

MUNDO OBRERO WORKERS WORLD

Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite! workers.org Vol. 67, No. 6 February 6, 2025

Growing resistance to fascist attacks

PRIDE in Argentina

When Argentina's fascist-minded President Javier Milei made an anti-diversity and homophobic speech at the Davos, Switzerland, economic meeting recently, Argentina's LGBTQIA+ movement decided to strike back. They did so Feb. 1, calling an ad hoc Pride Day and making it also anti-fascist.

According to organizers, 800,000 people marched in the capital, Buenos Aires, in one of the strongest actions since Milei took office over a year ago.

Much like the U.S. President Donald Trump, Milei has targeted the working class, with special attacks on women and LGBTQIA+ people. His actions have aroused mass opposition, but up to now the resistance has been unable to eject him. Whatever happens next, the slogan on one poster in the Feb. 1 march — "Every Milei has their Stonewall" — is sure to reverberate in other capitals.

— John Catalinotto (information from Resumen Latinoamericano)



Feb. 1, 2025, Buenos Aires

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Solidarity with detained migrants



Feb. 1, 2025

Cilantro Taqueria in Cleveland Heights, Ohio, was especially crowded, even for a Saturday night, on Feb. 1. People came out to express solidarity and outrage over the arrest of six Cilantro workers by Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents on Jan. 26. The workers were taken to the ICE detention center in Geauga County, over 20 miles east of Cleveland Heights.

The restaurant's windows were plastered with signs expressing love for the workers and denouncing ICE, which made almost 1,000 arrests of immigrants across the U.S. in Trump's first week in office, and 1,179 people more on Jan. 26 alone. Most of the signs were made by neighborhood children.

— Report and photo by
Martha Grevatt

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MUNDO OBRERO WORKERS WORLD

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the imperialist beast. We are a multina-
tional, multigenerational and multigen-
dered organization that not only aims to
abolish capitalism, but to build a socialist
society because it's the only way forward!

Capitalism and imperialism threaten
the peoples of the world and the planet
itself in the neverending quest for ever-
greater profits.

Capitalism means war and auster-
ity, racism and repression, attacks on
im/migrants, misogyny, LGBTQIA2S+
oppression and mistreatment of people
with disabilities. It means joblessness,
increasing homelessness and impover-
ishment and lack of hope for the future.
No social problems can be solved under
capitalism.

The U.S. is the richest country in the
world, yet no one has a guaranteed right
to shelter, food, water, health care, edu-
cation or anything else—unless they can
pay for it. Wages are lower than ever, and
youth are saddled with seemingly insur-
mountable student debt, if they even make
it to college. Black, Brown and Indigenous

youth and trans people are gunned down
by cops and bigots on a regular basis.

The ruthless ruling class today seeks
to wipe out decades of gains and benefits
won by hard-fought struggles by people's
movements. The super-rich and their
political representatives have intensified
their attacks on the multinational, mul-
tigender and multigenerational working
class. It is time to point the blame at —
and challenge — the capitalist system.

WWP fights for socialism because
the working class produces all wealth in
society, and this wealth should remain
in their hands, not be stolen in the form
of capitalist profits. The wealth workers
create should be socially owned and its
distribution planned to satisfy and guar-
antee basic human needs.

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for a socialist future, please sign up at
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Weaponizing DEI

Trump launches all-out war on workers and the oppressed

By Monica Moorehead

As soon as Donald Trump occupied the Oval Office again on Jan. 20, he did not waste any time before beginning a campaign of white supremacist attacks against the multinational, multigenerational, multigender working class, especially the most oppressed. His preferred focus was to target progressive DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) programs in the areas of the workplace and education on all levels within the federal government. These anti-DEI attacks took aim at trans people, migrants, women, Black, Latine, AAPI, Indigenous Nations, Arab, disabled people and other marginalized sectors.

According to NBC News, Trump issued executive orders on Jan. 31 to dissolve programs that politically and culturally observe “Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Black History Month, Juneteenth, LGBTQ Pride Month, Holocaust Remembrance Day,” [and Women’s History Month], especially amongst federal workers. (Jan. 31)

These political attacks on oppressed nationalities and groups are an attempt to drive a wedge between all sectors within the working class. Many of these observances commemorate hard-won gains made possible with decades of mass struggles led by the most oppressed.

“The Office of the Director of National Intelligence, which oversees the country’s intelligence services, recently issued written guidance to employees saying that DEI-related boards and working groups have been ‘curtailed’ and that no official work time or work spaces should be used for DEI-related activities. Future travel related to these activities also has been cancelled, the memo stated.” (NBC News)

Attack on Civil Rights investigations

In keeping with his anti-DEI policies, Trump immediately put a freeze on all new federal Civil Rights violation cases brought before the Civil Rights Division under the auspices of the U.S. Department of Justice. Many of those cases center around systemic police violence, where

criminal convictions of the police are all too rare in state courts.

Once these cases resulted in the acquittals of police officers, if police went to trial at all, the victims’ families would turn to the federal courts for some form of redress. They would be seeking to win either convictions of police or any financial compensation based on Civil Rights violations.

These cases were spurred on under the Joe Biden administration with the police murders of 26-year-old Breonna Taylor in March 2020 in Louisville, Kentucky, followed two months later by the shocking lynching on video of 46-year-old George Floyd in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Both Taylor and Floyd were unarmed Black victims killed by white police officers.

These high profile murders prompted millions of activists inside the U.S. and internationally to demand “disarm the police” and in some instances “abolish the police.” Both of these cases and many more forced the DOJ to demand that police departments revamp their policies with “reforms” to make them more accountable for their actions or else provide financial compensation as settlements of lawsuits for their crimes.

Any consent decrees or agreements that were worked out with local police departments intended to overhaul biased police practices, based on nationality or ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation and disabilities, now face being overturned by reactionary Trump appointees who dominate the DOJ.

These same appointees will have the authority to bar lawyers working in the Civil Rights Division from filing “motions to intervene, agreed-upon remands, amicus briefs or statements of interest” on behalf of police victims unless they receive the approval of senior Trump appointees.



SOURCE: WHY

The Minneapolis 3rd Police Precinct was torched in protest of murder of George Floyd, May 28, 2020.

This pushback will give the police an even bigger green light to abuse and kill more people of color, especially those with disabilities, with impunity.

In a bit of irony, it was Trump who recently unconditionally pardoned many of his MAGA supporters who violently attacked the U.S. Capitol in opposition to the results of the 2020 presidential elections. These right-wing riots on Jan. 6, 2021, resulted in the deaths of five Capitol police officers.

It remains to be seen just how far these racist, xenophobic, transphobic, sexist, anti-disabled orders will actually take effect once the workers and oppressed unite and take to the streets to say, “Hell no, we won’t go back!” □

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What caused the plane crash? Union busting, not DEI!

WORKERS WORLD 
editorial



Striking members of the Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization, who went on strike Aug. 3, 1981, and were fired two days later by then-President Ronald Reagan.

No one should be surprised any time Trump exposes himself as the vile, disgusting, ultraright-wing bigot that he is.

Still, it's almost impossible not to be outraged.

A case in point is the Jan. 29 plane crash near the Baltimore-Washington International Airport (BWI). With absolutely zero evidence, Trump immediately blamed diversity, equity and inclusion programs, allegedly instituted by former President Joe Biden, for allowing less qualified air traffic controllers to be hired.

He specifically called out the Federal Aviation Administration for "actively recruiting workers who suffer severe intellectual disabilities, psychiatric problems and other mental and physical conditions under a diversity and inclusion hiring initiative." (Associated Press, Jan. 31)

That's bull. Racist, sexist, ableist bull.

One might think it would be more reasonable to investigate first, then assign blame. Not this president. Given an opportunity to scapegoat people of color, immigrants, women and gender-oppressed people, LGBTQIA2S+ people or people with disabilities, Trump will do so — facts be damned.

After a brief moment of silence, Trump went into his tirade against DEI, showing zero compassion for the 67 people who died after the midair collision between a passenger airplane and a military helicopter. This was the deadliest airplane crash in the U.S. since Nov. 12, 2001.

Too few air traffic controllers

What has come out is that the air traffic control tower servicing BWI was understaffed. One controller was monitoring both airplanes and helicopters; before 9:30 p.m., that normally should have been two separate jobs. The crash occurred at 9:00 p.m. According to the Associated Press, "On Wednesday [Jan. 29] the tower supervisor directed that [the two jobs] be combined earlier [than 9:30 p.m.]."

This was an accident waiting to happen. According to the union representing air traffic controllers, National Air Traffic Controllers Association, in an analysis obtained by the New York Times, "More than

90 percent of the country's 313 air traffic control facilities operate below the Federal Aviation Administration's recommended staffing levels." Moreover, "Persistent staff shortages and an underinvestment in safety systems have led to an alarming number of close calls between aircraft." (Jan. 31)

Under capitalism, bosses are forever seeking ways to cut costs by shrinking the workforce. This is true for workers in the public sector as well as in the private sector.

Along with reducing the number of jobs, this practice contributes to a high level of on-the-job stress among air traffic controllers. This stress was a major health and safety issue in the 1981 strike by the Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization. Then-President Ronald Reagan broke the union and fired every single union member who didn't cross the picket line.

Eventually the controllers who replaced the fired PATCO members realized they needed a union and formed NATCA. Union members are dealing with the same or worse conditions of overwork and understaffing that led to the PATCO strike.

An objective investigation, if one takes place, would reveal the facts around this tragedy.

It will be up to workers and oppressed people to connect the dots and realize that capitalist cost-cutting and constant quest for higher profits, not DEI, caused the deadly plane crash — one that could have been prevented. □

Hunter College students defend migrant rights

With a public action declaring its intention to combat the attacks from the Trump administration on their fellow students and their families, the Hunter College Committee to Defend Immigrants held a rally and demonstration outside Hunter West in New York City on the afternoon of Jan. 30. Those taking part at the speakout made



clear their intention to build an organization that would not only defend their threatened fellow students but would aim to build working-class solidarity between migrants

without legal papers and workers and students who have documents.

— Report and photo by John Catalinotto

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We reject Marco Rubio's visit to Panamá

Statement of the Citizens' Pole of Panamá, Feb. 2, 2025. Translation: John Catalinotto.

The statements, threats and lies that have preceded the trip of U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio to Panamá clearly damage the dignity of our nation and its sovereignty. If our country had a dignified and responsible government, if we had a president of the republic with a minimum of courage and honesty, he would not receive Mr. Rubio under the conditions Donald Trump intends to impose, which amount to a shameful surrender — giving in before their wage war on us.

Gross lies from U.S. President Trump, such as saying that “the canal is controlled by the Chinese,” or that “the United States gave us [Panamanians] the canal,” or threatening that they will take it by force if the ports are not handed over to them and their ships are not allowed to pass through for free, are unacceptable conditions for dialogue between our two countries.

Panamá has a corrupt and traitorous government, as demonstrated by the weakness and cowardice of a president who, shortly after Rubio arrived, panicked, trying to shirk his responsibility as the highest authority of a sovereign country that has every right to maintain diplomatic and commercial relations with China, the second-largest user of the Panamá Canal.

The National Assembly of Deputies, as an organ of the Panamanian State, cannot escape its responsibilities, and at this point it owes the Panamanian people a pronouncement in defense of national sovereignty in light of the insults of Trump and his lackeys, not at an individual level, nor with the excuse of holding other entities to account,



Panamá City, Feb. 2, 2025. Banner of union confederation SUNTRACS.

PHOTO: SUNTRACS

but as a political entity that sits behind the desks paid for by the Panamanian people.

Imperialist predator Trump

Like any predator when he senses the weakness of his prey, Donald Trump is driven by his imperialist ambitions. This is how he views Panamá, which is mired in a socio-political crisis resulting from 35 years of corrupt governments, which are implementers of neoliberal policies, plunderers of Panamá's geographical advantages and its canal only to give them away to the highest bidder in exchange for bribes. The ports are an example of this.

We cannot forget that these corrupt governments, with their anti-national character, were imposed by the invasion of December 20, 1989. They have governed, because the U.S. imposed them in 1990; the ports were privatized by order of the International Monetary Fund (IMF); the Panamá Canal Authority (ACP), controlled by the oligarchy, was made possible by the constitutional reform of 1994, overseen by Washington.

To defend Panamá and its canal from Trump's imperialist clutches, we need a gov-

ernment that truly represents the national and popular interest: one that nationalizes all port facilities, those of the [Hong Kong company CK] Hutchinson, but also those of Trump's partner, Louis Sola [new head of Federal Maritime Commission]; that requires the ACP to make the greatest collective use of the reverted areas and hands over those resources to the people who fought for sovereignty; that does not allow foreign military bases; and has a policy of Latin American and Caribbean unity and sovereignty.

In the face of the cowardice and ineffectiveness of [Panamanian] President José Raúl Mulino and his government, the Citizens' Pole calls on Panamanian popular organizations to unite so that we can join forces by convening the Third National Sovereignty Congress, following the example of the one that was organized after the glorious feat of January 9, 1964.

Sovereignty is not negotiable! One territory, one flag!

For more background on the struggle for sovereignty regarding the canal, see workers.org/2025/01/83598/.



Panamá City, Dec. 31, 2024. 'Donald Trump – Public enemy of Panamá.'

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Repudiamos la visita de Marco Rubio a Panamá



Declaración del Polo Ciudadano de Panamá, 2 de febrero de 2025.

Las declaraciones, amenazas y mentiras que han precedido el viaje del secretario de Estado norteamericano, Marco Rubio, a Panamá, son claramente lesivas a la dignidad de nuestra nación y su soberanía. Si nuestro país tuviera un gobierno digno y consecuente, si tuviéramos un presidente de la república con un mínimo de valor y honestidad, no recibiría al señor Rubio en las condiciones que pretende imponer Donald Trump, que son una vergonzosa rendición antes de que nos hagan la guerra.

Burdas mentiras provenientes del presidente norteamericano, Trump, como decir que “el canal está controlado por los chinos”, o que “Estados Unidos nos regaló el canal, o amenazar de que lo van a tomar por la fuerza si no se les entregan los puertos y se les permite pasar gratis a sus barcos, son condiciones inaceptables para dialogar entre nuestros dos países.

Panamá tiene un gobierno vendepatria y corrupto, demostrado en la debilidad y cobardía manifiesta de un presidente que a poco de llegar Rubio entró en pánico, intentando zafar su responsabilidad como máxima autoridad de un país soberano que tiene todo el derecho de mantener relaciones diplomáticas y comerciales con China, el segundo usuario del Canal de Panamá.

No se escapa de sus responsabilidades la Asamblea Nacional de Diputados/as, como órgano del Estado Panameño, la cual a estas alturas le debe un pronunciamiento al pueblo panameño en defensa de la soberanía nacional ante los desagrazos de Trump y sus lacayos, no a nivel individual, ni con la excusa de pedir cuentas a otras entidades, sino como entidad política que está sentada en curules que paga el pueblo panameño.

Donald Trump está impulsado por sus ambiciones imperialistas, como cualquier



Ciudad de Panamá, el 2 de febrero de 2025. Manifestación en contra de la visita de Marco Rubio, el secretario de estado de los EE. UU.

FOTO: SUNTRACS

depredador cuando huele la debilidad de su presa. Así ve a nuestro país que está sumido en una crisis sociopolítica producto de 35 años de gobiernos corruptos, ejecutores de políticas neoliberales, saqueadores/as de las ventajas geográficas de Panamá y su canal para regalarlas al mejor postor a cambio de coimas. Los puertos son un ejemplo de eso.

No podemos olvidar que esos gobiernos corruptos, con sus criterios antinacionales fueron impuestos por la invasión del 20 de diciembre de 1989. Han gobernado porque EE.UU. los impuso en 1990; los puertos se privatizaron por orden del FMI; la Autoridad del Canal del Panamá (ACP) controlada por la oligarquía fue posible por la reforma constitucional de 1994, tutelada por Washington.

Para defender a Panamá y su canal de las garras imperialistas de Trump requerimos un gobierno que en verdad represente el interés nacional y popular: que nacionalice todas las instalaciones portuarias, las de Hutchinson, pero también las del socio de Trump, el señor Sola; que exija a la ACP hacer realidad el mayor uso colectivo de las áreas revertidas y entregue esos recursos al pueblo que luchó por la soberanía; que no permita bases militares extranjeras; y tenga una política de unidad y soberanía latinoamericana y caribeña.

Ante la cobardía e inoperancia de

Mulino y su gobierno, el Polo Ciudadano hace un llamado a las organizaciones populares panameñas a la unidad, para que juntemos esfuerzos mediante la convocatoria del Tercer Congreso Nacional de la Soberanía, continuando el ejemplo del que se organizó a partir de la gloriosa gesta del 9 de enero de 1964.

¡La Soberanía no se negocia! ¡Un solo territorio, una sola bandera!

Panamá, 2 de febrero de 2025.

Para más información sobre la lucha del pueblo panameño, workers.org/2025/01/83598/

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