



Speak Out Now

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We Must Resist Their Militarization of Society!

Since August 11th, in response to Trump's blatant lies about a so-called "crime invasion," hundreds of National Guard troops and armed federal agents have descended upon Washington D.C., patrolling the city, intimidating, harassing, and arresting anyone they can. And now some right wing governors in other states have said they also plan to send hundreds of National Guardsmen to terrorize D.C.

If there is a state of emergency, there is a law that allows the president to take over D.C. for 30 days. But Trump's claims that there is some crime emergency in D.C. are a total lie. Trump just used the excuse of crime in D.C. to demonize the Black population, undocumented immigrants, and the homeless. This isn't about fighting crime at all. Of course, there are crimes of poverty in D.C., as in every major city. But the actual crime rate in D.C. is not at any historic high.

Just like their terrorism against immigrants, they are indiscriminately targeting whole communities, children, parents, and workers. This assault on the people of D.C. must be understood for what it is. This is a blatantly racist attempt to harass and intimidate people in order to silence them and suppress resistance.

Trump also said his administration may try similar attacks in Chicago, Los Angeles, New York, Baltimore and Oakland. This has nothing to do with crime. These are all cities with large Black and immigrant populations. These are cities that have strong histories of protest and resistance, especially against racism and police violence. He is intentionally targeting these areas to show that he can send these armed squads anywhere to terrorize anyone, especially in places where people have stood up before. There have been reports that the administration plans to create a "Domestic Civil Disturbance Quick Reaction Force" made up of hundreds of National Guard troops that can be rapidly sent into any U.S. city facing large protests or unrest. This assault on D.C. is clearly just the beginning.

The Trump administration is expecting increasing unrest because they know their policies do not benefit most people. Their goals are to gut the state and remove any obstacles in the way of profit, while transferring wealth to the richest in our society through tax cuts. To get away with such a blatant attack on the majority of the working population, they are trying to whip up a minority of the population into a frenzy around crime and play on racial

divisions in society. This is a classic divide and conquer tactic. They are increasing and unleashing the repressive apparatus of the state to intimidate us into submission. The massive resources poured into ICE are part of this strategy. The vast majority of the thousands of people that have been abducted by ICE are not criminals — existence is not a crime.

Faced with this situation, we cannot give in to the attacks on immigrant workers, or Black workers, or on the homeless — these are attacks on all of us, and we cannot allow this terror to continue. It is understandable that many people are afraid of being rounded up by these gunmen. But we can't remain silent in the face of these attacks. We are the only ones with the power to organize together against this militarized occupation of our communities.

The Democrats have nothing to offer in the face of this. They regularly say some words of opposition, but they aren't very different. When large protests rocked LA's streets in response to immigration raids in June, the Democrats' response was to argue that they are the only ones with the authority to call out the National Guard in their state, not Trump. They argued that they could repress the protests themselves and didn't need Trump's help. And the Democratic Mayor of L.A. was quick to call a curfew and send in local police to beat and arrest protestors who were standing up for their community members being abducted and disappeared by ICE.

The Trump administration is emboldened. They think they can impose this racist, authoritarian regime of terror. They think that there is nothing that can stop them. The courts may issue temporary rulings which slow Trump down in small ways, only to get to the Supreme Court to be overturned.

It is clear what their plans are — to squeeze the population, to cut the services we rely on, all to further enrich the billionaires and their corporations. But we can't just roll over and let this happen. We have stood up to brutal attacks like this before, and we can do it again. We have enormous strength in our numbers, and we do the work to make their system run. They know this, which is why they want to divide us. As they prepare to increase their attacks, we must prepare to gather our forces, and build up a resistance that can stand up to this authoritarian regime, and fight to get rid of this whole system.

Baltimore County Educators: Prepare for the Next Fight

A few months ago, when the Baltimore County government broke its contract with the Teachers Association of Baltimore County (TABCO), teachers fought back. They rejected the pay cuts and fought using grassroots tactics, including working-to-rule, holding demonstrations, and more. They forced the union and the county to go back to the bargaining table. And, although they didn't get back everything they were owed, they got more than other unions that didn't fight back.

Teachers expressed real disappointment with what the union managed to negotiate this summer. They know that they are likely to face a similar fight in the coming year. But the last few months' experiences can provide a head start on organizing, strategizing, reaching out in solidarity to other education workers, and collaborating with students, their families, and thousands of others in our community who have a stake in the conditions of education here.

Maryland Government Approves Deadly Pollution in Curtis Bay

CSX Transportation operates a giant open-air coal export terminal right next to homes and a recreation center in Curtis Bay in South Baltimore. Coal dust constantly blows off the towering piles of coal onto the working-class community, causing countless health problems and premature death. Curtis Bay also suffers from many other pollution sources including the country's largest medical waste incinerator.

Last year, the Maryland Department of Environment (MDE) released a draft permit for the CSX facility that would require a physical barrier around the coal piles. Residents said that was not enough, providing hundreds of comments demanding the facility be shut down. But CSX said the wall would be too expensive. MDE has now taken CSX's side: the final permit changed the requirement to a cheaper "windscreen." The existing windscreen on part of the facility does not reduce coal dust escaping in that area.

Governments and corporations will sacrifice poor people for profits until we stop them.

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.

First Ever Baltimore Nurses' Strike

Nurses at Saint Agnes Hospital in southwest Baltimore recently went on a one-day strike to bring public attention to their contract fight, ongoing for 18 months, and to pressure management to stop their delays. The nurses first formed their union with National Nurses United almost two years ago.

Saint Agnes management has been prioritizing profit by creating gaps in staffing and sending floating nurses to areas outside their expertise. This means new nurses don't get proper guidance and leads to worse care for patients, especially in the intensive care unit (ICU). Nurses also want their contract to guarantee a strong union with a "closed shop" that includes all nurses as members, but hospital management wants their workers to remain divided in an "open shop."

This was the first-ever strike by nurses in Baltimore. For the sake of patients and hospital staff everywhere, the fight back by healthcare workers must continue to grow!

Federal Troops in D.C. Threaten Our Safety

The Trump administration has deployed 800 National Guard troops and 500 federal agents throughout Washington D.C. to "curb the massive crime wave taking hold of D.C." The troops are erecting barriers, patrolling neighborhoods, and arresting people. Trump has said that he might do the same in other cities like Baltimore, Oakland, New York, and Chicago.

In fact, crime rates in cities are down. An invasion of troops cannot address the main causes of street crime: poverty, racism, and other kinds of oppression that make people desperate. These cities are also made unsafe by threats like unaffordable healthcare and housing, and an addiction crisis. If Trump and other politicians wanted to keep people safe, they would ensure we all had fair wages and access to good education and other basic needs.

ICE is here to check our papers.

