



South Florida Progressive bulletin



FROM THE FRONT LINES

February 15, 2017

There have been reports of ICE vans rounding up suspected illegals in areas of Dade County. It is happening in Southern California also. On Wednesday, February 9th mass protests broke out that led to a freeway blockade in Los Angeles, California after a confirmed 160 people were arrested and detained via immigration sweeps carried out by ICE and against a backdrop of the Trump administration's recent executive orders that give police greater powers to detain immigrants and deport them. Many people are also noting that the recent actions seem much more broad; targeting entire populations with raids and not simply just deporting people that filter through the massive criminal justice system. This seems to fall in line with what has been laid out in Trump's draconian orders which call for the rounding up of entire populations, the marshalling of greater police forces, and the building up of detention infrastructure.

While decades of studies have shown that despite the fears produced by the far-right, immigrants are not the cause of disproportionate amounts of violence. But, such fears do help to build support for wide scale crackdowns and full on roundups, as well as the militarization of the police, expanded State powers, and an even greater repressive infrastructure.

As The Intercept writes, Trump's plans are sweeping, and seek to deputize state and local police into immigration police, calls for the building of massive immigrant detention facilities, and also threatens to cut federal funding for any city that refuses to go along with the program.

The Intercept writes: In order to address the massive strain those efforts would place on the nation's already overburdened immigration system, Trump has called for the construction of new immigrant detention facilities along the U.S. border with Mexico — including through private contracts — as quickly as possible. Trump has also directed DHS to "allocate all legally available resources immediately assign asylum officers to immigration detention facilities" for the purpose of conducting so-called credible fear hearings for asylum seekers. According to internal DHS communications obtained by The Intercept, this latter step is already underway.

EVENTS AND ACTIVISM CALENDAR: One of the most valuable services this bulletin can offer our community is a comprehensive calendar of events sponsored by various activist groups so that we can unite our voices and grow in strength as a movement. Please keep us informed so that we can post your events.

United We Stand! Resist! Email your event to fritziethemusic@gmail.com

Feb 14 Noon Bill Nelson's Offices: 2555 Ponce de Leon Suite 610, Coral Gables; Stop Sabal Trail Rally;

Feb 14 Noon; Marco Rubio's offices statewide, Miami Dade location 8669 NW 36 St, suite 110, Doral; Spank Rubio Rally

Feb 16 7pm; 4349 NW 36 St, Miami; Labor/Community Roundtable UFAT meeting

Feb 20 11 am - 2pm Torch of Friendship; 300 Biscayne; Not My President Rally

Feb 21 Noon Resist Tuesdays! Mark your calendar; go to Senate or Congressional offices or participate in some other resistance action

Feb 25 - Congressional Recess Rallies nationally

The only way to defeat these proposals is literally mass resistance and mass refusal. This means the physical shutting down of the ability of the police and State to function as such and carry out these orders.

These demonstrations need to grow in size and become specifically targeted as they seek to disrupt the mechanism that could potentially carry out mass round-ups — not be reduced by liberals or the Democratic Party into symbolic opportunities to take pictures of signs and march in circles.

Protests have spread and continued to break out as more information has come out as to the size and scale of the raids. Get organized today, make plans, and take action!

~from <https://itsgoingdown.org/ice-raids-anger-builds-trump-moves-target-millions/>



**For the zillionth time:
American soldiers
are NOT dying for
American's freedoms.
They are dying--and
killing--to exert the
political will of
corporate interests.**

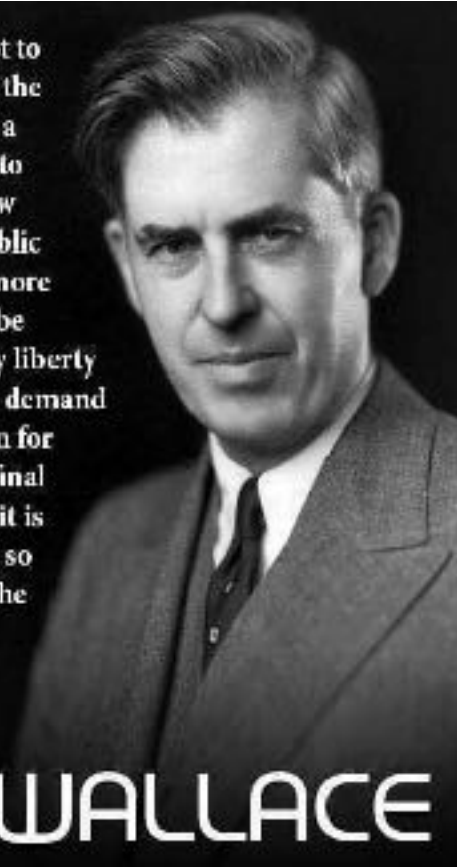
—Wynn E. Venable

From World Beyond War: Mapping the War Machine (link: <http://worldbeyondwar.org/mapwar>)

• The list of locations of severe wars changes from year to year but sticks to a certain region of the world — a region in which none of the major producers of the weapons of war and few of the big spenders on war can be found — but from which the bulk of refugees flee and in which the biggest concentration of that violence labeled “terrorism” germinates, these being two of war’s many tragic consequences.

• The United States dominates the war business, the sale of weapons to other nations, the sale of weapons to poor nations, the sale of weapons to the Middle East, the deployment of troops abroad, spending on its own military, and the number of wars engaged in.

The American fascist would prefer not to use violence. His method is to poison the channels of public information. With a fascist the problem is never how best to present the truth to the public but how best to use the news to deceive the public into giving the fascist and his group more money or more power. They claim to be patriots, but they would destroy every liberty guaranteed by the Constitution. They demand free enterprise, but are the spokesmen for monopoly and vested interest. Their final objective, toward which all their deceit is directed, is to capture political power so that, using the power of the state and the power of the market simultaneously, they may keep the common man in eternal subjection.



HENRY A. WALLACE

Fascism & The Working Class

“The enemy is, in the end, not Trump or Bannon, but the corporate state. If we do not dismantle corporate power we will never stop fascism’s seduction of the white working class and unemployed.” Chris Hedges

In this quote Hedges mentions fascism’s seduction of the white working class and unemployed. How is it that fascism seduces the working class, when it in fact benefits only the ruling class at the expense of everyone else? “The Ruling elite uses their media influence to appeal to groups of working people, broadcasting a message of racism, immigrant-bashing, homophobia,” carving out a sector of people and forming

the “ideological backbone of the fascist movement in America.” Fascism is a “party of committed nationalist militants working in collaboration with the elites” and causing societies to abandon their democratic principles. “It uses the racism and anti-immigrant rhetoric to let corporate America off the hook” as being the cause of social decay and to ignore economic inequality which is the result of corporate hegemony.

Ed: Chris Hedges article Make America Ungovernable from Nation of Change February 10, 2016 link: [http://www.nationofchange.org/2017/02/07/make-america-ungovernable/and Teresa Albano’s article: Chomsky, Fascism and the working class from People’s World, April 2010 link: <http://www.peoplesworld.org/article/chomsky-fascism-and-the-working-class/> were source materials.](http://www.nationofchange.org/2017/02/07/make-america-ungovernable/and-Teresa-Albano's-article-Chomsky,-Fascism-and-the-working-class-from-People's-World,-April-2010-link-:http://www.peoplesworld.org/article/chomsky-fascism-and-the-working-class/)

Black History Month from Dr. Cornel West
North Miami High; February 3, 2017

Dr. Cornel West speaks with the fire and passion of the committed activist he is. He opened his talk by telling the young people to check out their black history to be reminded of who they are. W.E.B. Dubois Love Letter To Young People was mentioned as a required text for the youth of today.

Dr. West said that memory is a way of connecting you to the past so that you are stronger and can create a better future. He suggests also to excavate beneath the lies of our popular culture to find the greatness that lies in the funky underbelly. He calls himself a love warrior on the justice train.

"Justice is what love looks like in public. Tenderness is love in private." He beseeches all of us to be gentle and kind and sweet to one another. He said the culture of today is of a 'gangster on the edge of despair...rife with rapacious individualism.' Lost are the concepts of brotherhood and sisterhood and unity. Love of our fellow humankind will not let us rest when even the least of those among us struggle and face cruelty and fear...justice is what love looks like in public.

He describes the mass incarceration movement of today as Jim Crow Jr and he urges self examination as a tool to win this culture war against white supremacy and hatred. "Everything is at stake and especially what kind of person you are!"

He pointed out a difference between Aretha and Beyoncé. He credits Beyonce with being a gifted artist but caught up in the marketing which says she has to look a certain way. He told her to just walk up to the microphone and sing and not worry about what anyone thinks.

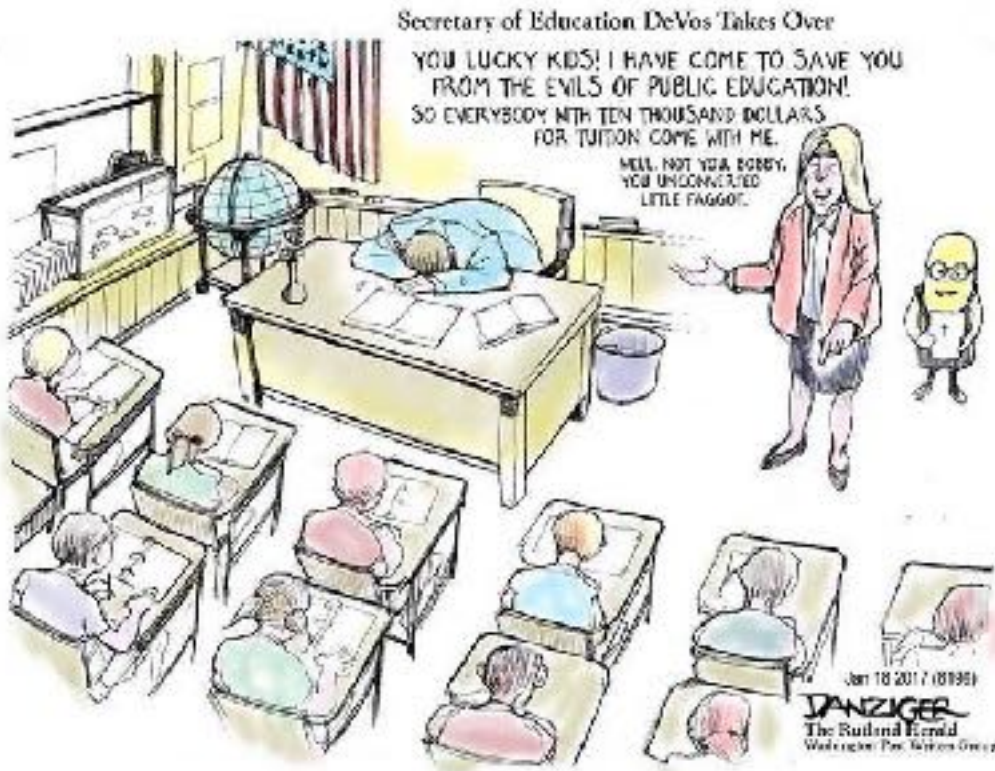
He said he turns to music to gird him in spiritual warfare against the culture of white supremacy and hatred. He credits music with keeping his soul intact. The four pillars of black culture are integrity, honesty, decency and courage. This was his theme ...to return the youth culture to one which values these four pillars. He says he finds it in the music of his day and he encourages young people to go back to the music of their black brothers and sisters to find their integrity, their honesty, their love...The music of today with one guy and computers has no soul...he seeks integrity in music and he told them where to find it. He recalled seeing James Brown even after a four hour concert, respond when a woman asked for "Soul Power" by saying, "Hit it, Bootsy!" because he came to SERVE; it is more than entertainment."

Curtis Mayfield, Marvin Gaye, Stevie Wonder, Otis Redding, Nina Simone, Etta James...he said these artists show him the lesson of integrity. Their music comes from their souls; it is the essence of who they are. He quotes their lyrics, he describes the impact of their music on his life, and on his work. He said "Lift Every Voice" is the national anthem of black youth and encourages every young person to find their voice, not for success but to be the best version of who they are.

"WE NEED TO STOP LOOKING TO POLITICIANS TO MAKE OUR WORLD BETTER. POLITICIANS DON'T MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE. EVERYTHING THAT'S EVER MADE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE HAS COME FROM INVENTORS, ENGINEERS, SCIENTISTS, TEACHERS, ARTISTS, BUILDERS, PHILOSOPHERS, HEALERS, AND PEOPLE THAT CHOOSE LOVE OVER HATE."

-DON FREEMAN





From the Editor:

With the elevation of the reviled Betsy DeVos to the position of secretary of education, democrats should give up on defeating any nominees. Even the Supreme Court nominee will be seated without democratic support - unless some of the democrats defect to vote with the repugnants. I suggest the democrats return to their districts and states and allow the republican Party to OWN the government; all of it. All the cabinet appointments will be appointed as Trump and the corporate owners of our government have designed. The best service the democrats can do is to go home and listen to their people. But, their people are the republicans' people too: the corporate owners of America.

So who is there to listen to we the people...(not the corporations)? In our Congress there are a few

committed progressives, but none are in leadership positions. Bernie Sanders is trying to bring the mainstream democrats with him as he challenges Trump, republicans and corporate controls. He debated Ted Cruz on healthcare on CNN and he did challenge the democrats' position that Obamacare is the best we can do. He didn't say that the reason our healthcare is the most expensive in the world is because we have a for-profit healthcare system and that the corporate insurance companies and hospitals and drug companies accept no limit on their potential to profit from the suffering of the American people. This was on CNN; he did speak his truth but moderately, in hopes to try to unify the party, perhaps. On CNN he was presented as the democrat to Ted Cruz' republican.

Much was made of the two republican women who voted against Betsy DeVos. They announced their votes and were allowed to vote against the party because it was settled that DeVos would still win. No third republican grew a pair of balls

and voted against DeVos. Their constituents surely called in proportion to the calls across the country, but it did not matter. They voted their republican loyalty to their repugnant owners.

This reminds me of the voting for fast track legislation in the last Congress. Once a plan to vote had been announced, not one Congressperson, not ONE changed a vote no matter how many calls, marches, letters, petitions, had been received. It did not matter. Adding insult to injury, not one democrat who voted with the republicans was voted out of office. Not ONE! Murkowski and Collins have nothing to fear; incumbency is its own reward.

Our representatives are busy auctioning off their votes to the highest bidder for the present and forthcoming legislative sessions, when they should be standing with the American people in opposition to the Trump steamroller. Who elected these people, anyway? And will the democrats become progressive or will Donald Trump be reelected in 2020? I am sure Shumer and Pelosi think they can lead the way so it doesn't happen. They thought the same thing in 2016. Will the corrupt corporate democrats get out of the way or will Donald Trump be reelected in 2020?

Sadly, the same corporate owners of America, 2016, are the corporate owners of America in 2018 and 2020. These four groups - The Justice Democrats, Brand New Congress, Our Revolution, Progressive Democrats of America (PDA) - and others - are working to reform the democratic party from within so that the democrats can return to progressive and majority leadership for us, the 99%. Will they be successful? The corporate owners don't want it, but the American people need it desperately. it is a test to see if America can be fixed without revolution.



South Florida Progressive Bulletin is an online newsletter released on the 1st and 15th of each month. SFPB chronicles and analyzes events and issues relevant to progressives locally, and at the state and national levels. It began about five years ago as a publication of the Progressive Democrats of America Miami chapter. In 2016 it became the South Florida Progressive Bulletin and a regular schedule was adopted. The editorial board consists of Fritzie (the editor), Lorenzo Canizares (l.canizares@aol.com), Elizabeth Lee Beck, Victor Nieto, Cathy Gilbert, Sandy Davies, Audrey Bomse, Ed Wujciak, Kevin O'Keefe, Gayle Martin and Monica Kozma. We welcome contributions from our community and are attempting to be an umbrella forum for all local progressive organizations: environmental, political, the social, racial and economic justice movements, labor organizers, anti-war and others. Our purpose is to inform, unify and grow local progressive activism, organization and resistance. To submit an idea, photo, and/or article please email fritziethemusic@gmail.com. We limit articles to six hundred words or less generally with longer pieces to be edited at your approval with a link provided to the longer message. To add your email address to our distribution please email fritziethemusic@gmail.com as well. We have a Facebook page to visit for updates as well: South Florida Progressive Bulletin.



BRAND NEW CONGRESS

Update from **Brand New Congress...**

Since last May, thanks to more than 200,000 supporters spreading the news largely by word-of-mouth, Brand New Congress has grown to a full-time staff of 10 with dozens of full-time volunteers. Together we are building out the campaign infrastructure necessary to support over 400 Congressional candidates.

Despite having no real media footprint, we've received more than 6,500 nominations for potential candidates from people just like you. And while the painstaking research and vetting process marches forward, we have 65 extraordinary ordinary Americans entering the final stages to become a BNC candidate. Our nominees include Democrats, Republicans, and Independents because this is not about party politics. We had 36 of the finalists on a platform call last night. They are ready to take on the corrupted incumbents and their lobbyists, with your help.

The scope of the research, analysis, and coordination required is breathtaking, and it wouldn't be possible without the \$750,000 our supporters have helped us raise so far. But we're just getting started! It's going to take hundreds of millions to compete with the mega-wealthy donors who currently control Congress.

Finding candidates to run is only one part of the equation. We've also been analyzing data from the 2016 primaries and general election, and we've identified 57 districts where Bernie Sanders' supporters alone can win the race for the BNC candidate.

80% of Americans want a brand new Congress. BNC needs funds and dedicated volunteers.

www.brandnewcongress.org

Robert Reich posts a Resistance Report video to his FB page every weekday at 8 pm ET. His **Inequality Media** says: "We also remain committed to continuing Resistance Reports weekdays at 5pm Pacific on Robert Reich's Facebook page. This nightly live broadcasts were started in the wake of Trump's election and have become incredibly popular, averaging over 400,000 views per video. For the time being, we have suspended Office Hours LIVE to focus on the Resistance Report, but have added time for viewers to ask questions on Resistance Reports. All Resistance Reports and past Office Hours LIVE are always available on the video tab of Robert Reich's Facebook page after the fact, in case you're unable to attend LIVE."

Also: "We are now translating our videos into Spanish! Please go to Inequality Media's Youtube channel and, once watching a video, click on the bottom right settings button to turn on translated subtitles. We hope this allows more of you to access our videos and be a part of the peaceful resistance."

Brand New Congress (BNC) has partnered with Justice Democrats to expand our reach to an unbelievable 10 MILLION people every week.

The People's Corner

To predict what the USA will be like in just a few years we just need to analyze what transpired with the confirmation of Betsy DeVos as Secretary of Education. Never have we seen anyone less competent holding a position of such importance in the nation's lifeline. The Republicans -2 + Vice-President Mike Pence have shown the American people how the road to Fascism is going to be paved intellectually. To control the masses, and justify craziness like "Alternative Facts" there is a need for a guiding ideology that provides the mantra to do harm in its name. We all should become familiar with Dominion Theology. It will be hilarious to see Donald Trump parroting its tenets.

By now, we all should know that education and health care are the cornerstones of any civil society; all other things are ramifications of these two social pillars. With Betsy DeVos "Intelligent Design" has gained a foothold in the nation's educational system. For those of you who don't know about "Intelligent Design", a definition: "Intelligent design is a creationist religious argument for the existence of God, presented by its proponents as 'an evidence-based scientific theory about life's origins,' but found to be pseudoscience. Proponents claim that 'certain features of the universe and of living things are best explained by an intelligent cause, not an undirected process such as natural selection. Educators, philosophers, and the scientific community have demonstrated that ID is a religious argument, a form of creationism which lacks empirical support and offers no testable or tenable hypotheses."

There is nothing Christian about Betsy DeVos. Her role in Michigan's schools has been of wholeheartedly supporting private charter schools. She recoiled when Tim Kaine asked if she will be demanding that charter schools be held accountable as public schools are and she simply said "No." Christianity for people like her is just a tool to fool the masses. Who cares if education is being provided as long as our "friends" are making money from it?

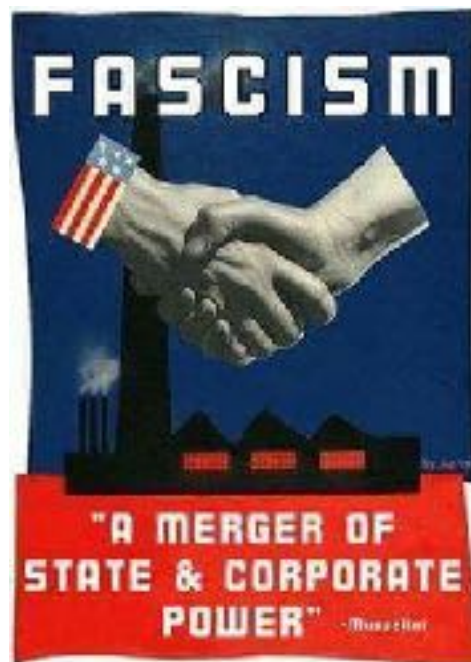
The Department of Education is just 3% of the federal budget. Not much to make much noise about, but as stated before, education is one of the two pillars of the nation. Betsy DeVos' role is to make the \$70 billion available for discretionary spending by the federal budget on education available to other Greed-Addicts that through private charters, private online education and for-profit higher education institutions (like Trump University) are always ready to make major profits from their institutions. By the way, not all of these institutions are consumer rip-offs, but without proper accountability many rotten apples will hide in the bag.

Betsy DeVos' role, like some of the other Trump appointees, is to destroy the department of which they are in charge. The destruction of public education is an economic incentive for some involved in the profit-making business of education. But, more than just an economic incentive is the social disintegration that will destroy any semblance of democracy. As imperfect as our public education system is, it still educates 90% of American children. At one time we could proudly say as a nation that education was a ladder for economic success. DeVos' task of privatizing public education will end up leaving a large percentage of our children without education. Their families lack the income required to pay what private schools demand for educating the children of the wealthy. What a bonanza for the Greed Machine! More cannon-fodder ready for disposal.

If we cross our arms and allow this rapaciousness, then in 20 years, I can guarantee, a third of our nation will be functionally illiterate.

That's what Fascism looks like!

~Lorenzo Canizares



UNITEWOMEN.ORG

PROTEST GUIDE

BRING WITH YOU

SHARPIES *(to write important information)*

MAALOX *(antidote for tear gas).*

IF YOU ARE DETAINED OR ISOLATED, ASK IF YOU ARE UNDER ARREST.

if they say no, you are free to go.

if they say yes, do not resist the arrest.

POLICE ARE ALLOWED TO USE "FORCE" IF YOU RESIST ARREST

IF YOUR ARMS ARE INTERLOCKED,

the police have the right to use batons to break people apart.

INCIDENT COMMANDER MAKES THE CALL ON HOW MUCH FORCE MAY BE USED.

THERE NEEDS TO BE ONE DESIGNATED LIAISON TO TALK TO THE POLICE,

and there should be people on the sidelines ready to assist protesters with first aid or helping to physically remove them from an unsafe situation.

IF YOU FEEL YOU ARE BEING TREATED IMPROPERLY BY A POLICE OFFICER,

you may ask to speak with a superior officer. You may also request and record the officer's name and badge number. If you are injured, seek medical attention immediately and request copies of all treatment records.

USE YOUR SHARPIE & Write the number to the

NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD (NLG)

ON YOUR ARM OR LEG.

if you are arrested, demand your phone call & contact the NLG.

FOR YOUR SAFETY & TO PROTECT YOUR LEGAL

RIGHTS, *you should always follow orders from police officers while demonstrating.*

IF ARRESTED, IMMEDIATELY PLEAD THE 5TH,

comply with orders and don't tell the police anything except your name and address.

ALSO WRITE ANY OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION SOMEWHERE ON YOUR BODY (MEDICATION YOU ARE TAKING, NAME OF LIAISON FOR YOUR ORGANIZATION, EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION, ETC.).

Try to remember all the details of police interaction and write them down as soon as possible. Try to get photographic documentation of everything that happens.

Sabal Trail Pipeline

~from Progress for All

The struggles of the Standing Rock Sioux against the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) has woken people everywhere to the threats to our water supplies. We've learned that, on average, there's about one major pipeline spill or leak every working day, and thousands of more leaks that are not even reported.

Florida is truly on the front lines on what could become an environmental disaster. Climate change is all too apparent here. Rising sea levels have resulted in saltwater intrusion into the Lower Floridan Aquifer that provides drinking water to all of South Florida.

Here in Florida, we are fighting against the Sabal Trail Transmission Pipeline, a \$3 billion joint venture of Spectra Energy, Duke Energy, and NextEra, the parent company of Florida Power & Light -- a 515-mile pipeline that when completed will pump a billion gallons of fracked gas a day -- and not for our energy needs, but to export as Liquefied Natural Gas to countries like China. Meanwhile, the studies show that if we put solar panels on half the acreage of the pipeline (515 miles by 50 meters wide), we would produce the same amount of energy that will be going through the pipeline, without any of the environmental dangers.

To read more about the Sabal Trail pipeline go to www.progressforall.org. Progress for All is educating about the dangers of Sabal Trail and helping to organize divestment, which is the best way to oppose it. We only have time to resist completing this disaster waiting to happen before it is indeed completed.





Resist Trump's 'Law and Order' Executive Orders ~by Audrey Bomse

Right after swearing in Jeff Sessions as Attorney General, President Trump signed three executive orders that bolster and expand the authority of law enforcement and policing in the U.S. One would "break the back of the criminal cartels that have spread across our nation and are destroying the blood of our youth," another would create a task force to reduce violent crime, and the third would instruct the Justice Department - now under Sessions' command - to come up with a plan to stop violence against law enforcement officers.

One order links crime with 'illegal immigration,' echoing remarks Trump previously made, blaming gang violence in Chicago on undocumented immigrants. By equating 'illegal immigration' with drug trafficking and violent crime, Trump is making clear that he's about to unleash his deportation force.

The orders will also justify a law enforcement crackdown on protesters and minorities. They are code for arrest more folks of color. Trump is likely to use this imaginary rise in crime to crack down on protests the same way he's been using the threat of terrorism to ban Muslims from entering the country.



Trump and Sessions are lying about the "threats of rising crime," in order to claim that these latest executive orders are about protecting the "health and safety of America." FBI statistics released in September 2016 (Crime in the United States report) showed that crime rates overall are at historic lows and violent crime, in particular, is 16.5% lower than a decade ago. We have seen historic lows in the country's crime rate and a downward trend in killings against police officers since the 1980s. The president not only doesn't acknowledge these facts, he ignores the all-too-real deaths of people of color at the hands of law enforcement. His portrayal of an increasingly dangerous America feeds into his

campaign narrative that we need more 'law and order' to be safer.

But, as the American Public Health Association has stated, policing itself is a health hazard (Law Enforcement Violence as a Public Health Issue): "Harassment and violence by law enforcement officers result in deaths, injuries, trauma, and stress, which disproportionately affect people of color and other marginalized populations such as immigrants, individuals experiencing homelessness, members of the LGBTQ community, and individuals with mental illness." More than 1,000 people were killed by cops in 2016. And this is just the tip of the iceberg of violent policing. We are in the midst of a national debate about racial policing, police brutality and killings of unarmed men and women raised by the Black Lives Matter movement.

The three executive orders are "fully and totally" supported by the Fraternal Order of Police, the largest police union in the country, which shows whose interests are being served.

Under the liberal rule of Obama, we faced a status quo that passed reforms that reinforced policing but did not reduce it - in fact, the police became more militarized. Now, under Trump, we instead have to fight a policing that is being bolstered with overt law and order enthusiasm. These executive orders will increase funding for programs that assist local police; increase resources for federal law enforcement agencies and federal prosecutors to further criminalize immigrants and those involved in street protests, all with the goal of putting more people behind bars. It is this same type of federal assistance that led to the growth of the Prison Industrial Complex beginning in the mid-1960s and continuing to this day.

The ACLU and others have vowed to sue Sessions if he violates the US Constitution. As we are being attacked by the state on many fronts, we in our communities and on the streets must back each other and deepen our commitment to RESIST.