

NO ELECTION WILL DEFEND OUR HOMES- IT'S UP TO US TO ORGANIZE AND FIGHT!



With an election approaching in just over a month, politicians and advocacy groups across the country are doubling down on their electoral rhetoric. Many lament the low voter turnout rates in the United States – with roughly half of those eligible choosing not to vote – and blame the failures of the US government on those who do not vote. However, there is a reason that working class people vote much less – and it is because many understand that no politicians truly serve the working class. As an organization committed to defending working-class communities, we know that no politician in this system will change the fundamental cause of evictions, gentrification, and poor housing conditions: the system of private property.

Despite the fallacies pushed by well off election peddlers, the working class recognizes the futility of voting and operating within the electoral system. We understand that even the “progressive” candidates do not serve our class interests. With the failed runs of Bernie Sanders and the so-called “race to the middle” which in reality is a race to the right, now more than ever people are becoming disillusioned to elections. This is because time and time again, we see that even the “progressives” do not serve us!

When it comes to the housing struggle, we see that politicians only serve the interests of the ruling class. They will speak about community re-investment and self-sufficiency, but ultimately they always side with the landlords and developers, because gentrification is a process that serves the ruling class. Many of the presidential hopefuls for the democratic party, who were seen as much more progressive than the nominee, are notoriously pro-gentrification. Progressive politicians may seem better on the surface, with kind smiles and big promises. But their fanfare is short-lived, they have the same bottom line as any other politicians – their career and how deep their pockets can get because of it.

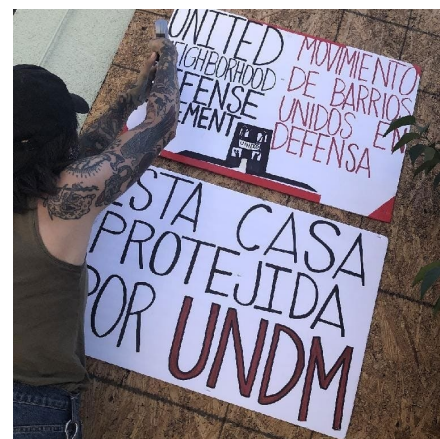
Robert “Beto” O’Rourke had a large wave of democratic support for his senate campaign against Ted Cruz that this encouraged him to even have a short-lived run for the presidency. But before both his more mainstream campaigns Robert O’Rourke ruthlessly spearheaded the gentrification in his hometown of El Paso during his time as a councilman, labeling it as “urban renewal”. Pushing gentrification in Segundo Barrio to the point that residents confronted him for this. Clearly pushing the interest of his developer father in law, William Sanders, who is leading the gentrification of the historic neighborhood Duranguito and publishing racist studies for ‘De-Mexicanizing’ El Paso’s downtown. On the surface, O’Rourke cared enough to cash in on the support of wealthy democrats but was clear in his actions what class he served, the ruling class.

Under the new economic depression, judges across the country, conservative and progressive alike, are still ruling in favor of landlords who are seeking to evict tenants. Democratic and republican mayors and governors are both calling in the national guard and police against those protesting police violence, rather than actually going after the police. No matter who is elected, the people will still face displacement, eviction, police violence, and gentrification. There is no “lesser evil” under imperialism!

We must understand that direct action – by organizing and mobilizing our neighbors – this is the only way we will improve our conditions. Working with the federal, state, and local governments is not the way to achieve our demands or defend our homes. Rather than wasting time in meaningless election cycles, we can take it to their doors! By defending our neighborhoods, by building working-class neighborhoods that are able to provide for their own needs, this is how we make changes in our world. Through organization, we can fight back against the police, the politicians, and the landlords. When our landlord neglects our homes or tries to evict us, we refuse to pay and fight to stay, and this is how we make wins. When united, the working class cannot be pushed out so easily!

UNDM calls on all supporters to organize their neighborhoods to defend against evictions, fight back against gentrification, and defend the people’s culture!

Cast off electoralism and instead fight for a world that is rightfully ours!



READ THE FULL ARTICLE AT
UNDM.ORG

Turn and check out the work from our chapters nationwide!



Pittsburgh Heiress Throws a Fit Over Organized Tenants!

Tenants of Regent Square Rentals have been facing slum conditions and repression from their gentrifier landlord, CP Development. In the wake of the economic crisis, tenants and activists began organizing a rent strike and combative actions outside of the rental office. As a part of the UNDM's August campaign against landlord repression, UNDM Pittsburgh led an anti-landlord action at the home of Kelsey Patterson, the unhinged heiress of CP Development

This led to a temper tantrum from Kelsey Patterson, who called the UNDM Pittsburgh hotline 10 times, leaving multiple voicemails. She spent the entire day tracking down an activist's name, family members, and address, and showed up at the activists' home late that night. She screamed and banged on the door and threatened violence and legal action if the organizing efforts against CP and the protests didn't stop immediately. She put up flyers across the neighborhood, exposing the activist and the UNDM and signing her name on them.

No landlord or their heiress, Kelsey Patterson included, can stop an organized working class neighborhood. Her fear tactics, stalking, and intimidation will not stop her tenants from organizing against her - instead, they show us how threatened by us she is, and that if we fight we will win! Organize your neighborhood and fellow tenants to fight back against landlord repression and harassment!

Austin Landlord Lies to Evict Organized Tenant, Tenant Stays After Fighting Back!

Earlier this month the slumlords at the Quad West Apartments targeted and had the police arrest a tenant organizer for calling for better living conditions and propagating the citywide rent strike to her neighbors. After this arrest, management sent the tenant an eviction notice claiming that she was violent and making threats towards management. All lies to criminalize and politically repress this young Chicana tenant.

Rather than self-evicting like many tenants are compelled to do after receiving the notice, she decided to fight back and stay in her home no matter what lies management tried to stick on her. She organized and rallied her neighbors around this political repression and gained their support- preparing with the community to defend against her eviction. When the court date came, management's accusations were so bogus they couldn't even hold up to the judge- who overwhelmingly side with landlords and are actively evicting people during this crisis.

This is a victory, not because the ruling class courts granted it to us, but because we chose to stay and fight back despite their attempts to harass and intimidate us out!



Pittsburgh Reverend Confronted for Slum Housing Conditions!

Rev. John Cook of the Allegheny Union Baptist Association (AUBA) was confronted by a large group of tenants at the senior facility owned by AUBA. Tenants demanded accessibility and security, which had been repeatedly ignored by Rev. Cook in the past.

The residents together with the UNDM set up a meeting with Rev. Cook to make him hear their demands; the Rev. agreed to the ultimatum presented by the residents and the UNDM to respond with plans to address tenants' demands within one week. Already, more than one of the demands of the residents for change has been met, but the struggle is only beginning.

We don't have to face our problems alone, organized together we can confront them and win!



CONTACT US TO GET INVOLVED!

EMAIL US AT UNDM@PROTONMAIL.COM

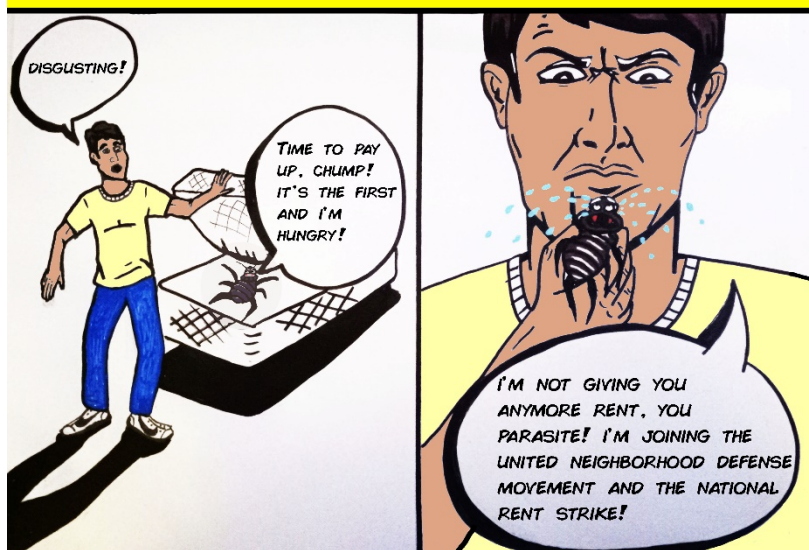
CHECK OUR WEBSITE UNDM.ORG

AND FIND US ON



NO RENT WITHOUT WORK OR WAGES!

AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MONTH THE LANDLORD WILL APPEAR... ASKING FOR THE RENT, LIKE A FAT BLOOD-SUCKING BEDBUG WAITING FOR YOU TO GO TO SLEEP... BUT HAVE NO FEAR, THE UNITED NEIGHBORHOOD DEFENSE MOVEMENT IS HERE!



Comic submission from organizer in Los Angeles