

Support the General Strike Now! 2020

For an End to White Supremacy, Police Terror,

and Prison Slavery.

By Jennifer Rose, IWW Member



Back in April, Cooperation Jackson in Mississippi issued "A Call To Action: Towards a General Strike to End the COVID-19 Crisis and Create a New World", published in "Turning the Tide" newspaper of Anti-Racist Action - L.A. Therein, they stated, "To fight back we have to use the greatest power we have at our disposal - our collective labor. We can shut the system down to break the power of the state and capitalist class." (see: www.antiracist.org)

The COVID-19 pandemic, and the current socio-political conditions in the U.S. under the fascist/white nationalist Trump regime, is a wake-up call to all Americans! However, in addition to the cracks in the capitalist system, and the inability of "Dumb-ass Donald" Trump to provide an adequate or coherent response with all of the vast resources of the U.S. federal government

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at his disposal, we should also take notice of another viral epidemic that has continued to plague this country and take peoples lives — that of white terror and police murders! (i.e. Genocide, ethnic cleansing, etc.)

Of course, this is not a new or recent phenomenon. It began with the white Amerikan colonial state, which started with the Mayflower Compact in 1620 by the English Pilgrims/Puritans who arrived at Plymouth Rock; and progressed through the Afrikan slave trade, the Declaration of Independence, the Amerikan Revolution, the Constitution of the United States and Bill of Rights; the Amerikan Genocide against Native People (and theft of their lands/tribal territories through the apartheid system of Reservations); the Civil War and 13th Amendment (which abolished chattel slavery, but legally established a more expanded form of institutionalized prison slavery "as punishment for crime"); the Fugitive Slave Act passed by Congress, which authorized slave patrols and police to hunt down and capture "fugitive slaves" (and even many freed Blacks if they could not

prove their status!) to be returned to white slave owners in the South.

So, at that point, after the 13th Amendment and Fugitive Slave Act laid the foundation for legalized, state-sanctioned prison slavery "as punishment for crime", the white people in the South having lost the war, lost much of their land and property, and spent time during the Reconstruction under federal U.S. military occupation; there were many ex-Confederate soldiers who maintained that "the South will rise again!", some Confederate Army remnants, rather than surrender or live under federal military occupation and the Reconstruction government, fled south of the border across the Rio Grande to Mexico. Then there were those that chose to stay and became outlaws like the Jesse James Gang, or built underground resistance and secret societies like that of the Ku Klux Klan (KKK) (a.k.a. the "Invisible Empire").

The KKK was first established in a secret meeting of ex-Confederate soldiers and a local judge, about seven of them, and they sought out the ex-Confederate

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"war hero", General Nathan Bedford Forrest, and asked him to accept their unanimous vote to appoint him as their leader, the first "Grand Wizard" or "Grand Dragon" of the KKK! This all took place in a courthouse in Pulaski, Tennessee, 1865.

The purpose of the KKK was to build an underground resistance group or secret society, which to whatever extent possible carried on Confederate South political aspirations, perhaps in hopes that "the South will rise again!" ; or if not then to regain control of the local city, county, and state governments. At first, only Southern white people who were rebels, or loyal to the Confederacy, were not allowed to vote during Southern Reconstruction, but freed Blacks and Yankee "Carpetbaggers" (Northerners who came South for the "Sports of war") were allowed political rights.

As you can imagine, this was an "injustice" and indignity many white Southerners could not bear! Many of them had also lost their homes, farms, and land, which was either burnt down, or stolen by corrupt Yankee businessmen; and

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bought and paid local officials/sheriffs. In some cases, the KKK would defend white southerners' land and property claims by carrying out guerilla attacks, or otherwise using intimidation and terror tactics to drive out carpetbaggers and "scalawags" (traitors). The KKK also targeted freed Blacks and former negro slaves, with racial violence, lynchings, and white terror, to prevent them from trying to exercise their newly won political freedom to vote, own property, or even hold public office (e.g. Black Republicans, the "Party of Lincoln").

Eventually, through the effective political and guerilla tactics of the KKK, white southerners did regain political power after the end of Southern Reconstruction, and the election of a Southern Democrat (the "party of the Ku Klux Klan"), Andrew Johnson, the South did in a manner of speaking "rise again". The freed blacks remained in many cases what might be viewed as an even worse state than they did under slavery. They remained disenfranchised, unable to exercise

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any meaningful legal or political rights, or even own a good piece of farm land or business from which to earn a decent living. The majority who were able, many at great cost and sacrifice, traveled up North or West to cities where they heard Black people were somewhat more successful; were able find a piece of good farm land to stake a claim on; or had at least some basic legal rights and freedom to do as they wanted.

In the 1920's, the KKK numbered more than 5 million members nationwide. The Confederate Battle Flag flew proudly atop State Capitols, Courthouses, in many public places, and even in some Northern states along the Mason-Dixon line you could find the KKK and the Rebel flag openly displayed.

White Supremacy firmly reestablished itself in every aspect of government, at the local, county, and state level, across the South. Jim Crow Racial Segregation and anti-Miscegenation laws were passed in every jurisdiction, to enforce racial separation, and prohibit interracial

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Marriages. In the 1950^s and 1960^s, the Civil Rights Movement ~~began to~~ began to actively challenge the legality and morality of these racially oppressive laws, through civil disobedience, lobbying for legislative reforms, and successful legal challenges in the courts. This was a hard-won ~~struggle~~ struggle that saw terror bombings of Black churches, lynchings of Black men all over the South, the white terror of the KKK often burning crosses in front of the homes of Black families, and the eventual assassination of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

Then there was the later assassinations of Black Panther Party leaders, like Fred Hampton and Huey P. Newton, when the FBI declared war on them through its COINTELPRO, under the direction and personal supervision of FBI Director pig J. Edgar Hoover, a police terror campaign.

A few years ago, after a campaign of racist police murders of unarmed Black people in various cities across the U.S., from Oscar Grant in Oakland to Michael Brown in Ferguson, to Eric Garner in New York, to Sandra Blodgett

#Black Lives Matter

Tamir Rice, Freddy Gray in Baltimore, and Philando Castile in Minneapolis; among countless others, past and ongoing, who are too numerous to name! In 2015, Black Lives Matter protests erupted in the U.S. cities of Ferguson, Baltimore, and many other places. There were many broken promises of justice, police reforms, and systemic change. We've heard it all before, they will "implement new policies". We will see a whole new friendly neighborhood police officer! ~~LOL Ha!~~

One Black Revolutionary responded to the multitude of racist police murders in a way he felt would be most effective.

~~Michael~~ Johnson, an ex-military service member, responded to the racist police murders of Black people, and the militarized police attacks on political protesters, with a well-planned sniper attack, shooting down five Dallas police officers! A Black female BLM protester at the Black Lives Matter street demo was also hit (unfortunate collateral damage), but survived. How long can people remain peaceful under a reign of gunfire by police?

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#StopPoliceMurders

More recently, we repeatedly saw the horrific images of the February 23rd racially-motivated murder of Ahmaud Arbery, a 25 year old Black man who was out jogging in Georgia, as he was chased down by white supremacists, a father and son, in a truck to be shot dead.¹ Only after a month of public outrage and national news coverage were charges brought against them for this lynching, because of their apparent ties to the local District Attorneys office! They were avid Trump supporters!

On March 13th, Breonna Taylor, a 26 year old Black woman at home asleep with her husband, was ambushed and murdered by police in Louisville shortly after midnight. They somehow obtained a "no-knock" warrant to break in with no announcement, and when they stumbled across the startled residents, they opened fire with a hail of bullets!² Breonna was an EMT paramedic working on the frontlines against COVID-19, with plans to become a registered nurse. She died a hero who was committed to and loved by her family.

Malik Tyquan Graves was killed by a hail of bullets, at least 19 shots from

Defund the Police!

10 different officers! The corporate news media immediately excused this excessive amount of gunfire by so many officers, in this terrible police murder, by reporting Malik to have been a "dangerous criminal". It's unclear if they even questioned police description of Malik, or if they just took their word for it and collaborated.

Now, here we are on May 25th, when George Floyd is callously murdered by the white Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin, and three other lil' piggies! This was the last straw! Floyd begged for his life and called out for his momma, while this racist pig Chauvin pressed a kneecap on his neck for nearly 9 minutes, until he suffocated to death. His last words, ~~and~~, like Eric Garner's, were the now familiar protest chant, "I can't breathe!" Floyd was the proud father of two young daughters, and worked security at a local restaurant to provide for his family. He was innocent!

This entire incident was caught on a cell phone cam/video recording, and then broadcast repeatedly on the national network T.V. news. For the next couple of

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#NoJusticeNoPeace

weeks. The shocking images of this cold-blooded and intentional racist pig slowly snuffing out the life of this good-hearted, well-behaved Black brother was simply too much to ignore, and cannot be in anyway explained or justified!

This is the last straw for so many people, which sparked a nationwide popular REVOLT, and insurrectionary actions in cities across the U.S. Beginning in the streets of Minneapolis on May 25th, as nightfall came, both regular protesters and anarchist insurgents seized and burned a police precinct to the ground. Different tactics have been used by many different types of groups participating in the nationwide uprising.

There are many social justice activists, criminal justice reformers, liberal Democrats, and "progressives" who often repeat the usual calls for "peaceful protest". However, many others who are in the streets protesting have more radical political views, and who can no longer see a peaceful path to change; who are tired of the false promises, failed reforms;

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and who feel that the police, the political process, and the U.S. government no longer have any legitimacy, particularly with the authoritarian and fascist Trump regime currently sending army of federal police forces to invade the city of Portland, with no identifying name tags, agency tags, or recognizable legal protocol; other than to use authoritarian tactics of cracking skulls, and kidnapping random political protesters off the streets. Trump has threatened to send his Gestapo-style, militarized, federal stormtroopers into several other cities!

There are young people, Black people, anarchists, anti-fascists, and various other groups of people who recognize the fact that there will be no real or lasting systemic change. The problem is white supremacy, which is the founding principle upon which Amerika was built in Colonial times. That has never changed and never will. This gets to the root of the problem and explains a lot!

Furthermore, there are two main pillars on which the U.S. was built

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from that foundational basis of white supremacy
those are the pillars of Slavery and Genocide.
The Amerikan Genocide against Native
peoples of Turtle Island, and theft of
the land, is what cleared the way for more
white folks to come in wagon trains and
settle in every region. To this day, the US,
maintains an apartheid system of Indian
reservations, where the Native people
are told they have "Sovereignty", but
what they have is dependency under
the U.S. Federal government.

The other pillar of U.S. colonial rule and
Amerikan society is that of slavery. First,
we had chattel slavery, where Afrikans
were considered "property" rather than
people. After the Civil War, the 13th
Amendment was passed abolishing this
form of slavery, and replaced it with
the current system of mass incarceration
and prison slavery "as punishment for
crime". Burn Down the Amerikan Plantation!
Fire 2 Tha Prisons!

Support the General Strike 2020!

Now is the time to bring together all
the different types of protesters, and

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All the different worker strikes! Autoworkers, on strike Nurses on strike, calls for a rent strike, homeless workers are occupying vacant homes to meet their needs, and simply go on strike when told they have to leave. We must ALL stand united!

From August 21 to September 9th, the National Prison Strike has been called over the last few years to amplify the "National Prison Demands of 2018" which haven't changed. This annual strike was first supported by prison organizers in Alabama, such as anarchist Michael Kimble; National Lawyers Guild - Prisoners Rights Committee and attorney Anne Labarbera, and Jailhouse Lawyers Speak, which is working on an the International Law Project to engage the international community with a formal complaint about human rights abuses, crimes such as brutality, slavery, and solitary confinement torture in the U.S.

We are now prepared to fight for a society in which all people can live with full autonomy! This General Strike takes effect on May 1st - International Workers Day! No working, no shopping,

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People over profit! Tell the Trump regime and Wall Street "invest in people not in prisons!" Please join us!

Returning to work is a threat to our collective health and safety! So now is the time to join the General Strike! It's not too late!

We need Revolution, not reform! We need everyone in the streets, wearing your masks, and defying the fascist federal stormtroopers that Trump has sent to attack political protesters. Fight back!

There's a long list of demands in the Cooperation Jackson's Call for a May 1st General Strike. The one thing I didn't see and would add is this:

- Defund and Abolish Police!
- Free All Prisoners! Close and/or Repurpose the jails & prisons!

To participate in the call, and also communicate your alignment and your willingness to help coordinate a broad, United front initiative, email us at: GenStrike2020@protonmail.com
CooperationJackson@gmail.com

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Also write to Cooperation Jackson at:

Kuwasí Balagoon Center for Economic Democracy
and Sustainable Development
939 W. Capitol St., Jackson, MS 39203
P.O. Box 1932, Jackson, MS 39215



Any comments, corrections, or criticism in response to this article, or other person or correspondence, can be sent to:

Jennifer Rose, E23852

Salinas Valley State Prison

P.O. Box 1050

Soledad, CA 93960, Turtle Island ("USA")



General Strikes! Prison Strike! Gender Strike!

Are you a worker and/or Union member?

If your union is not radical enough to support

a General Strike in 2020, or if you are an incarcerated worker, immigrant worker, sex-worker, or marginalized, consider joining a revolutionary workers union! Write for information:

Industrial Workers of the World - IWOC

P.O. Box 414304

Kansas City, MO 64141

iwoc@iwal.org, phone: 510.368.3426

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References

1. Cooperation Jackson; "A Call to Action:- Towards A General Strike To End the COVID-19 Crisis And Create A New World"; Turning The Tide-A Journal of Inter-Communal Solidarity; April -June 2020 ; (Colver City: Anti-Racist Action, 2020).
2. In The Belly (a self-published prisoner produced newslett(er)).
3. Union pamphlet of the Industrial Union Branch Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee (IWO); (Kansas City: Industrial Workers of the World).
4. ABC News; (New York: American Broadcasting Corporation, 2020)



Support the Protesters! Support the Peoples Resistance! Demand Prisoners Release!

Many protesters and activists are being violently attacked by police and imprisoned, falsely accused of "crimes" or "terrorism". Demand their immediate release! #FreeThemAll!

- <http://supportantifaprilists.wordpress.com>
- <http://www.june11.org>
- <http://www.anarchistblackcross.net>
- <http://www.antiracism.org>

Join The Industrial Workers of the World

Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee

↳ founded and ★ established 1905
"An injury to one is an injury to all!"

Members

Include:

Lucy Parsons
Mother Jones
Alexander Berkman
Emma Goldman
Sean Swain
Jennifer Rose
and
many
other
fellow workers!



Organize!

Educate!

Agitate!

Strike!

Stickerette drawn by Ralph Chaplin in Cook County Jail,
based on a drawing by Australian IWW cartoonist Dino

This poster was created and produced by Jennifer Rose!

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Solidarity  Forever!