



Speak Out Now

March 17, 2026 baltimore@speakoutsocialists.org speakoutsocialists.org IG:@sonbaltimore

Their Brutal War Shows the Priorities of Their System

This devastating war on the people of Iran by the murderous regimes of the U.S. and Israel has continued for two weeks, hitting over 6,000 locations across Iran, killing over one thousand civilians and displacing an estimated 3.2 million people. They have struck an elementary school for girls, killing at least 170 people, mostly young girls. They have bombed hospitals, power stations, residential buildings, infrastructure and more, devastating entire cities. They have bombed oil depots and refineries, igniting massive fires that sent thick clouds of toxic black smoke over Tehran, a city of 9 million people. As a result, Tehran is being hit with dangerous “black rain” – acidic rain contaminated with toxic chemicals that burn the skin and damage the lungs.

And their killing has not been limited to Iran. Israel has expanded its bombing into Lebanon, killing nearly 700 people in two weeks, about 50 people a day, destroying bridges and whole neighborhoods. Israeli forces have ordered forced evacuations in most of southern Lebanon, displacing over 800,000 people in a small and densely populated city. Israel has bombed families with nowhere to go as they sleep in tents on a beach in central Beirut. Israel claims it is defending itself from Hezbollah, an Islamist political and military organization in Lebanon supported by Iran, but this is a lie. Israel has spent the past three years destroying most of Hezbollah’s military capacity since the beginning of the genocide in Gaza. Israel’s real aim is to expand its borders, vowing to occupy southern Lebanon indefinitely.

Meanwhile, Trump, Pete Hegseth, and others in the administration brag about their callous destruction of Iran as they waste billions of dollars on this war, on top of the tens of billions the U.S. has already given to fund Israel’s genocide of Palestinians. The first six days of this war have already cost over \$11.3 billion. And this war has provoked Iran to block the Strait of Hormuz, where 20% of the world’s oil supply passes through, causing oil prices to skyrocket and increasing gasoline and energy costs. As living costs for working people increase, U.S. oil companies stand to make an extra \$60 billion from the increase in oil prices.

While billions of dollars a day go to destroy the innocent people of Iran, the Trump administration is carrying out the largest gutting of social programs in U.S. history, slashing trillions from healthcare, food assistance, education and more to fund \$4.5 trillion in tax breaks for billionaires and to pay for their massive increases in military spending. It’s expected that the Trump administration will ask for at least an additional \$50 billion more for this war, and plans to increase the military budget to \$1.5 trillion dollars in 2027.

The Medicaid cuts alone will strip coverage from an estimated 7.2 low-income million people. On top of that, their cuts to health care subsidies from the Affordable Care Act mean that an estimated 4.8 million people that had private insurance will become uninsured. Overall, millions of people face losing access to health coverage. Nationwide, over 700 hospitals, nursing homes, and other facilities face huge service cuts or could shut down altogether from these funding cuts.

The administration is also cutting food assistance, eliminating \$187 billion from SNAP over ten years, the largest cut to the program in its history. An estimated 4 million people, including 1 million children, will have their food assistance slashed or eliminated altogether. Work requirements are being expanded to cut off 2.4 million more people, including older adults, veterans, people experiencing homelessness, and young people. Millions of families who are already struggling to put food on the table will now have even less.

This is the priorities of their system laid bare. They have billions a day for a war to kill innocent people and bomb schools and hospitals, but they have no money for food assistance or healthcare or public transportation or any of the programs that working people rely on.

Working people have nothing to gain from this war. Our enemies are not the people of the Middle East under assault by the U.S. and Israeli military. Our enemies are the politicians and billionaires that work together to defend their system by bombing civilians abroad while gutting the programs that keep people alive at home. We must oppose both the war being waged in our name overseas and the war being waged against us here.

NYC Nurses Win Historic Strike!

Health care workers want to take the best possible care of patients. But when working conditions endanger those patients, what are they supposed to do? New York City nurses showed the way this year when 15,000 across four hospitals went out on strike, the last nurses returning to work after six weeks. Nurses made and won demands over issues all health care workers are facing: unsafe staffing, chronic abuse at work, wages that don't keep up with inflation, and degradation of health and pension benefits. These problems worsen patient care and impact workers' well-being, which shows up in turnover and discontinuity of care. The bosses could help us to provide better health care, but they choose not to until forced. The NYC nurses' struggle for a safe and fair workplace is not over. But they have shown us the way – when we fight, we can win!

Baltimore Needs Basic Road Maintenance

“Pothole season” has come again, and many of us are feeling it in our wallets with car repairs. Others feel it in our rear ends in bumpy bus rides. Although the increase in potholes around the city at this time of year is predictable, filling them seems like it's not a priority. Road filling projects are planned by the city, then are delayed or abandoned. This results in a strain on us. Surprise expenses can set many of us back across one or more paychecks. A recent report found that each year, Baltimore drivers pay about \$954 in additional vehicle operating costs due to damage caused by potholes and uneven road surfaces. These worn roads and foreseeable potholes should be addressed routinely. There's a lot of wealth in this city, but too little of it goes to public needs, that is, our needs.

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.

Let's Get Organized and Take to the Streets

Working people face constant attacks. Our neighbors and coworkers are being deported. The U.S. and Israeli governments started a war on Iran, costing us over \$11 billion in just one week! Gas and grocery prices are skyrocketing. The measly social welfare system that existed is being gutted. Not to mention the threats of automation of our jobs, climate change, and pandemics. For many of us, the quality of our lives and our futures are being held on by a thread.

Some people blame Trump for all these attacks, and it's true that our lives have gotten worse with him and his cronies in power. But these crises existed before Trump—they are a product of the capitalist system itself, which Democrats and Republicans both fundamentally uphold despite their day-to-day differences.

Working people must take action to fight for a better life for ourselves, our coworkers, and our loved ones. To begin that struggle, we must get organized. On Saturday March 28, millions of people across the US will be taking to the streets to protest the Trump regime, the billionaires' system, and their attacks on us. If you're mad about what is happening and won't take any more, join us at No Kings Day!

NO KINGS

MARCH WITH US!

NO BILLIONAIRES

NO WAR

& NO BUSINESS AS USUAL!

Our collective activity is the first step towards transforming this system.

Join and march with us at the **No Kings rally in Baltimore** to demand NO KINGS, NO BILLIONAIRES, NO WAR, and an end to the capitalist system that produces them.



@sonbaltimore
speakoutsocialists.org

ART BUILD

Join us to make banners and signs

SUN, 3/22 @ 1PM

3601 Clipper Mill Rd, Baltimore

NO KINGS PROTEST SAT, 3/28 @1PM

at Hopkins Plaza

Meet Speak Out Socialists at 12:45 near Planet Fitness on Charles & Lombard to join the demonstration together. Join us for food after the march at Tabor Ethiopian!