

'CRUSH ICE' Continues from Front Page

A community quickly formed, built on the principles of direct democracy and anti-hierarchical decision making. In the model of the Occupy Wall Street movement, the tent city included a fully functioning kitchen, medical and mental health tents, an accessibility area, childcare and a growing complex infrastructure meant to sustain more than just the protest. Committees and working groups were formed with an eye on maintaining the simultaneous purpose of building relationships and halting the functioning of the building it was quickly engulfing. This was more than just a challenge to ICE, it was a vision of something to replace it with.

The Portland occupation was part of a nationwide shift in tactics, moving beyond simple protest and into actions where organizers were committed to the longer-term blockage of ICE functioning in the various administrative and detention centers it operates in. In New York City, the **Metropolitan Anarchist Coordinating Council, (MACC)**, took the lead on turning a **Bikes Against Deportation** protest on Thursday, June 21, into a rolling encampment to challenge ICE operations in Lower Manhattan. As the protests continued well into early Friday morning, and confronted an ICE van trying to enter the 201 Varick Street entrance, it was clear that a continuous blockade was starting to form. They had taken over two city blocks by Sunday and were operating in shifts with 20 to 30 people at a time to maintain coverage on the entrance to the facility. While police came and hosed off chalked messages about ICE overreach, ICE canceled all immigration hearings in the building that were scheduled for June 25.

The **ICE Out of L.A. Coalition**, along with groups like **L.A. Against ICE** and **Ground Game L.A.**, started with a protest action at the Metropolitan Detention Center, which is used by the **LAPD**, federal authorities, and ICE for detention of undocumented people. As the protest swelled, organizers wanted something that was more than just symbolic and could actually interfere with the basic functioning of ICE in the Los Angeles area.

"We can cause an actual disruption to the injustice of the system," said John Motter, an organizer who helped start the encampment with Ground Game L.A. "We want to maintain this as a vigil and a show of solidarity for people incarcerated in the building behind us and around the country." The protest continued through the weekend, bringing out dozens to maintain watch and keep the protest going on a continuous basis. Those incarcerated in the building have been flashing their cell lights to communicate with protesters on the outside, building a bond between those facing incarceration and the movement of solidarity on the sidewalk. "It is bigger than just reuniting families, but fixing the problems with, or abolishing, ICE," said Motter.

THE MESSAGE IN THE MEDIA

Broadcast journalists **Lesley Stahl**, a "60 Minutes" correspondent has said that Donald Trump admitted to her that his relentless attacks on the press was a strategy to discredit reporters and news media organizations to shield himself from negative coverage.

During an interview with **Judy Woodruff** of "PBS NewsHour" Woodruff asked Stahl about her November 2016 interview with Trump — his first after the election victory. Stahl described going to meet with him at Trump Tower in the months before the interview, along with one of her bosses. After Trump began to unload on the news media, she said, she asked him whether he planned to stop attacking the press, which was a hallmark of his campaign.

"I said, you know that is getting tired, why are you doing this — you're doing it over and over and it's boring," Stahl said. "He said you know why I do it? I do it to discredit you all and demean you all, so when you write negative stories about me no one will believe you."

Demonizing the press has proved one of Trump's most powerful weapons. When reporters are painted as the enemy and their work is "fake news," it's quite easy to explain away even the most critical of reporting.

Last fall, former **CBS Evening News** anchor **Dan Rather** compared Trump's words to those of dictators. "There's a massive effort using the full force and power of the presidency to intimidate journalists, to convince the public at large that journalists are 'enemies of the people.' That is a very dangerous phrase — echoes of totalitarian regimes of the past." **92% of Republicans think media intentionally reports fake news**

Nearly all Republicans and Republican-leaning independents (92%) say that traditional news outlets knowingly report false or misleading stories at least sometimes, according to a new Axios/SurveyMonkey poll. Democrats and non-leaning independents also feel this way, but not nearly to the same extent. The data shows that trust in the media is heavily influenced by partisan politics, with Republicans more skeptical of mainstream media than their Democratic and Independent counterparts. Other studies from Gallup and Pew Research Center have drawn similar conclusions. That's the power of using "the full force and power of the presidency" to repeatedly accuse journalists of being partisan hacks who peddle "fake news."

Dana Loesch, a spokesperson for the National Rifle Association (NRA), said in 2016: "I'm happy frankly to see them curb-stomped. I mean let's be real about it... These people are just the worst thing that could ever possibly happen to the American political system right now with the way that they cover so many things... I have so many things that I hate about mainstream media... They are the rat bastards of the earth. They are the boil on the backside of American politics."

And earlier this year in a slickly produced **NRA** propaganda piece, she threateningly said "To those who bring bias and propaganda to CNN, The

Just down the road, and closer to the Mexico border, **Occupy ICE San Diego** formed out of a massive coalition of groups, from **Redneck Revolts** to the **Democratic Socialists of America**, attempting to disrupt ICE operations in a city known for its border militarization. Using a multi-front approach, organizers hit both the Chula Vista Border Patrol and the Otay ICE location on Saturday, shutting it down for 14 hours before state police came in and started making arrests.

In Detroit, occupiers came with a clear goal of shutting down the facility, disrupting the "business as usual" approach to incarceration of undocumented people. Groups had come together with the intention of blockading from the start, and they blocked all three entrances to the Detroit ICE facility for several hours on Monday morning until police swarmed the protesters with threats of pepper spray and zip ties. The group has reconvened and re-establishing the encampment on June 26. "With 40 people we shut down operations at an ICE facility for six hours. Come out and let's see what we can do with 400," said Robert Jay, of **Occupy ICE Detroit** and the **Metro Detroit Political Action Network**.

Thronges of demonstrators turned Madaket Plaza at the foot of C Street on the Eureka waterfront into a rallying point for Saturday's "Families Belong Together" march. A Eureka waterfront event was organized locally by **Centro Del Pueblo**. The rally began with a native prayer and a Karuk family song and it was followed by speeches from immigrants who said they have suffered as a result of the nation's immigration policies.

The scale of protest under Trump, thus far, has certainly been extraordinary. Researchers with the **Crowd Counting Consortium** have tallied more than 20,000 separate demonstrations over the period from January 2017 through May 2018, involving something on the order of 11 million to 16 million total participants. **That's more people protesting than at any previous time in U.S. history, including the most tempestuous years of the Vietnam antiwar movement.**

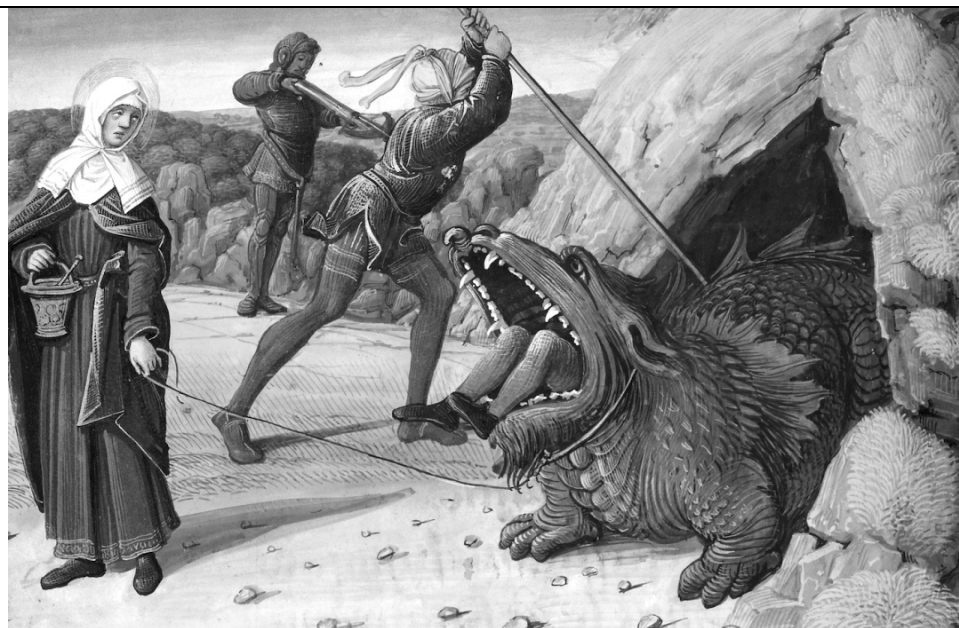
What's more, it's not just the size of these demonstrations that's been unprecedented. It's also their geographic reach — with protests being staged in record numbers of locations around the United States. The major day of action against Trump's immigration policies June 30 included 750 demonstrations being staged all around the country, taking place in more than 80 percent of the nation's congressional districts.

Thanks to **Shane Burley**

Author of "Fascism Today: What It Is and How We End It."

"Direct Action: Protest and the Reinvention of American Radicalism" and the forthcoming "How to Read a Protest: The Art of Organizing and Resistance."

ShaneBurley.net



Washington Post and The New York Times... your time is running out. The clock starts now."

Locally, the **North Coast Journal** notes that the **Ferndale Enterprise** reported this week that a motorcycle racing promoter blamed the paper's editor and publisher for the cancellation of an upcoming event, reportedly calling her a "predator that needs eradication."

In April, **The New York Times** editorial board warned that Trump's constant pointing out of journalists at his rallies as "those people back there ... the fake news" isn't just Trump being Trump — it's dangerous. "Many people, including many Republican lawmakers, dismiss President Trump's attacks on The Washington Post, CNN and other news organizations as just one of those crazy — but ultimately harmless — things he does to blow off steam. They're wrong. Attacks on the press, the editorial argued, "confuse the public about what's true."

In response to the shooting deaths of five people in the newsroom of **The Capital Gazette** in Annapolis, Maryland, the president said "Journalists, like all Americans, should be free from the fear of being violently attacked while doing their jobs."

CNN's Jim Acosta, who has frequently tangled with the White House, asked Trump. "Will you stop calling the press the enemy of the people, sir?" Trump did not respond.

While there is no causality, there is a connection in the attitudes of the Maryland shooter and the president of the United States, and the rhetoric of conservative pundits: a dangerous failure to understand the role of the media in our society.

-A Greenfuse media re-mix