



ANTI-IMPERIALIST CONTINGENT RAISES INTERNATIONALIST UNITY AT THE LABOR DAY RALLY FOR IMMIGRANTS

San Francisco- On September 3, Labor Day, BAYAN-USA and the International League of People's Struggle joined with Asian Pacific Islanders Against War (APICAW), Deporten a la Migra, and the May 1st Alliance in a 400 person contingent in the Labor Day March & Rally for Immigrants. The contingent marched in formation with immigrant workers and women in the front such as the San Francisco Day Laborers and Mujeres Unidas, and babae (Filipino Woman), followed by community based organizations such as the Chinese Progressive Association, Filipino Community Center, School of Unity & Liberation, Liwanag Cultural Center, and POWER (People Organized to Win Employment Rights). Malcolm X Grassroots Movement, Collision Course, Viet Unity, and youth and students groups such as LFS and the Asian Student Union of SFState, and the City College SF Coalition followed with flags and banners that read: "Son & Daughters of Immigrants" and "Keep Families Together".

The energetic contingent had its own sound truck carrying the colorful flags of the organizations, where local hip hop MC Kiwi lead the multi-lingual chants and DJ Patrick accompanied the crowd with drum machine. The lively group chanted: *"The people united will never be defeated / el pueblo unido, hamas sera vencido / Ang tao, ang bayan, ngayon ay lumalaban!"* The contingent which was mostly clad in red, was a animated and distinguishable force leading the 5000 person march from the Embarcadero to the Civic Center.





“We are from Asia, Africa, Latin America, the Middle East and we would not be here today if the U.S. had not waged war on our people and stolen our natural resources, if our homelands have not been devastated by imperialist wars of aggression, and impoverished by imperialist economic plunder. The U.S. pushes imperialist globalization BUT criminalizes our globalized workforce. They want ‘free trade’ insisting on the freedom of global capital to penetrate our homeland economies but oppose people’s freedom to find work and migrate. They want the freedom to set up their factories wherever they can find the cheapest labor, and the freedom to privatize our public resources and repatriate their profits, yet they deny us the freedom to find a decent livelihood, the right to reunify with our families, and they deny our contribution to this economy and our equal place in this society” said Rachel Redondiez, Secretary-General of BAYAN USA.



The “Anti-Imperialist” contingent brought together day laborers, Chinese seniors, Filipino youth, unemployed workers, and college students who were united in exposing the U.S. imperialist agenda behind the immigrant attacks, and demanding a just, humane, and comprehensive immigration reform package that includes: family reunification, full legalization, respect for workers rights, while denouncing deportation and criminalization of immigrants, temporary guest worker programs, and militarization of the border. And the contingent also proclaimed its solidarity with all migrants and displaced people, including those in San Francisco’s large Hunters Point black community who are fighting “urban removal.” We won’t be divided!



Representing immigrants from all corners of the world, anti-war groups, and working class people's organizations in the U.S., the contingent brought together the alliance of forces critical in building a grassroots and broad based movement for comprehensive immigration policy reform with a clear anti-imperialist analysis and unity.

The contingent also expressed solidarity with the hotel workers of UNITE HERE Local 2, stopping at major hotels on Market Street chanting and "Boycott the Grand Hyatt, Boycott the Palace, and Boycott the Four Seasons."

"On this Labor Day we stand in solidarity with all exploited and oppressed people throughout the world and in particular with our brothers and sisters in all immigrant communities in the US. As we celebrate the contributions of all who labor in the U.S., we defy and challenge imperialism's racist and xenophobic anti-immigrant agenda. It was through the labor of immigrants that this country was built, and the struggle of immigrants is emerging as a powerful force inspiring all who hate oppression," says Doug Norberg, International Coordinating Committee member of the ILPS.





The strong and spirited march ended on a high note as the contingent poured into San Francisco Civic Center in a chorus of chants, with the river of red breaking out into a “Toi-toi” - a traditional jumping/chanting circle from the South African anti-apartheid struggle.



Long Live International Solidarity!