

ICE'S REPRESSION ONLY ENDS WITH COMMUNISM

Below are a few thoughts the Internationalist Workers' Group has composed on the mass ICE raids directed at the working class. Though they cover different aspects, the political throughline must be made clear: These attacks on our class must be met with a response by our class. This starts with the defense of our interests in stopping the killing and kidnapping of our class siblings and in demanding a higher standard of living and ends with the future proletarian revolution where all class distinctions will be done away with for good.

ICE's Fear and Hate-Mongering

ICE: The cold fear that has begun to run in our veins. Immigration police exist in a Capitalist state for one real reason above all others; to incite fear. The bourgeoisie can sense our unrest. The working class grows angry, seething masses churning with rage at abuse and unmet needs. The bourgeoisie need to quell this rage to continue their work, their war preparation, so they send out their barking dogs, their mindless beasts meant to bite us and scare us into submission. Coworkers, friends, family members, we all know someone terrified, constantly looking over their shoulder not because of anything they have done wrong, but the color of their skin or the spelling of their name.

Capitalism wants us afraid, shaken, divided. Xenophobic propaganda is shoved down our throats, flooding any news station that will air the vile substance. The working class is under attack, not just in the US, but everywhere. We are locked into our borders, fed nationalist propaganda, and prepped as soldiers for war like pigs for slaughter. They do this because the working class has power. Class consciousness, the thing that binds us in our fight for existence, our battle against class division, is something that terrifies capitalists to their core.

Distracting the working class in a time of general unrest is the key to getting away with blatant class oppression. The capitalists keep us focused on symptoms of the issue instead of the cause: class society. Would this be possible if we didn't live in a society where wealth is power? Would ICE terrorize the streets if we lived not under a dictator, but as the dictatorship of the proletariat? If we lived as a society of people working to fulfill our needs instead of lining the pockets of the bourgeoisie? If we were not divided by borders and petty disputes, if we did not function on what only one person could own, but what we as a people could accomplish together? Down with class society! Down with walls and detainment centers! Down with fat capitalists that feed while we starve!

The Fight So Far

Since the mass raids in Los Angeles in June, there has been a continuous wave of spontaneous and coordinated resistance. Protests of thousands have blocked ICE activity, be it the stopping of ICE vehicles, the blockading of detention facilities, or throwing snowballs at ICE agents. Though by no means universal, those actions have had a tangible effect on ICE's ability to kidnap migrant workers. In addition to this, workers have set up basic means of self-defence. Immigrant workers regularly establish warning systems to notify each other of ICE presence, protecting themselves against raids. Non-immigrant workers will often disrupt the detainment of their neighbors. Most encouragingly, workers, especially in the education and hospitality sectors, will often set up workplace committees in preparation



for ICE raids, developing strategies to protect the migrant workers or students and to fight these violent attacks. In these cases, state terror has been met with class solidarity.

As much as these actions set an example for the rest of the class, the movement against ICE and deportations has, of now, failed to find its true home in class politics. How it may get there will be discussed at the end of this piece, but for now we will emphasize that the working class must clear out the activists and politicians who block the way. Just as in the aftermath of the George Floyd protests, the initiative of workers is funneled into bourgeois reformism led by Democratic politicians and "community leaders" or activist groups whose activity is separated from the mass of workers and often leads to absurd, ineffectual actions like dance parties outside of detention centers or making returns of ice scrapers to Home Depot as protest.

Why the Capitalist Class is United on Deportations

For decades, measures taken against migrant workers have grown more repressive. Each successive administration is now blowing the deportation numbers of the previous one out of the water. We see the use of concentration camps, forced sterilizations and surgeries, widespread sexual abuse, and deaths in custody all of which are recent developments in the state's attack on migrant workers. To find anything resembling this, you would have to search prior to the 1960s. This direction is not the result of a fickle perspective to be washed away by the passage of time. It is driven by what propels our class enemies.

The crisis of profitability is an inescapable problem that haunts the capitalist class. The destruction of WW2 allowed capitalists to enter a short lived "golden age" in the eyes of its supporters. What had occurred was a new cycle of accumulation began. State capitalist tendencies that grew out of the war expanded and rubble was resurrected as factories, to the benefit of the capitalist class. As this happened, capitals' tendency to lower the rate of profit resummoned the need for expedencies against a threat believed to be dead and buried. To ward this off, the offensive against the working class intensified. Blows fell on its migrant section, which was ripe for increased exploitation. What emerged was a growing threat of deportation and all that entailed as a means of depressing wages. So long as there is a glut of migrants, capitalists can deport workers to let it be known that this is

no idle threat.

What shapes capitalist policy and nitpicking on this issue is the cost and benefit in terms of the strength of capitalists united through their state. Early in the cold war, a laid-back approach was favored to attract specialists given this was the only edge the USSR could have had over the US. As it was eclipsed and the pressure of profitability mounted, capitalists shifted toward terror. Starting with the 1st Trump administration and continued by the Biden and current administration is the move towards decoupling economic relations with China and increasing domestic production, which calls for cheap construction of factories, power plants and infrastructure. Alongside this is the tech sector's increasing demand for datacenters, power plants and infrastructure. The construction sector makes extensive use of migrant labor given the ease of contractor based fraud and the sporadic nature of the industry. The climate crisis, even in the best case scenario, will create the largest mass migration event in human history, making the cost of terror all the cheaper and the weight of "excess" migrants more pressing. Left unchecked, the force that will end the increased attacks on migrant workers is the cycle of accumulation restarting through a new world war.

Why the Democrats are a Pseudo-Opposition to the Regime of Deportations

A common response to ICE's escalating terror is the desire for Democrats to regain control of the government to alleviate the problem. And while nobody enjoys throwing cold water on the hope that the situation might improve, it would be a cruel lie to pretend that Democrats would help. First, there's the fact that Democratic politicians consistently support all forms of policing, including border enforcement generally and ICE specifically. Even in the midst of widespread anti-ICE protests over immigration raids in LA, 75 House Democrats voted in favor of a resolution expressing gratitude toward ICE. More concretely, when Democrats have gained power in the past, the budget for ICE has grown significantly. Despite their occasional claims to the contrary, Democrats have proven unwilling or unable to rein in even the worst abuses of ICE. Regardless of any campaign promises, Democrats have clearly shown that they will enable ICE in whatever terror it wishes to commit. The idea that the same politicians who have consistently given ICE a blank check to terrorize immigrants will suddenly take a principled stand against ICE is wishful thinking.

Of course, there is the possibility of electing some number of more 'progressive'

Democrats, who haven't already shown that they'll side with ICE over the people it terrorizes. But even if we grant that, in the near future, not only are all of the most progressive Democrats sincere in their beliefs, but also successful in gaining power, a deeper problem would remain. They would have to run the state, assuming they gained control of it, and the terror of ICE is an indispensable part of running the American nation-state.

The ever fiercer competition of a deepening global economic crisis doesn't allow politicians the option to surrender massive opportunities for profit. That's why terrorizing immigrants into accepting lower wages (while removing immigrants whose presence is unprofitable to American national capital) is not optional for anyone who intends to run the state.

Note that this isn't an issue for those of us who want to abolish the state instead of administering it. But even the most progressive of Democrats obviously don't share that goal. They are liberal patriots, through and through, and when push comes to shove, they will oversee whatever atrocities are necessary to protect the American state.

The Way Forward

As with the fight in the workplace, the only way forward is through the self-organization of our class. The anti-deportation movement, where it exists, is currently inter-class in nature, both in composition and in its politics. If we are to have any chance at winning this fight, this must change. Capitalists and their representatives, large and small, already have a means of strength through unity: their state. It is within their interests to channel all outrage into useless avenues. Our class on the other hand initially finds strength and its own self-awareness through the defense of our interests, which can then develop into an offensive. What this could look like is preventing deportations at your workplace and incorporating economic demands to expand the struggle, without waiting for some official sanctioning.

Action, if it is to lead anywhere, must be linked to a class capable of addressing the task at hand. When it comes to opposing something important to a ruling class's interests, activism can only exist as a substitute for a real threat. We cannot expect links between revolutionary perspectives and the class to spring out of nowhere. What is needed is an international communist party worthy of the claim, created through embedding ourselves in the class struggle and fighting on our own class's terrain. From there we can bring an end to attacks on migrant workers and the capitalist mode of production that has given rise to it.



THE NATIONAL GUARD, AN APPENDAGE OF CAPITALIST RULE

The ostentatiously violent federal deportation raids of June 2025 in downtown L.A. and the spontaneous working class resistance to these raids culminated in the federalization of the California National Guard, with their task being to safeguard the kidnapping of migrant workers. This marked the beginning of the Trump administration's foray into dedicated deportation and law enforcement initiatives within cities: carrying out immigration raids in Chicago, Charlotte, Minneapolis, and Portland, while continuing their activity in L.A., and supplementing law enforcement activities in Memphis and D.C., all with the prospect of expanding this repression to more cities. These initiatives are carried out by armed federal agents collaborating from a sprawling variety of agencies (BATFE; DEA; FBI; DHS, which oversees ICE; HSI, etc.) with assistance from local law enforcement. This coalition brutalizes workers targeted for deportation and "standard" repression. Alongside this, the National Guard is mobilized with the federal agencies (to varying degrees of legality) to further intimidate all workers who attempt to interfere, which can vary from recording ICE actions all the way to blocking vehicles from accessing ICE detention facilities. All of this is at the whims of the ruling administrators of the capitalist state, a state whose primary motivations are aimed at shaping the proletariat in the lead up to generalized war. To this end, the Trump administration is creating the ideological basis for full scale imperialist incursions by molding the members of the armed state bodies for their role as the forces that contain working class activity. This can be seen in the state's rhetoric and recruitment efforts for ICE agents (calling migrant workers "criminals and predators") and complete with exorbitant compensation given to recruits (\$50,000 recruitment bonus, \$60,000 student loan repayment, \$60,000-\$100,000 annual starting salary), all to racially profile workers for detention and future deportation. All of this brutality from ICE has the purpose of conditioning the National Guard, local police, and new recruits to internalize the nationalist, militarist, anti-proletarian ideology necessary for the drive to war.

Designated constitutionally as additional law enforcement during insurrection or invasion, the National Guard has historically served as a force of class order during natural disasters, protests, and labor strikes, while able to provide power to military operations abroad. The National Guard is a federal reserve military force uniquely dual-enlisted to the National Guard units of the US states and territories. This joint command from both state and federal governments, coordinated under the Department of Defense, allows the bourgeois in each region to maintain a local military force equipped with federal funding, training, and oversight. The National Guard and newer paramilitary agencies, such as the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

and its branches, ICE and CBP, are similar in purpose and structure: both are used to maintain an environment conducive to generating profit, including intimidating the proletariat, during any event the bourgeois may consider a "domestic emergency". They differ, however, in their history and scope. Beginning with grouping the disjointed militias of competing European settlements into colonial militia prelude the American Revolution, the bourgeois has redefined the status of the National Guard as a regional and federal force continuously through the Spanish-American War and WWII. Bound by its own legislative restrictions, the bourgeois must respond to the cyclical crises of profit by creating new arms of force with ill-defined limits of power, as it has established a historical basis for the National Guard that prevents its acting powers from being rapidly redefined. A stated purpose of anti-terrorism and, in the case of the DHS, post-9/11 hysteria, allowed these new agencies massive governmental restructuring, resource allocation, and lack of accountability. The creation of the DHS subsumed and expanded operations of the INS and previous immigration agencies. Joint Terrorist Task Forces, while a cooperation between local police forces and the FBI, are beholden to the regulations of neither. The CBP is authorized to provide aerial surveillance for law enforcement outside of border areas, which has included the George Floyd protests in 2020 and the Los Angeles protests in 2025. Contrasting the National Guard, whose members are primarily enlisted part-time while holding full-time civilian jobs, these agencies are staffed by full-time forces, often recruited from civilian populations.

Similarly, the current deployments of the National Guard have the primary purpose of being shows of force, aimed either at protestors who oppose the continued operation of ICE, and/or city governments that the current federal administration deems insufficient at controlling the working class. Wherever there is a risk of disruption to ICE or general production, Guard units are activated to keep the peace, directly counter protestors, and broadly ensure that production continues. Further, these deployments are then used as proof that the state is willing to step in and wrest control away from any local governance incapable of keeping their population sufficiently docile, productive, and complacent towards federal operations. Mayors and city governments who are not doing their job in ensuring the only activities the working class can partake in are productive ones are threatened with troops in their cities, until they capitulate and agree to crack down harder voluntarily. The effect is that all political representatives of the state, from City Councillors to Governors, understand their choice now is to accelerate their disciplining of the

working class, or lose power by showing themselves as ineffective representatives for the capitalist class.

Even if this federal administration is replaced by a new one, the necessity of the capitalist state to crush workers' resistance means that the next administration must equal or continue to ramp up its attacks on the working class against the backdrop of ever more limited profit rates. It is clear that political flexing will manifest itself as showing which administration does the job of the state the best: maintaining favorable conditions for production (in other words disciplining the proletariat). The only way to end the "pacification" of the working class by the capitalist state is to destroy the capitalist

state outright, a task the proletariat can only complete as an organized force. This level of coordination, a ways off yet, starts by delineating the working class cause from the state in all its forms, in both its political and economic spheres. Along with coordination in action, there must be a programmatic coordinator of the whole working class under its own leadership: an international communist party. Only then will we finally be able to create a society based upon the production of our needs instead of one that necessitates competitions to brutalize the working class.

ANOTHER STEP TOWARDS IMPERIALIST SLAUGHTER



In this time of crisis for global capitalism, the major imperialist powers become more and more desperate to consolidate their position. Trump's raid on Venezuela and snatching away of Nicolás Maduro is one expression of imperialist crisis, alongside Israel's wars in the Middle East, Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and China's preparations for taking Taiwan. But what does American aggression mean for the working class? It will only lead to more workers slaughtered under the name of profit.

No worker with a brain can believe that this attack is a response to Venezuela's "drug trafficking." This attack must be viewed as a warning shot against China, the US's main imperialist rival. The US is trying to secure its position across the Americas in preparation for a confrontation against China and its allies, who pose the only serious threat to U.S. power.

Workers across the world have seen what "our nation" can do for us. From austerity and inflation to ICE kidnappings, the working class in the United States has been hounded by Democratic and Republican agents of capital. In Venezuela, workers are caught between two bands of plunderers backed by rival global powers while their living standards slip away. At the end of the day, the working class has no country!

Attacks on the working class are all part of the deepening capitalist crisis which has its conclusion in imperialist world war. All states are moved towards wars as an alternative to a never ending crisis brought on by the stagnation and collapse of profits. The working class has to struggle as a class for ourselves before our bosses ride off the rails and cause another worldwide imperialist slaughter.

Our fight in the workplace must be accomplished by our own strength of our class and armed with internationalist politics. We can never relegate this struggle to any government whether they paint themselves as anti-imperialist or not or the unions who are bound to the capitalist system by a million threads as the state's planning and regulating apparatus. With this fight, the working class can put an end to imperialist war by giving the capitalists a civil war!

The proletariat has to lead the way in these struggles as the fight continues and form a political party aimed for the revolutionary transformation of society. Wars, state repression and our decaying living standards can only end when the working class seizes political power. Only communism, a stateless, classless society where there's no borders or wars' between states, is the solution to bring this system to an end and to prevent workers from being led into the reformist cul-de-sac which only seems to modify the capitalist system.

NO WAR BUT THE CLASS WAR

Who We Are

"The IWG stands for a global society where production is for need and not profit (and is therefore sustainable), where the state, national frontiers and money have been abolished, where collective power is exercised through class-wide organizations like workers' councils. This has to mean the active, daily participation of the majority aiming for the interests of all. Only then can the world be rid of the capitalist offspring of poverty, hunger, oppression and war: we call it communism but this vision has nothing in common with Stalinist state capitalism and the old USSR.

In order to get there we are working to create a world working class political organization - a 'party' for want of a better word - not a government in waiting but a guide in the struggle for a new world. We by no means claim to be that party but we do aim to be one of the elements which will need to come together in its formation. As the working class, the majority of the world's population, is more and more faced with the consequences of a crumbling capitalist system, it will have to unite and overthrow the capitalist system and its bloody imperialist appetites."

The Internationalist Workers' Group is the US affiliate of the Internationalist Communist Tendency

For more information about our organization and answers to frequently asked questions: <https://www.leftcom.org/en/about-us>

Publication and Contact Info

Internationalist Notes, Volume 1, Number 14, Winter 2026
Address all correspondence to:
Email: us@leftcom.org
Webpage: leftcom.org
Instagram: [@iwg_official](https://www.instagram.com/iwg_official)
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