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# VOICE OF REVOLUTION

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June-July, 2019

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**Reparations Now for Slavery: 1-7**

## JUNETEENTH CELEBRATIONS

### **Now is the Time for Reparations for U.S. Crime of Slavery**

Across the country, Juneteenth celebrations are occurring, on June 19 or the weekend before or after. Juneteenth is recognized by many as Emancipation Day for African Americans. It was on June 19, 1865,

that the last of the people still enslaved, in Galveston, Texas, secured their freedom. Since that tie, celebrations have occurred, and today events in 45 states, may in the south, take

**Reparations Now • 3**



**Defending Immigrant Rights: 8-11**

## FAILURE OF GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS EVIDENT

### **Defense of Immigrant and Refugee Rights Continues**

Broad and increasing efforts to defend migrant rights continue across the country in various forms. May Day demonstrations and continuing campaigns for driver's licenses for all in every state

are but one example. Numerous demonstrations in El Paso and elsewhere in Texas, many in New York, California, Wisconsin, New Mexico and Arizona have also occurred.

**Defending Rights • 7**



**British Oppose Trump : 12-16**

## BRITISH PEOPLE REJECT WAR AND IMPERIALISM

### **Mass Demonstrations Firmly Oppose Trump**

The state visit of U.S. President Donald Trump to Britain June 3-5 was marked by opposition from start to finish.

Not only was the U.S. President pointedly not invited to address the Houses of Parliament, but people from all parts of the country took a stand to

say that the state visit was not in their name. The point had been made in July last year that Trump was not welcome in Britain, when 250,000 took part in a mass demonstration in the center of London. That spirit was a given in 2019. So

**British Oppose Trump • 12**

**WE ARE ONE HUMANITY FIGHTING FOR OUR RIGHTS**

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## I • Reparations Now

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place every year. Many involve educational activities, presentations on the history and contributions of African Americans, including in the days of slavery to today, and political debates on concerns of the day, alongside parades, barbecues, dance and much more. Many cities, like Buffalo, have celebrated for more than 40 years.

A vital question of the day is that of reparations, from the government and monopolies for the crimes of the U.S. system of slavery — which are crimes against humanity. While a few of the Democratic candidates for president have now said they support reparations, none join in supporting the concrete demands put forward by African American organizations. As well the 2001 Durban, South Africa, World Conference Against Racism, Xenophobia and Related Intolerances affirmed that enslavement of Africans was a crime against humanity. Delegates from 195 countries reaffirmed fundamental human rights for people of African descent — particularly the right to be repaired from criminal and injurious acts of one's government. The UN has also said that compensation by the U.S. government is necessary to combat the disadvantages caused by 245 years of legally allowing the sale of people based on the color of their skin. The UN group warned that the U.S. has still not confronted its legacy of "racial terrorism" and taken responsibility for its crimes.

State organized racism, inequality and racist attacks have been characteristic of the U.S. state since its founding and remains ever present today. The demands for reparations for African Americans involve not only financial compensation, but a comprehensive



accounting, and repair, for the grave and ongoing impact of government crimes past and present. These include the right to land for social and economic development; funds for cooperative enterprises and socially responsible entrepreneurial development; repairing the damages of the "Criminal Injustice System;" resources for the health, wellness and healing of Black families and communities; education for community development and empowerment; affordable housing; strengthening Black America's information and communications infrastructure.

Now is the time for candidates at all levels and all elected officials to join in supporting these concrete demands for reparations as necessary to hold the U.S. government accountable and to being to provide full repair for these crimes. Now is the time for reparations!

## Congressional Hearing on Reparations Set for June 19

A Congressional hearing addressing reparations for slavery in the U.S. will take place on June 19, which marks Juneteenth Day. Juneteenth is celebrated across the country as the day when all the people still enslaved gained freedom. The system of slavery was such that while hundreds of thousands of enslaved people rebelled against enslavement and fought in the civil war to end the system, many remained enslaved even after the end of the civil war. June 19, 1865 is the day Union soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas to inform all the people still enslaved that the slave system had been defeated. Since then it is considered emancipation day by many African Americans and people of all nationalities join in celebrating Juneteenth.

The House Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties will hold the hearing. Its stated purpose is "to examine, through open and constructive discourse, the legacy of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, its continuing impact on the community and the path to restorative justice."

Congressional hearings have not been held since 2007. This is despite John Conyers of Michigan, the longtime sponsor of House Resolution 40, first proposed the measure calling for a study of reparations in 1989 and Conyers reintroduced the bill every session after until his resignation in 2017.

Texas Representative Sheila Jackson Lee, the resolution's

new sponsor, introduced it earlier this year and pushed for next week's hearing. This is in part because various African American organizations have been fighting on the issue, including holding town hall meetings. As well, the UN, in 2016, called on the U.S. to pay reparations for slavery. Its report brought out that "compensation is necessary to combat the disadvantages caused by 245 years of legally allowing the sale of people based on the color of their skin. It warned that the U.S. has not confronted its legacy of "racial terrorism." The report also specified that reparations can come in a variety of ways, including educational opportunities, psychological rehabilitation, debt cancellation and formal apologies.

The issue of reparations has become part of the 2020 presidential race, as several of the more than 20 Democratic presidential primary candidates signaled their support for compensating the descendants of slaves, though not in the traditional sense of direct payments to African Americans. Most have remained vague on the issue, as has long been the case with elected officials.

It remains to be seen if any of the presidential candidates or Congressional members will actually provide concrete proposals for reparations. This has not been the case up until now, even though African American organizations active on this issue have presented comprehensive demands for reparations (see p.4).

# Reparations Means Full Repair: For 400 Years of Terror, and Other Egregious Crimes

*National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America, N'COBRA*

2019 marks 400th anniversary of the arrival of the first Africans on the shores of the Virginia Colony in 1619. This began the American period of enslavement of Africans and their descendants. N'COBRA has themed this anniversary – *400 Years of Terror: A Debt Still Owed*.

From the very beginning, terror or psychic trauma was the reality for these perhaps 3 dozen stolen Africans. Not only was the Middle Passage a terrifying experience of its own, but history tells us that the ship that brought these Africans here was not the ship they initially embarked upon. Nor was it just 36 of them that left Africa on that voyage. It was 350.

In route to its destination of Vera Cruz Mexico, the original ship – the San Juan Bautista, was met in the Gulf of Mexico by not one, but two, pirate ships – the White Lion and the Treasurer. At the end of the attack, the White Lion delivered all of its pirated cargo from the attack – “20 and odd Africans,” and the Treasurer, a “half dozen” of the 40 Africans it seized, before it sailed to Bermuda.

How did these sixty or so Africans make it upon these pirate ships, as the San Juan Batista was destroyed in the attack? Were they pulled from the sea? Were they forced by gunpoint or at the end of a sword? Did they choose any vessel other than the one that was sinking and offering them certain death? More importantly what happened to the nearly 300 others that were on the San Juan Bautista? Were they still chained together in death as they were in the frightening last months of their lives through the horrific Middle Passage?

This began our existence in what was to become America – a terror that has yet to cease and has yet to be redressed. This scene would be followed by 256 years of brutal enslavement of Africans and their descendants.

The period of enslavement was followed by 100 years of legal apartheid, called Jim Crow Segregation – social separation backed by tremendous force, unjust laws and deadly violence. After the Civil War, former Confederate Army soldiers, officers and their offspring created highly organized terrorist groups that sprang up everywhere. Their reach went all the way to the White House. These groups – the Ku Klux Klan, the Knights of the White Camellia, White Citizen's Council and their copycats were responsible for thousands of murders and assassinations, unjust imprisonment of tens of thousands, continued theft of labor, theft of millions of acres of land purchased by Blacks post-emancipation, and at least 4,743 recorded lynchings. This, in addition, to the destruction of scores of Black towns and communities and the banishment (racial cleansing) of their inhabitants. In a matter of hours, these towns and communities, some with residents numbering in the thousands, were erased from existence. [...]

After 1965 and the passing of civil rights laws, even though “segregation” ended, the violent intimidation and forcibly controlled limitations of the Black community did not.

Although white mob action declined, the deadly racial violence of the police remained steady and harsh. “Police brutality,” as it was named, sparked the creation of the Black Panthers Party for Self Defense and other Black nationalist groups. These groups rose to address the criminal behavior of police terrorism, and the social, political and economic domination and control that the police enforced. After the Panthers and others were illegally and unconstitutionally suppressed, police departments like the Chicago Police Department obtained, what amounted to, free license to terrorize African descendants through torture, forced confessions and murder of innocent men and women. These summary executions continue to this day across America – Ayana Stanley-Jones, Tamir Rice, Oscar Grant, Sandra Bland, Rekia Boyd, Mike Brown, Philando Castile, and Laquan McDonald, are just a few of the thousands who have met this fate post-1965.

Throughout this entire 400-year period, Africans and their descendants fought against this inhumanity and put forth demands that these crimes be redressed in the form of reparations through the means of securing freedom, land, repatriation, pensions, compensation, and restitution.

In the latter part of the 20th century international charges of genocide were levied twice by Blacks with the United Nations Human Rights Commission – once in 1957 and again in 1997. (In 2014 and 2016 a new generation of activists repeated the charge.) In 1969 James Foreman presented his Black Manifesto to the white Church community demanding resources for economic development and various structural and institutional acts of restitution. Mass-based organizations rose in the 1980s to create a grass roots demand for reparations. The National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in American at one time, had membership in the thousands.

At the beginning of the 21st Century, with assistance from N'COBRA, the December 12th Movement – D-12, and the National Black United Front – NBUF, led nearly 400 delegates to Durban South Africa to the 2001 World Conference Against Racism, Xenophobia and Related Intolerances. Over 14,000 participants attended the conference including governmental delegations from 195 countries. For the D-12 and NBUF-led delegation, reparations was their focus.

The conclusion of the conference reaffirmed some fundamental human rights for people of African descent – particularly the right to be repaired from criminal and injurious acts of one's government. In the official outcome document of the Conference – the Governmental delegates declared that the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, slavery, apartheid and colonialism were crimes against humanity. Further, that there was an economic basis to these crimes – that are evident to today – the injuring nations are wealthy and “the effects and persistence of these structures and practices have been among the factors contributing to lasting social and economic inequalities [poverty, underdevelopment, marginalization, social exclusion]

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## HOLD U.S. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABLE FOR CRIMES OF SLAVERY

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in many parts of the world today.” And even further, that there is an obligation on the part of those nations that were enriched by these crimes to engage in redress for the inequities that exist and injuries caused.

This historical victory by those in the global reparations movement marked a new phase and new mode of reparations struggle by people of African descent. Everywhere, those of us in the reparations struggle, began speaking the same language — that the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, slavery, colonialism and apartheid, were not just bad/immoral acts — they were in fact crimes against humanity, “the most egregious crimes a government can commit or allow to be committed against a civilian population.”

Globally we became aware that crimes against humanity have no jurisdictional statute of limitation. We became aware that the enormous economic theft is still accruing value to the nations and corporations that usurped the productive output from our ancestors; we also became aware that that the wealth that sits in the accounts of many extremely wealthy white westerners was also wealth passed down generationally from the original criminal usurpers; we all became clearly aware that the dysfunction that is seen in African and African descendant populations globally have their initial causation in the crimes committed against the humanity of their ancestors and that are compounded by continued harmful acts done today. We all further became aware since Durban, that the number one global issue for Africans and people of African descent world-wide is the repair from centuries of theft, abuses, terror and lies regarding our humanity and our primary and substantial contributions to the human family long before the advent of the West.

Now today, there is an uptick of public figures and others that are acknowledging either the need for reparations, or the rightness of reparations or both. This is good.

Particularly, 2020 presidential candidates Marianne Williams, Senators Elizabeth Warren, Corey Booker, Kamala Harris and Bernie Sanders, in addition to former White House cabinet member, Julian Castro. Even Speaker of the House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi, who was said to have blocked the congressional discussion of reparations during the Obama presidency, has now offered support for a reparations study.

Where some err, however, is in their attempt to tells us – Descendants of Africans Enslaved in the United States – DAEUS, what form and to what extent reparations are and should be. They should support the demand for reparations. In addition, they should seek to understand the full extent of the crimes of enslavement, Jim Crow and post Jim Crow America, and how these crimes have benefited America...

The forms and to what extent will be determined by us. This has already begun, in part, with N’COBRA’s 21st Century Reparations Manifesto and Five Injury Areas. [These include Criminal Punishment System; Education; Wealth and Poverty; Peoplehood and Nationhood; Health]. Also, this has begun with a series of national town hall meetings already held, and more to be scheduled, to introduce, assess and debate the Reparations 10 Point Program compiled by the National African American Reparations Commission (NAARC). [The ten points include: 1. A Formal Apology and Establishment of a MAAFA/African Holocaust Institute; 2. The Right of

Repatriation and Creation of an African Knowledge Program; 3. The Right to Land for Social and Economic Development; 4. Funds for Cooperative Enterprises and Socially Responsible Entrepreneurial Development; 5. Resources for the Health, Wellness and Healing of



Black Families and Communities; 6. Education for Community Development and Empowerment; 7. Affordable Housing for Healthy Black Communities and Wealth Generation; 8. Strengthening Black America’s Information and Communications Infrastructure; 9. Preserving Black Sacred Sites and Monuments; 10. Repairing the Damages of the “Criminal Injustice System”]

It is the work done post-Durban that has created a climate that demands that these presidential candidates (and others) make such pronouncements. Post Durban, it was N’COBRA’s keeping this issue alive after the New York Trade Towers attack that had the effect of silencing the reparations movement’s momentum that had been built in Durban. Then there were Caribbean political leaders through their group– the Caribbean Community of States (CARICOM) that created the CARICOM Reparations Commission (CAR). CAR has initiated the process to bring a case of crimes against humanity to the International Criminal Court against the European nations that participated in the slave trade and slavery in the Caribbean. The charges: native genocide and enslavement of Africans and African Descendants in the Caribbean islands.

Further, CAR sparked the creation of the National African American Reparation Commission. In 2015 NAARC held an international summit in New York attracting many of the CAR commissioners and delegates from 17 nations. NAARC inspired several of these groups to establish reparations commissions in the nations where they resided.

Black People Against Police Torture (BPAPT) called for a reparations campaign for the victims of police torture in Chicago. That success led to a new generation calling for reparations, culminating in the Movement for Black Lives adding Reparations as a major policy plank in their platform. Ta-Nehisi Coates essay, *A Case for Reparations* had major significance in shaping this climate. Finally, we can never forget Congressman John Conyers’ long-standing perseverance to hold this government accountable, with the bill HR 40, *The Commission to Study Reparations Proposals for African Americans Act*, which he revised, at NAARC’s and N’COBRA’s suggestion and with their input, before his departure from Congress.

Again, it is from all these actions, and much, much, more that

those who now speak have the presence to do so. But most are doing so from an extremely limited base of knowledge and action on where this movement and their current support rest. Post-Durban we look to international bodies and law to understand reparations and to base the structure of our claim.

For us in the movement, we understand that reparations, under international norms and law, means “full repair.”

The Permanent Court of International Justice laid out the “general and foundational rule” for reparations in the Chorzow Factory Case of 1928. In that ruling, the Court held “that reparation must, as far as possible, wipe out all consequences of the illegal act and re-establish the situation which would, in all probability, have existed if that act had not been committed.”

The extent of “all consequences” was fleshed out as full reparation in the International Law Commission (2001) Draft Articles on Responsibility of States for International Wrongful Act. In Article 31. “... the responsible state is under an obligation to make full reparation for the injury caused by the internationally wrongful act.”

The International Law Commission and other established international guidelines lay out what is considered full and comprehensive reparation. These include:

**Cessation, Assurances and Guarantees of Non-Repetition** – a state responsible for wrongfully injuring a people “is under an obligation to a) “cease the act if it is continuing, b) offer appropriate assurances and guarantees of non-repetition...”

**Restitution and Repatriation** – “re-establish the situation which existed before the wrongful act was committed.” To restore the victim to the original situation before gross violations of international law occurred. How includes restoration of freedom, recognition of humanity, identity, culture, repatriation, livelihood and wealth.

**Compensation** – The injuring State is obligated to compensate for the damage, if damage is not made good by restitution. Compensation is “any financially assessable damage suffered...” Proper compensation is such that is “appropriate and proportional to the gravity of the violation and circumstances.”

**Satisfaction** – “as a “means” for reparations for moral damage, such as emotional injury, mental suffering, and injury to reputation.”

**Rehabilitation** – rehabilitation consist of mind, body, emotional and spirit healing – [of] the lasting effects of the trauma of enslavement and segregation.

It was in utilizing this structure, that in 2017 Congressman John Conyers introduced a revised HR 40 in the 115th Congress that called for a commission to develop programs, policy and practices with these elements and intended outcomes – *The Commission to Study and Develop Reparations Proposals for African Americans Act*. Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee has introduced it currently in the 116th Congress. When one examines N’COBRA’s Manifesto – and NAARC’s 10 Point Reparations Platform in detail, these outcomes are fleshed out.

## Brief History of Juneteenth

*Juneteenth.com*

Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the ending of slavery in the United States. Dating back to 1865, it was on June 19th that Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, landed at Galveston, Texas with news that the civil war had ended and that the enslaved people were now free. Note that this was two and a half years after President Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation — which had become official January 1, 1863. The Emancipation Proclamation had little impact on Texans in part due to the minimal number of Union troops to enforce the new Executive Order. However, with the surrender of General Lee in April of 1865, and the arrival of General Granger’s regiment, the forces were finally strong enough to influence and overcome the resistance.

Later attempts to explain this two and a half year delay in the receipt of this important news have yielded several versions that have been handed down through the years. Often told is the story of a messenger who was murdered on his way to Texas with the news of freedom. Another is that the news was deliberately withheld by the enslavers to maintain the labor force on the plantations. And still another is that federal troops actually waited for the slave owners to reap the benefits of one last cotton harvest before going to Texas to enforce the Emancipation Proclamation...Certainly, for some, President Lincoln’s authority over the rebellious states was in question. For whatever the reasons, conditions in Texas remained status quo well beyond what was statutory.

### General Order Number 3

One of General Granger’s first orders of business was to read to the people of Texas, General Order Number 3 which began most significantly with:

“The people of Texas are informed that in accordance with a Proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and free laborer.”

The reactions to this profound news ranged from pure shock to immediate jubilation. While many lingered to learn of this new employer to employee relationship, many left before these offers were completely off the lips of their former “masters.” Even with nowhere to go, many felt that leaving the plantation would be their first grasp of freedom. North was a logical destination and for many it represented true freedom, while the desire to reach family members in neighboring states drove some into Louisiana, Arkansas and Oklahoma.

Settling into these new areas as free men and women brought on new realities and the challenges of establishing a heretofore non-existent status for black people in America. Recounting the memories of that great day in June of 1865 and its festivities would serve as motivation as well as a release from the growing pressures encountered in their new territory. The celebration of June 19th was coined “Juneteenth” and grew with more participation from descendants. The Juneteenth celebration was a time for reassuring

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## HOLD U.S. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABLE FOR CRIMES OF SLAVERY

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each other, for praying and for gathering remaining family members. Juneteenth continued to be highly revered in Texas decades later, with many former slaves and descendants making an annual pilgrimage back to Galveston on this date.

### Juneteenth Festivities and Food

A range of activities were provided, many of which continue in tradition today. Rodeos, fishing, barbecuing and baseball are just a few of the typical Juneteenth activities you may witness today. Juneteenth almost always focused on education and self improvement. Thus, often guest speakers are brought in and the elders are called upon to recount the events of the past. [...]

Certain foods became popular and subsequently synonymous with Juneteenth celebrations such as strawberry soda-pop. More traditional and just as popular was the barbecuing, through which Juneteenth participants could share in the spirit and aromas that their ancestors — the newly emancipated African Americans, would have experienced during their ceremonies. Hence, the barbecue pit is often established as the center of attention at Juneteenth celebrations.

Food was abundant because everyone prepared a special dish. Meats such as lamb, pork and beef which were not available everyday were brought on this special occasion. A true Juneteenth celebrations left visitors well satisfied and with enough conversation to last until the next.

Dress was also an important element in early Juneteenth customs and is often still taken seriously, particularly by the direct descendants who can make the connection to this tradition's roots. During slavery there were laws on the books in many areas that prohibited or limited the dressing of the enslaved. During the initial days of the emancipation celebrations, there are accounts of former slaves tossing their ragged garments into the creeks and rivers to adorn clothing taken from the plantations belonging to their former "slavemasters."

### Juneteenth and Society

In the early years, little interest existed outside the African American community for participation in the celebrations. In some cases, there was outwardly exhibited resistance by [the government] barring the use of public property for the festivities. Most of the festivities found themselves out in rural areas around rivers and creeks that could provide for additional activities such as fishing, horseback riding and barbecues. Often church grounds were the site for such activities.

Eventually, as African Americans became land owners, land was donated and dedicated for these festivities. One of the earliest documented land purchases in the name of Juneteenth was organized by Reverend Jack Yates. This fund-raising effort yielded \$1000 and the purchase of Emancipation Park in Houston, Texas. In Mexia, the local Juneteenth organization purchased Booker T. Washington Park, which had become the Juneteenth celebration site in 1898. There are accounts of Juneteenth activities being interrupted and halted by white landowners demanding that their laborers return to work. However, it seems most allowed their workers the day off and some even made donations of food and money. For decades these annual celebrations flourished, growing continuously with each passing year. In Booker T. Washington Park, as many as 20,000 African

Americans once flowed through during the course of a week, making the celebration one of the state's largest. [...]

The Civil Rights movement of the 50's and 60's yielded both positive and negative results for the Juneteenth celebrations. While it pulled some of the African American youth away from such celebrations and into the struggle for racial equality, many others linked these struggles to the historical struggles of their ancestors. This was evidenced by student demonstrators involved in the Atlanta civil rights campaign in the early 1960's, who wore Juneteenth freedom buttons. Again in 1968, Juneteenth received another strong resurgence through the Poor People's March on Washington D.C. Reverend Ralph Abernathy called for people of all races, creeds, economic levels and professions to come to Washington to show support for the poor. Many participants returned home and initiated Juneteenth celebrations in areas previously absent of such activity. In fact, two of the largest Juneteenth celebrations founded after this March are now held in Milwaukee and Minneapolis. [Cities like Buffalo have one of the largest celebrations and have done so since 1975.]



### Texas Blazes the Trail

On January 1, 1980, Juneteenth became an official state holiday in Texas, through the efforts of Al Edwards, an African American state legislator. The successful passage of this bill marked Juneteenth as the first emancipation celebration given official state recognition. Edwards has since actively sought to spread the observance of Juneteenth all across the U.S.

Today, Juneteenth is enjoying a phenomenal growth rate within communities and organizations throughout the country. Institutions such as the Smithsonian and others have begun sponsoring Nineteenth-centered activities. In recent years, a number of local and national Juneteenth organizations have arisen to take their place alongside older organizations — all with the mission to promote and cultivate knowledge and appreciation of African American history and culture.

Juneteenth today celebrates African American freedom and achievement, while encouraging continuous self-development and respect for all cultures. As it takes on a more national, symbolic and even global perspective, the events of 1865 in Texas are not forgotten, for all of the roots tie back to this fertile soil from which a national day of pride is growing.

The future of Juneteenth looks bright as the number of cities and states creating Juneteenth committees continues to increase. Respect and appreciation for all of our differences grow out of exposure and working together. Getting involved and supporting Juneteenth celebrations creates new bonds of friendship and understanding among us. This indeed, brightens our future — and that is the Spirit of Juneteenth.

I • Defending Rights

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Organizing by rights groups and churches to defend and protect immigrants has also been stepped up. People are also resisting various illegal actions by government officials, such as racist profiling and arbitrary boarding of buses by Border Patrol — nowhere near the border — to demand documents.

The situation is such that the failure of government institutions to in any way defend rights and provide security is becoming even more evident. Government authorities at federal and state levels are competing and contending with each other. This can be seen in a recent lawsuit, filed by Albuquerque and the state of New Mexico against the federal government for essentially dumping large numbers of immigrants, with no resources or families, into the city. Normally the federal government has a “safe release” policy where it provides assistance, including food and housing for immigrants until they reach their final destination, usually a distant city where family resides. Now the federal government is simply releasing large numbers of people, often families with children, and leaving them to fend for themselves.

New Mexico’s Governor condemned this “indiscriminate practice of releasing migrants in communities in the state’s borderland area in violation of the federal government’s “safe release” policy, leaving vulnerable individuals and families without assistance and burdening local governments as well as nonprofit organizations.” The lawsuit says there is a “derogation of duty to administer this country’s immigration system and claims of asylum,” by the federal government. The suit also objects to “the sudden and unlawful abandonment of this policy done without notice or opportunity for input by affected jurisdictions, the state and city of Albuquerque included.

The fact that a lawsuit is required indicates that the usual relations between state and federal authorities to sort out conflicts are not functioning. Indeed, the strength of the language by the state puts the federal action as illegal.

Various organizations are also attempting to use the courts in hopes of blocking some of Trump’s actions. However, to date, evidence on the ground is that the federal government continues its crimes despite laws and court rulings, like holding children for long periods in prison-like conditions, separating families, blocking the right to asylum for refugees and refusing them parole. The government is also using the torture of solitary confinement



against the people in detention.

A recent court ruling temporarily blocking portions of Trump’s planned border wall also shows that the Constitution is not blocking government actions. The judge wrote about the “absolute” control by Congress over federal expenditures, saying it was “an essential” feature of “our constitutional system.” His ruling is said to block \$1 billion in Pentagon funds from being used for the wall, but it remains to be seen if this will be enforced. The courts so far have generally refrained from charging government officials for failure to submit to the rulings. Rulings on separation of families, for example, have not been or only partially been enforced, with many families still remaining separated. Laws concerning treatment of refugees and children also are not being upheld.

These examples are but a few that indicate that a main failure of U.S.-style democracy and its institutions is that there are no means to hold government accountable. When the institutions are dysfunctional and failing, when court rulings are not upheld, when the Constitution is not serving to block these crimes or in any way arm the people to block them, the necessity for a modern democracy with new institutions and a new constitution is more and more clear. Going backward to the old constitution and attempting to rely on it does not provide solutions for the present situation. And as conflicts among the competing authorities at various levels and among the policing agencies and military all intensify, it also does not provide the means to block another open civil war among the contending forces. That too requires the people organizing on their own behalf with their own thinking and building their own independent institutions to serve their interests.

INCREASED BUS SEARCHES FAR FROM THE BORDER

## People Resisting Border Patrol Searches and Profiling on Buses

People being unjustly profiled by Border Patrol agents who come on buses and demand citizenship papers are resisting these efforts and taking stands to defend their rights and the rights of all those being profiled, harassed and in some instances detained. People are not required to carry proof of citizenship when traveling, unless they are crossing the border.

But Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) as well as Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) are arbitrarily boarding buses and demanding proof of citizenship. They are doing so based on racist profiling, targeting any they decide appear to be immigrants.

The actions often take place on buses and trains leaving New



York City and traveling to Syracuse and Rochester, as well as buses traveling from Philadelphia through Pennsylvania. New England states are also being impacted as is Washington, State.

As one person profiled put it: “I was super angry because [they were] obviously profiling.” She is Puerto Rican and a U.S. citizen. “They literally skipped over every single white person.” She watched agents walk down the aisles, stopping only when they saw a person of color, to ask: “Are you from here? Do you have papers?”

Bus and train travelers across the northern U.S. report being stopped, questioned and detained with increasing frequency. Advocates emphasize that the searches are illegal. Passengers cannot be detained and questioned by Border Patrol without reasonable suspicion that they are reportable, and that suspicion cannot be based on someone’s skin color or ability to speak English or failure to have documentation with them, given they were not crossing the border.

These illegal searches are now happening as often as three times a day at some northern bus stations, even those with no direct routes to the border. They have caused bus delays and missed connections and resulted in the long-term detention of immigrants who have committed no crime and were racially profiled and detained.

Under immigration law, agents have the authority to search vehicles without a warrant “within a reasonable distance from

any external boundary of the United States.” CBP claims this is anywhere within 100 miles of any land or water border. That massive zone encompasses areas that hold more than half of the U.S. population, all of the east and west coast and areas that include all of New England, Florida and most of New York state. The buses are often hundreds of miles from the northern or southern border, yet CBP agents are involved.

It is along the northern border where the bulk of the board and search actions have occurred. Given the broad rejection by passengers, citizens and non-citizens alike, even Greyhound, the country’s largest bus company, has complained to the government.

According to incidents reported to advocates or described in court documents, in Vermont, Florida, California, Detroit, Rochester, Spokane, and elsewhere, agents have boarded buses and asked passengers where they were born or to see their papers. Passengers filmed or photographed some of these interactions as part of their resistance, sparking outrage and opposition online. Their efforts showed CBP grilling citizens, green card holders and DACA recipients — in some cases detaining citizens and documented immigrants, claiming their documentation was fake.

The continued opposition and broad stand of the people against racist government profiling and unjust searches and detention are an important part of on-going efforts to defend the rights of all.

## **City of Albuquerque, State of New Mexico Sue Trump Administration over Immigration Policies**

*Office of New Mexico Governor Lujan Grisham, June 10, 2019*

Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham announced, on behalf of the state of New Mexico, that she is suing the U.S. government in an effort to halt the Trump administration’s indiscriminate practice of releasing migrants in communities in the state’s borderland area in violation of the federal government’s “safe release” policy, leaving vulnerable individuals and families without assistance and burdening local governments as well as nonprofit organizations. The complaint is also seeking reimbursement for the costs incurred by the state as a result of the federal government’s derogation of duty to administer this country’s immigration system and claims of asylum.

Filed in U.S. District Court for the District of New Mexico, the governor’s complaint, with the city of Albuquerque as co-plaintiff, takes issue with the federal government’s abandonment of its longstanding safe release program, through which asylum-seeking individuals were provided assistance in reaching their final destinations while waiting for their claims to be processed. The sudden and unlawful abandonment of this policy was done without notice or opportunity for input by affected jurisdictions, the state and city of Albuquerque included. The policy decisions of the federal government have had profound and myriad impacts upon the state of New Mexico and on asylum seekers, who have been left to fend for themselves in border-adjacent New Mexico communities. While the state and border communities have endeavored to avert

an escalation of the humanitarian crisis this policy has exacerbated, New Mexico’s efforts have come at great cost, and there exists no timeline for a cessation or easing of the situation.

The state and city are asking the court to vacate the federal government’s termination of its safe release policy, as it is without legal force or effect; issue preliminary and permanent injunctions requiring the named defendants to provide asylum-seeking individuals and families the equivalent assistance to that provided under the safe release policy; and require a reimbursement of the expenses the state and city have incurred in response to the unlawful abandonment of the safe release policy.

The complaint names Acting Secretary Kevin McAleenan of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Acting Director Mark Morgan of U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Deputy Director Matthew Albence of Immigrations and Customs Enforcement, Executive Associate Director for ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations Nathalie Asher and Carla Provost, the chief of U.S. Border Patrol.

“The Trump administration has consistently and flagrantly failed in its response to the ongoing humanitarian crisis at our southern border as well as in addressing legitimate border security concerns,” Governor Lujan Grisham said. “The president has shown time and again he is interested only in demonizing the vulnerable people

who arrive at our border, stoking unfounded fears about national security while taking no action to substantively and proactively protect immigrants and our southern border communities from human- and drug-trafficking. There has been no leadership. In the vacuum, New Mexico communities have stepped up. But long-term remedies are needed. This legal action is intended to protect, in equal measure, New Mexicans and local governments in the southern part of our state as well as the asylum-seeking individuals from Central America and elsewhere who have been treated with neglect by decision-makers in Washington.”

“Local faith-based organizations and volunteers have been left

to clean up the federal administration’s immigration mess,” Albuquerque Mayor Tim Keller said. “By abandoning the ‘safe release’ policy, the federal government has abandoned the border states. Albuquerque’s compassionate community members stepped up to help these struggling families as they legally pass through our city on their difficult journey, and our city has stepped up to support our friends and neighbors with this effort. It’s time for the federal administration to step up and fulfill its legal responsibilities to these families, to our state and to our city.”

In April, San Diego County filed a similar lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Southern California.”

## **Lawsuit Condemns Trump Administration for Illegally Denying Parole to Asylum Seekers**

*American Civil Liberties Union, May 30, 2019*

The American Civil Liberties Union of Louisiana filed suit today against the Trump administration for categorically denying release to hundreds of people who are languishing in immigration prisons after lawfully seeking asylum in the United States.

The class action suit was filed in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia on behalf of 12 named plaintiffs who, like hundreds of other migrants, sought asylum at official U.S. points of entry in compliance with federal law and then were confined and sent to remote prisons in Louisiana and Alabama.

Because the law denies them the right to seek release from an immigration judge, they turned to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), which is bound by rules that favor their release on parole. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the DHS agency in charge of detaining or releasing the migrants, however, has denied parole across the board, even when people have solid asylum cases and satisfy the legal requirements.

ICE policy requires that asylum seekers be released provided they establish their identity and show they are not a danger or flight risk, according to the lawsuit.

“Like hundreds of people being held in multiple ICE detention centers in the Deep South, our asylum-seeking plaintiffs are being punished for following the law,” said SPLC Senior Supervising Attorney Luz Virginia Lopez. “They followed the legal checklist by first presenting themselves at a point of entry, and this is how America is paying them back – with cruelty and disrespect for the law.”

Parole approvals have dropped sharply under President Trump. Fewer than 10 years ago, roughly 90 percent of such asylum seekers were released. Today, at the New Orleans ICE Field Office, which is responsible for confined asylum seekers across several Southeastern states, parole was granted in just two of 130 cases in 2018.

“Here in Louisiana, thousands of immigrants and asylum seekers are now being exposed to brutal and inhumane conditions in our jails and prisons – with virtually no hope of release,” said Bruce Hamilton, staff attorney for the ACLU of Louisiana and co-counsel in the case. “We’re suing to stop these abuses and hold the Trump administration accountable for following the law.”

The lawsuit also calls attention to the impact of the dehumanizing treatment – especially the excessive use of solitary confinement and inadequate health care – received daily in immigration prisons, many of which are operated for profit.

“Across this nation, there is a consensus building that incarceration does much more harm than good to our communities,” said Attorney Laura Rivera. “Yet, as criminal justice reforms lead to lower rates of incarceration, this administration is filling jails and prisons with record numbers of migrants – more than 53,000 at last count. It’s causing untold human suffering, and it’s violating the law. I spent a week at the Pine Prairie ICE Processing Center in Louisiana and saw bus after bus line up outside the center to unload their human cargo. Many immigrants will spend months inside, and taxpayers are picking up the tab.”

### **SIERRA CLUB LAWSUIT**

## **Federal Judge Partially Blocks Trump’s Border Wall**

*Court House News, May 24, 2019*

A federal judge on Friday, May 24, partially blocked the Trump administration from building parts of a wall along the southern border and blocks the transfer of nearly \$1 billion in funds from the Defense Department to pay for it.

U.S. District Judge Haywood Gilliam Jr. of the Northern District of California granted a temporary injunction in the lawsuit filed by the American Civil Liberties Union on behalf of The

Sierra Club and The Southern Border Communities Coalition.

Following the end of a congressional budget fight in February that left President Donald Trump without the money he asked for his border wall, he declared a national emergency in order to shore up funds from the Defense Department for its construction.

Finding that construction in parts of Texas and Arizona may

cause “irreparable harm” to the environment and that plaintiffs were “likely to show” the Trump administration “exceeded their statutory authority,” Judge Gilliam said the temporary injunction was warranted.

Gilliam referred to the separation of powers between the three branches of government, particularly the Legislature’s power of allocating funding. “Congress’s “absolute” control over federal expenditures — even when that control may frustrate the desires of the Executive Branch regarding initiatives it views as important — is not a bug in our constitutional system,” Gilliam wrote in the 56-page ruling. “It is a feature of that system, and an essential one.”

Judge Gilliam cited James Madison’s Federalist Papers on the importance of limiting the executive branch from taking powers belonging to other government branches. “In short, the

position that when Congress declines the Executive’s request to appropriate funds, the Executive nonetheless may simply find a way to spend those funds ‘without Congress’ does not square with fundamental separation of powers principles dating back to the earliest days of our Republic,” Gilliam wrote.

The ACLU argued that the emergency declaration was used unlawfully to gather funding for the wall after Congress denied President Trump the more than \$5 billion he asked for. ACLU staff attorney Dror Ladin said the court blocked all the wall projects currently slated for immediate construction.

Gloria Smith, managing attorney for The Sierra Club, said the ruling was a win for the environment as well. “Walls divide neighborhoods, worsen dangerous flooding, destroy lands and wildlife, and waste resources that should instead be used on the infrastructure these communities truly need,” Smith said.

## **Trump Officials Plan to Use Military Bases to Imprison 5,000 Undocumented Children**

Trump administration officials from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recently visited the Fort Benning military base in Georgia as part of plans to imprison up to 5,000 undocumented immigrant children. HHS is responsible for placing children once they have left detention by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), who are only supposed to hold them for a maximum of 72 hours. Commonly, they are placed in churches or similar charitable organizations or families. Now the administration is holding the children in prison-like conditions for longer periods.

Fort Benning, is one of three bases HHS is considering using, the others being Fort Still in Oklahoma and Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana. Officials are deciding what buildings already in place can be used to hold the children and what areas of land could be used to construct more “tent cities.”

HHS is working together with the Pentagon, an indication that HHS as an agency is being integrated into the enforcement side, rather than acting as a non-policing social service agency. “At the request of U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and with the support of the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD), HHS will be conducting a site assessment of unused DoD property for potential future use as temporary emergency influx shelter for unaccompanied alien children,” HHS said in an statement.

Advocates bring out that housing children in prison-like conditions is harmful to the children, who have committed no crime and have the right to asylum and rights as human beings to be treated with dignity and have all their rights, including rights to education and healthcare, provided for. A number of children have died while in ICE custody, mainly from lack of healthcare. Use of military bases also makes it far more difficult for lawyers and advocates to assist the youth as entry to the bases are restricted.

What is needed is for the children to be immediately placed with their families, which most have already living in the U.S., or in housing facilities that exist in communities across the country for youth in need.



### **Eliminating Educational Instruction for Detained Youth**

More than 63 percent of migrants apprehended at the border in May were children and families, mainly from Central America. Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) arrested more than 144,000 people, many of them children, some unaccompanied minors. These youth will be detained. Sometimes for months or longer, with thousands more being added to those already unjustly and inhumanely detained in “tent cities,” dog kennels, and other prison-like facilities. Even so, the government announced it is canceling English classes, legal aid, and recreational opportunities for the children in detention.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is also preparing to imprison more babies. They bought 2.2 million diapers for its new tent detention center in Texas, along with 20,000 baby bottles and 3,000 baby wipes.

Court documents show “prison-like” conditions that can inflict psychological harm in many of the detention prisons, including those in Florida and Texas, holding thousands of youth.

### I • British Oppose Trump

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whether it was the large carnival of resistance in Trafalgar Square which attracted as many as 75,000 who then closely packed Whitehall, or the demonstrations taking place in so many towns and cities, or the stand taken by concerned people in Portsmouth when Trump joined the representatives of the British state in the D-Day commemorations, it was evident that people were speaking in their own name, not proving to some sideline commentator that Donald Trump was opposed and despised.

The demonstration on June 4 assembling in Trafalgar Square, a main focus of events, was called by Together Against Trump, which is a united front of the Stop Trump Coalition and Stand Up To Trump, bringing together a host of campaign groups and trade unions, such as the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and the Stop the War Coalition, Unite the Union and Unison. In high spirits, the tens of thousands then marched down Whitehall as far as the stage erected as near Downing Street as the authorities would allow. So dense was the crowd that it was almost impossible to move, and as the rally progressed a steady stream of people continued to join.

In fact, the subject of any talks between Trump and the British government, and more, were firmly dealt with in the wide variety of placards and slogans displayed in the demonstration, and in the sectors of Trafalgar Square, the blocs, which dealt with affirming the various rights of the people, showing that the people are indeed capable of setting their own agenda.

The urgent call for an anti-war government itself, carried by activists from the contingent of Revolutionary Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) (RCPB(ML)) and other anti-war activists, concentrated the theme of being together against Trump into a task for the present in order to safeguard the future, embodying what the people, in opposing Trump, are aspiring for. Both the British government and the Trump administration can be said to be pro-war governments. Not only that, but the theme of D-Day, June 6, embodies the heroism and striving of the people for peace against darkest reaction for which war and aggression is the first response. It is clear that the people must build their own national and international institutions to this end.

One of the central demands was that Trump and the U.S. multinationals keep their hands off the National Health Service (NHS). Trump declared in his press conference with Prime Minister Theresa

May that in any trade deals between the U.S. and Britain, the NHS would be “on the table,” along with everything else, before backtracking on a subsequent occasion. But the cat was out of the bag. Even before this, the Trades Union Congress (TUC) and others were hammering on the point, “Our NHS is not for sale!”

In her speech to the rally in Whitehall, TUC General Secretary Frances O’Grady fiercely declared: “Big pharma corporations can’t wait to get their greedy hands on our NHS. And Trump will back these corporate vultures all the way. We must never accept a U.S.-style system where ordinary people are cheated out of healthcare so that super-rich executives can rake in the billions. So let’s send a clear message to President Trump and to whoever ends up in Downing Street in a few weeks’ time. Our NHS is not for sale.”

Frances O’Grady went on to say: “We shouldn’t roll out the red carpet for a man who deliberately spreads fear and prejudice. Who takes the side of white supremacists, neo-fascists and women-haters. Who tears families apart and locks children in cages.”

There were many other speakers, including the youth, who spoke on their future and the necessity to oppose the irresponsibility of the likes of Trump and May on climate change. Mark Serwotka of the Public and Commercial Services Union made an impassioned defense of the NHS and the staff who hail from so many parts of the world and to whom the NHS owes so much. The speakers represented the passion and commitment of so many sections of the people to oppose what Donald Trump stands for.

As the highlight of the rally, Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn spoke, setting the tone for the sentiment of all present. His theme was not to dwell on the outrageously negative and backward characteristics of Donald Trump—his racism, misogyny, warmongering, and so on, though Corbyn did not mince his words on the agenda that the Trump regime is following.

“Because racism divides, exploitation of minorities divides, brings about hatred, dislike, disdain and a horrible place for individuals to live in,” Jeremy Corbyn said. “When you’ve created that sense of hatred, destroyed people’s self-esteem by that form of racism, you haven’t built a house, a school, trained a nurse, defended our natural world, [you have] just created a greater sense of hate and hatred that goes with it.”

But what brought the cheers of the mass of humanity there to

FOR AN ANTI-WAR GOVERNMENT



oppose this agenda was the call for the people themselves to affirm their rights, to work together for a better world. "Think on, please, about a world that is aiming for peace and disarmament, that defeats racism and misogyny," he said, before ending his speech with the exhortation for all to join in to create that world.

The demonstration was determined to fulfill the plan to march to Parliament Square, despite the authorities having blocked the road there from Downing Street, so it set off to walk to Parliament via the Embankment. Here another militant rally took place, despite the frequent downpours, and the more open space provided the opportunity for many discussions, including with young people from the U.S. who were adamant that Trump was not their representative. This manifestation of people from all walks of life, with a multitude of creative banners and placards, clearly made the point that Trump

was not welcome, and that the people must set their own agenda and build the movement for their empowerment. The many hundreds of copies of the statement of RCPB(ML) distributed were very well received and seriously read.

### D-Day commemorations

On the following day, June 5, a significant gathering took place in Portsmouth to oppose Trump and his presence at the D-Day commemorations. The authorities went so far as to build a wall to lock out the ordinary people from participating in the 75th anniversary activities. As well as protesting against Trump and raising the issue of the necessity for an anti-war government, many people paid respects also at the cenotaph, with a minute's silence dedicated to the veterans of D-Day.

## Mobilization in Britain Says *Not in Our Name* to Trump and British Government

The organization Together Against Trump mobilized for the biggest possible protests against the official state visit of Donald Trump to Britain, June 3-5. Together Against Trump held a national protest for June 4 from 11:00 am, assembling in London's Trafalgar Square and then marching. There were also numerous



protests from the day Trump arrived through to three days of his visit. Trump is also to travel to France on June 6 for the 75th anniversary of the D-Day Landings.

*Workers' Weekly* and other newspapers report that the opposition to Trump's visit is set to be even greater in scope than in July 2018, when the U.S. President avoided London altogether. "The opposition is directed not only to the warmongering and anti-human behavior synonymous with Trump's Presidency. It is also directed against the British government and the Queen as head of state, which have issued the invitation. It is this that people are declaring is Not In Our Name!"

"Stand Up to Trump" is the slogan the anti-war movement is organizing around. *Workers' Weekly* points out: "It is being emphasized that it is the people's forces, the human power, which must and will hold the U.S. imperialists and their cohorts in check. Not only this, but the people have their own agenda. This

is to take a stand for those things which make for peace and against aggression. It is to fight for an anti-war government, with a democratic personality consistent with the human factor, and to ensure an end to aggression and for the establishment of relations of peace between peoples."

"As the Trump presidency ramps up

its aggressive build-up against Iran, and as it attempts to bring about regime change in Venezuela, as it imposes illegal sanctions against progressive regimes, the imperative to take a stand and build the movement against crimes against the peace becomes ever stronger," *Workers' Weekly* states. "The stand of the peoples of the world for peace will prevail, as the peoples fight for their own empowerment. This is a focus of priority on the people's agenda."

Another important demand of the people's movement in this context is to remove all U.S./NATO bases from Britain. *Workers' Weekly* writes: "The peoples of Britain cannot countenance such bases of aggression, imperialist domination and 'hard power' on their soil. They fly in the face of the work for peace and an end to the Anglo-U.S. doctrine of chaos, 'controlled' or otherwise. Furthermore, in pursuance of this 'hard power,' both in Britain and the U.S., Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt has stated

that stepping up this ‘hard power’ is one of three pillars in the government’s vision of a future Britain. Like Trump, he has urged an increase in military spending, and has pledged to do the same, praising the military might of ‘our great ally’ the United States and its ‘unquestioned dominance.’ This, in itself, cannot go unquestioned. It is certain that when the British government hosts in December the NATO 70th anniversary meeting, opposition to this warmongering institution, whose *raison d’être* cannot be justified, will be manifest. Certainly NATO is opposed, among other reasons, for its attempt to impose U.S. ‘hard power’ both in Europe and globally.”

“Just as in the United States, where the people’s forces are taking a stand against the direction in which the U.S. is headed, so too people in Britain are saying No to crimes against humanity, and in particular are affirming that any ‘special relationship’ with Trump’s United States is not in their name. Rather, they are saying that the struggle for their rights and for the rights of all must prevail against the efforts of the ruling elites within Britain and the U.S. to trample on these rights.

“This is crucial, since all attempts to blame sections of the people for what is the responsibility of those pursuing the global neo-liberal agenda and creating chaos must be rejected. It is precisely this agenda and those responsible for implementing it that are generating such anarchy and violence. In this respect, and in

the context of defending the rights of all, the people are rejecting as not in their name the attacks on the rights of immigrant working people, refugees and those seeking asylum. It is clear that it is the global marauding of the ruling elites representing the oligopolies and their exploitation of the peoples and material resources globally, as well as “regime change” and their destructive activities against what they cannot control, that is and has been creating the crisis of displaced persons, human trafficking and an international reserve army of cheap labor.

“As part of the opposition to Trump’s state visit, the anti-war and people’s movements are opposing unjust wars and big power intervention and interference which goes by the name of nation-wrecking and from which the plight of people seeking a better life, demanding asylum and fleeing conflict cannot be separated. Ultimately, the demand is that these very people, as an integral part of the international working class, be empowered to be able to control their own lives and find stability. The movement is very aware of the stands of working people in the U.S. itself which will not countenance Trump’s all-out attack on the rights of all.”

*Develop the Movement against War and  
for an Anti-War Government!*

*All Out to Build the Opposition to Trump’s State Visit!*

## **Anti-War Movement Continues to Demand the Closure of U.S. Bases in Britain**

*Workers’ Weekly, Britain*

For some 75 years and since World War II, the U.S. continues to maintain five major U.S. Air Force Bases in Britain: at Fairfield, Molesworth, Alconbury, Lakenheath and Mildenhall[1] in spite of the massive opposition of the anti-war movement for decades, which saw many U.S. bases closed, including Greenham Common, which was returned to public parkland in 1997.

In 2015, the United States European Command (EUCOM) had announced plans to close RAF Mildenhall as part of a military review that will see it shut 14 other European bases, including RAF Alconbury and RAF Molesworth, with thousands of U.S. personnel transferred to other bases in Britain and Germany. However, in 2017, RAF Mildenhall Squadron Leader Rick Fryer said: “The [Ministry of Defense] has been advised that the full divestitures of RAF Mildenhall and RAF Alconbury/Molesworth will now occur no earlier than 2024.” In a report by Yorkshire Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament,[2] they pointed out that the

April 17, 2017 edition of Stars and Stripes (a U.S. Department of Defense newspaper) said that the political and military climate has changed since the decision was taken two years ago under the administration of President Obama; under President Trump, it suggests, the Pentagon is looking at the plans again.

Also in recent years, alongside its air bases, the U.S. has expanded and constructed its openly-known “intelligence” bases at[3]: RAF Croughton; Morwentsow (Bude), a joint base with GCHQ; RAF Digby; RAF Fylingdales; and RAF Menwith Hill in North Yorkshire, which is a key link in the U.S. missile “defense” and drone programs involved in extra-territorial killing worldwide. Britain’s own drone command is RAF Waddington in Lincoln. This year, Menwith Hill and the other U.S. “intelligence” bases have become even more significant with the missile defense review, which Trump unveiled in January[4] at the Pentagon, and which announced a major upgrade in land- and sea-based missile interceptor systems, as well as the

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## MASS ACTIONS OPPOSE TRUMP IN BRITAIN

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development of a layer of satellite sensors in low orbit that would help track new types of cruise missiles and hypersonic glide vehicles.

In June 2017, Trump made headlines by withdrawing the U.S. from the Paris Climate Agreement. At the same time, it was also reported that the U.S. had deployed its full range of strategic bombers to Britain for the first time in history at RAF Fairford.[5] Two B-2 stealth bombers, three B-52H Stratofortress aircraft and three B-1B Lancers were exhibited at the Fairford Air Show that year.

As the largest U.S. Air Force base in Britain, RAF Lakenheath, where in 2003 it was reported it stored some 30 nuclear weapons, today hosts the 48th Fighter Wing and supports three combat-ready squadrons of F-15E Strike Eagle and F-15C Eagle fighter aircraft. Two squadrons of U.S. F-35 jets (48 of them) will be arriving there by 2020 — the first in Europe. It has played a role since 2001 flying combat missions and providing combat support in operations in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Syria and across the Middle East.

It should also be noted that Britain helps the U.S. maintain some of its 800 military bases abroad — some jointly such as at Ascension Island — and it continues to lease to the U.S. strategic military bases that it had previously seized for itself abroad, such as Diego Garcia in the Chagos Islands. The British government carried out this international crime in 1965 when it was forced to decolonize Mauritius but kept the Chagos Islands for itself, expelled the population and handed Diego Garcia over to the U.S. for a military base occupied by them to this day. Now the British government is ignoring the 2019 instruction by the United Nations' highest court to properly finish the process of decolonization, and return the Chagos Islands to Mauritius and to the people who were expelled. It has also been reported that Gibraltar, presently a British Navy base, is to be made a "strategic military base"[6] for the U.S. with the vital role for the U.S. Navy's operations underlined.

Today, the fight of the anti-war movement against the U.S. bases is inspired by the heroic fight against the U.S. Cruise Missiles at Greenham Common in the 1980s, and those who fight now against nuclear weapons, against U.S. spy bases at Fylingdales and Menwith Hill and the whole anti-war movement that stands up to say that this is not in their name. The working class and people alongside the peoples of the world will continue this fight to realize their aspiration for peace. The people have always opposed turning Britain into a launchpad for U.S. interventions and wars abroad, just as they have opposed the warmongering and military interventions of successive British governments abroad. Making Britain a zone for peace means the dismantling of all U.S. Air Force and spy bases at home and also those under Britain's control abroad. This is central to the fight to bring about an anti-war government in Britain.

### Notes

1. "U.S. Military Bases in the UK," Yorkshire Campaign for



Nuclear Disarmament, October 24, 2018; [militarybases.com](http://militarybases.com); "UK RAF Stations Map," Royal Air Force Website, 2019; A Guide to Military Airshows in the UK; [www.aeroresource.co.uk](http://www.aeroresource.co.uk).

2. Yorkshire Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

3. "U.S./UK Spy and Communications Bases in the UK," Yorkshire Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, October 26, 2018.

4. "Trump announces huge expansion of U.S. missile defense system," Julian Borger, *Guardian*, January 17, 2019.

5. Yorkshire Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

6. "Why Gibraltar Matters To The British Military," Forces Network, October 31, 2018; "Gibraltar wins with Brexit: London to make the Rock a strategic military base," *Simon Osborne, Express*, February 18, 2018; "Gibraltar's vital role for the U.S. Navy's operations is underlined," *MercoPress*, February 26, 2015.

### For Your Reference

In 2014 on the 70th anniversary since U.S. bases were established in Britain, Seumas Milne wrote in the *Guardian* an article, reproduced by the Stop the War Coalition when Jeremy Corbyn was its President, entitled "After 70 years of U.S. troops in Britain, time to send them home and close the bases." He pointed out that "Successive governments have mortgaged Britain's security and independence to a foreign power—and placed its armed forces, territory and weaponry at the disposal of a system of global domination."