



# Speak Out Now

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## Nuclear War: An Increasing Threat to the World

Seventy-nine years ago, on August 6 and 9, 1945, the first nuclear weapons were dropped on civilian populations. Tens of thousands of lives were incinerated in the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki by the United States. Hundreds of thousands suffered and died from the effects of the bombs. Radiation burns scorched the bodies of young and old. Birth defects and cancers continue to impact people's lives today.

Today, we seem to be closer to nuclear war than we have been in decades. At least nine countries possess nuclear weapons. The U.S. and its NATO allies, the United Kingdom and France, are upgrading their nuclear armaments. The Russian war in Ukraine has increased the risk of nuclear warfare. China and Iran are expanding their nuclear capabilities, while North Korea continues to test missiles. Israel's regional aggressions threaten to trigger a wider, possibly nuclear, war. Local conflicts involving nuclear powers, like India and Pakistan, could grow into regional and world wars.

This all started with the U.S. in World War II. The U.S. did not need to use these weapons to win WWII. The war in Europe had already ended, and the U.S. knew that the Japanese Emperor wanted to end the war in the Pacific. The U.S. government had options. But it chose to demonstrate its power to the world, especially to the USSR. To achieve this goal, it obliterated Hiroshima and Nagasaki. In its pursuit of global dominance, it slaughtered civilians, and opened up a new threat that has never left us.

Since then, the number of nuclear weapons has increased tremendously, first through the arms race between the U.S. and the USSR, and then to at least seven other countries. Testing in the southwest U.S., and in places like the Marshall Islands, has caused permanently high levels of radiation and caused cancers and other radiation-related diseases. Populations have been forcibly relocated.

The U.S. government continues to expand its nuclear weapons programs.

Under the Biden administration, funding for its nuclear arsenal increased 22%—to the largest budget since the Cold War. A Trump administration is likely to increase this yet again. The currently planned nuclear weapons programs will cost \$750 billion over the next decade, and the total cost over the next 30 years could surpass \$2 trillion.

Already, the U.S.'s stockpile of nuclear weapons is over 7,000 warheads, of which over a quarter are deployed, ready to be used within minutes of an order to launch. Most of the weapons in the U.S.'s arsenal are 10-30 times stronger than the bombs that obliterated Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Some are 80 times as powerful. Today's nuclear weapons, if used on a large scale, would kill millions upon impact, and likely trigger a nuclear winter, caused by massive fires around the world throwing ash into the atmosphere and blocking the sun. This would lead to famine and other effects that would destroy human societies as surely as today's global heating, but much more quickly.

This is not a deterrent to those who sit in power, as they search for ways to protect their wealth and their global dominance. Capitalist regimes have been willing to annihilate huge civilian populations to achieve their goals. Today, the U.S., Germany, and others support the Israeli genocide being executed in Palestine. These and other capitalist nations, including Russia and China, also stoke the global heating that is destroying environments around the world, and our future. We can't count on them to prevent the next nuclear war.

The national ruling classes of the world are locked in an endless struggle for dominance. The working people of the world don't benefit from this. We are the ones that do the work to keep the system running, and we can bring it to a halt if we choose to. As the imperialists gamble away on mutually assured destruction, we need to look out for our own interests, those of the vast majority of the world, and refuse to accept this as our future.

## Cop Murders Another Innocent Black Person

On July 6, Sonya Massey, a 36-year-old Black woman in southern Illinois, called deputy sheriffs to her home because she suspected a prowler. While interviewing her, one of the cops, Sean Grayson, shot her three times, killing her. He has been charged with first-degree murder. His boss, the County Sheriff, says Grayson was trained to use non-lethal force if he felt threatened.

But that's not the point. This is just the latest in a long history of incidents of trigger-happy, mostly white, cops killing innocent Black people. The sheriff said the shooter was well-trained. But trained to do what? Apparently trained to maintain law and order that keeps Black people down and living in fear. Yes, there will almost certainly be a trial. But it's the racist system itself that should be on trial.

## Boeing Whistleblowers Stand Strong Amid Retaliation

Boeing's top brass is finally admitting what many have suspected for years: the company retaliates against whistleblowers. Outgoing CEO Dave Calhoun faced harsh criticism during a recent Senate hearing, where he acknowledged the company's dirty tactics.

But despite Boeing's intimidation, whistleblowers are stepping forward in record numbers. This year alone over a dozen have already come forward, with more joining their ranks. These whistleblowers range from anonymous individuals to those publicly sharing their stories. Boeing's shady practices aren't just rumors anymore; they have become loud cries for change.

In the past three years, 32 complaints of retaliation have been filed with the U.S. workplace safety regulator. These numbers reveal the extent of Boeing's crackdown on those daring enough to expose safety issues. But the tide is turning. Whistleblowers are no longer just victims; they're symbols of courage, fighting back against a powerful corporation.

The message is clear. Boeing workers are standing up, speaking out, and refusing to be silenced. Their bravery is an inspiration to workers everywhere.

### Our Society is in Crisis: We Don't Have to Accept This! Saturday, 8/17 @ 7pm

The chaos of this presidential election with the attempt on Trump's life, or Biden dropping out – has magnified the instability confronting working people.

We can't place our hopes on the politicians. We can and need to defend ourselves. Join us for a discussion of the current situation.

**NoMüNoMü**  
709 N Howard St, Baltimore

## California's Gavin Newsom Declares War on Poor People

California Governor Gavin Newsom issued an executive order that calls on state officials to dismantle houseless encampments. This new attack is possible because of the recent Supreme Court decision which ruled that local governments could ticket houseless people for sleeping outside. Cities across the state are evicting houseless people.

Where are people supposed to go? Government statisticians estimate that there are more than 653,000 houseless people in the U.S. That's an increase of 12% from 2022 to 2023. And due to the deep racism of this society, Black and other people of color are greatly overrepresented.

As we face a wealth gap that is growing wider, more people are pushed to the edge. We all feel it. Housing prices are up 80% nationwide over the past four years. For many workers, any unexpected cost can mean losing their homes.

Even for those of us who have a place to stay, this should be a wake-up call. None of us are safe. Policies such as this executive order have nothing to do with ending houselessness, they simply force desperate people in our communities to hide. Make no mistake, this is not a war on poverty. It is a war on the poor!



We live in the wealthiest country in the world, and it is our labor that has created all of this wealth. We aren't the ones who benefit from this. The super rich – the bosses of the big corporations and banks – keep the wealth and make all the decisions. Working people do the work that makes society run, and we can organize to unite our forces. When we do, we have enormous power to change things and make a better world.

**We Need to Organize!**  
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