

**World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) declares 'Cuba is not alone!'**

The ruthless nature of imperialism stands naked today. The Israeli state's genocide in Gaza, backed by the U.S., NATO, and the EU; attacks on Lebanon, Syria, Yemen, and Iran; the U.S. invasion of Venezuela and kidnapping of President Maduro—all serve the economic and geostrategic interests of monopoly capital.

In this same imperialist frenzy, Washington is escalating its assault on socialist Cuba. Despite repeated UN General Assembly votes and global outcry, the U.S. not only refuses to lift the illegal, immoral embargo—it is tightening it. Under the absurd pretext that Cuba sponsors terrorism, Washington is blocking oil supplies, deliberately creating energy poverty that crushes Cuban workers' living and working conditions.

Yet Cuba's working class and people resist with pride and dignity. They refuse to submit to imperialist will or abandon the revolutionary path they have freely chosen.

The World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU), in joint meeting with Cuba's CTC, has issued an urgent appeal: intensify solidarity actions for Cuba's struggle for survival. The message of class solidarity must reach every factory, office, and workplace.

**May Day: Made in the USA**

On Oct. 6, 1886, Albert Parsons rose in a Chicago courtroom to make the last speech of his life. A labor organizer and printer, he was one of the so-called "anarchists" framed by police after a bomb explosion during a workers' demonstration at Haymarket Square on May 4.

"The charge is made that we are 'foreigners,'" Parsons said. "But I have been here long enough to have the rights guaranteed by the Constitution of my country."

Then, with defiance: "I am an internationalist. The world is my country, and all mankind my countrymen."

Why was the state determined to see him dead?

The demand for an eight-hour workday swept America as workers rebelled against 12-, 14-, and 16-hour days. On May 1, 1886, hundreds of thousands launched the first general strike in U.S. history. Chicago was the epicenter, where 70,000 workers shut down the city's plants. At the head stood Parsons.

On May 3, police attacked strikers at the McCormick Reaper plant, killing at least one.

A protest was called for the next day at Haymarket Square.

As the peaceful rally ended, 200 police charged. A bomb exploded—no one knows who threw it. Police then fired into the fleeing crowd, killing at least four workers.

Parsons and others were rounded up and charged as "accessories to murder." A Chicago newspaper wrote, "The labor question has reached a point where blood-letting has become necessary."

Parsons told the court, "Socialism is simple justice, because wealth is a social, not an individual product, and its appropriation by a few creates a privileged class, enslaving the producing class."

On Nov. 11, 1886, Parsons, August Spies, Adolph Fischer, and George Engel were hanged. Over 100,000 people followed their bodies to the grave.

In 1889, the Second International declared May 1st International Workers Day—May Day—born in the U.S.A. in honor of the Haymarket martyrs.

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MAY 2026

**U.S. workers reclaim May Day**

C.J. Atkins

For most of the 20th century, May Day—International Workers' Day—was largely absent from the official calendar of the U.S. labor movement. While workers around the globe marched on May 1 to honor the martyrs of Chicago's 1886 Haymarket uprising, bosses pushed their employees to only observe Labor Day in September, leaving May Day—the original workers' holiday—to the left, immigrant rights activists, and the occasional socialist rally.

That era is over.

This May 1, labor councils from Milwaukee to North Carolina, from UFCW locals to teachers' unions, are marching with a demand that cuts to the heart of today's crisis: Workers Over Billionaires. The scale and character of this year's mobilizations represent something new: the formal re-entry of U.S. organized labor into International Workers' Day, on a national scale, for the first time in generations.

When the people of Minnesota shut down their state to protest ICE occupation in January, the AFL-CIO, SEIU, Teachers, Unite HERE, and ATU were in the lead, showing what's possible. In temperatures of -30 degrees, over 100,000 workers and residents marched and brought much of the economy there to a halt, forcing a partial federal retreat. That action is the model for today.

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The AFL-CIO has documented that working women and people of color stand to lose the most as employers race to deploy artificial intelligence—often without workers' consent—to hire, monitor, evaluate, and even fire employees.

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For over a century, People's World and its predecessor publications have taken the side of the 99 percent and worked to promote the struggle for a sustainable environment, jobs, democracy, peace, and equality.

## May Day 2026: Hit the streets for workers' power

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE Nearly 80% of those who will see their jobs erased by AI in the next decade could be earning less than \$38,000 a year. Unions from the Longshoremen to the Las Vegas Culinary workers have begun writing AI protections directly into contracts, requiring bargaining before any AI implementation.

Meanwhile, corporations have raced to roll back DEI commitments and equal-opportunity programs with barely a word of public accountability. Workers and community groups are boycotting the companies leading that retreat, particularly Target.

The international dimension of this May Day cannot be separated from the domestic one. The Trump administration's military intervention in Venezuela showed that this government has no respect for the law. An oil blockade now squeezes Cuba, which has faced more than 65 years of economic siege simply for choosing to build a sovereign nation.

And the threat of expanded war with Iran—whose workers are already suffering under sanctions—makes an anti-war labor movement a necessity. With the Trump administration demanding a new \$1.5 trillion military budget—paid for with cuts to our education, health care, and other services,

it's clear that his wars are an attack on the entire working class, both abroad and here at home.

This May Day, labor is calling on working people to demand that elected officials—from city councils to Congress—stand up to the federal attack on working people. The movement's pledge—No Work. No School. No Shopping.—is an explicit exercise of the only power workers have ever had: the collective withdrawal of their labor.

The demands are concrete and winnable: Pass the PRO Act, tax the wealthy, fully fund public schools and healthcare, protect immigrant workers, end the wars, halt the AI free-for-all, restore equal opportunity on the job, and save constitutional democracy.

Wealthy corporations and businesses are leveraging their influence to stifle worker power and rig the rules of the economy in their favor. They want to undo the progress the labor movement has made over decades to gain livable wages, high-quality health care, retirement security, and stronger protections on the job. But history is on our side, and we refuse to go back.

May Day began in the USA. This year, it comes home.



## Federal Unionists Network (FUN) endorses CBTU call for National Day of Solidarity

The Coalition of Black Trade Unionists' call for a workers' march on Washington has a new endorser: the Federal Unionists Network.

The CBTU passed a resolution at its 2025 convention calling on the AFL-CIO to organize a national union day of solidarity to protest the Trump administration's anti-worker policies—a move akin to the “Solidarity Day 1981” march in response to Ronald Reagan's firing of air traffic controllers and the breaking of their union, PATCO.

The Federal Unionists Network, or FUN, agrees with CBTU that the time for stepped-up labor action is now. As momentum builds from No Kings III toward May Day 2026, workers all across the country are shifting into overtime to build the broadest possible coalitions to defeat the Trump administration's fascist policies, and FUN is at the center of the effort.

FUN began with dozens of rank-and-file federal workers across different agencies joining together on a WhatsApp group to push for a stronger Federal Labor Relations Authority (FLRA). Since the Elon Musk-led Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) attacks and mass layoffs of public sector workers, though, FUN has been built up into a frontline fighter resisting Trump's destruction of the public sector. It has led rallies across the country and struggled to strengthen federal worker union locals.

Some 300,000 jobs were cut and over 1.3 million workers lost union protections after Trump signed a March 2025 executive order cancelling collective bargaining contracts for the majority of the federal workforce. FUN has sought to galvanize the anger of workers towards militant class struggle unionism and encourage a re-imagining of a transformed post-Trump public service.



An important factor in the fightback has been the fact that the federal government is the largest employer of African Americans. So, the mass layoffs have had a disparate impact on the Black community and its pathways to higher incomes.

FUN has now joined other labor constituency groups, state federations of the AFL-CIO, and local labor councils around the country in endorsing the CBTU's May 2025 call for a labor-led National Day of Solidarity and rally against the Trump administration's anti-labor policies.

Given the fact that federal workers have borne some of the deepest attacks of the Project 2025 assault on the public service, FUN's endorsement carries a lot of weight. Its base includes tens of thousands of federal workers around the country who belong to different agencies and different union locals, meaning its support for the CBTU's proposal could have a major impact in galvanizing the federal workforce to lead in this fight for a renewed March on Washington.

The initiative from CBTU is proving to be the spark that was needed to get the working class moving, and FUN's backing accelerates that momentum.

