

Labor Demands an End to the Assault on the Right to Organize and Protest

The labor movement holds one value above all others: solidarity. Labor demands an end to the Trump administration's assaults on immigrant workers, freedom of speech, the right to organize and bargain, and federal government workers, their unions, and the services they provide.

We will not stand by as President Donald Trump terrorizes immigrant workers with abduction, detention, and confinement without due process in unmarked facilities, far-flung detention centers, and a notorious prison in El Salvador.

The attacks are ramping up, and we need to act fast. In Washington state, Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents smashed a car window and detained farmworker Alfredo "Lelo" Juarez, a leader in the berry-pickers union Familias Unidas por la Justicia, on his way to drop off his partner at work. They locked up SEIU Local 925 member Lewelyn Dixon, a lab tech at the University of Washington, when she returned from a family trip. They raided a roofing company where workers recently went on a safety strike, and arrested 37 people.

In Massachusetts, federal immigration agents snatched Rumeysa Ozturk, a graduate student at Tufts University on a student visa and an SEIU Local 509 member, on her way to break her Ramadan fast. She had written an op-ed in the student newspaper in support of Palestine.

In Baltimore, they arrested sheet metal worker Kilmar Armando Abrego Garcia, a SMART Local 100 apprentice and father of a disabled child, and sent him to El Salvador's nightmarish prison—then they called it an "administrative error" and said they could not get him back.

In New York, they abducted Mahmoud Khalil, a recent Columbia University graduate and United Auto Workers Local 2710 member, for protesting Israel's assault on Gaza. They have also taken many others whose names aren't public yet.

This administration attacked these members of our communities on their way to work, on their way to worship, on their way home. They locked them up after speaking their minds. And they did that on purpose.

They have also threatened and intimidated university administrations in an effort to enlist them in suppressing dissent. Sadly, many have acquiesced to these demands, making a mockery of the concept of "academic freedom" and the free exchange of ideas. Students have been suspended and expelled. Faculty members have been disciplined and discharged.

Further, the mass firings of federal workers and the attempt to abolish their collective bargaining rights are attacks also on the services they provide and the very function of our government. Trump wants a government that only serves the interests of corporations and oligarchs. Rather than a government of, by, and for the people, he would create one by and for the privileged rich. He wants to create a culture of fear.

We must not bow to any of it.

- ***We call on the Trump administration to immediately release our fellow workers and stop this campaign of terror.***

- *We call on all employers and state and local governments to refuse to collaborate with these attacks, and to do everything they can to resist.*
- *We call on university administrations to stand up to the threats and coercion, and to refuse any cooperation with federal immigration and law enforcement authorities seeking to unlawfully persecute foreign students and faculty and student dissenters.*
- *We call on all elected officials to find their spines and stand up for these workers.*
- *We call on all unions to organize rallies, demonstrations, and other actions to demand that the administration stop these attacks and free our fellow workers. The labor movement must act to stop Trump's deportation, censorship, and intimidation machine. When necessary, we must disrupt business as usual.*

We must not be passive or silent in the face of this authoritarian assault on our rights, the Constitution, and democracy itself. An injury to one is an injury to all!

Signatories:

American Association of University Professors (AAUP) • Association of Flight Attendants (AFA-CWA) • American Postal Workers Union (APWU) • Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) • Inlandboatmen's Union (IBU) • International Union of Painters and Allied Trades (IUPAT) • **National Education Association (NEA)** • National Nurses United (NNU) • National Writers Union (NWU) • Office and Professional Employees International Union (OPEIU) • Service Employees International Union (SEIU) • United Auto Workers (UAW) • United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America (UE)

Activate Virginia • ACT-UAW Local 7902 Executive Board • American Federation of Musicians (AFM) Local 1000 • AFM Local 174-496 • AFSCME Local 1674 • AFM Local 579 • AFM Local 99 • AFSCME Local 2083 Executive Board, Seattle Public Library Employees • American Federation of Teachers (AFT) – Oregon • AFT Washington • AFT Vermont • AFT Local 1931 • Albany Mailers and Drivers Union (AMDU) • Agricultural Justice Project • Alliance of In-Service and Retired Educators (ARISE) • Appoquinimink Education Association • Appoquinimink Education Support Professionals (AESP) • Asheville Food & Beverage United • Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO, Maryland • Baltimore Nonviolence Center • Baltimore Teachers Union • Bargaining for the Common Good • BCTGM Local 114 • Birchwood Food Desert Fighters • Black Workers for Justice • Brandywine Education Association • Canadian Association of Professional Employees Local 522 • Charter School of Wilmington Education Association • Chicago Teachers Union (CTU) • Coalition of Labor Union Women, AFL-CIO • Colonial Para Association • Communist Workers Group • Critical Legal Collective • CWA Local 1037 • CWA Local 6215 • DC Jobs With Justice • Delaware State Education Association (DSEA) • Entertainment Labor for Palestine • Federation of Social Workers, IUE-CWA 81381 • **Faculty Staff Union Executive Committee (UMass Boston)** • Graduate Students Union Local 27 • Graduate Workers United (UE Local 1498) • Green Mountain Labor Council • Familias Unidas por la Justicia (FUJ) • FLC-CGIL Florence (Italy) • Food Chain Workers Alliance • Generando Movimiento • GOLD-UE 261 Exec Board • Graduate Teaching Fellows Federation, AFT Local 3544 Executive Board • Harvard Union of Clerical and Technical Workers, Rank & File Movement • Hawai'i State Teachers Association • IBEW Local 483 • IBEW Local 520 • IBEW Local 553 • Independent Workers Union (Of Ireland) • ILWU Northern California District Council • Inter Faculty Organization (IFO) • International Luxemburgist Network (NY-NJ) • Jobs to Move America • Labor-Community Alliance of South Florida • Labor for Bernie • **Massachusetts Teachers Association Board of Directors** • Labor for Palestine National Network • Labor Network for Sustainability • Labor Today International • Labor United Educational League • Luther Burbank Education Association/CTA • MLK Labor • NAL

Workers United • New Haven Federation of Teachers • North Coast Progressive Alliance • Northwestern University Graduate Workers Executive Board (UE Local 1122) • Northwest Florida Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO • NPEU - IFPTE Local 70 • NW Washington Central Labor Council • NYPAN of the Southern Finger Lakes • Office and Professional Employees International Union Local 8 (OPEIU 8) • OPEIU Local 153 • OPEIU Local 277 • Organization of Staff Analysts (OSA) • Philadelphia Coalition of Labor Union • Women Piedmont Pacific Northwest Staff Union (PNWSU) • Pitt Co. Coalition Against Racism (CAR) • Pride At Work, AFL-CIO • Pride at Work, Pennsylvania • Professional Staff Congress (CUNY) • Providers United (Southern Region) • PROTEC17 • Red Square Studio/Gallery • Restaurant Workers United (RWU) • Saint Paul Federation of Educators • San Francisco Living Wage Coalition • Seattle Education Association (SEA) • SEIU 1021 West Bay Retiree Chapter • SEIU 26 • SEIU 503 • SEIU 775 • 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East • SEIU Local 500 • SEIU 1973 (4Cs) • Southern Workers Assembly • Stanford Graduate Workers Union • Steelworkers United for Palestine • Tarrant County AFL-CIO • Tarrant County Central Labor Council AFL-CIO • Teamsters 117 • Teamsters 174 • Teamsters Mobilize • UFCW 3000 • UFCW 367 • UAW Local 2320 (National Organization of Legal Services Workers) • UAW 2325 – ALAA • UAW 4121 • UAW 4929 • UAW 4591 • UE Local 1043 • UE Local 256 • UE Eastern Region • MIT GSU • Union Employees Union, Local 1 • United Administrators of San Francisco • United Campus Workers of Georgia • United Front Committee for a Labor Party • UNITE HERE Local 274 • University of Florida Chapter of the United Faculty of Florida • USW Local 7536 • U.S. Solidarity Economy Network • WA Yell • Wellspring Cooperative • Wellspring Labor Co-op Committee • WESPAC Foundation, Inc. • Western Massachusetts Area Labor Federation • Whatcom Peace & Justice Center • Whole Washington • Wisconsin People's Party • Working Family Solidarity • Veterans for Peace, Labor Working Group