



Speak Out Now

July 13, 2026 baltimore@speakoutsocialists.org speakoutsocialists.org IG: @sonbaltimore

We Can't Accept Their System of War and Destruction

The U.S. military has reignited its totally unnecessary, brutal war on Iran. In just the past several days, U.S. forces have struck more than 300 targets across the country, deliberately hitting bridges, power plants, and civilian infrastructure — clear war crimes — and killing dozens more people in this latest round of strikes.

Trump has taken to social media with escalating threats, boasting that the U.S. has thousands of missiles ready to fire and is prepared to decimate the country.

Iran has fired back. It has launched drones at U.S. military bases and oil infrastructure across the Gulf — in Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, and Oman. It has also begun firing on ships attempting to pass through the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow waterway in the Middle East through which a major share of the world's oil and gas flows every single day.

Back in June, a supposed 60-day ceasefire was agreed to, supposedly giving the U.S. and Iran time to negotiate how shipping would resume in the Strait of Hormuz and who would control it. They also planned negotiations over the future of Iran's nuclear program. But in reality, it was never a real ceasefire. The violence never stopped. One of the conditions of the ceasefire was that the U.S. would force Israel to halt its attacks on Lebanon, but instead, Israel has continued bombing and has now declared that it is permanently occupying new areas of southern Lebanon.

The reason for this renewed fighting is the Strait of Hormuz. Iran knows it is badly outgunned by the U.S., the largest military power in world history. But its one real source of leverage is its ability to disrupt traffic through the Strait through drone and missile attacks, and to disrupt the global economy. And this is leverage it does not want to give up given the repeated U.S. attacks and sanctions on Iran. Iran wants the war to end, but on terms more favorable to them. For example, they want to control which vessels can travel through the Strait, and they want the ability to charge ships a toll to pass through the waterway. Iran does not want to surrender this leverage and accept the U.S. dictating who controls the Strait.

U.S. imperialism on the other hand is unwilling to accept this. The U.S. does not want to give Iran official control over the Strait and has resumed bombings to once again try to force Iran to surrender or possibly take over the Strait militarily. The U.S. wants better control over the flow of oil and resources

through the region and is willing to continue this war to try and get it. So the U.S. has made the entire region a powder keg, with the threat of an even greater escalation hanging over everything.

And while this situation carries on, who actually pays? It is the ordinary people of Iran — with over three thousand dead, millions displaced from their homes, living without electricity, having their schools and universities bombed. The Iranian regime has imposed a crackdown on activists who speak out against the regime. Over 2 million people have lost their jobs, many have not been paid since the war began, and inflation is at 88%. Daily life continues to become increasingly difficult.

At the same time, the people of Lebanon and Palestine wake each day not knowing whether they will be killed in a strike or starve to death in Gaza — murdered by U.S.-Israeli wars they never chose to be a part of.

And in this country and around the world, it is ordinary people that pay the price as well. In the U.S. the resources poured into this war are being taken away from our own needs and redirected toward violence and repression. Estimates now put the cost of the war in Iran at some \$130 billion — money taken from the population that could fund hospitals, schools, housing, transportation, and more.

The longer this horrific war drags on, the greater the danger that it triggers a full international economic crisis, as the flow of oil and other essential goods is further choked off from people around the world.

And while the U.S. government funds these wars abroad, it is building up its machinery of repression at home. In Texas, activists have recently been handed prison sentences as long as 30 to 100 years for protesting ICE. In Minneapolis, organizers who stood up against the ICE occupation of their city have been indicted on conspiracy charges and may face prison time if convicted. This is what our government plans for those who dare to oppose them.

Those who rule our society are a threat to all of us. Their system of profit and exploitation requires wars of domination and destruction. We can't accept their system and the future they have in store for us. We have to oppose their system with everything we have. We must refuse to allow our lives and the lives of future generations to be destroyed. Our future depends on us gathering our forces to oppose their system.

St. Agnes Nurses Strike for Patient Care

Nurses at St. Agnes Hospital in Baltimore went on a 24-hour strike on July 7. The hospital is refusing to agree to a fair contract, 18 months after they became the first nurses in Baltimore to unionize. No doubt other hospital admins are paying close attention because the nurses' success will impact the demands of other nurses in town. They are demanding their contract include safe staffing, retention of experienced RNs to provide safe patient care, and limitations to floating assignments. Due to floating, med-surg nurses were recently assigned to the postpartum unit. This is terrible for nurses and terrible for patients. This should be obvious to everyone, but hospital administrators are more interested in saving money. Nurses are focused on patient care, why aren't hospital administrators?

We need food assistance and healthcare!

It's been over a year since Trump signed his Big Beautiful Bill into law and seven months since it went into effect. Since then, working people across the country have been facing full-scale attacks on our lives. People who have to buy their own health insurance will lose vital subsidies, causing three million people to lose coverage, because monthly premiums are now out of reach for them. If you're a part-time employee, you almost certainly need these subsidies to get insurance.

On top of that, more than 3.5 million people have been dropped from SNAP, the food assistance program, meaning, 700,000 children have lost coverage. This is insanity! The healthcare and food that people need to survive are being cut to fund wars and the profits of billionaires. This is an attack on working people everywhere and one we should not let stand!

BGE Bills, Baltimore Boils

There were multiple power outages across Baltimore City Friday and Saturday of the 4th of July weekend during the extreme heat. Monthly BGE bills have been a big issue in Baltimore for a long time. Despite this, BGE has announced it is going to start charging an average of \$8 more per month per household. At first, they said this would begin August 1, but now they say it won't be in effect until 2027. Regardless, with no end to the costly bills in sight, this is not news we need. BGE claims that this excess charge will be invested into the company's infrastructure, to prevent outages in the future. Why hasn't BGE been using the money they suck from us towards preparing for the extreme heat waves that they know are coming?

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.

No More Data Centers, Working People Fight Together!

On June 29, Baltimore residents held a rally outside City Hall to say, "No Data Centers in Maryland!" Baltimore City recently passed a one-year moratorium on building large data centers until they can "study their impact." We know their impact already from many other communities: they gobble up water and power on a huge scale, fuel the climate crisis, and drive up utility bills. They power the AI (artificial intelligence) that is being used to build a surveillance state. A moratorium is just a delay. CEOs in big tech, surveillance, and war industries hope opponents will stop paying attention so they can push through their projects without a fight. So, we can't lose momentum and let them win! As one speaker at the rally said, "This fight is — and must be — bigger than just a moratorium in our city. This is a fight for our lives."

