



# Speak Out Now

February 16, 2026 [baltimore@speakoutsocialists.org](mailto:baltimore@speakoutsocialists.org) [speakoutsocialists.org](http://speakoutsocialists.org) IG:@sonbaltimore

## Their Attacks are Just Beginning – But Our Fightback is Too!

This week, the Trump administration announced that the ICE surge in Minneapolis is ending, and that their nearly 3,000 federal agents who have spent the past two months terrorizing the Minneapolis region are being sent back to their home bases or other cities.

The fact that ICE is pulling out of Minneapolis in this way is a victory. The only reason they are doing this is because of the resistance they've been met with in Minneapolis and across the country. While Democratic Party politicians try to make headlines for criticizing Trump and ICE, it was ordinary people and not the Democrats who were the decisive force that confronted ICE head-on.

In response to the ICE terror — especially after federal agents murdered both Rene Good and Alex Pretti on video— organizing in Minneapolis and across the country swelled. People were able to find a place to put all their anger. It was the two Fridays of mass mobilizations under the banner “No Work, No School, No Shopping” that brought out tens of thousands of people in Minneapolis. It has been the organizing in neighborhoods, workplaces, and schools in Minneapolis to patrol for ICE and mobilize in large numbers wherever ICE showed up. In several neighborhoods in the Minneapolis region, neighbors set up barricades to keep ICE out and to patrol everyone who went in and out of their neighborhoods. Minneapolis police have been sent out to break up these barricades, but often neighbors have just rebuilt them after the police leave. For days, there have been regular protests in front of the Whipple Federal Building outside Minneapolis.

Because organizers in Minneapolis refused to back down and continued building their numbers — sparking similar actions across the state and country — the Trump administration has now decided to scale back its surge in the Minneapolis area. This can be celebrated and is a glimpse of the power we have when we rely on our own forces and defend ourselves.

But even though this surge in Minneapolis is ending for now, we can't believe that there has been any real change in the Trump administration's priorities. They want to appear as if they are scaling back, but in fact, they are preparing for intensified attacks on immigrants and the rest of the population. In fact, the director of ICE, Todd Lyons, told

Congress this week during testimony that ICE “is only getting started.”

As ICE reduces their surge in Minnesota, they are spending over \$38 billion to acquire warehouses across the country to expand their detention center capacity. They have already acquired about 25 warehouses. Most of the buildings can hold about 1,500 people, and some can hold as many as 10,000. Currently there are about 73,000 people in detention centers in the U.S., up from about 40,000 when Trump began his second term.

The conditions inside these facilities are meant to torture people. Already over 30 people have died in these horrible conditions. There has been a measles outbreak in a facility in Texas. And ICE has been sending all pregnant minors they abduct to a horrific facility in Texas, where they have no access to medical care or abortion services. Some are rape victims as young as 13. Their attacks on immigrants and many citizens have not stopped, and they continue to hire more and more agents. Meanwhile, the money to fund this ICE terrorism has been paid for by massive cuts to our healthcare, education, and other social services. So now is not the time to slow down, but to increase our efforts to organize our forces even more.

The people of Minneapolis have shown us what needs to be done. We cannot stand up to all of their attacks alone. We can't rely on the Democrats to do anything. We cannot wait around for elections that won't protect us. The administration is attacking the majority of us all at once. We see struggles of teachers and students for more funding for their schools. And we see health care workers fighting for better working conditions for themselves and their patients who are facing record health care costs. We see attacks on the unhoused population in every major city. We see access to reproductive health care disappearing across the country. We see our voting rights under attack.

We need to follow what Minneapolis has showed us. We cannot fight all of these battles alone, one by one. Our power depends on us coming together, fighting all these battles at the same time, like a closed fist. We may be on our own, but we are not outnumbered. Together we can fight not just their attacks, not just the Trump administration, not just the billionaires, but their whole system of exploitation.

## Youth Continue Protesting ICE

Student walkouts at Baltimore-area middle and high schools began in January to support immigrants and protest against ICE in our communities. Students organized and coordinated walkouts on February 6 at almost all Baltimore County high schools, as well as several in the City and in Harford and Anne Arundel Counties. In Baltimore County, nearly 6,000 walked out, assembling outside of their schools with protest signs to march and chant. Some students' relatives and neighbors joined in.

Baltimore County school administrators tried to prevent the walkouts by closing schools before the scheduled time of the protests, and at some schools, tried to force students to stay in the auditorium or parking lot. The students quickly adapted to make sure their voice would be heard, rescheduling the walkouts and proceeding out into the neighborhoods, even blocking streets in a few cases.

The rebellion is not stopping. Another major coordinated effort is planned for March 13. Young people are saying that we don't want to live under an oppressive state that threatens our families, friends, and neighbors: ICE should just GET OUT!

## Hopkins Hospital Leaves Their Workers Out in the Cold

Since the big snowstorm, workers and students have had to wait for the buses and shuttles in sub-freezing temperatures in extraordinarily long lines for more than 45 minutes. And once a bus does come along, we must pack in like sardines, disregarding our safety and comfort.

We fight every morning to get to work on time or else we face disciplinary occurrences with no accounting for snow and ice. But when the time comes for us to leave, Hopkins leaves us out in the cold. And for those who drive, some parking garage entrances were blocked with snow and some garage areas were icy and unsafe to walk. We are expected to get to work on time, but when we need more buses and clean parking garages, Hopkins is nowhere to be found. We deserve better than this!

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.

## Resist ICE Detention Centers in Maryland

For the past three weeks, hundreds of people in Washington County have protested an ICE detention facility planned for a warehouse in Williamsport. On February 10, the Board of County Commissioners unanimously approved a resolution to support ICE and encourage local law enforcement to cooperate with ICE. Many local residents oppose this concentration camp in their neighborhood. They have raised concerns about road relocation and historical preservation, and say that federal law entitles them to a more extensive review process.

Meanwhile, Howard County residents protested conversion of an Elkridge warehouse to a private ICE detention center. This pushed the County government to ban such centers, but the federal government will probably challenge this ban. The fight will have to continue.

We cannot count on being represented by government officials. We have to organize ourselves to fight to protect our neighbors and stop ICE.

## We Keep Us Safe

The Maryland legislature has passed a bill that bans a specific type of partnership between local law enforcement and ICE, which will invalidate the agreements in the nine Maryland counties where partnerships with ICE are active.

Such laws may keep some people out of ICE's brutal and abusive grasp. But we can't be fooled into thinking these politicians are really keeping Maryland residents safe. Local law enforcement collaborates with ICE in plenty of ways not addressed by this law—just last week, local agencies in Minneapolis showed their support for ICE by violently arresting 50 people at a protest against ICE. What will truly keep people safer from the Trump administration is the daily organizing among neighbors and coworkers to build networks of resistance and support for one another.

**ICE OUT OF EVERYWHERE!**  
**ORGANIZING MEETING**

**SUNDAY - FEB. 22 - 4PM**  
**2640 SPACE**  
**2640 ST PAUL ST, BALTIMORE MD 21218**

