

"Don't bitch about the media, be the media." Jello Biafra



Luis Armando Rivas walks his daughter down the aisle. Courtesy photo.

Colorado Melting Under ICE Pressure

By Jacob Richards and The Revolutionist Editorial Collective

Luis Armando Rivas has lived in the United States for twenty-one years, and for the last eighteen, he has called the Roaring Fork Valley home. He is a devoted family man, a father of three, and a man with an eternally optimistic outlook. His family, neighbors, and handyman clients invariably describe him as a good and compassionate person.

Clients describe him as "hard-working," "honest," and a "valuable member of our community," in letters written on his behalf.

Rivas is the person you could call for help, advice, or even a ride home after having too much to drink. "He is super smart—he went to medical school back in Mexico," said a family member who asked to remain anonymous for fear of ICE retaliation. "He can fix anything, from computers to roofs."

"We need people like Luis to Make America Great Again," wrote one of his handyman clients in Basalt.

Around June 1, Rivas mentioned to his family that he had noticed a suspicious gray car without plates seemingly

appearing everywhere he went. Over the next few days, he grew increasingly uneasy as the same vehicle followed him throughout the valley—never pulling him over, never speaking, just silently tailing him. On June 3, he noticed the car again—first in Aspen, then later in Glenwood Springs, where he stopped at Walmart to pick up items for his family. At 2:30 p.m., when he walked out of the store, he saw the gray car parked next to his vehicle, along with a Garfield County Sheriff's SUV.

Two men approached him—one in a Garfield County Sheriff's deputy uniform, the other in a black polo shirt with "SPEAR" printed on the back. They did not identify themselves but told Rivas, "You are under arrest for immigration violations." The arrest was captured on video by a bystander and posted to social media, where it has been viewed over 50,000 times. The video shows Luis being handcuffed and placed in the Garfield County Sheriff's vehicle by the two men.

Though Rivas was taken in a Garfield County Sheriff's vehicle, he was not



Courtesy Veterans for Peace.

Say No to War in Iran!

By Nikoli Weir

On June 21, 2025, the United States Armed Forces Carried out strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities in Fordow, Natanz and Esfahan. The attacks represent a serious escalation against Iran on the part of the United States and Israel.

This is the culmination of a conflict that began when Israel carried out air strikes against multiple targets in Iran on June 13th. Israel has for a long time been pushing for regime change in Iran, and has used Iran's nuclear development program as "evidence" of the unstable and dangerous nature of the Iranian state.

This, of course, is blatant propaganda. Israel, in the final analysis, only cares about Iranian nuclear capabilities because they serve as a deterrent to Israeli aggression. If Iran's nuclear program stands in the way of regime change, then its nuclear program must be obliterated. Israel knows that the only country capable

of carrying out such a feat is the United States, and it has been their intent to drag the U.S. into a conflict with Iran for decades.

The absurdity of the situation is heightened by the fact that these strikes were primarily for show. Iranian nuclear capability was not damaged in the slightest, and the U.S. government knows that. Weeks ago when Israel began bombing Iran, the Iranian government evacuated both scientific personnel and equipment from its various nuclear bunkers. Not only that, but they announced it when they did it. The U.S. knew that, with these facilities empty, they served very little significance beyond that of theater.

In the wake of the bombing, a tentative agreement was seemingly reached between Iran and Israel. Trump boasted that peace had finally been signed. Within hours after this supposed peace agreement, Israel launched another barrage of munitions at Iranian targets. According to the

IRAN on Page SEVEN

Events & Orgs: Praxis in Action

Mutual Aid Partners' Distro Day!
Every Tuesday!
10:30am to 1pm

With the closure of the Resource Center the Distro has relocated!

THE NEW LOCATION IS AT 402
GRAND AVE. Grand Junction.
Next to the Good Samaritan Clinic.

**Good Trouble Lives On
Grand Jct. Indivisible**
June 17th 6pm-8pm
Lincoln Park, GJ

Grand Junction IWW is Organizing
Join the one big union! At <https://redcard.iww.org/>
Then contact local organizers at grandjunction.iww@gmail.com

Solidarity Not Charity
Free Food for Free People
Feeds every Saturday at 4pm at the Resource Center. Grand Jct.
solidaritynotcharitygjinfo@gmail.com

Pro-Palestine Rally
Join Humanity and Justice Advocates of Grand Junction, for their bi-weekly rally against genocide in Palestine.
12th and North
9:30am to 10:30am July 26th and Aug. 9th

Falconer Workers' Society
Anti-Capitalist and Revolutionary Book Club
Grand Junction. Email for an invite.
falconerworkerssociety@gmail.com

Be the Media!
Help Edit, Write, Distro
The Revolutionist
therevolutionistgj@gmail.com

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(DSA)**
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Contact the local chapter:
info@mesadsa.org

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Citizens and workers on the picket line. Courtesy Photo.

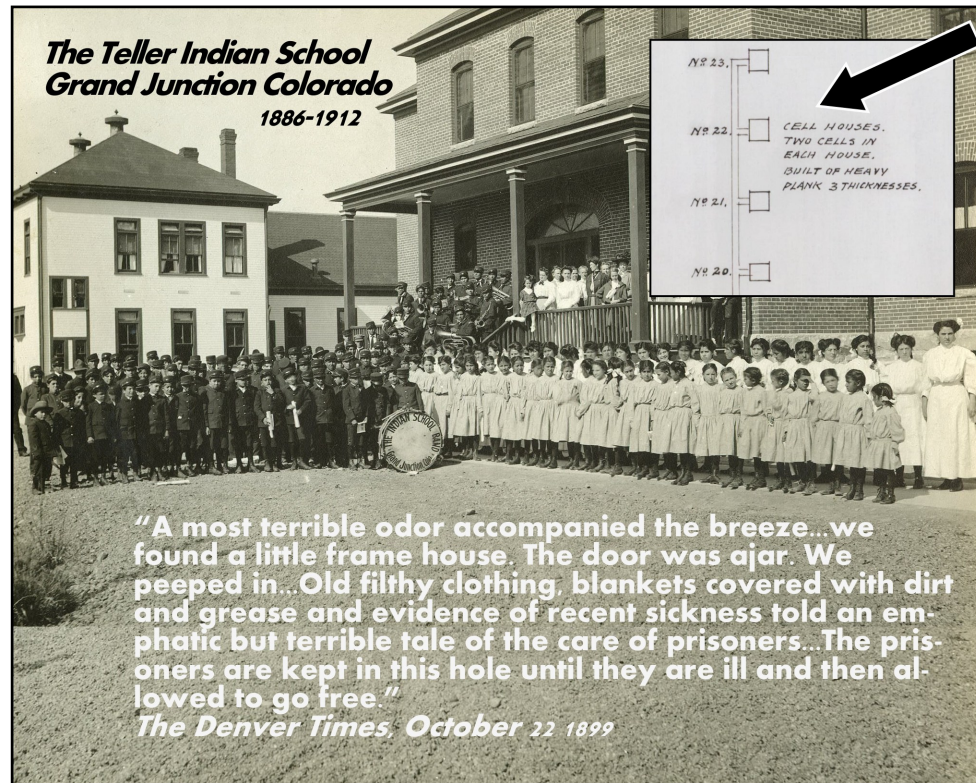
Springs, and many more.

Striking Safeway Workers Win Victory
On June 17, two Grand Junction Safeway locations went on strike. According to

KKCO 11 News, the strike was in response to understaffing, unfair treatment of union employees, company surveillance of workers and unfair labor practices. The strike went on until July 5th, with a tentative agreement being reached between union workers and Albertsons, the company that owns Safeway.

Maybe, This is in Fact Who we Are!

By The People's History of the Grand Valley



driven to the local jail for booking. Instead, the officer drove him past the sheriff's department, courthouse, jail, and annex office—all the way to the back of The Maverik Adventure Center in De Beque, Colorado and transferred into an ICE vehicle. From there, he was taken to the Grand Junction ICE field office, and then directly to the GEO detention facility in Aurora.



Still from a video showing Luis Rivas being arrested by a SPEAR agent and a Garco Sheriff.

SPEAR is a special crimes inter-agency law enforcement task force composed of local and federal officers operating in Garfield County. Its lead agency is the Garfield County Sheriff's Office, headed by Lou Vallario. Vallario's anti-immigrant stance is well documented (see The Revolutionist #10, October 2024). While SPEAR is nominally tasked with drug interdiction and major crimes, it appears to have a wide mandate with little oversight.

"[Rivas] has never been arrested," said a family member. "Never." They added he had not received any deportation orders. "They didn't have a warrant, they never said he was charged with any crime, and they didn't identify themselves."

"It was shocking," the family member said.

Shocking indeed. Colorado law has "repeatedly and consistently set a clear division between our local law enforcement and federal immigration enforcement agencies," said an immigration lawyer that spoke on the condition of anonymity. "Our community's well being and security depends on our neighbors feeling like they can report domestic violence, seek medical care, enroll their children in school, and trust their information to service providers

without fear that any of these actions will lead to immigration enforcement actions. This division is particularly important when the enforcement actions are being taken without regard for due process, without care or regard for the safety of families, and without much consideration for the actual law or status of an individual."

As of publication, the Garfield County Sheriff's Office has not released an official statement or responded to requests for comment.

The Revolutionist has obtained the incident report, and it corroborates Rivas' description of events.

Unfortunately, Luis Rivas' case is not unique. Just two days after his arrest, ICE detained Carolin Dias Goncalves near Grand Junction, involving yet another inter-agency task force.

Goncalves was initially pulled over by Mesa County Sheriff's Investigator Alexander Zwinck. After deciding to issue only a warning for a minor traffic infraction, body camera footage shows Zwinck asking:

"Where are you from? You've got a little bit of an accent."
"I'm from Utah," Goncalves replied.
"How long have you lived there?"
"About twelve years."
"Born and raised?"
"No, I was born in... Brazil."
"Oh, that's cool," Zwinck said.

After the stop, Zwinck shared details in the "Highway Hitters" Signal group chat, administered by the Department of Homeland Security on behalf of the Western Colorado Drug Task Force's interdiction team.

ICE from Page THREE

Minutes later, ICE used that information to locate and arrest Goncalves just a few miles down the interstate.

The case drew national media attention. Goncalves, a 19-year-old University of Utah student, and DACA recipient was later released on bond following public outcry and calls for her release by Governor Polis.

However, Polis has not taken steps to investigate or curb local law enforcement's cooperation with ICE. Though he could direct the Attorney General's office to investigate these task forces, he has limited his involvement to this one case—ignoring the systemic nature of the issue.

Mesa County Sheriff's Office has placed Zwinck on paid administrative leave, pending the outcome of an internal investigation. Both the Mesa County Sheriff's Office and the Colorado State Patrol have since exited the Signal chat.

Trooper Sherri Mendez of the Colorado State Patrol told The Revolutionist that CSP does not participate in immigration enforcement and only communicates using the EverTel app, which is not shared with federal agencies. CSP also confirmed it has no group chat ties to SPEAR.

The Grand Junction Police Department, though part of the Western Colorado Drug Task Force, is not on the interdiction team and was not part of the "Highway Hitters" chat. Police Chief Matt Smith emphasized in an email, that the GJPD does not share "any information for immigration enforcement purposes." He added, "In short—we follow the law."

"There is some real concern that multi-jurisdictional task forces enable local law enforcement agencies and immigration enforcement agencies to collaborate and circumvent the laws of Colorado to share information, resources, and logistics with immigration enforcement agents. This not

only makes our community less safe, it also erodes the ability of local law enforcement to actually protect and serve, and hijacks our community's resources for political gain," said an immigration lawyer working in Western Colorado.

Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) is deeply embedded in these task forces. HSI has been recorded across western Colorado and the nation



Caroline Goncalves, after being asked to exit her vehicle by Alexander Zwinck.

working in tandem with ICE and Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) agents to unlawfully detain individuals.

HSI and ERO agents arrest an unknown man outside of the Glenwood Springs Courthouse. In March of 2025. See The Rev #17.

Earlier this year, after HSI and ERO agents arrested a man outside the Glenwood Springs courthouse, the 9th Judicial District issued an administrative order threatening contempt of court charges if ICE, HSI, or ERO continued to operate near the courthouse in violation of state law.

But Colorado's immigration courts in Denver and Aurora remain outside these protections. ICE now regularly monitors those courthouses, further chilling participation in the legal immigration process.

"People are going to stop showing up to court," said an immigration attorney. "Then a judge will issue a Deportation Order In Absentia. If you can't appear, you can't get status. It's wild."

Kevin Figueroa, 18, a resident of Glenwood Springs, is an immigrant trying to follow the law, to immigrate legally.

In May, Figueroa, was given notice to report to the Grand Junction ICE field office for a check in. He arrived at his appointment on June 17 and was promptly arrested and transported to the GEO Group prison, where he still awaits a hearing to decide his fate.

ICE on Page FIVE

JUNE NEWS BRIEFS

GJ IWW Holds First Meeting

The Grand Junction chapter of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) held its first meeting on July 5. The IWW is an industrial union that seeks to unite workers of various trades and professions under one organization. The Grand Valley has an anti-capitalist newspaper (The Rev), a socialist party (Mesa County DSA), a youth wing of the party (CMU YDSA) and now an IWW chapter. Did we just wake up in 1906?

Study Finds Acidification of Oceans Crossed 'Planetary Boundary'

A groundbreaking study published in Global Change Biology has found that acidification of our oceans likely passed a "planetary threshold," a few years. Coral reefs, already battered by warmer temperatures and larger more frequent tropical storms, will be the hardest hit, but for fishermen, tourism, and coastal communities it will cost people food, income, and independence.

A Socialist Mayor of NYC?

In a stunning upset, Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) member Zohran Mamdani won the Democratic Primary for the NYC Mayoral Race, beating career politician Andrew Cuomo by 12 percentage points. Mamdani ran on a campaign of working class solidarity, promising to implement universal childcare, free public transportation and city owned grocery stores that sell quality and affordable goods. Since his victory, thousands of people have joined DSA to help fight for a free and socialist America.

Alligator Alcatraz

The state of Florida, in just a few days, pushed through and constructed a 3000 person detention camp in the Florida everglades. Dubbed "alligator alcatraz", the concentration camp has witty shirts and merch. A coalition of locals, Native American tribes, environmentalists, and anti-ICE activists have held sustained protests at the entrance to the camp and carried out pressure campaigns against the companies contracting to build and service what some on the left are calling "Alligator Auschwitz".

MVEA to Elect New President

Mesa Valley Educators Association President Amy Sue Javernick has recently had to step down due to health concerns. A new president will be elected next week. All this as MVEA goes into mediation with the school board on July 14th.

More Ice Detention Facilities for Colorado?

CoreCivic, a private prison empire, is eyeing two shuttered prisons in Colorado to contract with ICE to increase detention capacity. The two prisons, in Walsenburg and Burlington, were shuttered in the 2010s. CoreCivic is looking at converting the facilities into ICE detention centers in Tennessee and Oklahoma, and Colorado, according to a May 8 conference call with investors. "I think having beds out west that are not all the way over to the coast in California, where they can service the needs of Salt Lake City and Denver... makes our Kit Carson and our Huerfano facilities very attractive to ICE." Additionally Colorado ACLU has obtained documents that indicated that ICE is looking at five other additional potential facilities in Colorado.

GJPD Finally Compliant with Use of Force Reporting

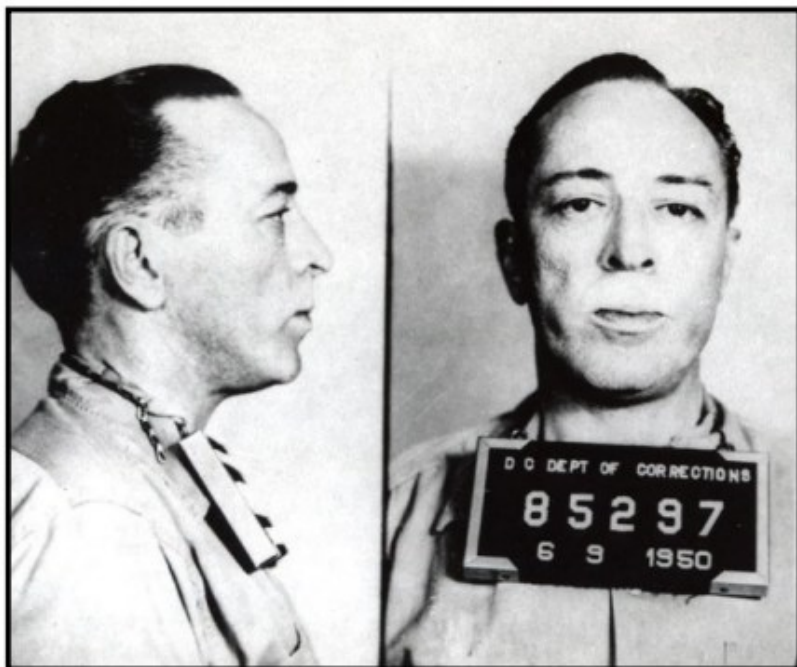
In 2020, in the wake of sustained protests, Colorado lawmakers passed a raft of police reforms, including a piece of legislation that requires local law enforcement to report uses of force against Coloradans. In the most recent report, 2023, only 42 of agencies submitted all twelve months of data. Grand Junction Police Department has no date listed in the report. A GJPD spokesperson told Colorado Public Radio that the agency began reporting in 2024, and their data will be in the next report. Colorado's two largest police forces Colorado Springs and Denver have not complied with the reporting requirements.

Massive No Kings Rallies Across Western Colorado

A couple thousand people gathered in Grand Junction in conjunction with the national No Kings day of protest. Thousands more came out across western Colorado: Gunnison, Montrose, Glenwood

BRIEFS on Page FOURTEEN

WANTED



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www.therevolutionistgj.org

THE REVOLUTIONIST.

"Revolution is simply the culminating point of Evolution"

ICE From Page FOUR

Ultimately these arrests spread fear within the community, and make people less likely to check-in, and when they don't check-in, they can be more easily deported for non-compliance.

Goncalves spent fifteen days in GEO custody. In a statement she said, "The past 15 days have been the hardest of my life. I was scared and felt alone. I was placed in a system that treated me like I didn't matter." She added, "Over 1,300 people are still in that same nightmare. They are just like me—people who love this country and want to belong."

Aurora Yadira Mireles Tarrazas, a longtime resident of Ouray and DACA recipient, spent over two months in the GEO facility after ICE—working with Montrose County deputies—arrested her.

Tarrazas was granted a personal recognizance bond by a judge on February 4. She signed the papers and should have been free to go, but Montrose Sheriff Deputies held her until plainclothes ICE agents arrived. Surveillance footage shows the agents handing something small and flat to the deputies, who pocketed it.

Holding inmates for ICE is explicitly illegal under Colorado law. Her attorney, Matthew Lagoe, told the Ouray Plaindealer, "It does appear that not only did they violate the law by calling ICE and reporting to ICE that she was there, but also holding (her) so that ICE had time to show up."

Tarrazas was eventually granted bond. Goncalves and Tarrazas are some of the lucky ones. Data compiled by Rep. Jason Crow's office shows the community release rate from GEO is just 8%.

Luis Rivas, however, remains

detained. His family says he was ill for weeks upon arrival at GEO. "They don't provide antibiotics—only Ibuprofen," said a family member. "Luckily, he's healthy."



Kevin Figueroa, 18, crossed the boarder legally as a minor and has an active petition for asylum. He has complied with all requirements to come here legally and has not had any arrests. He loves soccer, his family, and hoped to attend Colorado Mountain College in the fall.

I'm sure I would die in that facility. I need insulin to manage my diabetes."

"These federal operations are not just about law enforcement. They are creating a climate of fear and intimidation in our communities. Residents, including both vulnerable community members and U.S.-born citizens, are feeling increasingly controlled and threatened. This oppressive environment is not what we want for our communities," said Ricardo Perez, Executive Director of the Hispanic Affairs Project. "Only in nondemocratic regimes do military police forces operate without any restrictions in communities. I witnessed this as a child during the civil war in my homeland, and the same thing is happening here today in Western Colorado,"

he added.

"We are seeing more of these test cases in our community because we are in a quote unquote sanctuary state... (ICE) is going after any potential way of getting around these state laws, as we have seen they have been doing these subpoenas and trying to get collaboration wherever they can get it," said an immigration lawyer working in western Colorado. They added, "When the Trump administration is looking for a potential weak point or a roundabout way to get around Colorado's laws, someone like Lou Vallario (Garfield County Sheriff) is going to be exactly the kind of person they look for to allow these kinds of tests to be done. We are kind of in a hot seat of creativity, of lack of oversight, and integrity."

"The people are worried. We get messages every day—asking: 'Is it safe?'"

ICE on Page SIX

ICE from Page SEVEN

And we don't know," said a member of the 'Are Saucedo Reporta' Facebook page, which serves as an information lifeline for the community. They told us that people in the Roaring Fork Valley, where SPEAR and ICE have become interchangeable terms, are losing trust in local law enforcement.

With the recent passage of the "Big Brutal Bill" by the House on July 3, ICE will see its budget increase nearly twentyfold—giving it more funding than the U.S. Marine Corps and placing it among the world's largest militaries. Due to this, it is likely that ICE presence will become the norm in major population centers like Denver

For months now, ICE and the MAGA regime have been probing Colorado's legal system for vulnerabilities—and finding them.

Lawrence Pachico, with the Colorado Attorney General's office, confirmed they've opened an investigation into Goncalves's arrest. But this problem goes far beyond one high-profile case.

More than just inaction, Colorado Governor Jared Polis has been actively trying to aid ICE. Polis ordered Scott Moss, director of the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment, to comply with an April 24th subpoena from ICE, which would likely violate Colorado law.

The subpoena requested the personal information of thirty-five host families that are caring for unaccompanied minors across the state.

Moss sued, and a judge ruled that

Moss and his staff cannot be ordered by Polis or anyone else to violate Colorado laws.

Polis is weighing his next move, while members of his own party put him on blast for his acquiescence to ICE and federal authoritarianism.

The rule of law is being tested—and failing.

Now is the time for Colorado's legal and political institutions to reaffirm our commitment to state law. It is time to prosecute rogue law enforcement officers, task forces, and even Sheriffs who cooperate with ICE in defiance of our statutes.

It's time for Attorney General Phil Weiser and Governor Jared Polis to find their backbone—and do the job Coloradans elected them to do.

Contact Governor Polis:
governorpolis@state.co.us

Contact AG Weiser: ag@coag.gov

Report ICE activity to the Colorado Rapid Response Network Hotline:
1-844-864-8341

A Spanish version of this article is available on our website: <https://tinyurl.com/5655mn6p>

The online article has links and documents associated with this major story.

<http://therevolutionistgj.org>

On Thursday July 10, Colorado Immigration Rights Coalition delivered a petition with over 2000 signatures demanding Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser investigate local law enforcement agencies cooperation with ICE.



Courtesy photo.

Police State Brought to you by the DHS

By The Swoozler

A common theme with right wing conservatives is that they are for smaller government. This is demonstrably false.

George W. Bush grew government by one of the government's largest ever Act, The Homeland Security Act. He created a cabinet level office for the Director of Homeland Security.

Homeland Security employs 240,000 people, with a budget of 104 billion dollars a year. It is the third largest such agency.

The Department is in charge of domestic terrorism, civil defense, immigration, customs, border security and cyber security. In reality, it is for spying on American citizens. It brings up comparisons to Nazi Germany's "Fatherland" concept.

DHS is the operations arm of the Patriot Act. It collects mass surveillance data on all Americans, including, but not limited to, fingerprints, phone, text, emails, social connections, satellite imagery, and bank and health records.

In the year leading up to the passage of the Act, a pilot program called Total Information Awareness was developed. It was soundly rejected by Congress, because it monitored every American.

One of the major unwritten acts taken by the DHS was to pimp up fear of terrorism in the country. Its first director, Tom Ridge, developed the Homeland Advisory System.

The System was a color coded graph, telling us how high the risk of a terror act was. Low-Green, Guarded-Blue, Elevated-Yellow, High-Orange and Severe-Red.

It worked at first, but people got numb to it being shoved in their faces for years. The lowest this scale ever recorded were a few weeks of Yellow, then back up.

Protests against the Iraq War heated up during this time. Mass arrests of protestors were

made by local police operating for the Department of Homeland Security. This included the arrest of Revolutionist founder, Jacob Richards, and Red Pill cofounder, Connie Murillo, who were swept up in a mass arrest in New York City.

The system was thoroughly debunked. In 2011, they switched to a much more modest STAS system. It's estimated that you are more likely to be struck by lightning three times than being taken hostage in a terrorist situation.

The Patriot Act is the fist, and Homeland Security is the spiked iron glove of American sleazy repression. Neither of them protects us.

Neither would be possible without the complete servitude of both major parties. On this one issue, there is a near complete support from the Democrats and Republicans.

After the Information Awareness system was deemed unconstitutional, the National Security Agency handed this off to PALANTIR, which effectively is a privatized spy agency. It monitors us to today, and has no pesky 4th amendment issues gathering and sharing your data with the feds.

DHS was caught using fake customs subpoenas to spy widely on people's financial transactions.

Neither Homeland Security nor Transportation Safety Administration have prevented even one terrorist act. They have only arrested a few people who were just drug dealers, a job for the FBI.

In 2011, Democratic President Obama introduced the Indefinite Detention Act. Certain subjects, foreign and domestic citizens accused of terrorism, can be held in prison indefinitely with no charges fired.

In 2013, the Supreme Court upheld the controversial law. The single greatest threat to the Constitution was created by a Democrat.



Secret DHS Detention center in use at the Republican National Convention, NYC. 2003. Photo by Connie Murillo and Jacob Richards.

THIRD SPACES from Page NINE

how the places we live effectively shape us socially and psychologically and recognizes that we have little to no say in how that environment looks. Expanding on the Right to The City, he acknowledges that it is effectively capitalist exclusive in our current day. The RTC under the control of bourgeois powers serves to extract profit at the expense of the living community.

Spiking rents, stagnating wages, alienating workers and pushing the less capable to the fringe. Uprooting longtime communities to welcome investors and customers with open arms. Harvey writes in *The Right to The City* (2008) that: "The question of what kind of city we want cannot be divorced from the question of what

kind of people we want to be, what kinds of social relations we seek, what relations to nature we cherish, what style of daily life we desire, what kinds of technology we deem appropriate, what aesthetic values we hold." In this book he also emphasized that urbanization/suburbanization serve as development mechanisms for the capitalist class. Gentrification and "urban renewal" work hand in hand to force working class people out of profitable plots of real estate into fringe locations. Only to rinse and repeat once the place where working class people live becomes an interest to investors.

Let us be very clear though. *The Right to The City* is NOT a centrist or right-wing ideological way of thinking. RTC rejects the need for capitalist interests to have a say in what is done, and rejects the idea that the free market/capitalist powers will just forgo the profit motive. Folks who subscribe to the RTC style of thinking understand that we, as people, cannot be saved by land developers. Working with them will effec-

tively take away our power and reinstall the capitalist foothold that focuses on combating people's urban movements. Some readers, now, may need some form of distinguishing between the socialist RTC idea of rights and the Liberal-Democratic idea of rights. Liberal-Democratic rights are defined through social contracts between the state and citizenry; citizens must give up their autonomy and power for the security of the state. Often, Liberal-democratic rights are

described as God-given or granted by the purview of constitutional framers. An illegitimate separation of civil society from the operation of the state. Herni Lefebvre argues that deepening the contract to attain the rights to the city will bring new rights. These being rights to information, difference, self-management and the titular Right

To The City. Rights, essentially, are the outcome of political struggle. Subject to further changes for maintenance or continued establishment.

So how do we get there? Well, familiarity with the concept is an obvious basis to start with. But in the grand scheme, civil society should become more politically active across industries. Exponentially more politically active in the case of Americans especially. The citizenry should appropriate their power and demonstrate the ability for collective self-management. For any Marxist adjacent thinker, urbanism is an untapped well of knowledge and theoretical exploration. As the climate degrades and our ways of living grow ever more unsustainable, humans as a species should take back their autonomy and work to reach a sustainable way of living. I leave you with this question: If you could construct anything you want within your neighborhood, what would you do?

IRAN from Page TWO

organization Human Rights Activists in Iran (HRANA), nine hundred people have been killed, and over one thousand wounded by Israeli strikes against Iran. On June 16, *CNN* reported that thirty Israelis had been killed and over five hundred wounded as a result of Iranian strikes against Israel.

As it now stands, Iran is the only major state actor in the Middle East that actively opposes the imperial ambitions of the State of Israel. Allied with Iran are its various proxies, such as Hezbollah in Lebanon and the Houthis in Yemen. The rest of Israel's Middle Eastern opponents have been neutralized. Syria, which was formerly the only major state actor in the informal Axis of Resistance coalition, was neutralized by a regime change. Hamas has been obliterated by Israel during the two year long siege of Gaza that began in 2023. The other proxy groups mentioned, such as the Houthis, are as of now caught up in various civil wars and regional conflicts and are unable to effectively come to the aid of Iran.

Israel is now in a perfect position to take out its main rival via regime change once and for all. With the Axis of Resistance weaker than it has ever been, Iran is isolated. But as mentioned earlier, Iran cannot be defeated without the help of the US. We, the American working people, must do everything we can to stop the United States from entering into another forever war that will do nothing but drain our resources and further devastate the Middle East.

Such an escalation puts the whole world at risk for another major war, and is antithetical to the interests of the American working class, and the working class of the whole world. The only stance that revolutionists can take in this conflict is one of revolutionary defeatism. We, as the American working people, must fight for the defeat of our own government, which long ago ceased to represent our interests, and for the defeat of its proxy, the State of Israel.

The American working people must counter the propaganda of the Israel lobby and must resist the attempts of Israeli lobbyists to drag the United States into a war. The American Israeli Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) spends tens of millions of dollars every year on U.S. elections. According to *The New Republic*, in 2024 alone

AIPAC spent "at least \$45.2 million into winning candidates for Congress, the most by any organization in history." No single entity, foreign or domestic, should have the ability to fund and sway our government in such a blatant and undemocratic way. No group representing the interests of a foreign government should be allowed to buy congressional candidates. No foreign interest lobby should be able to pull a totally separate country into a war that it has no interest in fighting.

For too long our country has been subject to the arbitrary whims of billionaires, megacorporations and foreign interest lobbying groups. For too long the American working people have groveled at the feet of a ruling class that serves the interests not of people, but of capital, both here and abroad. For too long have young American men and women been sent to fight and die in countries whose affairs we have neither the right to interfere in nor an interest in doing so. For too long has the star spangled banner flown above scenes of carnage and desolation. Everywhere we go, we bring war and call it peace. Everywhere we go, we bring servitude and call it freedom.

The hawks in Washington want war. The hawks in Tel Aviv want war. The working class must say no! The gears of imperialism are spinning, grinding human lives into bloody and ravaged flesh. The towering colossus of American imperialism and militarism must be brought down once and for all. There is only one force that can bring it down, and that is the organized working class.

No one but the capitalists and ruling class stand to benefit from this conflict, which will lead to the deaths of untold thousands. If we go to war, the government will use it as an excuse to crack down on domestic dissent and further centralize power in the hands of the President and the executive branch. If we don't fight this now, we will lose our right to fight, forever.

We side with neither Washington nor Tehran nor Tel Aviv, but with the working class and the oppressed peoples of the world. May the American workers rise against tyranny like a giant awoken from its slumber. Not one person, not one penny for American and Israeli imperialism!

What Are Third Spaces?

Most Americans spend a great majority of their waking hours in two places; The home and the workplace, or as I will refer to them, the first and second places. Between these exists a third place, somewhere between leaving work and going home to enjoy some sort of recreational activity and socializing. The “third place” can encompass any location that serves food and drinks and/or offers some sort of recreational activity like table games or fitness. These act as catalysts for conversation, which is the primary function outside of the business aspect for third places. Additionally, the third place cannot be defined by the individual! Just because YOU like to go and hangout at say, a Taco Bell, with your friends or coworkers after work, does not make it a third place. This Taco Bell (and most chain establishments) does not encourage hanging out through policies that discourage loitering or look to get as many people in and out as possible to turn a profit. But maybe this isn't a good enough example. Let's say YOU like to hangout at the library (pick one). The library primarily serves to facilitate NON conversational activities, in this case studying or reading. While there can be additional aspects of the libraries' whole structure that encourage activities (community rooms, children's spaces, etc.) these can be more attributed to being additions of the library rather than independent functions of the structure. It should also be noted that the newer the construction of a place, the less likely it is to become a third place. Even if it is something geared specifically to bring about a third place, it often takes a good bit of time to see that fulfilled.

This theory of the Third Place was crafted by Ray Oldenburg, who, if you ask me, was kind of a fuckin dork even for his own time. This 3P theory is rooted in his view that the standards associated with pre-integration democracy were perfectly fine, and that the progressive movements in the United States were effectively leading to the death of the Third Place. In his writings on the Third Place, he goes on to defend the existence of the third place as a white man's hetero get away from their wives and the radical movements of the 1960s and 70s (Civil Rights, Gay Liberation, Feminism, Anti-Vietnam war, etc if you've been living under a rock.) His worldview politics aside, he also doesn't bring anything to the table in order to see the revival of the third place. He acknowledges that zoning and

planning commissions won't cater to the needs or wants of the people. Making it entirely up to the free market to save us (when has that worked?) One decent point he sees is that the commercialization of recreational activities makes it difficult to bring 3Ps around. The game hall died so I could play ping pong and pool at home, effectively alienating people from social interaction in a whole public sphere.

But what is alienation exactly? A short way to describe it is that humans, as a species, are driven to compete with each other for wages or work under the impression it is to their benefit. But while the wages stagger, profits are extracted at a greater and greater value. Additionally, workers are separated from what kind of production is being done and for who. Johnny Cash wrote a whole song about not being able to afford the cars he worked on. Alienation, as Karl Marx describes it as driven by our second place (work). An inherently economic thing. Ray Oldenburg takes this economic alienation and instead sees it as “urban” alienation. In the sense that the broadening of urban sprawl splits communities up, reducing people into roles that are task oriented. Estranged Labor as described by Marx perfectly encapsulates how people maintain their humanity through social spaces. Here I will paraphrase: “Workers are truly free when they get to eat, drink, have relations, dress up or even spend time in their own domicile. These, separated from activity, are isolatory.” Basically, the third place restores our humanity.

While we investigate Marx and his thoughts, let's talk about Henri Lefebvre. Like many members of the French Communist Party in his time, he was very critical of Stalin's USSR. Lefebvre sees socialism not as a bureaucratic

By Payton Young

economic transitional period helmed by a vanguard party. He insists upon the dissolution or “withering away” of the state through progressively spontaneous self-governance. Moreso an active project than a period. If you were to ask



me, I'd say Lefebvre is more adjacent to anarcho-syndicalists or libertarian socialists like Murray Bookchin than any sort of Marxist-Leninist. But those are my two cents. Lefebvre puts a great deal of his thoughts on urbanism into his work “Writings on Cities” where

his theories of the Right to The City were born. This concept I will expand on in a second piece, but for now let's keep it short. The right to the city, essentially, makes the urban and the city distinct from each other. The urban is a shapeless post-industrial amalgamation that has been greatly impacted by the automobile. With cars being pretty much the only way to really do anything in an urban space, why the hell would you just make the city walkable again if it's not profitable for Big Automobile or tourism? On the other hand, the city is basically just that. A walkable, livable city that offers balance. Lefebvre weighs heavily on the fact that most contemporary walkable cities are almost purely an attraction. A tourist destination to extract wealth from visitors and nothing more. Hell, even the workers in the contemporary walkable city may not even live there given the expenses associated with it and the garbage wages workers are offered. This “return” to the city from the suburbs is liberal nostalgia. The walkable city under capitalism isn't needed because of the dominance of the automobile creating the opportunity for urban sprawl.

We, as people living under capitalism, cannot go forward or backward in terms of de-

velopment without any economic shifts. Cities are constructed on the basis that there is economic activity or production in that area which necessitates working out what transport is most effective for that economic production. Industrial revolution era cities often featured trolley cars in central parts of the city to assist in movement. But without limitations to what kind of transportation is available to be done, urban sprawl takes advantage. The era of the individual automobile has created a dominantly car oriented culture. Leaving the movement of carless people out of how development is done. While there are ways we can have a say, be it through working with developers to reduce state power over control or entertaining zoning commission meetings to block or support motives, these are really just kiss ass ways to further the capitalist market influence upon how we live. So what do we do as socialists? We should demand that developments be put in the control of the people who live where development is being done, rather than the few choice makers in the market. Giving the people the Right to The City allows people to make informed decisions regarding where and what is built. Are we building more affordable housing closer to town? Are we investing in high speed rail, trolley lines, or protected bike lanes? Are we trying to offer more recreational activities for our community (Third places?) Will I ever get a bodega on the corner of my block? These are all very real possibilities when giving the people a say in what is done. It is, also, very utopian in thought. But if you've ever read anything pertaining to subjects in urbanism, it's all utopian. Each theory offers an ideological counterpart in how an ideal world would be designed. Market driven theories extend power to the bourgeois powers. The Right to The City allows people to seize the means of city planning. Giving them the ability to transform any facet of living away from the profit motive. Lefebvre describes the struggle for the Right to The City as a political program of urban reform not defined by the limitations of current society, but it should be rooted in realistic thinking. And that the RTC advances utopian projects regardless of feasibility. Moving from theory to praxis to iron out the creases.

Another important Marxist urbanist, David Harvey, was a huge supporter of Lefebvre's Right to The City. He talked about

THIRD SPACES on Page TEN