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PROTEST BECOMES TERRORISM

FBI INVESTIGATES LEGITIMATE VOTER ACTIVITY

Photo by ptrabattini Edited by S. Young

Fascism does not arrive fully formed. It is prepared in advance, and can emerge from a series of only slightly less drastic political actions: an administration increasingly setting itself above democratic institutions; a police or paramilitary force freed from ordinary rules; a series of ideological campaigns claiming that political opponents are “enemies of the state.” Marx described this as “the executive power which subordinates society to itself.” Trotsky later called it Bonapartism, “one of the varieties of capitalist hegemony” that presents itself as standing above classes and parties while relying increasingly on the presidency, courts, bureaucracy, police, and military to preserve the existing social order. Bonapartism is not the same as fascism, but Trotsky warned that it could become “the prologue to a fascist regime.” The expanding use of masked ICE agents kidnapping people off the street, the federal coercion of universities and attacks on free speech, the weaponization of the justice department against Trump’s political enemies, all signal that we may indeed be in a dangerous fascist prelude. And now, peaceful protestors are being slapped with terrorism charges and

heavy-handed conspiracy prosecutions, U.S. citizens are having their citizenship stripped away, and the specter of “antifa” is being used to criminalize dissent in all of its forms.

PROTEST BECOMES TERRORISM

A July 4, 2025, demonstration outside the Prairieland Detention Center in Alvarado, Texas, began as a noise protest in solidarity with detainees. Some participants set off fireworks, and a smaller group vandalized the facility. Benjamin Song then shot and wounded an officer who drew his gun at the protestors. Putting aside the legality of carrying such a weapon in Texas, and the real threat to his life Song was responding to, one could argue that the 100-year sentence he received at least makes sense—even if it is not just—in a country that protects police above citizens. But the state also imposed an extraordinary punishment on the six other protesters who were not involved in the shooting—sentences ranging from 50-70 years! The most terrifying development is the conviction of a man who was not even at the protest. Daniel Sanchez Estrada was sentenced to 30 years after prosecutors alleged that he

merely moved political literature from one location to another following his wife’s arrest. Prosecutors are calling the protestors a “North Texas Antifa Cell,” although the supposed organization amounts largely to Signal group chats in which not all of the defendants even participated. The massive sentences resulted from terrorism charges and the federal terrorism enhancement, applied to defendants who were largely first-time offenders.

In the Twin Cities, federal prosecutors charged 15 people with conspiracy to impede or injure federal officers during resistance to Operation Metro Surge. The indictment combines allegations of blockades, thrown objects, and property damage with ordinary rapid-response organizing: encrypted Signal chats, tracking ICE vehicles, using whistles and car horns to warn neighborhoods, handing out plastic shields, and mobilizing people to observe arrests. The U.S. attorney called two protest coalitions “antifa” but declined to define the term. Each defendant faces up to six years, with some facing additional charges. The message is clear: any coordinated collective resistance may now be prosecuted as participation

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in a terrorist or criminal network.

FBI INVESTIGATES LEGITIMATE VOTER ACTIVITY

This criminalization of protected political activity is not even limited to protest groups. The same attacks are being directed at voter registration and state voting infrastructure. In June, roughly 100 FBI agents and other federal officers raided the Ohio Organizing Collaborative, a major voter-registration organization. They seized phones, computers, and records, and went to the homes of volunteers, staff, and board members. Of course they claimed they were investigating fraud, but the operation had an intimidating effect. At the same time, the Justice Department demanded sensitive voter information from states, and Ohio officials surrendered data for nearly eight million voters. These actions by federal law enforcement are meant to cast voter-registration work itself as criminal and place volunteers, especially those organizing poor and oppressed communities, under the threat of prosecution.

FROM BLACKLIST TO IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT

Perhaps most concerning of all is the State Department's recently released report on alleged Cuban influence in American political activity. It provides an ideological blueprint for treating broad sections of the American left as part of a foreign-directed insurgency, claiming that Cuban operatives maintain a foothold in "hundreds of front groups, activist organizations, solidarity centers, and ideological NGO and nonprofit networks." The document links the George Floyd protests, antifa, and campus pro-Palestine activism to Cuban influence, and specifically names the People's Forum, Black Alliance for Peace, DSA,



CodePink, the National Lawyers Guild, Nuestra América, and the Viva Palestina US convoys, while more generally targeting left-wing nonprofits, anti-ICE collectives, socialist groups, and Marxist organizations. This is a chilling new escalation that directly targets any group that might find itself at odds with Trump administration policies.

This effective blacklist is also being tied directly to immigration enforcement. Last week, the State Department announced a policy denying visas or entry to people accused of belonging to, supporting, financing, recruiting for, or otherwise "enabling" far-left or aligned groups—the same broad immigration authority previously used against Mahmoud Khalil. Combined with the administration's expanding denaturalization campaign, the policy raises the prospect that the Cuba report will be used not merely to target left-wing organizations, but to hunt activists through the immigration system itself.

THE DEMOCRATS WON'T SAVE US

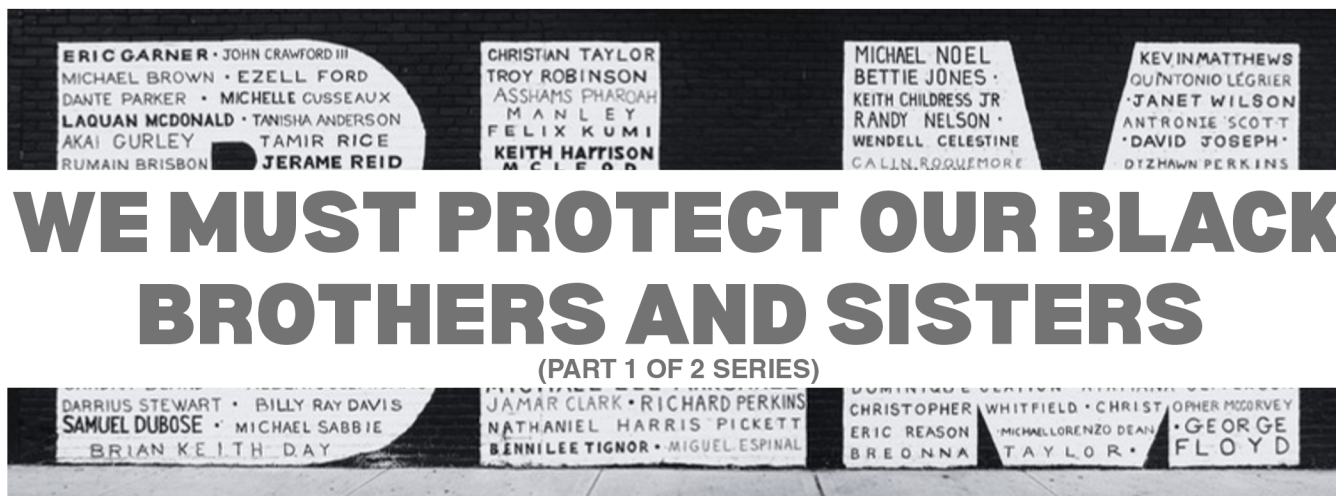
The Democratic Party will not defeat this offensive. Democratic officials may condemn individual raids or prosecutions, but their party helped build the very institutions now being

turned squarely against the left: the post-September 11th "war on terror," mass surveillance, militarized police, the deportation machine, and institutions of mass incarceration for profit. Their strategy is to appeal to the courts, congressional inquiries, and the very federal agencies carrying out the repression. Workers need a different path.

The DSA is no solution either, as long as it remains stuck within the Democratic Party. Zohran Mamdani may loudly criticize these attacks, but retained existing NYPD leadership, expanded the police force instead of contracting it, and even used the NYPD against anti-ICE demonstrations. A true revolutionary party must fight for the broadest united action by unions and oppressed communities against raids, deportations, political prosecutions, denaturalization, and attacks on democratic rights, and for complete political independence from both parties.

The machinery being built now will soon be turned against labor unions themselves. Our unions must act before the net closes further—break with the twin parties of the bosses that seek to benefit from this massive chilling effect on free speech and democratic rights. We need a labor party built in the unions and oppressed communities, and we need a revolutionary party to fight within that movement for class independence, workers' power, and ultimately to break with the system that produces repression in the first place.





"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men [people] to do nothing."

(AUTHOR UNKNOWN)

by **Connie White**

July 18, 2026

One of my mantras is a quote attributed to a writer, June Jordan: "We are the ones we have been waiting for." When I think of that quote, I remember that the change that I want to see in our society – in the world even – is up to me, and up to you and I. I also reflect on such revolutionary works as "The Transitional Program" or "What Is To Be Done" or my favorite, the volumes of "Capital." These are tools that we use to strategize a plan of action to take state power because, after all, I am a revolutionary theorist and strategist. However, for me, it is my heart for change that keeps me in the fight, not just the logic of revolutionary theory or strategy!

This article is not about the strategies to get us to state power and, eventually, socialism, but about the responsibility we have to organize the working class as a class for itself to protect ourselves and our families and loved ones, and to protect the vulnerable and dispossessed of the working class. Yes, our ultimate responsibility as a class organization, as a revolutionary party for example, is to give our class members – individually and collectively – a vehicle to take state power, and also to protect the individuals of the class from murder, prison, and state repression. Since we do not currently have an organized class army with weapons at its disposal, we have to be strategic about everything that we do in this period.

The recent murder, kidnapping, imprisonment, torture and more unspeakable atrocities against people of color in the United States – specifically against immigrants – shows us that these are very dangerous times that we live in. However, for even longer than what we have currently experienced, we have neglected to effectively organize against the attacks, murder and brutalization of the Black working class – of Black activists, Black boys and girls, Blacks walking, driving, eating, etc., while Black.

"A new civil rights report argues that lynchings of Black men didn't end in America — they evolved — and that some deaths today may still be misclassified as suicides or accidents. The big picture: If killings are misclassified, families can lose their paths to justice, and possible patterns of racial violence can remain hidden in plain sight. Driving the news: Mississippi-based civil rights group JULIAN identified 70 "modern-day lynchings" in seven southern states from 2000 to 2025 in a report released last month."

"New report says lynching "evolved" in U.S., not ended" (Axios.com, Mar. 7, 2026).

The report on "modern day lynchings" (MDL) examines what appears to be organized and pervasive terror against Blacks "across the South, Central and Southeastern" United States to examine the apparent systematic and genocidal murder of Black Americans.

"This report examines incidents across the South, Central and Southeastern United States that constitute modern-day lynchings (MDLS), hate crimes resulting in death, and other notable suspicious cases. Spanning the years 2000 through 2025, the analysis reveals recurring patterns of violence, systemic neglect, and law enforcement misconduct that echo the racial terror of earlier eras. It also underscores the intersectional vulnerabilities faced by marginalized communities – particularly Black Transgender individuals, whose deaths often remain unsolved or misclassified." (Jefferson, Jill Colleen. Feb. 18, 2026). "A Crimson Report: Seven state modern day lynchings (MDL) report 2000-2025." JULIAN Civil Rights Organization (publisher).

In addition to the report on MDLS, in part 2 of this series (to be printed in next month's issue), I will be detailing more recent murders of Black Americans. The pervasiveness of the following in recent years have POC as well as non-POC reporting that we have been thrown back into a time that is reminiscent of some of the worst of the Jim Crow era of the South United States.

[Below we republish two articles from the Workers Tribune, the newspaper for the Workers Party in France—the French section of the Organizing Committee for the Reconstruction of the Fourth International. Since their publication in June, no agreement between Iran and the United States has materialized, the war has expanded to Saudi Arabia and Yemen, and the Strait of Hormuz remains closed. The cost of war, in life and money, is being paid by workers everywhere. More than 10,000 people have died, with tens of thousands more injured. Oil prices continue to increase, straining the poor globally. In the United States, the cost of living continues to rise, real wages are on a decline, and in July alone, 23,000 workers lost their jobs. Add to this the Trump administration's proposal for \$1.5 trillion in military spending, which contains its corollary: \$73 billion in cuts to working-class programs in education, health care, housing, and energy and nutrition assistance. — Ed. Note.]

WAR ON IRAN:

Certainties and Uncertainties in an Age of Pervasive Falsehoods

By Daniel Gluckstein

If it is finally signed on 19 June as announced, the agreement between Iran and the United States will mark the defeat of American imperialism in terms of the war objectives it had proclaimed. This is a political certainty recognized by the whole world, apart, of course, from Trump and a handful of his loyalists.

Another certainty: Trump needed to put on a show of victory upon his arrival at the G7 to better conceal his defeat. He had no choice but to seek an agreement, given the depletion of his military arsenal and his fear of a rout in the midterm elections at the end of the year, in which his electorate is likely to express its rejection of his policies.

The content of this agreement is another matter. It is another matter entirely to know what will happen in the forthcoming negotiations, and indeed whether this agreement will fall apart in the coming hours, with war resuming in its wake. On all these points, there is the greatest uncertainty.

Another uncertainty: to what extent will Netanyahu agree to abide by the terms of an agreement that he condemns and is seeking to scupper?

The Palestinian People Have Vanished

One thing is certain: in a 'comprehensive agreement' on the Middle East, the Palestinian people have vanished, buried beneath the rubble of the destruction in Gaza and hounded in the West Bank. This is how the major imperialist powers – the United States, but also all those in Europe – are endorsing the fact that the Palestinian people should pay, with their very existence as a people, the price for the genocide perpetrated by Israel.

Another certainty: the major imperialist powers have definitively consigned the principle of the right of peoples to self-determination to the realm of useless formalities; it has become an empty phrase, whether in relation to the Pal-

estinian people should pay, with their very existence as a people, the price for the genocide perpetrated by Israel.

Another certainty: the major imperialist powers have definitively consigned the principle of the right of peoples to self-determination to the realm of useless formalities; it has become an empty phrase, whether in relation to the Palestinian people or to all the peoples of the world, against whom US imperialism arrogates to itself the right, in all circumstances, to launch military attacks on their territory and to assassinate their leaders.

Another certainty: all the European imperialist powers are bowing down before Trump, the most dripping with flattery being, without a doubt, Macron rolling out the red carpet at the Palace of Versailles. For Europe claims nothing more than to be involved in Trump's plans. Under these circumstances, even if the pace and timetable remain unknown, it is certain that the actual signing of the agreement between the United States and Iran would merely mark another stage in the build-up to new military confrontations.

General Militarization in the Face of China is Built on the Backs of Workers and Youth

Consequently, following the US administration's announcement of the withdrawal of a large proportion of US troops in Europe assigned to NATO, European governments have been forced to make a sharp increase in their military spending – an increase which, in France, is being financed by cuts to sick pay, medicine reimbursements and further attacks on workers' rights, public services and the social security system. Meanwhile, US imperialism is strengthening its military presence in the face of China, organizing the stockpiling of weapons in Australia and sending its navy to patrol the South China Sea.

Workers and Youth Against War

Another certainty is that the trend towards the general militarization of the economy, and the establishment of war economies and war governments, will only intensify. But the working class is fighting tooth and nail against the consequences of these war budgets and is resolutely committed to the struggle to defend itself, as our newspaper reports week after week.

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In this context, there is another certainty: the stubborn refusal of the leaders of workers' organizations to centralize the struggle against the war budget – which is anti-worker and anti-youth – into a united mobilization against the government is unacceptable.

The march towards war cannot be opposed without tackling the root cause: the crisis of the capitalist system based on private ownership of the means of production. This struggle calls for the organization of the class struggle against our own government. Sooner or later, the surge of millions upon millions of workers and young people, united with their organizations, will force this war-mongering government and its deadly budgets to back down.

This is at the heart of the Workers' Party's campaign against the war led by Macron and Lecornu – externally against the peoples in the wake of US imperialism, and internally against the working people of France. This is the significance of the international rally on 8 November.

TRUMP CLAIMS VICTORY.

Really? Behind the "Agreement" Between Washington and Tehran

By Nelly Mary

It took three and a half months of war, weeks of oscillations and U-turns to get there: on Sunday, June 14, the United States announced that it had reached a peace agreement with Iran. Unless it is called into question before then, the text will be signed on June 19 in Geneva, before new negotiations on the nuclear issue begin. "We still have a lot of work to do, but this is a great victory," declared U.S. Vice President JD Vance.

But proclaiming victory is not enough to win a war. What the U.S. administration refuses to admit is that its peace agreement with Iran definitively marks its defeat in a war that it itself launched. "Donald Trump and Israel's primary objective was the fall of the Iranian regime. Today, it is that same Iranian regime that negotiated and signed," political scientist Hasni Abidi explained on France Inter on June 15. "That regime is still there, and it has become stronger and more hardline, so from that standpoint, it has won."

In reality, the conflict with Iran could resume at any moment. Nothing guarantees that the peace protocol will

make it to completion. Just hours after his triumphant June 14 announcement, Trump told The New York Times that he would not hesitate to resume the bombing campaign if Iran failed to reach an agreement on the nuclear issue. For the United States, extricating itself from the war in Iran is proving almost as impossible as winning it. And everyone remembers the figure revealed by CNN: since March, Trump has announced nearly forty times that an agreement with Iran was imminent... without success. And if the U.S. president is seeking a way out by any means necessary, it is because the political crisis has considerably worsened since the first bombings in Iran. The war is as unpopular as it is contested. And with the midterm elections approaching, Trump needs to secure the loyalty of those who supported his 2024 election campaign. During that campaign, he had promised them that he would put an end to costly military adventures in order to restore Americans' purchasing power... Two years later, the reality is very different: the war in Iran drags on, and inflation reached its highest level in three years in May.

But his defeat in Iran will not be enough to convince Trump to renounce war. U.S. imperialism has other objectives... for example, preparing for war against China! Responding to those accusing him of breaking his campaign promises, Trump declared on June 7: "First of all, I didn't guarantee no war. Why would I have built the strongest military in the world?" (NBC's Meet the Press, June 7). And three days later, Republicans released the details of their proposed defense budget: \$1.5 trillion for 2027.

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 International (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 humanity 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 communities 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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A TRIBUTE TO CHRIS SILVERA

"Unions Should Be Independent of the Twin Parties of Capital."



Photo by Coral Wheeler. Edited by S. Young

By the Editorial Board of Socialist Organizer

We are sad to inform our readers of the passing of Chris Silvera, a Black worker leader and long-time supporter of the International Workers Committee Against War and Exploitation (IWC). In the interim, I submit a tribute which I propose go out in the name of Socialist Organizer.

Chris died as he had lived: fighting. A heart attack struck him while he was traveling to the Teamsters' union national convention. He intended to join the battle there against the Teamsters national leadership, which was aligned with Donald Trump. For Chris, unions should not be subordinated to either of the two parties of Capital.

Hired in 1978 as a railroad maintenance worker, Chris played a decisive role in winning unionization for his co-

workers on the Metro-North commuter rail line (New York) in 1982. He was elected Secretary-Treasurer of Teamsters Local 808 in 1990 and was re-elected to this post until his death on June 12 of this year.

In 1995, during a major contract struggle against management, John Sweeney then president of the AFL-CIO, praised Local 808 for having "revitalized the labor movement" in New York, at the very moment the New York Times was denouncing Chris as a "union terrorist"!

Chris was a tireless advocate of the Black liberation struggle. He believed that the struggle for Black liberation and the struggle for the social emancipation of the entire working class were closely intertwined. As such, he was firmly committed to the political independence of the working class.

Chris played a major role in the Black workers' movement. Elected first secretary of the Teamsters' National Black Caucus in 1999, he on the East Coast and Clarence Thomas, First Secretary of Longshore Local 10 (ILWU) on the West Coast, together with our comrade Ralph Schoenman (since deceased), Chris played a decisive role in organizing the Million Worker March of Black Workers on October 17, 2004, in Washington.

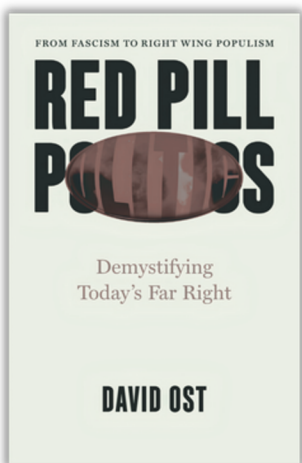
Chris was an internationalist activist and a steadfast opponent of the wars waged by his own imperialism. As such he was among the first endorsers of the International Workers Committee Against War and Exploitation (IWC), which will be held in Paris on November 7-9.

Chris Silvera, Presente!

BOOK REVIEW:

"Red Pill Politics: Demystifying the Far Right from Fascism to Right-Wing Populism"

by David Ost



Red Pill Politics by David Ost sets out to update the view of the far-right in light of the world experience since the emergence of Fascism in the 1910s & 1920s. Ost is best known for his observations of the workers movement in Poland since the emergence of the Solidarity Union Movement of the 1980s. In one very important chapter he deals with minority right wing politics. The Revisionist Zionists, especially in Poland in the 1920s & 1930s are featured. The chapter also deals with Garvey-ism, the movement of the 1910s & 1920s led by Marcus Garvey who self identified in 1937 that "we were the first fascists".

Ost includes an extensive Bibliography and thorough noting of recent sources as well as significant references going back to the emergence of the fascists. The essential contribution of the book is identifying how fascism is within the species of right-wing populism, and that the fascist movement utilizes an elastic variety of right-wing manifestations to build momentum and meet new conditions. Fascism is shown within the realm of right-wing politics and has flexibly employed many strategies to address different groups and situations. Ost's revelation

was precipitated when a Polish journalist in the 1990s stated when asked questions about the Polish far right election campaign that "Hitler has given Fascism a bad name" so that the term has become unusable. The term "fascist" also obscures the broader range of strategies, which the right wing employ. Fascism, which includes extreme violence and marking all opponents as targets to be crushed, is selectively used or denied and hidden.

These various forms of the far right can ultimately include what is generally understood as fascism. Or those defining forms can also be down played when putting an electoral facade as the alternative tactic. As in 1928 when Hitler's Nazi electoral policy turned temporarily from its antisemitic focus in which it had received a tiny 2% of the vote. Hitler then shifted to economic populism in the face of the deepening world economic crisis, presenting economic solutions, increasing the Nazis vote to 18% in 1930 in the face of the economic crisis. Two years later the vote increased to 37% in 1932, the largest of any party in the July '32 poll. After the November 1932, legislative poll and Hitler's appointment as chancellor elections were dispensed with in Germany. "We're not eliminating elections" is claimed by the far right today while simultaneously undermining or denouncing elections when their results are not favorable.

Ost has taken the term "Red-Pill" from the far right's own usage of the term, in reference to exposing the deception, within the 1999 "The Matrix" movie. In the film where those who take the Red

Pill comprehend how "the Matrix" is exploiting and parasitically existing off the human population. To be "Red Pilled" by "leftist deception" has become a widespread expression of the right wing today, especially the "manosphere". Ost has applied the term Red Pill Politics to far right populism.

Ost also discusses how the US far right preposterously insists that fascism is left wing.

He also shows how the dominant groups are manipulated to blame and resent their marginalized "inferiors" in the social, economic and political hierarchy.

The history of U.S. mainstream conservatives who have turned at times to utilize far right references was not covered by Ost. Those such as Reagan's rallies, in Bitburg Germany, and Philadelphia Mississippi, or Nixon's Southern strategy.

One deep drawback of "Red Pill Politics" is that Ost doesn't connect the larger class forces at play in the rule of societies. He doesn't illustrate how the ruling elite turn to the far right wing to assert their dominion in crisis. Nor does he review the deal making between the right wing and the capitalists, militarists and police forces.

Of the "broad democratic left" that Ost entrusts with salvation from the far right, he does not review its inevitable fracture in the midst of social crisis when the corporate elite will turn to the far right to defeat the working class.



UPP AND THE STRUGGLE FOR BLACK LIBERATION

By Petros Bein

My name is Petros Bein, I thank you all for welcoming my comrades and friends. We greet you with this Swahili slogan which means “Freedom Now” because as colonized and neo-colonized people we believe it's a fundamental demand. We are a Black workers-led party, but we want to recognize that the Black identity is imposed upon us in this capitalist racist society, and we recognize ourselves as a part of the broader African working masses.

The Ujima People's Progress Party is here to contribute to the international struggle to defeat capitalism and imperialism. We are building a Black workers led electoral party that will organize Black, Brown and other working people around a platform party based on the needs of working-class people within Maryland. We understand that in our bourgeois democracy of the United States, the electoral parties are created based upon a split within the ruling class called the duopoly. They represent the competing interests of capitalists who want to wield the war machine.

The struggle of Black workers in the United States is primarily a struggle for national liberation but it is also a part of the broader workers' struggle to defeat U.S. capitalism and win socialism. We uphold our right to self-determination as an oppressed nation and recognize the need for Black workers to be the leading social force in

our struggle for national liberation. Black worker self-organization is a critical component in the fight against U.S. capitalism, so our population is not subordinated to white chauvinism or made an appendage to the broader worker movement.

The African Diaspora is developed through an international white supremacist project that has exploited the African masses worldwide since the Europeans touched the shores of the African continent. Today we see wave after wave of people from Africa migrating to Western nations to “look for a better life.” These migrations occur when the IMF and World Bank impose structural adjustments and handicap nations with debt traps to continue the arrested development of these countries.

These contradictions come as a consequence of the historic attack on Africa that used stolen Black labor and colonialism as a crucial part of the primitive accumulation necessary to build international capitalism. Our dispersal as Black workers in the U.S., the Caribbean, South America, Europe and Africa is tied to the historical struggle of African people everywhere to regain our national liberation, resources and control of our labor power from colonial domination. We stand with African revolutionaries worldwide that call for the unification of Africa into a single socialist state under the leadership of African workers and poor people.