



# Speak Out Now

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## Kirk's Murder Reflects the Violence of This Society

Last week, far-right media personality and organizer Charlie Kirk was gunned down at a university in Utah. Kirk and his well-funded organization, Turning Point USA, rose to prominence over the past decade by holding campus events billed as debates on “free speech” and the state of U.S. politics and society. Kirk used these events to expand and solidify support for his organization by bullying and humiliating young people who questioned or challenged him.

Kirk spewed racist and right-wing views, claiming that colleges have become centers of left-wing politics that are brain-washing young people and undermining what some call “traditional values”. Kirk made racist attacks on Black people and affirmative action. He claimed that immigrants and Jewish people are “replacing” white people in the U.S. And his vicious attacks on LGBTQ people are well-known.

He became a face of far-right ideology. He was a key organizer, bringing young people into Trump's presidential campaign. Trump is canonizing him as an American hero and will honor him with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest honor that the government can give to a civilian. He ordered that flags be flown at half-mast across the country. Trump doesn't want to miss any opportunity to unify his base against those who disagree with him and whom he blames for Kirk's murder. Kirk's memorial will be a spectacle, held at the Arizona Cardinals NFL stadium, with a capacity of over 63,000 people.

Trump and the Republicans have made Kirk into a martyr. They are using this as an excuse to further repress the population – to go after those who stand against the hatred Kirk spread. Since Kirk's death, many prominent Republicans have stated that they are “at war” and will do everything in their power to punish those on the left that they claim are responsible for this. People have been fired from their jobs and harassed for being critical of Kirk in the face of this celebration of his political activity.

This call for organized violence is all too familiar. It is the violence that runs throughout the society. And those who are actively opposing the masked ICE agents that are terrorizing and abducting immigrant workers and families, and the occupation of our cities by National Guard troops, are being targeted by those who are maintaining this order. People are accused of being antisemitic by both Democratic

and Republican politicians for opposing the genocide of the Palestinian people in Gaza, who are being starved and bombed to death with full support of the U.S.

This is the open violence of this system. The violence many face each day doesn't just come from the barrel of a gun. It is the violence of poverty or the threat of slipping into poverty – the threat of wages steadily falling below the cost of living, or the violence of being laid off or fired. And the new federal and state budgets guarantee the lack of access to health care, food and subsidies for housing for millions of people.

Those in power claim that there are people that are supposedly taking things at our expense – often people who are a different race, or have a different sexual orientation, or country of origin, or religion. Some people mistakenly believe that violent actions are the only way to respond. As a result, there are mass shootings of people at religious gatherings or in areas where people of specific races or nationalities live. And the tragic shootings of children at school have become commonplace. And like the man who shot and killed Kirk, some wrongly believe that killing individuals will have a political impact. In addition to Kirk, a number of elected politicians, both Democrats and Republicans, have been shot and some killed. This is the violence this society has created.

There is a war here at home against the majority of us, the working class. It is a war that breeds fear and creates divisions. It is a war that attempts to silence us, for fear of being attacked for standing up for what we know is right. It is a war that tells us that our only choice is to depend on either the Republicans or Democrats, when neither party represents our interests. They exist to maintain the system that creates the problems we face – a system that is run in the interests of a tiny billionaire class.

The challenges we face may seem impossible to confront. But the solutions begin in our daily lives. As workers, we are the ones who make this society run. The divisions that separate us are maintained to keep us weak. To deal with the challenges and chaos we confront, we can and must look to ourselves – our families, friends, co-workers, our neighbors and other like-minded people. Then we can stand together and defend ourselves.

## **Baltimore Needs a Real Solution to the Overdose Crisis**

In August, Baltimore City government agreed to a \$152 million payout from drug companies ruled to be partially responsible for the city's overdose crisis. Overdoses killed almost four times more people in Baltimore than homicide did in 2024, a higher rate than any other U.S. city.

Mayor Scott says the priorities to use the money focus on opioid harm reduction, including mental health treatment, sterile syringe and naloxone distribution, and housing support.

The settlement is a tiny fraction of the profits drug companies earned from fueling the overdose epidemic. Meanwhile, the Baltimore Police Department showed the reality behind Mayor Scott's statements by promising to ramp up the drug war and continue to increase arrests of drug users, which will only hurt those most impacted by substance use disorders. The main approach to addiction will apparently continue to be to violently arrest and profit off of those with substance use disorders.

## **Send Troops to Baltimore Because of "The Wire"? We say "Nope!"**

Republicans in Congress tweeted on X that the federal government should send troops into Baltimore, writing, "How's the crime in Baltimore (D)? Ever seen 'The Wire'?" Trump's allies are using a 20-year-old TV drama to make policy. Ridiculous and disgusting! Democrats Mayor Scott and Governor Moore fired back, saying that things have improved and they don't need federal troops. Then, Moore took a page out of Trump's invasion plan by announcing he is sending state police into Baltimore to fight crime.

The Democrats and Republicans both have it wrong. Baltimore has street crime because inadequate jobs, wages, health benefits, and education produce poverty and desperation. And the ongoing history of systemic racism in a city that is 60 percent Black makes life here even more miserable. Both sides of this argument about federal troops cover up the reality that things are organized to benefit the extremely wealthy at the expense of the rest of us.

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.

A Speak Out Socialists Public Meeting

## **No Genocide In Our Name! Stop The Famine!**

The systematic starvation and escalating massacre of the Palestinian people must be stopped. Join us for a presentation and discussion on the situation in Gaza by activist and journalist Nora Barrows-Friedman.

**Sun, Sep 21 at 7:00 pm**

3107 N Charles St, Baltimore

Live on Zoom at [tinyurl.com/son-th](https://tinyurl.com/son-th)

## **People Call for Trump and His Troops out of D.C.**

On Saturday, September 6, thousands took to the streets of Washington, D.C. to protest the deployment of the national guard to the city.

With the mass kidnappings and deportations of immigrants, the continued racist crime hysteria against people of color, and the mass firing of federal workers, Washington, D.C. has been one major focus of these attacks by the Trump administration. While the September 6 protest and many others around the country have not ended the attacks by the Trump administration, we need to build on those protests. We are going to need more and bigger actions, from marches to strikes, to turn back these attacks.

## **We Must Fight Back Against ICE Terror!**

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is continuing its terror campaign on immigrant communities in Baltimore and other cities. On September 7, four Filipino cruise ship workers were detained, interrogated, and deported when the ship was docked in Baltimore, and raids are occurring regularly at workplaces and in neighborhoods. Many people are living in fear of being violently abducted by ICE or having their families torn apart.

People deserve to feel safe at home and at work. However, the Maryland government and Governor Wes Moore are collaborating with Trump's ICE forces by allowing deportation flights to occur out of Baltimore-Washington International Airport (BWI), which the state owns and controls. Hundreds of people have protested at the airport and 6,500 have signed a petition to demand that Governor Moore stop these deportation flights. Sign at [bit.ly/avelooutofbwi](https://bit.ly/avelooutofbwi).