

# PEOPLE'S WORLD

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## Immigrants descend on Supreme Court to back Obama's executive order

By Larry Rubin



**F**riday, the Administration asked the Supreme Court to re-affirm the President's right to issue an executive order that protects over five million undocumented persons who have children born in the U.S.

At the same time, some 1,000 immigrants and their allies rallied at the Supreme Court building to support the President.

"We would have never gotten the executive order in the first place," Gustavo Torres told the crowd, "if we hadn't held demonstrations and civil disobedience actions and if we hadn't voted in elections." Torres is the executive director of Casa, an organization that advocates for immigrants in three states.

The crowd roared *si, se puede*, "yes we can!"

If implemented, the executive order, issued by President Obama a year ago, would prevent families from being broken up. Among other provisions, it grants residency status and benefits such as Social Security to undocumented parents of children born in the U.S. The parents must have lived here for at least five years and have no criminal record.

Although presidents have been taking executive action on immigration since the Eisenhower administration, and although mayors of 33 U.S. cities filed court briefs supporting Obama's order,

the governors of 26 states, mostly Republicans, last November asked a federal judge based in Texas to issue an injunction blocking the order from implementation. The judge did so.

The 26 states are the same ones that recently passed voter suppression laws. They each have very small numbers of immigrants. On the other hand, the cities who back Obama's order have disproportionately large numbers of immigrants.

The Administration appealed to the Fifth Cir-

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cuit court in New Orleans to reverse the decision of the judge in Texas. Two of the three members of the Fifth Circuit court were appointed by George W. Bush. Unsurprising, November 9, the Court ruled two to one to block Obama's order from being put into effect.

**The executive order would prevent families from being broken up.**

“We are not ‘illegals.’”

Tens of thousands of immigrants rallied in a total of 25 cities in 15 states. The following day, thousands more held demonstrations in eight cities in five states. At each one, participants demanded *mantener unidas a las familias*, “keep families together.”

Ivania Castillo, an immigrant from El Salvador, spoke at the Supreme Court rally. She was one of a group of undocumented persons who had staged a nine day hunger strike in New Orleans in support of Obama’s order.

“We want to send a message to the Republicans,” she said: “*la lucha continua*. The fight will continue until we have won liberation not only for the 5 million with children, but for all the more than 11 million undocumented immigrants in this country.”

Amalia Avila is from Mexico. She said, “I risked my life to come here to find the American dream. I work hard and pay taxes.

“We are not ‘illegals,’” Avila continued. “No human being is illegal. God made us all. I want to

be allowed to stay in this country with my son.”

He added “Today, we must especially join the fight to welcome Syrian refugees to the United States.”

The rally at the Supreme Court was organized by Casa and two unions, Local 400 of the United Food and Commercial Workers and Local 32BJ of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU 32 BJ).

Jaime Contreras, an SEIU 32BJ organizer, said “Along with immigration policy reform, we must fight for the rights of all workers, because even when workers get papers, they can still be exploited. We all need a higher minimum wage.”

The crowd answered: *el pueblo unido jamás será vencido*, “the people, united, can never be defeated.”

Summing up the hopes of the participants in the rally, Amalia Avila said: “We will find justice and justice will find us.”



Larry Rubin is a Washington correspondent for PW.

## The police story of this murder was a lie

By Frank Chapman

**O**n November 24, 2015, the police video of the murder of Laquan McDonald was released to the public. Hundreds of young Black people took to the streets to express their outrage and to demand that Superintendent of the Chicago Police Department Garry McCarthy be fired.

Lucretia Birtz from Black Youth Project (BYP100) but also representing four other Black youth organizations, said: “The institutions that are in place to hold police accountable do just the opposite. The police have impunity. As a step toward police accountability, we demand that Mayor Emanuel fire Superintendent McCarthy.”

The edited police video that was released last night reveals that the police story of this murder was a lie. Mayor Rahm Emanuel and Cook County state’s attorney Anita Alvarez knew it was a lie yet they sat on it for a year and allowed this killer cop to continue on the City payroll as a desk cop.

In other words they violated their oaths of office and had to be forced by court order to release the video. Moreover, the Mayor made a multi-million dollar settlement to the McDonald family and part of the settlement was to keep the video recording of the murder from public view.

Officer Jason Van Dyke has now been charged with first-degree murder as he should have been a year ago. But we maintain that Mayor Emanuel, Prosecutor Alvarez, Superintendent of the CPD McCarthy, the Police Board, the Independent Police Review Authority and the Internal Affairs Department of CPD are all guilty! We need a system change here and it’s not going to happen unless we, the people make it happen.

In the coming days of action, we will be heightening the campaign in the neighborhoods for an all-elected Civilian Police Accountability Council and building for a protest rally at Federal Plaza on December 10.

**Hundreds of young Black people took to the streets to express their outrage and demand CPD McCarthy be fired.**

# International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women

Special to PeoplesWorld.org

**A** staggering one in three women have experienced physical or sexual violence in their lifetime - a pandemic of global proportions. Unlike an illness, however, perpetrators and even entire societies choose to commit violence - and can choose to stop. Violence is not inevitable. It can be prevented. But it's not as straightforward as eradicating a virus. There is no vaccine, medication or cure. And there is no one single reason for why it happens.

As such, prevention strategies should be holistic, with multiple interventions undertaken in parallel in order to have long-lasting and permanent effects. Many sectors, actors and stakeholders need to be engaged. More evidence is emerging on what interventions work to prevent violence - from community mobilization to change social norms, to comprehensive school interventions targeting staff and pupils, to economic empowerment and income supplements coupled with gender equality training.

Prevention is the 2015 theme of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. November 25 marked the kickoff of the UNITE to End Violence against Women Campaign's 16 days of action. This year, at the official commemoration at UN Headquarters in New York, the first UN Framework on Preventing Violence against Women was launched and discussed, a document coming out of



the collaboration of seven UN entities. The framework develops a common understanding for the UN system, policymakers and other stakeholders on preventing violence against women and provides a theory of change to underpin action.

Historically, the date is based on date of the 1960 assassination of the three Mirabel sisters, political activists in the Dominican Republic; the killings were ordered by Dominican dictator Rafael Trujillo. In 1981, activists marked November 25 as a day to combat and raise awareness of violence against women more broadly, and on December 17, 1999, the date received its official United Nations resolution.

From November 25 through December 10, Human Rights Day, the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence aim to raise public awareness and mobilize people everywhere to bring about change. You are invited to "Orange the world," using the color designated by the UNITE campaign to symbolize a brighter future without violence.

Orange events are planned in more than 70 countries around the world ahead of and throughout the 16 days.

**A staggering one in three women have experienced physical or sexual violence in their lifetime.**

## American Grace

By Rick Nagin

**R**emember those who grew this food  
Who picked and packed  
Who shipped and sold.

Bronze rainbow arms have set this food upon our table.

Remember those who built this house assembled, weaved, created light and warmth and health.

Remember those who fought and died to break the king's command, the slaver's yoke and slay the Nazi beast.

Remember those who walked in darkness eyes on the gourd and the Trail of Tears, marching in Selma, martyred in Memphis They can't kill the dream, Jesús y Maria, Che on his cross in the Andean highlands Shot in the stadium, pushed from the airplane martyrs for freedom and America. Never forget Our ancient foe his craft and power, his cruel hate, his endless thirst through blood and oil for profit, profit Uber alles.

Remember those whose songs of love restore us still Pablo, Diego, Woody and Giant Paul mus' keep on fightin', Comrades all

Remember those who grew this food  
Who mined and forged  
Who sang and loved  
Who fought and died  
Who made all wealth all honor and glory,  
All power and peace  
Be unto you  
Be unto you.

## Emergencia energética

TUED

**S**indicatos por la Democracia Energética (TUED, por sus siglas en inglés) es una iniciativa global y multisectorial que tiene como propósito avanzar la dirección y el control democrático de la energía para promover soluciones a la crisis climática, la pobreza energética, la degradación de tierras y de gente, y responder ante los ataques a los derechos y las protecciones de los trabajadores.

Enfrentamos una emergencia energética y climática con el efecto acumulativo de una crisis planetaria. El crecimiento de los niveles de energía fósil pone a prueba los límites planetarios porque eleva las emisiones y la contaminación ambiental a niveles alarmantes.

Esto está afectando la salud y la calidad de vida de millones.

El poder de las corporaciones de energía fósil prácticamente ha imposibilitado la protección de la salud y la seguridad tanto de la fuerza laboral como de las comunidades y la representación sindical se encuentra bajo ataque a lo largo del mundo. A pesar de que cada año se genera más energía, la pobreza energética continúa siendo un problema serio a nivel global – 2,6 mil millones de personas, o 20% de la población mundial, no tiene acceso regular a la electricidad.

Cada día es más obvio que la transición a un sistema energético equitativo y sustentable solo puede suceder a partir de un cambio decisivo de poder hacia la fuerza laboral, las comunidades y el público. Las metas del proyecto son:

Ayudar a construir y fortalecer una comunidad sindical a nivel mundial por la democracia energética. TUED es una plataforma para que sindicatos de todos los sectores y países debatan, desarrollen y promuevan soluciones reales a la crisis climática, el despojo de la tierra, la pobreza energética y la contaminación generada por los combustibles fósiles – soluciones que puedan construir sindicatos, poder laboral y comunitario, y avanzar la justicia social y ambiental.

Desarrollar materiales educativos de alto impacto, distribuir un boletín electrónico y convocar a reuniones y retiros de trabajo que promuevan el debate y ayuden a crear un análisis compartido de asuntos energéticos y climáticos importantes.

Conectar el plan de trabajo por la democracia energética con las luchas y las campañas sindicales de manera que fomenten una participación amplia de los miembros, aumenten el poder de los trabajadores y faciliten la solidaridad a través de movimientos que comparten metas similares.

Sindicatos por la Democracia Energética surgió de una mesa redonda sindical global de tres días llamada "Emergencia Energética, Transición Energética", la cual se llevó a cabo en la ciudad de Nueva York del 10 al 12 de octubre, 2012, en la sede principal del Consejo Distrital de Carpinteros de la ciudad de Nueva York. Setenta sindicalistas y expertos de política de 19 países participaron en la mesa redonda.

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