition of Peltier who fled

to Canada, allegedly convinced he would never receive a fair trial in the United States. These glaring issues have been ignored by every single presidential administration, every court, every Congress since Peltier was convicted on these two charges to life imprisonment, with explicit denials of pardons from both George W. Bush and Barack Obama.

We in the American Party of Labor herald even this belated, insufficient and desperate "clemency" by that Democratic faction, but we see it in the end as a scramble to appeal to the masses, the plea of moribund liberalism. The decades of maintaining a political prisoner in the "freest country in the world" is another unassailable proof that as long as this machine of bourgeois society exists, absolutely none of us are free. However, the heroism and determination of Peltier and his comrades, and ours, inspire us to declare that until we are free, until there are no more martyrs as Peltier and Fred Hampton and countless others, that machine will be shut down and tossed into the waste where it belongs.

Solidarity with Leonard Peltier!
Free all political prisoners!
Revolutionaries are criminals only in an unjust system!

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" designs 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 and subscriptions.

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

★ As a member organization of the ICMLPO, we send our party members 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, and we voluntarily perform all of the labor required to do so.

Our work is funded by our own members and grassroots supporters, including *Red Phoenix* subscribers, donors, and shop customers.

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Red Phoenix Publishing
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Orlando, FL 32860

AmericanPartyofLabor.com

SOLIDARITY WITH THE GREENLANDIC PEOPLE AGAINST ALL IMPERIALISM



Some of Greenland's 58,000 people in Nuuk at a 2009 ceremony giving the country powers of self-governance. (Narayan Mahon / The New York Times)

Joint statement of the Workers' Communist Party (APK), Denmark, and the American Party of Labor (APL), USA | Jan. 31, 2025

U.S. President Donald Trump is threatening to use both military and economic power to take control over Greenland. This is an outrageous insult to the Greenlandic people, the Inuit, and their right under international law to self-determination of their country, Kalaallit Nunaat, and to determine their own future. And it has caused their anger.

This is an aggressive act by the world's strongest imperialist power to expand its territory in order to protect and maintain its world domination. It is a new dangerous step in the struggle between the imperialist powers — USA, Russia, China, and the EU — for control of the Arctic, with its geopolitical strategic importance.

Greenland is today under the supremacy of Danish imperialism as a former colony. Replacing Danish imperialism with US imperialism or EU/NATO is not, as Trump claims, the path to prosperity and freedom, but the sure path to continued oppression and domination. The words of the Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen that the Greenlandic people can become masters in their own house under the Danish commonwealth are nothing more than embellishment of continued Danish supremacy. When the EU talks about inviolable sovereignty, it is Danish and European imperialism that the EU supports, not Greenland, which has left the EU.

The rampant rearmament and militarization of the Arctic and Greenland, with increased Danish and American presence and military bases, increases tensions throughout the region. It is paid for by increased pressure on the American, Greenlandic, and Danish working class with low wages, inflation, and cuts to the public sector in favor of increasing military spending. The Trump administration will further favor the war industry. In Denmark, the government is already bowing meekly to Trump's demands with the decision to spend billions more (DKK 15 billion) on rearmament in the Arctic.

Trump and NATO are pushing further to increase military

budgets at the expense of people's living conditions. We must strengthen the demand for Denmark out of NATO in the working-class anti-imperialist movement.

When US President Donald Trump threatens Denmark, one of his close NATO allies, with the use of military force if they don't comply, it shows how an imperialist alliance can fracture when it is in the interest of the strongest power. By their very nature, imperialist alliances are only temporary; though they can last for decades, they only last as long as it serves the interests of the strongest power to utilize its hegemony.

Quite the opposite is true of working-class alliances. Whether it's the American, Greenlandic, or Danish working class, we have common fundamental interests in freeing ourselves from the tyranny of capital. Working-class alliances are mutually beneficial to all parties, based on mutual respect and genuine solidarity with each other, and they strengthen the common struggle of the working class and peoples.

We oppose any nationalist attempt to pit the peoples and working class of our respective countries against each other to defend imperial interests. We call to oppose Trump's claims on Greenland and the Danish government's and EU's machinations to maintain their control.

We call for solidarity and support for the right of the Greenlandic working class and people to independence and to determine their own future in the struggle against all imperialism. We call for strengthening the class struggle in our countries for freedom, peace, and international solidarity.



INTERVIEW WITH PEOPLE'S MARCH ORGANIZER ON STANDING TOGETHER WITH "IMPERFECT FRIENDS"

Thomas K. | Ohio | Jan. 31, 2025

The weekend before Trump's inauguration, the working masses and oppressed peoples — women, people of color, queer community members, immigrants, and allies — banded together across the country for marches and rallies to resist the incoming administration. These demonstrations brought awareness to human rights issues for many marginalized communities by standing together as a collective voice of self-branded "imperfect friends." One such march was held in Columbus, Ohio, which was attended by over five hundred people, and where the *Red Phoenix* interviewed one of the organizers.

The Columbus event began with a rally in a local park with inspiring speeches and calls to action. From there the people marched with signs and banners over a mile to the Statehouse, all the while echoing chants of solidarity and unity, where local representatives from varying organizations spoke about their organizing efforts and ways to get involved, and petitioned everyone to stay informed and active.

The *Red Phoenix* interviewed event organizer Leanna Rocheleau.

"From my perspective, the People's March was more than a demonstration; it was a powerful moment of unity, resistance, and shared vision. Standing in community with people from all walks of life — LGBTQIA+ individuals, BIPOC communities, immigrants, and allies — was a profound privilege. Together, we created an energy that felt unstoppable, a collective roar demanding change and calling out systems of oppression."

When asked about the struggles the group had in organizing the event, Rocheleau had this to say:

"One challenge I've encountered is finding the fighters: those ready to dedicate themselves to this work long-term. The enormity of the fight can feel isolating, but events like this remind me that our numbers are growing. However, we faced significant obstacles in organizing the march, including intimidation from the city and police regarding permits. The financial burden was staggering: \$1,700 for police presence

to block streets, \$1,400 for liability insurance, and \$625 for a permit at the Statehouse. These expenses added up quickly, creating barriers that make organizing accessible only to those with deep financial resources."

As a point of clarification it is important to note that the group was unable to obtain a permit from the city. Instead they invoked their Constitutional right to demonstrate. After pressure from a local activist, the Columbus Police Department Dialogue Team eventually reached out to assist with street closures and traffic control for marchers.

Another major talking point of the event was House Bill 315 which had been recently ratified at the time of the march. The bill allows for police departments in Ohio to charge up to \$75 per hour for individual video release, capped at \$750. Covered under this would be body cam, dash cam, and jail security footage. Rocheleau voiced criticisms of HB315:

"House Bill 315, passed hastily without public hearings or transparency... This creates significant financial barriers to information critical for public accountability, disproportionately affecting marginalized communities and hindering public news sources from obtaining and releasing footage.

"While Governor DeWine stated that the fees are not mandatory and are at the discretion of individual agencies, this raises concerns about inconsistent enforcement and a lack of clear guidelines regarding whether and how these fees will be applied. Additionally, it is troubling that the policy applies to footage from cameras already funded by taxpayer dollars. Transparency and accountability should never come with a price tag, and this legislation sets a dangerous precedent by prioritizing cost over justice and equity."

As these marginalized communities continue to fight together for basic human rights it is critical that we all become active and organize ourselves. We have a responsibility to stay informed and educated on the events happening not only in our communities but the world over. It is our duty as a society to stay up to date on current events and stay connected with our neighbors and "imperfect friends."

AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL!



INAUGURATION WEEKEND: WORKERS DEMONSTRATE NATIONWIDE TO REJECT TRUMP'S FASCIST AGENDA!



Buffalo, NY.



Lancaster, PA.



Olympia, WA.

★ ★ ★



Orlando, FL.



Orlando, FL.



Sacramento, CA.

★ ★ ★



Washington, DC.



Washington, DC.



Washington, DC.

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

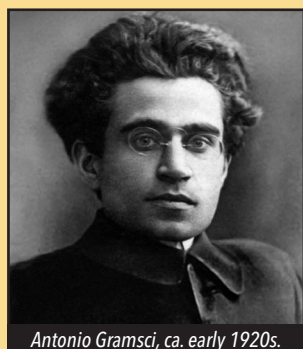
About the Red Phoenix

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 principled class-conscious insight on what is happening in the United States and around the world, along with analysis of important news, events, reviews, and commentary. 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 progressive-minded people, activists, workers, and all who are fighting in firm opposition to the war against the poor and the oppressed. Our political stances 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 interviewing workers, analyzing the resurgent labor movement, and agitating for a true workers' democracy. In our era of misinformation and rising fascism and union-busting, the need for true working-class stories, beyond the "blue and red" mythology, has never been greater.

You can help us with our work by subscribing, donating, or submitting your own articles for publication. Please visit us online at RedPhoenixNews.com



"Ideas and opinions are not spontaneously 'born' in each individual brain: they have had a centre of formation, or irradiation, of dissemination, of persuasion – a group of men, or a single individual even, which has developed them and presented them in the political form of current reality."

Antonio Gramsci (Jan. 22, 1891–Apr. 27, 1937)

"Prison Notebooks," 1929.

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

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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:** We are a dedicated anti-revisionist party, opposed to concessions to capitalists, and critical of all imperialist actions by the U.S., Russia, and China. The APL is a member of the International Conference of Marxist-Leninist Parties and Organizations (ICMLPO), and the Resist U.S.-Led War Movement.

★ **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:** We are 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

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 is Marxism-Leninism relevant in 21st century America?

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 to undo reforms and regulations. What truly led to the collapse of the socialist bloc was not that the pursuit of communism was 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 U.S., 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.

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