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RedPhoenixNews.com — Issue #40 — January 2026

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US President Donald Trump looks lost and confused as he arrives for a bilateral meeting with Switzerland's President on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum (WEF) annual meeting in Davos on January 21, 2026. (Photo by LAURENT GILLIERON / POOL / AFP)

## YESTERDAY'S "WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION" ARE TODAY'S "NARCO-TERRORISTS"



U.S. President Donald Trump during a press conference following a U.S. strike on Venezuela where President Nicolas Maduro and his wife, Cilia Flores, were captured, from Trump's Mar-a-Lago club in Palm Beach, Florida, U.S., Jan. 3, 2026. (Jonathan Ernst / Reuters)

The Information Bureau of the American Party of Labor | Jan. 5, 2026

The U.S. invasion of Venezuela is not about "freedom" or "democracy" for Venezuelans. This is about oil, empire, and distraction. It is an act of war and terrorism that violates international law and the national sovereignty of an independent country.

This latest chapter in the U.S. war on Latin America and its children has been greatly escalated by child-trafficker and infanticide-enabler President Donald Trump, serving the oil industry interests that have directed U.S. military action for decades. The administration has invented crimes where none exist, doling out the death penalty with weapons of war, without trial, without due process, without any burden of proof, to crimes that even if guilt was established, are not death penalty offenses. The Trump administration is labeling Venezuelan leaders as "narco-terrorists" to justify this invasion, despite pardoning former Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernandez after being convicted on similar charges.

**\*VECTU\$**

The real narco-terrorists are profit-hungry executives at companies like Purdue Pharma, who started the opioid epidemic in America by lying to doctors and patients about their drugs' addictive properties, and private military contractors like Vectus Global, founded and led by chronic war profiteer, war criminal, and prominent

Trump supporter Erik Prince. Prince is the founder and former CEO of Blackwater, a company made infamous for its brutality and crimes in the Middle East during the 20-year occupation of Afghanistan.

While our own country faces total economic collapse – crumbling bridges, veterans and seniors freezing to death in their homes, unaffordable healthcare, parents who cannot feed their children, and families struggling to pay rent with skyrocketing housing costs forcing working people onto the streets – the White House is spending billions of our tax dollars to bomb another nation and kidnap its president. They plunder the world and ignore the needs of Americans in order to enrich war profiteers.

Yesterday's "weapons of mass destruction" are today's "narco-terrorists." Just as we witnessed the lies unfold which led to the illegal wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, enriching the U.S. oligarchy and their officers in Congress while working families struggled to survive, Venezuelans and Americans alike will suffer immensely.

This weekend's attacks have resulted in the deaths of at least 80 civilians and military personnel, including 32 Cuban officers operating in Venezuela. Emboldened in the hours and days since, Trump and his administration have made threats to the sovereignty of Mexico, Cuba, Colombia, and Greenland.

The subsequent refugee crises resulting from these acts of war will choke global supply routes, worsen health crises, and fuel xenophobia and state-sponsored terrorism

(ICE, FBI, etc.), bolstering support for a clearly undemocratic and reactionary regime here in the United States.

The very act of this invasion will worsen carbon emissions through the production and use of every warship, missile, every bullet and bomb, and ultimately the objective for the American imperialist, as it was for Libya and Iraq, as it is for Yemen and Iran, is oil, which will exacerbate the existential crisis of climate destruction.

The wars of the bourgeoisie, which grant them multiple lavish homes while workers are lucky to have one, put them in clean, airy vistas while the slums and boonies of the workers are choked with smog. The capitalists can afford the best doctors while countless thousands die of preventable diseases, and this disparity will only escalate with the increasing concentration of obscene wealth in the pockets of the few and the abhorrent misery of workers the world over.

True working-class organizations universally condemn this aggression, and the American Party of Labor stands firmly in solidarity with our comrades of the PCMLV in Venezuela; with our fraternal comrades from Ecuador, France, the Dominican Republic, Spain, Italy, Germany; with our entire network of comrades of the ICMLPO; with our domestic comrades of Red Youth Rising and Resist U.S.-Led War; and with all other people of good conscience who rightfully denounce this act of war and terror.

We demand:

1. An immediate end to all hostilities against the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and respect for the Venezuelan people's right to self-determination.
2. The immediate release of President Nicolás Maduro and Cilia Flores. The lifting of all sanctions, and provisions of aid in returning all Venezuelans displaced by such sanctions back to their homeland if they so choose.
3. The cessation of all threats of and preparations for war and regime-change towards Colombia, Mexico, Cuba, Nicaragua, Greenland, and all sovereign states worldwide.

## STATEMENT ON THE INCREASING FASCIST VIOLENCE IN THE TWIN CITIES, MN

The Ernst Thälmann Division of the APL | Minnesota | Jan. 18, 2026

This is deeper than Trump.

The fascist administration has expanded its operations in the Twin Cities. For the last month, but especially over the last week, it has been detaining, brutalizing, and deporting immigrants and national minorities, and also has begun to brutalize and even kill the organizers and broad masses who are rallying in support of immigrants. Although this is clearly a consequence of Trump's racist, nationalistic policy, what's happening in Minnesota right now is deeper than Trump. The confrontations between ICE and the broad masses of the Twin Cities are a flash point in the struggle between the fascist, imperialist capitalist class, and the multi-national working class.

### The struggle between ICE and the population of Minnesota: the class struggle

People have been comparing the violence of ICE to the brown shirts, to the militias of the fascist dictatorships of the past. It is an apt comparison — for the past few months, and especially in the past week, we have seen children beaten, parents dragged from their children, door-to-door intimidation and public kidnappings. ICE has even shown their willingness to murder allies and defenders of immigrants, and boast about it afterwards.

On the other hand, we have seen popular resistance — organizations like MIRAC, CAIR MN, and UNIDOS MN have mobilized to protect immigrants and racial minorities from this fascist violence. We have seen vast and popular “rapid response networks” mobilize to patrol, record ICE, and deter arrests. The people's response in the Twin Cities has been overwhelming.

This struggle is being fought out under the slogans of “defending our neighbors,” “solidarity with immigrants,” and “resistance to ICE.” These are the immediate aspirations and will of the masses in Minnesota. But, at a deeper level, this is a struggle between the capitalist class, on the one hand, and the multi-national working class, on the other.

Behind closed doors, the fascists and capitalists — whether Democrat or Republican (or their donors) recognize no law, no distinction between labor born in the U.S. and labor from abroad.

To them, an immigrant is simply a type of laborer who can be super-exploited, who has no rights that the capitalists are bound to respect, who can be intimidated, and threatened, and silenced. Moreover, the intensified oppression of immigrants and national minorities sows distrust between the different nationalities of the working class, weakening and dividing our movement. The new fascist offensive is only the most brazen and racist policy of the capitalists to exploit, oppress, and execute national and racial minorities.

And, on the other hand, the popular response represents the will and unity of the multi-national working class. Every worker and progressive intellectual senses that the oppression of immigrants is their own oppression, that immigrants belong to their class, and that the ICE convoys used today to abduct and oppress immigrants, racial minorities, and their allies, will be used tomorrow to put down their next strike, to strip their rights with minimal resistance.

### The struggle against fascism is not hopeless

When looked at from the perspective of the “Trump administration attacks immigrants,” the situation feels hopeless. Immigrants have very few legal rights, while Trump has a private, rapidly growing militia. Due to decades of racism, redlining, linguistic oppression, etc... immigrants often seem to have few allies, while the Trump administration has faced minimal and hypocritical resistance from the press, the supposedly “left” politicians, etc., such as Governor Tim Walz, who after the murder of Renee Good, urged peaceful protests, saying, “They want a show, we can't give it to them,” relying on the rhetoric of “law and order.” Governor Walz has even gone as far as to prepare the National Guard to protect “law and order” — the same National Guard he used 6 years ago to put down the Black Lives Matter protest, also in the name of “law and order.”

But, when looked at through the lens of class struggle, the whole situation flips. The multi-national working class — bound together by their common conditions of oppression and exploitation, is much broader and more powerful and capable than the capitalist class, even with their armies, militias, media, and stooges in the working-class movement.

Fascism is the inevitable result of capitalism — the inevitable policy of the ruling capitalist

class when faced with capitalist crisis at an international scale (as it is today). But the working class movement grows in scope and strength as a result of the same crisis. The working class realizes that it is no longer possible to get by wringing concessions from the capitalist class — rather, the working class realizes that it must take power for itself. When it has taken power, the working class will destroy all the old racist, xenophobic, and oppressive institutions, and build up new ones on the principles of equality between nationalities and races. This seizure of power by the working class means constructing socialism — a historical change with implications for every corner of society, but for now, we concern ourselves with the fact that socialism means the equality of all peoples, the freedom to use their language, and the end of all racist, xenophobic, and oppressive policies.

But, this power of the working class, its organization and connection across the artificial boundaries erected by the capitalist class must take an immediate, concrete form. In the current situation, this means pursuing immediate goals for the protection of immigrant and nationally oppressed workers, as well as working double-time to overcome the artificial division of the workers into their national “camps.”

The broad goals include:

- The protection of immigrant communities, and the creation of support networks that provide a shield against the activity of ICE;
- The deterrence and expulsion of ICE from Minnesota, and the Twin Cities especially;
- Expose the tacit collaboration of local authorities, media, etc... with ICE and the Trump regime; put forward revolutionary alternatives that defend the people uncompromisingly.

Achieving these goals will require tireless organization, education, and work in all sorts of mass organizations. These goals must guide our tactics and thinking in the next period — all our choices and methods of organization must be consciously oriented towards seeing these through.

In terms of the immediate struggle, the starting point — many options are available. Immigrant  
(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

workers have the option to get connected with mass organizations such as CAIR MN, Unidos MN, Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid, MIRAC, and more, which offer some sources of immediate relief to immigrant families who are trying to navigate life under the increased level of surveillance, oppression, and brutality. Moreover, trusted community organizers can get you connected with your neighbors, whether full citizens or no, to help coordinate food drop-off, transportation, and rapid response to raids or inquiries by ICE or fascist militias.

Citizen workers can and must donate their skills and energies to the aforementioned efforts: language proficiency, graphic design, logistics knowhow, donations, transportation, etc... can all be utilized by immigrants rights groups, legal advocacy groups, and local unofficial community groups and networks. At a political level, they can additionally agitate against

ICE and the fascist administration, struggle with their coworkers, colleagues, and family to overcome racist and nationalist sentiment, and draw their more progressive colleagues into the struggle against fascism. These struggles can and must occur in seemingly unrelated arenas – in the unions, school boards, community and cultural organizations.

For all workers, if we carry out tasks like these with the earlier list of goals in mind, we can move beyond these immediate steps, and begin to leverage economic and political power with strikes, campaigns, and well-planned demonstrations.

#### Organization, not anarchy; protect immigrants, expel ICE, stop collaborators

All workers in this struggle must prioritize organization, careful planning, and

communication with the different corners of the struggle. We can not afford to be hasty, adventuristic, or anarchistic. But on the other hand, we will inevitably encounter leaders in the working class movement and in community organizations who tell us to slow down, discourage the effective and powerful modes of struggle, and try to minimize the political character and general implications of this struggle. All workers (immigrant or full citizen) must fight against these tendencies tenaciously, and be determined in their work to fully achieve the aforementioned broad goals: Protect immigrants, Expel ICE, Stop collaborators. With such victories under our belts, and the experience gained from such struggles, we can march surely and swiftly on to the next and higher stages of the struggle against fascist, imperialist, and capitalist oppression – to the struggle for socialism.

## A NEW YEAR'S GREETING

Camilo Lazo | National Chair of the American Party of Labor | Jan. 2, 2026

As we enter the year 2026, I extend to each of you not merely a greeting, but a pledge: That we will meet the coming trials with clarity, discipline, and unbreakable solidarity.

Millions of working people are entering this new year burdened by fear, exhaustion, and uncertainty. The second Trump presidency has brought ICE raids into our communities, open threats against immigrants, trans people, and people of color, and a steady tightening of repression against anyone who dares to resist. Abroad, reckless threats of war against Greenland and Venezuela, the continuing bloodshed in Ukraine, and a dangerous rivalry with China have brought the world closer to catastrophe. At home, Trump's tariffs and economic blunders have driven the cost of living to unbearable heights, while the Epstein scandal has exposed once again the rot and hypocrisy at the very top of American power.

At the same time, Trump's increasingly unhinged attempt to build a personal leadership cult around himself, elevating loyalty to one man above law, fact, or even reality, has accelerated the fascistization of American political life. We are watching, in real time, a system shedding its democratic pretenses and revealing its true authoritarian core.

In moments like this, errors flourish. Some

respond with despair and passivity, retreating into the same empty routines that failed to stop Trump's rise and failed to prevent his return. Others, disgusted by the brutality of the system, are tempted by impulsive, unstrategic reactions that mistake rage for power. One error is paralysis; the other is recklessness. Both lead away from victory. We reject both.

We affirm, instead, the principle that struggle must be intelligently conceived and designed to get results. As Marxist-Leninists, we approach politics as scientists. We analyze conditions, identify contradictions, and select tactics that maximize our ability to build power among the working class and the oppressed. We do not confuse noise with movement, or spectacle with organization.

We are not pacifists, but neither are we romantics. We understand that social change is won through mass participation, disciplined organization, and relentless pressure. History teaches us that the power of the people grows when it is rooted in workplaces, neighborhoods, unions, community groups, and political formations capable of withstanding repression and advancing clear demands.

The year ahead will be hard. ICE raids will continue to terrorize families. Trans people will be targeted by reactionary laws and propaganda. Communities of color will bear the brunt of police repression and economic hardship. Prices will rise while wages lag behind. Meanwhile, a corrupt and degenerate

ruling class, exposed by scandal yet insulated by wealth, will attempt to distract, divide, and intimidate. But we have faced dark times before.

Armed with Marxism-Leninism, guided by collective experience, and strengthened by our comradeship, we possess something more powerful than any demagogue: A clear understanding of who produces the wealth of society and who steals it.

Our task in 2026 is not simply to protest, but to organize. We must bring together workers, immigrants, the unhoused, the precariously employed, trans and queer people, and all those discarded by this system. We must provide not only outrage, but direction; not only anger, but strategy; not only resistance, but a vision of a society built for human need instead of profit.

Now is the time when words become commitments and commitments become action. Now is the time to prove that we are more than critics, that we are the builders of a new future.

Here's to a year of struggle and danger. But, also to the hope, the expectation, and the determination that we, our loved ones, our comrades, our Party, our class, and our cause emerge safe... And victorious!

The future belongs to the bold and the organized!

## NURSES UNITE IN HISTORIC STRIKE, FIGHTING FOR FAIRNESS IN NYC HOSPITALS



John M. & Monty Sportello | Jan. 31, 2026

In a powerful show of solidarity, nearly 15,000 nurses walked off the job this week, launching the largest nursing strike in New York City's history. Starting early Monday morning, workers from major hospitals like Mount Sinai, Montefiore Medical Center, and NewYork-Presbyterian stood together on picket lines, demanding better pay, safer working conditions, and enough staff to handle the daily crush of patients. This action highlights the deep divide between those who keep our health system running and the executives who profit from it, reminding us that real change comes when everyday people band together against unfair systems.

On Monday, January 19th, Red Phoenix correspondent Monty Sportello joined the crowded picket line outside Mount Sinai West. Community support was broad and visible: nieces, nephews, sons, and daughters of nurses marched alongside the workers, while union supporters distributed hot food—pizza, coffee, and baked goods—to sustain the strikers through the extreme winter cold. The scene reflected the collective character of struggle, with workers and their families acting as a united social force rather than isolated individuals.

The strike kicked off on Monday, Jan. 12, after contract talks broke down that previous weekend, with nurses represented by the New York State Nurses Association refusing to accept shortchanging on basic needs. Their old contract expired at the end of last year, leaving them without protections which are essential for both their safety and patient care. Nurses like Tristan Castillo from the emergency department at NewYork-Presbyterian put it plainly: "They don't want to give us a fair contract, and they don't want to give us safe staffing, and now they're trying to roll back on our benefits." Others on the lines echoed this, chanting for a "fair contract now" while braving the cold to make their voices heard.

At the heart of the dispute is staffing—or the

lack of it. Conversations with striking nurses confirmed that the central objective is to defend existing staffing and to prevent further deterioration of working conditions. One nurse, Shannon, a Filipina-American with eight years in the profession and the thirteenth nurse in her family, described conditions that demonstrate the system's contempt for reproductive labor and women workers: lactation rooms without chairs forcing mothers to stand while breastfeeding, and the absurd reality that the hospital she works at is not even covered by her own health insurance plan. When asked about hospital public relations statements portraying union demands as "unreasonable," she characterized this narrative bluntly as "victim blaming."

Nurses repeatedly linked their immediate workplace struggle to broader political and structural developments. Several pointed to worsening staffing ratios and declining working conditions as discouraging young people from entering the profession, especially amid federal policy changes removing nursing from the roster of professional degrees. A prominent sign on the line captured the class reality succinctly: "More nurses, better care." In other words, the contradiction between profit and public health is not abstract, it is embodied in the number of workers allowed to exist on a ward.

Hospital bosses, meanwhile, have dug in their heels, calling the demands "extreme" and "reckless." They've hired over a thousand temporary nurses to keep doors open, rerouting ambulances and canceling some procedures to manage the gaps. Mount Sinai even fired three nurses, accusing them of hiding supplies during drills—a move the union calls bullying to scare others from joining the strike. One of those fired, Liliana Prestia, fired back at a rally: "We will not be bullied. It was Mount Sinai's cruel attempt to stop us from joining the strike line and to make us an example to our fellow nurses."

Executives point to big numbers, like claims of a 40% pay hike that could push average salaries to \$220,000 or more in three years at some sites. But nurses counter that their proposals are more modest—around 25% over the same period—and necessary after years of underinvestment. This clash underscores a bigger truth: while hospital CEOs rake in millions—one at Montefiore made over \$16 million last year, another at NewYork-Presbyterian topped \$26 million—frontline

workers struggle with burnout and bills. As Mayor Zohran Mamdani said while visiting the pickets, "There is no shortage of wealth in the healthcare industry... These executives are not having difficulty making ends meet." He urged both sides back to the table, but stood firm with the nurses, saying they deserve "dignity, respect and the fair pay and treatment that they deserve."

Governor Kathy Hochul has stepped in too, declaring a state of emergency over fears the strike could endanger lives, and sending health officials to monitor care. She's called for a deal that honors the nurses' vital role, but so far, talks haven't resumed since Sunday. By Tuesday, the second day of the walkout, hospitals reported no major disruptions, though the union filed charges against Mount Sinai for unfair labor practices. Nurses like Roy Permaul, an ICU worker, vowed to hold out: "We're prepared to stay out for as long as needed to secure a better contract."

This isn't the first time nurses have had to fight like this. Just three years ago, in 2023, a similar three-day strike won pay raises and staffing improvements, though both sides now argue over whether those gains have held up. Today's action builds on that, showing how collective strength can challenge a setup where profits often trump people's well-being. As Dania Munoz, a nurse practitioner at Mount Sinai, explained: "We deserve fair pay, but this is about safety for our patients, for ourselves and for our profession."

The strike exposes the bankruptcy of reformist illusions that for-profit healthcare can be humanized through technocratic management. The bourgeois state, whether through Democratic mayors or Republican federal policy, acts uniformly to preserve the dictatorship of capital. Only the independent organization and militant struggle of the proletariat can secure real gains, and only the overthrow of the capitalist system can end the contradiction between profit and human life in healthcare.

In a city built on the backs of its workers, this strike is a call for a fairer share—one that puts health and humanity ahead of the bottom line. As negotiations drag on, the outcome could set the tone for labor fights everywhere, proving that when people unite, they can push back against inequality and build something better for all.

## REGISTERED NURSE PROVIDES INSIGHT: LOCAL HOSPITAL COLLABORATION WITH I.C.E.

Ilektra A. & Oriana R. | Oregon | Jan. 11, 2026

Legacy Emanuel, a private non-profit hospital in Portland, OR, has demonstrated its willingness to continue the long-standing tradition of collaboration between business interests and agents of fascism. Former employee and Oregon Nurses' Association member Blaire Glennon, 35, she/her, provides insight into Legacy's disturbing policy of collaborating with ICE and putting medical patients and staff at risk.



Blaire Glennon, a registered nurse with twelve years of experience. (Photo courtesy of Glennon)

Glennon, a registered nurse, had been working in the medical/surgical unit at Legacy Emanuel Medical Center in good standing since Sep. 2021. After witnessing the brutality perpetrated by ICE & DHS against migrants and protesters in the community, she decided to take action by distributing "Know Your Rights" material on how to act around ICE and other violent government agencies to her co-workers. In this interview with a Red Phoenix correspondent, her recount of events describes the retaliation from her former employer and their complicity in ICE violence.

Describing the events that led up to the disciplinary action, she says she "was taking a patient down to the ambulance bay to be transported to another facility... I had a bunch of red cards in my pocket because I had been putting them in the breakrooms at my hospital."

For readers who don't know, red cards are small, wallet-sized cards that inform immigrants of their constitutional rights when encountering ICE and other law enforcement.

"I asked the ED (emergency department) charge nurse if she wanted [some], she said no, and then I left the ED. A security guard overheard the interaction and reported me to the house supervisor, who contacted the administrator on call, [against whom] I had submitted an ethics report .. earlier in the year for making fraudulent meeting records, which was well-documented. Then, that supervisor and the security guard looked through security footage to find me and confronted me about having red cards."

When asked what policy in the employee code of conduct they were referring to that disallows nurses from providing coworkers with red cards, Glennon says management couldn't tell her.

"They just said that management doesn't want red cards in the hospital. I asked for the house supervisor's name, which [I was later told] she found threatening. After that interaction on November 28, I worked two more shifts... then I was put on paid administrative leave on December 2, and then [made to attend] an investigatory meeting on December 4."

She goes on to relay how hospital management had been hostile to her since February 2025 for "trying to [uphold] Oregon staffing committee rules and regulations." She says she "didn't understand why they weren't following [the rules] and continued to question them. From September 2021 to January 2025 I had no issues, and I'd never gotten in trouble before. It's only once you start speaking up that you get retaliated against."

Unfortunately, the problem doesn't simply end at fostering a hostile work environment. Glennon recounts how Legacy Emanuel is actively collaborating with ICE and essentially allowing them full reign of the facility.

"[They've] said to nurses during town halls that ICE detainees don't have the same HIPAA rights as other patients, which is not true; that we can't make ICE leave the

[patients' treatment] room. We can request it, but if they refuse, there's no way to force them to leave. Legacy was providing ICE with what I would call 'fake badges.' Sometimes they don't like to wear ID in the hospital, so [they've] been providing them with contractor badges that [just] say 'Law Enforcement' on them. Legacy has also said that ICE can determine care for a detainee up to and including early discharge," and that the only thing that agents have to do to gain access to the hospital is to flash their badge to security. "[So far], ICE isn't there looking for anyone, they're just bringing in people they injure out in the field."

In a blatantly opaque and undemocratic fashion, management at no point prior to disciplining Glennon made any effort to notify her that she wasn't allowed to distribute KYR material.

"I don't recall anything in their protocols talking about red cards. And they definitely didn't, like, say it to me directly. It's an environment of retaliation. I'm not the only one that they've retaliated against for speaking up about ICE, I'm just the one who got pushed out." She says there were "more than five" other nurses who faced disciplinary action to one degree or another for distributing ICE defense information and speaking up against Legacy Emanuel's ICE policies.

Glennon informs us that Legacy Emanuel's officially stated policy regarding what to do if ICE shows up is not just one of capitulation and collaboration, but one that deliberately puts both patients and staff in even more danger by refusing to engage in a bare minimum level of identity verification.

"Their official policy is to have security 'check' if it's ICE" (remember, a simple flash of a badge is all that's needed!) "and follow their regular 'Law Enforcement Protocol'. The issue is they want us to treat all law enforcement the same, but that's not gonna work with ICE, because ICE isn't behaving like other law enforcement. Honestly, since this ICE stuff has been going on, people have been questioning law enforcement actions in the hospital in general. Like, we need to make sure that all of these county officers and PPB are acting appropriately [too]."

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When we asked her if any of the ICE personnel that showed up were concealing their identities, she argues that “not having a [ID] badge is concealing your identity. Most people who are working in the hospital, even if they’re contractors, have to have a [ID] badge. I have [even] seen pictures of them outside the hospital wearing masks.”

And how often did ICE show up without identification? “Like two to three times a week,” Glennon tells us.

While Legacy Emanuel has apparently been allowing ICE to bring in detainees they injure in the field for at least the past 15 years, Glennon says their law enforcement policies took their current form as recently as October 2025.

“They were really pushing for staff to ‘feel comfortable’ with ICE being around because they want to be like the ‘go-to’ hospital for ICE to bring people they injure. We’re not sure if there is a contract between them or not. I don’t think they would ever [directly] admit they want to help ICE, but they do say they want to be the ‘law enforcement destination’ hospital in the [Portland] metro area.” She also informs us that there are, allegedly, strong ties between ICE, local and federal law enforcement and Legacy Emanuel’s upper management..., “but I mean, I can only speculate how deep those go...”

And has the hospital’s management even acknowledged or admitted that this policy puts both patients and staff in danger? She says “they’ve acknowledged that it’s like a ‘morally grey area’ for some... I think sometimes the staff has it normalized to them, but if you talk about it with anyone outside the hospital ... people are pretty horrified. A lot of Legacy nurses have wanted to work internally to change these policies, but that is not working at this point.”

From what Glennon has provided us insight into, despite Legacy Health’s own claims that they “value the ideals of diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI)” and that they “acknowledge our country’s history of systemic racism...,” it’s clear to see they haven’t been doing a particularly good job at living up to the inclusive ideals and principles they claim to uphold.

So what can Legacy Emanuel do to rectify its actions? What are the demands of its

workers in terms of how it can change its policies to better ensure the safety of both patients and staff? Glennon tells us that “there was a petition ONA sent out that was signed by 350 employees. We want Legacy to stop openly helping ICE. They are abusing human rights and doing human trafficking and that’s not right or what’s best for the community.”

We then asked Glennon how, in her opinion, can we fix the fundamental problems that led to this incident, and how do we begin building a better world where these kinds of blatant abuses of human rights and dignity no longer happen?

“I think we need stronger labor laws in this country, we need more people to be in strong unions, and we need private organizations to be held accountable... I have talked to a few city councilors and they said there’s nothing they can do... I have not seen any clear actions recently from the city of Portland. I know they reaffirmed their sanctuary city status and made a new detention center fee that will go into effect in a couple years (!). But they need to be held accountable. I think DSA could be a lot more present for this issue (4 out of 12 members on the Portland city council are DSA!). DSA is not pushing its elected officials to do anything... they aren’t doing enough...”

“...Because Legacy is far from the only private company in Portland that helps ICE. There are companies that go in and out of that ICE facility, like, every day. Construction contractors, coffee companies (like Canteen), paper shredders (at least two), Sunbelt Rentals, and a non-profit called the Soup Ladies and the ‘community service’ they offer is just helping ICE... we need comprehensive immigration reform.

People should be able to vote much sooner than they can, and [be able to have] proper work documentation, because when people don’t [have that], they can be more easily exploited... they can get hurt on the job, and have no recourse over that. And, you know, that’s not only a financial disaster for them, it’s also [one] for everyone else when private companies aren’t being held accountable at all.”

When private organizations like Legacy Emanuel aren’t actually obligated to serve the communities they’re a part of, and are instead beholden to the interests of a few wealthy donors with ties to law enforcement, the ruling class, local business elites, and powerful religious institutions, transparency and accountability fall by the wayside.

Glennon’s account highlights a fundamental shortcoming of working for progressive change within the confines of institutions which are entrenched in a society characterized by stark class and racial oppression, and who are beholden to the interests of those who perpetuate that oppression.

It’s clear to see that if real, lasting change is to be made, it has to come directly from us, the working class, and we have to begin relying more on each other, heightening our level of militancy and organization, strengthening the bonds between people within our communities, and coming together as one to protect the most vulnerable among us, to show the powers that be that for every injustice they perpetuate against us, swift and severe consequences will be felt in all sectors of the economy and society at large. Divided, we are weak. United, there is nothing we cannot achieve.

#### You have constitutional rights:

- **DO NOT OPEN THE DOOR** if an immigration agent is knocking. If you are inside of your house, show the card through the window or slide it under the door.
- **DO NOT ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS** from an immigration agent if they try to talk to you. You have the right to remain silent.
- **DO NOT SIGN ANYTHING** without first speaking to a lawyer. You have the right to speak with a lawyer.
- If you are outside of your house, **SHOW THIS CARD TO THE AGENT**. Ask the agent if you are free to leave and if they say you can, leave calmly.



## STATE-SANCTIONED I.C.E. TERRORIST MURDERS WOMAN, FASCISTS LIE TO PROTECT PERPETRATOR



Renee Nicole Good, who was shot and killed by ICE terrorists in plain view of witnesses in Minneapolis, Minn., Jan. 7, 2026.

Evan R. | Oregon | Jan. 8, 2026

On Jan. 7, ICE agents on a mission to terrorize and deport immigrants in Minneapolis, Minnesota, murdered innocent bystander Renee Nicole Good, 37, in broad daylight and in cold blood. Although Trump, Secretary Kristi Noem, and the Department of “Homeland Security” claim that Good was a domestic terrorist and the shooting was in self-defense, video evidence shows otherwise. Good was murdered in the streets for the crime of protesting against the fascist Trump regime and its armed terrorists.

Sadly, this is not the first time that ICE has murdered one of our neighbors. ICE agents killed Silvero Villegas-Gonzalez in Chicago on Sep. 12, 2025, and made similar false claims about an alleged attack by the victim. Another American citizen, Marimar Martinez, was also shot in Chicago after Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agents claimed that she “boxed in” their vehicles and attacked them with a handgun. All charges against Martinez were dropped after it was found that the agents openly lied about the event. No charges were filed against CBP nor the agents responsible, in yet another demonstration of the impunity enjoyed by the agents of the fascist state.

When they kill our neighbors, the only repercussion is paid vacation, but when we resist it so often comes at the cost of our lives. And what more could be expected of those from the petty classes that vehemently oppose masks when they regard a matter of public health, but defend wearing them when protecting the anonymity of jackboot thugs? Such hypocrites claim to be opposed to political violence, except when they are driving through anti-fascist protesters, such as when a neo-Nazi murdered anti-racist activist Heather Heyer in Charlottesville, Virginia, in 2017.

The American Party of Labor condemns these

murders and all other ICE and CBP operations in the strongest possible terms. To be clear, the APL considers all resistance against ICE and other armed agents of this white supremacist regime to be legitimate and justified. ICE must be abolished, and all its agents and officials prosecuted for their crimes.

The responses by our elected officials show that our government cannot be trusted to provide security or justice to its people. Although our representatives talk a big game, none of them have yet done anything substantial to stop ICE and its invasion of our cities. As the Democrats issue strongly worded statements, ICE brags openly about how many of our neighbors it has kidnapped and deported to for-profit concentration camps. The Democrats have neither the will nor the ability to protect us.

In the capitalist press, great noise has been made after Minneapolis Mayor Frey commented that the murderous agent’s excuse is “bullshit.” While Gov. Tim Walz has floated the idea of calling up the Minnesota National Guard to protect Minnesota residents from ICE, this amounts to posturing for the time being, as all attempts to work with federal officials in investigating the “bullshit” assertions of the ICE stormtroopers have so far been denied. Walz went on to threaten protesters in the succeeding days with arrest if they aren’t passive and agreeable enough to his liking.

Yes, leave it to the National Guard, which absolutely stands a chance against Trump’s army in miniature, to sit meekly by as the federal government shuts the door in the face of truth, and wag your finger at the only people who can and must achieve justice for this, and all the barbarities of American fascism! Walz, like all Democrats, is a clawless rooster, certainly crying out loud enough, but flees the wolves circling around, feeding on the leavings of their slaughter.

Indeed, the “beloved” Democratic president Barack Obama referred to himself as the “Deporter-In-Chief,” lied to the world when he claimed that ICE would only target “criminals, not families,” and set records for deportations during his regime, only for those records to be broken by Joe Biden. The only problem the Democrats have with ICE is not one of substance, but one of tone. They believe that the mass deportation of our neighbors should be done quietly and with “respect for the law,”

rather than with the braggadocious excess of Trump and his rabid supporters.

The end result for immigrant communities is the same regardless of whether a sitting president wears a red tie or blue: families are torn apart and workers are deported in a desperate attempt to keep wages low and profits high. This is not the fault of any individual politician nor political party, but inherent to the nature of capitalism itself. As the system inevitably declines due to its own internal contradictions, it turns to its most favored weapon, fascism, to maintain the power of capitalism. It is working people like Renee Good, Silvero Villegas-Gonzalez, Marimar Martinez, and so many others who pay the ultimate price.

It is becoming increasingly clear that all progressive Americans must rally together, organize into truly revolutionary organizations and fight back against state terror using all appropriate means available. For too long, the people’s resistance has been ineffective because of disorientation and disorganization. While the people can and do rise up against state terror, they lack the leadership, organization and ideological basis necessary to form a truly effective front against the ever-rising tide of fascism. That must change.

Together, we can get justice for the blood of our friends, neighbors, and comrades.

Together, we can get justice for all the victims of this state’s terrorism, be it from ICE or any other agent of this capitalist dystopia.

Together, we can build a better world and a better society, where innocent people are no longer murdered in the street by white supremacist thugs and their names dragged through the mud by fascist politicians.

To build this world, we must come together and struggle as one unified, proletarian movement. We must resolutely combat spontaneity and fight together in a planned, principled manner designed to organize the broadest possible masses of the working people into a disciplined front which is capable of offering real, tangible resistance against the state’s terror. We must demonstrate to the people that the path of passive resistance is not adequate, and show them that a better way is possible.

## THE REIGN OF “TWO GUYS FROM QUEENS”



President Donald Trump shakes hands with New York City Mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani in the Oval Office of the White House, Friday, Nov. 21, 2025, in Washington. (AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

R. Nesbitt | Maryland | Dec. 23, 2025

On Nov. 21, NYC Mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani met with President Trump in for a very contentious conference. The media flurry was intense, as Trump himself pointed out: “I’ve had a lot of meetings with the heads of major countries, nobody cared. This meeting — you people have gone crazy.”

Through the course of the Mayoral election, serious barbs were traded between Trump and Mamdani. Trump, with particular venom, claimed that Mamdani is not a U.S. citizen (he is), that he is a “communist” (he isn’t), and that he could potentially be deported if he attempts to interfere with ICE operations in NYC. The working class must not allow that to happen. Trump-aligned pundits have alleged all manner of terrorist sympathies and conspiracies with Mamdani and his campaign, with some figures fear-mongering the election of a left-wing Muslim candidate to the Mayoralty of New York where the Twin Towers were infamously destroyed in the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, when Mamdani was only nine years old.

Mamdani for his part distinguished himself throughout the campaign as being the only candidate who would be able to “stand up to Donald Trump,” who did not join ranks with Trump on the fervent militarization of the police, on xenophobia towards NYC’s proud and vast network of migrant communities, and who did not condone the White House’s 75-year mandate to destroy the Palestinian nation for the benefit of Zionist colonialism. On the eve of the election, Trump admitted that Mamdani had a good chance of winning while threatening to cut federal funding for NYC, but threw his support behind Democratic party boss Andrew Cuomo all the same. With a veritable triumph on election day (thanks in no small part to NYC’s ranked choice voting) Mamdani declared, “President Trump, I know you’re

listening, turn the volume up!”

In the weeks following his victory, Mamdani has conducted community work, helped to feed disadvantaged children of working families, and responded positively to Donald Trump’s overtures for a meeting to “work something out” between the two ostensibly opposed New York politicians.

The meeting was noted for a bizarrely candid and seemingly chummy tone. As reporters grilled Mamdani on the very method of his transit from NYC to DC, scathing him for using air travel over a bus or train, Trump strangely jumped to his defense citing the impracticality of driving from NYC to DC (if only someone was around to break such a shoddy system and its infrastructure).

More telling was the press’ dart-throwing on Mamdani’s bandying of the word “fascist” to describe Trump. Although Mamdani laughed sheepishly and began to rattle off a diplomatic answer, Trump interrupted and said, “That’s okay, you can just say yes. I don’t mind. It’s easier than explaining.” He added, “I’ve been called worse than a despot.”

The lack of denial should be incredibly alarming. No politician with a claim to democratic legitimacy should feel comfortable being compared to the most barbarous and bloodthirsty manifestation of capitalist decay. Although Trump speculated that he would not get along with Mamdani on the issue of crime, he said he “would feel very safe in New York with [Mamdani].”

Throughout the conference, both Trump and Mamdani shied away from confrontation and emphasized their “common ground.” Some notable comments from Trump included: “I think he’s going to surprise a lot of conservative people,” “Some of his ideas are actually ideas that I have,” “We agree on a lot more than I would have thought,” and, “I see myself helping more than hurting him.” The last quotation was in reference to the possibility of Trump cutting federal funding for NYC. It is important to note that Trump highlighted it as a possibility but downplayed the probability before Mamdani has officially entered office.

Mamdani, in turn, could not bring himself to say that New Yorkers love Trump, but did admit that “more New Yorkers voted

for Trump in 2024 against 2020 because of issues like affordability.” While this is true, it has not been joined with a repudiation of Trump’s right-wing demagoguery while policies like tariffs and inflationary spending have actually driven up the cost of living, which is inevitable in the death throes of the capitalist system under any administration.

In the days following that strange conference, Mamdani reiterated his belief that Trump is a fascist. And Trump has not ruled out the possibility of deploying the National Guard to NYC, saying “other cities need it more right now” — referring to the “killing fields” of Portland and Chicago no doubt, where peaceful and, at the moment, lawful protests abound.

Fundamentally, the notion of Mamdani — and Trump being able to convince one another of their perspectives is laughable, but a sharp exposure has been made. Mamdani is perhaps the best that can be won from electoralism under capital. All Democrats, if they have not sold their virtue to the highest donor, would be powerless in the face of a President who has issued record-breaking Executive Orders, who constantly defies the Judicial Branch, who has influenced Congress even out of office, who is considering a third term, who tried even to overthrow the election results of 2020 and not only got away with it, but rode that pathetic excuse for martyrdom to a second term.

Trump is a careerist. He has seen the popularity of Mamdani, knows how he is reviled even if he dupes himself to ignorance, and seeks to ride the coattails of a young and popular politician even so seemingly opposed to his own agenda. The threat that Trump poses for this local victory of the popular will always exist; he can always cut funding, always send in the National Guard, and what can stop him from arresting and deposing Mamdani if he so chooses?

On the other hand, it is unforgivable but characteristic of the Democratic party to try and bargain with the devil, and Mamdani, who has walked back his support for Palestinian resistance, who recognizes the “right” for Zionist Israel to exist, who has allowed the Trump-loving Police Commissioner Tisch to remain in office, has

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

to be criticized not only for personal failings, but also as symptomatic to a system that takes the popular will for change and churns out compromise, defeat, and horror.

While there is great banality in a pleasant meeting between “two guys from Queens” as the New York Times reported, this banality and its advertisement is a rosy screen door to the charnal house of capitalism, the home of genocide as we see in the Congo, Sudan, Palestine and beyond, the inexorable misery

and instability for all working people.

In the dark times we live in, any ray of hope is welcome and in the absence of a revolutionary working-class movement, we are in danger of deception at times from perhaps earnest but doomed reformers, as reform is doomed itself. Mamdani’s election may appear to be a step in the right direction, but the destination of social emancipation will not be reached until the poisonous thorns of electoralism, respectability, and

compromise with an increasingly reactionary status quo, are consciously ripped away by an organized and revolutionary working-class movement. We must not give in to feelings of disappointment and betrayal by those who smile and shake hands with the ugly, ravenous monsters of capitalism, but instead sharpen our analysis and formulate our strategies and tactics for the side of the working masses in the ongoing class war.



## AMAZON'S AUTOMATION SET TO DESTROY HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF JOBS



A robotic arm sorts packages at the Amazon fulfillment center in Wilmington, Del. (Emma Lee/WHYY)

Thomas K. | Ohio | Dec. 8, 2025

The struggle to organize Amazon warehouses has been a leading battleground in the modern American class war. Employing around one million workers in America, they place themselves firmly as one of the largest employers in the country, second only to Walmart. In today's age, technological developments could uplift and empower the masses, yet because of the profit motive of capital, this progress only serves to enrich the owning class at the expense of workers.

Internal documents from Amazon show that their continued push into automation will allow them to nix around 160,000 jobs by 2027, increasing to around 600,000 by 2033. The documents also showed they plan to automate 75% of the company's operations. The fight for unionization at Amazon is now more dire than ever. As it sits currently only one Amazon warehouse in the United States has been unionized. (Amazon Labor Union Local 1 in Staten Island) An organized defense against this attack by Amazon must be supported, not only by Amazon employees but

by labor unions around the country. Estimates have it that Amazon has spent over \$20 million in anti-union consultants and campaigns since 2021, with a spotlight on the union-busting against workers of Bessemer, Alabama. Amazon is actively exposing itself, as all private property is, to be the ruthless antagonist to the survival and prosperity of the worker.

Amazon has been quoted multiple times saying that they disagree with unionization because it stands in the way of “innovation,” defined as profits in the practical sense. Amazon is so much so against unionization that they would rather replace their workers with robots than agree to worker demands, like an irresponsible child with an old toy they've grown tired of and have decided to cast aside. We cannot let this happen without a fight. This affects all branches of the working class, Amazon would be laying out the blueprints for this to be transferred to all parts of the working class. Automation in and of itself is not bad, as it can improve efficiency and reduce the workload of employees, but when in the hands of the capitalist it becomes a tool of ultimate extraction and oppression.

Corporations use automation to remove worker overhead costs and eliminate positions, all while promising to “upscale” employees, a talking point used against the working class time and time again. Under some critical examination we clearly find that even training employees into more technical roles, the systems they will be working on are so patent heavy that the skills are non-transferable. What we would then be left with is a group of skilled technicians completely held captive to a corporation unable to sell their labor anywhere else. For those not given the opportunity to train, which will be the large majority, they will be left chasing a drying up pool of jobs as more corporations follow Amazon's “robot labor market”.

Amazon's desire to push out the worker demands a return of strength in solidarity across all facets of labor. The organization and unionization of the working class is the beginning of our defense. Workers deserve transparency in their work and workplace, as AI systems are integrated into workplaces more and more we need to have a say on how it is used. We also need to make some demands against robotics. If the robotic systems are so productive then they can afford to lose a work day, meaning that the workers can demand a shorter work week at no loss in pay. If automation must come the workers should receive the benefits.

Unions attached to Amazon, whether through construction, through shipping, or any other means, must stand in solidarity with the Amazon workers. An attack on any member of the working class is an attack on all of us. We should halt the construction of Amazon warehouses and data centers. Strike them at the heart of their profits and let them know the working class will not roll over and be replaced. We will not have our labor power taken away from us.

We must stand together and fight against this scourge and continue the fight against capitalism and move towards a socialist world. The owning class has shown that they have no interest in keeping relations with the working class. They continue to turn our labor against us as a continual slap in the face. We are trapped as slaves to their bidding and then driven out by our works. We must organize against this system and destroy it, and our workplace unions are one of the most important battlegrounds on which to wage our war. We cannot exist hand in hand with capital interests any longer when they seem so hell-bent on leaving us behind. The system must be abolished and the means of production given back to the people! It is from our hands this world has been built and to our hands it must return!

## ON-THE-JOB MURDER OF AMBER CZECH BY COWORKER A TRAGIC EXPRESSION OF MISOGYNY IN LABOR

The Labor Commission & the Women's Commission of the APL | Dec. 19, 2025

On Nov. 11, Amber Czech, a 20-year old welder for Advanced Process Technologies in Minnesota, was bludgeoned to death on the job by a male coworker, David Bruce Delong, who has confessed to the cold-blooded killing. Czech's murder comes from a culture of hostility against women in trades, whose harassment frequently goes unreported, underreported, or insufficiently addressed, resulting in women being more than twice as likely to die by murder on the job than their male coworkers.

Workplaces, especially in construction trades, are not only unsafe for women due to these misogynistic interpersonal relations, but also because of a lack of access to proper protective equipment, yet the capitalists who operate these industries have little incentive to rectify these problems as it is more profitable to push women out of the workforce and back into their homes to perform unpaid reproductive and domestic labor.

In the United States, women are nearly three times as likely as men to be killed at work. The NCBI notes that while women make up approximately 7.5% of the workforce in heavy industry, they suffer from 10% of workplace injuries. Additionally, the US Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that in 2019, of all workplace deaths, homicide accounted for 7.5% of those deaths among men, while for women homicides accounted for 20% of on-the-job deaths.

There are unverified claims that Czech had filed five Human Resources complaints against the confessed killer, all of which had gone ignored. Regardless of whether such formal complaints were filed, Delong admitted to law enforcement that he simply "did not like her" and had been planning to murder her.

Male chauvinism rears its head in other ways in the construction field, such as women reporting "discomfort and even safety risks due to ill-fitting PPE (personal protective equipment). Standard equipment, such as hard hats, safety vests, and gloves, is typically designed for men, leaving women to struggle with options that do not work with their size and body shape."

Capitalism, still to this day, seeks to relegate women into a specific set of social roles. The inherent motive behind the demonstrated permissibility towards women's struggles in the workplace comes from centuries of patriarchal social norms. The retention of this familial and social order within the capitalist system, left over from the feudal mode of production and dating back to slave societies, consigns women to a specific role in society: that of the homemaker. The unpaid domestic and reproductive labor of women — which is required to maximize production of their working male partners and to raise the next generation of workers — to deal with the emotional duress of the man from the frustrations of labor, to feed and to keep the home for him to come back to, and for his bloodline to be preserved, is indeed a holdover of this social order.

In 2016, women made up 9.1% of the workforce in construction trades, which grew to 11% in 2021 despite rampant discriminatory hiring practices. Observing the growth of women in construction trades over this five-year period, taken alongside the aforementioned statistics, proves more the importance of the struggles of women in labor. Capitalism is driving women to seek out more gainful employment, oftentimes via construction and similar trades, which continues to be an incredibly dangerous field for them.

The only path forward to the safety and survival of women in the workforce is through the collective power of the proletariat. Only such collective action by the working class can further the demands for safer environments; both safety from the hazards of the work itself, and the hazards of male chauvinism.

In the case of the murder of Amber Czech, the Labor Commission and the Women's Commission of the American Party of Labor echo the immediate demands of the National Association of Women In Construction:

- Clear, accessible and retaliation-free reporting pathways.
- Mandatory, meaningful training on intervention and violence prevention.
- Zero-tolerance enforcement of harassment, bullying, discrimination and threats.
- Accountability for supervisors and managers who fail to act.
- A cultural reset that rejects the normalization of hostility toward tradeswomen.

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## 'ONE BATTLE AFTER ANOTHER': FUN YET LIMITED DEPICTION OF REVOLUTIONARY STRUGGLE

Keegan D. | Illinois | Nov. 24, 2025

*One Battle After Another*, directed by Paul Thomas Anderson and starring Chase Infiniti, Teyana Taylor, Leonardo DiCaprio, and Sean Penn, is a spectacle that has gripped audiences across the country since its late September release. While it can be fun, and perhaps even inspiring, to see depictions of “revolutionary” struggle, *One Battle After Another* is limited like every other piece of bourgeois media due to its inability to go beyond the ideological limitations of capitalism.

The film centers around a group of adventuristic and vaguely “left-wing” guerrillas operating in the American southwest, called “The French 75,” who commit a number of carefully planned operations and acts of protest against a version of the US government ran by pedophile oligarchs — essentially similar to our current government but just swapping the names of a few key individuals and organizations.

For the first half of the movie the film follows The French 75, of whom DiCaprio and Taylor’s characters are members, as they form their organization and carry out sabotage attacks on immigrant detention centers, pull off bank robberies, and make daring escapes from federal authorities. Then, for reasons which will be discussed thoroughly below, Taylor’s character becomes an informant for the US government, and aids Penn’s character in arresting the majority of The French 75. This then forces DiCaprio into hiding along with his new born baby, who Taylor’s character is the mother of, and is later played by Chase Infiniti. The remainder of the film follows DiCaprio and Infiniti’s characters, along with a few other members of The French 75, as they attempt to avoid capture from the State a decade and a half after the initial crackdown on the group.

### Why many have found the film so appealing:

Many in progressive circles have found the movie extremely compelling, and often for good reason. First and foremost, it’s satisfying for many to see temporarily successful acts of resistance against fascistic organizations in the United States, especially as I.C.E, the National Guard, and Border Patrol have increasingly escalated their destructive operations since the movie’s release. It should be clear that these aspects of the film are not the center of this critique. This critique makes no moralistic criticism of the fictional acts

carried out by The French 75, except perhaps the timing of these actions in relation to their other organizational practices (or lack thereof). Having a movie with a Hollywood budget that depicts self proclaimed revolutionaries getting away with militant armed resistance, at least for a time, is enjoyable. On that note, the movie is also generally well acted and directed, with a surprisingly engaging pace for a two hour and fifty minute movie. However, this is still very much a Hollywood film in need of deep criticism, particularly both the film’s beginning and ending.

### The odd reliance on racist and patriarchal stereotypes to portray state infiltration and informants:

What immediately sticks out in the film, is the seemingly unnecessary use of harmful hyper-sexual stereotypes about African-American Women. The first twenty minutes of the film are shot in a rapid montage fashion and initially depict DiCaprio and Taylor’s characters switching back and forth between preparing for acts of resistance and being intimate with one another. While graphic, it’s not at the beginning problematic, until a point in the montage in which Sean Penn’s character, a federal agent, purposefully fails to stop Taylor while she is attempting to sabotage a migrant detention center because Taylor seduces him. The montage then becomes a mixture of sexual acts between Taylor and DiCaprio as well as Taylor and Penn, alongside more operations of The French 75.

This all leads to the impression that Taylor’s character is only in the fight against oppression for some type of Sexual gratification, rather than a commitment to any real type of revolutionary principles. Finally, this impression is only further emphasized by the fact that the key reason why Taylor eventually turns into an informant for the government, is due to her relationship with Penn’s Character and in order to run away from the responsibilities of being a parent. This also sets up questions about the paternity of Infiniti’s character later on in the film. After getting the majority of the French 75 captured, Taylor’s character then also flees from Pen’s character and hides somewhere in South America.

All of this is seemingly done in the name of representing the historically real danger for left wing movements to face government infiltration and informants, however it comes

off as extremely unnecessary and jarring. It’s clear that this danger could have undoubtedly been explored within the film without relying on the hypersexualization of Taylor’s character, and still been in line with the theme and pace of the rest of the film (as little to none of the remainder of the film is sexual in nature, or even on off-screen sexual relationships).

In addition to the depiction of Taylor’s Character, another African-American member of The French 75 repeatedly calls herself and is referred to as “Jungle Pussy”. While this could perhaps be charitably interpreted as an act of “reclamation”, the film never makes this a point and is an odd detail to add with the already noted hyper-sexualization of Taylor’s character. Additionally, this is one of the only other named members of The French 75, and the name later is seemingly blamed for making the character a priority target during the state’s crackdown. By contrast, no white members of the French 75 are hypersexualized or betray the organization due to any relationships. These details force us to ask why African-American Women are depicted in this fashion by the film, and make it a necessity to point out that these depictions are inaccurate and harmful. African-American women and their sexuality is not and has never been a threat to revolutionary movements, so why make it the center of The French 75’s acknowledged failure in this film?

### The lack of program or possibility for victory:

In addition to the film’s problematic beginning, *One Battle After Another* faces another issue made apparent by the ending — the film truly is one battle after another yet the characters don’t seem to ever learn what war they are fighting these battles in: the class war! Much like many other “left-wing” movies which have come out in recent years, *One Battle After Another* makes little to no mention of the communist politics or organizational work which would be necessary to organize a successful movement against the capitalist system which is causing the fascification of both our current government and the government which the movie depicts.

The French 75 and their actions are not embedded within a working class movement or socialist political program, and even at points in the movie where they seem to have popular support, they offer no plan for the people to organize in a way that goes beyond the capitalist system. However, at the end of the

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film this observation is not the message which the film would like its audience to take away. After successfully escaping the authorities again, the movie approvingly shows Infiniti's character leaving the house to join a peaceful protest, symbolically picking up the torch from DiCaprio's character while disavowing the tactics of The French 75.

While the director may not realize it, this ending ensures that the characters, and anyone who adopts this film's final message, are condemned to continue fighting one battle after another even if they now do so with a liberal notion of "peace and respectability". The French 75

are undoubtedly an adventurist group whose tactics should not be directly copied. However, The French 75's fall into adventurism was not simply because of their openness to utilizing extra-legal tactics, but due the fact that they were implemented without connection to a strong working class movement poised to take over society's economic foundation from the capitalist elite. This is not an error which the supposedly positive ending addresses. Instead the characters have just found a new way to express their frustration without actually effectively challenging the fascist government and the bourgeois class.

In order for any inspiration taken from the film to be useful, the critiques above and made by others must also be internalized. We cannot get caught up in glorifying the idea of fighting one battle after another, we must learn from and go beyond One Battle After Another. The goal is not to keep fighting battle after battle while utilizing increasingly "respectable tactics". The goal is to win power for the working class through whatever means and tactics are necessary, and to create the foundations for a world in which we no longer have to fight these same battles. This is the conclusion that One Battle After Another fails to come to, but its audience must.

## UNEMPLOYMENT SURGE SIGNALS DEEPER CRACKS IN U.S. LABOR MARKET

John M. | Colorado | Jan. 15, 2026

As the final days of 2025 unfold, the U.S. economy confronts a somber reality: millions more workers are sidelined, their livelihoods eroded by a system that prioritizes profit over people. The Bureau of Labor Statistics' delayed September report, released amid the chaos of a record 43-day government shutdown, painted a grim picture of a labor market fraying at the edges. Nonfarm payrolls produced a meager 119,000 jobs while the unemployment rate ticked up to 4.4 percent, the highest since October 2021. This figure, affecting 7.6 million Americans, marks a 0.3 percentage point rise from the previous year, with the number of jobless individuals swelling by nearly 700,000 since late 2024.

These headline numbers barely scratch the surface of the crisis. Beneath the official tally lies a broader measure of labor underutilization—known as the U-6 rate—that climbed to 8 percent in September, encompassing not just the unemployed but those trapped in part-time work for economic reasons and discouraged seekers who have abandoned the hunt altogether. At 4.6 million strong, involuntary part-timers represent a workforce squeezed into survival mode, their hours slashed as employers hoard cash amid faltering demand. Long-term unemployment, defined as spells lasting 27 weeks or more, now claims 23.6 percent of all jobless workers—up sharply from 21.5 percent a year earlier—and totals 1.8 million people, the fastest annual jump since the pandemic. For these workers, the American Dream has spawned into a nightmare of depleted savings, mounting debt, and frayed family ties.

The roots of this swelling unemployment are

not random misfortunes but symptoms of a capitalist engine sputtering under its own contradictions. High interest rates, held steady by the Federal Reserve in the 4- 4.2 percent range since December 2024, have choked off investment and consumer borrowing, forcing businesses to trim payrolls rather than expand. Manufacturing and construction, once pillars of industrial might, hemorrhaged jobs: federal workforce cuts alone shaved 12,000 positions in August, while transportation and warehousing shed thousands more amid supply chain snarls intensified by new tariffs on steel and lumber. These policies, aimed at shielding domestic industries, instead boomerang as higher costs strangle small firms and inflate prices for everyday goods, curbing spending and perpetuating a vicious cycle of layoffs.

Immigration crackdowns worsen the strain. A sharp drop in net migration has shrunk the labor pool just as sectors like agriculture and services cry out for hands. This engineered scarcity doesn't bolster wages for native-born workers; it starves growth, with real consumer spending projected to decelerate to 1.4 percent in 2026 from 2.1 percent this year. Employers, facing thinner margins, respond with automation: artificial intelligence now devours entry-level white-collar roles, locking out recent college graduates whose unemployment rate hit 2.8 percent in September, up from 2.7 percent the prior month. The result? Jobless economic growth, where productivity climbs but jobs evaporate, leaving a rising mountain of unemployed workers to pay the price for corporate windfalls.

The disparities are ruthless. Black workers face a 7.5 percent jobless rate – double the 3.8 percent for white Americans – up from 6.1 percent last year, while Hispanics endure 5.5

percent. For Black women, the median spell of unemployment stretches to 18.5 weeks, eight weeks longer than for white men, as they navigate a market rigged against them. Teenagers, at 13.2 percent unemployed, bear the brunt of entry-level cuts in retail and hospitality, sectors battered by consumer pullback. These are not abstract figures; they are the human cost of a system where the unemployed serve as a cudgel to discipline the employed, keeping wages stagnant even as productivity climbs.

This is no mere slowdown; it's an inevitable outcome of an economy built on exploitation. Over a million layoffs announced through Oct. stem from firms bracing for recessionary headwinds, yet corporate profits soar as they slash labor costs to pad shareholder returns. The labor force participation rate, stuck at 62.4 percent, masks a deeper retreat: 470,000 entered the market in September, but only 251,000 found work, swelling the reserve army of labor. Wages, meanwhile, grew a tepid 3.8 percent year-over-year, trailing inflation and eroding purchasing power for those still employed.

Yet, in this moment of turmoil, there glimmers a potential for renewal. History teaches that crises like these have always ignited the spark of collective action. The Great Depression birthed the New Deal's labor protections; the 1970s stagflation fueled union revivals that clawed back wages and rights. Today, as soup lines reform and eviction notices pile up, the working class stands at a crossroads. From the United Auto Workers' historic strikes to the burgeoning tenant unions in cities like Chicago and Los Angeles, a new militancy is rising, demanding not crumbs from the table but control over the means of production itself.

## OPEN LETTER OF INVITATION FOR STRUGGLE IN THE PUGET SOUND, WASHINGTON



Members of the Puget Sound Division of the APL | Washington | Dec. 30, 2025

On the occasion of the founding of a Puget Sound Division of the American Party of Labor, we would like to present an open invitation for struggle regarding the conditions of this region of Washington state.

On the basis of the vast growth of the Cadre and Candidate members of the American Party of Labor within this area, and with the vision of rejuvenating the movements of organized labor and anti-fascist struggle in honor of our local history, we present the following statements.

### To the exploiters:

We first welcome the exploiters of the Puget Sound to struggle. Not to struggle with us, but to struggle against us. The victory of the proletariat over you is inevitable, and we, the activists of the American Party of Labor, are willing and prepared to see the struggle for that victory through to its complete end.

Find solace in the fact that the means of struggle we must take up against you are indeed set by you. Not that you are entitled to dictate our tactics, but our tactics must be the correct response to your exploitation and oppression of the workers and the peoples. The harder you push back against us, the harder we will respond.

Take this as your fair warning.

To the tech giants, the perpetuators of the genocide of the Palestinian peoples.

To the Silicon Valley imports, buying up the property (that our workers built!) for speculation.

To the bigoted and racist police forces of Seattle, Tacoma, Everett, and elsewhere,

who terrorize and kill people of oppressed nationalities and races, who terrorize our beloved LGBTQ+ community wherever we gather, and who terrorize our downtrodden workers just looking for a meal and a roof over their head.

To the corporate and reactionary small landlords, holding housing hostage from us, forcing us to decide between a power bill and a meal.

To the backward leadership of the unions, the labor aristocrats, minds poisoned against your fellow worker, allied with the bosses, who hinder and break our strikes.

To the violent fascistic forces of federal immigration enforcement in ICE and DHS, terrorizing workers who migrated here, and to your “private-public partnership” concentration camps where you hang, beat, torture and maim our migrant brothers and sisters like Kuya G.

And, to the fascist organizations of the Puget Sound — the Atomwaffen blackshirts, the “Patriot” Front nationalists, the III%er terrorists, and the Proud Boy reactionaries — your time is also near.

You have been warned, and we welcome your struggle against us.

Surrender is easier.

### To the active, political, laboring masses:

On this occasion, we must be joyful. The Marxist-Leninist struggle for the liberation and power of the proletariat is alive and well in the Puget Sound! Revisionist forces and the falsifiers of the teachings of Marxism, the Custeristic left-wing populists, and the social democrats have, for too long, occupied the avenues of struggle of our proletariat in the Puget Sound, and have yielded no results.

Today, we take back this struggle into our hands. Our ever-growing and deepening connections with you, the laboring masses of the Puget Sound, has grown and continues to grow.

Together, we must continue to build our power against the bourgeoisie. Every workplace must be organized, every street must bustle under the red banner of the Party, adorned with the gear and the grain, the symbols of the industrial and agrarian proletariat. Every worker must join together, from the coffee pourer to the iron worker, and conduct our decisive struggle together, our arms linked, with the teachings of Marxism-Leninism in our minds, and the martyrs of our historical labor struggles in our hearts, and strike against our exploiters. The tech giants, Silicon Valley imports, the bosses, the reactionary labor aristocrats that hinder our union struggles, the corporate and reactionary small landlords, the racist and bigoted pigs of the police departments who maintain our exploitation, and the violent fascistic forces of the federal immigration enforcement who terrorize our communities.

Study the science of Marxism-Leninism, develop your class consciousness and spread it to your fellow worker. Attend all political actions of the Party, deepen your ties with us, and join us. Only a party of the advanced proletariat can lead us, the workers, to victory.

### To the youth and the struggling queer community:

Our youth, both those who invest their time in their studies, and those who have accepted a life of labor, we are with you. The educated youth face abhorrently expensive tuition of the higher education institutions, while the poor working-class young people who have foregone the book for the production line are forced time and time again to trade their lives for the profits of the exploiters. We are with you, and we invite you to come struggle alongside us for life, dignity, and power.

To the beloved queer community, of Capitol Hill, and of the many places you gather and celebrate community and love, we are with you. The American Party of Labor recognizes the historical neglect you have faced by other “communists,” the revisionists and

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

falsifiers of Marxism. We welcome you to come struggle alongside us, and as part of your community too, for dignity, respect, and equality among your fellow worker.

**To the workers of the tribes facing national oppression:**

To the Salish workers, to the Twana, Klallam, Makah, Quileute, Quinault, Chealis, Cowlitz, Kwalhioque, Chinook, and Yakima workers, let us struggle against your national oppression together. Our ties with you are vital, and struggling together against your oppression – that of the encroachment on treaty-protected lands, the extraction of value from your communities' resources, and the kidnappings of your women and girls – must be struggled against rigorously. To win the class war for the workers, we must also struggle against these compounding forms of oppression that you face.

Let us deepen our ties together, link our arms, and fight. The common enemy of the broad proletariat and the workers of the tribes, is that of the tech giants, the Silicon Valley speculators, the landlords, the racist and bigoted police, the bosses and their allies in reactionary union "leadership." In the same ways they exploit the broad working class, they are also the enemy of the tribes. They are the ones encroaching on your lands, extracting resources, perpetuating the ICE violence against your people, the DHS who undermine your citizenships, and enabling the kidnappings of your women and girls. Let us struggle against all the forces seeking to exploit us as workers, together, and let us struggle against the forces that look to oppress the indigenous worker and community at large.

**To the activists of the Puget Sound Division of the American Party of Labor:**

On this occasion of the founding and ratification of our Division, and on the occasion of a new year of struggle for the year of 2026, we must compound our efforts tenfold. The past year was hard, but it will be easier than the next, for the next year will be harder. To respond to this, the avenues and tactics of our struggle must be intensified and multiplied. Let no means of struggle against the exploiters be left off the table, for they leave no means of oppression off of theirs.

Increase your militancy; let the principles

of the party and the science of Marxism-Leninism guide every step of your day-to-day lives, every word you speak, and every action you take. Uphold the party line at all times, and act accordingly as representatives of the Party, and of the International Conference of Marxist-Leninist Parties and Organizations, at all times.

Increase your studies; the science of Marxism-Leninism develops as the phenomena of the world in motion develop. Study rigorously, apply the teachings of Karl Marx, Friedrich Engels, Vladimir Lenin, and Joseph Stalin to all problems you encounter, and to all solutions you formulate. Struggle rigorously against the revisionist elements in the working class struggle, struggle rigorously against the falsifiers of Marxism, for each current of revisionism you encounter, you encounter a new roadblock to the liberation of the proletariat. Continue to foster the iron discipline of the Marxist-Leninists in yourself, your comrades, and your fellow workers.

Increase your activity; deepen your connections with your fellow worker.

Deepen their class consciousness, bring all the proletariat into the political and economic struggle. Deepen the international solidarity of the proletarians around you with the workers and peoples abroad facing genocide, wars of aggression, and domestic exploitation from their own bourgeoisie, and from the international imperialist bourgeoisie. Organize your fellow workers into unions and community organizations.

Increase your attacks; in all spheres, ruthlessly attack the exploiters. Their ideas, the machinations of exploitation and oppression, their propaganda, their systems that keep us poor and distracted. Give the bourgeoisie not a second of peace in the moments they face you.

Onward to victory, ever forward, never backward!

Their towers will crumble, and their empires will fall!

The ruling class will have no choice but to fear those who built it all! Let them feel the steel of the working class!



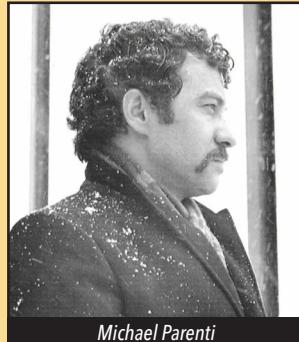
## About the Red Phoenix

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](http://RedPhoenixNews.com)



Michael Parenti

***"It is the heart of U.S. policy, ladies and gentlemen, to use fascism to preserve capitalism, while claiming to be saving democracy from communism."***

**Michael Parenti (Sep. 30, 1933 – Jan. 24, 2026)**

*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 (CIPOML), 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 APL 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 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.