

June 14, 2025

Trump and RFK, Jr., mark Pride month by killing funding for HIV vaccine research

By C. J. Atkins

Just in time for Pride month, President Donald Trump and Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., have apparently decided it's a good time to sentence more people to death in the future. That will be the result of the administration's \$258 million cut to HIV vaccine research, according to experts in the field.

"The HIV pandemic will never be ended without a vaccine," Cornell University researcher John Moore told the [New York Times](#), which broke the story of Trump's funding cuts on May 30. "So, killing research on one will end up killing people."

The National Institutes of Health notified scientists at the Center for HIV/AIDS Vaccine Development (CHAVD) last week that funding for its vaccine research programs was being terminated, effective immediately.

The CHAVD is a consortium of specialists at Duke University and the Scripps Research Institute. Dr. Dennis Burton, an immunology professor at Scripps, said, "This is a decision with consequences." He predicted that HIV vaccine research will be set back by at least a decade.

The goal of the scientists working at CHAVD is to develop an HIV vaccine that can be used around the globe and hopefully bring an end to the HIV/AIDS pandemic, which has plagued the world since the first case was reported on June 5, 1981.

Since then, at least 42 million people have been killed by AIDS, and another 39 million are estimated to be currently infected with HIV.

The research at CHAVD consists of multiyear investments in advanced HIV vaccine technologies, but it has also already yielded improvements in treatment of other conditions, including COVID-19, snake bites, and a number of autoimmune diseases that share some similarities with AIDS.

Burton said that he and his colleagues were beginning to see a light at the end of the tunnel after many years of research. "This is a terrible time to cut off funds," he said.

Duke Professor of Medicine Dr. Barton Ford Haynes said the timing of the move by Trump and Kennedy could not have come at a worse time. "HIV has established roadblocks to us fighting it off, which are unparalleled in vaccinology. We've had to learn what each of the roadblocks are and devise ways to overcome it. This virus mutates so quickly."

A spokesperson for the Department of Health and Human Services, Emily Hilliard, claimed that "critical HIV/AIDS programs will continue" under Kennedy's "Administration for a Healthy America."

The first problem with that story? The Administration for a Healthy America doesn't exist, and details and timelines are vague as to when it will even be established.

As a stopgap measure, some are now pinning hopes on a new medication called lenacapavir, a twice-yearly injectable drug that prevents HIV transmission.



The Food and Drug Administration is due to decide whether to approve it for the market by June 19. Studies have shown lenacapavir to be up to [100% effective](#) at stopping transmission, and its development was an outgrowth of earlier NIH-funded research like the programs that were just cancelled.

Even if lenacapavir gets the green light from the FDA, though, access will remain a big question mark. The drug is being brought to the market by pharma giant Gilead Sciences.

There are concerns that only those with expensive insurance plans or subsidy schemes will be able to access lenacapavir, leaving the poor and working class—both in the U.S. and abroad—unable to afford it.

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A similar story has played out with already-available drugs—like pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) prevention medications such as Truvada and Descovy, and antiretroviral therapies which control viral loads and lower risk of transmission among those who already have HIV.

Relying on current prevention strategies alone, as the Trump administration suggests, won't end the HIV/AIDS crisis. Just as masks alone weren't enough to control the spread of COVID-19, experts say ultimately stopping the disease will require immunization.

One NIH official who [spoke anonymously](#) to CBS admitted as much. "The only way of ending the HIV epidemic in the U.S. and the AIDS pandemic worldwide" is with a vaccine, they said, disagreeing with the arguments of NIH leaders.

Termination of funds for CHAVD isn't an isolated incident. Killing off funding and support for HIV and AIDS initiatives has been a hallmark of Trump's second term. Separately last Friday, the NIH also ended funding for clinical trials of another HIV vaccine made by Moderna.

But the pattern stretches all the way back to Trump's inauguration.

Almost immediately after taking office, the president signed an executive order freezing almost all foreign aid, which included HIV/AIDS programs overseen by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).

Access to PrEP—a highly effective medicine that prevents HIV prevention—was cut for vulnerable populations, particularly LGBTQ people, who had benefited from the USAID programs.

Then, in March, the NIH killed funding for several grants that had expanded access to PrEP among U.S. youth, who account for nearly a fifth of new HIV infections in the country.

More than 230 HIV-specific NIH grants were cancelled that month, with programs for or involving transgender persons being the first on the chopping block.

Rumors are now circulating that the White House is considering completely abolishing the HIV prevention division at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. If that happens, the U.S. government would essentially be surrendering to HIV/AIDS, waving the white flag and leaving other countries and private corporations to come up with ways of fighting the pandemic.

Resources that help members of the public educate themselves about the virus and the disease are being scrubbed. *People's World* surveyed the Department of Health and Human Services' [HIV.gov](#) website and found several pages—especially those detailing the risk profiles for particular populations—have been disabled.

A few pages which had earlier been deleted but have reappeared now carry a notice announcing that the page only exists because a court ordered the Trump administration to restore it. Appended to it is an [anti-trans message](#) declaring that any health information "promoting gender ideology is extremely inaccurate and disconnected from the immutable biological reality that there are two sexes, male and female."

These moves are obviously anti-LGBTQ, as gay, bisexual, other men who have sex with men (MSM) are the populations [most affected](#) by HIV in the U.S. But the cuts are also racist: Black Americans and Latinos are disproportionately impacted compared to their share of the population. In fact, Black women are the [fastest growing group](#) experiencing infection in the country. And heterosexual people in general, but particularly those from minority groups, are the least likely to know their HIV status.

At the Stonewall Rebellion in 1969, Marsha P. Johnson said there can be "no pride for some of us without liberation for all of us." Pride month has always been about resistance and solidarity. It's in the interest of all Americans—no matter their HIV status—to unite and resist these latest death sentences being imposed by Trump and Kennedy.

Anthropology from the inside: New Indigenous scholarship from Brazil in translation

By Eric A. Gordon

One can only imagine that the fundamental issue addressed in *Reflections from the Inside: New Indigenous Scholarship from Brazil in Translation* could be replicated in any number of places around the world, and that is: Can Western academic anthropology be trusted to accurately, sensitively, fully and profoundly express the values of Native cultures without imposing its own dominant colonialist perspective? Expressed another way, perhaps more crudely, is anthropology just one of the many scientific disciplines that serve the occupying state to the end of eliminating Native peoples entirely and stealing their land?

Editors Kristal Bivona and Manuela Cordeiro have selected five essays by emerging Indigenous anthropologists written from a non-hegemonic perspective, for their first translation into English, all published previously in peer-reviewed academic journals in Brazil.

The translator is Lucas Escobar dos Santos, an Indigenous person himself, who moved from his biome to Manaus as a child, but never lost his Native connections. Truly, to translate a book like this, one would have to be intimately knowledgeable about Native culture and traditions.

Reflections is a publication of the Behner Stiefel Center for Brazilian Studies at San Diego State University, supported by the Consulate General of Brazil in Los Angeles, where a book reception with some of the authors and editors was held on April 25. Mr. dos Santos appeared in a video interview to speak of the challenges he faced.



Presenters emphasized that not even in Brazil are Indigenous cultures known very well or at all, so the goal of the book is to make people aware of and to value the Indigenous experience, and to understand the roots and realities of, still, a substantial percentage of the Brazilian population.

One theme that emerges is the collectivity of the writing. Although each article is signed, since their author comes from a specific people and place, the essay is very much a group effort, embracing and summarizing their communal wisdom, and there must be agreement as to which practices and customs they wish to reveal to the world. In some cases, even photography and video are discouraged.

For example, if it is accurately described what rivers and lands are needed to sustain a community, prospective farmers and landowners might be alerted to where they should seek to demarcate their holdings so as to deprive the Native communities of their livelihood. The same waters required for soy cultivation or for cattle farming could be cut off from Native use for fishing and transportation.

Considering the number of people involved in the creation of this book and the formidable challenges of translating such difficult material, the finished product is as close to error-free as could be expected. In an interesting translator's note, dos Santos describes the dilemma of rendering certain terms into English: "*Parente*," for example, a cognate of the English word "parent" but meaning something larger—larger even than "relative" or "family member," more like "the idea of belonging to a cohesive and supportive community, for each individual is seen as equal and close." And "*pajé*," something far beyond "shaman" or "healer" to reflect someone with "vast ancestral knowledge, that ranges from natural medicine to spirituality and the Indigenous worldview."

One noteworthy aspect of this collection is that three of the five essays are by women. It is Ana Manoela Primo dos Santos Soares who introduces (to me, anyway) the idea of autoethnographic writing—"autobiography in dialogue with anthropology." "In the writing of the self," she tells us, "there are several voices that permeate the research and make a collective. There is a meeting of subjectivities and a connection between the subjective and collective. In it, we do not talk about the other, or for the other, but *with* the other."

Felipe Sotto Maior Cruz addresses "otherness" in the academic world. Indigenous students have been given access to higher education, but there remains "the urgency of policies that would enable permanence in logistical terms, such as travel, housing, financial assistance, etc." He goes on to critique the very foundations of the science:

"Anthropology emerged as a scientific discipline at the end of the 19th century, and in its beginnings, it was responsible for focusing on the phenomenon of otherness, that is, producing knowledge about the peoples that the West encountered in its commercial expansion. From its beginnings, anthropology was thus associated with the colonization process imposed on the people of different territories conquered by countries, such as England and France. It is important to highlight that colonialism...was a fundamental condition for the emergence of the discipline as we know it today, and it was in that overwhelming context for the people still studied by anthropologists that the discipline laid the foundations of the relationship between researchers and research 'objects.'"

Although many of the more isolated Indigenous communities speak their Native language exclusively, "there are many Indigenous peoples," the same writer continues, "who were led to adopt Portuguese as their primary language during the long and violent process of asymmetrical social interactions that we inherited from the colonial process."

Braulina Aurora Baniwa (Indigenous people often incorporate their tribal identity into their formal names) writes about body care among Indigenous women, and how Native practices, surrounding menstruation and childbirth, for example, were affected by colonialism: "The arrival of churches was a great violence, both ideologically and in terms of human rights."

At the time, it was the so-called 'school of civilization,' but now we understand it as the death of ancestral knowledge. Religion arrived and divided the Baniwa: one part of the community is composed of Evangelicals and another of Catholics. The division is still visible today."

A reader, especially of an academic article, might have desired to learn more specifically about Baniwa practice—which herbs, what protocols? But the author wards us off: "We do not have to divulge everything we know to those outside our family. The women inherited ancient knowledge that is the continuation of the history of the people of their clan, and that dialogues with the work of the Baniwa men. This knowledge is powerful..."

Eriki Aleixo Wapichana takes us through the movement to reclaim the land of the Serra do Truarú community, and how it mobilized to reassert Indigenous control after white miners and farmers had tried to occupy and divide it, breaking up a Native homeland and destroying its life force. "This lack of knowledge about the cultural practices of hunting and fishing as a productive activity is similar to the idea that Indigenous people should work with plow and crops within a neoliberal logic of production and integration international society." Fascinating in this chapter is the role of "catechists," teachers of Catholic faith, who sided with the Native cause out of their devotion to Liberation Theology.

The struggle for Indigenous land is ongoing as plantation-style agriculture and raising cattle for meat continue to expand exponentially for immediate gain, to the total disregard of ecological health. Invasion, killing and rape are still critical words in the contemporary vocabulary of Brazil. It is a time, as one speaker at the Brazilian Consulate said, "not to give up but to grow stronger. The farther away that young people get from nature, the farther away they grow from themselves."

The introduction of photography and film is the topic of the final essay by Edgar Kanaykō Xacriabá. Well-known is the Indigenous hesitation to be "captured" on film for fear that a person's soul will be taken away. While this is still very much in evidence, the usefulness of film to document political and territorial movements has to be admitted. Subtle thinking and nuanced decisions come into play in discerning the limited use of this technology as a "necessary evil." "What are the implications for an Indigenous community 'borrowing a weapon' from the 'other' and gradually (re)appropriating and using it from its own point of view?"

"This is the moment when the arrows are launched, but it cannot be shown. The scene is cut again, now by the filmmaker himself, Divino Tserewahú, who makes a point of emphasizing the words of the elders about secrets and why he does not film this part of the rite: 'What is secret, since our ancestors, is forbidden to film. That is why we did not film the throwing of the Pi'ú arrow. A secret is a secret, I cannot comment much.'"

From an editorial point of view, aside from the occasional typo or missing word, I might have made some different choices, for example, restarting the footnote numbers with each essay and standardizing their margins. An index and glossary might have been helpful, too. But overall, for its content and unique approach—and despite the occasionally dense academic jargon of the discipline—this is a valuable contribution that will no doubt lead to much further achievement.

Trump's big bad bill that would kill 51,000 not a done deal

By Mark Gruenberg

WASHINGTON—The Donald Trump-GOP "big beautiful" money bill, which an academic study now reveals would kill 51,000 people unnecessarily each year by 2034, faces rising opposition inside and outside Capitol Hill. Only one part of the national uprising against the bill that is pressuring lawmakers are the planned coast-to-coast demonstrations against it on June 14.

Popular revulsion against the bill is so strong that analysts believe that it is increasingly possible the bill can be defeated the way Obamacare was saved by popular pressure during Trump's first administration. Trump, in control in the Senate, would have killed the Affordable Care Act back then were it not for the massive uprising against his plans and the last-minute appearance by the ailing then-Sen. John McCain, who, in response to the mass movements, showed up to cast the decisive vote to save it.

People in red districts across the country, horrified by the healthcare cuts, are turning out at town halls and anywhere else they can find their Republican representatives to express opposition to the destruction of Medicaid and the disastrous effects that it will have on healthcare delivery in their communities. As they fear for their prospects of re-election, some of the Republicans in the House are finding ways they can back out of voting for it when it comes back to the House after the vote in the Senate.

Even the notorious conspiracy theorist and Trump supporter, Republican Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, is among that group. She admitted to not having read some of the bill before she voted for it, and says she will not vote for it when it returns to the House if an AI provision in the bill is not removed.

The bill says that the states will have no power to regulate AI for ten years. Green says she “did not know” that was in the bill but would have voted against it had she known because “it violates states’ rights.” She made no mention of any concern she has about her constituents losing health care.

Three or possibly four Republican senators—Alaskan Lisa Murkowski, Maine’s Susan Collins, Wisconsin’s Ron Johnson, and Missouri’s Josh Hawley—are sitting on the fence, undecided about it. Collins, who has a key role to play as chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, which helps dole out federal cash, thinks it cuts too much, especially from Medicaid. Murkowski has similar concerns.

The other two senators think it cuts too little, even though the House-passed version of the measure, called a “reconciliation” bill, slams Medicaid with an \$715 billion eight-to-ten-year cut. That, plus \$135 billion in other health care cuts, would help “pay” for Trump’s new \$4.5 trillion tax cut for corporations and the 1%. Another \$2.5 trillion, a non-partisan agency reports, would come from Trump’s high tariffs.

The Republican lawmakers backing the bill favor no cuts in the \$1 trillion-plus military budget Trump is pushing.

One other Republican, Kentucky’s Ron Paul, has already flatly said he’ll vote “no” because the measure adds \$2.5 trillion over 10 years to the national debt, because it drives the federal deficit up, and because it includes an increase in the U.S. debt limit. The debt limit covers interest on past borrowing.

Meanwhile, outside the Capitol, momentum is building incredibly against the measure. Opposing the reconciliation bill is now one of two centerpieces for the 1,400-and-counting planned demonstrations nationwide on June 14, “No Kings Day.” The other, of course, is a barrage of actions in opposition to Trump’s tyrannical rule and trashing of the U.S. Constitution.

The June 14 protests will hit the nation from coast to coast June 14, except for D.C. itself. There, Trump plans to glorify himself with a massive parade down Pennsylvania Avenue, complete with tanks and troops, a la totalitarian regimes. June 14 is Flag Day—and his birthday, too.

A raft of organizations have gotten behind the No Kings Day protests, with Indivisible, the Progressive Democrats of America, and the Working Families Party in the lead. They’re also telling D.C. residents who want to protest Trump’s billionaire bonanza to head for the city’s suburbs, or travel to Philadelphia.

Trump’s tanks are “a spectacle meant to look like strength,” No Kings Day organizers say. “But real power isn’t staged in Washington. It rises up everywhere else.

“Instead of allowing this birthday parade to be the center of gravity, we will make action *everywhere else* the story of America that day: People coming together in communities across the country to reject strongman politics and corruption.



“For that reason, NO KINGS is not hosting an event in Washington, D.C. (Their emphasis). We will instead have a major flagship march and rally in Philadelphia to draw a clear contrast between our people-powered movement and the costly, wasteful, and un-American birthday parade in Washington.”

There’s symbolism in that choice, too. While D.C. is the nation’s capital, Philadelphia is where both the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution were crafted and signed. And it was the U.S. capital city from 1790-1800 as well, while a scattering of buildings were being erected in D.C.

Now the foes of Trump’s legislation have another arrow in their quiver against it: A study by health care professors at Yale and the University of Pennsylvania, which reveals the Medicaid cuts would lead to 51,000 unnecessary deaths yearly by 2034, through denial of care.

Sens. Bernie Sanders, Ind-Vt., and Ron Wyden, D-Ore., requested the study. They cite it as yet another reason senators should defeat the “reconciliation” bill.

The Medicaid cuts—and the deaths the researchers say they’d produce—are important. That’s because, as Sanders points out, that spending cut would help fund the Trump-GOP’s 10-year \$4.5 trillion tax cut for corporations and the 1%.

Not just bad policy, but immoral

“Let’s be clear. The Republican reconciliation bill, which makes massive cuts to Medicaid in order to pay for huge tax breaks for billionaires, is not just bad public policy. It is not just immoral. It is a death sentence for struggling Americans,” Sanders said in a June 4 statement on releasing the study.

“If this bill becomes law, more than 51,000 Americans will die unnecessarily each and every year. That’s not Bernie Sanders talking. That is precisely what experts at Yale and the University of Pennsylvania found.

“You throw 13.7 million Americans off health care as they [the Republicans] have. You increase the cost of prescription drugs for low-income seniors, and you make nursing homes throughout America less safe,” he said, citing the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office’s calculations.

The result, Sanders declared, is “not only will some of the most vulnerable people throughout our country suffer, but tens of thousands will die. We cannot allow that to happen.”

Wyden added that “despite some of the callous sarcasm from Republican members of Congress lately, the stakes for this bill are truly life and death for tens of thousands of Americans.

“Taking away health insurance and benefits like home care and mental health care from seniors, people with disabilities, kids, and working families will be deadly. This analysis shows the dire consequences of moving ahead with this morally bankrupt effort.”

But as the Oregonian’s comment reveals, most of the Senate’s ruling Republicans pooh-pooh such projections.

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Over in the House, it's ruling Republicans rejected similar warnings, and the reconciliation bill squeaked through 215-214 in late May. It needs 51 "yes" votes to pass the Senate. The GOP holds 53 of the Senate's 100 seats, and Trump is lobbying senators hard to keep the bill unchanged.

That narrow margin magnifies the importance of the reluctant four Republicans, plus Paul.

If four of those five oppose the legislation—and they're going to be targets for lobbying by foes on one side and Trump on the other—it goes down the drain.

If only three vote "no," though, Trump's VP, J.D. Vance, can cast the tie-breaking vote to approve the reconciliation measure.

The researchers told Sanders and Wyden that 7.7 million people would lose Medicaid money or Affordable Care Act marketplace coverage in 2034, as a result of the Medicaid budget cut. That loss, including loss of prescription drug subsidies, would kill 11,300 people, they calculated, using past mortality data.

Another "1.38 million dual-eligible beneficiaries lose Medicaid coverage from disenrollment in the Medicare Savings Programs," the researchers reported. All the loss figures come from the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office.

Disenrollment alone kills 18,200

The disenrollment, the researchers said, would kill another 18,200 people yearly. The Medicare Savings Programs let those "dual-eligible" Medicaid recipients also receive other federal income aid. They'd be ineligible for Medicaid money, too, a footnote in the study says.

And the reconciliation bill "immediately rescinds" federal safe-staffing standards in hospitals and nursing homes. The Democratic Biden administration promulgated the standards last year after long lobbying led by National Nurses United and other unions—such as AFSCME and the Teachers/AFT—who represent U.S. nursing home workers.

Since Medicaid and Medicare fund around 50% of all nursing home costs, Medicaid rules on safe staffing carry big weight in the homes' profits. Those profits increasingly go to nursing home CEOs, for-profit health care chains, and/or venture capitalists. The latter two are snapping up nursing homes at high rates, and both put profits before people. Fewer nurses tending patients equals higher profits for them.

The study estimated 13,000 more Medicaid patients would die yearly if safe-staffing standards are repealed.

The researchers said another provision in reconciliation would end Medicaid coverage for thousands of patients, but still leave them with Medicare—which doesn't cover everything.

"In addition, the proposed bill fails to extend the enhanced ACA premium tax credits," the researchers reported. That would "lead to the loss of insurance for another five million people, bringing the total number of uninsured individuals to 13.7 million. We calculate this retraction will cause an additional 8,811 deaths."

Safe staffing in nursing homes and hospitals has been a top National Nurses United issue for years. Its landmark California law setting specific safe staffing levels by type of care—nurses per patient in an intensive care unit or a nursing home floor, etc.—was enacted 20 years ago. The unions are still fighting for it, state by state as well as nationally. Last month, Nevada's legislature sent a safe-staffing measure, SB182, to GOP Gov. Joe Lombardo. NNU urges him to sign it.

And the federal Veterans Affairs Department is the largest hospital system in the U.S., so safe staffing is important there, as well as in non-federal hospitals. NNU represents the VA's registered nurses.

"The science of ratios has demonstrated these" safe staffing "measures improve patient outcomes, and nurses from across the country who've worked in California say the ratio limits have a dramatic impact on their working conditions," the union says.

National Nurses United actually will get a jump on No Kings Day, with a June 6 rally in D.C., with veterans groups and lawmakers, for safe staffing and against the health care cuts Sanders and Wyden denounce. The veterans, who also denounce the bill because of huge Trump cuts in Veterans Affairs Department funding and personnel, are there because June 6 is the anniversary of D-Day.

NNU and the Teachers/AFT, AFT locals among Chicago community college professors and in New Haven, Conn., and Albuquerque, N.M., are among the unions officially backing the No Kings Day marches. Other backers include the Government Employees, the Treasury Employees, the Workers Circle, the Federal Unionists Network—an organization mostly of workers Trump fired—Black Lives Matter, Color of Change, 50501, and peace, pro-Palestinian, and progressive groups of all stripes.

"In the wealthiest country in the world, we should be guaranteeing health care to all as a human right, not taking health care away from millions of seniors and working families to pay for tax breaks for billionaires," Sanders concluded. He pledged to use his committee post to do "everything that I can to see this disastrous [reconciliation] bill is defeated."

Gaza's humanitarian facade: A deceptive ploy unraveled

By Anthony Mangos

Just one day before the so-called Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF) began operating officially inside the Gaza Strip, its executive director, Jake Wood, [resigned](#).

The text of his resignation statement underscored what many had already suspected: GHF is not a humanitarian endeavor, but the latest scam by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to control the Gaza Strip, after 600 days of war and genocide.

"It is clear that it is not possible to implement this plan while also strictly adhering to the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality, and independence," Wood [said](#) in the statement, which was cited by CNN and other media.

This begs the question: why had that realization become "clear" to Wood, even though the aid operation was not yet in effect?



The rest of the statement offers some explanation, suggesting that the American contractor may not have known the extent of the Israeli ploy until later, but knew that a disaster was unfolding—the kind that would surely require investigating and, possibly, accountability.

In fact, an investigation by Swiss authorities had already [begun](#). The U.S. news network, CBS, looked into the matter, [reporting](#) on May 29 that GHF originally applied for registration in Geneva on January 31 and was officially registered on February 12. However, in no time, Swiss authorities began [noticing](#) repeated violations, including the Swiss branch of GHF, “currently not fulfilling various legal obligations.”

In its original application, GHF “pursues exclusively charitable philanthropic objectives for the benefit of the people.” Strangely, the entity that promised to provide “material, psychological, or health” services to famine-stricken Gazans found it necessary to employ 300 “heavily armed” American contractors, with “as much ammunition as they can carry,” CBS reported.

The ‘psychological’ support in particular was the most ironic, as desperate Gazans were [corralled](#), on May 27, into cages under extremely high temperatures, only to be given tiny amounts of food that, according to Rami Abdu, head of the Geneva-based Euro-Med Monitor, were in fact [stolen](#) from a US-based charitable organization known as Rahma Worldwide.

Following the CBS news report, among others, and following several days of chaos and violence in Gaza, where at least 49 Palestinians were [killed](#) and over 300 wounded by those who promised to give aid and comfort, the Israeli newspaper Haaretz [revealed](#) that the funding for the operation is coming directly from Israel.

Prominent Israeli politician and Knesset member Avigdor Lieberman went even further, [claiming](#) that the money, estimated by the Washington Post to be [\\$100 million](#), “is coming from the Mossad and the Defense Ministry.”

Allowing the real food aid to rot

But why would Israel go through all of this trouble while it can, at no financial cost, simply allow the massive shipments of aid, reportedly [rotting](#) on the Egyptian side of the border, to enter Gaza and to stave off the famine?

In Netanyahu’s mind, the aid mechanism is part of the war. In a video message, [reported](#) by The Jerusalem Post on May 19, he described the new aid distributing points, manned jointly by GHF and the Israeli army, as “parallel to the enormous pressure” Israel is putting on the Palestinians—exemplified in Israel’s “massive (military) entrance (into Gaza)” —with the aim of “taking control of all of the Gaza” Strip.

In Netanyahu’s own words, all of this, the military-arranged aid and ongoing genocide, is “the war and victory plan.”

Of course, Palestinians and international aid groups operating in Gaza, including UN-linked aid apparatuses, were fully aware that the secretive Israel-US scheme was predicated on bad intentions. This is why they [wanted](#) to have nothing to do with it.

In Israel’s thinking, any aid mechanism that would sustain the status quo that existed prior to the war and genocide starting on October 7, 2023, would be equivalent to an admission of defeat. This is precisely why Israel [labored](#) to associate the UN Palestinian refugee agency, UNRWA, with Hamas.

This included the launching of a virulent [campaign](#) against the UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres himself, and other top officials and rapporteurs. On July 22, the Israeli Knesset went as far as to [designate](#) UNRWA a “terrorist organization”.

Still, it may seem to be a contradiction that the likes of extremist Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich would agree to such an ‘aid’ scheme just days after [declaring](#) that Israel’s intention is to “entirely destroy” Gaza.

However, there is no contradiction. Having failed to conquer Gaza through military force, Israel is trying to use its latest aid scheme to capitalize on the famine it has purposely [engineered](#) over the course of months.

Luring people to ‘distribution points’, the Israeli army is trying to concentrate the population of Gaza in areas that can be easily controlled through leveraging food, with the ultimate aim of pushing Palestinians out, in the [words](#) of Smotrich, “in great numbers to third countries.”

The latest scheme is likely to fail, of course, like other such stratagems in the last 600 days. However, the inhumane and degrading treatment of Palestinians further illustrates Israel’s rejection of the growing international [push](#) to end the genocide.

For Israel to stop scheming, the international community must translate its strong words into strong action and hold, not just Israel, but its own citizens involved in the GHF and other ploys, accountable for being part of the ongoing war crimes in Gaza.

Labor must stand up against MAGA

By Joe Sims

The first few months of the Trump administration have been a disaster for democracy. In many respects, it’s far worse than we could have ever imagined. Expected were the attacks on migrant labor and federal workers. So too with the attempts to dismantle the Department of Education, the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) — after all, Trump campaigned on these issues.

But the initial signs of shock that rippled through the body politic after the election and the virtual absence of public protest were a surprise; the labor and broad democratic movement seemed almost completely immobilized.

Startling too — though perhaps not as surprising — has been the capitulation of corporate law firms, universities, the bourgeois mass media, and big business, some because of DEI, others because they’re attempting to get off of Trump’s enemies list, and still others out of cowardly attempts to maintain the corporate bottom line.

Thus emboldened, the Trump administration, intent on enforcing its Project 2025 agenda, began to test the limits of the law by means of a studied ignoring of judicial orders.



It was more than a little heartening, therefore, when Women’s March organizers called for anti-MAGA protests on January 17. It was a brave thing to do, when most had fallen silent. Heeding the call was a sizable and militant assembly in D.C. of women’s groups, Palestine solidarity and peace activists, environmentalists, non-profits, the ACLU, local labor unions, and DSA and CPUSA activists in what will go down in history as the first public display of Resistance 2.0.

Protests have only grown in size and frequency since, most notably on President’s Day and on April 5. They, along with angry town halls in GOP districts and concurrent boycotts of Target, Amazon, and other corporations, have gone a long way in demonstrating that broad sections of the U.S. public are not taking the MAGA offensive lying down.

A leadership vacuum

Still, the initial leadership vacuum presented its own set of problems. Spontaneously organized on Reddit and other social platforms, the racial composition of those who've taken to the streets in protest so far reflects the composition and background of those using these platforms, that is, they were predominantly white.

People of color and their organizations were bypassed in the process, exacerbating feelings of betrayal by some already aggrieved Black, Latino, and Asian voices in the aftermath of Harris's defeat, thereby undermining the unity of the people's front. Yet no movement in defense of democracy in the U.S. has any hope for success absent the central participation of people of color — and African Americans, in particular.

Adding to these challenges, at the beginning of Trump's "reign," was the reserved posture of the labor movement, reserved at least until thousands of federal employees' jobs were axed by DOGE's savaging of government agencies. And then came the decertification of their unions on the grounds of "national security."

Reeling from these one-two-punches by the MAGA right, some unions are beginning to respond, joined by postal workers, teachers, and others. May Day marked a new level of labor participation with labor councils around the country joining the events, including a march in Detroit led by sheet metal workers demanding the return of their union brother, Kilmar Abrego Garcia.

Thus, notwithstanding problems and contradictions, some of them serious, the anti-MAGA coalition is finding its way to its feet, and squaring off against the MAGA power.

And not a day too soon, as fascists in the administration, responding to the initial stirrings of protest, attempt to strike fear in the heart of the resistance by means of intimidation and arrest of elected officials and judges, including Newark Mayor Ras Baraka, New Jersey's Rep. LaMonica McIver, and Wisconsin's Judge Hannah Dugan.

Most recently, an aide to N.Y.'s Rep. Jerry Nadler was arrested by Homeland Security after agents unlawfully entered the congressman's district constituency office during a protest.

On June 14, another national day of protest, "No Kings Day," will take place across the land as Trump hosts a military parade in D.C. in celebration of his own birthday. The road to "No Kings Day" is being paved by the fight to defeat MAGA's Medicaid-slashing "big beautiful budget bill," as well as the ongoing boycotts of Tesla, Target, and, importantly, the ongoing fight against the Gaza genocide. If current trends hold, it's sure to be a massive undertaking.

Organized labor can stop MAGA in its tracks

Going forward, fighting for the leadership of the working-class and trade union movement of the people's front is critical. At the end of the day, it's the organized section of the working class that has the strength and capacity to stop MAGA in its tracks.

Recognizing this, in a move that's struck a chord on the left, the UAW's Shawn Fain has called for a May Day general strike in 2028. It's an interesting proposal, but the question before Brother Fain and the entire labor movement is: At the rate things are going, will there be a labor movement with which to organize any kind of strike come 2028? And if there's even a hint of that eventuality, what can be done before then to address the growing crisis of governance that's sweeping the land?

Recognizing the need for action, Rev. Al Sharpton's National Action Network has called a national march on Wall Street in August. Will the AFL-CIO heed the call just before Labor Day? And what do its own Labor Day protests portend? What more before the midterms can be brought to bear to clear the way to a free and fair election whose results must be upheld?

Those are the stakes. They're ignored at the country's collective peril. The fascist danger is clear and present. It has advanced to our doorstep. It must be pushed back before it's too late.

Making fun of Bitcoin does not make its dangers go away

By Taryn Fivek

LAS VEGAS—It would be easy to make fun of Bitcoin 2025. There is the cheesiness of the Vegas trade show atmosphere, the sales talk, the fanboy vibes when certain speakers take the stage, the ubiquitous AI slop. It would be easy to make fun of the talks, some with the feeling of a tent revival: the zealots' faith in get-rich-quick, the baggy, ill-fitting suits that convey self-doubt, the shadow of a kid who was made fun of in high school.

But it would be too easy. And if it's one thing that we as a society should have learned over the past decade, it's that making fun of something doesn't make it go away. These computer nerds, these "societal rejects," these pointdexters; you may have laughed at them, but now they're filthy rich.

Four years ago, when the author first covered the Bitcoin conference in Miami, at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, the price of one Bitcoin was \$36,320. But when Vice President J.D. Vance took the stage in 2025, one Bitcoin was now worth \$107,633—nearly a 200% increase.

There is a smug satisfaction in buying early, since the bet has paid off. This is a crowd that believes that your intelligence is correlated with your net worth.

Yet, 95% of Bitcoin's 21 million coins have already been mined, and of that number, nearly all of it is held in just 4,000 wallets. Many of these super-endowed "whales"—those who have more than 1,000 Bitcoin (more than \$100 million in USD)—are already known entities: Tesla owns more than 11,000 Bitcoin.



Both the USA and China own nearly 200,000 each. Michael Saylor's MicroStrategy owns more than 580,000. More than 6,000 are owned by the country of El Salvador, where Trump has set up an abduction pipeline to concentration camps that dictatorial President Nayib Bukele has offered for rent.

Approximately 860,000 bitcoins are owned by the BlackRock and Fidelity Bitcoin ETFs, the two biggest. Although these are publicly traded funds which anyone can buy into, 20-25% are owned by institutional investors, including major financial firms like Goldman Sachs, and presumably, significant fractions are also held by extremely rich people who do not have to disclose their holdings.

Altogether, the 10 largest holders of Bitcoin hold around 4,000,000 Bitcoin, or more than 20% of the circulating supply. What's really being mined, then, is a new type of robber-baron wealth, held even further outside the regulatory structures of governments. The political system that hitches itself to this type of inequality boggles the mind; it certainly can't bode well for those who own none of it.

A serious sign is how even the sitting Vice President speaks of Bitcoin as a hedge against the U.S. dollar. Bitcoin economist Lyn Alden delivers a talk on how the end of the dollar is not just inevitable—it's welcome.

At the end of the day, Bitcoin 2025 is a conference full of self-styled MAGA patriots and libertarians who would like nothing more than to see the value of the dollar plummet, so long as it depletes their enemies and enriches themselves.

It would be great, comforting even, to just make fun of these guys—if only they weren't so good at making money and cozying up to the most terrifying avatars of neo-fascist power. Indeed, if it's one oil-slick vein that runs just under the surface of everything here, it's a barely concealed sense of resentment and a desire for revenge. This is fertile ground for an unholy union between MAGA and new, unregulated forms of Silicon Valley finance.

There seem to be two main brokers working towards cementing this alliance: [America250](#), a non-profit organization attached to Congress and the Trump presidency that sponsored the first day of the Bitcoin Conference. People's World approached communication agents contracted by a third party at the organization's booth, and was told that no one present could answer our inquiries.

The questions were simple: was money spent to sponsor Bitcoin2025, and was America250 present at other conferences in the same way? Further communication attempts with America250's spokespeople via email and phone were acknowledged but went unanswered. [Perhaps they were preparing](#) for the VVIP invitation-only event at nearby Resorts World Casino.

The second broker for this new partnership is a 41-year-old Ross Ulbricht. He closed the conference, as he did in 2021, but only this time, he was in person and not delivering his remarks via prison pay phone. The crowd was rapt.

He opened his remarks on stage to praise Donald Trump for freeing him on his first day in office, part of the President's deal with the Libertarian Party and the Bitcoin community to gain votes. He called him a "man of integrity."

Then, Ulbricht began to describe the primary lesson he learned in prison: that of unity. It is possible, he told the audience, to be both decentralized and unified. He spoke about his struggle for freedom and about the myriad groups that sought a pardon for him from Trump, but it would seem that he was also speaking about the need to build right-wing unity. He was speaking about how "true freedom is yet to be won" and urged a front against the enemy, who remains shadowy and unnamed.

His appearance on stage, despite having recently spent the previous 4,000 days in a federal jail cell, was relaxed and almost pastoral. He was more charismatic than the previous speakers of the past three days, including the Vice President, and certainly more authentic.

Since the first day of the conference, the bid price of Ulbricht's prison items has increased. By the end of his remarks on stage, one of his prison ID cards was auctioned off for 5.5 Bitcoin (nearly \$600,000). His items sold for a total of 12.31 Bitcoin, or more than \$1.3 million. Nothing to compensate for the 144,000 coins the U.S. Government seized in 2015 when he was arrested and Silk Road was shut down, but more than enough to start a new and far more comfortable life.

It would be easy to write him off just as the impulse has been for Bitcoin itself to be written off—just as so many laughed at Trump and the MAGA movement—but it would be ill-advised. Though his future plans remain unknown, he certainly acted as the ideological glue holding together the conference, helping to smooth over the presence of the larger interests like TradFi (traditional finance such as BlackRock and Fidelity) and Big Oil as if to say, "see—they work for us now."

Lawful Filipino resident of U.S. kidnapped and imprisoned by ICE

By Mark Gruenberg

Maximo Londonio, a 42-year-old Filipino and permanent U.S. resident, was returning home from holidays in the Philippines with his wife and child when he was kidnapped by ICE at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport and then imprisoned at a detention center.

And that brought more than 100 International Association of Machinists members, union President Brian Bryant, and other unionists out in force for a mass rally on June 10 in front of ICE's Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma, Wash., where Londonio has been jailed for almost a month.

The IAM member was born in the Philippines and came here as a child. He is not undocumented and holds a green card. He's not a migrant or a single man trying to cross the U.S.-Mexico border, but a husband and a father of three. He was returning May 16 from visiting family in the Philippines when he was grabbed.

Londonio joins thousands of documented immigrant residents of the U.S. picked up in the Trump administration's terror campaign against the people of the United States. Many have already been put on planes and deported with no legal assistance allowed. Tacoma's Northwest Detention Center is widely viewed as a living hell.

The sheer injustice of it all drove the crowd to a mass demonstration outside the center gates on June 10, where they heard from Londonio's wife, Crystal, plus Bryant and other speakers demanding his release, according to both IAM and *The Stand*, the Washington State Labor Council's news site.

"I want Maximo and his family to know that his union fully supports him," said Bryant. "We will be here for whatever it takes for as long as it takes. We want Max free now!"



Belongs at home

"Maximo belongs at home with his family," said Machinists Western Territory Vice President Bobby Martinez. "We are asking everyone to stand with our brother and help bring him home."

The fight to liberate Londonio is two-pronged, the union said in a statement. One is to free him. The other is "to speak out against politically motivated immigration enforcement" and to "continue fighting for the rights and dignity of all workers."

Washington State Labor Council President April Sims painted a dire picture of conditions inside. Londonio and other captives arrive in unmarked white buses with blacked-out windows, so they can't see where they're going—and people can't see them inside.

Sims told the crowd of more than 100 people that the council has for years backed a campaign by a Latino group, *La Resistencia*, to shut the for-profit jail down.

A *La Resistencia* fact sheet reveals the center has some social services for people, like Londonio, who are “caged” there, but the quantity and quality of food is lacking. Inmates are three times less likely to obtain lawyers to argue their deportation cases. Of those who get lawyers, 80% win their cases.

“ICE has claimed the NWDC is a model facility, with good access to medical care and legal services. Still, people at the NWDC have died, people constantly go on hunger strike to protest their conditions, and GEO Group will not allow the Washington Department of Ecology to test water and soil samples for environmental health,” the fact sheet adds.

“If this is a model facility, what must other detention facilities be like?” To top it all off, the center sits on an earthquake subduction zone and is “built on a Superfund site remediated to industrial levels.

In other words, this is not a place where people are supposed to live.”

Though the fact sheet does not say so, the GEO Group, which runs the center for ICE and jails people there, is one of the U.S.’s two largest private prison firms, and its owners saw their stock price—and their profits—sharply rise when Trump took power and turned ICE loose.

“For years, we have seen immigration policies weaponized to break worker solidarity and sow fear among workers who stand up for ourselves,” said Sims.

“Now, the federal administration is leading a campaign of terror, targeting immigrant communities. They want us to believe immigrants are threats to our safety. But that is a lie. Immigrants are our loved ones, they are our coworkers, and they are our neighbors. Maximo Londonio is our brother.”

NewsGuild condemns attacks on reporters covering ICE protests

By Brandon Chew

LOS ANGELES—The NewsGuild-CWA is calling for investigations into officers they say have illegally targeted journalists with “less-lethal rounds and tear gas” amid ongoing protests in Los Angeles against federal immigration raids.

The labor union, which represents 28,000 journalists and other workers, said Los Angeles police officers “have fired on local, national and foreign reporters” in what they say is a violation of California state law and the First Amendment.

There have been at least 35 attacks against journalists covering the Los Angeles protests since June 6, [according to](#) Reporters Without Borders.

On Sunday, an LAPD officer [shot](#) Australian reporter Lauren Tomassi in the leg with a rubber bullet while she was recording a live shot. In a separate incident, CNN reporter Jason Carroll and his crew were escorted away from protests and [briefly detained](#) by LAPD officers while live on air. In [a video](#) of the incident, an officer is heard telling Carroll that he will be arrested if he returns to the area.

“The First Amendment protects the right to photograph and record matters of public interest, including the right to record law enforcement officers engaged in the exercise of their official duties in public spaces,” said Jon Schleuss, the president of The NewsGuild-CWA, in a statement Wednesday. “Journalists reporting on events and not interfering with federal operations cannot be subject to general dispersal orders, and they cannot be unreasonably searched or have their equipment seized.”

“The NewsGuild-CWA strongly condemns the targeting of journalists by multiple law enforcement agencies,” Schleuss said. “We demand that every law enforcement agency take steps to ensure the safety of all journalists and open investigations into any officer violating the rights of journalists doing their jobs.”

The First Amendment Coalition, the Freedom of the Press Foundation, and the Los Angeles Press Club are among the 27 press and civil society organizations that have expressed concern over the treatment of journalists covering the anti-ICE protests.

In [a letter](#) sent to Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem, the organizations said “federal officers may have violated the First Amendment rights of journalists covering recent protests” in Los Angeles.

The organizations went on to demand that Noem “immediately ensure” that federal law enforcement officers “refrain from any unlawful, indiscriminate, and excessive use of force against members of the press.”

The recent L.A. protests were sparked after ICE agents, many masked and not identifying themselves, seized several immigrant workers on Friday. Among those arrested was David Huerta, a union organizer and the president of SEIU California, who was accused of obstructing the work of federal agents while demonstrating against the raids.

In response to the protests, President Trump has ordered the deployment of thousands of National Guard soldiers and hundreds of U.S. Marines to Los Angeles. It’s a move that has sparked massive anti-ICE protests in cities across the U.S., including tens of thousands of [protestors in Chicago](#).

Other journalists who’ve been attacked include Lauren Day, a correspondent with the Australian Broadcast Corporation, who was [sprayed with tear gas](#); Joe Putnam, a photojournalist with The Telegraph who was [struck in the head](#) by a police pepper ball; and documentary filmmaker [Ford Fischer](#) and New York Post journalist [Toby Canham](#) were both shot with rubber bullets.

“Journalists play a crucial role in holding power to account, particularly during times of crisis and protest,” Schleuss said. “When law enforcement targets reporters, it’s not just an attack on individuals; it’s an attack on every American’s right to a free press. The U.S. government must defend that freedom, not undermine it. Journalism is not a crime.”

Ask Congress: Which side are you on?

By People’s World

MAGA’s people-hurting billionaire budget has been passed by the House of Representatives and is now before the Senate. [Here’s what’s in it](#).

Call and write or visit your U.S. Senators and demand they stand on the side of working families against the MAGA billionaire budget that gives the ultra-wealthy and corporations a massive [\\$70 billion](#) tax break by defunding critical programs in the same amount.

More than [16 million](#) people would lose health coverage, causing more than [51,000 deaths](#) each year and a loss of [850,000](#) jobs. Nearly [11 million](#) would lose nutrition assistance, including more than 3 million children whose lives would be endangered.

[Four out of five](#) people in the U.S. support raising taxes on the wealthy and big corporations. A [majority](#) of voters oppose this bill.

Call 202-225-3121 today to ask your Senators: Which side are you on?

Then, fill in your info to send a short letter to your elected officials. And please share with your coworkers, friends, family, and neighbors.

Japanese Communist lawmaker slams Israel's Gaza aid blockade, demands Tokyo take action

By Shimbun Akahata

TOKYO—Japanese Communist Party lawmaker Kami Tomoko is demanding that the Japanese government take concrete action to pressure Israel to end its blockade of humanitarian supplies into Gaza.

Instead of working to cut an economic deal with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, the country should instead be imposing sanctions on Israel and upping its own supply of aid to Palestinians, Kami says.

She blasted the government on May 23 at a House of Councillors special committee meeting in the Diet, Japan's parliament.

The Israeli military on May 16 expanded its military operations in Gaza, killing more than 600 Palestinians. Three days later, Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu issued a statement in which he expressed his intention to "control all of the Gaza Strip."

In reaction, the U.K., France, and Canada on May 19 released a joint statement in which they claimed that Israel's denial of essential humanitarian assistance to civilians in Gaza "risks breaching International Humanitarian Law," adding that they will "not hesitate to take further action, including targeted sanctions," against Israel.

Since then, Israeli military forces have repeatedly fired on and killed Palestinians seeking to access aid at stations run by U.S. corporate contractors—a tactic many are calling "death traps."

Kami said that while even more must be done to stop the killing in Gaza and end the aid blockade, at minimum Japan should follow the three countries threatening sanctions.

The Communist Party parliamentarian also urged the government to take concrete measures, including the suspension of negotiations on a Japan-Israel Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) and calls on Tokyo's U.S. ally to terminate its military support to Israel.

Japanese Foreign Minister Iwata Takeshi in reply said that it is "regrettable" that civilian casualties in Gaza have reached a high number, but he gave no response to Kami's demands.

Kami pointed out that Gaza's humanitarian crisis continues to worsen, and stressed that the government should also be providing direct humanitarian assistance far beyond what has so far been offered through Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA) department.

Convocan en Panamá a paro generalizado contra ley del Seguro Social

By Prensa Latina

La medida de presión también demanda la liberación de dirigentes de las organizaciones, apresados por participar en las manifestaciones y en rechazo a la represión policial.

De acuerdo con la proclama, la invitación a la población es a unirse a la protesta desde el lugar en que se encuentren para alzar su voz contra la norma que estiman perjudicial a los trabajadores y sus familias, pues privatiza la CSS y ofrece pensiones de miseria.

También rechazan la firma de un memorando de entendimiento entre el Gobierno y Estados Unidos que permite el establecimiento de bases militares y la intención del Ejecutivo de reabrir la mina de cobre de Donoso (Colón), pes a un fallo del la Corte Suprema de Justicia (CSJ) de 2023 que ordenó su cierre.

Como parte de las acciones, la alianza Pueblo Unido por la Vida organiza otra marcha popular mañana viernes que recorrerá las principales arterias de la capital istmeña hasta la Asamblea Nacional (parlamento) para presentar sus reclamos.

Por su parte, trabajadores de la industria de la construcción, protagonizaron una vigilia la víspera ante las instalaciones del Supremo en espera de la segunda audiencia del líder histórico de ese colectivo, Genaro López, quien junto a Jaime Caballero, otro de sus dirigentes, permanecen presos en el centro La Nueva Joya, acusados de blanqueo de capitales en procesos amañados, según denuncias.

Además, expresaron respaldo con el secretario general de esa organización Saúl Méndez, quien desde el 21 de mayo se encuentra refugiado en la embajada de Bolivia, donde recibió protección temporal, debido a amenazas para su vida.

Los colectivos, reciben mensajes de solidaridad desde diversas agrupaciones de Europa y Asia que llaman al Gobierno a cesar la represión policial y judicial.

También mujeres indígenas se congregaron ante la CSJ para alzar su voz en rechazo a las agresiones que han sufrido sus comunidades originarias.

De otra parte, el Ministerio Público presentó cargos contra el secretario general del Sindicato de Trabajadores de la Industria del Banano y Empresas Afines (Sitraibana), Francisco Smith, quien encabeza los bloqueos en la noroccidental provincia de Bocas del Toro.

En la denuncia impugnan a Smith que sus acciones afectaron la educación, la economía y el libre tránsito.

La medida surge en medio de un estancamiento en las negociaciones entre los bananeros y la comisión del Gobierno, encabezada por los ministros de la Presidencia, Trabajo, Seguridad y Comercio e Industrias.

El Ejecutivo, liderado por el presidente José Raúl Mulino, ha manifestado disposición para discutir una norma que beneficia a los productores de plátano, pero ha sido enfático en que no habrá diálogo si no despejan las vías.

Mientras el Contralor de la República, Anel Flores, aseveró por su parte, que la huelga que lideran desde finales de abril pasado los gremios docentes del sector público es ilegal al tiempo que anunció la suspensión del salario a 15 mil profesores.

Además opinó que es hora de dar la oportunidad a 17 mil maestros que esperan por ingresar a la nómina pública educativa.

En conferencia de prensa, Flores aclaró que la decisión de renovar la plantilla docente es del Ministerio de Educación — que tiene una nómina de 51 mil 600 docentes según datos oficiales — y reiteró su exhorto a los maestros que hagan un alto en el camino y regresen a las aulas.

El funcionario señaló que 38 dirigentes sindicales sí recibirían sus salarios porque aparecen en los registros asistiendo a clases aunque en realidad estaban en las calles, lo que desmintieron algunos líderes del gremio como Diógenes Sánchez quien insistió que están ejerciendo el derecho constitucional a huelga.

Diversos sectores académicos, parlamentarios y también la Iglesia insisten en la vía del diálogo para solucionar la actual crisis social, a lo que se niega el Gobierno.

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