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**VOICE OF REVOLUTION**

Publication of the U.S. Marxist-Leninist Organization

March 17, 2017

USMLO 3942 N. Central Ave, Chicago, IL 60634



**Fight for Anti-War Government : 1-4**

ALL U.S. TROOPS HOME NOW

## Unite and Fight for an Anti-War Government

The U.S. is organizing to send more troops to Syria, is stepping up the bombing of Yemen and Iraq, and Trump is calling for a major increase in the giant Pentagon budget. In its desperation to hold onto its empire while contending with economic decline, the U.S.

thinks more use of force and military occupations will save it. The peoples of Iraq, Afghanistan, Yemen and Syria, through their persistent just resistance are saying No! U.S. Get Out Now!

People in the U.S. too are  
**Fight for Anti-War Government • 3**



**Growing Resistance Defends Rights : 4-14**

## Growing Resistance Defends Rights of Immigrants and Refugees

Tens of thousands have been joining the broad and growing resistance to government attacks on immigrants and refugees. February 16 saw one-day actions across the country under the banner “A

Day Without Immigrants.” Hundreds of businesses were closed, while many small storeowners joined the action by closing for the day. In Wisconsin the action took  
**Growing Resistance Defends Rights • 4**



**International Women's Day : 15-20**

CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

## Advance the Fight for Women's Emancipation

Building on the momentum and enthusiasm from the massive Women's March on Washington, women across the country joined demonstrations, meetings, school walkouts and more, demanding their rights. Many participated in a “Day Without Women,” organized to honor International Women's

Day, March 8, and emphasize the important role women play in all aspects of life. On the agenda for many was strengthening the resistance to the immediate attacks now taking place, while also considering the fight for women's emancipation — a victory necessary for the emancipa-

**Reject Police State • 15**

**OUR FUTURE LIES IN THE FIGHT FOR THE RIGHTS OF ALL**

## March edition of **Voice of Revolution**

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Publication of the U.S. Marxist-Leninist Organization  
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### I • Fight for Anti-War Government

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demonstrating in March, marking the 14th anniversary of the U.S. invasion of Iraq and joining with all those worldwide to say All U.S. Troops Home Now! That is the path toward peace and security, at home and abroad. Ending U.S. war crimes and crimes against humanity, demonstrated most recently in the bombing of a mosque in Syria killing more than 40 people, is what is needed. More troops and more bombings solve no problem.

We are contending with a situation where the constitution and existing laws provide no means to hold the government to account for its crimes. Despite the broad majority being against U.S. wars and against more public dollars for the Pentagon war machine, that popular will is not implemented. Government criminals, starting with the president, cannot be held to account. Clearly elections do not serve this purpose, as there has been one war criminal president after the other. Nor does pressuring Congress, which no longer functions, repeatedly provides war funding and has not blocked the usurpation of power by the presi-



dency on matters of war and peace.

What is needed is not reliance on the old institutions, but the building of the new. A new direction, against the current war government and war economy is needed to open a path to progress. It is an anti-war government that brings all U.S. troops home and defends rights abroad and at home that is needed. Uniting to organize in this direction is an urgent task of the present. Organizing among youth to refuse to serve and reject militarization of their public schools, uniting all concerned to discuss and debate the need for an anti-war government and a new constitution to enshrine it, are steps for the present.

Bringing the issue of the need for an anti-war government to the fore in the many mass actions taking place is another. An anti-war government is an urgent and unifying issue that impacts many fronts, such as refugees, immigration, environment and more. In conditions where the U.S. is threatening new wars and preparing for world war, organizing for an anti-war government cannot wait.

## Pentagon Denies Bombing Syrian Mosque

*Alex Emmons, The Intercept, March 17, 2017*

The Pentagon spokesperson insisted that the U.S. airstrike in the village of Al-Jina in northern Syria on Thursday night, March 16, did not hit a mosque. “The area was extensively surveilled prior to the strike in order to minimize civilian casualties,” Navy Captain Jeff Davis wrote in an email. “We deliberately did not target the mosque.” He even unclassified and circulated a photo. And he pointed out that on the left, you can see a small mosque, still standing. Davis said military officials “believe dozens of core al Qaeda terrorists were killed.” The building “was holding a meeting of al Qaeda members,” Major Adrian Rankine-Galloway, a Pentagon spokesperson claimed.

But to the people on the ground, the photo released tells a different story.

Activists and first responders say the building that was targeted was a part of the mosque complex — and that the charred rubble shown in the photo was where 300 people were praying when the bombs began to hit. An administration official told the *Washington Post* that two armed, Reaper drones fired “roughly [the] entirety of their Hellfire payload and followed up with a 500 pound bomb.”

More than 42 people were killed and dozens more injured, according to monitoring groups and local activists.

According to the monitoring group Airwars, locals say the building the drones struck is part of a mosque and religious school, which was built as an expansion several years ago. Local

activist Mohamed al Shaghel told the *New York Times* that the people in the building had “no affiliation with any military faction or any political side.”

A sign shown outside the south side of the building reads “Umar ibn Al-Khattab mosque” and indicates it is a religious school. Numerous pictures showing fragments of U.S. hellfire missiles also appeared on social media.

The Pentagon has a history of initially denying involvement in some of its worst atrocities. For instance, when the U.S. bombed a hospital in Kunduz, Afghanistan, in 2015, the Pentagon initially claimed it was not targeting the hospital. A Pentagon spokesman said that the destruction of the hospital, which was bombed for more than 30 minutes, killing 42 people, was “collateral damage.” The Pentagon’s story continued to change over coming days, until it eventually admitted responsibility.

[Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Numan Kurtulmus also condemned the attack as a war crime, telling reporters Friday: “This is a crime against humanity, this is a war crime. Bombing civilians, people in the mosque, and a house of worship is unacceptable.”]

Article 53 of the Geneva Convention prohibits attacks on cultural objects and places of worship. The strike comes as U.S. President Donald Trump has taken steps to loosen constraints on military engagement, including lowering the standard for what defines “acceptable” civilian casualties. — VOR Ed. Note]

# U.S. Military Planning to Send 1,000 More Ground Troops into Syria

The U.S. military has drawn up plans that would deploy up to 1,000 more troops into northern Syria in the coming weeks, greatly expanding the U.S. presence. The deployment, if approved by Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and President Trump, would potentially double the number of U.S. forces in Syria. In recent weeks, U.S. Army Rangers have been sent to the city of Manbij west of Raqqa, while a Marine artillery battery recently deployed near Raqqa.

About 500 Special Operations forces are already in Syria, in addition to 250 Rangers recently deployed and 200 Marines. The new U.S. troops would probably come from parts of both the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit — a flotilla of ships loaded with 2,200 Marines that is now steaming toward the region — and the U.S. Army's 82nd Airborne Division, from which 2,500 troops

are headed to Kuwait. These conventional troops would supplement the Special Operations forces already on the ground.

In Mosul, in Iraq, the U.S. is brutally bombing the area with civilian deaths and destruction of civilian infrastructure widespread. More U.S. troops are also being sent in. This year marks the 14th anniversary of the U.S. invasion of the country, an invasion, like that of Afghanistan and Syria that has solved no problem and meant more crimes against the peoples.

Despite U.S. military might, resistance to U.S. aggression in both Syria and Iraq remains firm. So too in Yemen, where the U.S. has greatly increased its bombing raids and created dire conditions for the population. There is fierce opposition to the U.S. attacks and a common demand among the peoples: U.S. Troops Home Now!

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## *Growing Resistance Defends Rights*

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place February 13, with more than 30,000 demonstrating in Milwaukee. More than 120 businesses were closed, with hundreds of Muslims joining in and many Arab storeowners closing in support. As well students walked out in large numbers, especially in Michigan and North Carolina.

The actions were called to oppose the government's criminalization of immigrant workers and their families and reject the impunity of raids by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). *We are Workers Not Criminals! No Human Being is Illegal!* were among

the many banners and signs. The determination to continue strengthening the resistance was seen in the many plans already underway for another national "Day Without Immigrants" on May 1.

Broad resistance also continues against Trump's executive orders targeting Muslims and increasing detentions and deportations. These include mass actions as well as lawsuits, letters signed by hundreds demanding rights of those detained be respected, and statements but various organizations condemning government attacks. American Academy of Pediatricians, for example, issued a statement demanding that "families never be separated, and that children never be housed in detention centers."

The sanctuary movement where cities and counties refuse to cooperate with federal officials on immigration detentions is also growing. It is estimated that there are about 500 cities and counties considered sanctuaries and about 800 churches nationwide. California and New York are considering becoming sanctuary states. The California Supreme Court Chief Justice also sent a



letter calling in ICE not to detain people in or around courthouses.

These conflicts between court and state officials contending with federal actions indicate that conflicts among the rulers continue and the elections and since have not resolved them. Trump, using his executive orders and the police powers they entail, is striving to push the bounds of the constitution, while maintaining a constitutional form of governance. His role as president at this time is to consolidate a government of police powers and fully eliminate a government of laws. Hence he is not

concerned about the legitimacy of government. As he said in response to the recent court ruling in Hawai'i, where the federal judge issued a nationwide injunction against his second Muslim ban, "We are going to win, we are going to keep our citizens safe and regardless, we are going to keep our citizens safe, believe me." The "regardless" indicates that regardless of the court decisions, he will use police powers. Others among the rulers are striving to maintain the appearance of a government of laws, and along with it the appearance that the Constitution can serve to protect those under attack. As the many demonstrations indicate, reality on the ground shows that the attacks are continuing despite court rulings. It is by relying on the people's own efforts and strengthening the organized resistance that rights can be protected. It is by rejecting the old, including a constitution that enshrined slavery, and working to build the new, new social forms, new tactics, debates on a new constitution that guarantees rights, that the struggle for the rights of all can further advance.



***WISCONSIN ESCALATES THE RESISTANCE TO TRUMP***

# **A Day Without Latinxs, Immigrants and Refugees**

*Voces de la Frontera*

On February 13, tens of thousands of people in Wisconsin went on strike, closed their businesses, and withdrew their children from school to resist Trump's executive orders on immigration and the resulting wave of immigration raids sweeping the country, and to stop Milwaukee County Sheriff David Clarke's from enrolling his department in the federal 287g program, which would deputize his sheriffs to act as Immigration agents. The day's events, known as a "Day Without Latinxs, Immigrants, and Refugees," culminated in a massive march of tens of thousands of people from Voces de la Frontera's offices to the Milwaukee County Courthouse. The diverse march included hundreds of Muslim community members, many of whom also struck and closed their businesses, and joined the march as a contingent as marchers entered downtown.

Throughout Wisconsin over 150 factories, grocery stores, bakeries, construction companies, auto dealers, restaurants, and many other businesses closed out of solidarity or due to worker absence, including over 120 in Milwaukee alone. Many more businesses including hotels, manufacturers, and dairies experienced decreased production due to work stoppages. Following the march, the massive crowd rallied on the steps of the courthouse, listening to music and speeches from community leaders and elected officials.

"Today, we escalate the national and international struggle against Trump's executive orders, which aim to expand the machinery of mass deportation and legalize discrimination based on race and religion," said Christine Neumann-Ortiz, Executive Director of Voces de la Frontera. "We came from more than 25 cities in Wisconsin to show Trump and his lapdog Sheriff Clarke that the people of Milwaukee, the people of Wisconsin, and this whole country reject the 287g program and their mass deportation plans. Today, we organized a Day Without Latinxs, Immigrants, and Refugees to use our economic power – through work stoppages, small business closures and boycotts, to defend our and communities."

"Latinos are the backbone of Wisconsin's dairy industry," said



German Sanchez, an Omro, Wisconsin dairy worker who struck and marched with 5 coworkers. "Latinos are responsible for a large part of Wisconsin's milk production. We are a positive part of the community, we are family and work-oriented. We love what we do, but we are organized and ready to fight against people like Trump, Clarke, or any politician who attacks our families. We have power. Trump needs to know that if he is putting Latinos at risk, he is putting the dairy industry and the whole economy at risk."

"This is not a struggle that has Muslims, immigrants and refugees on one side and everyone else on the other side," said Janan Najeeb, President of the Milwaukee Muslim Women's Coalition. "This is a struggle between people that stand for brotherhood, compassion, mercy, justice and human dignity on one side and those that stand for hatred, racism, xenophobia and injustice on the other side. Scapegoating Latinos, immigrants and refugees distracts from addressing real issues and offering real solutions. This city and this country cannot live and function without Latinos, immigrants and refugees! We are physicians, scientists and engineers, we are chefs and waiters, we are farmers and farmhands, we are business owners and domestic helpers. We give life to our city and to our country, and we are not going anywhere!"

## ***February 16 Action***

# **Tens of Thousands Strike on Day Without Immigrants**

***Dan DiMaggio, Sonia Singh, Labor Notes***

Tens of thousands of immigrant workers struck across the country during "A Day Without Immigrants" actions, including 30,000 in Milwaukee. Arkansas poultry workers, Brooklyn warehouse workers and house cleaners, Twin Cities roofers, and thousands of students in places like Grand Rapids, Michigan, and Charlotte, North Carolina all participated. They were all among the tens of thousands who stayed home from work or school across the country during Thursday, February 16's "Day without Immigrants."

The action, largely spread over social media, radio and informal networks in working-class immigrant communities, opposed President Donald Trump's promise to dramatically expand

immigration enforcement and the wave of raids by Immigration and Customs Enforcement the prior week.

"They're calling us criminals and rapists," said Jose Flemate, a member of Roofers Local 96 in St. Paul, Minnesota, who struck with his co-workers. "We're not like that," we're workers.

"We want to make sure that people understand that this city would stop functioning if we weren't there to build, or cook, or clean," said Ligia Gualpa, an organizer with the Worker's Justice Project in Brooklyn.

## **Word Spreads Like Wildfire**

In most areas, strikes were not coordinated by any one

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## GROWING RESISTANCE DEFENDS RIGHTS

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organization — and even veteran organizers were taken aback by the scope. “It’s incredibly surprising to get a call saying, ‘We’re 120 workers and we’ve already told the employer we’re not going in on Thursday,’” said Jorge Mujica, an organizer with the Chicago-area worker center ARISE.

After getting a number of similar calls from workers who said they had already asked their boss for the day off and wanted to know where to meet, ARISE decided to coordinate an action. With less than two days’ notice, over 3,000 people showed up at Chicago’s Union Park.

A restaurant worker and member of the Chicago Workers Collaborative, first heard about the Day without Immigrants on the news. Friends promoted the strike through social media. “People were saying, ‘Don’t go to work, don’t buy anything, don’t go to school.’” Many of his friends and family members did not go to work. It was the first time he had ever participated in a march or protest.

A St. Paul worker said, ‘Look what happened with the Muslim community. They organized in a few hours [after the travel ban],’” he says. “That community got united and showed to the world and the media that they were defending their rights. So why don’t we get united and defend our rights too?”

He was able to convince three co-workers at his roofing company. “The guys said, ‘Yeah, we have bills to pay and we have families, but this is something very important to participate in.’”

He met up with other workers and students in front of the Mexican consulate, then marched to downtown St. Paul, picking up more and more people along the way. He estimated there were 3,000-4,000 people at the state Capitol by 1 p.m. — even though no rally had been called.

In Portland, Oregon, local Latino radio stations announced the strike and encouraged listeners to participate. No one organization took the lead, but there were multiple rallies and many businesses closed down, said Romeo Sosa of the VOZ Workers Education Project, a Portland day laborer organization. VOZ has set up a raid hotline and is mobilizing rapid response teams.

Fernando Garcia of the Northwest Arkansas Workers’ Justice Center said that most of the organizing in his area was by word of mouth or took place online, mainly through Facebook. He estimated fifty Latino and immigrant businesses across the region, the poultry capital of the world, closed in support.

The center opened its doors for any striking workers to meet and strategize with other strikers. Around 11 a.m., folks started trickling in. Strikers talked about how to get more co-workers



involved next time.

A woman who works in one of the local poultry plants said, “As a mother, it’s very important to me to show my children who I choose not to send to school today the importance of standing up for ourselves.”

### Milwaukee Shuts Down

A massive Day without Latinos, Immigrants, and Refugees on Monday, February 13 in Milwaukee, coordinated by the immigrant

rights group Voces de La Frontera, was an inspiration for many around the country. Voces estimates 30,000 people marched downtown, with buses bringing in supporters from 25 cities across the state.

The strike was called [to defend rights and reject plans by] Milwaukee County Sheriff David Clarke, a major Trump supporter, to begin deputizing county police to arrest undocumented immigrants. After November’s election, Voces immediately started [organizing] mass meetings. “We were asking people, ‘Would you be willing to organize more sustained actions for multiple days or multiple times?’” says Christine Neumann-Ortiz, the organization’s executive director. “The response we got was overwhelmingly yes, and that people were even willing to go further than one day.”

The one-day strike was the sixth organized by Voces since 2006. Its success owes in part to the network of churches and supportive small businesses that grew out of another Day without Latinos last year to protest a state bill outlawing sanctuary cities.

Voces is now calling for escalating actions leading up to a *National Day Without Latinos, Immigrants, and Refugees* on Monday, May 1 to demand Trump rescind all of his executive orders on immigration. In the meantime, the organization is building its rapid response network, recruiting churches to provide sanctuary for undocumented immigrants, holding know your rights trainings, and engaging local law enforcement to limit cooperation with ICE. (For more info, visit [vdlf.org](http://vdlf.org).)

### Retaliation

More than 100 workers around the country were fired for participating in the strike. These include 30 bricklayers in Commerce City, Colorado, 21 workers at a boat building company in Lexington, South Carolina, and 12 line cooks at a restaurant in Catoosa, Oklahoma.

In many instances, however, worker centers and immigrant organizations have been able to bring enough community pressure to get employers to back off retaliation.

That was the case at Chicago grocery chain Pete’s Market.



On February 15, a worker posted a picture of a letter workers had received from management there, threatening that anyone who did not show up to work the next day would be suspended for a week.

ARISE responded right away with a letter advising Pete's Market that the workers' action was protected under labor law. Meanwhile the original post circulated quickly on social media, along with a call for a boycott. Two and half hours later, the company put out a statement that it would be closing six stores for the day, so that workers could participate in the day of action.

Overall, it seems the amount of retaliation around the country was low. Kikuchi said the retaliation was less than what she expected.

CTUL backed workers facing reprisal in eight workplaces. After determining how many workers are affected, organizers help workers make a plan, which usually involves calling the boss right away. "A lot of employers haven't dealt with strikes," said Kikuchi. "We tell them this strike is legal and protected and

the community is watching."

Often, that causes employers to back down. If not, CTUL organizes a group of allies to accompany workers back to work on their first shift after a strike. CTUL has helped workers resolve five of the eight cases this way so far. Three are still pending.

Although CTUL and other worker centers do everything they can to make sure workers will have legal recourse, ultimately, "it's community support that's protecting workers and letting them go back to work, not the law," said Kikuchi. [...]

As the day unfolded, businesses around the country shut their doors and classrooms stood half-empty. In Grand Rapids, Michigan — hometown of new Education Secretary Betsy DeVos — so many students stayed home that the school day will not count.

Isabel Castillo, a Worker's Justice Center member and house-cleaner, kept her son home from school. When she brought him back the next day, "people were very emotional. We felt like human beings," she said. "We lost a day of work, but we took a big step forward."

# Lawsuit Opposes Delays in Immigration Courts

*American Civil Liberties Union, San Diego, March 10, 2017*

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of San Diego filed a class action lawsuit in federal court March 9 against the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Department of Justice. The suit seeks to end the excessive delays depriving civil immigration detainees of due process and prompt judicial review.

Every day, immigration agencies incarcerate tens of thousands of longtime U.S. residents, victims of persecution, and others in remote detention centers, ripped from their families and without access to legal support. None are serving time for a crime — and no judge has determined that there is probable cause to detain them — yet they are held in these deplorable detention facilities while they pursue legal avenues to remain in the U.S.

In San Diego and Imperial Counties, these detainees can languish for months before they are brought before a judge just to begin their case and learn for the first time why they are being incarcerated, what they can do to help present their case, or whether they can take steps to seek their release and get back to their loved ones.

"These medieval policies wreak havoc on our immigrant communities," said Bardis Vakili, senior staff attorney with the San Diego ACLU. "Physical liberty is a bedrock right protected by the Constitution. It cannot be taken away with no judicial oversight. This level of disregard for basic constitutional safeguards is reminiscent of our government's decision to open internment camps during World War II. It's an injustice that threatens to leave a similar scar on a new generation of American families."

With the Trump administration promising to expand detention facilities and deport millions of more people, delays in immigration courts are likely to get longer and will create further stress on the system.

"This administration has promised to double down on an immigration detention system that is flawed at its core," said Len Simon of the Law Offices of Leonard B. Simon P.C. "The U.S.

Constitution prohibits warehousing people for months without seeing a judge. This lawsuit is necessary to fix this problem before it gets even worse."

The lawsuit was filed on behalf of three clients currently detained in local facilities, including an 18-year-old high school senior who is eligible for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, a mother of two U.S. citizen children who has lived in the U.S. for many years, and a man who claims to be a U.S. citizen. They have been detained for weeks or months, but none have seen a judge. The lawsuit contends they are representative of a class of all detainees in DHS custody in the Southern District of California for longer than 48 hours who have not been brought before a judge nor received a judicial determination of probable cause to justify their detention.

"It betrays core American values to lock someone up without bringing them promptly to a judge," said Craig Countryman, an attorney with Fish and Richardson P.C. "The government has no legitimate interest in blocking people who may be eligible for bond and pose no safety threat from seeing a judge who can neutrally evaluate their case and determine whether they have been wrongly imprisoned."

On any given day, the two main detention facilities in the region — the Otay Detention Facility and the Imperial Regional Detention Facility — warehouse about 1,500 people in civil immigration detention. Detainees at these facilities typically wait one to three months just for their first hearing, but many wait even longer."



**RIGHTS ORGANIZATION FILES COMPLAINT AGAINST VISITATION DENIALS**

# **400 Organizations and Individuals Sign Letter Urging ICE to Ensure Public Access to Detention Camps**

Community Initiatives for Visiting Immigrants in Confinement (CIVIC), a national advocacy organization, filed a complaint today calling for a federal investigation into ICE stakeholder tour and visitation denials and restrictions and for the rapid development of protocols to ensure that public access to immigration detention facilities is maintained.

The federal complaint with the Office for Civil Rights & Civil Liberties within the Department of Homeland Security detailed access denials and restrictions in violation of federal policy at 14 immigration detention facilities in Arizona, California, Virginia, Florida, Georgia, Pennsylvania, and Texas.

“While CIVIC has experienced restrictions of public access in previous years, we are concerned that these denials and restrictions may be indicative of an emerging pattern or practice to restrict or eliminate access by the public to immigration detention facilities,” said Rebecca Merton, Program Coordinator of CIVIC’s National Visitation Network.

Over 400 organizations and individuals joined CIVIC in an additional letter urging Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to uphold its commitments to transparency and public access to the detention system by maintaining the 2011 Stakeholder Access Directive and ensuring that community members are not faced with additional restrictions when visiting people in immigration detention. Organizations who signed on include groups such as the NAACP, the ACLU, Human Rights Watch, Detention Watch Network, Southern Poverty Law Center, Code Pink, and the University of Southern California Gould School of Law.

“With a record number of immigrants being detained under the Trump Administration, we will not allow ICE to take this step backward in government transparency,” said Christina Fialho, an attorney and the co-executive director of CIVIC.

Organizations across the country have documented multiple denials of requests to conduct stakeholder tours and visitations since January 20, 2017. One recent example took place in February 2017, when ICE’s Washington Field Office denied a stakeholder tour and visitation of the Farmville Detention Center in Virginia that had been requested by the CIVIC-affiliated DC Detention Visitation Network, the Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice, and the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Charlottesville. An Assistant ICE Field Office Director stated in his denial: “With the issuance of the recent Executive Orders, ICE is undergoing significant operational changes and is in the process of reviewing all ongoing programs, so are not initiating new programs such as the one you are proposing at this time.”

“The DC Detention Visitation Network and our allies are concerned about the hundreds of men and women being held at Farmville Detention Center, many of whom are likely prevented by distance and other complications from ever seeing their family or friends, potentially for months or years at a time,” said Erin Hus-

tings, coordinator of the DC Detention Visitation Network. “We stand ready to offer friendship to these individuals, and hope that ICE will quickly return to upholding principles of transparency and humane treatment of detainees by allowing them access to community support.”

In another February 2017 access denial, ICE cancelled a tour and legal intake session at the Santa Ana City Jail in California, which had been requested by the Transgender Law Center and had previously been approved. The sudden cancellation email stated that the tour and legal intake session was no longer viewed as “consistent with the security and orderly operation of the facility.”

“The denial of legal intake sessions means immigrants in detention are less aware of their legal rights and less likely to be connected to attorneys to assist them in their cases. For many transgender immigrants, an attorney is the difference between winning their case or being deported to circumstances of extreme violence and potential death,” said Alison Pennington, staff attorney at the Transgender Law Center.

CIVIC also has documented multiple restrictions on stakeholder tours and visitations. During a stakeholder tour conducted by CIVIC in March 2017 at the Adelanto Detention Facility in California, many detained individuals who had signed up ahead of time to meet with the stakeholders were not allowed to speak with them. In one of the dorms, not a single person who had requested to meet with the stakeholders was granted the opportunity to do so.

In a letter sent to CIVIC from H.M., an individual detained at Adelanto Detention Facility, he wrote, “I highly suspect it had to do with [facility owner and operator] GEO’s institutional staff preventing our visits. This is not the first time this, or something similar, has happened.”

ICE’s Stakeholder Access Directive, established in 2011, provides a point of connection with the community for detained individuals and allows organizations to monitor and report on conditions inside detention facilities. CIVIC is urging the Office for Civil Rights & Civil Liberties to immediately investigate these violations of the Stakeholder Access Directive and to promptly develop protocols to ensure that public access to immigration detention facilities is maintained.





# American Academy of Pediatrics Urges Compassion and Appropriate Care for Immigrant and Refugee Children

*American Academy of Pediatrics, March 13, 2017*

In a newly released policy statement, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) urges that immigrant and refugee children be treated with dignity and respect, with care that supports their health and well-being. The AAP recommends that families never be separated, and that children never be housed in detention centers.

Amid turmoil caused by new federal executive orders targeting immigrants and refugees and calling for vast expansions to the detention of immigrants, the American Academy of Pediatrics has called for the U.S. government to protect vulnerable children who are fleeing violence and poverty from being traumatized.

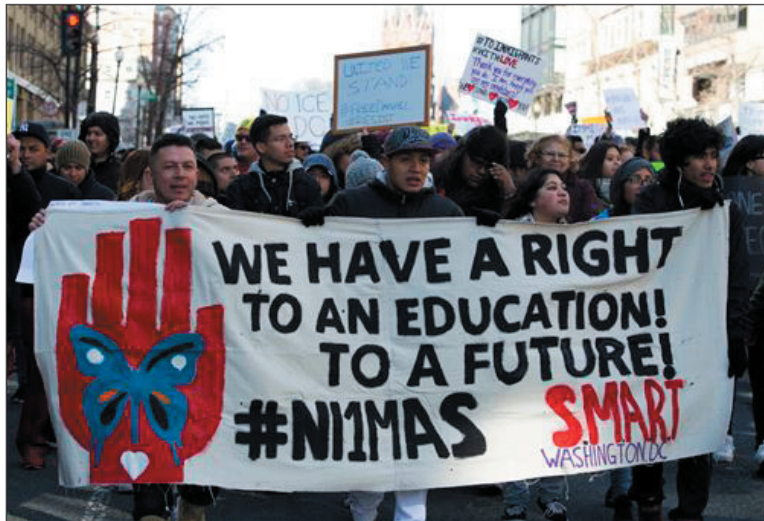
Immigrant children seeking safe haven in the United States should never be placed in detention facilities, regardless of whether they arrive alone or are accompanied by an adult, according to a new policy statement published by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). Children should never be separated from their families, according to the statement.

The policy statement recommends that immigrant children be treated with dignity and respect, and urges that they not be exposed to conditions that may further harm or traumatize them. The statement, "Detention of Immigrant Children," to be published in the April 2017 issue of Pediatrics reports that the Department of Homeland Security facilities for temporary housing of immigrants do not meet basic standards regarding the care of children in residential settings.

"Many of the immigrant children arriving to this country from our southern border are victims of unspeakable violence, persecution, and abject poverty," said Fernando Stein, president of the AAP. "From the moment they are placed in U.S. custody, they deserve a warm, safe and nurturing environment. They should receive health care that meets basic standards."

The AAP policy statement, "Detention of Immigrant Children," is being published at a time of increased fear, anxiety, and uncertainty among immigrant families. The AAP opposes the recent call for major expansions in family detention, among other actions, that have been included in Executive Orders signed by President Trump.

"We are hearing reports about children who have been detained, even for a short time, who are showing symptoms of post-traumatic



stress disorder, anxiety, depression and behavioral problems," said Marsha Griffin, MD, co-author of the policy statement and co-chair of the AAP Immigrant Health Special Interest Group. "There is no evidence that spending any time in detention is safe for children. Parents, too, may be traumatized by the isolating conditions, making it difficult for them to respond to their children's needs."

An estimated 95 percent of the children approaching

the southern U.S. border emigrated from the Central American countries of Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador, which are plagued with extreme violence and poverty as well as a lack of state protection for at-risk children and families. In 2016, a total of 59,692 unaccompanied children and 77,674 families sought asylum at the border, according to U.S. government statistics.

The families undergo an immigration process that, depending on their circumstances, may result in immediate deportation, detention, or transportation to family residential shelters scattered across the country that provide dormitory-style shelter. Some immigrants are released to the community with ankle monitors, even though many immigrants may qualify for protected status in the U.S. because they are fleeing severe abuse, trafficking, and persecution.

Children are sometimes separated from a parent or other family members during the process.

Last week, the Academy issued a press statement opposing a DHS proposal that would separate immigrant mothers from their children when they arrive at the U.S. border. More than 75 percent of families held in family residential shelters have proved they have a "credible fear" or "reasonable fear" of returning to their homeland, which grants them the right to seek refuge in the United States. The AAP recommends that families never be separated, and that children never be housed in detention centers.

"It is not illegal to come to our border and seek protection," said Alan Shapiro, MD, co-author of the policy statement. "These families are fleeing violence and they are asking for asylum. They should be viewed as asylum seekers, not undocumented or illegal immigrants. We should treat them humanely and compassionately."

In its policy statement, the Academy recommends:

- That all immigrant children and families be treated with dignity and respect;

- That children not be exposed to conditions or settings that may re-traumatize them, such as those that currently exist in detention;

- That children never be separated from a parent or primary caregiver, unless there are concerns for the safety of the child at the hand of the parent.

- That when in custody, children be provided with child-friendly orientation and regular updates on their status, expectations and rights.

- That DHS should discontinue the use of family detention and instead use community-based alternatives.

- That children receive timely, comprehensive medical care that is culturally and linguistically sensitive by trained medical providers, throughout the immigration processing pathway.

Studies of detained immigrants have shown that children and parents may suffer negative physical and emotional symptoms from detention, including anxiety, depression and posttraumatic stress disorder. When children live in fear for prolonged periods of time, they may develop toxic stress, which causes harm to the developing brain and can result in short and long-term health consequences.

“We know that children can overcome stress when they feel safe and have enduring, supportive relationships with caregivers,” said Julie Linton, MD, chair of the AAP Immigrant Child Health Special Interest Group, and a co-author of the policy statement. “All children deserve to be healthy and safe.”

The AAP will offer resources for families in English and Spanish on how to talk with their pediatrician about concerns related to immigration at [HealthyChildren.org](http://HealthyChildren.org) at <http://ow.ly/AaT6309FzdE>. Resources for pediatricians also will be available here: <http://ow.ly/jemA309FJh5>.

### **AAP Statement on Revised Immigrant and Refugee Travel Ban Executive Order**

Recent Executive Orders issued by the White House have already had wide-reaching and devastating consequences for immigrant and

refugee children and families, and today’s action is no different. While the Executive Order issued today revises and narrows in scope the version previously opposed by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), we remain concerned of the harm its implementation will have on immigrant and refugee children and families.

Children do not decide where they or their parents were born. They do not choose whether or how to travel to the United States. We owe it to these children to protect them. Far from doing so, this Executive Order temporarily bans refugees — including children and families who are fleeing persecution, war, or violence — from entering the United States and appears to open the door for individual states to refuse to resettle them.

The Order also impacts our colleagues in medicine, as international medical school graduates and pediatric researchers will continue to be among the foreign nationals and refugees impacted by the travel ban. Leaving it to the discretion of Customs and Border Protection to decide whether to grant entry on a case-by-case basis will prevent these professionals from traveling or training here. This means that vulnerable children, particularly in rural and underserved areas of the United States, will be unable to access care provided by some of the brightest minds in medicine.

Pediatricians remain concerned by the toll that these discriminatory, harmful Executive Orders and actions are taking on the health and well-being of immigrant and refugee children. The pervasive fear, anxiety and trauma felt by immigrant communities will impact these children for years to come. We can and must do better as a nation. Pediatricians urge elected officials at the highest levels of federal government to view immigrant children not as societal threats or political pawns, but as the foundation of our future.”

*(The American Academy of Pediatrics is an organization of 66,000 primary care pediatricians, pediatric medical sub-specialists and pediatric surgical specialists dedicated to the health, safety and well-being of infants, children, adolescents and young adults. For more information, visit [www.aap.org](http://www.aap.org))*

## **Quit Stalking Immigrants at California Courthouses, Chief Justice Tells ICE**

*Sacramento Bee, March 16, 2017*

California Supreme Court Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye on March 16 told federal immigration officials to stop “stalking undocumented immigrants” at California courthouses.

Cantil-Sakauye said she was “deeply concerned” that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents are apparently seeking out undocumented immigrants for deportation at courthouses and courtrooms from San Francisco to Los Angeles.

“Courthouses should not be used as bait in the necessary enforcement of our country’s immigration laws,” she said in a letter sent to U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions and Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly. “Enforcement policies that include stalking courthouses and arresting undocumented immigrants, the vast majority of whom pose no risk to public safety, are neither safe nor fair... They undermine the judiciary’s

ability to provide equal access to justice. I respectfully request that you refrain from this sort of enforcement in California’s courthouses.”

Since January, Cantil-Sakauye has received several reports from lower court judges, private attorneys and Legal Aid lawyers, that U.S. immigration agents are arresting people after court proceedings. It is unclear how many undocumented immigrants in California have been detained, whether those arrested are being targeted specifically because of their immigration status or whether they have been deported. The presence of immigration officers at courthouses, and the perception that people could face deportation when showing up in legal settings, could have a profound impact on public safety, Cantil-Sakauye suggested.

“Our courts are the main point of contact for millions of the



most vulnerable Californians in times of anxiety, stress and crises in their lives,” she wrote. “Crime victims, victims of sexual abuse and domestic violence, witnesses to crimes who are aiding law enforcement, limited-English speakers, unrepresented litigants and children and families all come to our courts seeking justice and due process of law. As finders of fact, trial courts strive to mitigate fear to ensure fairness and protect legal rights,” she said.

The statement comes as Cantil-Sakauye is organizing a court

“working group” to provide information and legal resources to immigrants. She initiated it on February 1 in response to media reports and direct reports from judges and lawyers that undocumented people are increasingly being targeted by immigration officials.

“Any judiciary relies on public trust and confidence,” Conneely said. “There is concern that this may be chilling the willingness of Californians to go to court because they’re concerned about what might happen there.”

## Sanctuary Movement Strengthens in Cities and Churches

An estimated 500 cities and counties are now considered sanctuary areas, according to Ohio Jobs & Justice Political Action Committee, which has tracked the sanctuary movement for more than a decade. It has added more than three dozen new cities and counties to its list in 2017 alone. Sanctuary commonly means city or county officials and law enforcement will not cooperate with the federal government in enforcing immigration law, including Trump’s recent executive orders targeting immigrants and refugees or in providing information on immigration status. Many also block federal agents from entering universities and hospitals and have their schools refuse to provide information concerning the immigration status of their students.

In addition, the number of churches offering sanctuary has doubled since Trump took office. More than 800 churches of various denominations are offering sanctuary for undocumented immigrants, especially those threatened with deportation and/or seeking asylum, according to the Washington, D.C.-based Church World Service. In Denver, for example, about half a dozen Unitarian Universalist and Quaker congregations provide sanctuary. The United Methodist Church also offers “Sanctuary Churches Training,” in the area and elsewhere.

“More congregations are moving into an exploratory stage to see if they can participate in this new sanctuary movement,” said Daniel Klawitter, an ordained deacon in the United Methodist Church.

Archdiocese of Denver spokeswoman Karna Swanson said the church provides legal assistance and advice on an ongoing basis to the city’s heavily Catholic Latino community — regardless of citizenship. “We help anyone of any creed, religion and immigration status,” Swanson said. “We are committed to standing in solidarity with the immigrant community.”

Churches and activists in Denver formed the Metro Denver Sanctuary Coalition in 2014, in part to defend against Obama’s “Deporter-in-Chief” actions. They are persisting in organizing churches willing to house people long-term. Currently two churches do so, Mountain View Friends and First Unitarian Society, supported by several other congregations. Volunteers assist with getting groceries, care for children, who are often citizens while their parents are not, laundry, and sleep-overs so people are present in the event of a raid. Similar efforts are taking place all across the country as people stand together against attacks on the rights of immigrants and refugees. Some of the churches openly proclaim they are providing sanctuary for people, rejecting the government’s claims that they are “harboring criminals.”

Religious buildings are supposed to fall under a “sensitive locations” policy of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) that characterizes houses of worship, schools and hospitals as places to “generally be avoided” when it comes to raids and arrests. But there are already numerous reports across the country that ICE agents have detained people near churches and schools, something widely opposed.

## ALBA to Assist in Defending Immigrants Facing Deportation from U.S.

*Lucas Koerner, Venezuela Analysis, March 6 2017*



The Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America (ALBA) issued calls for Latin American unity and solidarity with Venezuela’s Bolivarian Revolution this past Sunday during its 14th summit in Caracas. Heads of the regional bloc’s 11 member countries denounced “imperialism’s new onslaught” across the region whose principal

target they identified as Venezuela.

“The defense of Venezuela and its revolution is not the exclusive problem of Venezuelans. It is the cause that brings together all of us who fight for the true independence of Latin America and the Caribbean,” reads the summit’s final declaration.

In particular, the allied leftist governments condemned the latest US sanctions targeting Venezuelan Vice-President Tareck El Aissami alongside the outgoing Obama administration’s renewal of an executive decree labeling Venezuela an “unusual and extraordinary threat” to US national security.

During the summit, the ALBA nations also commemorated the four-year anniversary of the death of former Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez together with the four-month anniversary of the

death of Cuban revolutionary leader Fidel Castro, honoring both men as “our founders, whose examples and ideas interpret and encapsulate the legacy of the liberators.”

The regional integration bloc additionally voiced its solidarity with the people of Mexico in the face of the wall that the Trump administration has promised to construct along the two countries’ shared border. Likewise concerning the Trump administration’s expanded anti-immigrant policies, member-states vowed to create a joint legal fund to defend migrants facing deportation in the U.S.

“We express our concern for the treatment of our Latin American and Caribbean sisters and brothers who find themselves in the situation of migrants; in this sense, we propose to relaunch the

Migrant Legal Support and Advisory Fund as part of the ALBA Bank,” the final statement reads.

The bloc also declared its support for the Peoples’ World Conference for a World Without Walls Towards Universal Citizenship, which will be held in Cochabamba, Bolivia this coming June 20-21.

The ALBA-Peoples’ Commercial Treaty was signed in 2004 by Hugo Chavez and Fidel Castro as a Latin American integrationist alternative to the U.S.-backed Free Trade Area of the Americas. Over the past decade, the bloc has been progressively expanded to currently include Venezuela, Cuba, Bolivia, Nicaragua, Ecuador, Dominica, Antigua and Barbados, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Grenada.

## New Travel Ban, Same Poisonous Policy

*Elizabeth Goitein, March 7, 2017*

President Donald Trump’s second try at an executive order halting immigration from certain majority-Muslim countries takes a markedly different tone from the first. It spends several pages discussing the perceived need for the policy, and it emphasizes the exceptions to the travel ban, rather than downplaying them as the prior version did. The clear intent is to convince the courts that the ban is the result of careful deliberation rather than religious animus.

But the tactical tweaks in this latest edition cannot rescue the order’s constitutionality. Underneath the softened rhetoric and other adjustments lies the same poisonous policy: an effort to restrict Muslims’ entry into the U.S.

The outlines of that effort are now familiar to both the American public and the courts. Subject to discretionary, case-by-case exceptions, the revised order bars the issuance of visas to people from six majority-Muslim countries – Syria, Iran, Libya, Sudan, Somalia and Yemen – for 90 days, and suspends the refugee admissions process for 120 days. The stated purpose of the freeze is to give federal agencies time to shore up the vetting process for people seeking entry to this country. Once that process is revamped, the ban will be extended for countries that cannot provide whatever new assurances the U.S. government seeks.

Multiple courts have already found these measures to be constitutionally suspect. In the Ninth Circuit (encompassing the western states), a trial judge and a federal appeals panel concluded that the first travel ban appeared to violate the Constitution’s due process clause, impinging on important rights without giving notice or a hearing to those affected. A court in Virginia found that it likely violated the First Amendment’s Establishment Clause because it had the intent and effect of disfavoring one religion.

Judges across the country also probed the motivation behind the ban. They highlighted the lack of evidence of domestic terrorism by nationals of the selected countries – and the ample evidence that the policy was a sanitized, smaller-scale version of Trump’s campaign promise to bar Muslims from the U.S.

Administration lawyers have done their best to sanitize the order even further. In the new version, they removed a provision stating that religious minorities should be given preference in future refugee applications – thus excising the order’s only expressly discriminatory language. [...]

The revised order also exempts green card holders, current visa holders inside the U.S. and people overseas who had already obtained visas when the original order was issued. The due process implications of the travel ban are most obvious for these categories of immigrants, who have already developed ties to the U.S. But contrary to the new order’s suggestion, these are not the only groups that prompted “judicial concerns.” In declining government attorneys’ invitation to narrow the ban themselves, the judges of the Ninth Circuit were careful to note that such a “solution” would not address the due process claims of refugees, non-visa holders currently inside the U.S. and Americans who have an interest in foreigners’ ability to obtain visas.

Moreover, exempting those who are currently authorized to be in this country does nothing to address the order’s First Amendment flaws. The Establishment Clause prohibits the government from preferring one religion to another, regardless of whether that preference is applied to people inside the United States or people seeking entry.

Another change in the new version is the removal of Iraq from the list of designated countries. This was more of a public relations move than a legal strategy. The rank unfairness of the travel ban was perhaps most evident here, given the U.S. invasion and the assistance many Iraqis provided to our troops. Unfortunately for the administration, giving Iraqis a pass also tore a giant hole in the national security fig leaf. Apparently, public safety did not require the exclusion of visitors from Iraq – despite Trump’s vehement assertions to the contrary a mere month ago. The sudden shift throws the previous security claims even further in doubt.

The absence of a plausible national security justification remains the order’s exposed Achilles heel. The revised order



recites the political chaos and terrorist presence within each of the six named countries. But these conditions are exactly why the current vetting procedures for would-be travelers from those countries are so rigorous, resulting in high rates of visa denials. The conspicuous missing link in the administration's argument for a temporary stay is any indication that these procedures have failed.

In the several weeks since the courts made clear they would demand better evidence, the administration has managed to locate two examples of actual terrorist activity to support the order. The first involves two Iraqi refugees who were convicted of multiple terrorism-related offenses; the second involves a Somali American convicted of plotting to detonate a bomb in Portland, Oregon. The Iraqi refugees, however, were imprisoned for plotting terrorist attacks inside Iraq – not in the U.S. The Somali-born American, who came to the U.S. as a child, was the subject of an FBI sting in which federal agents devised and led the fake “operation.” The fact that these are the strongest examples the administration could find speaks volumes about what the order's real motivation was – and was not.

The order also mentions, almost in passing, that the attorney general “has reported to me that more than 300 persons who

entered the United States as refugees are currently the subjects of [FBI] counterterrorism investigations.” Devoid of additional context, this statement raises more questions than it answers. Are these “predicated” investigations, which are based on evidence, or so-called “assessments,” which can be based on anonymous tips or simply an agent's hunch? How many of them were initiated after the courts noted the lack of a security justification for the refugee ban? How does the administration explain the discrepancy between the dearth of actual terrorist activity and the number of open investigations?

Most important is what the order fails to do. It does not – and cannot – erase the many statements Trump made, both as a candidate and as president, betraying the real intent behind the order and the prejudice underlying that intent. Having proudly advertised the policy as a Muslim ban, the president cannot now foist amnesia on the courts through better wordsmithing. The new order should fail for exactly the reason the first one did. Our Constitution stands for religious freedom, equality and fairness – even when our president does not.

*(Elizabeth Goitein is co-director of the Liberty and National Security Program at the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law)*

## Federal Judge in Hawai'i Freezes Trump's New Muslim Ban

A federal judge in Hawai'i on March 15 issued a sweeping freeze of Trump's new executive order calling to ban Muslims from six countries: Iran, Somalia, Sudan, Yemen, Libya and Syria. All six have been brutally attacked by the U.S. in various ways, with all but Iran contending with U.S. invasion or bombings. The freeze is effective for the entire country and blocked the new order from being imposed. Trump's new entry ban blocked all refugees from entering the country for 120 days and halted for 90 days the issuance of new visas to people from the six Muslim-majority countries. It was different from the first entry ban in that it omitted Iraq from the list of affected countries and did not affect current visa or green-card holders.

In a blistering 43-page opinion, U.S. District Judge Derrick K. Watson pointed to Trump's own comments and those of his close advisers as evidence that his order was meant to discriminate against Muslims and declared there was a “strong likelihood of success” that those suing would prove the directive violated the Constitution.

Watson declared that “a reasonable, objective observer — enlightened by the specific historical context, contemporaneous public statements, and specific sequence of events leading to its issuance — would conclude that the Executive Order was issued with a purpose to disfavor a particular religion.”

He lambasted the government, in particular, for asserting that because the ban did not apply to all Muslims in the world, it could not be construed as discriminating against Muslims.

“The illogic of the Government's contentions is palpable,” Watson wrote. “The notion that one can demonstrate animus

toward any group of people only by targeting all of them at once is fundamentally flawed.”

Trump stated, in response to the Hawai'i ruling, “We are going to take our case as far as it needs to go, including all the way up to the Supreme Court.

We are going to win, we are going to keep our citizens safe and regardless, we are going to keep our citizens safe, believe me.” The indication here is that Trump will act in a manner consistent with the executive orders, “regardless” of court rulings. This is consistent with the current situation, where the government of laws has essentially been eliminated and Trump is ruling on the basis of a government of police powers.

A spokeswoman for the Justice Department (DoJ), further indicated this by defending the newest executive order: “The Department of Justice strongly disagrees with the federal district court's ruling, which is flawed both in reasoning and in scope. The President's Executive Order falls squarely within his lawful



authority in seeking to protect our Nation's security, and the Department will continue to defend this Executive Order in the courts."

So far, the DoJ has not appealed the Hawai'i ruling. Hawai'i is part of the 9th District Court of Appeals, which upheld the ban on the first executive order by a federal judge hearing a case brought by Washington State. The circuit has 25 active judges, and the court said a majority had not voted in favor of reconsidering the three-judge panel's published opinion to keep Trump's first ban frozen.

On March 16, a federal judge in Maryland issued a second, narrower injunction against the second executive order — suspending only the portion that stopped the issuance of visas to citizens of the six Muslim-majority countries. In that case, U.S. District Judge Theodore D. Chuang also pointed to statements made by Trump and his advisers that, in Chuang's opinion, indicated the executive order was "the realization of the long-envisioned Muslim ban."

"These statements, which include explicit, direct statements of President Trump's animus toward Muslims and intention to impose a ban on Muslims entering the United States, present a convincing case that the First Executive Order was issued to accomplish, as nearly as possible, President Trump's promised Muslim ban," Chuang wrote. The Justice Department has appealed the Maryland ruling, which goes before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit in Richmond, Virginia.

In the Hawai'i case, Watson's decision came in response to a lawsuit filed by the state. Lawyers for the state argued that the new entry ban, much like the old, violated the establishment clause of the First Amendment because it was essentially a Muslim ban, hurt the ability of state businesses and universities to recruit top talent, and damaged the state's robust tourism industry.

They pointed to the case of Ismail Elshikh, the imam of the

Muslim Association of Hawaii, whose mother-in-law's application for an immigrant visa was still being processed. Under the new executive order, attorneys for Hawaii said, Elshikh feared that his mother-in-law, a Syrian national, would ultimately be banned from entering the United States.

"Dr. Elshikh certainly has standing in this case. He, along with all of the Muslim residents in Hawaii, face higher hurdles to see family because of religious faith," lawyer Colleen Roh Sinzduk said at a hearing Wednesday. "It is not merely a harm to the Muslim residents of the state of Hawai'i, but also is a harm to the United States as a whole and is against the First Amendment itself."

Elshikh is a U.S. citizen of Egyptian descent who has been a resident of Hawai'i for over a decade. His wife is of Syrian descent and is also a resident of Hawai'i.

Watson also said that the government's assertion of the national security need for the order was "at the very least, 'secondary to a religious objective' of temporarily suspending the entry of Muslims." He pointed to Trump's own campaign trail comments and public statements by advisers as evidence.

"For instance, there is nothing 'veiled' about this press release: 'Donald J. Trump is calling for a total and complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States,'" Watson wrote. "Nor is there anything 'secret' about the Executive's motive specific to the issuance of the Executive Order. Rudolph Giuliani explained on television how the Executive Order came to be. He said: 'When [Mr. Trump] first announced it, he said, 'Muslim ban.' He called me up. He said, 'Put a commission together. Show me the right way to do it legally.'"

"These plainly-worded statements, made in the months leading up to and contemporaneous with the signing of the Executive Order, and, in many cases, made by the Executive himself, betray the Executive Order's stated secular purpose," Watson wrote.

# Trump DOJ to Appeal Maryland Ruling Against Muslim Ban 2.0

*Nadia Prupis, Common Dreams*

The Trump administration on March 17 filed papers to appeal a ruling that blocked the president's revised travel ban, setting up a new legal showdown over the executive order that opponents have called "Muslim ban 2.0." Attorneys for the Department of Justice (DOJ) filed federal papers in Maryland, one of the two states that issued rulings against President Donald Trump's executive order this week. Judges in that state and Hawaii both found that the memo, which blocks entry to the U.S. for travelers from six majority-Muslim countries, was unconstitutional and violated the religious freedom clause of the First Amendment.

The DOJ only appealed Maryland's decision. Had the department challenged the ruling in Hawaii, the appeal would have gone to the same San Francisco court that rejected the original version of the travel ban. Instead, the U.S. Court of Appeals

for the 4th Circuit in Richmond, Virginia will hear the new arguments.

William Jay, a former DOJ lawyer who specializes in appellate cases, told the *Washington Post* that another reason the administration is focusing on the Maryland decision is because it was a preliminary injunction, which is typically easier to appeal than temporary restraining orders, which the judge in Hawaii issued.

Omar Jadwat of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), who represents the plaintiffs in the Maryland case, said that the rights group looks forward to taking on the case.

"President Trump's Muslim ban has fared miserably in the courts, and for good reason — it violates fundamental provisions of our Constitution. We look forward to defending this careful and well-reasoned decision in the appeals court," he said.

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I • International Women's Day

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tion of all humanity.

Women's emancipation requires serious deliberation on building the new, building alternatives to the current political and economic institutions that are undemocratic and repressive. They serve to block the fight for rights and full emancipation. This occurs in part by pressure to rely on these existing institutions and their forms of governance.

For example, in the various struggles against imperialist war and for the right to healthcare, education, daycare, all that is required for women to flourish, there is always great pressure to hand decision making over to someone else — elected officials, union leaders, outside experts, and in election years, presidential candidates. We are to constantly react, rather than being pro-active, putting our agenda of what we are *for* first and foremost. There is also pressure to ignore problems of democracy that occur in organizing efforts, such as individuals making decisions apart from or without discussion and decisions by the collective, by the membership. It is collective decision making, implementation and summation so as to further build collectives, that is vital.

The ruling circles act to deprive us of democracy by constantly imposing their structures, their way of doing things, their methods. These old ways are not what is needed in these modern times, when democracy needs to be expanded so as to empower the people themselves to govern and decide. This collective decision

making takes place at every level, bottom to top, small or large groups. It is something to fight for, repeatedly, so as to deprive the rich of their efforts to deny our rights and deny the quality of democracy needed today

— a democracy where we, the people, together decide. Together it can be done! Women are coming forward to lead this battle for decision making as a key issue on all fronts of struggle. As one slogan expresses it, *Our Future, Our Rights, We Decide!*

On this occasion of International Women's Day *Voice of Revolution* sends its warmest revolutionary greetings to all the women engaged in the fight for rights, in the U.S. and abroad. In advancing the fight for emancipation, let all reject the old forms and work especially to take up the right to be decision makers, in our collectives, in our society.



MARCH 8, INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

## Women Determined to Renew the Resistance

Militant mass actions in the U.S. and around the world marking International Women's Day (IWD) affirmed that women are determined to renew their resistance and plant the flag of women's rights, making it a matter of greatest importance to the society. The actions made clear that the role of women in a modern society is nothing less than a leading one, in which women refuse to be victimized and instead demand everything they require to provide their rights, the rights of the most marginalized and the rights of all with a guarantee.

IWD was also an occasion for people around the world, led by women from the ranks of the working class, to oppose war and aggression, and the retrogressive neo-liberal pressure on society by the rulers that causes tragedies and injustices and to emphasize the important role women workers play in the economy. In many countries, IWD was an occasion for women and their organizations to review the victories achieved in affirming their rights and set their aim towards taking these further. Actions also raised the banners of many particular struggles of the working people in each country.

Montreal

In the United States, mass mobilizations reflected the momentum of the resistance since the inauguration of Trump as

President. Many actions highlighted the broad opposition to the Trump administration's brutal assaults on the rights of women, national minorities and immigrants. Actions were held opposing the executive's decision to cut funding for international women's health programs related to contraception and abortion, known as the "global gag rule."

In the U.S. as well as Latin America, many took up the slogan of the Global Women's Strike/Day Without Women underscoring the vital role that women play in the society as leaders and workers. In school districts in Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina the numbers of students and teachers refusing to attend was such that entire districts were forced to close for the day. Demonstrations occurred in at least 50 cities and towns, with women everywhere wearing red to express their unity. Participants affirmed that women have the right to wages and other working conditions commensurate with the work they do, and equal to men who perform the same work and to have all they require to fully participate in society.

In Canada, rallies, marches and gatherings of all kinds reiterated the demands for concrete measures that defend the well-being of women and children and advance their full participation in all aspects of society. These demands underscore that women's





fight for their future, dignity and security is inextricably linked to the fight for the rights of all. As is always the case, working and oppressed women played the leading role to ensure that IWD took up strengthening the resistance movements as a problem for solution. Opposition to Canada's participation in U.S. imperialist aggression as well as support for the peoples of the world fighting for their rights was also taken up in this spirit.

In Brazil, massive IWD rallies rejected the illegitimate coup government of Michel Temer and its latest attack on the people's well-being, an anti-social pension reform. In Argentina, a huge rally took place in the capital, Buenos Aires, to oppose the neo-liberal Macri government and its attacks against workers and public services and social programs. In Venezuela, a mass march through the center of the capital Caracas paid tribute to women heroes, Indigenous and Afro-Venezuelans whose efforts contributed to liberating Venezuela from Spanish colonial rule and paved the way for the Bolivarian Revolution. In Cuba, members of the Federation of Cuban Women (FMC) held meetings across the country to discuss their achievements and challenges, while Vilma Espín, founder of the FMC was honored in a ceremony at her grave for her decisive contribution to women's equality.

In London, England a large IWD rally was held outside the British Parliament to oppose inequality in women's state pensions. In Ireland, women demonstrated under the slogan #Strike4Repeal calling for an end once and for all to the 8th amendment of the constitution that effectively bars women from access to abortion services. In France, women used the hashtag #15h30 to highlight wage disparities — pointing out that in effect, women work two to five hours per day without pay, relative to men doing the same work. In Poland, massive rallies put their weight behind the campaign to defend women's right to access

abortion in the face of the government's efforts to restrict the already limited access that prevails there.

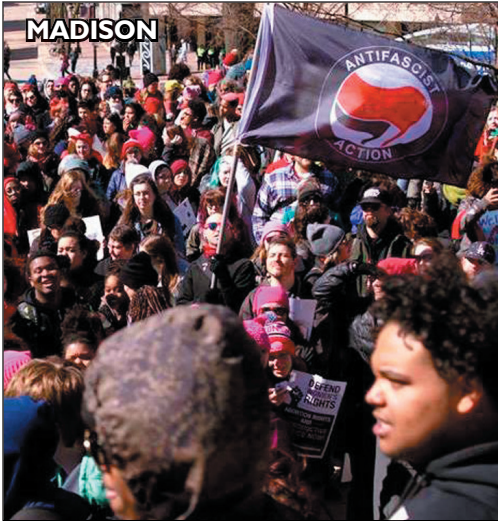
The women of Palestine and Syria, countries that have shown the world the meaning of the word resistance, affirmed their essential role in the struggle of their peoples against imperialism and Israeli Zionism. In Gaza, Palestinian women demonstrated to demand equality and to emphasize that their rights will only be affirmed when the illegitimate U.S.-backed Israeli occupation is brought to an end and the rights of the Palestinian people are respected. In Syria, women medics of the Syrian Arab Army were paid special tribute for their contribution to defending the country against foreign-backed terrorism and aggression.

In Vietnam, IWD coincided with the National Women's Congress, which drew hundreds of delegates to the proceedings in Hanoi. At the Congress, the Vietnam Women's Union elected its 171-member Central Committee and set ambitious goals for itself including organizing at least 50 per cent of women aged 18 or above as members in the years ahead, and forming 300 new women-managed cooperatives. In the Philippines, mass protests across the country reiterated the demands of the Filipino people for land, jobs, justice and peace. Women also reiterated the people's demand that the government commit to peace negotiations with the National Democratic Front of the Philippines.

*Voice of Revolution* salutes the fighting women of the world for their leadership in society and most importantly in the urgent tasks required to renew the resistance to meet the challenges of today. Women are rising to the occasion to further develop their leadership as one of the most important contributions to the emancipation of all working people, the end of imperialism and war and the creation of a societies that recognizes the rights of all by virtue of being human.



## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY U.S.





# INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY WORLDWIDE





**MARCH 8, INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY**

# **Victory to the Struggle of Women for Their Emancipation!**

***Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist), CPC(M-L)***

The Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist) hails the fighting women of Canada and the world on the occasion of International Women's Day 2017, one of the most important occasions for humankind to remind itself of all that needs to be achieved in the immediate future.

One hundred and six years ago in 1911, the first International Women's Day was celebrated to express the demands of women for their emancipation. At the time, working women were already conscious of the need to coordinate their struggle and express unity for their cause worldwide. On February 28, 1909, women textile workers had already issued a call for an international day of action of women workers. A meeting of the Socialist International held in December 1910 reiterated this demand. In a short time, March 8 became the day when women of all countries would express their unity with one another in their struggle for emancipation. Soon after, on the eve of World War I, International Women's Day highlighted the call for peace issued by women in Europe, alerting to the dangers which lay ahead.

Today on a world scale women are in the front ranks of the people's efforts to open a path for the progress of society and oppose the growing war crimes and crimes against humanity of the imperialists and dangers of another worldwide conflagration. Women are involved in finding solutions to the most important problems facing society and their consequences, including poverty and unemployment, privatization of education and health care and, most importantly, the need for people's empowerment. The demand for justice for the families of Indigenous women and girls who have been murdered or are missing is one of the most significant in Canada today to advance the cause of the people against the continuation of colonial relations and the misery this causes. The involvement of women in the vanguard of the struggle for empowerment which must give rise to new forms to hold the rulers to account is one of the most important positive developments in the effort to open the door for the progress of



society.

The more that the rich and powerful step up their anti-social offensive the more conscious the people become of the need for new arrangements so as to fulfill the promise that women and children must be provided with all that they require to flourish. The old arrangements continue to target women and children and divide the polity on every conceivable basis, which the government then has the effrontery to call "strength in diversity" and "Canadian values."

The government has even given itself the reputation of having a "feminist Prime Minister." While the material conditions of women and children in this country worsen, this translates into the government promoting the role of women business leaders. The shamelessness of the Liberals is seen in the Prime Minister's attempts to rescue U.S. President Donald Trump's reputation by giving him the opportunity to jump on the same bandwagon and also present himself as a champion of women.

As the conditions in Canada worsen and working women bear the brunt of social responsibilities, they are the most militant fighters who can be relied on to demand concrete results. More than ever, the slogan given rise to by the women's movement, *No Means No!*, is taken up by the workers' movement, the anti-war movement and the movement against the criminalization of conscience and state-organized racism and war.

On this March 8 let us strengthen support for the affirmation of the rights of women which belong to them by virtue of the important roles they play in society. Women's rights must be recognized by providing them with constitutional guarantees so that women have the conditions they require to flourish. Unless this is done, the emancipation of women will not become a fact of life. Only once women's rights are guaranteed will the world be able to celebrate the emancipation of the whole of humanity.

*Let Us Stand as One in Defense of Women  
and the Rights of All!*

*Victory to the Struggle of Women for Their Emancipation!*

"#DAYWITHOUTAWOMAN"

## For Domestic and Low-Wage Workers, the Stakes Are Higher Than Ever

*Ai-Jen Poo, March 6, 2017, Glamour.com*

I sometimes ask domestic workers to imagine what would happen if every nanny, house cleaner, and home care worker in the country decided to go on strike for one day. I ask them to reflect on all the children, seniors, and families who would be touched, and then to think about how those families' workplaces would be affected — the business people, lawyers, and doctors, all the people who couldn't work because no one was there to support their needs. The response to this question

is often quiet concern for the people they work for, followed by animated banter as they imagine chaos in all the households trying to manage without them. Though society does not value care and cleaning in the home as "real" work, the workers themselves know that their daily work is important, even fundamental.

Until now, I have not posed the question of "a day without domestic workers" in preparation for an actual strike. I have asked because it is rare that we as women, particularly women whose wages are never quite enough to pay the bills, ever think about our collective power in the economy, much less what we could achieve if we directed that power collectively. But in this new political era, it is time that women do more than simply recognize our power — we must organize it.

On March 8 women from every part of the country and the economy will rise together to participate in #DayWithoutAWoman, also known as the Women's Strike. A follow-up to the historic Women's March on January 21, #DayWithoutAWoman will fall on International Women's Day, which honors the social, political, and economic contributions of women globally. [...]

At its heart, a strike is an action that workers take to disrupt "business as usual." Strikes both shine a light on injustice and demonstrate — to the strikers and to everyone else — the collective power to change the status quo. If ever there were a time for women to throw a wrench in things, it is now. We are nearly half of the entire workforce. And we still provide more than 70 percent of the unpaid family care in the United States. We are also a majority of the consumer base (over 70 percent) in this country. It is our work and our dollars that create wealth for the winners in this economy



— from Uber to Walmart.

As much as some of us may like our jobs, we still face pay inequity, lack of respect, discrimination, and harassment, and lack of access to opportunity for advancement and security. At a time when we should be making progress at light speed on all of these issues, we face powerful opposition, from the government to society at large.

For women in low-wage jobs like domestic work, the stakes are higher than ever. Women make up two-thirds

of the nearly 20 million workers in low-wage jobs — defined as jobs that typically pay \$10.10 per hour or less, according to a report from the National Women's Law Center. Women of color are disproportionately concentrated in low-wage jobs; nearly half of all women in the low-wage workforce are women of color. Home care jobs, for example, are the fastest growing occupation in the economy today, and are overwhelmingly dominated by women, disproportionately women of color and immigrants. Their median annual income? \$13,000 per year.

It is time for #DayWithoutAWoman. Women from all walks of life will be participating — and there are many ways to participate. Organizers are calling on us to choose among three options: Do not work, do not buy things, and wear red. [...]

Domestic workers who can take the day off will join restaurant workers, retail workers, and others for the Women Workers Rising solidarity rally at the Department of Labor in Washington, D.C. They will call for fairness in our economy, beginning with the most vulnerable (and increasingly targeted) among us, including poor women, transgender women, women with disabilities, and Black, Muslim and immigrant women. They will be joined by women in more than 40 countries worldwide.

Each one of these actions helps tell the story of the unrealized power we as women hold to shape our society. When we do not work, our absence has a ripple effect, because our work is critical to every sector of the economy and should never be taken for granted. When we do not shop, businesses suffer. Let March 8 be the day that we find each other (look for the red!) and commit to acting in unity.

**Visit our website: [usmlo.org](http://usmlo.org)**