



Speak Out Now

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We Can't Depend on Them or Their Courts

We are facing a reign of chaos. Since starting his second term in office, Trump has passed one executive order after another to implement his policies. When he can't get the legislature to pass a law, he just orders it done. When lawsuits are filed against him, he ignores them. When judges order his actions to stop, he threatens them.

Trump disregarded the Supreme Court's decision that Kilmar Abrego Garcia, a man legally in the U.S., who had been sent to the notorious CECOT prison in El Salvador, must be returned. This shouldn't come as a surprise. When he took office the Supreme Court gave him the ultimate get out of jail free card. He was given total immunity from prosecution when carrying out acts as President.

The Supreme Court has generally followed Trump's orders. It has responded to Trump's request to make a number of emergency decisions when he was challenged by lower courts. It overturned rulings that would delay or halt the kidnapping and deportation of people without any trial or hearing. The Supreme Court moved quickly to allow Trump to fire members of the National Labor Relations Board simply for disagreeing with him.

Most recently, the Court allowed for Trump to move forward in banning all transgender people from serving in the military. Currently there are more than 4,000 transgender people in all levels of the military.

Now, Trump is asking the Supreme Court to revoke the legal status of more than 500,000 immigrants. In a case to be heard later in the month, the rights of naturalized citizens are also being challenged.

With a majority of Republicans in the House of Representatives, the Senate, and the Supreme Court, the so-called checks and balances are in one man's hands.

Despite this, the Democrats are still pointing to court rulings as a way to stop the Trump administration's rampage over our rights and benefits. Medicaid, Social Security and other basic programs are on the chopping block in the current budget proposal, along with billions of dollars in tax breaks for the rich.

Many have called this a constitutional crisis. But, in reality, the fake neutrality of the courts has been exposed. The actions of the legislature and the courts should not surprise us at all. They have always existed to defend the interests of the wealthy who control this system. It is just more blatant under Trump's ruthless agenda.

And those who do believe in upholding basic democratic rights face threats and harassment. For example, Wisconsin judge Hannah Dugan was arrested by the FBI for defending the legal rights of a man who was appearing in her court for an immigration hearing.

This may seem confusing. The Supreme Court has a reputation for defending our rights because of high profile cases like *Brown v. Board of Education* and *Roe v. Wade*. In reality, most of the time it maintains the corporate interests that dominate our society.

Those decisions and other high-profile cases, where people's rights were upheld, were not the result of the Court's commitment to basic rights. They were the result of massive social movements. And the courts serve as a tool to absorb, redirect, and institutionalize those movements.

Brown v. Board of Education was a response to the growing Civil Rights Movement. Segregation was also an obstacle to U.S. corporate domination of the world. How could the U.S. claim to represent democracy, especially to the people of Africa, when the Black population in the U.S. existed in servitude as second-class citizens?

Similarly, the *Roe v. Wade* decision was a response to the Women's Movement. For those in power, women's right to abortion wasn't a threat. The economy was changing and increasing numbers of women were being educated and entering the workforce, which could benefit the economy. But, as the momentum of the Women's Movement subsided, growing far-right forces gained political power, and the conservative Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*, against popular opinion.

This political system, with its legislatures and courts, never represented the interests of the majority. Especially not the working class, whose labor produces the wealth of this society and is responsible for its day-to-day functioning. If there is one thing we can learn from the arrogance of Trump and his cabinet of billionaires, it is how this system works and who it works for. The racism, sexism, anti-immigrant prejudices it created and maintains serve one purpose – to keep us divided. Our true history, the one they are attempting to shred, shows us that the only gains we can make are when we stand together. It's clear. We have no need for those who rule over us.

We could take care of ourselves, just fine. As the old saying goes, "It's not time to mourn, it's time to organize."

Bay Area, California:

Keep Our Shuttered Prisons Closed!

President Trump is threatening to reopen some of California's shuttered prisons. Alcatraz in San Francisco Bay has been closed for more than 60 years and is a museum that rakes in \$60 million a year for the state. Trump says that it should be reopened as a maximum security prison to "house America's most ruthless and violent offenders."

There has also been a push to turn the women's prison in Dublin, California (only shuttered last year) into an ICE detention center. This prison was notoriously dubbed the rape prison for the number of sexual assault cases of women inmates.

More prisons in and around our communities won't make us safer, and Californians are fighting back against these attacks. Sign this petition against turning Dublin's prison into an ICE detention center: tinyurl.com/NoICEinDublin. Volunteer with Bay Resistance & TUWU (Workers United) to do community outreach in Dublin against ICE detention center: tinyurl.com/Outreach4Dublin.

Newark, New Jersey:

Air Travel Crisis Hits Newark

On April 28, air traffic controllers at the busy Newark Airport lost radar tracking and communication with planes. The outage lasted only about one minute and no people or planes were harmed. Another similar outage happened on May 9. This – on top of a recent deadly collision and dozens of near accidents – highlights a crisis in air travel in the U.S. People in the air and on the ground in one of the nation's most densely populated areas lived through the threat of major airplane disasters overhead.

For at least 40 years, we have known these problems exist. Understaffing, overworked controllers, old infrastructure and lack of funding to address the problems have all piled up. Even though they knew about the dangers, presidents and both political parties have either made the problems worse or ignored them. And the current administration is slashing budgets even further.

We live in the wealthiest country in the world, and it is our labor that has created all of this wealth. We aren't the ones who benefit from this. The super rich — the bosses of the big corporations and banks — keep the wealth and make all the decisions. Working people do the work that makes society run, and we can organize to unite our forces. When we do, we have enormous power to change things and make a better world.

The Triangle, North Carolina:

Attacking Workplace Safety Standards

The North Carolina legislature may soon pass a law that will make workplaces more dangerous. House Bill 568 would allow the NC Department of Labor to reduce standards for workplace safety and health without a public hearing. This is in line with what's happening nationally.

The Trump administration has pushed to eliminate or downgrade Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards. To get this done, Trump has appointed an Amazon executive to head OSHA! Amazon has an injury rate 71% higher than other warehousing companies, and this man was in charge of the company's fake, so-called "Warehouse Safety" program.

From the state to the federal government, no one is protecting us. If we want safe and healthy working conditions, we have to be organized and fight to get them.

Baltimore, Maryland:

May Day: We Must All Stand Together

May 1st was May Day or International Workers Day. Globally millions of workers took to the streets to celebrate and demand a better world for working people. In Baltimore, several thousand people rallied across the city for a number of issues, including the fights to defend workers, immigrants, Palestinians, and students.

Although the rallies started at different places addressing separate issues, they all marched into one large rally at the Inner Harbor. This reminds us that these issues are all connected. Workers, immigrants, Palestinians, students and many others face the same enemy, the capitalist class. Our struggles must be united. To have a world without exploitation and oppression, we must stand together.



Speak Out Socialists public meeting

The Crisis of Capitalism Today

With Marxist economist Richard D. Wolff (via video call)

Sun, June 1, at 7:00pm

Location TBA (check our Instagram or website)