



Speak Out Now

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They Wage Endless Wars, We Pay the Price

On April 1, the Trump administration posted a video from a White House luncheon, which was quickly taken down, where Trump made his plans loud and clear, saying: “It’s not possible for us to take care of daycare, Medicaid, Medicare, all these individual things... We have to take care of one thing: military protection.”

He may be a fool, but this was no April Fools’ joke. This is the plan: to take hundreds of billions of dollars from the funding of “these individual things” that we all need, and use those tax dollars to fund more weapons and other military costs for their war on Iran and future wars.

These are the priorities of the people in power: wars, which increase their wealth by plundering and expanding their control over the world’s resources, especially oil. Their uncontrolled power and domination are an attack on our well-being and life on our planet.

At the end of March, we saw another display of potential power in the “No Kings” demonstrations. More than eight million people in more than 3,300 cities and towns across the U.S. protested against the policies of the Trump administration. There were also demonstrations in more than a dozen other countries in solidarity, most calling for an end to U.S. wars.

Watching coverage of the bombing of schools, hospitals, apartment buildings, and oil reserves in Iran has been horrific. Thousands of Iranians have been killed by bombings, and tens of thousands injured, most of them civilians. And the U.S. is preparing for ground invasions and sending more U.S. airpower to the region. This war is costing us more than a billion dollars per day.

The attacks on Iran are another attempt to control the world’s oil flow, and they are having a serious impact worldwide. The oil distributed through the Strait of Hormuz supplies countries around the world. It is estimated that Viet Nam, Thailand, and Singapore have only about 20 to 60 days of oil reserves left. Control of oil means control over much of the world’s economy.

These wars don’t just affect the control and price of oil. As Trump said, we will be the ones paying for this war by losing our access to food (SNAP), healthcare, education, social security, environmental research and protections, and more. Food and gas prices will increase even more than they already have. All goods that are transported to us, which is

nearly everything, will cost much more to distribute at each step of the supply chain.

The size of the U.S. military operation is enormous, but their power is not absolute. They want to scare us into silence, whether through ICE in our cities or threatening to take away our rights and our resources. History shows us how powerful our response can be.

In the 1930s, the bosses refused to recognize workers’ basic rights. But when workers occupied their factories or went on strikes that spread across cities, the right to organize unions was recognized. When Black people mobilized across the South against segregation and denial of their rights, basic civil rights and social programs were put in place. Opposition to the war on Viet Nam helped bring an end to that war. Today, growing numbers in the U.S. military are registering as conscientious objectors.

The eight million people who demonstrated at the March No Kings Day represent the tens of millions who are angry or fearful about the state of the world who did not join the demonstrations.

Now it is time to think about what eight million people and more could begin to do to organize and mobilize others around us. This won’t happen overnight, but the No Kings demonstrations can be a start. We can build on the organizing that is going on across the country, in neighborhoods and workplaces to oppose ICE attacks.

There is an effort to organize mass mobilizations across the country this May Day (May 1), a worldwide tradition of workers demonstrating their numbers and voicing their demands. This May Day is an opportunity for us all to show our opposition to the wars on people of the world and the war on us at home.

Not everyone will be able to take off of work or take to the streets. But the demonstrations in Minneapolis showed us that many can. People can call in sick, take a personal day, or just not show up. We can all do something to build awareness and carry out some activity individually or collectively to be part of this day. We can talk with our families, co-workers, classmates, neighbors. Conversations can turn into gatherings, which can turn into organizing meetings, which can turn into collective action.

What happens next will be up to us.

Reports From Speak Out Members Around the U.S.

The Triangle, North Carolina:

ICE Out of Cary!

ICE Out of Our Communities!

Recent leaked documents show that ICE has a lease and is possibly moving into a new facility in Cary, NC near the Koka Booth Amphitheater. A quarter of Cary residents were born outside of the U.S. This expansion of ICE is on top of the fact that ICE already operates a field office in Cary.

While details are still scarce, members of the community have been mobilizing themselves in city council meetings to resist the growing threat of ICE. In contrast, Mayor Weinbrecht has shown nothing but pathetic cowardice and complicity, saying that “there is nothing that the city council can do” and “making a statement against ICE would only be an invitation to the Trump administration.” It’s clear that we can’t count on the politicians to defend our communities. Only the community itself can do that!

Baltimore, Maryland:

Dali Crew Held Hostage by U.S. for Years

Two years ago, the Dali container ship and its 21-man crew crashed into the Key Bridge in Baltimore, killing six road maintenance workers and destroying an important highway.

Now, eight crew members are still trapped in a Baltimore hotel due to legal proceedings between the shipping company and the U.S. government. They aren’t charged with a crime, but their passports are confiscated and they can’t leave Maryland without the FBI’s permission. Some were allowed to briefly visit their home countries of India and Sri Lanka, including one man for his own wedding. Others have been separated from their families for two years, held hostage in a completely unfamiliar country.

Seafarers on cargo ships work difficult and isolating jobs that power the global economy by transporting goods all over the world. The government’s own investigation did not find these men at fault—they should be freed!

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.

Newark, New Jersey:

Billions for War – What About Schools?

As New Jersey goes through its annual budget process, communities are calling once again for new school construction in Newark. In particular, in one predominately immigrant neighborhood of Newark called the Ironbound, there are four schools that are each more than 120 years old. They are not built up to modern standards, and they are the most overcrowded schools in the city. The new budget does fund repairs and construction statewide, but assigns no money to new construction to replace Newark’s oldest schools.

Yet at the same time as kids are sweltering in packed, 19th century classrooms, the U.S. government is sending B-52 bombers costing more than \$80 million each and B-2 Stealth bombers costing \$2 billion each to kill thousands of innocent people in Iran.

The people who run our society obviously have different priorities than we do!

Bay Area, California:

SFO Workers Say "ICE Out!"

in Airport Slowdown

In response to the ICE arrest of an immigrant mother at SFO in late March, airport workers came together on No Kings Day in a car caravan, slowing down airport traffic. They voiced their demands for an end to ICE presence in the airport and a new union contract to replace the one that expired last April. They also distributed information to travelers about their working conditions and the fight for the dignity and safety of everyone in the airport.

The slogan workers carried on banners, t-shirts, and signs says it all: "We Make SFO Fly!" It is the workers who keep the airport functional every day. When TSA and SFPD collaboration with ICE allows kidnappings to occur in their workplace, workers are the ones with the power to shut it down!

Help Us Build For May Day!

Sun, April 12 at 5:30pm
People's Solidarity Hub
1805 Chapel Hill Rd Durham