

Labor, Immigrant Rights Defenders Say June 4: Fascists Out of Portland!

Since the November election there has been huge rise in racist attacks. Immigrants, Muslims and Jews, African Americans, Asian Americans, Latinos, as well as defenders of women's, gay and lesbian rights and others on the bigots' hit list have been targeted. Many of these assaults have been spearheaded by fascist action groups including the Ku Klux Klan and "alt-right" white supremacist gangs. Earlier this month, several hundred of them staged a racist rally at a Confederate statue in Charlottesville, Virginia, imitating the German Nazis' parades with flaming torches. On June 10, fascists have announced ominous anti-Muslim actions in more than 20 cities around the country.

Now some of these outfits are threatening to stage a racist provocation in downtown Portland on Sunday, June 4. They pretend to defend "free speech." This is a lie. These racist bullies and killers seek to terrorize the population by going after the most vulnerable. When "Patriot Prayer" and others showed up in Portland on April 29, they were brandishing baseball bats and heavy sticks, wearing helmets and flaunting the Confederate battle flag of the slave owners and KKK night riders. Now "Based Stickman", who gets his name from swinging his stick at people plans to make an appearance as well. The poisonous race-hatred they spew out spawns lynchings. **They must be stopped.**

Fascists are the deadly enemies of the working class. They would smash the unions and pave the way for an unfettered corporate dictatorship. That is why **Portland-area labor has resolved to use our power to stop them.** Painters (IUPAT) Local 10, IATSE Local 28, Carpenters 1503, Laborers Local 483, AFT Local 3544 (graduate teaching fellows) as well as Carpenters NW Regional Council and AFT Oregon have passed resolutions declaring their readiness to "join with the broader labor and social justice community in mobilizing against the clear and present danger that the provocations of racist and fascist organizations pose to us all."

Now is the time to put these resolutions into action. Portland belongs to the working people of all races and nationalities. We have the numbers and the power to stop the racists and fascists in their tracks: we must act before it's too late. **All out on June 4!**

Sunday June 4, 12:30 p.m. sharp Terry Schrunk Plaza

**Mobilize to Stop the Fascists
Their Racist Provocation Is a Danger to Us All**

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Hideous Double Murder By Muslim-Hating Nazi Mobilize Labor: Fascists Out of Portland!

**It's A Matter of Life and Death
Take a Stand: Come Out on June 4**

STATEMENT BY PORTLAND LABOR AGAINST THE FASCISTS

Less than a month after a race-hate rally was held in East Portland, and nine days before they plan to stage a fascist provocation downtown, murderous racist terror has struck in Portland. The murderer was prominently present at the April 29 racist rally. Now two brave men who stood up to him are dead, and a third was seriously wounded. Muslims and Jews, African Americans, Asian Americans, Latinos, along with defenders of women's, gay and lesbian rights: all are targeted by the murderous bigots. As we have emphasized: fascist rallies are a staging ground for hideous racist terror. *It's up to us, the working people, to stop the fascists now.*

A mobilization of unionists and opponents of racist terror has been called for Sunday, June 4 to bring out labor's power behind the call: Fascists Out of Portland!

On Friday afternoon, May 26, Jeremy Joseph Christian, a 35-year-old white man, began screaming racist insults and death threats at two young women he encountered on an MAX light rail train eastbound out of downtown Portland. One of the women is black and the other is a Muslim who was wearing a head scarf (hijab).

When three fellow passengers heroically sought to protect them, Christian drew a knife, slashed their throats, and escaped at the Hollywood transit stop. Two of the men died of their wounds, while a third required surgery for serious injuries. The attacker was taken into custody by police shortly after, and is charged with aggravated murder.

Christian is a well-known local fascist. Multiple videos show him menacing counter-demonstrators at a racist hate-fest in Montavilla Park in East Portland on April 29. Now the same outfit he was with then says it intends to stage a provocative rally in the center of downtown Portland at 2 p.m. on Sunday, June 4. They're even bringing in a notoriously violent fascist provocateur to make the threat clear.

Earlier this week, before the latest attack, Portland-area union activists issued an urgent call to "Mobilize to Stop the Fascists: Their Racist Provocation Is a Danger to Us All!" Organizers emphasized: "They pretend to defend 'free speech.' This is a lie... The poisonous race-hatred they spew out spawns lynchings. They must be stopped."

In the coming days much will be made of the killer's

apparently deranged mental state. But what possessed him to lash out against African American and Muslim young women, yelling "Get off the bus and get out of the country because you don't pay taxes here"? This is clearly a reflection of the deadly racism coming out of Washington and escalating across the country.

A month ago, the police shepherded fascist Christian around the park as he gave Nazi salutes and threatened protesters. The *Portland Mercury* (27 May) reports: "A few Portland police officers on April 29 appeared to be familiar with Christian, but not threatened by him." At the end of the racists' march, the city provided a bus to take them back.

The same Portland police attacked the annual May Day immigrants' rights march with tear gas and flash-bang grenades, blaming "anarchists" when it was the police who were terrorizing the marchers, arresting 25. Despite the talk of "diversity" and "unity" from the mayor and politicians of the bosses' parties, the fact is they and their police are protecting the fascists.

The Portland area is home to a powerful labor movement built on the principle that "An injury to one is an injury to all." The fascists are shock troops in the drive to divide, conquer and defeat the working class and destroy the rights of us all. To stop the deadly racist and fascist terror it is necessary – *now*, not at some indefinite future time – to mobilize the power of the working class.

The day before the Portland killings, ILWU longshoremen at the Port of Oakland, California walked off the job, paralyzing the docks to protest nooses, a threat of lynching, that were found at one of the largest terminals. On May Day 2015, ILWU Local 10 shut down the port and marched on Oakland city hall to demand an end to police terror. That same day Portland-area unionists marched behind a banner saying "Labor Against Racist Police Murder."

This is the power we must bring out to stop the fascists in Portland. We urge one and all to take a stand and join the labor/black/immigrant mobilization at 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, June 4 in Terry Schunk Plaza (SW 3rd Ave. & SW Madison St.) to stop the would-be Hitlers from organizing more deadly terror. ***All out on June 4! Fascists out of Portland!***

–May 27, 2017