

ALL OUT AGAINST THE KKK Dayton, Ohio May 25th **FIGHT RACISM – FIGHT BACK**



Black, Native American and white residents oppose Klan in Indiana

Join with anti-racists from Dayton and the region in opposing the Ku Klux Klan, neo-Nazis and white supremacists!

-Organizing to confront the Klan! Black Lives Matter Miami Valley and others in the Dayton area have put out a call to organize and build a vocal, active opposition to the Klan. Support this call and mobilize!

-Work towards a regional network against racism, fascism and white supremacy! Southern Ohio, Indiana and the greater Midwest have a long history of racist, white supremacist and Klan terror. We must organize to confront these reactionary racist movements. Only ourselves, organized across communities and at the grass-roots, can build the kinds of anti-racist movements we need.

-Build community and working class self defense against these attacks! Racist, Islamophobic, anti-Semitic, antiimmigrant, misogynistic and anti-LGBTQI attacks have been on the rise. These as well as attacks by government, police, politicians and corporate powers on the working classes and poor have led to crisis and the downward spiral for many of our communities. We need collective, working class based movements organized to fight for a radical alternative of solidarity, justice, and dignity.

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**Saturday, May 25, 2019
at 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
EDT Old Courthouse N.
Main St. Dayton, Ohio
45402**

**Build Resistance or Accept Apocalypse.
Organize Community Self Defense.**

Sarah, Steve, Duncan Lansing S&D

Nearly every day, we wake and are confronted by a new nightmare becoming reality. Refugee children die from neglect in America's immigrant concentration camps as police murder unarmed people in the street and the ecosystem collapses on a scale that once could be called unimaginable. Right wing politicians restrict abortion access to reassert patriarchal control, while trans people are attacked and murdered just for who they are. Reality is overwhelming for anyone who is paying attention. Politicians continue to be at the forefront of creating this nightmare or offering only the weakest, most unimaginative solutions. We must face the facts that no one is coming to save us.



We should recognize that the forces creating this horror are the people that make decisions over our lives, and often it isn't that many people. Such a small amount of people control the vast majority of the world's wealth, and have a large responsibility for the wreck we are in. A lot of that wealth is used to make our situations seem natural. But the reality is that life could be very different. We see glimpses of this every time people throw milkshakes on bigot politicians trying to sow division. We see the seeds of this alternative when hundreds of people rush to block the expressways in a rage when the police kill another unarmed Black young person. We see this when people from all over Michigan gather and chase Nazis attempting to rally out of East Lansing, Michigan. We see this when neighbors in Detroit organize to stop another eviction. We see this in Grand Rapids when community members organize to shut down city council meetings in response to racist immigration policies. We cheer as friends and strangers find new ways to resist what has begun to feel inevitable.

Solidarity and Defense members have been working to grow something from the seeds of this resistance. Since 2016 Solidarity & Defense has been organizing and fighting to build a network of community self-defense around the Midwest. For example, many S&D members have been working with others on a campaign to defeat any attempts to build a new immigrant detention/concentration camp in Michigan by various private corporations. This involved community organizing in Ionia, Michigan that helped create the pressure to cancel the project. No Detention Centers Michigan (NDCM) is currently embarking on a campaign to stop new plans to open a new

concentration camp in Baldwin, Michigan. This current fight is all too familiar. A private company known as GEO has targeted a small town that the capitalism has failed, and where they expect the locals to allow them to come in without a fight. They come in with their promises of jobs and tax benefits, that to many would make life... (cont.)

Dayton, Ohio Against the Klan B.D. Detroit Solidarity and Defense

A Klan group from Indiana comes to Dayton and claims it's invited. The group puts up a Trump banner next to its call for this racist, white nationalist event. The Klan calls for attacks on Black people and the Black community; it always has. Real attacks, real murders and lynchings and bombings and fires. Black people are subject to specific attacks by the Klan or the cops or the courts or this system because they are Black people. The rulers of this country don't want to admit that the rules of white supremacy, the system of violence against people who are not white, comes from the top down and is an integral part of this system. This system of violence and bigotry and brutality comes right down to the Klan and the fascists and the cops.

Black Lives Matter Miami Valley, with other organizations, has called for all who oppose the Klan to come out on May 25th. We agree. All workers and all who oppose the Klan should be out against the Klan in Dayton, and we should be uniting our forces to oppose the Klan and the racists and the bigots wherever they appear. Wherever communities are under attack or threat, we should be uniting our forces to defend our communities and oppose those attacks.

The whole working class is under attack in these days. Many of us work at jobs paying \$10 or \$12 an hour, without benefits. That's not enough to pay rent and buy food and pay for a car and pay for medical care. And this hits all of us: Black, brown,

white, all of us. It takes a united, working class response to defend against these attacks. We have to unite our forces. There are no shortcuts to working class solidarity. It's not enough to say, "we're all in this together now." This system of white supremacy, anti-Blackness attacks our people and our communities. The Klan and the cops and the courts attack Black people, and the media and the rulers push the narrative that Black people are dangerous or violent or criminals. Armed vigilantes at the border attack immigrants and children die in Border Patrol custody, while the government and the rulers and the media say immigrants are dangerous or violent or criminals and don't care for their children.

We have to fight together now; we have to unite our forces. Black and Brown and white, Muslims and Jews, whatever your country of origin. All of us must join together to defend against attacks on our communities. An injury to one is an injury to all. And we need to face the reality that this system in the U.S. and beyond is built on white supremacy, and it's built on keeping working people down and divided. By opposing the Klan and the system of white supremacy, we oppose the system that attacks all of us. And by uniting our forces to defend communities under attack, we lay the foundations for a united, working class struggle to put the entire system to an end, once and for all. For freedom and liberation.

Build Resistance or Accept Apocalypse. (continued)

a whole lot easier. The catch is that it's the same people telling us that the only jobs available are in these prisons are the same ones who have backed us into a corner of unlivable wages and soaring rent. We have learned to see through NDCM has no faith in politicians to address these contradictions, and all faith in the people to see through the moral trap that these corporations have set up in our backyard. While many have been bought off by promises of more jobs and tax revenue, we have to ask "at what cost?" History will judge us based on the choices we make right now.

We have an important choice to make. We can give up in despair or pretend nothing is wrong. Or we can start building a movement with our friends, neighbors, and coworkers to fight for a new way of living. Solidarity and Defense is building a movement for survival in the face of ecological destruction and social antagonism. We work to build community self defense independent of politicians and their false promises. We can only rely on ourselves, regular people. Together we have

What's Going On: Report Backs from Across the Midwest

the power to change the course of history, and build a more just and free world.

Michigan Group Against Private Prisons for Undocumented Neighbors

ICE has reached its capacity to cage and deport our friends and comrades. Instead of any alternative, Trump and the state he commands has decided to build more concentration camps. This means that the USA is currently, *today*, detaining a record number of immigrants- 52,000. The racists and capitalists trying to increase their number have their eyes set on the Midwest- in Michigan there is currently no free-standing immigrant detention center, although there is a wing of a county jail in Battle Creek that currently serves this purpose. But to the ICE and the federal government this is not enough- the Federal Bureau of Prisons just signed a contract with the private corporation GEO Group to open an immigrant prison in the rural northern town of Baldwin, Michigan.

GEO Group operates prisons and concentration camps that are directly responsible for the deaths of immigrants, even children, that have migrated within the borders of the US to start a new life and to escape climate and colonial catastrophe, much of which can largely be attributed to the policies of the US itself. To disrupt the plans of GEO Group, a statewide coalition of groups and individuals has begun meeting. The coalition is called No Detention Centers in Michigan, and Solidarity & Defense is dedicated to supporting this group in its fight against GEO Group and any other immigrant detention centers in Michigan. Currently, the group is connecting with the Baldwin community as well as spreading the word around the state about the need to fight this prison. The coalition is dedicated to using a diversity of tactics to shut down the detention center, and as the summer heats up so will our campaign.

May Day Detroit -El Grito Por La Licencias March

In the muddy, wet morning of May 1st, hundreds of Detroiters gathered at Patton Park in Springwells to march down to Clark Park for the May Day celebration and demand driver licenses for all, documented or undocumented. "El Grito por La Licencias," or Cry for Licenses could be heard for blocks, amid the sounds of cars passing through puddles and

rain in puddles. Local shops were closed with

Cosecha Detroit's black and yellow poster plastered on the front windows in support, the community welcomed the demonstration. The marchers arrived to a food tent put on by Care Cadre offering free warm meals in exchange for whatever donations you could provide while speaker's retold the history of May Day alternating between English and Spanish, while connecting the modern laborer's struggle to the origins of the holiday. Despite the humidity and many ponds of the park, the energized crowd renewed a sense of strength and direction. It is forward we continue until all have the freedom of mobility, whether that be by foot, plane, or driving one's car. One person's fight, is a fight for us all.

Ypsilanti May Day

With spring comes new life, and to celebrate the warming weather and fresh blossoms, organizers and community members came together in the Huron Valley area to put together festivities for May Day. Learning lessons from previous years, and endeavoring to experiment, we held an event more focused on relaxed socializing and community building, rather than street marches and speeches. The day opened with a "Free University" held throughout Riverside Arts Center in the afternoon, hosting documentary screenings, skillshares, workshops and community discussions. Topics ranged from tech security, to labor organizing, to conversations on how to care for each other for the long-haul. There was also a common space where multiple organizations and individuals held tables, zines were distributed, and free food was served all day! The day also saw a historic walking tour through downtown Ypsilanti which brought the city's radical history to life, childcare for attendees with children, a direct-action fixing of a sidewalk pothole notorious for causing accessibility problems, and even a rather well-made and whimsical guillotine bubble machine! (The blade was grating that dipped in bubble juice and made flurries of bubbles with a strong breeze).

After we had our fill of workshops, we took a few moments to relocate our food and games to Riverside park for a more free-form picnic. Songs were sung, trees were climbed, somewhat dangerous milk-crate games were played, and free food was shared with everyone that wanted some. We were able to meet new people, catch up with old friends, and spend the afternoon enjoying the weather. It wasn't a rambunctious street demo that many larger cities see on May Day, but it



helped strengthen our networks and community, and was just what many people needed.