

MUNDO OBRERO WORKERS WORLD

Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite! workers.org Vol. 67, No. 11 March 13, 2025

Protests resist MAGA attacks



WW PHOTO: JIM MCMAHAN

Part of protest of 2,000 people in Seattle, March 7, 2025, who 'Stand up for Science.' See page 4.



WW PHOTO: HUGO EAST

Protest at Foley Square, New York City, hits U.S.'s illegal seizure of Palestinian activist student Mahmoud Khalil, March 10, 2025. See page 3.

In this issue

- ◆ **Around the World**
Thousands protest around U.S. to defend science. 4
- ◆ **Editorial**
Free Mahmoud Khalil! 3
- ◆ **Mundo Obrero**
¡Defienda el derecho a la autodefensa! 5

Articles at workers.org

- ◆ **In the U.S.**
W.Va.: Students protest removal of DEI at Marshall U. . .LINK
UAW leaders get it wrong on Trump's tariffs, jobsLINK
NY: Thousands protest seizure of Mahmoud Khalil . . .LINK
The solution to the 'Elon Musk problem'LINK
Philadelphia: Militant march for IWWD 2025LINK
VA boss slashes veterans' benefits, cuts 80,000 jobs . .LINK
A higher education union responds to Trump attacks . .LINK
- ◆ **Around the World**
S. Korean workers unite against U.S.-backed far right . .LINK
Palestinian postal workers' global appeal for solidarity . .LINK
Hamas demands an end to collective punishment . . .LINK
Palestinian trade unions statement on March 8, IWD. .LINK
Palestinian Resistance salute to IWD.LINK
The scope of the defeat: Trump flushes Kiev regime. . .LINK
What is happening with the Gaza ceasefire?LINK
Socialist roots of International Women's Day.LINK
- ◆ **Tear Down the Walls**
Incarcerated trans women challenge Trump's order . .LINK
Philly: 'Info Session' on unjust imprisonments.LINK



International Women's Day march, Philadelphia, March 8, 2025. WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

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Workers World Party is a revolutionary
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tional, multigenerational and multigen-
dered organization that not only aims to
abolish capitalism, but to build a socialist
society because it's the only way forward!

Capitalism and imperialism threaten
the peoples of the world and the planet
itself in the neverending quest for ever-
greater profits.

Capitalism means war and auster-
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im/migrants, misogyny, LGBTQIA2S+
oppression and mistreatment of people
with disabilities. It means joblessness,
increasing homelessness and impover-
ishment and lack of hope for the future.
No social problems can be solved under
capitalism.

The U.S. is the richest country in the
world, yet no one has a guaranteed right
to shelter, food, water, health care, edu-
cation or anything else—unless they can
pay for it. Wages are lower than ever, and
youth are saddled with seemingly insur-
mountable student debt, if they even make
it to college. Black, Brown and Indigenous

youth and trans people are gunned down
by cops and bigots on a regular basis.

The ruthless ruling class today seeks
to wipe out decades of gains and benefits
won by hard-fought struggles by people's
movements. The super-rich and their
political representatives have intensified
their attacks on the multinational, mul-
tigender and multigenerational working
class. It is time to point the blame at —
and challenge — the capitalist system.

WWP fights for socialism because
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society, and this wealth should remain
in their hands, not be stolen in the form
of capitalist profits. The wealth workers
create should be socially owned and its
distribution planned to satisfy and guar-
antee basic human needs.

Since 1959, Workers World Party has
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workers and oppressed here and world-
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for a socialist future, please sign up at
www.workers.org/join-form and an
organizer will get back to you. Or contact
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Solidarity with pro-Palestine students

Free Mahmoud Khalil!

WORKERS WORLD editorial

It should come as no surprise that the MAGA administration has targeted activist students. Or that they have especially focused on international students who need permission to stay in the United States. No surprise first because the Trump cabal aims for the throat. Second because they see the student movement as an internal threat to their drive to world domination.

All the more should the workers' movement, the progressive movement, the anti-imperialist movement and the revolutionary movement for socialism show 100% support to the students under attack. That's whether the assault is from the Trump crowd, from the university's management or from Israel itself.

Starting soon after October 7, 2023, the campus reaction to Israel's genocidal attack opened a path to an enduring struggle protesting U.S. policy as well as Israeli-initiated genocide. It's a struggle that the courage of the Palestinians has nourished. It's a struggle that the Trump-Musk cabal is trying to crush, but the MAGA crowd has no chance of succeeding.

We call the college administrators managers. They manage in service of the ruling class. These sharp political crises expose the real role of the privileged university administrations. While pretending to defend free discussion, they buckled under the pressure of "Genocide Joe" Biden. They have collapsed under Trump.

College administrators are finding out that, no matter how much they kiss the ring on the hands of the Trumps and Musks, they will get slapped. The announcement cutting \$400 million in government grants to Columbia University is an example of a hard slap. And it's a threat to all other universities dependent on government spending.

Much media attention this March has focused on Barnard College, part of Columbia University. The same focus happened during the campus struggles last



Maumoud Khalil speaking at a 2024 Columbia University rally.

year. The media often focus attention on the Ivy League and other "elite" schools, including the University of Pennsylvania where the president was ousted for not stopping alleged "antisemitic" protests even when none had occurred.

Last year, students attending public universities also waged courageous struggles and also faced repression, police bullying and arrests, but with less publicity.

In 2023 and 2024, when the Biden administration was feeding the genocide with weapons, billionaires threatened to withhold endowment donations to universities that did not go far enough to repress campus protests. Now, in 2025, under the ultraright MAGA and billionaires' rule, the universities face cuts of government funding, and students are threatened with expulsion and deportation.

The Trump regime has threatened to deport any students on student visas who have participated in protests. It accuses them of being Hamas supporters and thus "terrorists." That's no matter what school they're at.

That's exactly what happened on March 8, when Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents arrested Palestinian Mahmoud Khalil in his Columbia University apartment in New York City. Khalil holds a green card allowing him to reside and work in the U.S. Khalil graduated from Columbia last December.

Anyone who knows the true history of West Asia and Palestine could rightly counter that the current occupants of power—as well as the formerly in power

Democratic Party crowd—are supporters of Israel's state terrorism. If backers of the Israeli terrorists were removed from Washington, there would be hardly anyone left from either the Democratic or Republican parties.

A movement has already mobilized to defend Khalil, who is being held in detention by ICE. A solidarity protest demonstration was set for March 10 at 4 p.m. at 26 Federal Plaza in downtown Manhattan in New York City.

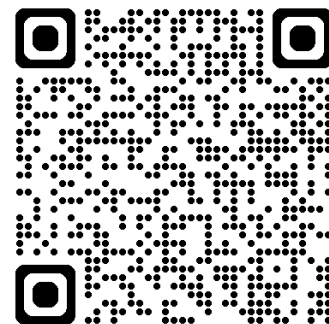
The quickly organized protest convinces us at Workers World that the students who protested genocide will find ways to continue resisting. We are equally confident that the mass resistance to the Trump-Musk autocratic rule will find ways to organize and grow.

As this anti-imperialist movement grows, it must also take up the defense of the students who, inspired by the Gazans, have steadfastly sat-in, occupied space and raised day after day the demand to stop the genocide, liberate Gaza and grant amnesty for expelled student protesters.

Free Mahmoud Khalil! Free Palestine!

Sign petition to free Khalil:
www.tinyurl.com/mahmoudkhalil

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Thousands protest around U.S. to defend science

By Jim McMahan
Seattle

Science workers squared off against the billionaires' dictatorship with mass rallies and walkouts on March 7. Protests were held in 32 U.S. cities with coordinated walkouts held in over 100 big cities, state capitals and campus towns across the country. The day of action was international, with 30 cities in France participating!

Stand Up for Science is the campaign of science workers protesting the orders from President Donald Trump and Elon Musk for mass cutbacks and layoffs of scientists, researchers and health care workers, and the impact on their patients.

At the Seattle rally of 2,000 people, rage and opposition to all the cuts and layoffs affecting essential health care positions spilled out. One speaker talked about being censored and alone at work and being overjoyed at seeing huge numbers of chanting and cheering workers. Another speaker condemned federal attacks on diversity in the recruitment of new scientists, pointing out that new scientists must come from underrepresented communities.

One of the 800 people who was laid off from the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration said the layoffs would set back the implementation of policies to halt global warming. Speakers warned that federal threats against the 450,000 workers at the Veterans



Indianapolis, Indiana, 'Stand up for Science,' March 7, 2025.

Administration could coerce workers to quit and cause veterans' health care to suffer.

Science workers are in hospitals, college research labs, biotech firms and more. They are representative of the whole federal workforce under attack, which includes even more workers in state, local and nonprofit organizations. Many of them are low-paid laboratory workers. Many workers at the protest were members of United Auto Workers Local 4121 at the University of Washington.

Attacks on science endanger the population

Workers know what ignoring science can lead to, since under the previous Trump administration over 1 million workers died in the U.S. from COVID-19 due to Trump-led anti-science rhetoric, prejudice and neglect. Many of the dead were health care workers. The mention of the new Health and Human Services secretary's name, Robert F. Kennedy Jr., prompted a loud chorus of boos in Seattle.

Many of the people participating in the national actions are patients of the scientists and health care workers. They include trans people threatened with losing gender-affirming care. People with mental health and addiction challenges could also lose their treatments.

Health care workers have a close relationship to those suffering from the harsh ills of capitalism. They are resisting Musk's efforts to shred the scientific safety net and are in solidarity with their patients.

do their work despite the negative influence of insurance company executives and investors such as UnitedHealth Group Inc.

The Stand Up for Science mass rallies and strikes were organized by a large grassroots effort of volunteers. Speakers at the main rally in Washington, D.C., included Bill Nye, the Science Guy, and former National Institutes of Health Director Francis Collins, who helped map the human genome.

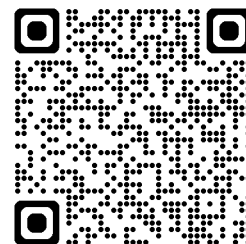
The goals of Stand Up for Science are: Restoration of federal scientific funding; reinstatement of wrongly terminated employees at federal agencies; an end to governmental influence and censorship in science; and a renewed commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) and accessibility in science. (standupforscience2025.org) □



WW PHOTO: JIM MCMAHAN

Part of 2,000 pro-science demonstrators in Seattle, March 7, 2025.

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¡Defienda el derecho a la autodefensa!

Durante más de 16 meses desde la inundación de Al-Aqsa el 7 de octubre de 2023, Mundo Obrero ha mostrado su solidaridad con el derecho del asediado pueblo palestino a llevar a cabo una lucha armada de liberación —desde Gaza hasta Cisjordania— contra la ocupación genocida sionista respaldada por Estados Unidos.

Esa misma solidaridad debería mostrarse hacia la comunidad mayoritariamente afroamericana de Lincoln Heights, Ohio —situada en las afueras de Cincinnati y muy cerca de la línea Mason-Dixon— donde la gente optó por la autodefensa cuando neonazis armados empezaron a aterrorizar a los residentes a partir del 7 de febrero.

Al menos una docena de estos fascistas armados tuvieron la arrogancia de presentarse inesperadamente en camionetas para una marcha en las mismas inmediaciones en las que salían niños negros de la escuela primaria Lincoln Heights. Uno puede imaginarse lo traumatizante e intimidatorio que fue este acontecimiento para estos jóvenes y sus padres.

Dos semanas después, estos mismos fascistas aparecieron de nuevo lanzando octavillas del KKK en la misma comunidad. Y para sorpresa de nadie, la oficina del sheriff del condado de Hamilton no hizo nada para expulsar a estos fascistas de la comunidad negra. De hecho, los residentes de la comunidad vieron de primera mano cómo la policía protegía a los fascistas que eran un claro peligro para su comunidad. Un fascista fue simplemente citado por «tirar basura».

Es importante saber que Lincoln Heights es desde hace años una comunidad autogobernada, en la que los residentes intentan activamente revertir la falta de servicios públicos, la infrainversión y el abandono por parte de la estructura de poder blanca local. Esta es la razón por la que Lincoln Heights se ha visto sometida a una presencia policial exterior.

La policía trabaja mano a mano con los fascistas

Sin mostrar signos claros de intimidación, los miembros de la comunidad negra formaron el Programa de Seguridad y Vigilancia de Lincoln Heights y se armaron con armas. Sus miembros patrullan las 24 horas del día para defender a su comunidad de la invasión de estos supremacistas blancos.

Dominic Brewton Jr., residente de la comunidad, dijo: «Cuando vimos que la policía no nos ayudaba, todos los hombres sanos del barrio, con o sin pistola, montaron guardia y han estado montando guardia desde entonces». (Washington Post, 27 de febrero)

La autodefensa es absolutamente necesaria. Cuando Kyle Rittenhouse, un supremacista blanco que asesinó a dos activistas de Black Lives Matter en Kenosha, Wisconsin, tras el tiroteo de la policía contra Jacob Blake en agosto de 2020, se vio a la policía prestando ayuda y consuelo a Rittenhouse horas después de los asesinatos.

Cuando el supremacista blanco Dylann Roof asesinó a nueve feligreses negros en Charleston, Carolina del Sur, en 2015, la policía le regaló una hamburguesa tras su detención. No es exagerado decir que muchos policías llevan una placa de día y capuchas del KKK de noche.

Existe un precedente histórico de la comunidad negra



Residente armado en Lincoln Heights, Ohio, 17 de febrero de 2025.

armándose contra el aparato represivo del Estado, la policía, junto con el brazo extralegal del Estado, los neonazis y el Klan. Durante las décadas de 1960 y 1970, los negros crearon escuadrones de autodefensa armados en el Sur y en el Norte.

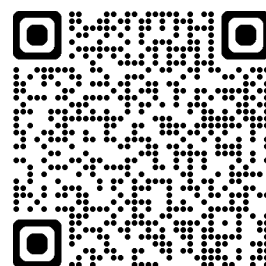
Los Diáconos por la Defensa y la Justicia fueron formados por trabajadores negros en noviembre de 1964 en Jonesboro, Luisiana, para proteger a los activistas de los Derechos Civiles del terror del KKK durante la lucha por el derecho al voto. Los activistas negros Robert Williams y Mabel Williams organizaron la autodefensa armada contra el KKK en Monroe, Carolina del Norte, tras las luchas por la eliminación de la segregación en una piscina a finales de la década de 1950, donde se les unió la líder de la Liberación Negra Mae Mallory.

El Partido de las Panteras Negras, fundado en 1966, formó escuadrones armados de defensa de la comunidad en Oakland, California, y en otras grandes zonas urbanas contra la ocupación y la brutalidad policial citando la Segunda Enmienda, que garantiza el derecho a portar armas.

El Programa de Seguridad y Vigilancia de Lincoln Heights continúa esta heroica tradición de la gente de color que defiende su derecho a protegerse a sí misma y a sus comunidades de los supremacistas blancos que han recibido el visto bueno para llevar a cabo su mensaje de intolerancia y odio con la impunidad de la policía y la sanción de la actual administración de la Casa Blanca.

Y esta tradición debe seguir siendo defendida por las fuerzas progresistas y revolucionarias desde Palestina hasta EE.UU. □

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