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With NDP losses in Canadian election, labor has little choice but independent political action

By Dave McKee

TORONTO—Immediately after Canada's federal election brought victory for Mark Carney and the Liberal Party, the Canadian Labour Congress sent out a message congratulating working people for blocking Pierre Poilievre and his "American-style conservative politics."

The CLC wasn't wrong, of course—Poilievre and the Conservative Party did represent the biggest danger, with their divisive demagoguery and links to a wide range of far-right positions ranging from climate denial to transphobia to anti-choice to racism and xenophobia. And of course, they are firmly grounded in viciously anti-labor muck, despite their best attempts to appear "pro-worker." A Conservative victory would, indeed, have been the worst outcome.

But there was a tendency (which extended far beyond the labor movement) to view this federal election as "the big battle." It wasn't that—rather, it was the prelude to the big battle, and one that is going to arrive very soon.

The very dramatic backdrop to this election was the issue of Canada's sovereignty and independence, highlighted by Donald Trump's threats to annex Canada, escalating U.S. tariffs, and demands that auto companies and others involved in manufacturing and secondary industry move their operations out of Canada and into the U.S.

It meant that the main question on people's minds was who could best stand up to Trump and navigate a path to safeguarding the economy, sovereignty (a very narrow definition⁴ of it, anyway), and independence. This came down to Pierre Poilievre vs. Mark Carney, in a battle of style over substance.

But really, these were just two very similar versions of corporate politics, so all kinds of issues that are urgent and immediate for working people—high prices, declining real wages, deteriorating healthcare and public services, soaring costs of education, declining equality, climate crisis, militarism and war—were barely discussed in the mainstream, and never from a working-class point of view.

The Liberals and Conservatives were quite happy to let these problems lie lost in the shadow of Donald Trump.



Those issues existed before the election, and they continue to exist now. But with a new Parliament that has swung further to the right, with even more pro-corporate voices and fewer than ever left-leaning ones, the likelihood that they will be treated in any meaningful way is next to nil.

Following Carney's meeting with Trump, the immediate agenda for the government has become pretty clear. Multi-billion-dollar hikes to military spending (which all parties in Parliament have shamefully already committed to); new infrastructure for Big Carbon, including new pipelines and LNG terminals; and negotiations for yet another new trade deal with the U.S., this time to make sure that U.S. corporations (with lively interest from their Canadian counterparts) get all the goodies they didn't get with USMCA.

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CONTINUING THE DAILY WORKER



For over a century, People's World and its predecessor publications have taken the side of the 99 percent and worked to promote the struggle for a sustainable environment, jobs, democracy, peace, and equality.

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Within this agenda, who is going to speak and fight for issues other than corporate profiteering? Which voices in Parliament will stand up for jobs and wages, equality, expanding programs, Indigenous rights, climate justice, peace, Palestine?

It won't be the New Democratic Party (NDP), whose severe losses mean it doesn't even have official party status anymore and has lost funding and standing at committees. So, are working people supposed to rely on the Liberals now? Some would so argue, but there's a much better option.

Independent labor political action

In the main, this federal election was not a display of strength for the labor movement. Union support for Poilievre, both in terms of votes and several endorsements, reflects serious disunity and disengagement. The same could be said of the CLC's campaign, which was very timid in terms of political policy and which did very little to actually organize working people.

One bright spot was the joint statement from the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) and Unifor in which they committed to fighting against privatization, to protecting and improving interprovincial trade regulations, and to defending and strengthening labor rights. This was particularly notable given that Unifor remains outside of the CLC and (at times) openly advocates strategic voting, while CUPE tends to strongly endorse the NDP during elections.

If two unions—and two very large ones at that—can make a strong commitment to joint extra-parliamentary political action, in spite of sizeable partisan and structural differences, does this not point to a path forward for working people's struggles?

As any union activist will tell you, there are seemingly countless differences and divisions within the labor movement. But more important than that, there are clear and obvious points of deep unity: the need for good jobs; full employment; higher wages and shorter work hours; a universal public pension which provides a livable income; Employment Insurance reform that covers all unemployed workers at 90% of previous earnings for the entire period of unemployment; plant closure legislation with the teeth to block closures; and constitutional protection of workers' right to organize, bargain collectively, strike, and picket.

And now, with its ability to rely on the NDP for nearly all of its political work severely weakened, the labor movement has little choice but to focus on its own independent political action. This is exactly what the labor movement in the U.S. is starting to do in the wake of Trump's election (which many union members supported) and the near complete surrender by the congressional Democrats.

The CLC is well-positioned to lead the way here; that is its job, in fact. It has the opportunity and resources to highlight those many points of unity among unions and workers across the country (including Unifor and unions in Quebec), to actively engage allies in community and social movements, and to mobilize millions of people into a united escalating campaign to fight and win the economic and political struggle that's on our doorstep.

The CLC's structure is almost ready-made for this kind of action. With its vast network of local labor councils, it already has grassroots organizations of unions who are connected with a range of community allies.

This is the organizational basis for vibrant and democratic local fightback committees, which can be connected through the provincial and Quebec federations, mushrooming into a coordinated mass movement.

In the process, labor will set a new bar for political policies, one that is forged from working people's own struggles for their contemporary needs. Parties, including the NDP, will be challenged to step up and meet that bar, which will be to the benefit of the entire working class.

Business unionism has to go

While the basis exists for a real fightback, it will require a shift in thinking away from the business unionism which has left the labor movement weakened at precisely the time when the working class needs a fighting leadership.

The days are over for labor leadership that limits union activity to negotiating contracts for a disengaged membership to ratify. Working people need leadership that draws the links between "shop floor" issues and political ones, that organizes and mobilizes union membership, and that is responsive and responsible to the grassroots.

The election results also bear this out. While the NDP's big losses were largely the result of strategic voting, they also reflect working people's frustration over the party's support for budgets introduced by the Liberals and its silence on key issues.

The NDP's shift away from the political left and its efforts to replace the Liberals as the party representing "capitalism with a human face" alienated many people who recognize that their struggles—especially to stop layoffs, plant closures, and cuts to real wages, pensions, and benefits—require maximum unity around a progressive political program, not milquetoast slogans.

The election of a Liberal minority government has resulted in a setback for—but not a defeat of—the dangerous right-wing populism and reaction expressed by Donald Trump, Pierre Poilievre, and the Conservative Party.

That defeat has to come at the hands of a working-class movement that is led by a fighting leadership, organized around its own independent political demands, and in a democratic alliance with the people's movements across Canada.

But that definitely won't happen without a struggle.

Nashville activists won't let ICE's anti-immigrant reign of terror go unanswered

By Albert Bender

“Horrible and terrifying” was the immediate reaction of a local member of the Indigenous community to the shocking recent raids in the Nashville metro area by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

On Sunday, May 4, there began a reign of terror against the immigrant communities of the city, with the main target being the Latino population, initiated by ICE, with the assistance of the Tennessee Highway Patrol (THP).

Massive traffic sweeps have been undertaken by ICE and THP on the spurious claim that law enforcement was out to suppress criminal activity. The method employed was traffic stops for violations such as broken taillights and tinted windows. At this point in time, there have been over 600 traffic stops made, resulting in nearly 200 arrests.

Reality disputes the narrative that over 600 vehicles had broken taillights and tinted windows coupled with various and sundry other traffic violations, however. These claims by police are preposterous.

What's really happening in Nashville is that the Latino community is under racist attack.

The nightmare, the reign of terror has been relentless. Immigrants are afraid to leave their homes or go to work; they're even fearful of a routine trip to the local supermarket for food. There were instances in the beginning of this wave of sweeps of people being stopped and arrested on their way to work, on their way home from work, and there was the case of a father detained while on his way home with decorations for his son's birthday party. His family had no idea what happened to him; they later found his vehicle abandoned on the side of the road.

ICE officials are not providing the identities of the majority those arrested. Mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, sons, and daughters are simply disappearing.

The Metropolitan Nashville Immigrant Caucus reports that federal agents have also approached school children at bus stops and asked them about their parents' immigration status. There is a report of a 19-year-old Guatemalan immigrant who went out for ice cream, was detained by ICE, and then sent post haste to Louisiana.

Another case involved a young mother of two children who was pulled over for allegedly driving a vehicle with tinted windows that were too dark. She had a valid driver's license and no criminal record; she too is now in a Louisiana detention center facing deportation. Another mother was forced to sell the family car to afford legal help. The list goes on and on. Families are being devastated and destroyed. For the immigrants involved, it's reminiscent of the fascism of Hitler's Germany.

An unintended consequence of these deportation sweeps and raids for mainstream society is that the major entertainment district of Nashville, Lower Broadway—an area filled with honky-tonks, bars, and restaurants—is virtually closed down because there is no one to cook the food, wash the dishes, or mop the floors. Immigrant workers, the labor force of the entertainment district, are afraid to leave their homes to go to work.



The restaurant of conservative celebrity Kid Rock, a staunch Trump supporter, is shuttered because the entire kitchen staff left after being informed that ICE was on the way.

Is Nashville a testing ground for fascist sweeps? Some are beginning to speculate that could be the case, that Nashville is being used as the site of an experiment by the Trump administration to gauge what kind of reaction or resistance there will be as it rolls out its deportation strategy.

So far, Nashville Mayor Freddie O'Connell has come out strongly against the actions by ICE and THP. He's been joined by a number of Metro Council members, including the Metro Council Immigrant Caucus.

But still, the sweeps continue, and 98% of those arrested remain unidentified. Dozens of Nashvillians have simply been disappeared. This is a rapidly exploding crisis with new developments daily.

The people are shocked, but they're also strategizing on how best to resist this fascist onslaught. On May 17, a mass rally called "Nashville Fights Back" was held in a Latino section of the city at the very intersection where the raids started on May 4. Nearly a thousand protesters gathered to show opposition to the ICE sweeps, chanting slogans such as "Say it once, say it twice, we will not put up with ICE."

It's not just the protesters in the streets who are pushing back, though; ICE's tactics are being denounced from official circles, as well. Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, the Democratic vice presidential nominee of 2024, during a commencement speech at the University of Minnesota's law school on May 17, said, "Trump's modern-day Gestapo is scooping folks up off the streets. They're in unmarked vans wearing masks being shipped off to foreign torture dungeons."

This is exactly what is happening in Nashville; the entire kitchen crew of a large restaurant was abducted by masked white men who refused to identify themselves. All the workers were whisked into vans and taken away.

ICE has said that its operation is over for the time being, but this claim is met with disbelief here in Nashville. Immigrant neighborhoods remain on edge. One local TV station commentator opined that Tennessee is at the forefront nationally of ICE operations; and indeed, the city does appear to be the current focal point.

Activists here and nationwide cannot relent in their effort to organize and mobilize the resistance. There are certainly more attacks to come.

Unions launch ad campaign to promote public service and defeat Trump's cuts

By Mark Gruenberg



WASHINGTON—The nation's largest unions, the National Education Association, the Service Employees, the Teachers/AFT and AFSCME, launched a \$2 million media campaign, with ads and member mobilization, in 17 key congressional districts to support, defend and promote public service work—and to defeat Donald Trump's "big, beautiful" tax cut for corporations and the rich.

The drive by the unions, who have 8.3 million members combined, comes as the Republican-run House heads for a showdown on President Donald Trump's tax cut and spending cut bill, also known as reconciliation.

Besides the big unions, North America's Building Trades Unions also now officially oppose Trump's measure. On May 19, NABTU President Sean McGarvey said it would cost tens of thousands of construction jobs, many planned for the construction of "green energy" projects such as offshore wind farms, solar arrays, and retrofitting homes and schools.

"As currently written, the House Republicans' reconciliation bill cannot be supported by the men and women of North America's Building Trades Unions. It eliminates hundreds of thousands of energy jobs for our members and includes other deeply troubling provisions," McGarvey explained.

"One of our top priorities has been protecting meaningful job opportunities, but that priority is being completely undermined. Job cuts for blue-collar Americans should not foot the bill for billionaire tax cuts. We're counting on our allies in Congress to fix this bill before it heads to the House floor—and we'll be mobilizing to ensure our voices are heard," he promised. He did not give details.

The other unions' pro-public service campaign also comes as a May 23 deadline approaches for comments on one of Trump's other anti-worker moves, writing his so-called "Schedule F" rules for civil servants, turning the top 50,000 of them into a modern spoils system.

Democracy Forward and Protect Democracy have details on how to protest that measure by writing and emailing to the comments section of the *Federal Register*.

"This proposed rule would discourage career civil servants from providing their uncensored opinions and from fully applying their expertise for the benefit of the American people. This would erode public trust in neutral governance," the two groups said.

"This rule is not about accountability or performance management—it's about control.

If finalized, it would mark one of the most regressive shifts in federal workforce policy ever. It would harm the civil service's ability to deliver to the American people.

Trump headed for Capitol Hill on the morning of May 20 to personally lobby the entire House Republican Caucus to back the measure. The GOP controls the House by a narrow 220-215 margin, and only three defections would kill the measure. House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., wants to pass it by Memorial Day.

There are two prominent reluctant groups of Republicans. One is the so-called House Freedom Caucus. It's several dozen members think that despite its \$4.5 trillion 10-year tax cut for the rich, corporations, and the corporate class, and its \$715 billion 10-year Medicaid cut, plus added work rules for recipients, the bill doesn't go far enough. Those lawmakers want more cuts and sooner.

The other reluctant group is 8-10 moderates representing voters in most of the 17 swing seats, whom the unions' ad campaign and mobilization target. The lawmakers are dubious about cuts to public programs, especially Medicaid and services, which the unions' ad campaign will focus on.

The unions will feature front-line workers telling their personal stories about how workers in public service help their lives, from ensuring Social Security checks arrive to fighting fires, to providing nursing care, to containing and catching corporate malefactors and exploiters.

"These budget cuts don't just threaten Medicaid or food assistance; they put all of us at risk," said AFSCME President Lee Saunders. "From overcrowded hospitals to underfunded schools to short-staffed prisons, our communities will pay the price—all so billionaires can get richer. We're fighting back to protect public services and the essential work we do."

"Our unions represent the people who make a difference in the lives of others—and the public services they provide are in grave danger because of the reckless and chaotic cuts of Elon Musk and the Trump administration," said AFT President Randi Weingarten, a New York City civics teacher.

"Their goal is the gutting of the schools and hospitals that help working Americans have a shot at a better life. And for what? To pay for tax cuts for billionaires. These ads send a message to Congress about the human toll of the administration's attacks and make the convincing case that it's time to put families, not ultra-wealthy donors, first."

Unions launch ad campaign to promote public service and defeat Trump's cuts

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Public-school teachers, who teach 90% of the nation's K-12 students, "support every student, ensuring each student feels safe, seen, and is prepared for the future," says Becky Pringle, president of the NEA, the nation's largest union.

"Meanwhile, Donald Trump, Musk, and their MAGA allies are working to cut Head Start for over 800,000 kids, closing local hospitals so rural families will have to travel long distances to get care, and ballooning class sizes in public schools across America—all so they can enrich themselves."

"We refuse to be silent...Educators will continue organizing, mobilizing, and growing the movement to put families first."

Service Employees President April Verrett concentrated on the threatened Medicaid cuts. She called Medicaid "a lifeline for working people," as it pays for a large share of U.S. health care overall and for most of the care in nursing homes and among the elderly and disabled.

"Congress is trying to rip that lifeline away to fund billions in tax breaks to the ultra-rich. Slashing Medicaid means seniors losing home care and kids missing out on the care they need. Let's call this what it is: Stealing from everyday people and giving handouts to billionaires."

The union is "calling a Code Blue on Medicaid, because lives are on the line."

With labor under siege, Coalition of Black Trade Unionists to hold critical convention

By Cameron Harrison and Dom Shannon

As the Trump administration guts worker protections, [breaks unions](#), undermines the Constitution, and escalates its attacks on oppressed communities, the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists is strategizing on how best to continue in its historic role as a bridge between the labor and civil rights movements.

The members of the CBTU are gearing up for their [54th International Convention](#) later this month in Orlando, which will meet under the theme "Preserving and Building on Our Legacy: Unbought, Unbowed, Unstoppable." Hundreds of Black labor leaders and rank-and-file activists will gather in Florida amid what many [describe](#) as an existential moment for the labor movement.

Michael Joseph, a retiree from UAW Local 600 and president of CBTU Detroit, recently told People's World that the group is part of the "giant fabric of working people fighting for justice and upholding our Constitution."

Joseph said that "CBTU all over the country stands with our brothers and sisters under attack." He argued that it is the labor movement which must stand up for democracy because "the bosses won't." Joseph said, "We have to do it. We are the people, and we are the power."

The CBTU's [origins](#) trace back to September 1972, when more than 1,200 Black union members packed Chicago's LaSalle Hotel. Frustrated by the refusal of the AFL-CIO and its president, George Meany, to take a stand against President Richard Nixon's campaign for re-election—a move widely seen as abandoning Black workers—the coalition's founders declared independence from "business-as-usual" unionism.



The organization's founding leadership was a who's who of Black labor militants: AFSCME's William "Bill" Lucy, United Auto Workers' Nelson "Jack" Edwards, and Distributive Workers of America's Cleveland Robinson, among others. Notably, Black women constituted over a third of the delegates, embedding the struggle for gender equality into CBTU's organization from day one.

[Bill Lucy](#), the first president of the CBTU, worked closely with the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in leading marches by striking workers during the growing Civil Rights Movement. He was also involved in launching the Free South Africa movement, which, after many years of organizing, successfully pushed the U.S. government to eventually impose sanctions on the apartheid regime.

That guiding principle of working-class solidarity manifested dramatically in 1981, when CBTU helped initiate the historic [Solidarity Day March](#). The organization mobilized thousands of Black trade unionists to take part in the giant national demonstration against President Ronald Reagan's firing of striking air traffic controllers and his busting of their union, PATCO.

That solidarity resurfaced again and again, especially at the international level. Throughout the 1980s, as previously mentioned, CBTU played an important role in fighting South African apartheid and building trade union solidarity with South African workers.

In 2024, delegates at CBTU's 53rd convention in Houston [approved a pro-Palestine resolution](#) demanding an immediate Gaza ceasefire and an arms embargo on Israel—a move that placed the group at the vanguard of labor's peace movement.

Lisa Skeete, a CBTU Region 1 delegate, told *People's World* at the time that it's "important for labor to stand up for workers everywhere... We need to recognize that there are workers in Palestine fighting for the same things. We need international solidarity."

CBTU maintains labor's fighting spirit

With the uncertainty that lies ahead, given the Trump administration's attacks on labor and democratic rights, many trade unionists have described the current situation as a "state of emergency" for the labor movement.

The cuts made by Elon Musk's "Department of Government Efficiency" (DOGE) to public agencies like the National Labor Relations Board and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau—in service of weakening labor and consumer protections to pay for massive tax cuts for the capitalist class—along with the attacks on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) and the increase in anti-immigrant rhetoric and deportations all pose a threat to the working-class unity that CBTU has been building for the past half-century.

Yet veterans of the movement remain defiant and optimistic. CBTU International President Terry Melvin at the organization's [52nd Convention](#) in New Orleans, said: "They told us in 1972 that we wouldn't survive for five years...and we were not supposed to be relevant, viable, and still powerful independent voice of Black workers in 2023."

"But here we stand, dammit. I'm going to tell all those who are listening... I'm going to stand up for what is just, for what is right."

"We are told Black resistance is a threat to the white privilege or comfort zone. Well, so be it. Not my problem," said Melvin.

"We are not content to witness Black people not breathing, or not being allowed to learn about our ancestors' bravery or achievements. Or not have a seat at the table where our lives and future are at stake," he said. "No, Sisters and Brothers, CBTU don't roll like that."

Black workers have been the backbone of some of the U.S. labor movement's fiercest battles historically, something those beyond CBTU's ranks recognize as well.

Seth Anderson-Oberman, the first Black executive director of Reclaim Philadelphia and former organizer with the Service Employees (SEIU), made that point in a discussion with *People's World*.

"From defeating the Confederate Army to end slavery, to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, to the 1968 Memphis sanitation strike, to today's battles in education, healthcare, and service work," he said. "These weren't just labor fights—they were fights for dignity, for democracy, and for survival."

He added: "In this moment, when Trumpism threatens to strip away hard-won rights, dismantle unions, and roll back civil liberties, Black labor is once again leading the charge. Not just in resisting authoritarianism, but in building a new vision rooted in solidarity, equity, and working-class power."

Charges against Baraka defeated, but now Trump's targeting Rep. LaMonica McIver

By Cameron Orr

NEWARK, N.J.—In a major victory for democracy, the Trump administration has been forced to drop its trespassing charges against Newark Mayor Ras Baraka. Intended to chill resistance, the charges were leveled against the mayor following his illegal [arrest](#) as punishment for attempting to inspect Delaney Hall, the largest immigrant detention center on the east coast.

On Friday, May 9, Baraka and three local Congressional representatives—Reps. LaMonica McIver, Bonnie Watson Coleman, and Rob Menendez, Jr.—attempted to enter the facility to check its operations.

With the case against Baraka dropped, Trump has pivoted to filing charges against McIver, a Black woman, for "assaulting" the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agent who arrested Baraka. As members of Congress, she and the other representatives have the authority to inspect federal facilities or those under contract to the federal government unannounced.

McIver was part of the group that surrounded Baraka at the time of his arrest, placing herself between him and the ICE agent.

"We were fulfilling our lawful oversight responsibilities, as members of Congress have done many times before, and our visit should have been peaceful and short," McIver said in a [response](#) to the accusations by Trump officials.

"The charges against me are purely political—they mischaracterize and distort my actions, and are meant to criminalize and deter legislative oversight.... I am thankful for the outpouring of support I have received and I look forward to the truth being laid out clearly in court."



Delaney Hall, the facility Baraka, McIver, and the others were inspecting, is a private, for-profit immigrant detention center owned by the multi-billion-dollar GEO Group.

The private prison corporation began operations illegally without a certificate of occupancy from the City of Newark and in violation of a statewide ban against private detention centers. The latter measure is currently being [challenged](#) in the courts.

GEO Group was the first big business to [max out](#) on financial contributions to Trump's election campaign in 2024. It has more than [doubled](#) its market value in the past year.

Baraka, who is also a leading candidate in the June 10 Democratic Party primary election for governor of New Jersey, released [videos](#) showing himself, McIver, and the other members of Congress being calmly admitted into the facility at the start of their visit and then being led out of the facility a short time later.

Afterward, an ICE agent appeared, who, after receiving a phone call, immediately initiated a confrontation with the group. The agent then arrested the mayor, who was already on public property by that time.

ICE does not have the authority to arrest people for trespassing; only police do. Neither does ICE have legal standing to confine people for alleged trespassing.

Leaders and grassroots activists from labor, immigrant rights, and pro-democracy organizations quickly gathered on the scene, demanding that ICE “Free Mayor Baraka.” He was released later that evening.

On Thursday, May 15, people’s organizations again came out to defend the mayor, this time for his pre-trial hearing at the Newark federal courthouse. The crowd booed as Trump’s U.S. Attorney for New Jersey, Alina Habba, walked into the courthouse.

Following the hearing, Baraka addressed the rally.

“We are fighting about a document that was created hundreds of years ago; it’s called the Constitution of the United States, which gives everybody due process, no matter who you are. ... whether you’re documented or not,” the mayor [said](#).

“These people are serious,” Baraka warned at a Jersey City meet-and-greet the following day. The house party with the gubernatorial candidate was hosted by the Working Families Party. “They are willing to do as much as they can to undermine our ability to practice democracy. The question is, ‘What are we willing to do?’”

Mayors, members of Congress, and elected officials across the country issued statements denouncing the administration’s attempt to subvert the rule of law.

Both U.S. Senators from New Jersey, Andy Kim and Cory Booker, condemned the moves against Baraka, [as did](#) the state’s current governor, attorney general, and the five other Democratic candidates for governor.

Kim [called](#) the arrest “shocking” and said he quickly telephoned ICE leadership and the DHS Secretary to oppose it. Booker said it was “disturbing” and “indicative of tactics that are undermining the safety and security of our communities.”

Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson—also a [target](#) of Trump’s DOJ for hiring Black city officials—[said](#) Baraka’s arrest was “designed to intimidate local leaders from upholding their duty,” calling the Newark leader a personal friend and inspiration. “We are in solidarity with Mayor Baraka. His courage in the face of injustice reminds us all of what is at stake.”

In the face of mass popular, official, and legal resistance, the U.S. administration abandoned the case. Then, days later, it initiated the effort to target McIver.

“This is part of a distraction ... from the dark-of-night attack on healthcare and supplemental nutrition,” House Democratic Caucus Chair Pete Aguilar [commented](#) on Tuesday.

Make the Road N.J. Director Nedra Morsey said in a statement [released](#) Monday night, “The U.S. Justice Department is working to defend billion-dollar corporations responsible for separating our families and destroying communities.... With this case, Alina Habba is using her position of power to target people of color.”

Identifying the attacks as a “dangerous escalation meant to silence, control, and intimidate,” immigrant rights advocates are calling on elected officials across the country not to cower in submission but rather to follow the example set by Baraka and the three N.J. members of Congress.

“There’s a weaponization of the Department of Justice, the U.S. Attorney’s office, to target individuals because they disagree with them,” Baraka recently [commented](#) in a conversation with Chris Hayes on MSNBC. “Unfortunately, we have to now organize around what’s going on with the Congresswoman who is the representative of my District, Congressional District 10.”

People’s World also issued a call to action this past weekend: [TELL CONGRESS: Stop attempts to silence elected officials!](#)

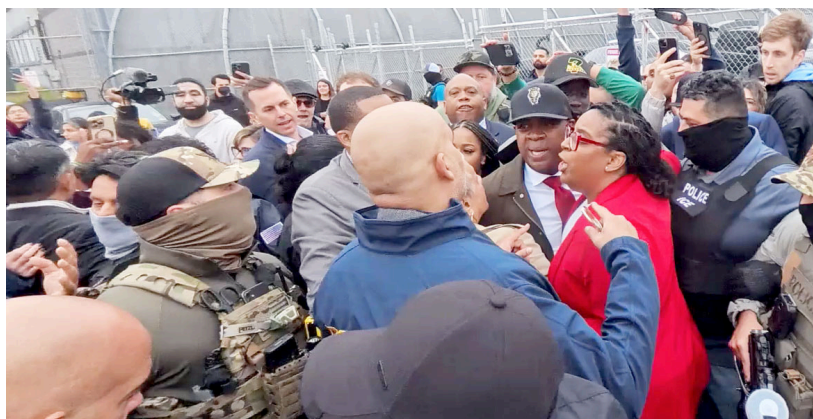
TELL CONGRESS: Stop attempts to silence elected officials!

By People’s World

Tell Congress: [Stop attempts to silence elected officials!](#)

[Call and write](#) or visit your members of Congress to demand they stop the Trump regime’s arrest of mayors, intimidation and jailing of judges, and threats to lock up members of Congress for doing their jobs. Who will be next?

The Constitution and federal law give members of Congress the right to visit federal facilities unannounced. Demand the identities of masked ICE agents who accosted Congress members be made public. Demand accountability for this illegal and shameful attempt to silence elected representatives! Charge those criminally responsible!



Call 202-225-3121 today and ask for your Senators and your Representative! [Click here to send them a letter.](#)

Please [share](#) with your coworkers, friends, family, and neighbors.

As Republicans ram through Trump's Medicaid cuts, critics predict: 'People will die'

By Mark Gruenberg

WASHINGTON—By just a single vote early Thursday morning, the MAGA-dominated House passed Trump's "big beautiful bill" that slashes taxes for the wealthy and obliterates benefits for everyone else. Every Democrat, along with two Republican defectors and a single GOP abstainer, refused to give their support to the measure, leaving it to pass 215 to 214. It now heads to the Senate, and the White House is applying maximum pressure to force it through quickly.

But on the eve of the House vote, at least one of the progressive lawmakers and low-income workers who spoke at an outdoor press conference had a stark message for Congress about Trump's bill and its \$715 billion in Medicaid cuts:

People will die. And many, if not most, will be people of color.

One by one, people paraded to the microphone at a sun-splashed outdoor press conference on May 20 to denounce the legislation and advocate mass mobilization against it. Inside, earlier in the day, Trump apparently convinced wrangling House Republicans to bury their differences and unite behind his signature legislative package.

The measure features the Medicaid cuts along with a 10-year, \$4.5 billion tax cut for the rich and corporations. One speaker, Rep. Spencer Lee, D-Pa., put the total corporate giveaways at up to \$7 trillion. It also curbs aid to schools with poor kids, ends summer meal programs, and cuts supplemental food aid, called SNAP, for low-income pregnant people, newborns, and toddlers.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office released an analysis of the bill, admitting that "in general, resources would decrease for households in the lowest decile (tenth) of the income distribution, whereas resources would increase for households in the highest decile."

"People tell me they're losing their loved ones" because health care clinics are already closing, declared Rep. Rashida Tlaib, D-Mich. The closing clinics, starved for funds, are in majority-Black and brown areas of her Detroit-based district. Tlaib attributes a deliberate motive to the GOP bill's Medicaid cuts. She predicts they'll force more clinic closures.

"They don't want to see these children reach the age of 1."

Organized labor is united against the bill, too. The nation's four biggest unions launched a radio [ad campaign and a door-to-door blitz](#) in 17 "swing" congressional districts in an attempt to convince enough Republican lawmakers to oppose the measure to defeat it. That effort, unfortunately, came up short.

"The House Republicans' bill is a budget for the billionaires, plain and simple. While this leadership has tried to claim they're the party of workers, they are pushing forward a bill that will cause historic levels of harm to working families," AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler said on May 20.

"It will throw millions of children, seniors, and families off their health care, gut funding for nursing homes and rural hospitals with devastating effects for care jobs, cut investments in jobs of the future, and push food assistance out of reach—all to give the rich and big corporations another tax cut.

"Provisions buried in this bill will take yet another swing at federal workers.... The bill also overrides state artificial intelligence rules that protect workers' jobs, privacy, and civil rights, and grinds health and safety rulemaking to a halt. Any member of Congress who votes for this bill is voting to betray the working people of this country—and we won't forget it."

According to climate policy experts, the bill will also crush the clean energy sector of the economy, boosting carbon emissions and costing as many as 830,000 jobs.

Speakers at the press conference, co-led by the Color of Change organization, were blunter than Shuler.

"The Republicans are trying to cut Medicaid and SNAP so they can have the tax privileges of Elon Musk and Donald Trump," said Rep. Ayanna Pressley, D-Mass., who convened the session.

Neither Trump nor Musk paid income taxes the last three years, another speaker said. They used deductions and tax breaks available to the rich, but no one else, to escape their fair share.

"They've targeted babies who need formula and Black and brown people," added Pressley, whose Boston-centered district has a high proportion of Medicaid and SNAP recipients. "Twenty percent" of African-American families in her district need SNAP, she said, compared to 7% of whites.

"They are taking away our opportunity to survive," said Pressley. The movement, she added, sees "the extent they are willing to go to accelerate this neo-segregationist agenda. Cruelty is the point, and Donald Trump is a dictator. The only way to beat a dictator is through defiance."

"Sixty-four years ago, my mother was on public assistance, a single mom trying to raise three kids," said David Nolley of Baltimore. SNAP provided food and Medicaid provided care, and now the kids—himself included—are grown and either working in or retired from good jobs. "This is not a hand up or a hand out, but an investment in America" and its future, such as his grandchildren, Nolley said.

"My mother paid into Medicaid, I paid into Medicaid, and my working children are paying into Medicaid," said Angela Surratt. "This is my money, and I'm not going to let billionaires take it."

The lawmakers and Color of Change focused on mass mobilization, using data, by congressional district, to drive home the massive negative impact of the measure on workers and the poor. Also addressed was the issue of insider lobbying.

The workers who spoke were just as direct.

"When Republicans line their pockets, it's about who gets hurt," said Pennsylvania's Rep. Lee. Rep. Chantelle Brown, D-Ohio, pointed out exactly who some of those are who will be hurt: "People who have been locked out for decades by structural racism."

And Lakeesha Ashley, who came to the press conference straight from her graduation with a master's degree in social work from the University of Maryland, had a stark warning for everyone who wasn't at the televised session outside the Capitol. "The only way we'll beat this is to put a human face on what is being taken away," said Ashley, a working mother who was still wearing her cap and gown.

"If they can do this to us in the dark of night," she said of the massive reconciliation bill, its Medicaid and SNAP cuts, and its tax cut for the rich, "then what will they do to everybody in daylight?"

Tlaib signaled that there is no course other than continued resistance, saying, "We will not stop fighting to block this budget from being signed into law."

DOJ opens civil rights investigation after Chicago mayor celebrates office's diversity

By Brandon Chew

The Department of Justice launched an investigation into Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson's hiring practices, just one day after he celebrated his office's diversity during a media event.

In [a letter](#) sent to Mayor Johnson on Monday, the DOJ said it would open an investigation into whether his office has violated Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits race-based discrimination. The letter references comments Johnson made during [an interview](#) at a south side church Sunday, in which he touted his administration as the "most diverse" in Chicago's history.

"In your remarks made yesterday at the Apostolic Church of God in Woodlawn, you 'highlight[ed] the number of Black officials in [your] administration,'" wrote Assistant Attorney General Harmeet K. Dhillon. "You then went on to list each of these individuals, emphasizing their race."

The letter specifically highlights comments Johnson made, noting that Chicago's budget director, chief operations officer, and other high-level officials are Black.

"Considering these remarks, I have authorized an investigation to determine whether the City of Chicago is engaged in a pattern or practice of discrimination as set forth above," Dhillon wrote. "If these kind of hiring decisions are being made for top-level positions in your administration, then it begs the question whether such decisions are also being made for lower-level positions."

The investigation comes as President Donald Trump's administration seeks to roll back diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives within the federal government and at institutions across the country. It also comes as Trump's administration is ramping up arrests of elected officials, including Milwaukee County Judge Hannah Dugan, Newark Mayor Ras Baraka, and U.S. House Rep. LaMonica McIver (D-NJ).

Dugan was [arrested and charged](#) with allegedly helping a man evade immigration agents. Baraka and [McIver](#) were arrested and charged after they visited an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) facility in New Jersey. A federal trespassing charge against Baraka [was dropped](#) on Monday, while McIver [is charged](#) with assaulting law enforcement.

On Tuesday, Johnson said his office would not be "intimidated by the tyranny from the federal government."

"My administration reflects the country, reflects the city. His administration reflects the country club," Johnson said of Trump, as [reported by](#) WTTW.



The mayor's office workforce is 30% white, 34% Black, 24% Latino, and 7% Asian American, according to [data](#) released by the mayor's office on Monday.

Johnson said Trump's administration is "more interested in creating division" in the U.S. than inclusivity.

"This administration has obviously demonstrated a great deal of animus and disdain towards what is sensible about our country, that's the diversity of our country," Johnson said. "I'm very proud of the fact that we have one of the most, if not the most, diverse administrations in the history of Chicago."

The Chicago Teachers Union also issued [a statement](#) Tuesday condemning the investigation and comparing it to Jim Crow-era policies.

"The families Black Chicagoans come from didn't flee the Jim Crow South to have a White House reinstate it in 2025 nationwide," wrote CTU Local 1 President Stacy Davis Gates.

Gates said the people of Chicago should be proud of Johnson's administration for "crafting a representative government instead of one built on patronage or corporate influence" and added that "those who attack Black excellence do so because they pale in comparison."

"Jim Crow and the Klan ended our country's first Reconstruction. Reagan and the backlash reacted to the second," Gates stated. "Our generation is being tasked with leading the third reconstruction, and Donald Trump and his cronies will not be the ones to turn us back now."

Former Israeli general says government is 'killing children as a hobby' in Gaza

By Zo Haderekh

TEL AVIV—Politicians from across the Zionist party spectrum in Israel—both from the far-right coalition and the opposition—condemn Yair Golan, leader of the Democrats, the country's main social democratic party, on Tuesday, May 20, after he declared that Israel was killing children in Gaza "as a hobby."

Golan's latest condemnation of the Netanyahu government's policy came as the U.N. warned of the danger of mass starvation in Gaza and the foreign ministers of 22 countries—including France, Germany, Britain, Canada, Japan, and Australia—jointly demanded Israel stop the war.

"This government is full of vengeful types with no morals and no ability to run a country in a time of crisis. This endangers our existence," Golan declared, calling for the far-right government to be replaced "as soon as possible, so that the war can come to an end."

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu slammed Golan, calling his statement "wild incitement" and a "blood libel." He claimed the Israeli Defense Forces are "the most moral army in the world" and that his soldiers "are fighting in a war for our existence."

Rather than criticize the actions of his troops, however, the prime minister concentrated his fire on Golan, who he said "encourages [soldiers'] refusal to serve and compared Israel to Nazis while he was still in the military." He accused the Democrats' reaching "a new low when he claimed Israel is 'killing babies as a hobby.'"

Golan's comments were supported only by Knesset members in the Hadash-Ta'al list, which includes the Communist Party of Israel. They praised his criticism of the occupation army and the war crimes committed by Israel in Gaza.

Hadash chairman Member of Knesset Ayman Odeh said it was only Golan's comments that "managed to shock the hollow opposition leaders, not the unimaginable killing of 20,000 children, not the siege, not the starvation, not the destruction of homes, schools, and hospitals."

Since October 7, 2023, the Israeli occupation forces' offensive on the Gaza Strip has resulted in the killing of at least 53,486 Palestinian civilians, the majority of whom were children and women, with nearly 121,398 reported injured.

Roque Dalton: poética de la ternuridad

By Telesur

No es venganza lo que quiero, sino dejar una flor donde escondieron los huesos de un héroe de El Salvador.
Silvio Rodríguez

Definir la ternura es un desafío porque la misma es simbólica y se vincula a acciones o hechos de lo cotidiano. Podríamos decir que es un afecto pleno, incondicional y libre de apego hacia una persona, sea en singular o plural (humana, animal o vegetal), aunque también se contempla lo condicional cuando se trata de una madre hacia su hijo, donde la vulnerabilidad y la fragilidad del infante conmueve a su progenitora y siente que lo primordial es la protección de ese ser.

En este sentido, podemos afirmar que los versos del salvadoreño Roque Dalton (1935-1975), son una poética de la ternuridad. Formado en la lucha política, su causa contra la injusticia y la opresión que signaba a su pueblo lo llevó a vivir con intensidad, pasión y desprendimiento. Quienes se encargaron de su asesinato, poco o nada sabían que las palabras del "Unicornio azul" son inmortales, inmarcesibles, donde la valentía y el denuedo están a la par de su sensibilidad social:

A quienes digan que nuestro amor es extraordinario porque ha nacido de circunstancias extraordinarias díles que precisamente luchamos para que un amor como el nuestro (amor entre compañeros de combate) llegue a ser en El Salvador el amor más común y corriente casi el único.

Precisamente, a Roque le tocó una realidad país llena de convulsión, riñas intestinas, flagrantes contradicciones y escaramuzas contra patrocinantes de la crueldad. Bajo el escenario de la confrontación bélica y punzante, los poderes hegemónicos se ensañaron contra aquello que se apellidaba rebelde, ardían en odio contra el bienestar de lo colectivo, y el poeta, consciente de su principio, plasmó con letras el sentir de los corazones combatientes:

El Salvador será un lindo y (sin exagerar) serio país cuando la clase obrera y el campesinado lo fertilicen lo peinen lo talqueen le curen la goma histórica lo adecten lo reconstituyan y lo echen a andar.

El problema es que hoy El Salvador tiene como mil puyas y cien mil desniveles quinimil callos y algunas postemillas cánceres cáscaras caspas shuquedades llagas fracturas tembladeras tufos.

Habrà que darle un poco de machete lija torno aguarrás penicilina baños de asiento besos pólvora.

A pesar de la tétrica situación, en medio de los horrores, la persecución constante y el asedio de cercanos detractores, Dalton encontró un camino para el querer y el abrazo por medio de la estrofa, cariños rubricados en lúdicas metáforas, antídotos contra la maldad de los comisarios del terror:

Mi amor por ti es mucho más que amor, es algo que se amasa día a día, es proyectar tu sombra junto a mí, hacer con ellas una sola vida.

Las miradas que ya al conocer se hablan entre sí en la distancia, no hacen falta palabras...qué más da! si ya interpretamos lo que claman.

Los mil detalles que tienes tú por mí, mi descaro al advertir en lo que fallas, el sincerarme cuando hay que decir lo que sinceramente no se calla.

Mi amor por ti es mucho más que amor. Mi amor por ti es como una nevada, un torrente de luz, algo tan bello... como ponerse el sol o amanecer el alba.

La gran virtud de la obra daltoniana, es que su vigencia es una fortaleza incólume para estos días donde bulle el desparpajo y se posiciona el algoritmo de los canallas. Roque Dalton nos canta la melodía necesaria, esa que nos permite mantener el ánimo por el existir y donde renacen nuestras ansias del nuevo horizonte, la alteridad de los que anhelan otro amanecer posible:

Mi poesía es como la siempreviva paga su precio a la existencia en término de asperidad.

Entre las piedras y el fuego, frente a la tempestad
o en medio de la sequía, por sobre las banderas del odio necesario y el hermosísimo empuje de la cólera, la flor de mi poesía busca siempre el aire, el humus, la savia, el sol, de la ternura.

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