

THE ORGANIZER

For a Labor Party, For a Workers' International

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STOP THE US-ISRAEL IMPERIALIST WAR AGAINST IRAN!



Photo by Coral Wheeler, Edited by S. Young

Emergency Statement by Socialist Organizer (originally dated March 5, 2026)

Along with the vast majority of the residents of the United States, Socialist Organizer condemns the US government's illegal, reckless, and brutal attack on Iran. We call on this majority to rise up to protest this latest act of barbarism. We ask: Could this horrific attack mark a turning point for the US working class? The time when we overcome our fear, resignation, and bipartisan misleadership; freeing us to organize to prevent a fascist takeover of our country and to begin the process of winning our liberation from the ravages of capitalism in its death agony?

The war against Iran marks a qualitative step toward the annihilation of humanity for the purposes of ensuring short-term profit for the fossil fuel, arms manufacturing, and high technology industries; personally enriching President Trump and his family; maintaining the US's relationship with the genocidal Israeli government; sending a saber-rattling warning to China, the US's greatest economic rival; creating an emergency

to justify calling off the 2026 midterm elections, thus finalizing a partisan coup; and trying to distract the US population from crimes documented in the Epstein files that could potentially bring down the current administration.

Supporters of the war claim it is necessary to free the Iranian people from an authoritarian theocratic government and to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons. There is no evidence that Iran is close to achieving a nuclear breakthrough (not to mention that Trump claimed last year's 12-day attack on Iran had destroyed its efforts to do so). Moreover, attacking Iran does nothing to help Iranians. Rather, the first few days led to the death of over 1,000 Iranian civilians, many of them children whose schools were bombed. Ask their grieving parents if this war is in their interests. 1000s more have died since, and not just in Iran, as the war spreads to adjacent countries.

Besides, how could anyone believe this is a war for liberation when the US government itself is trying to impose an authoritarian theocracy on its own country? No, this is a war for naked profit, part of a last-ditch effort to save

capitalism from its end-stage contradictions and, in an immediate sense, to save would-be fascists from electoral defeat and potential criminal prosecution. Its victims are the working classes throughout the world.

Here in the US, the working class already faces devastating cuts to healthcare, education, and transit; threats to Social Security; an unaffordable housing crisis and rapid cost increases for other necessities; destruction of life-saving environmental and health regulations; increasingly blatant attacks, often grounded in theocratic "Christian nationalist" ideology, on anyone who is not white, male, heterosexual or cis-gender; and massive governmental corruption. Our jobs and privacy are being threatened by unregulated artificial intelligence.

Those workers lacking the protections of citizenship are being kidnapped, deported, and incarcerated without due process under terrible, even fatal conditions; their absence undermining food production, construction, and basic services others depend on to survive. Protesters are being surveilled, fired from their jobs, and even gunned
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down in the streets. All this to pay for war and the profits of billionaires.

This must stop. And we cannot depend on the politicians of either capitalist party to do it for us. So, what can we do?

Immediate practical tasks include:

1. Answer the national call for “no work, no school, no shopping” on May Day, inspired by the January actions in Minneapolis against ICE. The most effective mass actions are those that impact corporate profits.

2. Build and attend demonstrations against the Iran war, against specific war-profiteering corporations, and for general resistance, such as the March 28th No Kings Day. These actions have little economic impact, but numbers do matter. The No Kings Day marches have been among the largest in recent history, often attracting people who have never protested before. They provide an opportunity to reach out to educate and engage new activists in more radical and effective forms of protest, moving beyond the limited political demands of their leaders.

3. Join or form local mutual aid, immigrant defense, and neighborhood resistance networks. To build an effective resistance movement requires labor and community organizing to meet material needs and to maintain morale in the face of fear, repression, and hardship.

However, any lasting victory against war, poverty, and repression will require more than protest and community organizing. It will require building a militant labor movement willing and able to lead general strikes to fully shut down the economy, bringing billionaires to their knees. At the moment, Trump knows he can rely on the inaction of those at the top of the country’s most powerful union federation, who so far have refused to call for any mass mobilization of the labor movement.



The kind of labor militancy required to bring about change will require achieving political independence from the Republican and Democratic Parties, both of which exist to maintain capitalist rule. The leaders of most unions and other organizations that claim to support workers, immigrants, peoples of color, and others who are oppressed and exploited, are tied to the Democratic Party as a so-called “lesser evil.”

Even those in the DSA, who call themselves “socialists,” refuse to break with the Democratic Party—a party that recently voted alongside the Republicans to increase the military budget. Intentionally or not, such politicians end up supporting exactly what they fought against, and their participation only furthers the illusion that working-class parties are not necessary or realistic. Recent history shows, the Democrats would rather lose elections than support candidates who threaten corporate profits and oppose imperialist wars.

As a first step toward the goal of political independence, Socialist Organizer urges our readers and supporters to join Labor and Community for an Independent Party (LCIP) and wage a fight in support of LCIP’s demands:

“...Our first objective is to promote running independent labor-community candidates at a local and state level around a platform that embraces workers’ and communities’ pressing demands. ...

With this objective, we will build support and principled unity with national liberation movements of Black people and other oppressed nationalities within U.S. borders in their community and electoral campaigns. The platforms of these independent candidates need to be discussed and approved by labor-community assemblies, and the candidates must be answerable to these assemblies and to the coalitions formed for this purpose.”

If you agree with this statement, please consider joining us, Socialist Organizer, as well. We are a revolutionary group of community and labor activists who believe a better world is possible through the dismantling of the capitalist system, and the expansion of democracy into every aspect of society. Now more than ever, we need those of our readers who believe another world is possible to join with us in this fight.

LOVING FATHER LEFT TO DIE: Border Patrol Dumps Blind Rohingya Refugee in Frigid Buffalo Night

“They were refugees. They came here seeking home, and home killed them,” Shah family member.

BY P.Y.

On February 15, 2025 Nural Amin Sha Alam took a walk on an unusually sunny Buffalo afternoon. He didn't know the short journey would lead to his false imprisonment and death.

Shah Alam, a Rohingya Muslim refugee escaping genocide, didn't speak English, or read or write. He was legally blind and relied entirely on his family.

Having lost his walking cane, Shah Alam bought a curtain rod to use as a mobility aid. The weather grew worse, he was lost. He ended up in Tracy Chicone's property yard. Shah Alam accidentally let her dog out.

Chicone called 911, reporting an “unidentified Black man”, according to Shah Alam's family attorney, Benjamin Macaluso.

Police bodycams reveal a violent nightmare. Disabled, blind, lost, Shah Alam showed confusion as Officers Christina Colosimo and Darcie Brown threatened to shoot him, then beat him, tased him several times, and dragged him away.

In the bodycam footage, Shah Alam says, “Sorry”, explaining in his language he's lost and lives close by.

Shah Alam faced charges of trespassing, possession of a weapon, and assault. Even though Nurel Amin Shah Alam was a lawful refugee, ICE issued an immigration detainer.

“When he was unable to follow police orders, the police responded by beating him, and then arresting him on charges which conflated an accident which was the result of his disability with ‘trespassing,’ mislabeled his improvised walking stick as a ‘weapon’, and turned the state’s aggression toward him into charges he ‘assaulted’ officers.” - The Capital Region Sanctuary Coalition

Nural Amin Shah Alam found himself at the Erie County Holding Center. The Shah family was afraid to post bail, fearing ICE would disappear him out of state.

On February 19, 2026, Shah Alam was released. His family paid bail and waited hours outside the Erie County Holding Center.

Meanwhile, the Erie County Sheriff's Office contacted the

Border Patrol. They didn't contact the family.

“There was a serious error here in sending him to Border Patrol. My issue is: Was it supposed to be Border Patrol in the first place?” - Siana McLean, family immigration attorney

According to Border Patrol, Shah Alam, who only spoke a rare Rohingya dialect, agreed to be dropped off at a “warm, safe location.” Authorities insisted Shah Alam “showed no signs of distress, mobility issues, or disabilities.”

Border Patrol dumped Nural Amin Shah Alam outside a closed Tim Horton's coffee shop in Black Rock. In the sub-freezing Buffalo winter, he wore only thin clothing and prison booties.

But his family no longer lived in Black Rock. They had moved during his imprisonment.

“A vulnerable man — nearly blind and unable to communicate in English — was abandoned on a frigid winter night with no apparent effort to ensure his safety.” - Buffalo Mayor Sean Ryan

Camera footage obtained by Investigative Post shows a van dropping Shah Alam at the closed Tim Horton's and speeding away. Shah Alam checks if the coffee shop is closed, then lumbers off. He's not seen again for five days.

On February 24, the temperature was 12°F. A passerby saw Shah Alam near Perry Street, Buffalo. It was 5:30 p.m., she thought he was alive.

Three hours later, she passed by him again. He had stopped breathing. She called 911. Nural Amin Shah Alam was dead. The Erie County Medical Examiner ruled Shah Alam's death a homicide, directly resulting from a burst ulcer due to hypothermia.

“On his dying bed, I couldn't even see him. I didn't even know how he was. I didn't know where he was. That's what breaks my heart. That's the regret that will last forever.” - Fatimah Abdul Roshid, Shah Alam's wife

Americans must stand up against DHS and state violence and revolt. Until then, Nurul Amin Shah Alam's death is just one in an unending torrent of corruption and hate.

STRIKE VICTORY FOR SAN FRANCISCO TEACHERS

by Millie Phillips

After almost a year of intense bargaining, 97.6 % of the members of the United Educators of San Francisco (UESF) voted to go on strike starting February 9. After only four days out, they achieved a tentative contract meeting almost all of their demands - a resounding victory - and returned to work the following Monday.

Though San Francisco teachers had voted to go on strike several times before - effective threats that forced their employer the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) back to the table - this was the first time since 1979 when they actually walked off the job.

The new two-year contract, ratified February 27, achieved:

- **Full, 100% employer-paid health benefits for all members**, starting in 2027, including adding all dependents; saving some members up to \$1500 per month. In one of the most expensive cities in the US, the lack of full dependent coverage has been a major hardship for UESF members.
- **A 5% wage increase for teachers**, and an 8.5% raise for other represented staff such as paraprofessionals, whose wage increases had lagged behind in previous contracts.
- **A range of measures to ensure better working conditions** and to aid vulnerable students, including strengthening existing sanctuary protections for immigrant students by including them in the contract, limiting the use of AI, expanding special education programs while reducing excessive caseloads for social workers and counselors, and providing more ongoing support and emergency services for unhoused students and their families.

Teachers' strikes can be difficult because, in a country with no guaranteed free or affordable childcare, working families depend on schools to take care of their children during the day. The impact of a strike can be disastrous, especially for low-income parents of color. Yet, UESF claims its victory was largely due to public support. Following the settlement, UESF issued the following statement:

"This historic strike built an unbreakable solidarity across our city, among families, students, educators, and community ... This strike has made it clear what is possible when we join together and fight for the stability in our schools that many have said was out of our reach."

As UESF president Cassandra Curiel pointed out, "... we've made important progress towards the schools our students deserve."

The union won this victory by organizing support among the families it serves and reaching out to community organizations throughout their negotiations. Nonprofits advocating for children set up full-day childcare programs during the strike and the San Francisco city government helped provide meals. Local news outlets estimated up to 15,000 people rallied at city hall on the first day of the strike to demonstrate support.

Not only did the teachers and San Francisco families win, but this successful strike is inspiring other Bay Area teachers unions to take similar action. As of March 14, teachers in the suburban Dublin district also won a tentative settlement after a four-day strike, and Oakland teachers recently averted one, taking a strike vote that forced their district back to bargaining table where a tentative agreement has now been achieved.

INTERVIEW WITH SOCIALIST LCIP CANDIDATE CORAL WHEELER

The Organizing Committee for the Recon-struction of the Fourth International (OCRFI) recently interviewed Socialist Organizer member Coral Wheeler, who is an organizer with Labor and Community for an Independent Part - Los Angeles (LCIP LA), about her new campaign for Azusa City Council.

LET'S START WITH WHO YOU ARE AND WHAT POSITION YOU'RE RUNNING FOR.

My name is Coral Wheeler and I'm a member of Socialist Organizer, the American section of the Fourth International. I am also an activist in my union, the California Faculty Association (CFA). I'm running for Azusa City Council openly as a member of Socialist Organizer, with Labor and Community for an Independent Party (LCIP). LCIP is a coalition of groups that seeks to form a labor-based political party in the US.

Azusa is a city in Los Angeles County about 20 to 30 minutes outside of downtown LA.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN THEMES / DEMANDS OF YOUR CAMPAIGN?

A major goal of my campaign is to begin the foundations of a working-class Labor Party, independent from the Democrats and the Republicans. We want to build this party from the grassroots, beginning at a local level.

I'm also running to fight back against the ICE kidnapping in Los Angeles County. My main campaign platform is "ICE out now!" Azusa is a part of Los Angeles County and so is already covered by LA county sanctuary city laws, but I think Azusa can do more to fight against ICE. ICE needs to get out of Los Angeles, get out of Southern California, and be abolished completely.

Why are you running as a Socialist Organizer/LCIP candidate?

Many people in Los Angeles are sick of the Democratic Party. We saw how the police tear-gassed people protesting ICE; how they fired rubber bullets and ran over them with horses, beat them with batons, all under the direction of the Democratic Mayor of LA and Democratic Governor of California.



Photo by Coral Wheeler, Edited by S. Young

When our group in Los Angeles ran a successful campaign for two LCIP candidates for Atwater village neighborhood council last January — shortly after Trump got elected — it was amazing how supportive people were of the idea of forming a new labor-based political party. When we walked door-to-door for that campaign, people expressed a lot of anger against both Democrats and Republicans for failing to fight back against Trump.

In that campaign we found activists that are still a part of LCIP LA today and are helping out with my campaign for Azusa City Council. And we are seeing the same anger against the Democrats as we canvas in Azusa. People are hungry for a party that represents them and not the ruling class.

WE'VE ALL SEEN THE UPRISING AGAINST ICE AND TRUMP IN THE PAST FEW MONTHS. WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE MOBILIZATION IN LOS ANGELES?

People all over LA county are fighting back against ICE every day. ICE is still here and the kidnappings are still occurring. People have formed self-defense groups and joined together in large self-defense coalitions. We're doing patrols, checking to make sure that if ICE is spotted, people are aware and so can hide or escape. People have also adopted day labor locations, places where people look for work. We've been bringing those workers food, talking to them, giving them information on their rights.

I want my campaign to support these people fighting back, and to champion these groups and provide real structure and even funding for groups like this that fight back against ICE. I want to make sure that the immigrant community of Azusa is protected from the kidnappings, and that we use the resources of the city to keep ourselves safe, as we organize to grow our movement.

Our Revolutionary Heritage: Clara Zetkin and Socialist Feminist Opposition to War

Clara Zetkin, a major contributor to the creation of International Women's Day in 1910, was an antiwar, feminist, and revolutionary socialist leader who broke with the German Social Democratic Party (SPD) leadership's support for World War I. In November 1914, shortly after the outbreak of the war, she delivered the speech "To the Socialist Women of All Countries." In honor of International Women's Day and in service to the need to build a strong antiwar movement in the U.S., we offer these excerpts from her speech.

"Comrades! Sisters!

Week after week, there is an increase in the chorus of women's voices in the belligerent as well as in the neutral countries that protests against the terrible conflict which originated from the drive of the capitalist countries for world power and world domination. This battle ... which has lasted for almost four months now, is pulling ever more people and regions of this earth into its bloody maelstrom. The best physical, spiritual and moral forces of the people, the riches of their economy, marvelous cooperative organizations, valuable accomplishments of science and wonders of technology, all have been roped into serving the war effort. Heaps of ruins and mountains of dead and maimed people are piling up to an extent that history has not seen heretofore... This war grinds the welfare and the happiness of millions underfoot. It tears up international treaties, philosophizes with the sword over venerable concepts and institutions and orders people to pray to what they burned yesterday and burn what they prayed to until now. It besmirches all ideals which uncounted generations of all



nations and races, under the pains and joys of belonging to humankind, created on the developmental ascent from the animal kingdom to the realm of genuine human freedom. What has happened to the commandments of the Christian God: "Thou shalt not kill!" and "Love thine enemies!?" What has happened to the cosmopolitan ideology which the greatest and noblest spirits of all modern civilized nations praised to high heaven? What has happened to the international Socialist brotherhood of the proletarians of all countries of which we so proudly dream? The longer this war lasts, the more the glittering phrases and thoughts which were supposed to disguise its capitalist nature before the eyes of the people are fading and are being torn to shreds. The masks, the beautifully decorated covers that fooled so many, are dropping. Before us stands a war of conquest and world power in all of its naked ugliness



From everywhere we stretch our sisterly hands across streams of blood and piles of ruins, united in the old realization and the unshakable determination: We must break through to Socialism!... We women Socialists must call upon the women of all countries to oppose the prolongation of this insane genocide. From a million voices our irresistible cry must arise: Enough of killing, enough destruction! No total war until our people bleed to death! Peace! Permanent peace! ...

It is true that we women have only limited political rights in practically all countries, but we are not without social power. Let us make use of every tiny bit of this power. ... We will not be confused or frightened by the roaring of the chauvinistic stream upon which are bouncing the profiteering percentage patriots, the power-hungry imperialist politicians and the unscrupulous demagogues. It is exactly in the face of this stream's roaring that we loudly talk about the cultural values which all nations have contributed to a common human heritage and about the necessity of a large international community of nations. Let us proudly unfurl the banner of Socialism and Socialist peace demands! In all countries, we will be calumniated and persecuted as traitors without a fatherland, who lack intelligence and the sense of altruism. So be it! ... When the men kill, it is up to us women to fight for the preservation of life. When the men are silent, it is our duty to raise our voices on behalf of our ideals. ..."

AFGHANISTAN: FIVE YEARS OF DARKNESS AND WOMEN'S RESISTANCE

(excerpts from the message sent to the Paris March 6th Working women meeting)

Early five years have passed since the return of the Taliban's dark rule over Afghanistan (after the agreement passed with the Biden administration – ed.n). Throughout this long period, the Taliban not only trampled on women's rights but also silenced their voices of protest with bullets, secret prisons, and unbearable torture.

In response, the international community has sunk into complete silence and indifference, providing this repressive regime with over 40 million dollars a week under the title of "humanitarian aid".

But the breathtaking resistance of women never dies. On February 28, 2026, a group of brave Afghan girls once again came to the streets of Kabul city and shouted the cry of "Bread, Work, Freedom, Education!" They proved that the will of a nation cannot be killed with violence.

Afghanistan has experienced more than four decades of war and insecurity, and women are the main breadwinners of their households. However, the Taliban have banned women from working and from leaving their homes without a mahram (male guardian). This has led to profound human tragedies.

Nooria, a thirteen-year-old girl who had lost her father in the war and whose sick mother and little sisters depended on her, was forced to hide her gender identity to feed her family. She wore boys' clothes so she could work in a café in Helmand province. But after a year, the Taliban identified her, arrested her, tortured her, and imprisoned her.

In Herat, a pregnant woman who was on her way to the hospital to give birth was denied entry because she did not have a male mahram. She gave birth outside the hospital gates and lost her child forever.



Photo public domain, Wikimedia. Edited by S. Young

H. Farzia, a female teacher who had set up a home school for girls above the sixth grade, was arrested by the Taliban and tortured for 25 days in secret prisons, and was finally released on bail. By approving more than 100 restrictive decrees against women, the Taliban have implemented a "gender apartheid."

In such horrifying conditions, the Spontaneous Movement of Afghan Women (SMAW), which formed immediately after the fall of Kabul in 2021, continues to be at the forefront of the struggle and peaceful protests in Kabul and other provinces. Dozens of members of this movement have been killed by the Taliban, and hundreds of other members have been imprisoned and tortured.

On the occasion of March 8th, International Women's Day of Solidarity, we, the women of Afghanistan, as the most deprived and suffering women in the world, declare our deep solidarity with all women who suffer from the catastrophes of war: with the women of Iran, the women of Ukraine, the women of Gaza, and all the oppressed and struggling women of the world. We deeply sympathise with their pains and sufferings. On this difficult path of fighting for our freedom and rights, we have an urgent need for your solidarity and practical support, our sisters and brothers in Europe, America, and all countries of the world.

*Spontaneous Movement of Afghan Women
(SMAW)*

March 8, 2026 — Afghanistan



Jerusalem Post (February 15) expresses concern: “The Knesset Committee on Immigration, Integration and Diaspora Affairs has indicated that the number of immigrants from the former Soviet Union in 2025 is the lowest since 2020. (...) These are not just statistics, but warning signs. (...) It is imperative to ask why this decline is happening.” The explanation is simple: Jews from the former Soviet Union prefer to suffer the consequences of the war in Ukraine and Putin’s authoritarian regime rather than emigrate to Israel. This drop in immigration comes at a time when “more than 69,000 Israelis left Israel in 2025,” representing “a negative net migration for the second consecutive year” (Times of Israel, December 31, 2025).

Panic has gripped the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. This state, created from scratch in 1946, historically linked to American imperialism and maintaining long-standing “security” cooperation with Israel, is on the brink of explosion.

The cause? The Netanyahu government’s decision to legalize the ongoing annexation of the West Bank and the possible expulsion of some of its three million inhabitants, the prime minister told Al Jazeera.

In Amman, the fear is not so much of a military invasion as of a ‘soft transfer,’ aimed at making life (for Palestinians) in the West Bank impossible in order to provoke their gradual exodus to Jordan.

Supporters of the expulsion of Palestinians from Palestine have long claimed that their “alternative homeland” could be Jordan, where 60% of the population is already made up of Palestinian refugees and their descendants. Because the desire to “transfer” Palestinians from the West Bank has never been so openly prepared by the Israeli authorities, it has been denounced—rightly so—by a journalist from the Israeli daily Ha’aretz as “the most documented ethnic cleansing in history.”

This is precisely the moment Macron has chosen to send his minister Aurore Bergé to Tel Aviv, where she reaffirmed “her commitment to Israel’s right to live in security.”

Shame on him!
D.F.

This negative net migration is problematic, especially as “the army is being pushed to its limits by the longest war in Israel’s history, which is depleting its resources and placing a heavy burden on reservists,” warns the Times of Israel (February 23). All the more so, writes the daily, since “a study reveals that by 2050, nearly one in four Israelis will be ultra-Orthodox.” The Orthodox religious (Haredim) are precisely those who overwhelmingly refuse to allow Netanyahu to impose military service on them, from which they are exempt. This includes physically confronting the Israeli army and police, the daily newspaper recalls, citing the “appalling riots” that broke out on February 15 in the northern suburbs of Tel Aviv, when “a crowd of Haredim chased two female soldiers, who had to be rescued by the police, and overturned a police car and a motorcycle, which they then set on fire.”

“Israel is on the brink of civil war,” Mickey Gitzin, representative of the NGO New Israel Fund, boldly declared in the columns of Ha’aretz (January 9).
J. A.

WHO WE ARE

The Organizer is the publication of Socialist Organizer, the U.S. section of the Organizing Committee for the Reconstitution of the Fourth Inter-national (OCRFI), which has sections in over 30 countries. Socialist Organizer is a multi-racial, multi-gender, working-class organization that aims to organize the working-class and all the oppressed to abolish capitalism, a system based on the private ownership of the means of production, which is leading human-ity and the planet to destruction.

We fight to end white supremacy, patriarchy, and all forms of bigotry. We fight for a clean break with the capitalists, including the Democratic Party, and promote a Labor Party based on the trade unions and com-munities of the oppressed and for an Independent Black Working Class Party linked to the struggle for a Labor Party. Our aim is to establish a workers’ government and create a worldwide socialist economy run democratically by and for the vast majority of humanity: working people.

JOIN US!

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