



Des Moines Mutual Aid Monthly

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Remembering Malcolm X 60 Years Later

Comrade Betsy

"It is a time for martyrs now, and if I am to be one, it will be for the cause of brotherhood. That's the only thing that can save this country."
- Malcolm X, February 19, 1965 (two days before his assassination)

February 21st, 2025 marks the 60th anniversary of Malcolm X's assassination. We honor his legacy as a revolutionary who advanced the struggle for Black liberation and socialism. Malcolm's critique of capitalist exploitation, imperialism, and racial oppression was sharpened through his internationalist outlook, recognizing the struggle of the African diaspora as inherently linked to the global fight against imperialism.

Malcolm X understood the interconnection between race, class, and empire. His analysis of U.S. imperialism and his solidarity with oppressed peoples worldwide, from Cuba to Algeria, showed that Black liberation cannot be fully realized without challenging the capitalist system that perpetuates exploitation and inequality. He understood that the fight for racial justice was inseparable from the fight for workers' power and the destruction of imperial dominance.

Looking back on his legacy, we reaffirm that Malcolm X's vision was not just of a liberated Black community but a liberated world - one where capitalism, colonialism, and imperialism are dismantled. His commitment to internationalism, self-determination, and revolution continues to inspire us as we work toward building a socialist future, grounded in the principles of solidarity, unity, and liberation for all oppressed peoples.



Cheers to the Rogue Prince ¶ A Second Trump Presidency

Trump pardons his supporters
Jenots

As was already observed after the 2016 election, Trump is like Air Bud, who, despite the norms that prohibit a dog's participation in a basketball game, nevertheless continues to dunk on his opponents. While the opposing team express their impotent outrage, the rest of the audience is laughing in delight - not at Air Bud, and not at Trump, but at the losers who can't put up any opposition that actually matters.

There is nothing funny about the assault on the oppressed and exploited that Trump's regime will enact (much of it is merely a continuation of the Democratic administration's cruelty, purposely elevated to compete with that of Republicans). But we have to try to understand the delight many take in the humiliation of the Democratic party, which spent the last presidency breaking strikes, expanding the surveillance state, outflanking the Republicans from the right on immigration, and murdering children abroad. It is tragic that Trump won. But it is simply delightful that they lost.

Within hours of taking office, Trump pardoned 1500 of his most loyal subjects. Though his motives are cynical, the Democratic party would not do the same for anyone. The Democrats are a party of decorum over values, official process over decency, the state over human life. Our 'lumpen-bourgeois' ruler won out because he sees the state as an instrument to his own ends. We should admire that.

Neither party can administer a state in decline, but I can respect the one that will exploit that situation. Humanity's future lies outside of that state completely. The best time to turn your back to it is now.

"Ain't no use daddy" - Nina
"Makes me wanna holler" - Marvin
Subcomandante Ronnie

No, we are not going to talk about that shit. It is a distraction from any work organizing towards not needing presidents. Let us know when he is dead.

Instead, on the same day as that fucking inauguration, and of much greater importance: there is an active ceasefire in Gaza with hostages currently being exchanged and Leonard Peltier is going home.

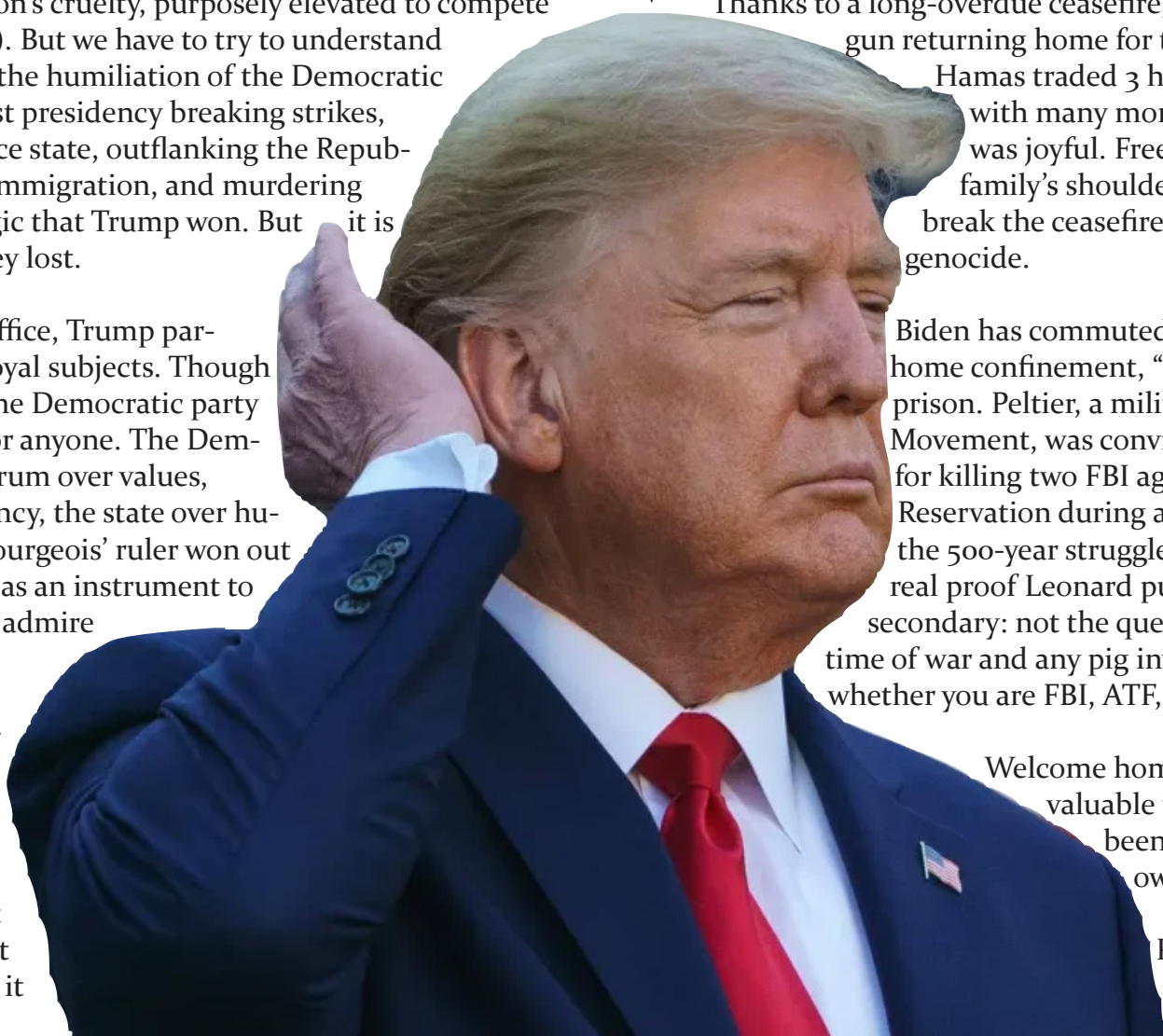
Thanks to a long-overdue ceasefire, thousands of Palestinians have begun returning home for the first time since the war began.

Hamas traded 3 hostages for 90 Palestinian hostages, with many more exchanges to come. The exchange was joyful. Freed Palestinians were carried on their family's shoulders. Netanyahu indicated he will break the ceasefire soon and continue the US-backed genocide.

Biden has commuted Leonard Peltier's sentence to home confinement, "freeing" him after five decades in prison. Peltier, a militant with the American Indian Movement, was convicted in a unbelievably corrupt trial for killing two FBI agents who invaded the Pine Ridge Reservation during a time of heightened intensity in the 500-year struggle against colonialism. There is no real proof Leonard pulled the trigger, but that fact is secondary: not the question to worry about. This was (is) a time of war and any pig invading sovereign territory is at risk, whether you are FBI, ATF, DMPD, or IDF.

Welcome home Leonard, we hope you get some valuable time with your family. We have all been waiting for you. Biden, we don't owe you shit for this.

Please read Black Rose/Rosa Negras' excellent Conjunctural Analysis 2025 at blackrosefed.org



Cold Shelter LIES

Celebrating unusable “aid” a propaganda tactic Comrade Jordan

In January, Polk County announced that it is providing River Place as an overnight cold shelter. It has not yet been opened as of 1/25/25, several days after four consecutive nights of -30F wind chill, and it will not open unless the CISS shelter downtown hits max capacity. Why is the CISS shelter not at maximum capacity? Because of the many cruel restrictions on who is allowed to use the shelters, when, and for how long. Because people in shelters are subject to the whims of the state including DEA and ICE. These restrictions are intentional and are constructed to make it difficult to use the meager assistance.

This is especially disgusting in the context of efforts by the City of Des Moines to criminalize homelessness and increase camp sweeps.

Even if the county is forced to follow through and open River Place, the reality of this new “shelter” is grim. It would only be open at night (if it opens at all), yet there are no beds or places to rest. The space will be occupied by Polk County pigs who will kick out everyone each morning – earlier if a person dares to struggle with a drug or mental health issue. As we have seen in the last week, in no way are dangerous temperatures limited to a time of day.

When local officials make announcements like this, they try to absolve themselves of the responsibility of letting people freeze to death. They obfuscate the problems of our neighbors while spending the resources of our community for capitalist interests. This does not absolve them of responsibility, and the day will come when the people will suitably punish them for their crimes.



This flyer is a production of DSM Mutual Aid, a local network of anarchists and communists building community autonomy from capitalism and the state. Below are our points of unity - the political and social outlook which binds us together.

o. We believe in working shoulder to shoulder and standing in solidarity with all oppressed communities. We ourselves are oppressed, and our mutual aid work is a fight for our collective liberation. We do not believe in a top-down model of charity. Instead, we contrast our efforts at horizontal mutual aid, the fostering of mutually beneficial relationships and communities, to dehumanizing and colonizing charity.

1. We believe in community autonomy. We believe that the communities we live and organize in have been largely excluded from state social services, but intensely surveilled and policed by the state repressive apparatus. Capitalism is fundamentally unable to meet people’s needs. We want to build self-sustaining communities that are independent of the capitalist state, both materially and ideologically, and can resist its repression.

2. We are police and prison abolitionists. Abolition and the mutual aid that we practice are inextricably linked. We don’t rely on capitalist institutions or the police to do our work. We believe in building strong and resilient communities which make police obsolete, including community systems of accountability and crisis intervention.

3. We work to raise the political consciousness of our communities. Part of political education is connecting people’s lived experiences to a broader political perspective. Another component is working to ensure that people can meet their basic needs. It is difficult to organize for future liberation when someone is entrenched in day-to-day struggle.

4. We have open disagreements with each other about ideas and practices. We believe there is no formula for resolving our ideological differences other than working towards our common aims, engaging with each other in a comradely manner, and respecting one another, whether or not we can hash out disagreements in the process.

For more info, visit <https://iowamutualaid.org/>

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Trump - Gaza - pardon - Palestine - shelter - bin Laden - Cyclone - Carter - Soviet - African - Malcolm X - propane - freezing - ceasefire - Peltier - Mujahadeen

Jimmy Carter: One of the Good Ones?

“If the Nuremberg laws were applied, then every post-war American president would have been hanged.”
-Noam Chomsky

Crixus

Jimmy Carter has been celebrated for many years even among those supposedly critical of empire as the one president worth celebrating. It’s fair to claim that he was the least violent president, certainly post WWII. It is instructive to dive into the gore drenched terrain left by the most peaceful president.

Carter gave critical initial aid in support of a genocide in Guatemala which reached its crescendo under Reagan. Carter publicly condemned the regime while covertly sending it military aid through Israel. The genocide killed 162,000 people from 1981-83. He also initiated the CIA program in Afghanistan whose goal was to bait a Soviet invasion by funding the mujahideen. This was the seed of modern jihadist movements who provide a crucial partner in US attempts to dismantle uncooperative governments in the middle east.

Further highlighting the bi-partisan nature of American blood-letting, Nixon greenlit an Indonesian invasion of East Timor in 1975, to prevent an independent left-wing government from forming in an oil-rich area. The Carter administration, representing the same interests as the Nixon government, felt similarly threatened. He supplied 90% of Indonesian weaponry. The US backed invasion ultimately resulted in the deaths of over 200,000 people, or about of East Timor’s total population.

No American should find his humanitarian record sufficient to overcome these acts. More important than condemning the temporary butcher-in-chief of the bloodiest nation in human history, we should be vocal about how mundane his vile achievements are relative to other presidents. The “most praiseworthy” president being responsible for the deaths of so many should fuel our desire to dump the office in the dust-bin of history.

10 / INTERNATIONAL

 THE INDEPENDENT

The Saudi businessman who recruited mujahedin now uses them for large-scale t

Anti-Soviet warrior puts his army on the road to peace



- In loving memory of Comrades KT and Gary -