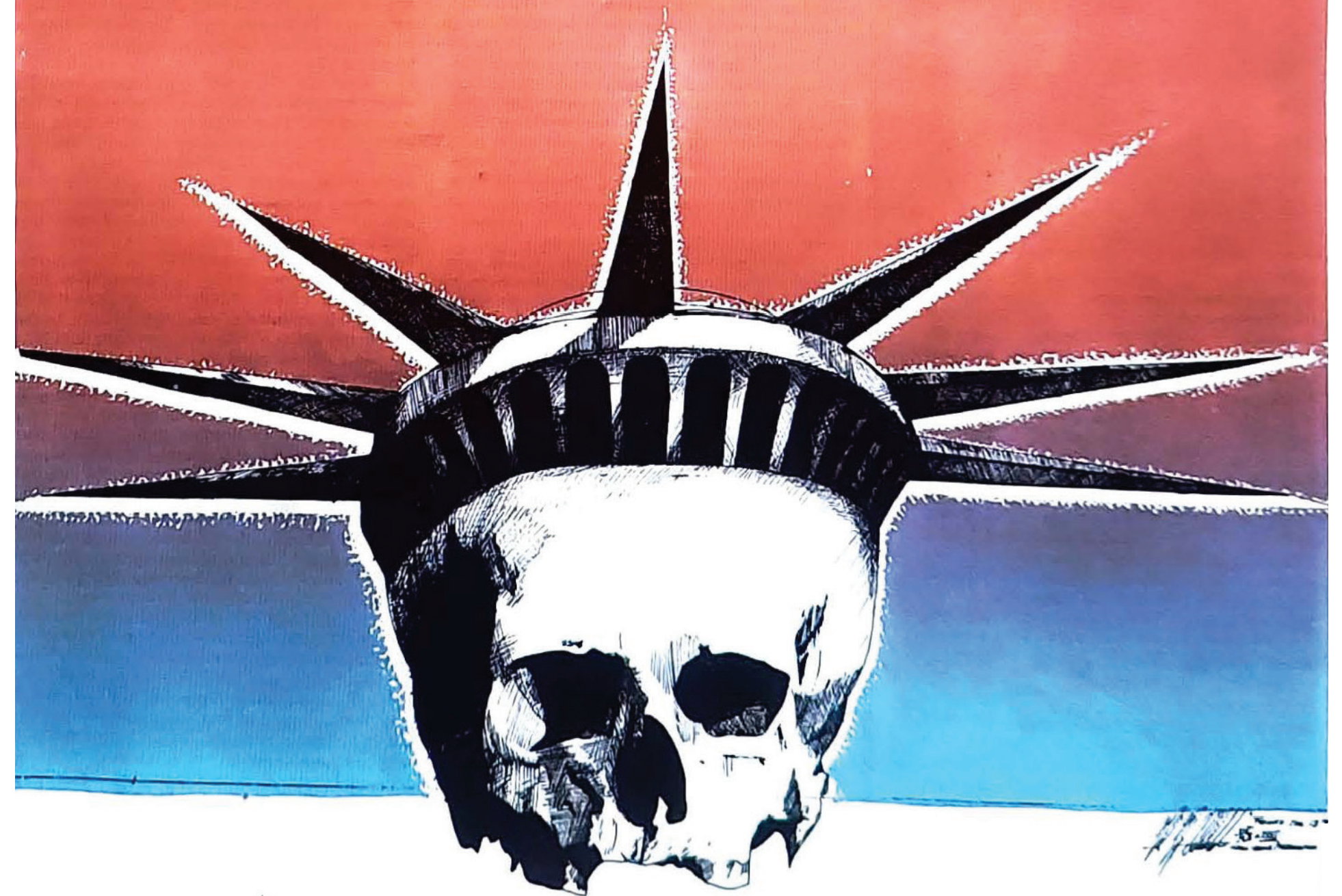




Jabalia in the northern Gaza Strip. (reuters.com/pictures/what-gaza-looks-like-today-after-15-months-war-2025-01-21/)

SEED

CHICAGO JULY 2026 FREE!



End the Imperial Wars!
Stop the Death Machines, Free the Humans!

Rejection Letter

Confronting Thomas Jefferson with Some Serious Problems

Dear Mr. Jefferson:

We hope that you and your slaves are enjoying your summer in Monticello. We certainly appreciate the hard work and elaborate word-crafting that has gone into your submission on national independence, but regret that we cannot publish it for the following reasons:

1. The fact that you and other signers of your declaration are slaveowners renders crassly hypocritical your eloquent statement that “All men are created equal” and “endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” It is richly ironic that you combine this statement with the complaint that the British king has “excited domestic insurrections amongst us,” which we take to mean that London has offered freedom to your slaves. Insofar as your complaint is true, we say three cheers for the British crown.

2. There is no evidence for the existence of a “Creator,” which we take to mean a God.

3. Human rights are fought for and won by human beings working collectively for their emancipation from exploitation and oppression; they are not granted by a deity.

4. There is no such thing as a “self-evident truth.” Truth is determined by the extent to which it corresponds to materialand historical reality. Truths must be demonstrated by evidence, deeply and scientifically understood.

5. Governments have NOT been formed to “secure” the rights you mention, “deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.” The historical evidence is quite the opposite. States/ governments emerged from and function to this day as enforcers, protectors, and coordinators of ruling class power, the dictatorship of those who own and control the lion’s share of society’s productive resources and wealth. This is no

less true under republican and electoral systems than it is under feudal monarchy and “the divine right of Kings.”

6. We know very well that your flowery rhetoric, portraying your fledgling republic as the noble and idealist victim of the British Empire, is driven by you and your fellow propertied insurgents’ fierce and explicit aim to create a continental empire of your own – to expand your profit-centered and slave-based regime across all of North America, murdering Native Americans’ en masse along the way.

7. We find it richly ironic that your bill of grievances against the British crown includes the claim that the king has inflicted on you “the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.” This is truly the pot calling the kettle black! It is you and your colonizing brethren who have brought genocidal war to your continent!

On a happier note, we heartily approve of your argument that “whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive” of liberty and happiness – when a state becomes “tyrannical” and “despot

ic” -- “it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.” That is a right to revolution.

We believe the new government you propose to form will serve the narrow and oppressive interests of your hoped-for independent nation’s wealthy Few. We expect your desired state to be despotically destructive of liberty and happiness for vast swaths of your population, and for others who stand in the way of your transparently imperial ambitions.

May the rights of revolution and independence that you uphold against England be wielded by your new nation’s slaves, women, wage-earners tenant farmers, artisans, Indigenous peoples, and laborers! We hope those rights are upheld by your own domestic subjects against you and other arrogant, imperial, and parasitic North American slaveowners, merchant capitalists, gentry, and their publicists, generals, and lawyers!

I regret that we don’t have better news about your interesting and thoughtful essay, which we recommend you send to your aptly named Continental Congress.

Sincerely,
Historical Truth Commission
Editorial Board

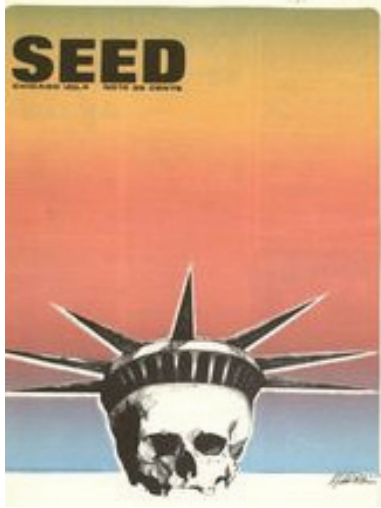
paulstreet.substack.com/

Lester Dore presente!

We honor Lester by resurrecting his 1970 Chicago Seed cover art for this July issue, 56 years later.

That 1970 issue of the Seed is one of several on display currently at the Chicago History Museum as part of their Designing for Change exhibit. (Illinois resident FREE days include: July 15, August 13 & 27.)

This cover uses the split-fountain technique, where one ink trough had blue, red and yellow ink in it creating a blending color transition. The Seed artists depended on collaborating with the skills and artistry of the platemakers and printing press operators that ran the giant offset lithographic web press that cranked out 40,000 copies or so. Color is easier nowadays. Different machines, different millenium, same...



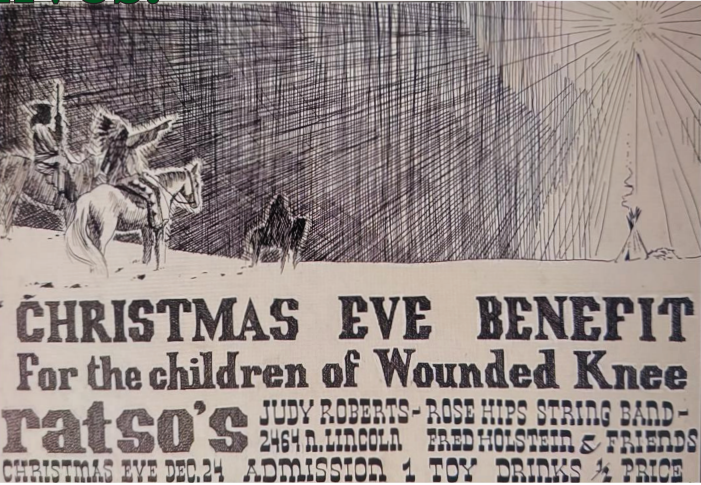
Chicago Seed
July 2026
Cover: Lester Dore 1970
chicagoseed@protonmail.com
www.chicagoseed.org

Lester Lives!



Lester Harrison Dore was born in Port Arthur, TX on June 12th 1944 and returned to Mother Earth on June 20, 2026. Moved by the writing and music of the Beat Generation, he left home and college to travel to Mexico and then to Chicago, which was his home, on and off, for more than a decade, returning in 1965 as an enthusiastic participant in the Cultural Revolution of the 1960s. He helped found the found the “underground” newspaper the Chicago Seed in 1967, spent the year 1968 in the Haight-Ashbury neighborhood of San Francisco, and in 1970, with his close friends Skeets Millard and Kay Hughes helped found start a rural commune, Karma Farm, in Juneau Country Wisconsin, and a silk-screened T-shirt business that supported its members.

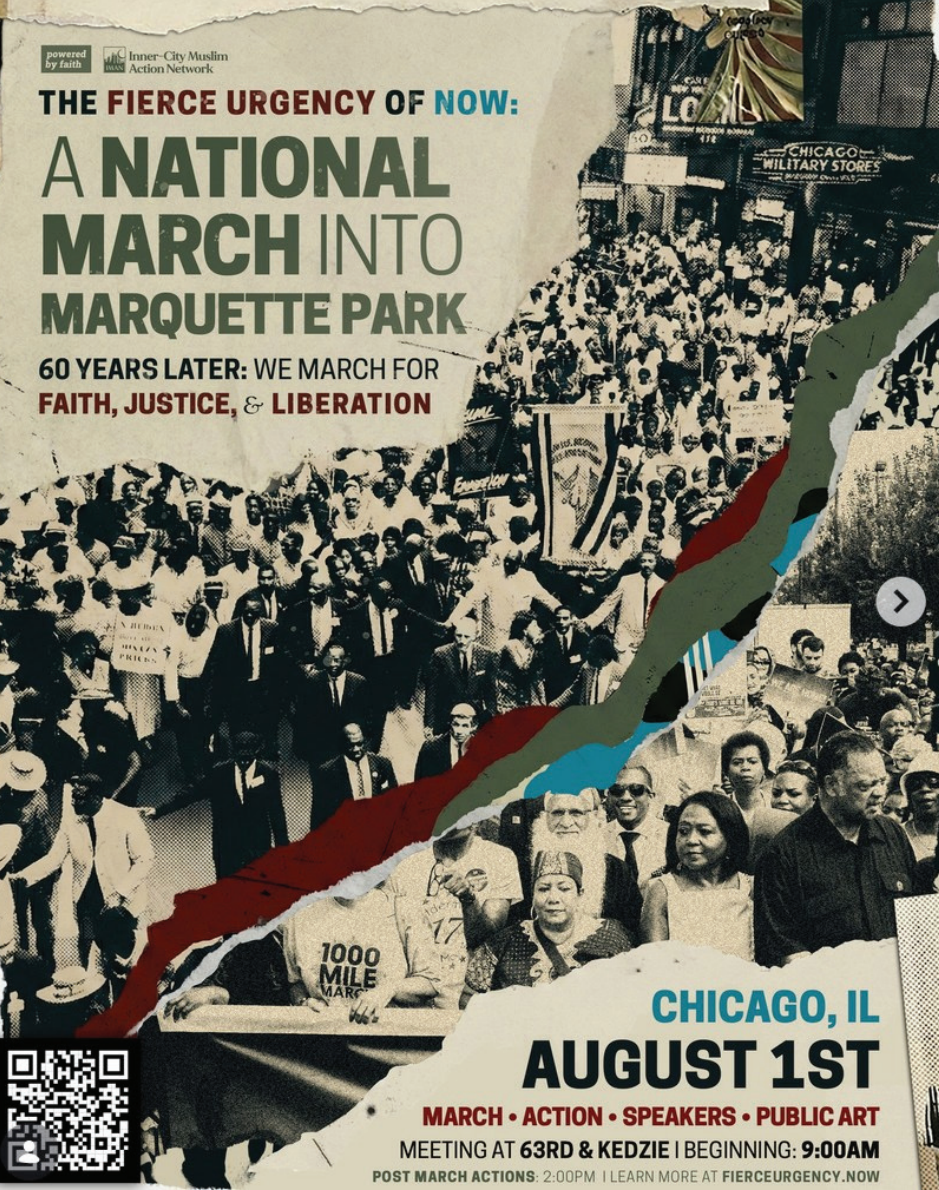
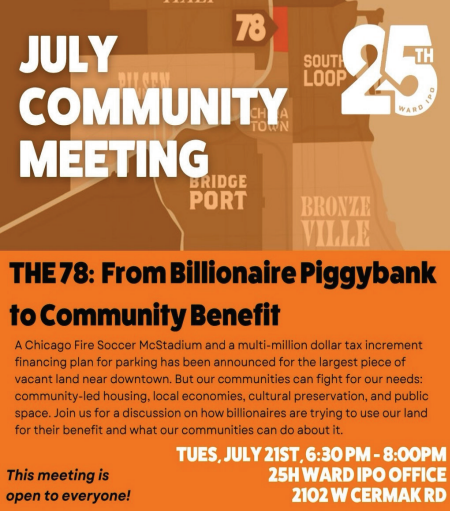
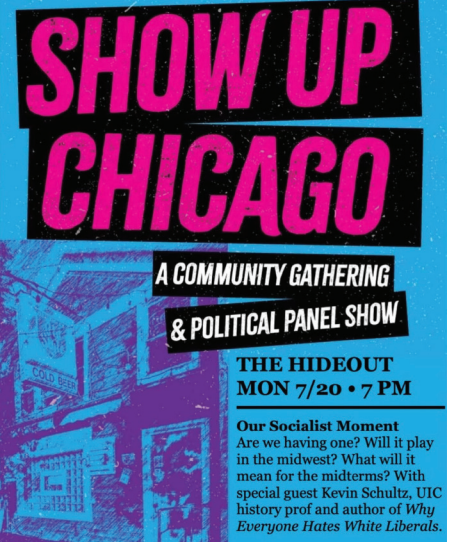
In Chicago, he used his self-taught skills as an illustrator and production artist and his year of training as a signpainter at the Institute of Lettering and Design to launch a career as a graphic artist. He worked as a freelancer, as a partner with his friend from the Seed days Paul Zmiewski, and later as a staff member of In These Times, the Ocooch Mountain News, the Heartland Journal, and the Progressive. His illustrations also appeared in other progressive and counter-culture publications such as High Country News.



The Heartland Journal, begun in 1979 by community organizer and friend Michael James, became a platform on which to practice his skills as a designer and illustrator, and sometime writer and editor. Some other Chicago clients in his graphic design portfolio were Ratso’s, an iconic club on Lincoln Avenue, and the Heartland Cafe, a meeting place for Chicago progressives. He was also, for a time, a member of the radical Salsedo Press collective.

He returned to his practice of making art to support the political causes he’d been faithful to, working with revolutionary artists in Oaxaca, Madison artists who opposed the war in Iraq, and the Wisconsin Uprising of 2010. Under the tutelage of master printer Andy Balkin, he expanded his printmaking skills to etching and drypoint, and mounted several shows of his prints in various venues in Madison and Chicago.

He faced death with serenity, knowing that though he’d harmed others, he’d made amends wherever possible, taken responsibility for his choices, and done the best he could to help establish a kingdom of heaven on earth, believing that the idea of hell was created by mankind, and unworthy of a loving divinity. He was buried in a shroud in a hand dug grave.



GET TOGETHER

From Slag to Sanctuary: Environmental Justice Tour

TOUR DATES & TIMES

LAST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH | 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM

MAY 28TH, JUNE 25TH, JULY 23RD

Witness the raw contrast between toxic legacies and ecological rebirth. Explore the thin line between industrial brownfields and community-led restoration. This isn't just a tour—it's a firsthand encounter with the resilience of residents turning "brownfields into bright fields" for a healthier, more just future.

FEATURED STOPS

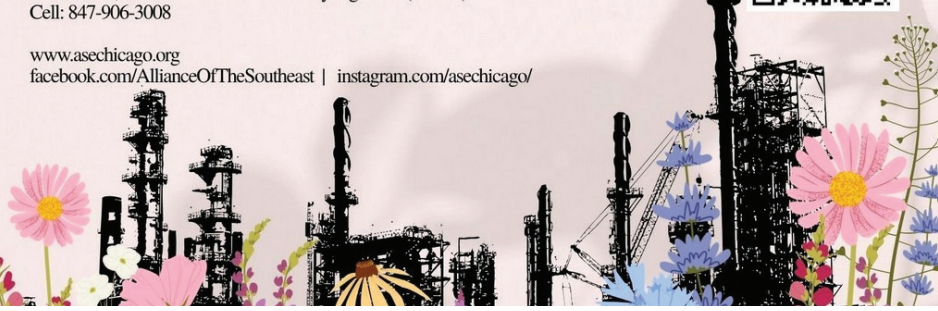
- The CDF: Confront this toxic legacy and celebrate the major community win!
- Steelworkers Park: Industrial ruins reclaimed. Now standing in the shadow of the Quantum Campus, raising new concerns about community impact.
- Wolf Lake: A centerpiece of biodiversity. Discover the beauty of ecological restoration.
- Big Marsh Park: The ultimate transformation. Explore a world-class recreation hub built entirely atop former landfill.

Departure: Bus loads at 8944 S Commercial Ave. A complimentary lunch will be provided for all

RSVP:
<https://forms.gle/rsfR38cNa5Xj9mNj9>

Contact: Samuel Corona, Environmental Justice Organizer, (he/his)
Cell: 773-234-1070
Katia Balba, Environmental Justice Policy organizer (she/her)
Cell: 847-906-3008

www.asechicago.org
facebook.com/AllianceOfTheSoutheast | instagram.com/asechicago/



Game Night for good

GET READY FOR ANOTHER EVENING OF GAMES, PRIZES AND SUPPORTING OUR NEIGHBORS!

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY, JULY 25th 5PM - 9 PM

Our Mutual City Coffee Co. 3600 W Irving Park Road

All proceeds go directly to supporting our neighbors through Albany Park Mutual Aid

July 29, 6-10PM,
Full Moon Fire Jam

FAMILY FRIENDLY PERFORMANCE ART .25 MILE SOUTH OF FOSTER BEACH, CHICAGO FULLMOONJAM.ORG

July 31, 6PM Assemble 6:30 Roll
Chicago Critical Mass Bike Ride
Daley Plaza, Dearborn and Washington



TUES, AUG 4, 730 PM | HAYMARKET HOUSE | 800 W. BUENA AVE.

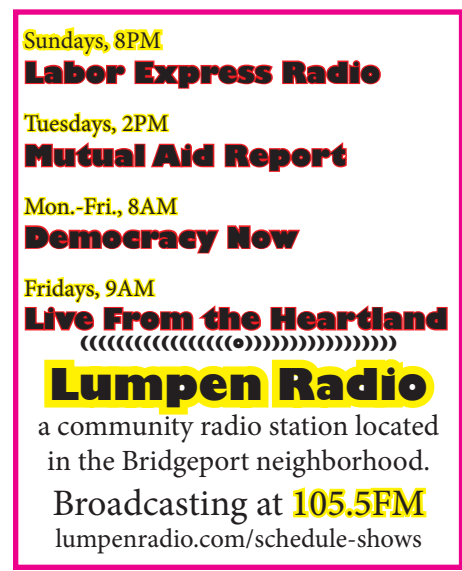
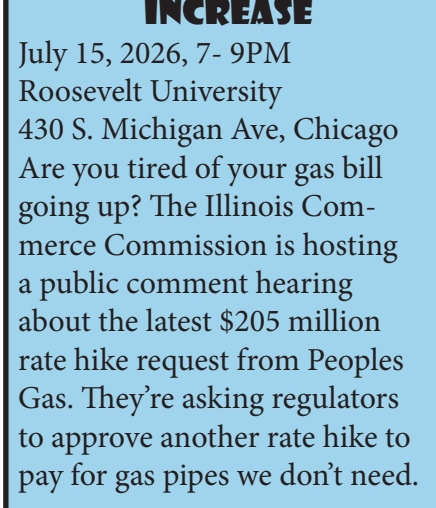
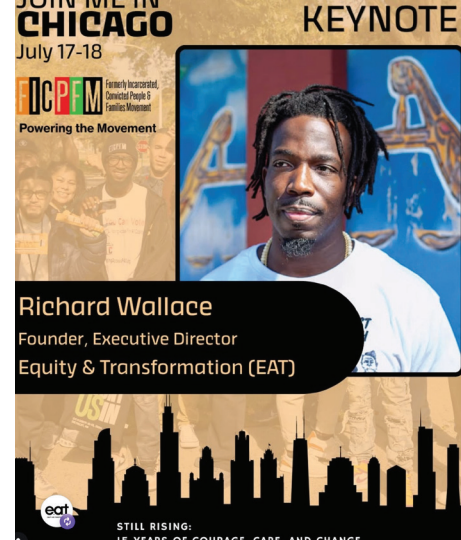
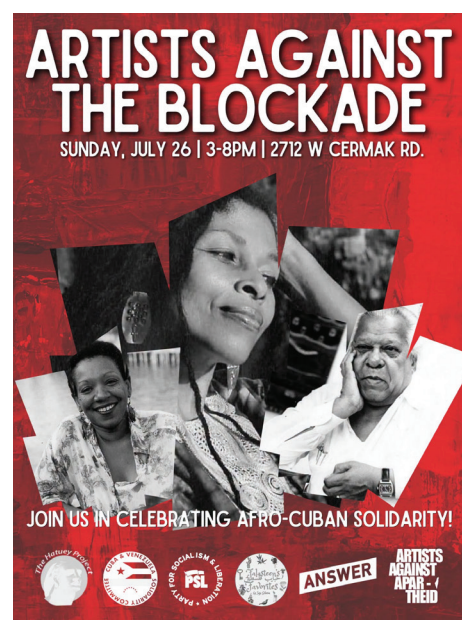
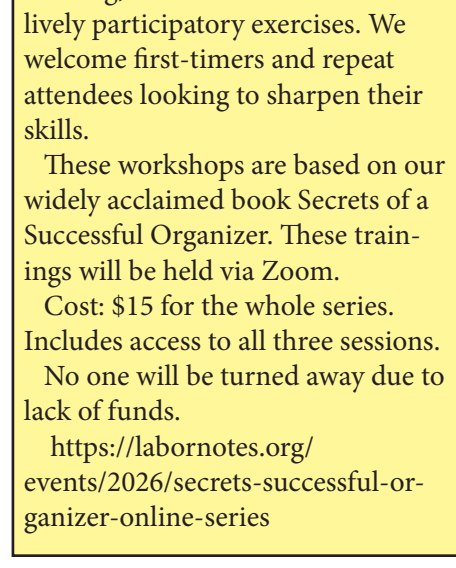
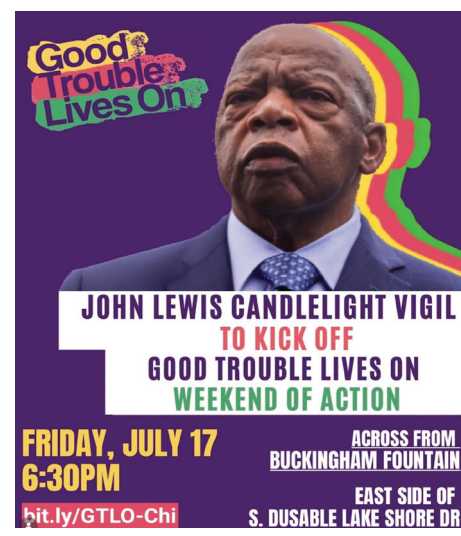
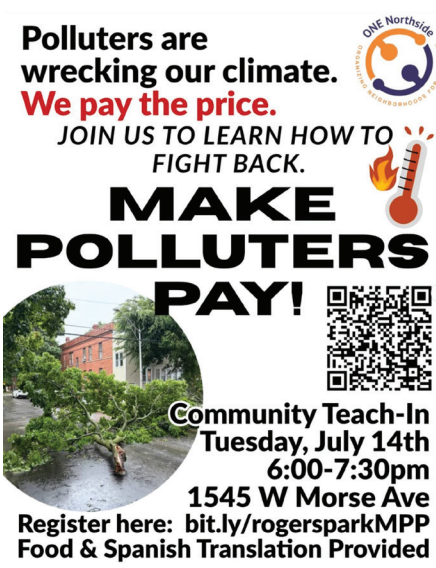
ProtestPalooza
A Community Arts Event

MUSIC, DANCE, POETRY, STORYTELLING, & MORE

CONNECT WITH OTHERS TAKING ACTION
CELEBRATE LOCAL ARTISTS
SUPPORT FAMILIES AFFECTED BY ICE RAIDS

Admission is free, but optional donations in support of OCAD's Mutual Aid Fund for Families Impacted by ICE Raids are encouraged. If you can't join us, you can use the QR code to learn more and/or contribute.





250 YEARS OF LIES, 500 YEARS OF UPRISING



By NDN Collective- July 2, 2026

Reflection.

The so-called “United States” is celebrating the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence on July 4th, 2026. We, the first people of this land, do not have to look far to spot the hypocrisy of celebrating a document that calls our ancestors “Merciless Indian Savages.” Today, we witness a country that proclaims “freedom” while kidnapping our immigrant neighbors without due process, passing laws that encourage harassment and discrimination against our LGBTQ and two-spirit relatives, and pulling out every political, legal, and military strategy to suppress any form of dissent against the state. At the start of this nation, the government ratified over 350 treaties with Native Nations – and then proceeded to break every one of them. Just as it was clear to our ancestors, it remains clear to us now: this colonial experiment has failed at building anything resembling a true democracy. The Haudenosaunee Confederacy has the oldest continuous participatory democracy in the world, known as the Gayaneshshagowa, the Great Law of Peace. Many of the structures lauded for creating checks and balances in the U.S. government are borrowed directly from the Gayaneshshagowa – but were twisted to serve the interests of the “Founding Fathers,” who were responsible for the genocide and enslavement of our Black ancestors. The original laws of this land resulted in a system built to favor white, wealthy men – by the attempted extermination of Indigenous Peoples and bison, the stealing of our lands, the kidnapping of our children, and the abduction and enslavement of Black people. We reject the myth that the engineers of America are deserving of celebration. Instead, we look for the dreams of our true Founding Mothers – the Indigenous women who led our communities before settlers ever set foot here. The matriarchs who have guided our people through over 500 years of genocide, forced removal, and attempts to erase our culture and languages. We honor the dreams of those who stewarded this land into abundance long before the arrival of colonists. We seek shared healing and liberation with our Black kin, whose forced labor then enriched the pocket-books of the wealthy white men. If America continues to refuse to reckon with its own story- a country built on genocide, land theft, & slavery- it is doomed to repeat itself.

Resistance.

150 years ago, the Oceti Sakowin united at the Battle of Greasy Grass (also known as the Battle of the Little Bighorn). On June 25-26, 1876, warriors of the Lakota, Dakota, Northern Cheyenne, and Arapaho Nations fought and won against the 7th Cavalry after U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel Custer attacked their village. Indigenous matriarchs fought alongside the men to defend their children, communities, and way of life. The victory at Greasy Grass reminds us of our power when we unite together against this genocidal government. As Indigenous Peoples, we have never stopped fighting to protect our lands, ecosystems, and waters; to practice our culture, songs, and languages; and to exercise our Treaty rights and sovereignty.

Resurgence.

Indigenous resistance has always been about more than countering white supremacy; it is about building a future where our culture, knowledge, and life ways are practiced, respected, and honored. The world needs Indigenous knowledge to ensure our grandchildren have safe waters, clean air, and a livable climate. We know we can win – because we have been doing just that. We drove a drilling company out of sacred Pe’ Sla because we united in a prayerful way. Then, not long after, we witnessed a historic moment when all nine Tribes in South Dakota passed resolutions to begin developing legislation to return all federal lands in the Black Hills to Tribal ownership. The future is LANDBACK and Black Reparations. Our liberation is bound together, and the more we have built power together across and within movements, the clearer that has become. Today, we carry powerful lessons from the American Indian Movement and the Black Panther Party. The necessary transformation of this land into something life-giving and regenerative will require the courage to reject these imposed systems – to build networks of care so we can boycott and force the U.S. economy to grind to a halt. Today, we encourage all our relatives to reflect on the reality of the past 250 years and see how the true terrorists on this land have always been the architects, drivers, and beneficiaries of this colonial project, not we, the people. We invite you to commit to fighting for a future where all humans and Mother Earth are respected. Ask yourself: What is my role in this resurgence? How long am I going to let other people decide the future for my children? Are we not warriors?



Fourth of You Lie Banner Hang, 2021. Photo by Willi White for ndncollective.org

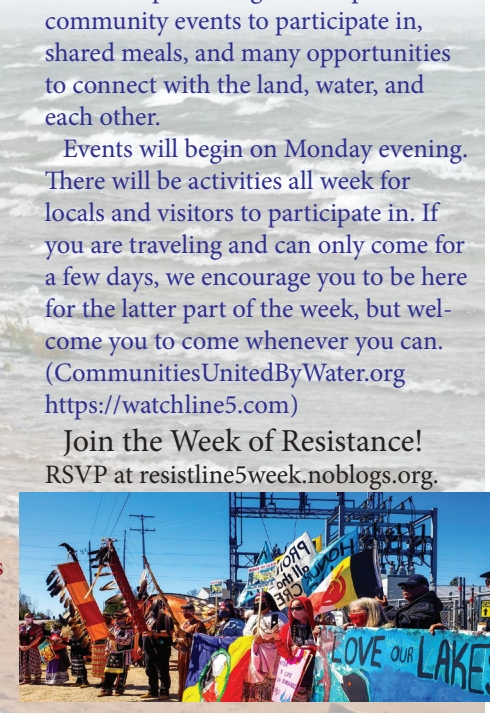
Indigenous Peoples have existed long before the US Empire was established and will continue to thrive beyond it.



including the Bay Mills Indian Community and the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa. Line 5 directly endangers the Great Lakes, which hold 84 percent of North America's surface freshwater and provide drinking water to more than 40 million people. The pipeline was built in 1953, without the consent of Tribal Nations in its path and before bedrock environmental laws existed. Today, Line 5 is operating over 20 years past its engineered lifespan, risking infrastructure failure due to corrosion, pressure, and use. It has spilled 1.1 million gallons of oil over 33 separate incidents.



The Bad River Band has fought to kick Enbridge's toxic Line 5 pipeline off their lands, only to be surrounded by more pipe and hazardous construction in their watershed. In solidarity, neighbors in the Chequamegon Bay are hosting a public Week of Resistance from July 20–26 in Ashland, Wisconsin. Water protectors and friends from near and far are invited to challenge Enbridge's violence against the land and water. We insist that gathering to reject their destruction is our responsibility: no one will resist alone, and we will not look away. Join us in monitoring construction, making art, sharing stories, and learning from each other. There will be a rally to bring awareness to the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women & Relatives crisis. We ask that folks show up relatively self sufficient. There will be no central camp for this gathering. There will, however, be





Protect the Water, Shut Down Line 5

Enbridge's Line 5 is a major threat to water, climate, & treaty rights

Line 5 crosses over 400 ecologically sensitive wetlands and waterways, but none are as vulnerable as Line 5's path under the water in the Straits of Mackinac where the currents are strong. There is 10 times more flow in the Straits than there is over Niagara Falls! In addition to concerns of its 67 year old, poor condition, there is the hazard of a dropped anchor rupturing the pipeline which became all too real in April 2018 when an anchor drop broke two electrical cables spilling over 600 gallons of oil - and putting 3 dents in the already deteriorating Line 5 nearby. This should serve as a huge wake up call. Line 5 is operated by the same Canadian company, Enbridge, responsible for the oil spill in 2010 that closed 35 miles of the Kalamazoo River for

2 years - and another even larger spill in Minnesota in 1991.

Enbridge took a long time to admit that the current Line 5 is deteriorating and has proposed a tunnel be built. A tunnel is a distraction. Michigan does not need the oil in Line 5. We can remove the risk that transporting oil poses by shutting down Line 5. Even the vice-chair of the Mackinac Bridge Authority is against building a tunnel.

For about 4.5 miles, Line 5 becomes two 20-inch oil pipelines which run under the water only ¼ mile west of the Mackinac Bridge. This is the "worst place in the Great Lakes for an oil spill", according to Dave Schwab who has been studying water and currents for decades. More than 700 miles

of shoreline in Lakes Michigan and Huron and on their islands are potentially vulnerable to an oil release in the Straits. This comparison shows 3 different spill scenarios and the ping pong nature of how water acts in the Straits.

A contractor for the Coast Guard estimates that a clean up of 30% of an oil spill here would be the best case scenario. This assumes there is daylight and waves of less than 3 feet, an no ice as they are not fully prepared to handle an open water spill when the Straits are iced-over.

Obviously, an oil spill in the Straits of Mackinac would be bad for our water and impact the 30 million people who depend on the Great Lakes for water. An oil spill could also devastate our economy. In less than 3 hours, a spill of



2,500,000 gallons (10% of what Line 5's daily capacity is), could reel a \$6 billion blow to the economy. In addition to our drinking water and our economy, the 3,500 species which have habitats in the Great Lakes area would be impacted, too. It took Enbridge 17 hours to shut off the oil in Kalamazoo, so 3 hours to shut off Line 5 is a conservative estimate.

Oil & Water Don't Mix
Keep Oil Out of the Great Lakes

CAMPAIGN BRIEFING

A Cautionary Tale...

We'll share the latest on the Line 5 construction spill in Wisconsin, plus "decision-watch" updates on the proposed tunnel in the Straits of Mackinac.

TUESDAY
JULY 14, 2026

TIME
7 - 8 p.m. EST

Join the Zoom call at the link in bio
OR oilandwaterdontmix.org/events

That was just one of 1,068 Enbridge spills that dumped 7.4 million gallons of oil between 1999 and 2013 -- an average of 71 spills and 500,000 gallons leaked per year. That's more than one oil spill every week for the last 15 years.

Oil and gas pipeline spills are not unusual, accounting for hundreds of explosions, fires, seeps, and spills in the United States every year. From 2000 to 2009, pipeline accidents accounted for 2,554 significant incidents, 161 fatalities, and 576 injuries in the United States.

Where will the next Enbridge spill occur? Home to the "Everglades of the North," the Bad River Watershed in Northern Wisconsin is an environmentally sensitive region that drains into Lake Superior. The existing Enbridge Line 5 endangers this region, as would the proposed Line 5 Extension.

THE PRESERVATION OF SOLIDARITY, THE LABOR MURALS AT THE UNITED ELECTRICAL WORKERS UNION (UE) HALL



John Pitman Weber and Jose Guererro worked for many months between 1972 and 1974, to create the labor history mural of the UE Union in their hall on the near west side of Chicago at that time the center of a vibrant working-class neighborhood.

It was a comforting and inspiring

backdrop for many union members and others that were able to see it when in the hall for meetings.

With the neighborhood gentrifying, UE sold the aging building in 2024. We raised enough money to remove and save the walls containing the most important parts of the mural, and are on track to re-in-

stall portions of the mural at our new Chicago home in the Chicago Teachers Union building and at the UE Local 506 hall in Erie, Pennsylvania, in the building used by the union's largest and oldest local.

The original lead muralist John Pitman Weber has agreed to recreate those portions that could not be

saved or conserved — but we need to raise funds to finish the restoration, installation and transportation.

Donate to help restore this revered piece of labor history at: ctulocal1.org/mural



RALLY IN HONOR OF MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND RELATIVES

**THURS
JULY 23**

7 AM WATER CEREMONY

2 PM RALLY
HEALING PRAYER + SONG
JINGLE DRESS HEALING DANCE

6 PM DINNER
FREE!

**AT
BAY VIEW
BEACH PARK
ASHLAND, WI**

RESIST LINE 5!

MORE: RESISTLINE5WEEK.NOBLDAS.ORG



For the Love of Water

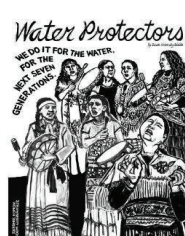
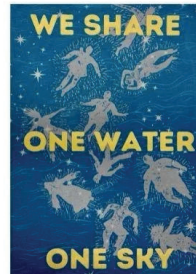
Art Exhibition

Stone Soup Cafe, 509 Main St W, Ashland

The show is available for viewing during Stone Soup Cafe's open hours Thursday - Saturday.

For the Love of Water
is a grassroots resistance
themed art exhibition
to educate and inspire people
to protect the water.

Featuring Great Lakes artists:
Domitrizhik (Isaac Murdoch), Melanie Ariens,
Dio Cramer, Michael D'Ambrosio,
Shea Schachameyer, Susan Simensky Bietila,
the Spill Paint Not Oil Art Collective,
Chequamegon Bay Water Protectors, & more!



www.WatchLine5.com/events

Project support provided by The Open Fund, through the Poor Farm, with funding from The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts and Ruth Foundation for the Arts.

EXHIBITION OPENING
FRIDAY JUNE 12TH
6PM-9PM

ON DISPLAY
THROUGH
JULY 25TH

THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT: BRIDGING BORDERS

1926 SOUTH HALSTED, CHICAGO

Exhibition includes stories of those who have needed to migrate due to environmental factors, loss of land, or U.S. global policies.

AnySquared Projects

CHICAGO ART DEPT

July 1-August 29
1st International
Milwaukee Riso
Invitational Exhibition
at Spudnik Press
1821 W Hubbard St, #302,

The "Riso" or Risograph is a type of duplicator known for its ability to achieve deep opaque color coverage including a palette of fluorescent colors.

SPUDNIK PRESS

IS AN ACCESSABLE COOPERATIVE COMMUNITY PRINTMAKING STUDIO OFFERING CLASSES IN RISOGRAPHY, SILKSCREEN, LETTERPRESS AND OTHER TYPES OF PRINTING AS WELL AS PAPERMAKING AND BOOKBINDING.

EVERY MONDAY, FROM 10AM-2PM, OUR STUDIO IS OPEN FOR PRINTMAKERS WHO WANT TO CREATE MOVEMENT POSTERS, PAMPHLETS, AND OTHER MATERIALS FOR FREE COMMUNITY SHARING. BECOME A MEMBER TO THE EQUIPMENT REGULARLY!

SPUDNIKPRESS.ORG.

ARTE en el Parque

ART IN THE PARK

Unity Park Advisory Council

Saturday July 18
el sábado 18 de julio
10am-2pm
2636 N Kimball Ave

UnityParkChicago.org

SCREEN PRINTED ART SHOW

PRESENTED BY: **SCENARIOS**

SCREEN PRINTING COLLECTIVE

TO CELEBRATE AND RECLAIM THE SKILL OF SHARING INFORMATION AND CREATING ART IN OUR COUNTER CULTURE

ALL PRINTED BY HAND WITH LOVE AND RESISTANCE

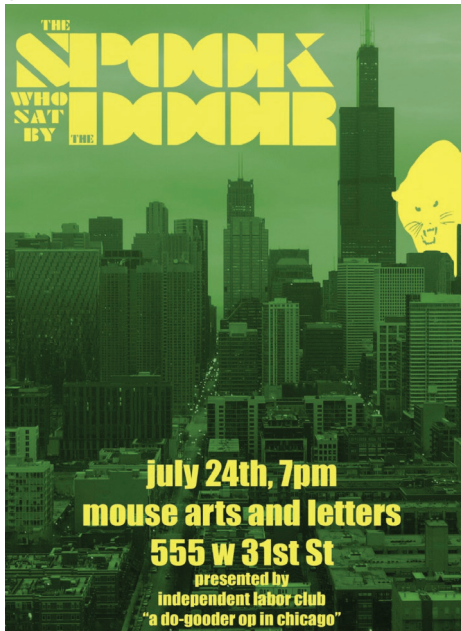
OPENING 6-9PM
(AFTER THE TOMPKINS SHOW)

JULY 11 2026

CLOSING JULY 25

GALLERY HOURS THURS-SUN 1-5PM

NYC



A multimedia investigative feature about South Side Chicago communities fighting for self-determination in response to potentially being poisoned, pushed out, and policed by an impending 9-billion dollar quantum computer on the shores of Lake Michigan.

www.respairmedia.com/quantum-entanglements

Documenters Network Workshop

Documenting as Power: Media Literacy for Civic Life

A three-session workshop series in partnership with 15West focused on practical media literacy, storytelling, and journalism skills for Documenters



Sign up at documenters.org/workshops

Documenters
POWERED BY CITY BUREAU

U.S.-Israeli Attack on Lebanon Has Resulted in Destruction of a Quarter Million Homes and Killing of at Least 7,000 People Since October 2023



A returning resident to Nabatieh, in southern Lebanon, stands before the wreckage in the city, days after the start of a cease-fire between Israel and Hezbollah. [Source: hrw.org]

On March 22, Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz ordered the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) to “accelerate the destruction of Lebanese homes” near the Israeli border based on the “model in Gaza” as part of its campaign against Hezbollah.

Since October 2023, the IDF has destroyed 250,000 homes in southern Lebanon, according to Ziad Abu-Rish, associate professor of Middle East Studies at Bard College and author of *The State of Lebanon: Popular Politics and Institution Building in the Wake of Independence* (Redwood City, CA: Stanford University Press, 2026).

On May 21, Abu-Rish was a featured guest on *Uncontrolled Opposition*, a radio program co-hosted by *CovertAction Magazine* (CAM) editor Jeremy Kuzmarov with CAM writer Gloria Guillo, where he discussed the U.S.-Israeli war on Lebanon and its terrible humanitarian costs.

At the time of the interview, Abu-Rish was staying in Beirut, where he said the electricity is constantly going out and there are visible signs of the war everywhere. “Daily life for most people is a grind. Water and other public utilities have become more and more expensive and scarce and the health care system is facing collapse, a trend that has been accelerated by the IDF’s targeting of health care workers.”

Noting that Israel had violated a cease-fire agreement hundreds of times, Abu-Rish continued: “One out of every five people in southern Lebanon has been displaced. You can see signs of this everywhere in the streets. One-room apartments in Beirut are being occupied by three families. Many schools also closed because they are being used as bomb shelters.

Additionally, you have generational trauma. There is a constant humming of Israeli drones and constant fear and anticipation of Israel resuming air strikes. People who have been displaced can’t return to their villages and help bury their loved ones; some people have to be buried alone because nobody is allowed to accompany members of their family back to their village and they are not able to have a proper funeral. The natural practices of how people come to terms with death and loss is being upended.”[1]

The widescale displacement in Lebanon is not something new; Abu-Rish said that more than one million Lebanese have been displaced since the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 2006.

At that time, the Israelis dropped cluster bombs which continue to make life in southern Lebanon dangerous: They have killed 400 people since then, primarily children who picked up undetonated bomblets because they thought they were toys.[2]

During the 1982 Operation Peace for Galilee, Israel committed large-scale, Vietnam-style atrocities and slaughtered Palestinian refugees in the notorious Sabra and Shatila massacre overseen by future Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.[3]

Abu-Rish said that Lebanese today are not only coping with the deadly consequences of war but the decay of the country’s infrastructure and collapse of Lebanon’s financial and economic system. Since 2019, the Lebanese lira has lost 90% of its value, and 80% of the country is living below the poverty line.

The horrible situation, Abu-Rish said, has been provoked by a home-grown banking elite who “has been robbing the people in a vast Ponzi scheme” and “have never been held accountable.”

According to Abu-Rish, Lebanon’s current government, headed by President Joseph Aoun, claims to be reformist but has hitched its wagon to the U.S. There has been little progress in rectifying Lebanon’s economic crisis or challenge to the predatory banking elite.

Aoun and Prime Minister Nawaf Salam have also tried to placate Israel by disarming Hezbollah, which emerged as the primary resistance force against IDF aggression in the 1980s.

Abu-Rish said that the Lebanese army proved unwilling to defend southern Lebanon against Israeli incursions, which led much of the local population to turn to Hezbollah for their defense.

Viewed by Israel as an “Iranian terror army” that launches rockets and has

forced the evacuation of Israeli towns, Hezbollah provides social services to the people in southern Lebanon, is a political party with 13 elected representatives in Lebanon’s parliament, and runs schools.

Abu-Rish said that the Israelis appear to have miscalculated in believing that Hezbollah was weakened and would be unable to mount effective resistance following the assassination of long-time leader Hassan Nasrallah in September 2024.[4]

According to Abu-Rish, while Nasrallah’s successor Naim Qassem, does not come close to Nasrallah as far as his personal charisma or strategic thinking, he was part of Hezbollah’s top echelon of leaders and is helping to sustain the organization.[5]

Besides the assassination of Nasrallah, the Israeli government was emboldened as a result of the September 2024 pager attack in which Mossad secretly integrated explosives into handheld radio sets and pagers purchased by Hezbollah for communications through a shell company and took out at least 1,500 Hezbollah fighters.

Additionally, Israel believed it had effectively cut off Iranian support for Hezbollah because of the fall of the Assad government in December 2024, which had been assisted by the CIA’s largest covert operation since the 1980s Afghanistan War (Operation Timber Sycamore).

Assad’s successor, Ahmed al-Sharaa, a former al-Qaeda operative implicated in large-scale ethnic cleansing operations, is “committed not to allowing Hezbollah to use Syria’s territory to obtain weaponry or for any other purpose.”

Abu-Rish said that Iran is never the less still finding ways to support Hezbollah, which receives much of its funding from wealthy business people living in the diaspora and Islamic charities. Hezbollah has also been able to effectively produce drones that can be manufactured within Lebanon for less than \$500. According to Abu-Rish, these drones are “forcing the IDF to operate primarily at night and to withdraw from certain regions of southern Lebanon.”

Abu-Rish says that Israeli soldiers are becoming demoralized with casualties mounting. Though the Israeli military is “tight-lipped about its losses,” a “ cursory reading of the Israeli press” makes clear that the IDF is “facing real military resistance,” according to Abu-Rish.

Nevertheless, on May 25, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he instructed the IDF to “press the pedal even harder” against Hezbollah, after a U.S. official signalled Washington would approve a larger operation. [6] Israeli warplanes bombed 47 towns and villages in southern Lebanon, killing at least 31 people, including 2 children.[7]

Strikes near ancient ruins in the port city of Tyre that turned the city into a ghost town, according to Israeli media sources, have raised concerns about potential damage to historical landmarks.

As far as motive, Abu-Rish said that Israeli leaders have long envisioned Israel’s borders being expanded up to the Litani River.[8] This is part of the messianic Greater Israel project that has been a basis for Israeli settlers trying to occupy Lebanese lands.

The U.S. has supported the Greater Israel project and Israeli aggression in Lebanon because it seeks to use Israel as a proxy for dominating the Middle East.

Additionally, Abu-Rish said that the U.S. has long had interest in controlling Lebanon’s aviation industry, with Pan American World Airways having expanded there; has major trade interests in Lebanon; and interest in two major oil pipelines passing through Lebanon.

Historically, the U.S. Embassy in Lebanon has served as a hub for regional intelligence gathering and communication. [9] In the 1980s, Abu-Rish said that more than 14,000 U.S. Marines were stationed in Lebanon and the U.S. Navy has also made use of Lebanon’s naval port.

Jean Shaoul reported last year that U.S. troops were stationed in Lebanon at air strips not far from Beirut, and that the U.S. was building a \$1.2 billion fortified embassy on a 43-acre site near Beirut whose declared purpose was to counter the “Axis of Resistance,” meaning Iran. Shaoul wrote that the embassy’s “scale, out of all proportion to the country’s size, is indicative of U.S. geo-political interests in Lebanon, with its strategic location and newly found sources of gas and oil under the eastern Mediterranean Sea.”[10]

Historically, the U.S. has tried to exhibit control in Lebanon through Maronite Christian factions.[11] Under Lebanon’s current constitution, the president has to be a Maronite Christian while other members of the Cabinet have to be Sunni or Shia.

Abu-Rish emphasized that the Israeli assault on Lebanon could not have occurred without U.S. arms shipments to Israel and military support. U.S.-made weapons have, indeed, been repeatedly found amidst the rubble in Beirut. For this reason, Lebanon should be considered another war of both U.S. and Israeli aggression.

By Jeremy Kuzmarov
From Cover Action Magazine
Footnotes on website
covertactionmagazine.com

Pilsen Community Books, 1531 W. 18th St, Chicago

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CITIZENSHIP: NOTES ON AN AMERICAN MYTH

BY: DAISY HERNÁNDEZ

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WHAT IS A HOMELAND?

JUL 13 RETURNING TO HAIFA BOOK DISCUSSION 6:30 PM

JUL 20 RETURNING TO HAIFA MOVIE & DISCUSSION 6:30 PM

JUL 27 MEN IN THE SUN BOOK DISCUSSION 6:30 PM

AUG 04 THE DUPES MOVIE & DISCUSSION 6:30 PM

U.S. OUT OF EVERYWHERE!
MASKED EVENT

CHICAGO PEACE FORUM
july 17th, 2026
5:00-8:30 PM

PILSEN COMMUNITY BOOKS / ZOOM HYBRID
1531 W 18TH ST

Join anti-imperialist organizations in a night of education, cultural, and solidarity; highlighting resistance around the world and locally against fascism, economic plunder, and war. From Palestine to the Philippines to Okinawa, learn how we can link our struggles and fight to win a better world!

RSVP REQUIRED <https://tinyurl.com/chipeaceforum>

July 19th 5pm

Killing the Flowers Can't Delay Spring:

Syria/Rojava Reportback on the Victories and Contradictions of Revolution in Syria’s Northeast, 14 Years On

1531 W 18th
PILSEN COMMUNITY BOOKS

QUEER TASTES UNCONVENTIONAL REPRESENTATION IN HORROR FILMS

CAT VOLEUR in conversation with **JANE KERANEN**

CAT VOLEUR

Friday, July 24, 7pm-8pm

PILSEN COMMUNITY BOOKS PRESENTS

Rent Party

Sunday, July 26
2 PM - 4 PM
1531 W 18th St
no cover all ages

“Everyone’s favorite feminist garage folk trio.”

DON'T BREED ON ME: A SHORT HISTORY OF ABORTION

MADELINE QUASEBARTH

MEGHAN DANIEL

AUGUST 3RD 7 PM
PILSEN COMMUNITY BOOKS

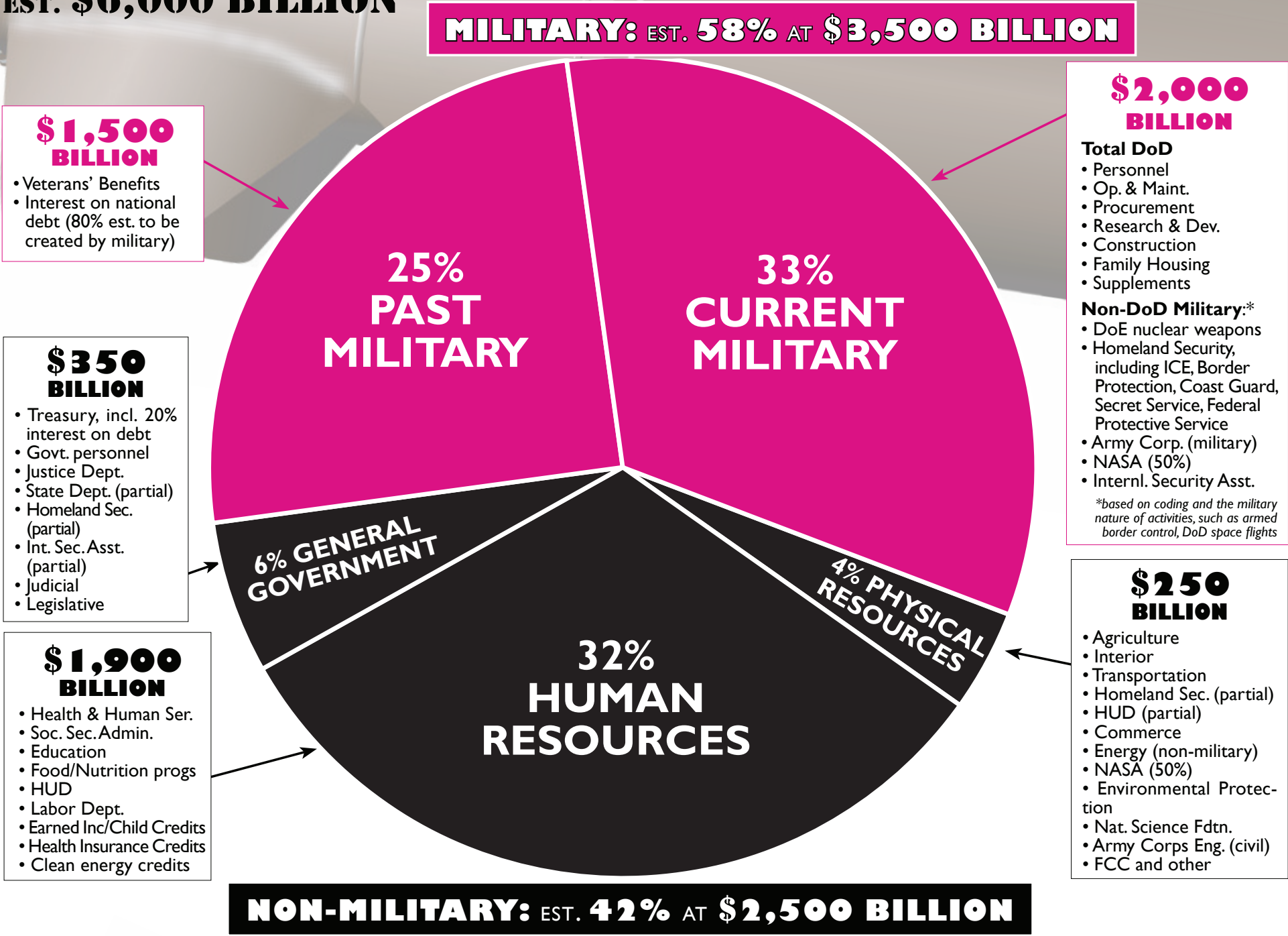
Aug. 5, 7- 8:30PM Black August

Join poets Kemi Alabi, I.S. Jones, and Meredith Nnoka for a reading and conversation in celebration of Black August, a 50-year tradition that began in U.S. prisons and jails to commemorate key events in the ongoing movement against incarceration. This event is free and open to the public.

WHERE YOUR INCOME TAX MONEY IS GOING

ESTIMATED U.S. FEDERAL BUDGET 2027 FISCAL YEAR

TOTAL OUTLAYS
(FY 2027 FEDERAL FUNDS)
EST. \$6,000 BILLION



WHY AN ESTIMATED BUDGET?

Since 1977 WRL's pie charts have used the Analytical Perspectives book of the Budget of the United States Government for each fiscal year for this analysis. However, the government did not produce budget books in 2025, and the current

administration may produce only a "blueprint" of its FY2027 budget request to Congress.

Our analysis intends to show where income taxes go; these are Federal funds that do not include Trust funds — such as Social Security — which are raised and spent separately from income taxes. Potential cuts to Social Security and

Medicare are not reflected in this pie chart. For further explanation, please go to warresisters.org.

What you pay (or don't pay) by April 15, 2026, goes to the Federal funds portion of the budget. The government practice of combining Trust and Federal funds began during the Vietnam War, intending to make the human needs portion of the budget appear larger and the military portion smaller during that unpopular war.

*Analysts differ on how much of the

debt stems from the military; other groups estimate 50% to 60%. We use 80% because we believe if there had been no military spending, most of the national debt would have been eliminated. SOURCES: Budget-based news, including New York Times, Costs of War Project (costsofwar.watson.brown.edu), (nationalpriorities.org), plus data from the Congressional Budget Office among other sources.

Another \$88 billion for the Iran war? Fund human needs instead!

By Hanna Homestead, July 1, 2026
President Trump is requesting even more money for the disastrous U.S.-Israeli war on Iran that has killed and displaced millions of civilians, despite Congress voting to block further military aggression. The new war supplemental is in addition to the historic \$1.5 trillion budget that Trump has already requested for the Pentagon for FY 2027, the highest proposed Pentagon budget on record.

The proposed \$87.6 billion supplemental would hand \$67 billion directly to the Pentagon, including \$21 billion to restock munitions like those the U.S. military used to kill 170 teachers and children at an Iranian elementary school in February. It also includes \$2 billion for the Coast

Guard to support the Department of War's violence in Iran and in the Western Hemisphere, where the U.S. military continues to conduct illegal strikes on unarmed vessels. These funds could also be used to support the militarization of the Southern Border as part of Trump's deeply unpopular and inhumane mass detention and deportation campaign.

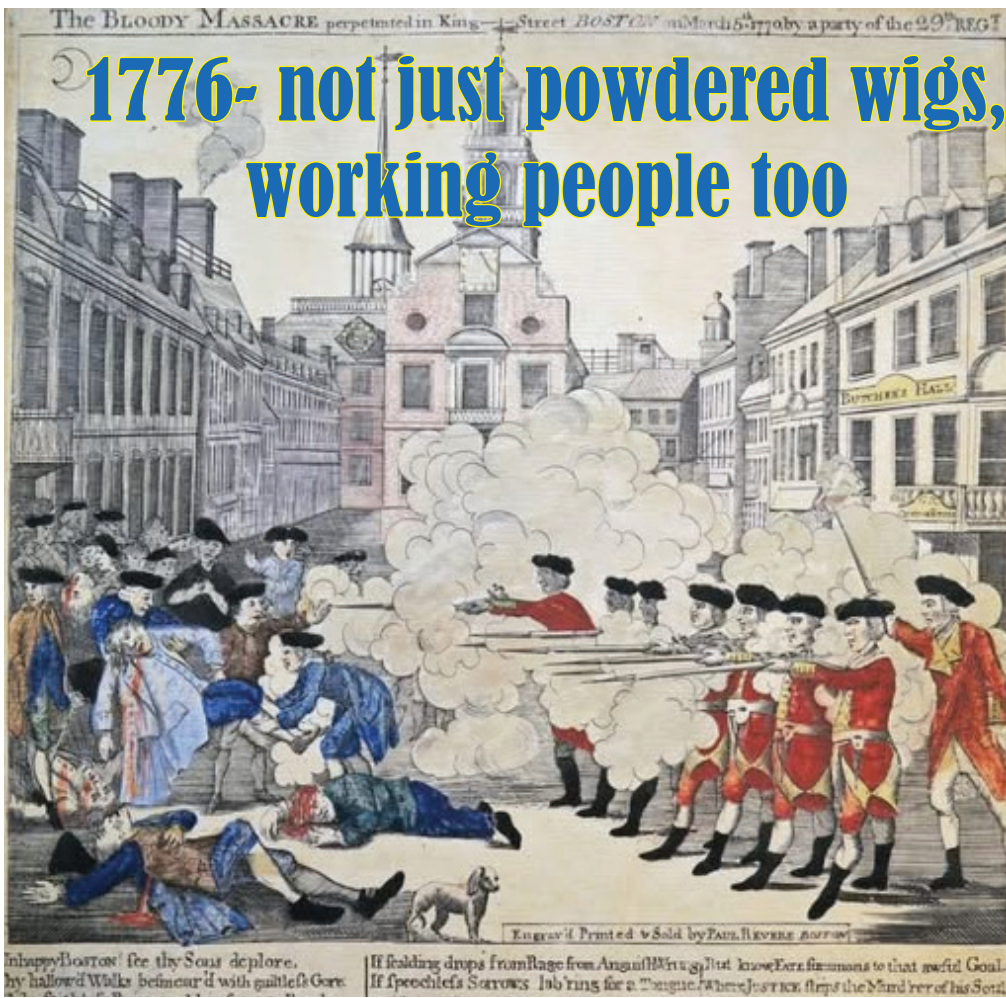
The massive human and financial costs of Trump's wars are already hurting working people at home and globally, and will continue to climb for years to come. Trump has already boosted the Pentagon's budget over \$1 trillion - more than they can even manage to spend this year - while cutting food aid and critical health services to millions of families. Now the

President and his MAGA allies want to shift even more taxpayer dollars away from working families to fund their wars during the worst affordability crisis in recent history.

The \$88 billion Trump is requesting for endless war to profit weapons contractors and his cabal of corporate cronies should be helping people instead. This harmful and unnecessary war supplemental could pay for all of the following in FY 2027:

Restore ACA healthcare subsidies to save millions of families from devastating insurance premium increases and loss of healthcare (\$35 billion); AND
Adequately fund veterans' medical care (\$18.81 billion); AND
Restore SNAP benefits that were cut

under HR 1 (\$18.6 billion); AND
Double the EPA's budget to protect clean air and water and clean up toxic Superfund sites (\$8.8 billion); AND
Provide free school lunch to all participating children (\$6.38 billion).
Our tax dollars should be supporting families at home, not bombing them abroad. We are proud to stand with more than 250 groups across the country urging members of Congress to vote against any additional funding for President Trump's unconstitutional and immoral wars. Contact your elected officials and let them know they should: 1) Oppose this \$88 billion supplemental request and 2) vote NO on any more money for war and weapons. www.nationalpriorities.org



The Declaration of Independence and the American Revolution conjure images of gentlemen in powdered wigs and "throw the tea into the sea," but there's a working-class story too often neglected. Paul Revere, Crispus Attucks, and enslaved African Americans all faced the Revolution from unique perspectives.

African American stevedore (dock worker) Crispus Attucks is remembered as the Revolution's first martyr. "No taxation without representation" was not his cause; stopping scabs was why he lost his life.

In 1767-68, the British Parliament imposed the Townshend Acts, which imposed taxes on the U.S. colonies to pay off debts from the just-concluded French and Indian War. The Acts were met with massive protests, so British troops were dispatched to occupy Boston, arriving in October 1768. The underpaid British soldiers supplemented their income by working on the docks, taking jobs away from workers like Attucks.

Workers jeered and mobbed the British soldiers. On March 5, 1770, over 300 workers and apprentices surrounded the patrolling British troops, throwing snowballs and rocks. The troops opened fire, killing Attucks, James Caldwell, a sailor; Samuel Gray, a rope maker; Patrick Carr, an apprentice leather worker; and Sam Maverick, an apprentice ivory turner.

Samuel Adams and silversmith Paul Revere labeled the event the "Boston Massacre." Revere made a printing plate of Henry Pelham's drawing of the shooting, creating an engraving that quickly spread through the colonies, enflaming anger toward the British.

Revere was a critical link between the working class and the elites who supported a revolution. Paul Revere was a skilled artisan worker, more than Samuel Wadsworth Longfellow's famous poem tells, "Come listen now children and you shall hear, of the midnight ride of Paul Revere."

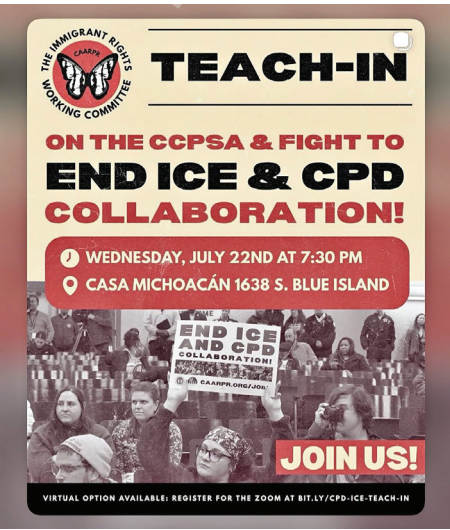
Revere (1734-1818) represents the skilled artisan workers who were the Revolution's backbone. At age 13, he began his apprenticeship in his father's silversmithing shop. Revere became very adept working in gold, silver, copper, and metal casting. After his father's death, Revere became the shop's master around 1757. His craft work won him a following, and Boston's elite patronized his shop. During the British occupation and the resulting economic downturn, he took up dentistry. One patient, Dr. Joseph Warren, enlisted Revere into the revolutionary cause. He was the conduit between the revolutionary elites and the working class.

On April 17, 1775, he was one of three riders who left Boston to alert the Minutemen in Lexington and Concord that British troops were marching to seize their armaments, setting off the Revolution's first battles.

Although he wanted to fight in the military during the Revolution, his contribution was industrial. In 1775, he established a gunpowder mill. After the war, he opened a metal rolling mill in 1788 and soon began casting metal. His reputation was that he paid his workers fairly, according to their skills, and respected the tradition of allowing liquor in the shop.

For African Americans, the revolution's rhetoric about liberty contradicted their conditions. In 1777, a free Boston leather maker, Prince Hall, petitioned the state legislature to abolish slavery. Hoping to turn slaves against their masters, Virginia's colonial Governor, John Murray, the fourth Earl of Dunmore, enticed slaves with liberation. His 1775 proclamation promised liberty to African American slaves and white indentured servants if they joined the British cause. 15,000 to 20,000 workers fled the plantations and joined the British Army. Another 5,000 to 8,000 African Americans joined the Revolutionary Continental Army.

After the war, the former slaves who stayed loyal to the British were shipped to Nova Scotia in Canada, with few resources. Many then emigrated to London, and finally some were sent to West Africa, where the material support promised never arrived. The American Revolution's image is "founding fathers" in their powdered wigs. The workers, apprentices, slaves, and women who participated all have a story to tell, just as valued as the historic stereotypes. <https://mikematejka.substack.com/>



LET CUBA LIVE! END THE BLOCKADE!

Retired United Electrical Workers Union (UE) Washington Representative Chris Townsend joined representatives of National Nurses United (NNU), Global Heath Partners, Code Pink, and four pro-worker members of Congress on Tuesday to denounce the U.S. blockade of Cuba. Despite the 100-degree heat wave, about 100 people attended the action in front of Congress.

Townsend, who serves on the Executive Committee of the International Workers Institute (IWI), an education initiative of the World Federation of Trade Unions, spoke about the worldwide trade union resistance to the U.S. war on Cuba. The event was sponsored by NNU, the largest union of registered nurses in the U.S.

UE Policy, adopted by rank-and-file delegates to the 79th UE Convention in

BREAD & ROSES
August 2025, states that "Cuba poses no economic or military threat to the U.S. Our government has no justification for the economic blockade of Cuba, which, as members of UE Local 150 who visited the island this past year learned first-hand, makes it more difficult for Cubans to access medicine, food, and essential life-giving supplies."

In March, delegates to UE's Eastern Region council meeting unanimously reaffirmed this policy, denounced military threats against Cuba, and encouraged members to sign the "Let Cuba Live" petition: <https://www.letcubalive.info/>



Starbucks Workers United on Strike



Starbucks Workers United is a bright spot in a bleak landscape: 12,000+ baristas are organizing for a fair contract with higher pay, better staffing and hours, and an end to union busting. This isn't just about coffee: it's about whether big corporations can crush an organizing wave or whether working people reclaim our power. These baristas are taking real risks and showing the country what hope looks like. Stand with them. When workers act with the support of their communities, we can take back power from billionaires and CEOs.

Since 2021, Starbucks baristas have spoken up and documented instances of misconduct and unfair treatment from the company, especially during workers' fight for improved conditions in a finalized union contract.



Tom Paine, the worker who helped make a revolution

Nearly all the leaders of the American Revolution - known ever since as "the Founding Fathers" - were members of the upper classes: rich merchants, investors, landowners, planters, judges and lawyers. Thomas Jefferson and George Washington were wealthy planters and slave owners from Virginia. But Thomas Paine - the man whose writings won over the country to the idea of independence and helped rally the army and the people to defeat the powerful British Empire - was the exception.

Chief Justice Roberts recently referenced Tom Paine in his majority decision in Trump v. Barbara, striking down Trump's executive order revoking birthright citizenship. Read more about Paine in this UE NEWS article from 2012: www.ueunion.org/ue-news-feature/2012/tom-paine-and-the-4th-of-july-the-worker-who-helped-make-a-revolution



30-Year Sentence for Transporting Zines Is a Five-Alarm Fire for Free Speech

The harsh sentence for a defendant who wasn't even at the Prairieland protest is likely

The Trump administration attacking the right to publish or report information is a given at this point. The president has threatened journalists for everything from questioning the wisdom of his failed war with Iran to touching the peeled lining of his renovated reflecting pool.

Tantrums like those may now feel routine, but this week marked a new front in Trump's war on information: Daniel "Des" Sanchez Estrada was sentenced to 30 years in federal prison for transporting a box of zines he didn't even write. He's one of eight defendants sentenced on Tuesday to a combined 450 years — the first prison sentences against so-called "antifa" handed down under the framework of NSPM-7, President Donald Trump's sweeping "counterterrorism" memorandum to clamp down on dissent from the left.

The prosecution's theory was that Sanchez moved the zines, which discussed anarchism and other anti-government ideas, to conceal evidence in the case against his wife, Maricela Rueda. Rueda attended a July 4, 2025, protest at the Prairieland immigration jail in Texas where a police officer was shot. (She was not accused of shooting him or having anything to do with the shooting but was herself sentenced to 70 years.)

But that nuance is cold comfort: It assumes that simply possessing years-old political pamphlets that said nothing about the protest or shooting could somehow constitute evidence of a crime. Sharing the political ideology of the shooter, the government contended, meant Rueda and her co-defendants were culpable for the shooter's actions — and by allegedly attempting to prevent officers from finding out about Rueda's ideology, Sanchez shared in the blame as well.

We've reached the point in the erosion of the First Amendment where the government considers possession of anarchist zines and membership in a terrorist cell to be more or less the same thing. Once the box of zines was discovered, there was no need to prove Rueda planned or had any idea that anyone would be shot at the protest.

What's worse is that this will likely only ramp up the administration's efforts to criminalize being in possession of information. Whatever you may think of former CNN host Don Lemon, he's no anarchist or extremist, and the content of his broadcasts bears little resemblance to the zines Sanchez was convicted of transporting. And yet, after in



Supporters of the Prairieland defendants display pamphlets and artwork after their sentencing outside a Fort Worth, Texas, courthouse.

Photo: Matt Sledge/The Intercept

dicting him and independent journalist Georgia Fort on frivolous charges relating to their livestreaming of a protest at a Minnesota church, the government sought a warrant to obtain the identities of subscribers to their YouTube channels.

This will likely only ramp up the administration's efforts to criminalize being in possession of information.

Fortunately, a judge rejected that warrant. But it's a chilling revelation of the administration's modus operandi. Lemon and Fort's YouTube subscribers would, of course, have no knowledge of what happened at the church protest beyond what was publicly broadcast. Their identities are as irrelevant to whether Lemon and Fort committed a crime as the box of zines was to Rueda's case. The only conceivable reason the government might want a list of YouTube subscribers is to keep an eye on people who watch disfavored shows.

And let's say someone who'd watched Lemon and Fort's livestreams and then heard about their arrests had cleared their browser history because they (rightly) feared the administration might target them. Could they then be prosecuted for concealing evidence under the same logic applied to Sanchez? If they'd downloaded the video, could they be accused of possessing contraband? Would forwarding a link equate to trafficking?

It all sounds preposterous, but virtually nothing is too absurd for this Department of Justice. In fact, it's already argued that documents investigative reporters receive from whistleblower sources can constitute contraband. (It's worth pointing out that Joe Biden's DOJ used this same logic when it pursued its own ridiculous "transporting" of information case against Project Veritas for moving Ashley Biden's diary across state lines).

These frivolous actions create a catch-22 for all Americans. The more people are investigated for engaging with ideas the administration deems dangerously anti-government, the more likely others are to conceal evidence of their own controversial beliefs — not because they are evidence of any real crime but because prosecutors are out of control. But if they do so, they risk incriminating themselves.

Supporters of the Prairieland defendants display pamphlets and artwork after their sentencing outside a Fort Worth, Texas, courthouse on June 23, 2026. Photo: Matt Sledge/The Intercept
Seth Stern is the director of advocacy for Freedom of the Press Foundation.

Jeremy Busby is a writer and activist incarcerated in Texas.

The Trump administration attacking the right to publish or report information is a given at this point. The president has threatened journalists for everything from questioning the wisdom of his failed war with Iran to touching the peeled lining of his renovated reflecting pool.

Tantrums like those may now feel routine, but this week marked a new front in Trump's war on information: Daniel "Des" Sanchez Estrada was sentenced to 30 years in federal prison for transporting a box of zines he didn't even write. He's one of eight defendants sentenced on Tuesday to a combined 450 years — the first prison sentences against so-called "antifa" handed down under the framework of NSPM-7, President Donald Trump's sweeping "counterterrorism" memorandum to clamp down on dissent from the left.

NSPM-7, which was issued last September, tasks federal agencies with dismantling networks of "anti-fascist" actors, a purposely overly broad term since expanded to include those with "extreme view

points on immigration, radical gender ideology, and anti-American sentiment."

Given that antifa, as a singular, cohesive organization, is a figment of the right's imagination, agents cannot accomplish that task by uncovering a membership registry. They can only do so by identifying people with viewpoints they consider "extreme," like anti-ICE protesters officers have told they're being added to watchlists, or pro-Palestine opinion writers they've sought to deport.

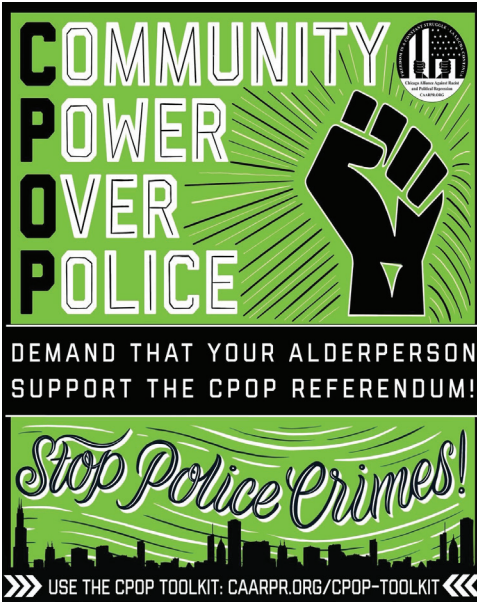
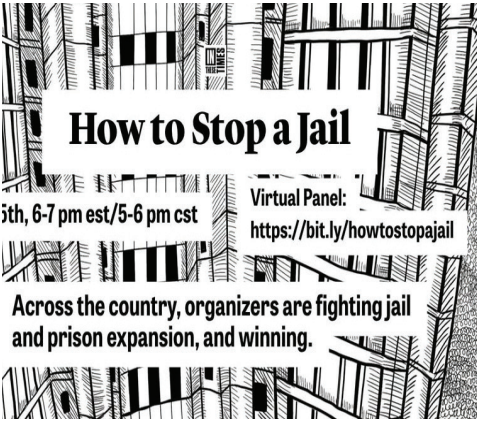
In Chicago and other cities ICE invaded, activists and organizers packaged whistles and zines to distribute to residents. Under the logic of NSPM-7 and Sanchez Estrada's conviction, that is a network of actors engaged in organized political violence. If you read one of their zines, you could be deemed a member of an illicit enterprise, and if you hide one, you're covering for criminals.

The administration has vowed the Prairieland case "will not be the last" of its kind. We must take it at its word. The next one might also involve protesters from the political fringes rather than ordinary Americans reading, say, The Intercept, or watching Don Lemon on YouTube. But what about the one after that? We're not as far away as you might think. Stephen Miller has called the whole Democratic Party a "domestic extremist organization" — clearly invoking the language of NSPM-7. Trump has labeled his political opponents "the enemy within" and the press "the enemy of the people."

Whoever said slippery slopes are a fallacy never met Donald Trump. If Sanchez Estrada indeed moved the zines because he foresaw their being used to tie his wife to a nonexistent terrorist network and a shooting, he should be commended for his prescience. Maybe more of us should think like Sanchez Estrada.

Or would that be a crime?

By Seth Stern & Jeremy Busby of The Intercept at www.theintercept.com in partnership with Freedom of the Press Foundation



THE INCREASINGLY MILITARIZED BUDGET

The United States enters its 250th year with militarism in ascendance. War has failed to solve conflicts or create peace — from Korea to Vietnam to 25 years of endless war on terror — and yet elected officials throw more money at the Pentagon. Funding the war machine buys war and killing. And, as the pie chart on the front shows, militarization is taking over other agencies. The result: heavily armed agents and military in our streets,

“A standing military force, with an overgrown Executive will not long be safe companions to liberty. The means of defense against foreign danger, have been always the instruments of tyranny at home.”

-JAMES MADISON, 1787

causing fear, deaths, and threatening democracy. It's not too late to heed the warning of “founding

father” James Madison and demand a disarmed budget and disarmed world.

THE INCREASINGLY MILITARIZED BUDGET BUYS...

- 77 U.S. bases in 95 countries at \$80 billion/year
- War on Iran — 165 school children killed in first missile strikes
- Drone attacks in Caribbean with 150+ dead so far
- \$27 billion to enable Israel's genocide in Gaza — Maybe a half million dead, including 23,000 children documented
- U.S. military blockade, takeover, and



U.S. embassy complex under construction in Beirut. [Source: edition.cnn.com]

A record breaking \$1.5 trillion is proposed for allocation by Congress for 2027 military spending, 48% higher than last year. This includes \$2 billion in assistance for Taiwan. An spending spree is planned. The scheme is to plunder future generations, as we don't have that money. They may have a hard time borrowing it, forcing us to pay even more over time in interest. They defunded almost everything good the government did but the US still can't pay it's debt.

By Phyllis Bennis

The U.S. and Israeli war has, from its very beginning, violated both U.S. domestic and international law.

The legal consequences go beyond specific violations. Washington and Tel Aviv's breaches of the UN Charter and other legal frameworks also undermine the very foundations of the rule of law. Even while international legal institutions too often lack sufficient capacity to enforce their decisions, they still provide a crucial framework for protest, for pressure on individual governments, and for the hope of a future world where the rule of law is paramount.

Now, however, that future is in more danger than any other time in recent memory. Right now, Iranian civilians are paying the highest price. But the collapse of the rule of law makes the future more dangerous for everyone else, too.

What Are the Laws of War?

On the domestic front, the U.S. Constitution is very clear that only Congress, not the president, has the power to declare war. But President Trump did not even consult with Congress before attacking Iran, let alone receive a congressional declaration of or even authorization for war.

This is nothing new, of course. In recent years, successive Congresses have abandoned their constitutional prerogative, allowing various presidents of both parties to initiate and continue the use of massive military force without even the pretense of asserting their power to declare war.

Indeed, both houses of Congress voted, in overwhelmingly partisan votes, to reject War Powers Resolutions which could have prevented or at least constrained Trump's reckless and illegal war. They didn't even hold votes at all until the United States and Israel had already launched their war against Iran.

International law is equally clear. The Nuremberg

- attack of Venezuela — \$1 billion and counting
- Homeland Security's mass detention & deportation force equals the world's 13th largest military
- 100,000 children in the U.S. experiencing a parent detained in 2025
- 32 deaths in ICE custody in 2025; so far, at least 60 deaths in custody and 9 killed in the streets in 2026
- Surplus weapons of war transferred to local law enforcement by the Pentagon
- Peaceful protest met with military style response

Borrowing trillion\$ for Artificial Stupidity Systems, killbots, nuclear weapons, and genocide The National Defense Authorization Act FY 2027

Section 219 and Section 1217 Sections 219 (formerly Section 224) in the House and Section 1217 in the Senate version, would increase US cooperation and interdependence with the genocidal, war criminal, terrorist state Israel. Not that we are innocent, but we should try to not be under that bad influence.

So for example, one paragraph from Section 219-

(a) ESTABLISHMENT—The Secretary of Defense shall designate an executive agent, responsible for synchronizing cooperative efforts between the United States and Israel, to expand and accelerate bilateral defense technology research, development, testing, evaluation, integration, and industrial cooperation.

The U.S.-Israeli War on Iran Is Illegal. Here's Why That Matters.

Following World War II determined that the "supreme international crime" was that of aggression. The International Military Tribunal ruled in 1946 that initiating a war of aggression differed from other war crimes because "it contains within itself the accumulated evil of the whole." War crimes, crimes against humanity, and all the related international crimes, therefore, are understood to stem from that fundamental crime of going to war illegally.

The U.S. and Israel went to war illegally. They are waging a war of aggression against Iran. The UN Charter declares that no country may attack another country, and that "all Members shall settle their international disputes by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security, and justice, are not endangered." It also prohibits UN member states from using "the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations."

There are only two exceptions to that prohibition on the use of force. One is if the Security Council itself authorizes the use of military force. The other is for immediate self-defense, which applies only "if an armed attack" occurs and then only "until" the Council decides collectively how to deal with the crisis. Neither of those happened here. The Council was never asked, and certainly had not authorized any thing, and Iran had not attacked the U.S. or Israel. The U.S. claim that it "had to" attack Iran to prevent some potential imagined retaliatory attack at some unknown point in the future does not legitimize so-called "preventive" use of force when no such imagined future attack had occurred.

The Danger of International Lawlessness Despite the dangerous trends toward international lawlessness in recent years, it wasn't that long ago

\$1.5 TRILLION COULD SAVE LIVES INSTEAD

- Medicaid for 70 million people (\$636 Billion)
- Child Tax Credit proven to lift children out of poverty (\$215 B)
- SNAP grocery support for millions (\$123 B)
- Dept. of Ed. grants for disabled students, student loans (\$278 B)
- Highways, bridges, transit upgrades (\$70 B)

(A lobbying group called A New Policy had the following analysis-)

This section would direct the Secretary of Defense to designate an Executive Agent (EA) to expand and accelerate deeper integration of Israel into U.S. institutions. The EA would be solely focused on implementing Section 219. EA authority takes precedence over the authority of the other DoD Component heads per DOD Instruction 5101.01, meaning that the EA would be able to overrule determinations by other DOD agencies such as the Defense Technology Security Administration (DTSA) on Israeli access to U.S. technology.

The appointment of an EA would replace direct Congressional oversight with supervision by the Secretary of Defense.

- National Institutes of Health for essential research (\$50 B)
- School breakfast and lunch serving 30 million children (\$32 B)
- FEMA disaster recovery (\$32 B)
- Federal Aviation air traffic control & air safety (\$27 B)
- EPA clean air, water, land (\$25 B)
- Substance abuse & mental health programs (\$8 B)

• Divest from war! Refuse to pay all or part of your federal income tax. Though illegal, thousands of people openly participate in this form of protest. Whatever you choose to refuse — \$1, \$10, 58% or 100% — send a letter to elected officials and tell them why. Contact us for information. Contribute resisted tax money to groups that work for the common good.

• Also in our store: War Resisters' International's Handbook for Nonviolent Campaigns and New Worlds in Old Shells: A Handbook for Constructive Programme

WAR RESISTERS LEAGUE (www.warresisters.org)

• For more about refusing to pay for war, brochures, and other resources, contact the National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee, (800)269-7464 (www.nwtrcc.org)



U.S. Marines in Lebanon in the 1980s. [Source: picryl.com]

You can see more details about Sec. 219 at- (<https://www.anewpolicy.org/the-legislative-tracker/section-224-ndaa>)

You can see the House version of the NDAA here- (www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/119/hr8800/text)

The Senate version is here- (https://www.armed-services.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/fy2027_ndaa_exsum.pdf)

In short, this U.S. war against Iran is deepening the on-going de-legitimation of the rule of law — something that must be taken seriously if future wars are to be averted. The weakness and lack of political will in both Congress and the United Nations have failed to prevent the U.S. and Israel from launching a destructive new war.

Their lack of enforcement capacity means that people — in social movements and civil society organizations in the U.S. and around the world — must step up to demand their governments actually follow the law. In the absence of global institutions able and willing to enforce international law, these popular movements are essential. Without them, there's no one to hold the powerful to account.

The war in Iran has already killed thousands of people, displaced millions more, and put millions of others throughout the region at risk as it continues to expand. It's created what some are calling the "Gazafication" of Tehran, causing a vast humanitarian and economic crisis that is continuing to spread. It's undermining the very foundations of international law and the institutions created to uphold it.

And if this war continues without accountability, it threatens even more dire consequences in years ahead.



100 ACTIVISTS BLOCKADE MAERSK/ ZIM WEAPONS SHIPMENTS TO GAZA GENOCIDE AT ELIZABETH MARINE TERMINAL- FOUR ARRESTED
Protest Organized in Solidarity with Illegally Intercepted Global Sumud Flotilla

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BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE



Resist Apocalypse! Stop the War Machine! Save the Planet!
With normalization of war crimes & military data centers in our cities, we are all targets now.

The excuse for completely wiping out Gaza was alleged military targets determined by Palantir's ai.