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VOICE OF REVOLUTION

Publication of the U.S. Marxist-Leninist Organization

April 6, 2018

USMLO 3942 N. Central Ave, Chicago, IL 60634



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Students Demand Change (photos) : 1-6

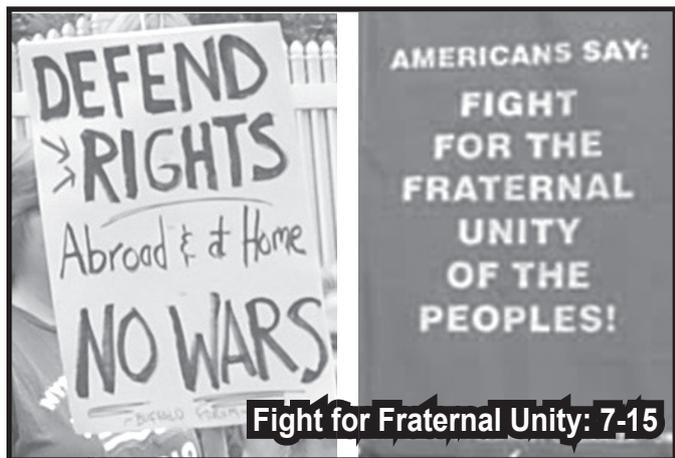
MORE THAN 1 MILLION DEMONSTRATE

Students Determined to Be Heard and Win Change in Their Favor

Across the country in every state, more than one million people, mostly students, demonstrated March 24 to defend their rights and demand an end to violence in their schools and communi-

ties. Everywhere, students and teachers rejected plans for more police measures, such as armed police in the schools, more cameras, fences and metal detectors. Common

Students Demand Change • 3



Fight for Fraternal Unity: 7-15

No Troops on the Border! Fight for the Fraternal Unity of the Peoples

President Trump has ordered the Pentagon and Department of Homeland Security to draw up plans to send National Guards and “any military personnel” required to “secure the southern border.” The plan is to be submitted within thirty

days (May 4) and as Trump put it, his administration “has no choice but to act.”

The plan for troops is taking place at the same time as numerous other police measures are being put in place. These

Fight for Fraternal Unity • 7

MASSIVE MARCH ORGANIZED

Salute Palestinian Resistance! Defend the Right of Return

On March 30, Palestinian Land Day was marked by a Mass March of Return, with tens of thousands of Palestinians converging in Gaza along the border with Israel. The March is the start of 46 days of action by Palestinians from Gaza and the West Bank.

The actions are to culminate on May 14 to mark the 70th anniversary of Al Nakba (the catastrophe). Al Nakba honors the struggle against the brutal and genocidal displacement of the Palestinian people that accompanied the creation of

Salute Palestinian Resistance • 15



Salute Palestinian Resistance : 15-18

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Publication of the U.S. Marxist-Leninist Organization
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COUNSELORS NOT COPS! BOOKS NOT BULLETS



I • Students Demand Change

slogans reflecting this stand included *Art Not Artillery; Books not Bullets; Arm Teachers With Resources Not Guns; I Am a Teacher Not a Sharp Shooter; No Guns, Just Peace*. Young women and girls made up the majority of the protesters and their determined spirit to win change imbued the many actions.

Students also expressed opposition to police violence. Tribute was paid to those killed by police alongside the students and others who have died in various shootings. Demonstrations saw protesters with their hands up, using the *Hands Up, Don't Shoot* motion to show their rejection of police killing of unarmed youth. The action emerged from the struggle in Ferguson and also symbolizes the demand for an end to racist police violence, especially against African American youth.

Protesters took their stand against the general militarization of schools and communities. Stoneman Douglas in Parkland, for example, is considering building a sniper tower and requiring all students to have see-through backpacks. Parkland students, who initiated the demonstrations, are publicly rejecting such measures and demanding more counselors, full funding, and no armed police or teachers in the schools.

Use of force and violence do not solve the social problems faced by the youth. As the demonstrations indicate, they are demanding a bright and safe future. *Demilitarize Police for Peace in Our Streets; Automatic Weapons Are Only for Murdering People; Melt All the Guns; Don't Kill Our Future; No Guns, No*

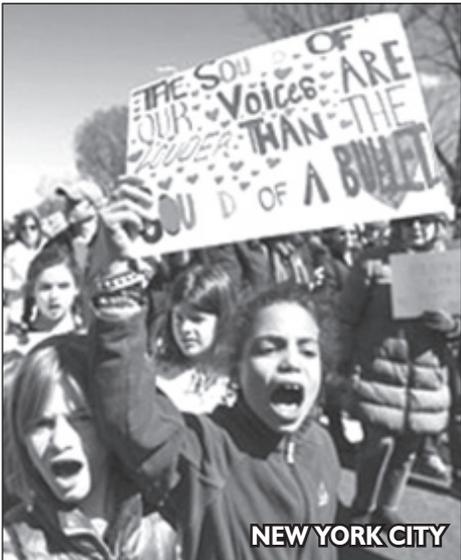
Nukes; No Weapons of War were among the signs expressing the demand to end violence both at home and abroad. There is growing consciousness of the connection between police violence and use of force at home with military violence abroad.

The students are contending with great efforts to narrow their fight and keep it contained to appealing to politicians for new legislation. Various politicians joined the demonstrations in an effort to take control — though many of them are responsible for police violence and criminalizing youth. New York politicians for example are notorious for defending Stop and Frisk measures against the youth, mass incarceration, police killings and police impunity. Both New York and California are considering measures to have armed police in every public school. The students are not only rejecting such measures, they are insisting that their voice is heard and their solutions utilized.

Security lies not with the politicians and police measures, but with continued organizing for rights. As signs put it: "If the opposite of pro is con, then the opposite of *Progress* is *Congress*." And "We Are Students, We Are Change." Keeping matters in their own hands, students are going forward with more walkouts and demonstrations planned for April 20. Determined to win change in their interests, students are focusing on defending their rights and fighting for a bright future.

All Out for April 20 Walk Outs!

DEMONSTRATIONS NATIONWIDE



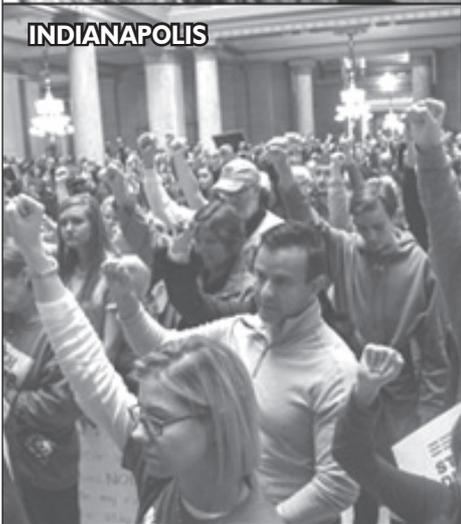
NEW YORK CITY



MILWAUKEE



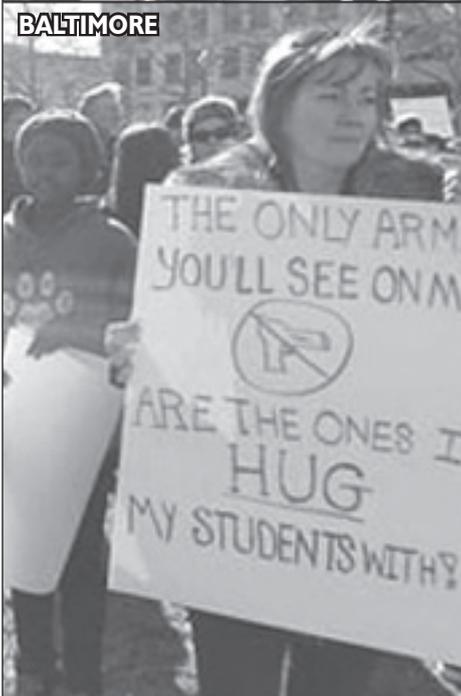
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND



INDIANAPOLIS



BOSTON



BALTIMORE



CINCINNATI

COUNSELORS NOT COPS! BOOKS NOT BULLETS



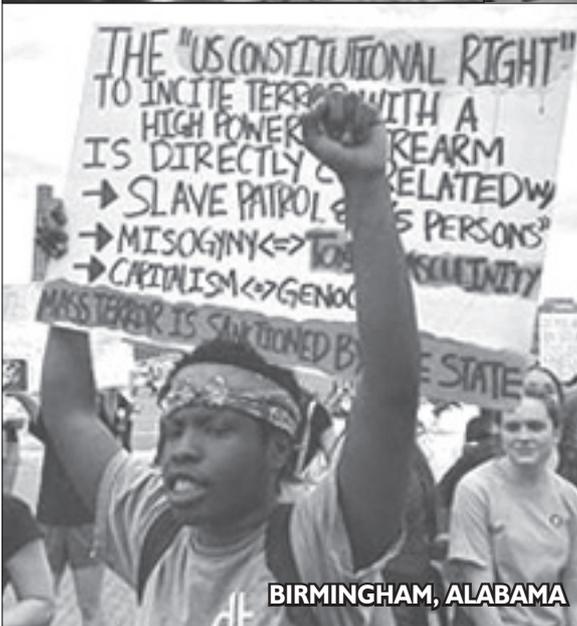
BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY



NEW ORLEANS



CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA



BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA



PARKLAND, FLORIDA



CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA



ATHENS, GEORGIA

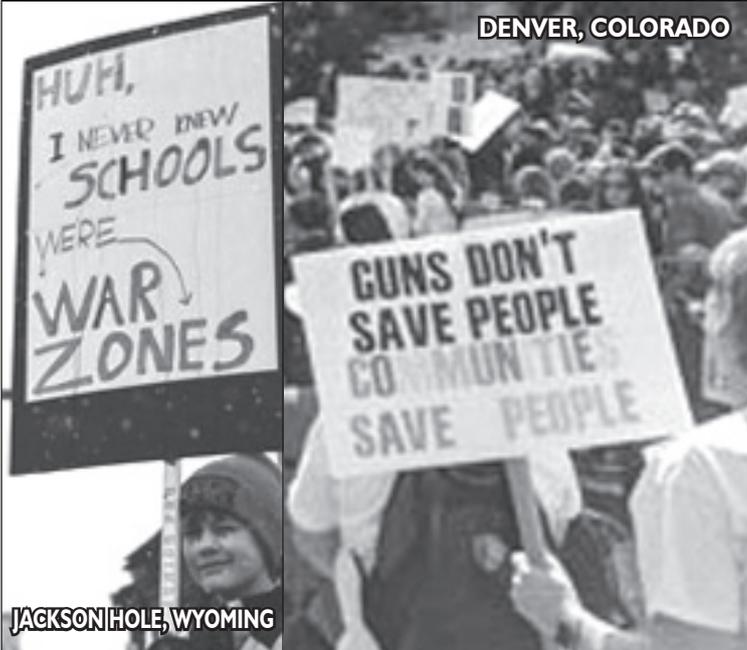
DEMONSTRATIONS NATIONWIDE

LOS ANGELES



DENVER, COLORADO

LOS VEGAS, NEVADA



JACKSON HOLE, WYOMING



BISMARK, NORTH DAKOTA

OKLAHOMA CITY

PHOENIX, ARIZONA



I • Fight for Fraternal Unity of the Peoples

include government demands for five years of social media records for people, including students, applying for visas; increased raids and detentions against workers and activists; adding a citizenship question to the census; numerous illegal searches and arrests by Border Patrol, such as on Greyhound buses; forcing immigration judges to meet quotas to qualify for a “satisfactory” performance rating; and a federal lawsuit against California opposing her sanctuary laws. All are indications that the rulers have in place a government of police powers, where rule of law has been eliminated and violence and impunity to use force and impose arbitrary actions are imposed.

The plans for troops and further militarization of the border are also taking place at a time when Trump has made changes to his cabinet and advisors. John Bolton, a notorious warmonger, has been given position as national security advisor, which requires no Senate approval. Mike Pompeo, of the CIA, has been nominated for Secretary of State, which does require Senate approval. He too has promoted war against Iran and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK).

Why then the move toward Mexico? One of the problems the presidency contends with and needs to solve, as part of preserving the Union, is uniting the massive military bureaucracy. So far Trump has not succeeded on this front, a problem that contributes to heightened conflicts among the rulers. This is evident in the open conflicts expressed among the various military forces as to how to proceed internationally. And evident in the need for the police measures against the people outlined above. Bolton, a civilian, is evidently considered someone to unite the bureaucracy. But it appears instead he will be one more block to such unity.

Generally the military now considers China and Russia the greatest threats, as stated in the Pentagon’s Defense Strategy and by Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Joseph Dunford. But it is also the case that the military is not at all agreed on launching more wars now if they involve China or Russia. Attacking the DPRK or Iran would do just that. So while previously Paul Wolfowitz, a senior Bush advisor, made clear that the war against Iraq was done not to eliminate weapons of mass destruction but to unite the military bureaucracy, today plans for more wars are dividing the bureaucracy.

Trump then, has now turned to targeting Mexico and threatening war there. The U.S. has long considered Mexico and all of the Americas as belonging to the U.S. Considerable efforts have been made to fully integrate Mexico and Canada under U.S. command, including their military forces. Current negotiations over the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) are part of furthering this integration. Clearly, any battle against Mexico is



also one the U.S. thinks it can win.

It should be remembered though that for the U.S., there is a relationship between war with Mexico and civil war in the U.S. The imperialist war against Mexico from 1846-48 occurred at a time that civil war was brewing in the U.S. The seizing of Mexican territory, including what are now Texas and California, were also related to preserving the institution of slavery. Texas became a slave state, California did not. It is also the case that war with Mexico did not prevent civil war in the U.S. in 1860.

The issue is that there is an interrelationship between civil war and imperialist war. The U.S. perhaps thinks that targeting Mexico is a means to unite the military bureaucracy and prevent civil war at home.

But if history is any indicator, that is not the case. Present conditions are showing that the intensifying conflicts among the rulers are getting closer to the outbreak of open violence. And that the people of Mexico, like those in the U.S. are also rejecting the old and demanding change. The presidential elections now underway in Mexico are no doubt another source of fear for the rulers as their candidate is failing. Troops at the border are a means to secure U.S. interests and repress resistance both sides of the border if manipulation of the Mexican elections in July fails.

The way out of the situation is not more war. It is by forging a new direction of political empowerment of the people. What is needed is an Anti-War Government that brings *All U.S. Troops Home Now* and establishes fraternal relations with the peoples, including uniting the workers of Mexico, Canada and the U.S. What is needed is a political process that ensures such a government can be achieved.

The rulers clearly have no solutions and indeed daily show themselves to be unfit to rule. Supporting the growing resistance by defending the rights of all abroad and at home is needed. Now is the time to organize for political empowerment of the people, for Anti-War governments that outlaw aggressive wars and fight for the fraternal unity of the peoples.



Trump Memorandum to Send Troops to Border with Mexico

President Trump has mandated that the Pentagon work together with Homeland Security (DHS) to develop a plan to send National Guards to the border with Mexico. The plan is to be submitted within 30 days. It also allows for “any military personnel” to be used. Given the instructions in the memorandum, it appears that the Guardsmen or other military personnel may well be given authority to detain or even arrest people, something the military commonly cannot do. At the very least it greatly increases militarization of the border and the potential for direct military intervention against Mexico.

The April 4 memorandum states in part:

“Section 1: The Secretary of Defense shall support the Department of Homeland Security in securing the southern border and taking other necessary actions to stop the flow of deadly drugs and other contraband, gang members and other criminals, and illegal aliens into this country. The Secretary of Defense shall request use of National Guard personnel to assist in fulfilling this mission, pursuant to section 502 of title 32, United States Code, and may use such other authorities as appropriate and consistent with applicable law.

“Sec. 2. The Secretary of Homeland Security shall work with the Secretary of Defense to provide any training or instruction necessary for any military personnel, including National Guard units, to effectively support Department of Homeland Security personnel in securing the border.

“Sec. 3. The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Homeland Security, in coordination with the Attorney General, are directed to determine what other resources and actions are necessary to protect our southern border, including Federal law enforcement and United States military resources. Within 30 days of the date of this memorandum, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Homeland Security, in coordination with the Attorney General, shall submit to the President a report detailing



Organizers from the U.S. and Mexico demonstrate at the border in Nogales, Texas, demanding justice and expressing the unity of the peoples

their findings and an action plan, including specific recommendations as to any other executive authorities that should be invoked to defend the border and security of the United States.”

Trump emphasized that, “The lawlessness that continues at our southern border is fundamentally incompatible with the safety, security, and sovereignty of the American people. My Administration has no choice but to act.” He provided no information about this “lawlessness,” and certainly no mention of the many crimes and human rights violations committed by Border Patrol agents and the existing detention camps for refugees. In his tweets he specifically targeted a caravan of refugees of about 1200 people, mainly from Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala, seeking asylum in the U.S. The caravan occurs every year around Easter and this year is particularly large given the violence, anarchy and lawlessness unleashed by U.S. actions in the three countries.

QUESTION ON CITIZENSHIP ADDED

Census Again Being Used to Block Political Participation

The Trump administration has decided to ask people about their citizenship in the 2020 census. The Commerce Department made the announcement March 26, just days before the April 1 deadline to add questions. Normally new questions are vetted and tested for a considerable period to assess their quality and impact, but in this case it is being added with no testing.

The census is mandated by the Constitution every ten years to count every person. It has regularly been used as a political mechanism to block various parts of the population from political participation. In this case, the citizenship question is designed to

target the many millions of undocumented people from countries worldwide, many of them living here for decades and an integral part of the working class. It also means many people who are citizens — and eligible to vote — will likely also not be counted out of concern for protecting undocumented family members.

One main impact of adding the question is for the rapidly growing Latino population to be undercounted. This includes the many youth who are active and taking their stand for rights. It is a way for government to say, we will not protect your rights because, according to the census, you do not exist. More

NO TROOPS ON THE BORDER

generally, for states where Latinos are in large numbers, like California, New York and Illinois, this could mean losing seats in the House of Representatives, as they are based on size of population.

Efforts to divide the polity are also done through redistricting — the redrawing of voting districts in each state. Redistricting is done based on the census. It is regularly used to divide the polity and dissipate the impact of sectors of the population, such as African Americans, or in this case Mexican Americans and Latinos more generally.

It is also the case that the census and redistricting are used to give advantage to particular factions among the rulers that are all vying for political power. In addition to determining representation, the census also determines how billions of dollars in federal funds are used at the state and local level.

The dividing of the federal budget in the past has been one means to sort out conflicts among the rulers. But at this time, with Congressional dysfunction and power more concentrated in the presidency, such old arrangements do not function. Indeed, adding the citizenship question has triggered even more intense conflict. This is evident in the twelve states that have filed suit to prevent its addition. California filed a lawsuit late on the night of March 26. New York is leading a multi-state lawsuit to stop the move. Officials for much of the northeast region, Connecticut, Delaware, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island, as well as Illinois, New Mexico, Oregon, and Washington State said they would join the effort.

In this manner the civil war scenario stemming from the intense conflicts among the warring factions within the ruling class as they vie for political power keeps moving closer to open violence. These conflicts were not sorted out by the presidential election, nor by Congress and its budget deliberations. We continue to witness conflicts within the presidency and between the executive, various state officials, and the military all becoming sharper, more frequent and generating more instability. Fear is growing among all these contending forces that the festering civil war, which always exists behind the scenes, will break out into open violence.

It is no accident that shortly after Trump announced the addition of the citizenship question, he said he would send federal troops to the border with Mexico. He perhaps thinks he can lessen the conflicts by focusing attention abroad, on a battle the U.S. thinks it can win. But every indication is that this measure too has



only deepened the conflicts, especially with California, and threatens direct confrontations between



the military and local and state police forces.

Census Information Used for Racist Government Profiling

While the government claims the information gathered with the census will not be utilized for profiling, there is little basis to think this is true. The many youth who filed for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status, for example, were told the same thing. Yet now they face deportation and the government knows who they are and where to find them.

The census has long been used as a mechanism for government profiling and targeting of minority populations so as to exclude them from political participation. This was true of enslaved Africans, with the Constitution specifically enshrining slavery and counting enslaved Africans not as human beings but as “three fifths” of a person. Later court cases affirmed this, declaring enslaved Africans were not persons and had no rights. In addition, information gathered in the census was used to identify people of Japanese descent who were then robbed of their personal property and put in concentration camps during World War II.

Given the various other measures by the federal government to develop a single, federal database, there is little doubt that census information will be used for this purpose and to further control and regiment the population as a whole, while also striving to divide the polity.

The current contention over the census is one more means for the rulers to strive to divide the polity and encourage people to line up behind one or the other of the factions. This is especially true given the rising resistance among the youth and teachers across the country. The effort is to embroil people in these battles among the rulers and divert and blocks the people from strengthening their own forces and outlook. The current system of representation does not represent the people and their interests, which is evident from use of the census and redistricting against the people. Looking at the issue from the perspective of the rulers also does not represent the interests of the people. It is necessary to have a vantage point of and for the people, to look at matters from the perspective of building the new and taking the country in a new direction. Political power belongs in the hands of the people themselves to govern and decide. By addressing this problem of political power and how to obtain it, the people will prevail.

Stand in Solidarity With Displaced People and Denounce Calls For Violence Against the Refugee Caravan

Pueblo Sin Fronteras, April 2, 2018

Pueblo Sin Fronteras stands in solidarity with all refugees who exercise their right to seek a life free from violence. We accompany refugees in their journey as human rights observers and offer information about their legal rights, including those defined in the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol, and the domestic laws* intended to implement them. Refugees lead this movement.

Both the United States and Mexico have signed international agreements that uphold the rights of refugees, including the right of non-refoulement (forcible return). Their asylum processes are punitive and unjust. These governments refuse to honor their commitments to refugees' rights and instead cruelly incarcerate and deport them, often to their deaths.

The unprecedented number of Central Americans who have joined the current refugee caravan and the high percentage of people fleeing Honduras in the group are the result of multiple political crises in the region provoked in large part by the policies of the U.S. government. The U.S. support for the Honduran military coup of 2009 and the electoral coup of November 2017 have intensified military and political repression, insecurity, and physical and economic violence. Hundreds of Hondurans have fled their homes and joined the Refugee Caravan in order to seek refuge in Mexico or the U.S. They, along with their fellow caravan members, have organized and developed a network of mutual support within the caravan to protect themselves from dangers such as extortion, robbery, murder, sexual assault, torture and deportation without a right to seek asylum, which virtually all those who journey alone confront.

The systemic violence encountered throughout the migrant route in Mexico is exacerbated by anti-immigrant enforcement policies backed by the U.S. government, fueled by the Mérida Initiative, and paid for by the people of the U.S. and Mexico. Mexico's 2017 *Internal Security Law* criminalizes human rights defenders and further endangers refugees and asylum seekers fleeing for their lives.

As word of the size and causes of the caravan has spread through networks of solidarity, right-wing white supremacists [often backed by the U.S. policing agencies] have responded by threatening and calling for violence against its participants and supporters publicly in the news and on social media and personally with hate-filled phone calls and emails. These threats have gone so far as to include calls for militias and Border Patrol agents to open fire and even carry out drone strikes on caravan members, among them children as young as one month old.

On April 1, the U.S. President opportunistically invoked refugee caravans as a pretext for threatening immigrants already in the country, specifically DACA recipients, with a so-called "Nuclear Option" to remove their protections from detention and deportation. [The "Nuclear Option" eliminates the Senate rules on filibuster, which require 60 votes to end debate on bills — VOR Ed. Note.] Trump is trying to turn Central American refugees and other immigrant communities against each other, and use them as a bargaining chip with Mexico. In the face of this bullying and these threats of mass violence, we continue to stand in solidarity with displaced people of all races, ethnicities, creeds, abilities, and gender and sexual identities. We invite all those who envision a world where human rights are honored to join us.

In Solidarity,
Pueblo Sin Fronteras

(*Title 8 Section 1225 of the U.S. Federal Code establishes that any non-citizen who fears returning to their home country has a right to seek asylum in the United States to be protected from persecution and violence. Article 11 of the 2011 Law of Refuge, Complementary Protection, and Political Asylum of Mexico similarly establishes the right of foreigners fleeing persecution to request recognition as refugees.)



Denounce Massive ICE Raid Against Meatpacking Workers

Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition, April 6, 2018

Nearly one hundred people in a meatpacking plant in Bean Station, Tennessee were arrested and detained April 5 in the largest immigration workplace raid to date under the Trump administration. Workers at the meatpacking plant reported rough treatment and detention despite having work authorization, a clear violation of the law and basic rights.

Children were left without primary caretakers, and local churches have provided sanctuary for dozens of others. Eyewitnesses also report that local law enforcement blocked roads around the plant, creating a sense of chaos and panic within the community.

The Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition (TIRRC) first found out about the raids shortly before 11:00am on April 5 and immediately deployed staff and volunteers to

provide legal intake and other supports. Thus far, TIRRC has helped nearly 90 people complete legal intake forms, and the facts displayed show a clear and disturbing pattern of abuse at the hands of law enforcement.

The immigration raid comes after a series of federal attacks on immigrant communities from Washington. Earlier this week, the White House announced it would send federal troops to the border despite historic lows in border crossings.

Stephanie Teatro, Co-Executive Director at TIRRC said: “The community has shown tremendous strength in the face of this brazen attack on its members: Churches have become sanctuaries for those who feel unsafe, community leaders are speaking out against the attack, and we will continue to fight for basic rights for all. No one, not even the president, can take those away.”

15 MILLION TARGETED IN NAME OF “SECURITY”

Federal Government to Demand Social Media Information for Visas

On March 30 the State Department announced plans to include extra questions about social-media use in visa applications. It wants applicants for both immigrant and non-immigrant visas to submit their social-media handles from the previous five years, according to notices filed by the agency in the Federal Register. Along with the handles, the State Department is also asking for a five-year history of email addresses, telephone numbers, and international trips. The changes still have to be approved by the Office of Management and Budget after a 60-day public comment period, but there is little doubt they will be enforced.

The U.S. had already been requesting social-media information from people the government suspected to represent a “national security threat.” That policy targeted about 65,000 people. The new measures would cover nearly 15 million people. There is no information as to what criteria will be used to deny a visa

based on social media content. As with similar measures, such as the travel ban blocking people from countries like Syria and Yemen, where the U.S. is at war, and other countries with large numbers of Muslims, the decisions will be arbitrary.

President Trump and his cabinet have been using executive orders and changes to regulations as a means to criminalize immigrants and non-immigrants, like students and workers seeking visas. The actions do not require legislation by Congress and can simply be imposed. The purpose is both to criminalize those applying for visas while also reducing the number of visas issued. It also serves to make it normal for the government to utilize social media as a weapon against any it considers a “threat.” The measures are reflective of the current government of police powers, where arbitrary actions and the impunity to enforce them serve to eliminate rule of law.

Attorney General Sessions Wants to Bribe Judges to do His Bidding

Bruce J. Einhorn, Former Immigration Judge, April 5, 2018

It is a principle that has been a hallmark of our legal culture: The president should not be able to tell judges what to do.

No longer. The Trump administration is intent on imposing a quota system on federal immigration judges, tying their evaluations to the number of cases they decide in a year. This is an affront to judicial independence and the due process of law.

I served as a U.S. immigration judge in Los Angeles for 17 years, presiding over cases brought against foreign-born

noncitizens who Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers believed were in this country illegally and should thus be removed. My responsibility included hearing both ICE’s claims and the claims from respondents for relief from removal, which sometimes included asylum from persecution and torture.

As a judge, I swore to follow the Fifth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, which guarantees that “no person” (not “no citizen”) is deprived of due process of law. Accordingly, I was

obliged to conduct hearings that guaranteed respondents a full and reasonable opportunity on all issues raised against them.

My decisions and the manner in which I conducted hearings were subject to review before the U.S. Board of Immigration Appeals and U.S. courts of appeals. At no time was my judicial behavior subject to evaluation based on how quickly I completed hearings and decided cases. Although my colleagues on the bench and I valued efficiency, the most critical considerations were fairness, thoroughness and adherence to the Fifth Amendment. [...]

Under the Trump-Sessions plan, each immigration judge, regardless of the nature and scope of proceedings assigned to him or her, will be required to complete 700 cases in a year to qualify for a “satisfactory” performance rating. It follows that only judges who complete more, perhaps many more, than 700 cases per year will qualify for a higher performance rating and, with it, a possible raise in pay.

Essentially, the administration’s plan is to bribe judges to hear and complete more cases regardless of their substance and complexity, with the corollary that judges who defy the quota imposed on them will be regarded as substandard and subject to penalties. The plan should be seen for what it is: an attempt to undermine judicial independence and compel immigration judges to look over their shoulders to make sure that the administration is smiling at them.

This is a genuine threat to the independence of the immigration bench. While Article III of the Constitution guarantees the complete independence of the federal district courts and courts of appeal, immigration judges are part of the executive branch. Notwithstanding the right of immigration judges to hear and decide cases as they believe they should under immigration law, they are unprotected from financial extortion and not-so-veiled

political intimidation under the *U.S. Administrative Procedure Act* or any regulations.

Moreover, federal laws do not guarantee respondents in removal hearings a right to counsel, and a majority of those in such hearings are compelled to represent themselves before immigration judges, regardless of the complexity of their cases. Those who lack representation in removal hearings typically cannot afford it, and the funds to help legal aid organizations fill in for private attorneys are nowhere to be found.

Hearings in which respondents proceed pro se, or unrepresented, are often the most challenging and time-consuming for immigration judges, who must take care to assure that the procedural rights of those facing possible removal are protected and to guarantee that inarticulate relief claims are fully considered.

The Trump administration’s intention is clear: to intimidate supposedly independent judges to expedite cases, even if it undermines fairness — as will certainly be the case for pro se respondents. Every immigration judge knows that in general, it takes longer to consider and rule in favor of relief for a respondent than it does to agree with ICE and order deportation. The administration wants to use quotas to make immigration judges more an arm of ICE than independent adjudicators.

In my many years on the immigration bench, I learned that repressive nations had one thing in common: a lack of an independent judiciary. Due process requires judges free of political influence. Assembly-line justice is no justice at all. (*Washington Post Op-Ed, April 5, 2018*)

(*Bruce J. Einhorn, an adjunct professor of immigration, asylum and refugee law at Pepperdine University, served as a U.S. immigration judge from 1990 to 2007.*)

LETTER SENT TO GREYHOUND OFFICIALS

ACLU Calls on Greyhound to Refuse Immigration Raids on Greyhound Buses

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)

We write on behalf of the ACLU affiliates in California, Washington, Vermont, New York, New Hampshire, Michigan, Florida, Maine, Texas, and Arizona regarding Greyhound’s practice of permitting Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agents to routinely board its buses to question passengers about their citizenship and immigration status. These intrusive encounters often evince a blatant disregard for passengers’ constitutional rights and have even resulted in CBP agents removing passengers from buses and arresting them. Greyhound’s cooperation with CBP is unnecessarily facilitating the violation of its passengers’ rights.

Greyhound recently has said that the company believes it is “required” to “cooperate with [CBP] if they ask to board our buses.” [1]

We are aware of no such requirement. Rather, Greyhound has a Fourth Amendment right to deny CBP permission to board and search its buses without a judicial warrant. For the following

reasons, we urge Greyhound to change its policy and to refuse CBP permission to conduct invasive bus raids without a warrant.

CBP Raids of Greyhound Buses

As CBP activity far from the border has increased significantly in the past year [2] there are increasing reports of indiscriminate CBP “immigration checks” of Greyhound buses throughout the country. Reports describe CBP’s practice of boarding Greyhound buses without even any pretense of suspicion and detaining passengers until they answer questions about their citizenship and immigration status and present immigration documentation. CBP often singles out individuals because of the color of their skin or because they have a foreign accent. In a number of reported cases, CBP agents arrested individuals on Greyhound buses without probable cause to believe they were deportable.

In Washington State, agents reportedly board Greyhound buses

NO TROOPS ON THE BORDER

frequently and intimidate passengers with questioning and demands for documents, and have been doing so in the Spokane area for several years, including on purely domestic bus routes. [3]

In 2017 alone, CBP agents took into custody at least 34 people after subjecting many more people to bus immigration checks in the Spokane area. [4] CBP documents obtained by the ACLU of Washington indicate that most of these bus checks took place on Greyhound buses. In one recent case, in January 2018, CBP agents confronted a father and son as they rode a Greyhound from Seattle to Montana. Even though the son had valid Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status and the father never gave the agents any information about his immigration status, agents arrested the pair after asking them “Are you illegal” and “Do you have your documents on you.” [5]

In California, the ACLU of Southern California has received reports for years of CBP agents boarding Greyhound buses in Riverside County and questioning and arresting passengers.

In January 2018, news media reported an incident in Indio, California, where CBP agents boarded a Greyhound bus and asked every passenger for their citizenship and immigration status and identification. When a Latino U.S. citizen eyewitness began filming the incident outside the bus, including CBP’s removal and arrest of one person from the bus, a CBP agent demanded to know the witness’s citizenship and asked him for two forms of identification. [6]

In another incident in February 2018, CBP agents stopped a Los Angeles resident as he boarded a Greyhound bus in Indio to Los Angeles and detained him without any reasonable suspicion while the agents questioned him about his immigration status, causing him to miss his bus. The agents told him that they stopped him because his “shoes looked suspicious,” like someone who had recently crossed the border.

In Vermont, in August 2017, CBP agents boarded a Greyhound bus as it arrived from Boston in White River Junction station. The agents would not allow anyone to leave the bus, asking the passengers their citizenship and checking the identification of people who had “accents or were not white.” [7]

In Michigan, CBP agents are likewise questioning and arresting passengers and engaging improper enforcement practices on Greyhound buses. One incident reported to the ACLU of Michigan occurred in January 2018 when a couple arriving in Detroit by Greyhound was detained by CBP. The agents, without giving any reason for the stop, questioned the couple about their immigration status and asked them to produce their “documents.” The man was arrested by CBP, transferred to the local police department, and is currently being held in immigration detention while his U.S. citizen fiancée is struggling to bring her partner back home.

In a separate incident, a Greyhound bus leaving Michigan for New York was stopped. CBP agents boarded the bus and asked every passenger for their citizenship and immigration status and identification. Passengers who did not provide proof of lawful status were then taken into custody.

The common thread in the reports received by the ACLU of Michigan is that CBP agents operating on Greyhound buses focus on persons of color and never give passengers a reason for the stop.

Indeed, CBP data obtained by the ACLU shows not only that 82 percent of foreign citizens stopped by CBP in Michigan are Latino, but also that almost one in three of those processed are U.S. citizens. [8] This data strongly suggests that CBP is using ethnicity as the basis for its stops.



In New York, the New York Civil Liberties Union has documented CBP agents’ practice of boarding Greyhound buses in central and western New York and subjecting passengers to aggressive questioning in an in-depth 2011 report entitled *Justice Derailed*. [9] Among other findings, the report showed that CBP arrests during transportation raids rarely apprehended people who crossed the border recently, disproportionately targeted people of color, frequently violated agency regulations designed to ensure proper arrests, and in numerous cases led to wrongful detentions of individuals who were in compliance with immigration laws.

A related report revealed that CBP incentivized aggressive enforcement in the Buffalo Sector by awarding bonuses to agents based on quantity of arrests. [10] Unfortunately, in the years since these reports, and increasingly during the past year, CBP agents have continued to carry out transportation raids on buses in upstate New York. [11]

In Florida, in January 2018, two videos taken by Greyhound passengers captured CBP agents asking passengers for proof of citizenship. The videos went viral and prompted national outcry. The first incident ended with CBP detaining a Jamaican woman, who was in the U.S. to visit her granddaughter, and the second incident with CBP arresting a 12-year Miami resident from Trinidad. Nineteen members of Congress issued a statement afterwards calling CBP’s actions an “abuse of mandate and authority.” [12]

In Arizona, in an incident reported to the ACLU of Arizona in August 2017, CBP agents boarded a Los Angeles to Phoenix bus at a rest stop in Quartzsite. The agents questioned every passenger about their citizenship, demanded proof of lawful permanent residency from one passenger and arrested and removed another. In March 2015, a group of students returning home to Tucson from Phoenix reported that Greyhound staff escorted CBP agents onto their bus when they reached the Greyhound bus station in Tucson. The agents singled out four Guatemalan passengers for questioning. [13]

Passengers involved in these incidents, whether they were

directly contacted by CBP or witnessed others being contacted, describe highly coercive circumstances and resulting distress inflicted on them.

Greyhound's Fourth Amendment Right to Deny CBP Access

In general, the Fourth Amendment allows law enforcement to enter areas of a business that are open to the general public but requires a warrant, consent, or exigent circumstances to enter nonpublic areas. [...] This principle applies to immigration enforcement. [...]

A ticket is required to board a bus, and therefore the public may not come and board a bus at will. Accordingly, law enforcement officers must generally have a warrant, probable cause, or consent to board a bus. Even if the automobile exception to the warrant requirement applies, law enforcement officers must still have probable cause or consent for a vehicle search. [...]

CBP does not even claim to have probable cause for each of its bus raids, and, as with any person or entity, Greyhound is not obligated to legitimize such raids through its consent. [...] Greyhound's statement refers to a statute that provides "within a reasonable distance from any external boundary of the United States," CBP may, without a warrant, "board and search for aliens ... any railway car, aircraft, conveyance, or vehicle." 8 U.S.C. § 1357(a)(3).

Agency regulations assert a "reasonable distance" under section 1357 is no more than "100 air miles from any external boundary of the United States," and clearly intend that a smaller distance apply to some border regions. (8 C.F.R. § 287.1(a)(2).)

However, as the Supreme Court has made clear, "no Act of Congress can authorize a violation of the Constitution." 9Almeida-Sanchez, 413 U.S. at 272 (holding section 1357 did not authorize Fourth Amendment violation committed by Border Patrol's warrantless search of automobile without probable cause or consent). The same is true for agency regulations. (United States v. Brignoni-Ponce, 422 U.S. 873, 883 (1975) (rejecting position that statute and regulation allow Border Patrol to "stop motorists at random for questioning, day or night, anywhere within 100 air miles of the 2,000-mile border ... without any reason to suspect that they have violated any law" and holding Fourth Amendment standards apply to Border Patrol).

Accordingly, neither statutes nor regulations can override a business's Fourth Amendment right to refuse consent to enter nonpublic areas under its control. [14] Department of Homeland Security regulations in fact recognize that right. (8 C.F.R. § 287.8(f)(2) "An immigration officer may not enter into the nonpublic areas of a business ... unless the officer has either a warrant or the consent of the owner or other person in control of the site to be inspected."). [15]

The Fourth Amendment protects businesses as well as individuals, and we believe Greyhound has the Fourth Amendment right to refuse consent to board its buses. Greyhound is in the business of transporting its passengers safely from place to place. It should not be in the business of subjecting its passengers to intimidating interrogations, suspicionless searches, warrantless arrests, and the threat of deportation. We urge Greyhound to change its practices and policies to refuse CBP consent to board its buses without a

warrant, except when legally required at the physical border or its equivalent.

Notes

1) Greyhound, Statement regarding incident in Ft. Lauderdale, Jan. 22, 2018, <http://bloggreyhound.com/news/statement-regarding-incident-in-ft-lauderdale/>.

2) Ron Nixon, Under Trump, Border Patrol Steps Up Searches Far from the Border, N.Y. Times, Feb. 21, 2018, <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/02/21/us/politics/trump-border-patrol-searches.html>.

3) See Rachel Alexander, False rumor of Spokane ICE raid sparked by routine border enforcement patrols, The Spokesman-Review, Feb. 15, 2017, <http://www.spokesman.com/blogs/spin-control/2017/feb/15/false-rumorspokane-ice-raid-sparked-routine-border-enforcement-patrols/>;

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5) Suzanne Phan, Father, son with DACA detained on Greyhound bus by Border Patrol in Spokane, Komo News, Jan. 11, 2018, <http://komonews.com/news/local/federal-way-father-and-son-with-daca-detained-in-spokane-ongreyhound-bus-by-border-patrol>.

6) Lauren Coronado and Jesus Reyes, Bermuda Dunes man says he was discriminated against by Border Patrol agents, CBS Local 2, Jan. 18, 2018, <http://www.kesq.com/news/bermudadunes-man-claims-he-was-discriminatedagainst-by-border-patrol-agents/687718557>.

7) John P. Gregg, Border Patrol – and Scaramucci – Tied to the Valley, Valley News, Aug. 2, 2017, <http://www.vnews.com/U-S-Border-Patrol-Searches-Bus-in-White-River-Junction-11640514>.

8) ACLU of Michigan, What is Border Patrol Doing in Michigan: 100 Mile Zone Fact Sheet, available at http://www.aclumich.org/sites/default/files/Fact%20sheet_100_Mile_Zone.pdf.

9) New York Civil Liberties Union, Justice Derailed: What Raids on New York's Trains and Buses Reveal about Border Patrol's Interior Enforcement Practices, 2011, available at https://www.nyclu.org/sites/default/files/publications/NYCLU_justicederailedweb_0.pdf.

10) New York University School of Law, et al., Uncovering USBP, Bonus Programs for United States Border Patrol Agents and the Arrest of Lawfully Present Individuals, 2013, available at <http://familiesforfreedom.org/sites/default/files/resources/Uncovering%20USBP-FFF%20Report%202013.pdf>.

11) Wakisha Bailey, Border Patrol Officers ramp up their efforts in the Rochester area, WROC-8, Feb. 13, 2018 <http://www.rochesterfirst.com/news/local-news/border-patrol-officers-ramp-up-their-efforts-at-local-greyhound-busstations/972492444>

12) David J. Neal, Border Patrol agents taking people off buses is common. It happened again this week., Miami Herald, Jan. 28, 2018.

13) Maria Ines Taracena, Border Patrol Checking People's Immigration Statute at Greyhound Bus Station, Tucson

I • Salute Palestinian Resistance



the Zionist state of Israel, a struggle that continues to this day. The U.S. was instrumental in the founding of Israel and remains instrumental in providing the military and political backing Israel needs to carry out its crimes with impunity. These crimes are not possible without U.S. backing and for that reason the U.S. is guilty of genocide and crimes against humanity in Palestine.

Despite facing such formidable adversaries, the Palestinians have been resolute in defending their Right of Return and demanding their national and social rights. The Mass March of Return demonstrates their indomitable resistance to the U.S./Israel occupiers and their commitment, generations later, to all those displaced as well as their descendants to return to their lands and homes.

The Zionist occupiers responded to the peaceful protesters with mass killings and collective punishment. Evidence also makes clear that Israel planned the massacre and continues to justify it. General Chief of Staff of the Israeli Defense Forces, Gadi Eizenkot, for example, bragged that he had given a death warrant to hundreds of snipers deployed on the border of the Gaza Strip to target unarmed Palestinian citizens participating in peaceful protests. These executions, while people were standing in protest, or praying, or running away, were later documented in numerous videos. After the massacre, Israel Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman praised the slaughter, stating that the army “did what had to be done” and adding “I think that all of our troops deserve a commendation.”

These crimes against Palestinians were done with premeditation and evidence makes clear that the demonstrators were no threat to the Israeli soldiers. As the Palestinians said, “This authorization to commit murders against Palestinians is a continuation

of the fascist, racist and colonial ideologies that are based on violence and organized state terrorism.”

The U.S. has a long history of interference in the Middle East and specifically against Palestine. This includes ensuring Israel is armed to the teeth and has political and financial backing for her atrocities. These are U.S./Israeli crimes of genocide that are being vigorously opposed, by Palestinians and peoples worldwide.

Voice of Revolution calls on people from all walks of life to go all out to support the just stands of the Palestinian people and demand that the killers of the people on March 30, from the top down, including those in the U.S., be brought to justice. The U.S. government must be held to account for funding and politically backing Israel and refusing to condemn these massacres. Without U.S. backing Israel could not act with such impunity. Now is the time to join organizing efforts for actions May 14.

*Defend
the Right of
Return!*

*End U.S./Israel
Crimes Against
Palestine!*



MARY LOU MCDONALD, DUBLIN REPRESENTATIVE

Ireland Stands with the People of Palestine

Sinn Fein Newsroom, March 31, 2018

Sinn Féin Leader Mary Lou McDonald TD (member of the Irish Assembly, representing Dublin) has called on Taoiseach Leo Varadkar (similar to a Prime Minister) to move to recognize the State of Palestine and to expel the Israeli ambassador following the massacre of sixteen Palestinians in Gaza by the Israeli military yesterday.

Ms. McDonald said: “The Taoiseach must condemn this brutal slaughter of these Palestinian civilians who were engaged in legitimate protest.

“He, and the Irish government, must stand up against the aggression of the Israeli state and for the human rights of the population of Gaza.

“Mr. Varadkar should be consistent in his approach to inter-

national diplomacy. The international community and European Union must act on the flouting of international law and standards by Israel with the shooting of protesters.

“The Palestinian State and its people are entitled to the support and protections of the international community.

“An Taoiseach, should make clear to Israel that Ireland deplors the actions of their military in killing protestors, that Ireland stands with the people of Palestine and that Ireland recognizes the state of Palestine.

“The Irish nation, with our all our history, cannot and will not turn a blind eye to these acts, and the Taoiseach must act and move to expel the Israeli ambassador

“The Taoiseach cannot be silent in the wake of this atrocity.”

Iran’s Larijani: Zionists, Trump hatching Dangerous Plot in Middle East

Press TV, April 1, 2018

Iranian Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani has denounced the Israeli regime’s “criminal and inhumane” actions after it killed more than a dozen Palestinians during Friday’s Land Day rallies, warning that Zionists and US President Donald Trump are hatching a “dangerous plot” against the Middle Eastern countries.

Larijani, who is the current president of the Parliamentary Union of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Member States (PUIC), said on Sunday that the latest deadly attacks by the illegitimate Israeli regime were continuation of the Zionists’ repeated crimes backed by the US government.

The Israeli regime’s policy for creating tension and crisis and Trump’s decision to move the US embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem al-Quds constitute a dangerous plot, which threatens regional stability and security, he said.

On March 30, around 30,000 Gazans marched to the fence with the occupied territories at the start of a six-week protest, dubbed “The Great March of Return,” demanding the right to return to their homeland.

The rallies coincided with the 42nd anniversary of Land Day, which commemorates the murder of six Palestinians by Israeli forces in 1976.

Friday’s demonstrations turned violent after Israeli forces used tear gas and live fire to force back demonstrators who had approached within a few hundred meters of the heavily-fortified fence.

The clashes left 16 Palestinians dead and over 1,400 others injured in Gaza in what was the single deadliest day in the Israel-Palestine conflict since the 2014 war.

Larijani further said, “Tel Aviv’s ruling terrorists only

understand the language of force and resistance is the most important factor in countering the ambitious goals of the Zionist regime (of Israel).”

He called on parliaments of the OIC member states and other countries across the world to adopt necessary measures to condemn the Israeli regime’s crimes, support the legitimate rights of the Palestinians and prevent the Zionists from creating a new crisis.

The Great March of Return rallies culminate on May 15, the day Palestinians commemorate Nakba Day (Day of Catastrophe) when hundreds of thousands fled or were driven out of their homes in 1948, the year Israel was created.

Israel’s Friday massacre of the Palestinians drew condemnations worldwide, with UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres calling for “an independent and transparent investigation” into the incident.

In a statement issued on Saturday, Iran’s Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) described as “invalid and impossible” the fantasy of providing stability and security for the Israeli regime.

“The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, as the Iranian nation’s powerful arm, will spare no effort to help the Muslim people of Palestine and will further activate its available capacities to restore Palestinians’ rights,” the statement pointed out.

Senior Member of Parliament: Muslim countries must close embassies in Tel Aviv

A senior Iranian lawmaker also on Sunday said Israel’s killing of 16 Palestinians once again revealed that this bloodthirsty

regime was the main enemy of Muslim nations and urged all Muslim countries to close their embassies in Tel Aviv.

Chairman of the Iranian Parliament's Committee on National Security and Foreign Policy Alaeddin Boroujerdi also called on the OIC to "condemn this crime to support the oppressed Palestinian people."

He said the Israeli regime cannot take any criminal action without the US support and Trump's embassy transfer decision had further emboldened the Tel Aviv regime.

In December last year, the US president sparked global uproar by announcing a dramatic shift in Washington's policy on Jerusalem al-Quds. He declared that the US was recognizing Jerusalem al-Quds as the "capital" of Israel and planning to

relocate the American embassy from Tel Aviv to the city.

Relations between the US and Palestine have been strained and there have been regular anti-US protests by Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip since Trump declared his decision on al-Quds. Many say Trump's move has effectively killed any chances of further negotiations.

The dramatic shift in Washington's Jerusalem al-Quds policy drew fierce criticism from the international community, including Washington's Western allies, and triggered protests against the US and Israel worldwide.

The United Nations General Assembly later voted by a resounding majority to reject Trump's Jerusalem al-Quds move.

Will Israel Pay a Price for its Latest Gaza Massacre?

Ali Abunimah, Electronic Intifada, April 2, 2018

Palestinians are calling for escalating global campaigns to isolate Israel after its army killed 16 people in the Gaza Strip and wounded almost 1,500 others. Meanwhile, Israel has rejected calls for an international investigation and its defense minister has commended soldiers on the March 30 slaughter.

"Evoking memories of the South African apartheid regime's massacre

of peaceful protesters in Sharpeville in 1960, Israel's military committed a new massacre against Palestinian civilians as they were peacefully commemorating Palestinian Land Day," the Palestinian Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions National Committee (BNC) said Monday.

The BNC, the steering group for the boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) movement, urged people around the world to "mainstream the demand for all private and public entities in your country to end all cooperation and/or trade with the Israeli military and 'security sector.'"

It also calls for heightened campaigns targeting companies and financial institutions complicit in Israel's crimes.



On April 2, the health ministry in Gaza announced that 29-year-old Fares al-Ruqab had succumbed to wounds he suffered after Israeli snipers opened fire into the territory Friday. That brought to 16 the number of Palestinians killed. The Israeli army injured almost 1,500 people, more than 800 of them with live ammunition, according to the health ministry.

Tens of thousands took part in the Great March of Return rallies to demand their right of return to lands from which Palestinians were ethnically cleansed, and to protest Israel's decade-long blockade of Gaza.

Dr. Mohammed Ziara, a general practitioner at Gaza City's al-Shifa hospital, posted pictures, taken by surgeons at the hospital. They show devastating injuries sustained by protesters. The images indicate Israeli forces may have used bullets that fragment in the body causing massive damage to tissue. Bullets

Devastating injuries

that expand or fragment are banned under international law.

Israeli spin

Over the weekend, Israel continued to try to portray victims of its violence as hardcore Hamas militants who had organized a violent invasion across the boundary.

But the propaganda narrative collapsed as videos emerged documenting apparent war crimes, particularly the lethal shooting of Abd al-Fattah Abd al-Nabi, 19, as he ran away from the Israel-Gaza boundary fence. Abd al-Nabi was reportedly shot in the head.

The Israeli military on Saturday tweeted a statement claiming full responsibility for the killings, asserting that “everything was accurate and measured, and we know where every bullet landed.” But it quickly deleted the statement as emerging evidence, including many videos, gave the lie to its claims.

Premeditated massacre

Moreover, the human rights group B’Tselem had warned in advance about Israel’s preparations and threats to “shoot-to-kill unarmed Palestinians.” B’Tselem had also warned about Israel’s efforts to spin its premeditated assault on civilians protesting the “disastrous reality in Gaza.”

“Completely ignoring the humanitarian disaster in Gaza and Israel’s responsibility for it, [Israeli officials] are couching the planned protest in terms of a security risk, framing the demonstrators as terrorists and referring to Gaza as a ‘combat zone,’” B’Tselem stated on the eve of the bloodshed.

There were also shocking examples of public incitement. The publication *Israel National News*, for instance, published an op-ed asserting that the “Palestinian leadership wants pictures of dead bodies littering the field and for once, in the interests of our people, we should give it to them.”

“They don’t think we have the guts to shoot them down in mass numbers and that our hesitation will enable them to attack us,” the writer states of Palestinians. “Shoot to kill. Nothing less.”

On April 2, B’Tselem responded to Israel’s aggressive spin. “Friday was a bloody day, but Israel has already long since become an expert at whitewashing such bloody days and weeks,” the group tweeted.

“Do not anticipate any investigation, and even if eventually one is conducted, certainly do not expect accountability,” B’Tselem added.

Calls for investigation

The demand for an inquiry has however become the centerpiece



of the official international response to the Israeli massacre. Both the UN Secretary-General António Guterres and the European Union have called for an international investigation.

These calls can be seen as cynical: they allow international officials to seem like they are taking a robust stance while avoiding any clear condemnation of Israel’s actions, as if what happened remains a mystery.

Even though the U.S. predictably blocked any action by the UN Security Council, where Washington holds a veto, an independent inquiry could be commissioned by the UN Human Rights Council, like the one into Israel’s 2014 assault on Gaza. That investigation documented extensive evidence of war crimes by Israel, but has resulted in no accountability.

Indeed, as the BNC stated Monday, Israel’s violence has been “emboldened by the unprecedented level of support from the xenophobic Trump administration in the U.S. and the ongoing complicity of the European Union.”

That complicity remains on full display.

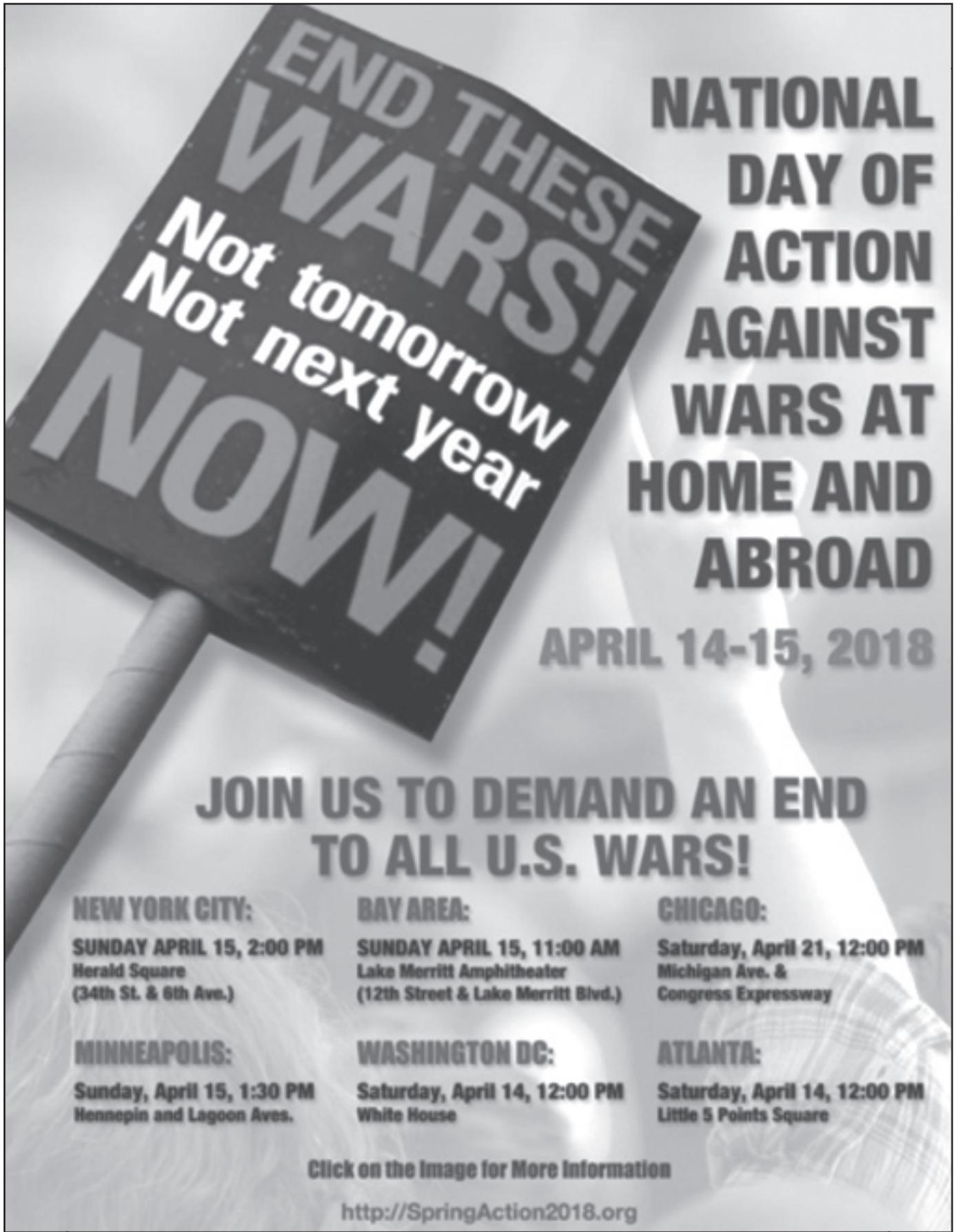
With robotically similar language, EU governments expressed “deep concern” about the situation in Gaza, but made no clear condemnations of Israel and called for “restraint” from all sides, as if occupier and occupied are equal in power and responsibility.

Expressions of “deep concern” are the international diplomatic equivalent of the empty “thoughts and prayers” routinely offered after mass shootings by U.S. politicians who intend to do nothing about the problem.

So why would the EU demand an investigation now if its only response in the past has been to do nothing at best, or more typically increase its level of rewards for Israel?

A reasonable conclusion is that calls for an investigation are nothing more than an attempt to mollify public outrage at Israel’s premeditated slaughter. [...]

The BNC is demanding an immediate arms embargo on Israel...



**NATIONAL
DAY OF
ACTION
AGAINST
WARS AT
HOME AND
ABROAD**

APRIL 14-15, 2018

**JOIN US TO DEMAND AN END
TO ALL U.S. WARS!**

NEW YORK CITY:

SUNDAY APRIL 15, 2:00 PM
Herald Square
(34th St. & 6th Ave.)

MINNEAPOLIS:

Sunday, April 15, 1:30 PM
Hennepin and Lagoon Aves.

BAY AREA:

SUNDAY APRIL 15, 11:00 AM
Lake Merritt Amphitheater
(12th Street & Lake Merritt Blvd.)

WASHINGTON DC:

Saturday, April 14, 12:00 PM
White House

CHICAGO:

Saturday, April 21, 12:00 PM
Michigan Ave. &
Congress Expressway

ATLANTA:

Saturday, April 14, 12:00 PM
Little 5 Points Square

Click on the Image for More Information

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END U.S. WARS AT HOME AND ABROAD

DEMONSTRATE Sunday APRIL 15, 2pm



*All U.S. Troops Home Now!
Close All Foreign Bases!
Fund Human Needs Not War!*

Niagara Square, March to Naval Park

STOP FUNDING WAR AND FUND EDUCATION

Teachers in Kentucky, Oklahoma and Arizona Demand Increased Funding for Education

More than 72,000 teachers in Kentucky and Oklahoma have staged a walkout against low wages and worsening working conditions. Some teachers point out that they have to work two or more jobs to keep body and soul together and, due to cutbacks in funding for education, they have to pay from their own pockets for the materials that their students need. These teachers join those in West Virginia who went on strike for a week in February and March to fight for a wage increase and to safeguard their pensions. Slogans carried by the teachers make clear that being able to do their jobs not only means receiving proper wages but also requires proper funding for the education system as a whole so that students have the conditions they need for their education and to have a bright future.

With youth and students across the U.S. in action to oppose violence and increased police measures in schools and militarization of communities, the students themselves are taking a clear stand to support their teachers and defend their right to education.

The monopoly-controlled media keeps shouting that the U.S. economy is doing really well, but people have a hard time making ends meet. One young woman said that she works more than 70 hours a week in three different jobs to pay her bills. This is the reality of ordinary people in the U.S., while big corporations have been getting tax breaks and the military has been given hundreds of billions of dollars.

Situation in Oklahoma

Thirty thousand teachers in Oklahoma began their walkout on April 2. The week before, Governor Mary Fallin signed legislation awarding the teachers a 15 to 18 per cent salary increase. However, Oklahoma teachers rank 49th out of 50 states and the District of Columbia in terms of wages and the increase was far less than the teachers' demand. The Oklahoma Legislature also did not address the need for a wage increase for educational assistants, nor increase funding for students. Oklahoma's public revenue per student ranks 47th out of 50 states and the District of Columbia. Teachers point out that textbooks are falling apart and outdated, while basic equipment like desks and chairs are broken, on top of which classes are overcrowded. Oklahoma has had the highest cuts to education -- state funding for education has been cut by more than 28 per cent per student over the past 10 years -- and the teachers want the cuts reversed.



Thousands of teachers attend walkout rally at Capitol building in Oklahoma City, April 2, 2018.

Photos of broken furniture and outdated and crumbling textbooks in Oklahoma schools have galvanized public support behind the just demands of teachers and students for a properly funded public education system that allows teachers to teach and students to learn.

"We won't let anyone disinvest in public education. We are here for the long haul," Alicia Priest, head of the Oklahoma Education Association, told a mass rally outside the Capitol building in Oklahoma City on April 2.

On April 4, a group of more than 100 education workers began a 110-mile (177-kilometre) march from Tulsa to Oklahoma City, to join the teachers rallying at the Capitol building. The march is estimated to take a week. Brendan Jarvis, a seventh-grade geography teacher at Union public schools in Tulsa, explained the reason for the march: "We do appreciate the raise. The main reasons that teachers are walking are because of the lack of funding for classrooms, the things that affect kids [...] We're marching for the kids, for better school supplies, so teachers don't have to buy all of them out of pocket."

"We are willing to walk 100 miles for our students," Patti Ferguson-Palmer, President of the Tulsa Classroom Teachers Association, told the Tulsa World. "What is the Oklahoma Legislature willing to do? We are not all young and fit."

The courageous stand of the teachers to defend the public education system and all those who comprise it is receiving broad support. Deborah Gist, the superintendent of schools in

STOP FUDING WAR AND FUND EDUCATION

Tulsa, said those walking have already received a lot of support, saying that there was “Honking and waving, thumbs up, [people] blowing kisses. Some would stop and offer assistance, people were bringing food. It was just really wonderful to see.”

Situation in Kentucky

Teachers in Kentucky are rallying outside the Capitol building in Frankfort to oppose an attack on their pensions and other cuts to the education system that affect them and their students. Many Kentucky schools are on Spring Break, while those school districts that are not on break shut down due to a mass walkout by teachers. As in Oklahoma, there is broad support for the teachers from parents and students. As stated by the President of the Kentucky Educators Association (KEA) Stephanie Winkler at the mass rally in Frankfort on April 2, “Education is not a partisan issue.”

On April 4, the KEA issued the following call to Governor Matt Bevin to veto the attack on their pensions:

“Kentucky’s educators call on Governor Bevin to do what’s right for future generations of Kentuckians and veto Senate Bill 151. Kentucky already faces a severe shortage of public education employees in all categories. In 2013, legislators implemented a hybrid cash balance scheme for education support professionals, all of whom participate in the County Employee Retirement System. Predictably, ever since that time, school districts have been faced with shortages of bus drivers, custodians, food service workers, paraeducators, and all other categories of necessary student supports. Now the legislature has implemented the same scheme for all new teachers, creating a significant disincentive for current education majors to finish that course of study and teach in the Commonwealth.

“According to Title II data from the U.S. Department of Education, the precipitous decline in Kentucky college students pursuing careers in education is alarming. Over the three-year period from 2012-13 to 2014-15, the most recent period



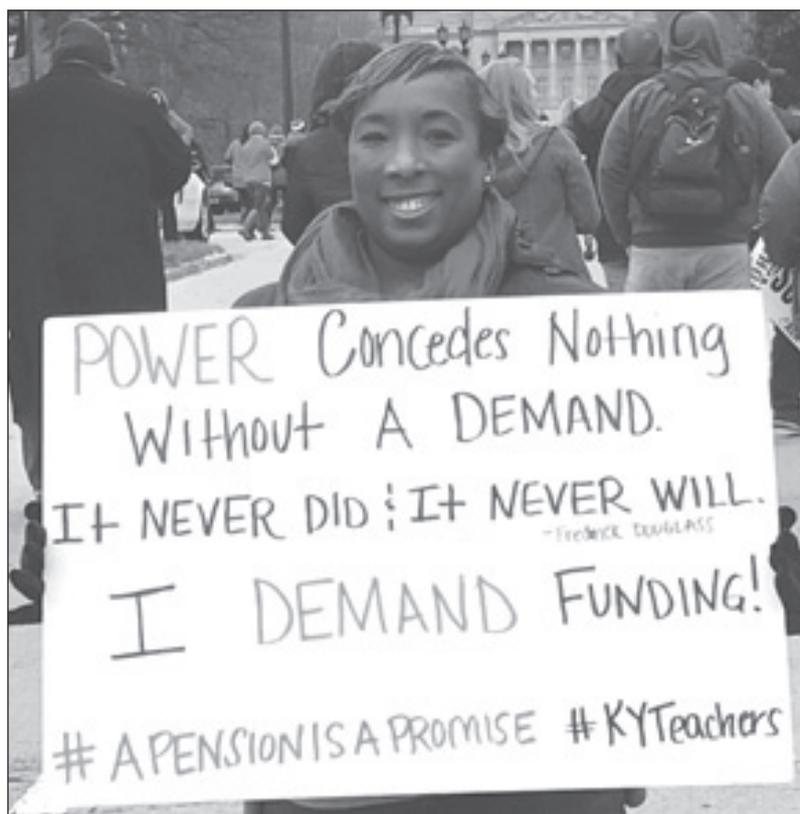
Kentucky teachers rally at the Capitol building in Frankfort, April 2, 2018.

for which data is available, the number of college students enrolled in teacher preparation programs in Kentucky was reduced by nearly half. We believe this is a direct result of the relentless attack on school funding and undercutting the financial incentives to enter the profession. The changes to pension benefits for aspiring educators will make this teacher pipeline crisis even worse.

“It’s time for Governor Bevin to respect the communities, parents and students who rely on public schools and create an

environment that will encourage the best and the brightest to want to work in their schools. Providing an efficient system of public schools is the primary constitutional duty of the Commonwealth. That duty falls not just on the legislature, but also on the governor.

“When asked about the potential impact of the bill, Stephanie Winkler, KEA President, had this message: ‘Governor Bevin, show the voters of the Commonwealth that you care about their communities and their children. Show them that you want their kids to have the best public education they can get. End the verbal and finan-



TEACHERS DEFENDING RIGHTS

cial attacks on current and future educators. Veto SB151.”

Arizona Teachers Hold Walk-Ins

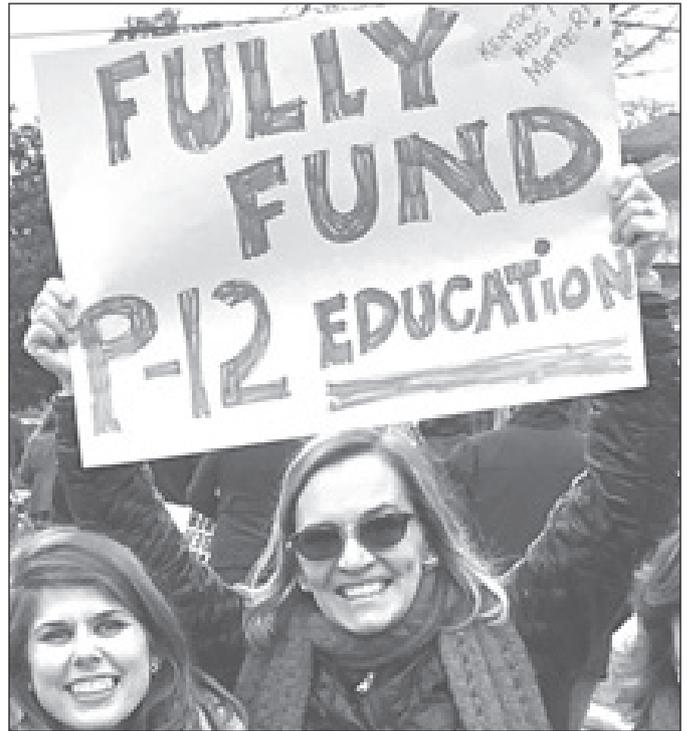
Teachers in Arizona are also fighting for increased wages and funding for the public school system. For the fifth straight week, they have demonstrated at the state Capitol in Phoenix to demand increased funding for education and a 20 per cent wage increase.

While a strike may be possible in the near future, for the moment, teachers are holding “walk-ins,” where rather than calling in sick or walking out, teachers wear red and gather at a flagpole or other central location in front of their schools to talk with parents about conditions in their classrooms and other reasons for protesting, according to Noah Karvelis.

Karvelis is a music teacher at Tres Rios Service Academy in Tolleson and one of the lead organizers for Arizona Educators United, which started as a private Facebook group for teachers and administrators that now has more than 40,000 members.

“Those conversations are powerful,” Karvelis said. “If you live in this state, you have a vested interest in this movement. It’s going to be powerful to see what happens next week.”

On April 11, Arizona Educators United has called for a day of statewide walk-ins.



Teachers, students and school officials take part in a walk-in for education, Tucson, April 4, 2018.

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