



## ***May Day in the time of the anti-Trump struggle*** **An injustice to one is an injustice to all!**

May Day 2017 comes at the time of billionaire president Trump. His agenda aims at mass impoverishment, stripping health insurance from millions of people, tearing up regulations on the polluters, and increasing militarism, while giving the rich big tax cuts. But it is also a time of mass resistance. Trump has therefore sought to cripple this resistance, by inciting the working people against each other. Immigrants in particular have been singled out for attack, with no lie too big for Trump to tell:

\* Trump slandered Mexican immigrants as drug dealers and rapists, when in fact undocumented immigrants have a lower crime rate than the native-born people.

\* He implied that all Muslim immigrants were terrorists and jihadis, when in fact most mass killings in this country are carried out by native-born white males.

\* "They're taking our jobs," said Trump, when in fact it is automation, austerity, and capitalist crisis that creates unemployment.

\* "They're taking our money," said Trump, when *in fact* undocumented immigrants pay some \$12 billion yearly to social security that they can never collect.

Trump has used such outrageous lies to build a reactionary movement that physically attacks immigrants, and to justify building a chauvinist wall against Mexico. He aims to blame immigrants unfairly for the ills of American capitalism. But people flocked to

the airports to defend immigrants and refugees from Trump's racist executive orders, and they have demonstrated across the country against Trump's racism.

Unfortunately the Democratic Party leaders have been false friends of the immigrants. Obama deported record numbers of people. The immigration reform packages he supported always included hiring more Border Patrol cops and constructing more fences or walls at the Mexican border. They contained fines, fees, and sometimes 20 year waiting periods before one could get citizenship. This shows why an independent class movement against both Wall Street parties must be built.

Everyone can play a role in building this movement. We can refute Trump's lies in our workplaces and schools. We can support the sanctuary movement, including individuals helping our undocumented comrades as best we can. We can continue to demonstrate in favor of immigrant rights. And everywhere we can promote the just, working-class demand: full rights for all immigrants now!

Trump wants to divide the working class in order to grind all working people down. But mass actions have already helped frustrate Trump and encouraged the courts to block his executive orders. The fight against anti-immigrant hysteria is an important part of unifying the working class; it is an important part of shattering Trump's entire right-wing agenda. <

## **Into the streets for environmental justice and to protect the climate**

In the week and a half before May Day, people took the streets in the March on Science and the People's Climate March. Here in Detroit, people were outraged over climate denialism, but also about the water disaster in Flint, the air pollution from Marathon Oil, the expansion of waste dumping at the "US Ecology" plant in Detroit (1), the thousands upon thousands of water shutoffs in Detroit, and other catastrophes.

Nationally, we see record global temperatures. Melting icecaps. Methane releases in the Arctic. Earth Day 2017 comes at a time of earth emergency. Burning fossil fuels simply must be stopped, and stopped quickly.

But the Trump Administration is proceeding full speed ahead to extract more fossil fuels. He's ordered completion of Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) and revived the Keystone XL pipeline. He's promoting coal production. He's moved to open more waters to drilling. And he's trying to dismantle the EPA.

Is it just an accident that the Trump Administration is filled with climate deniers? No, denialism has a long history. Forty years ago Exxon already knew that carbon emissions would cause global warming but then went on to fund climate-change denial groups anyway.(2) The Obama Administration had its own form of denialism, i.e., in 2015 Obama said "we're not moving fast enough" to fight climate change, but under the banner of achieving "energy independence" his administration opened more waters to oil and gas

drilling, and more lands to fracking and coal mining. This was environmentalism in theory but denialism in practice..

But more and more people have marched against climate denialism. On Earth Day this year, April 22, there were marches throughout the country for science. On April 29, there was the giant People's Climate March in Washington DC and smaller actions elsewhere. And this year, and previously, the struggle against fossil fuels has been closely connected to the struggle for environmental justice. We saw this in the fight of the indigenous people at Standing Rock against the DAPL pipeline. And we see it in Flint and Detroit, where the fight for healthy air and water is a fight against environmental racism.

In the course of these struggles, we have to watch out for the false solutions promoted by the pro-corporate organizations. The fake solutions rely on market measures which preserve the profits of the polluters.(3) The current favorite market measure is the carbon tax, which won't meet environmental goals while alienating the environmental movement from the masses. (4) Environmental activists should ask themselves why even the World Bank and International Monetary Fund—who make life hell for the workers, small farmers and indigenous peoples of the poor countries—are now promoting the carbon tax!(5)

The environmental movement needs to continue to fight to keep carbon fuels in the ground, rather than rally around market incen-

tives to the polluters. We need to link the fights against environmental devastation with the fight against austerity and for environmental justice. We need to fight for direct regulation of the environment, and not rely on the polluters to respond to market pressures. We need direct measures to provide jobs and protect mass livelihood. Life on this planet is just too precious to sacrifice to the profits of capital.

From day one, the Trump administration has been met by protests on nearly every issue, but the fight has just begun. We must base the environmental movement in the majority class in society,

## **Trump's bombing: US imperialist hypocrisy**

### **Support the Syrian people's uprising against the Assad tyranny!**

For six years the Syrian people have been rising in a powerful struggle against a most barbarous dictatorship. They've endured barrel bombing, chemical weapons, torture, rape, mutilation, and mass execution. Hundreds of thousands have died. 670,000 people are detained in government-run torture facilities. About half the people have been displaced, and over a fifth of the population has been forced to flee their homeland.

Yet the Syrian people have persisted and persisted in their fight for freedom. The regime has brought in Iranian, Hezbollah and other sectarian ground forces and the Russian air force to save itself but that hasn't stopped them. The loss of east Aleppo and other cities last year hasn't stopped them. The armed rebels continue fighting, and every time there's a lull in the war the masses go into the streets demanding the fall of the regime. Moreover, due to casualties, desertions, and resistance to conscription, the Syrian army is a shadow of its former self. Thus, in March the rebels were able to launch offensives in northeastern Damascus and Hama province against Assad and allies, as well as against ISIS in the south of Syria around Daraa. Meanwhile, voices in the Russian establishment have been hinting they want to find a way to wind down their imperialist military adventure in Syria.

It is in these conditions that Assad resorted to using nerve gas — probably sarin — in an attack on April 4 on the town of Khan Sheikhoun, Idlib province. Some 100 people died as a result, many of them young children. But local Syrians quickly posted heart-rending videos and photographs of what was happening that were broadcast around the world. The result was outrage by working class and progressive people everywhere, and re-enlivenment of the Syrian solidarity movement. And one of the very correct slogans raised by this movement in demonstrations is that Syrians don't need our pity, they need our solidarity!

**Solidarity means helping to puncture the lies spread to discredit the heroic uprising against Assad.** There are the right-wingers who find terrorism behind every just struggle. Of more importance are the lies spread by many leftist and so-called "anti-imperialist" apologists such as WWP. They paint the Syrian opposition as little more than terrorist pawns of Washington. Meanwhile they cuddle up to Assad, downplay his vast horrific crimes or invent stories to cast doubt. Why would Assad gas people when he is winning, they cry! That's convincing?? No matter. The sea of lies keep coming. There are just too many murdered, imprisoned and exiled than phony stories to cover up. After six years of evidence to the contrary, the Assad-lovers still say the Syrian people did not arise because of Assad's tyranny, but because they got marching orders from Obama or some other Western imperialist plotter.

**Solidarity also means confronting Trumpism by exposing US imperialism's filthy role in Syria.** This has included the U.S.

the working class, and not on the supposedly green capitalists.. And we must stand against Trump's moves to divide and pick off the working people one by one, i.e., immigrants, national minorities, indigeous people, women.

(1) <http://coalitionstopuse.weebly.com/>

(2) <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/exxon-knew-about-climate-change-almost-40-years-ago/>

(3) <http://communistvoice.org/41cAlGore.html>

(4) <http://communistvoice.org/42cCarbonTax.html>

(5) <http://www.comunistvoice.org/DWV-160429.html> <

blocking the rebels from getting anti-aircraft weapons that, if they'd had them, they no doubt would have won the rebellion years ago. It has included the U.S. demanding any rebels it armed and trained not fight Assad, but only ISIS. It has included tacit cooperation with the Assad regime as Russia bombed the rebels and the U.S. bombed ISIS. And the U.S. has acted this way because it has never wanted a decisive victory for the democratic uprising. Instead, its strategy has been to bleed the rebels, and then arrange a "solution" with outside powers that leaves the pillars of the repressive state apparatus in place, while perhaps sacrificing Assad.

**Solidarity means exposing Trump's hypocrisy.** Trump's April 4 bombing continued the past US imperialist hypocritical policy. It was the height of hypocrisy for Tump to talk of "heinous action by the Assad regime"....while leaving out the much larger number of women, children and babies the US has been killing in Syria and the Middle East for decades. Meanwhile Trump seeks to ban Syrians refugees from the US! US imperialism has always feared that the Syrian people would oppose its interests if they were freed from Assad's yoke, and Trump's crocodile tears can't hide his fear of the Syrian people.

**Solidarity means support for the people of other countries, not their oppressors.** Without this solidarity, there is no real anti-imperialism. Without this solidarity with the people, there is no real anti-war struggle, only a decision about which oppressor to support. Supporting the Syrian uprising is the only way to truly oppose the policy of the American bourgeoisie. <

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- \* Against denigration of the anti-Trump struggle (Feb. 2, 2017)
- \* Solidarity vs. pro-Assad lies (Dec. 22, 2016)
- \* Against dumping toxic waste in Detroit's water (Dec. 9)
- \* Defend the water protectors at Standing Rock (Nov. 25)
- \* Fracking: 150 years of poisoning the land (Aug. 16)
- \* Support BDS movement and Palestine solidarity (Sept. 4, 2015)

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