

TENANTS TALK

NEWSPAPER OF THE ALL-CHICAGO TENANT ALLIANCE

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ALIANZA DE INQUILINOS DE TODO CHICAGO



ALL-CHICAGO TENANT ALLIANCE

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WORKING CLASS TENANTS: TAKE CONTROL!

ALL ACROSS THE CITY, HOMES ARE BEING SOLD TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER. FAMILIES ARE BEING FORCED TO LEAVE THEIR HOMES.

THE SLUMLORDS' TRAIL OF DESTRUCTION WILL NOT BE STOPPED UNLESS WE FIGHT!

FREE TENANT NEWSPAPER

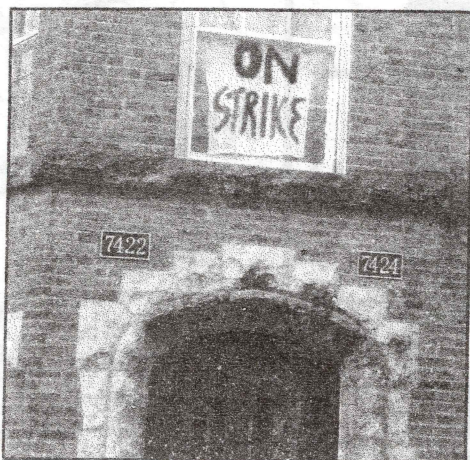
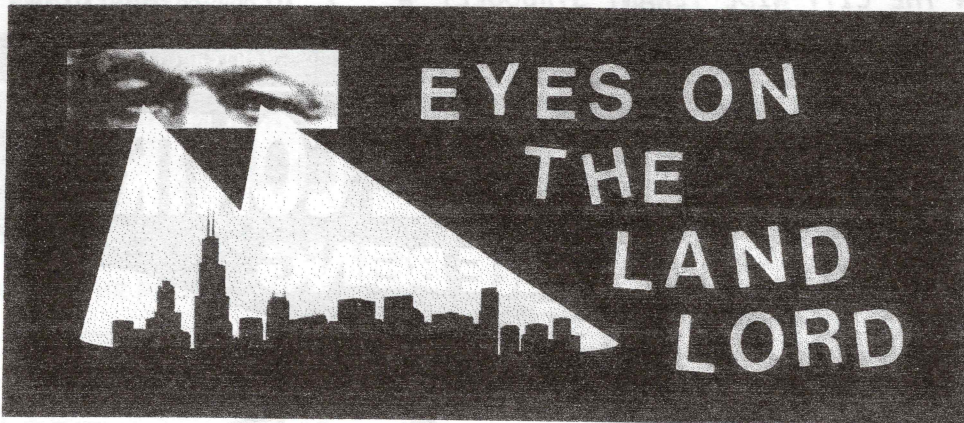
What's inside?

- Updates on landlord activity around the city
- Why you should form a union and fight back
- Report on the aftermath of the 2025 rent strike
- Malcolm X and the Cuban delegation
- The Tenant Grapevine and more!

SLUMLORDS

- FARIA IBRAHIM
- J. SCOTT SCHEEL
- IMRAN KHAN

★ NEWS FROM THE TENANT POINT OF VIEW ★



FAD FIGHTS FOR THEIR BANNERS MONTHS ON STRIKE: 5

Instead of negotiating with the union, Imran Khan is ignoring the calls to let the tenants stay in the homes and to negotiate with the union. This is despite the union offering the landlords a deal. The union wants to negotiate in good faith and prepared a deal that clearly shows that. The union agrees to pay increased rent in exchange for basic repairs and a real contract. Not some short term bullsh*t. You would think that Khan and his gang of investors would give the tenants a deal that would guarantee them a stable source of income. But no, what is clear is that they are the ones who won't negotiate in good faith, that their voracious attitude prevents them from making a deal that would make both parties happy. It's clear to anyone that they don't care about the tenants.

Well the tenants won't be silent and will let all those in Rogers Park know what kind of landlord the tenants of Fuerzas Activas de la Damen have. In mid March the union decorated their buildings with banners and signs. These unmistakable signs seemed to have rattled the landlords and on March 25 they sent an email to tenants giving them 2 days to take them down. The very next day workers were on the scene with ladders tearing the banners down. When confronted

by union tenants, management called the cops on them. Despite this setback the banners are not coming down, they'll keep going up and along them many more signs. The tenants won't be silent. The signs will stay and the rent strike will continue until a deal is reached!

PTA BUILDING BOUGHT

Parkside Terrace was sold to Villa Capital in early March. In the days leading up to the sale, Villa's head honchos came to inspect the struggle-laden building, where they came face to face with two of PTA's lions. The new owners played nice and made it known that they were aware of the union in the building, and that they'd be taking special care to ensure another wildcat rent strike didn't take place. So far, they've lived up to that promise, keeping the building clean and making quick repairs. Here's what one of the lions had to say about the past month:

"We held our own. When we were asked to take over our own union, we took it on. We came out fighting to the point that the new owners [Villa Capital] already know of us—so I feel our presence speaks volumes. It has to speak volumes because we know the last owners had to have told them 'be careful of those guys they don't take things lightly,' and I think that's worked for us. Everything we did beforehand follows us. They're very aware of this union. Our

presence is known. They already know we don't take sh*t lightly and we don't back down."

She also wanted to send a message to other Villa Capital tenants who are thinking about starting a union:

"Stick together, just stick together. You don't just become neighbors, it becomes a community, it becomes a family. You pray together, you stay together. Nothing gets past us. We see something, we say something. United we stand, divided we fall!"

VILLA CAPITAL PREYS WEST

Villa Capital is buying up housing in the Westside of Chicago! The Pilsen-based company won't be happy until they own everything west to Garfield Park and all the way to Austin. Erik Hubbard and his cronies are taking and taking housing directly from Chicagoans, upping the rent by \$300 in some cases. ACTA has talked to tenants who are afraid of their new property manager, being pushed out due to gentrification of the United Center area, and becoming homeless. Tenants have the strength to fight back! Villa Capital will soon be vamoose.

COMRADES FROM SACRAMENTO VISIT FIBC LEADERS AND ACTA

On March 6, we celebrated the birthday of our little comrades los gemelos of Fuerzas Inquilinos de Broadway y Cuyler. It was an extra special occasion because we were able to host Christina from our comrade organization in ATUN, the Sacramento Valley Tenants Union. She also played a role in founding the Los Angeles Tenants Union. We were able to talk shop about the growing threat of tenant organizing following the patterns of labor organizing, the issue of growing the base of mass organizations, the problems our organizations are facing and we did a little bit of planning for future work. Christina was able to talk to the leaders of FIBC and show them that the world is watching, and the future is bright for those that like to fight! ★



★ NEWS FROM THE TENANT POINT OF VIEW ★

I WILL NEVER OWN A HOME

Home ownership is the dream, right? I used to spend my days dreaming about the home I would own one day—lots of land, a garden, space for my loved ones to stay over, and so on. In my apartment, I can't have a garden since I can't dig up the grass; the landlord wants it a certain way. I can't knock down walls and make new rooms; the landlord would kick me out and make me pay.

But if we think harder, it's not the mortgages and property taxes that I desire (although tenants do pay for that with their rent); it's simply the control over my home that I want. I don't want to have to wait for the landlord to respond to my apartment issues or hire the person he wants, who does a patch-up, crap job. I don't want repairmen shoving their way into my home unannounced because now is "the time that works for them." I want complete control over my home, so the people inside it are safe; so I can repaint my walls without worrying about losing a security deposit; so I can dig up the ground and put a strawberry seed in it, so it actually has a shot at growing!

Tenanthood is far too often seen as a temporary state of living. Politicians talk about changing laws to make it easier for people to own homes, but why should we have to wait for control? They say one day, maybe, if you're lucky, if you somehow save enough, if you play your cards right, maybe you'll be treated like a person with dignity, because you paid enough money to claim that this small patch of grass with some plywood and countertops is yours! Only then are we entrusted with the sacred task of choosing the color of the walls in our homes.

Why are politicians so obsessed with homeownership in the first place? Is it because they care about the people in the neighborhood—well, how is your neighborhood doing? Are the potholes getting filled? Are rents going down? Are groceries getting cheaper? How many calls to 311 have led

nowhere? Or is it because it's the politicians' job to serve the people who put them into office—rich people who own homes!

Better yet, the homeowner becomes a predictable and compliant tool of this system: capitalism. They benefit from capitalism because they own capital, a house. The more property values increase, the more money they can hoard. For tenants, however, increased property values means increased rent. Owners focus on paying their mortgage, maintaining their property, keeping their asset in good standing, and keeping the current order of things as they are: in their favor. They have no reason to rock the boat. In this way, people don't just own their homes; the homes also shape their choices and keep them tied to the system. Do they rule over their homes, or do the homes rule over them?

Well, newsflash! I'm never going to own a home! It has never been easy to make enough to own a home, especially for the working class. But nowadays, it's even harder. Prices of homes have risen exponentially, average income has not. This means we're required to pay more, while being paid a lot less; this is an undisputed fact.

So what about us renters, now? Should we spend our entire lives working extra hours for bosses so they can take another vacation, and we may, possibly, hopefully, have a shot at home ownership? Should we be extra careful that our furniture doesn't scratch the landlord's floor, so that we're the perfect tenant, with the perfect credit score, so that he too, can spend a few extra days on the yacht, not stressing about the repairs that he'll have to make, with your rent money?

I don't think so! I'm never going to own a home, but that doesn't mean I've given up the prospect of controlling it. Instead, I'm going to attack the thing that is preventing me and so many others from having this control: the dictatorship of the landlord. I can confront this in small ways, like getting together with my neighbors and planting those seeds, and in big ways, like starting a tenant union and joining the war against landlords. ★

PERSECUTION OF MUSLIMS FROM COLONIALISM TO US WARS

REFLECTIONS ON ABBAS MUNTAQUIM'S TALK AT HAYMARKET HOUSE

I was barely on time, and there was Persian kebab to eat before the talk started in five minutes. When my plate was full, I sat down and watched as the speaker was introduced. Abbas Muntaquim is an organizer and the co-founder of People's Programs, which runs free breakfast, healthcare, and grocery programs in Oakland California. He went to UC Berkeley, initially as an athlete, and found his religious footing in Islam alongside his desire to organize for revolution after starting university. Abbas introduced colonialism starting with Christian attacks on Islamic peoples, which began with Portuguese and Spanish colonists traveling through the Strait of Gibraltar to control Ceuta in northern Africa. The driver of this colonial project was Catholic religious beliefs and Ceuta soon became a hub for more attacks that led to colonies. During colonization, Christians destroyed African Muslim communities to build churches.

However, Muslim resistance to colonial rule did not end with the creation of states or churches. Christians believed that this tendency to resist could be rooted out with jails and religious instruction. The colonizers created prisons to house the colonized who were captured for resistance.

Therefore, the connection between Islam and political imprisonment goes back centuries to the start of colonialism. Abbas highlighted that these prisons in Islamic African countries often contained one Christian church in the center. America is a colonial project that forced many African Muslims here on slave ships. American prisons hold only Christian churches and try to limit the practice of Islam. Muslim political prisoners are a political force in jails and often the most militant organizers. Examples include Mumia Abu-Jamal, Kamau Sadiki, Joseph "Joe-Joe" Bowen, and many others.

America is focused on destroying Islamic militancy in states like Iran and organizations like Hamas in Palestine, Ansarallah in Yemen, or Hezbollah in Lebanon. American wars continue the political, religious, and economic goals of Christian colonialism. Colonialism desires the death and submission of people to focus on creating something new, white, and Christian in its place. That something new is Israel, America, or any other unwanted project.

Why should we support wars continuing colonial expansion? Colonialism is the source of five centuries of dirty war, slavery, and prisons. Let the unyielding resistance of Muslims all over the world inspire everyone to fight colonialism to its death! ★



★ NEWS FROM THE TENANT POINT OF VIEW ★



¡VIVA CUBA!

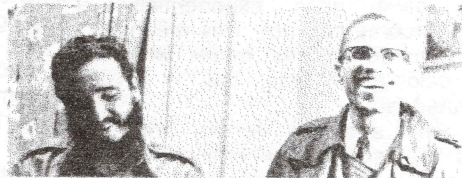
On January 29th, Donald Trump issued an executive order declaring that "the Government of Cuba has taken extraordinary actions that harm and threaten the United States" and that tariffs will be slapped on any country that dares provide Cuba with oil. Since then, the Cuban people have been holding strong against an ongoing fuel crisis that has caused blackouts lasting over 16 hours at a time. The country has had to reduce the level of transportation services available, hospitals have had to limit the use of medical equipment and people have been forced to use wood stoves instead of gas to cook. The only reason that the United States has slipped on its efforts to cut off the Cuban people from the world is that the military has been preoccupied with their Zionist war on Iran. The U.S.'s focus has been on trying to deter resistance to the occupation of Palestinian land and attempts at expansion into neighboring countries by "Israel". Recently, after three months of blackouts and uncertainty, a shipment of oil from Russia has brought some relief to the Cuban people. Don't be fooled, this does not mean that the U.S. empire is done with its attempt to destroy Cuba.

The recent oil blockade is only the latest in a long line of attempts by the U.S. government, representing the interests of none other than the capitalist ruling class, to strangle the Cuban people and their revolution. The U.S. has had an economic blockade against Cuba for over 60 years! The blockade was formalized in the early 1960s by John F. Kennedy, following the overthrow of the Batista dictatorship by Cuban revolutionaries, including Fidel Castro and Che Guevara. These indirect strategies to undermine Cuban freedom became the primary ones when an all out invasion, the Bay of Pigs, was an utter failure.

In 1960, months after they overthrew Batista, Fidel Castro and a delegation of Cuban revolutionaries headed to New York for the U.N. General Assembly. They were originally supposed to stay downtown, but when they got there, the hotel management, under pressure from the U.S. government, demanded a \$20,000 deposit. Facing intimidation from the U.S. government, the Cuban delegation, clad in army fatigues, decided it might be best to pitch tents in the United Nations gardens.

Instead, Malcolm X intervened. He invited them to come stay at the Hotel Theresa in Harlem. The delegation happily accepted the invitation. The new

accommodations emphasized to an international audience that segregation was alive and well in the U.S. despite any hypocritical claims U.S. representatives made about freedom and justice. Crowds of people formed outside the Hotel Theresa. World leaders who were fighting against the legacy of colonialism and U.S. domination came to visit Fidel Castro at the Hotel Theresa. Malcolm X was among them. The two revolutionaries met in Castro's room surrounded by other Cuban guerrillas and piles of papers—drafts of Castro's U.N. Speech. Their meeting was short but full of meaning for the two men, both engaged in the struggle for the full dignity of their people. As he left, Malcolm X was bombarded by antagonistic journalists, harassing him with questions about the Cubans. In response he said, "Please don't tell us who should be our friends, and who should be our enemies".



Decades later, in a speech reflecting on Malcolm X's legacy and their encounter in Harlem, Fidel Castro said, "We have always been in solidarity with the struggle of Black people, of minorities, and of the poor in the United States. We have always been in solidarity with them, and they have been in solidarity with us. We must fight to defeat the campaigns, the schemes, and the lies, all that is aimed at separating us. I think that in these times we need that friendship more than ever, and we need your solidarity more than ever. And we fully appreciate it, because we understand that one has to be very courageous to [support] Cuba in the United States."

The truth is that the Cuban people don't pose any threat to workers and tenants here in the U.S. The people they pose a threat to are the capitalist class, those people who think they can own and control everything from our homes to our workplaces! They want to convince us that their enemies are our enemies. They want us to know nothing about the successful socialist revolution built by the hands of the Cuban people, a nation that has stood strong in the face of U.S. attempts at economic strangulation and offered their support to other revolutionary projects in the Caribbean and Africa. We know better than to fall for the lies of the Trump administration or any other member of the capitalist class. ¡Viva Cuba! ¡Patria o Muerte, Venceremos! ★

WIRTZ HAPPENIN'?

Does the name "Wirtz" sound familiar to you? Here's a clue: who owns the Chicago Blackhawks and the United Center? Here's another clue: who's extorting thousands of Chicago tenants with the assistance of a property management company in court for antitrust rent-fixing violations? That's right! It's the Wirtz Corporation!

The Wirtz family empire is big. Really, really big. In 1926, Arthur Wirtz founded the Corporation as a real estate company, owning and managing huge residential properties across the nation, and after 100 years of existence, their portfolio has expanded from landlording, to booze distribution, to sports franchises, to banking, insurance, and much more. The Wirtz's have made a killing after a century of extorting tenants, and they're not looking to stop now.

Since taking the mantle after his father Rocky's death in 2023, tycoon Danny Wirtz has been looking to bring the Wirtz empire to even steeper heights. Along with the Reinsdorf family, who co-own the United Center with the Wirtzs and who also own the Chicago Bulls after the Wirtz family sold them their majority stake in the franchise in 1972, little Danny's buying up land all around the United Center in pursuit of a \$7 billion development titled the "1901 Project". The families seek to turn parking lots into trendy businesses and turn Chicago's westside into a place of "economic opportunity." Opportunity for who? The owning-class. With large private development comes a general increase in the value of property around it, and with increased property value comes all the more reason for the owners to extort renters even further than they already do. Look no further than South Shore, where the development of the Obama Center promises "economic growth" for the neighborhood, and where tenants are already getting priced out at the

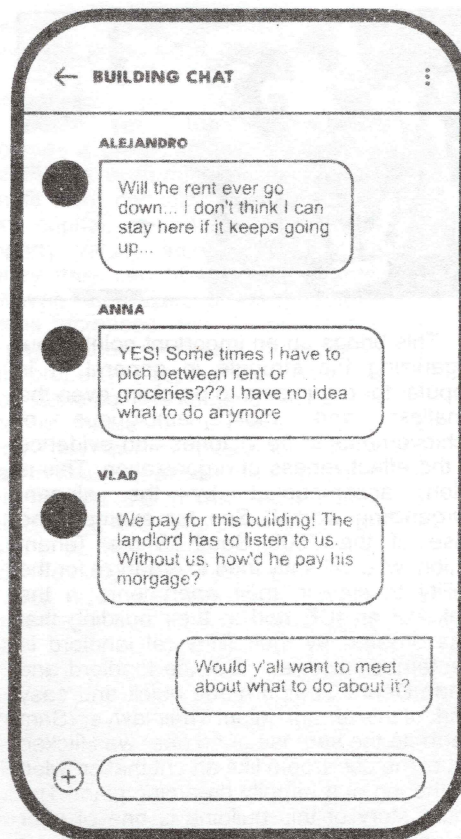
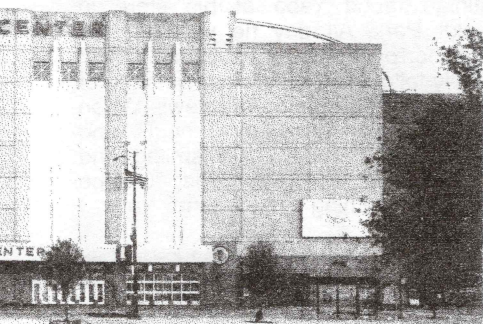


★ NEWS FROM THE TENANT POINT OF VIEW ★

prospect of its completion. While Danny Wirtz fawns over the expansion of Fulton Market west into East Garfield Park, this "economic opportunity" is simply opportunity for the few: his family, the Riensdorfs, and the long line of businesses and landlords queuing out their doors.

The pursuit of this multi-billion dollar venture coincides with a number of sales in Wirtz' residential portfolio. Recently, the Wirtz family made a rare sale of two buildings in Lakeview for around \$22.5 million, then promptly bought a number of lots around the United Center for \$19 million. Little Danny has big pockets, but he's got to fund this project somehow, and while sales are one way to fund these purchases immediately, squeezing tenants in the buildings he already owns is another way to ensure he's got enough cash flowing in in the long-term.

This month, long-time tenants of a Wirtz building in Lakeview reached out to ACTA after some strange new developments. In January, new management in Willow Bridge arrived, which is one of a number of management companies entangled in a high-profile federal lawsuit surrounding the fixing of rent using RealPage, an AI rent fixing software (see Tenants Talk 16 and 21 for more on RealPage's atrocities). Since Willow Bridge has taken over, major construction in the building has pushed tenants from long-time apartments to short-term units within the building. Tenants displaced by construction have been offered short-term leases in temporary units without the promise of returning to their homes at the price they paid before. As we know, with new development comes economic opportunity for the owning-class. So, what is Danny Wirtz up to? Will he hike the rent on current tenants when construction is complete? Will he sell the building to fund his pet project leaving long-time tenants faced with new profit-hungry owners? Tenants are beginning to talk together in the building to form a plan of action. Keep your eyes on Tenants Talk for updates! ★



THE BASICS OF TENANT ORGANIZING: START WITH THE GROUP CHAT

How does organizing even start? What are the individual components to organizing? This is the first article in a new Tenants Talk series on the basics of organizing practically. Our first topic is The Group Chat.

Do you know your neighbors? Or do you see them pass by you in the hall, hear them vacuuming above you, and find it odd you don't even know the name of someone who lives a few feet away from you? Your landlord relies on you and your neighbors remaining disconnected, to continue being strangers in the hallway. When tenants get together, they have power. The first step in getting to know your neighbors? The Group Chat.

Organizing hinges on communication. Whether that is organizing against a landlord or meeting up with friends. Today the humble group chat is the premiere means of communication between multiple people. It's fast, less cumbersome than email, more private than social media, and can build a sense of community. As a format, it's so effective that all sectors of society use it. Everyone from friend groups, multimillion dollar companies, and the US Government in preparations for airstrikes in

Yemen. There is a material reason for this. Most people have a phone and access to the internet. Therefore taking a phone first approach is a must. Once you have it you can have communication, document sharing, planning, scheduling, and so much more.

In tenant organizing, the group chat can be a first step in connecting neighbors within a building of people who may not all know each other. It can break down the barriers of apartment walls and put people in touch to organize against their landlord.

There are two dimensions to group chats. They are big and they are wide. First, a group chat needs to be as big as necessary. In a building that should mean you, your allied neighbours, and anyone helping organize the building. This can be a massive amount of people, especially in the early stages of organizing. As long as they are relevant to fighting for better conditions in the building, add them to the group. Better to add them and remove them later than to be too shy.

Group chats also need to be as wide as necessary. Every group chat inevitably has multiple other group chats that sprout from it. This is a good thing. There are times where individual efforts require individual group chats. Maybe the building leaders have their own group chat, or there needs to be a separate group coordinator childcare for meetings. Expect this. Use the biggest chat as a hub that is central to building wide communication. It can be a bit more buttoned up or as loose as you deem appropriate. Then let the smaller group chats grow as they become relevant and require their own stream of communication.

Not everyone needs to be in or stay in the group chat. The landlord or any of their employees should never be in the group chat. Furthermore, any neighbor that is hurting the power building process should not be in the chat. Which can look like someone being insulting or making others uncomfortable. Not everyone you are allied with needs to be in the group chat either. If you are lucky and have an allied alderperson, keep them and their staff separate from the biggest group chat. Inversely, not everyone of your allied neighbours needs to be in the group chat with the alderperson. This is true for other outside forces like lawyers, community allies, or members of other unions. In general it's better to make a new group chat when you don't know who to add and why.

Group chats are one aspect of the larger tenant organizing endeavor. It's no less important than any of the flashier aspects of organizing. If you are currently dealing with landlord issues, don't wait. Make the group chat right now and add your 2 or 3 homies in the building. If you don't know what to say, start with this. "Our landlord is a slumlord. I pay too much for this disrespect. I heard about a group called ACTA that helps organize tenants. Should we call them?" ★

★ NEWS FROM THE TENANT POINT OF VIEW ★



MOVIN' FUERZAS ACTIVAS DE LA DAMEN

In April, we celebrate one of our own contributions to our revolutionary history: the beginning of Fuerzas Inquilinos' historic rent strike in 2025. Our readers will be familiar with the major developments of the story of the strike. We reported on it closely as it proceeded in real time, so I will spare readers from these details. But, readers may have also noticed that our coverage disappeared near the end of last year. This was because the union was in tense negotiations with the landlord as the strike was racing towards its culmination and there was no certainty from one day to the next. But the end of the story was written and now, finally, we can publish it here for the first time.

The tenant's central demand with the strike was to stay in their homes, but negotiations brought them down to the wire of eviction trial and their hand was forced to reach a deal with the landlord to relocate. That is why, regretfully, we must report that the rent strike failed to keep the tenants in their homes.

The deal included a non-disclosure agreement that the tenants signed and this prevents them from disclosing the contents of the deal. We don't need those details to recall, however, that the landlord originally gave the tenants the date of June 25th 2025 to pack up and move out. Instead of lying down like beaten dogs, locating to new homes and immediately beginning rent payments to a new landlord, the union snarled back. Because of this, the families lived rent free from April of 2025 until February 1st 2026, the day the strike ended. This whole time Drew Millard could not begin his renovation plans and hemorrhaged what we estimate to be around \$250,000 trying to fight the union and ACTA, and this does not include whatever cash payouts potentially might have been granted to the tenants in exchange for their departure. Without knowing the latter, it's simply impossible to say whether or not it was the largest cash deal negotiated by a tenant union in Chicago history.

This brings up an important point about organizing the struggle in general. It is popular for organizers to proclaim even the smallest and most ambiguous of achievements to be victories and evidence of the effectiveness of organization. This is often accompanied by the slogan, "Organizing works!" See for example the case of the 7500 South Shore Tenant Union, who valiantly tried to organize for the ability to stay in their apartments in the wake of an ICE raid in their building that was ordered by their filthy rat landlord in September last year. But the landlord and judge Debra Seaton made quick and easy work of this tenant union. Their lawyer (Sam Barth, to the surprise of no one) was flicked out of the courtroom like an ant that crawled on the leg of a happily dreaming giant. The entire story of this building is one of utter violence and power wielded without restraint by the dictatorship of landlords against the working class.

Instead of telling it like it is, the organization apparently at the helm of organizing these tenants, Southside Together, shamelessly tried to paint this episode as some kind of victory and evidence that organizing works. They argue that because the tenants got organized, many people became aware of who they were and therefore money could easily be raised for helping the tenants relocate. But the ICE raid was one of the most high profile stories of the entire year in Chicago and arguably the event that lived closest to the center of the press coverage of Operation Midway Blitz. Loads of money could have been raised for these tenants whether they had a tenant union or not. In addition to the fact that the tenant union had no power to keep itself in the building, that makes it hard to see what organizing has to do with any of this. But if it does and if this is what it looks like when it works, we'd hate to see what it looks like when organizing does not work.

The reality is that there is no such thing as pure winning and pure losing. In the greatest of victories, things will have been lost and vice versa. Organizers have a responsibility to tell no lies about this; do not lie to the people, do not insult them. Organizers who try to paint everything in rosy colors are lying and degrading the complex work of organization. At the moment in the negotiations when FIBC had to concede their homes, the pain and anger was unbelievable. It caused intense

sadness, confusion and disappointment. It tested our organization's bond with the tenants. We lost, fair and square. We fought so hard for so long, and we lost. We had to face that. However, there was an enormous and historic victory contained in the loss. Not only in the immediate sense, but in the big picture; strategically in the revolutionary struggle we are fighting against the oppression, humiliation, exploitation and violence of landlords, FIBC has objectively advanced the struggle and raised it to a new level.

One of the most significant dimensions of the rent strike was the role played by ACTA's strike fund. We began to raise the fund early in the strike on the prediction that we would need it to carry out the fight. When the time came for FIBC to leave their homes, ACTA was able to mobilize its entire organization to ensure that searching, touring, applying for apartments and the logistics of moving were all taken care of. More than 20 organizers showed up with complete devotion through single-digit temperatures and snow for six days to physically move the tenants' belongings to their new homes. It cost over \$6,000 and not one cent of it fell on the tenants. That is what organizing does, that is how organizing "works."

At the final FIBC meeting, I could not stop crying. I was so bitter. Just writing this now fills me with sadness and fury and pushes me to tears. But, at that moment it was the union that held me up. They told me not to cry, I remember Comrade Anay telling me to stop and to be strong. Now, the tenants are resettled and we are hard at work on the next chapter of their book. FIBC are in ACTA's camp because we were in theirs from the beginning, never straying from their side or taking a day off from the struggle, hasta el final. FIBC is now ready to teach every other tenant in the city about the rent strike, about what it means to organize and what it looks like to win and to lose. They are busy helping Fuerzas Activas de la Damen in their strike in Rogers Park; one that is six times as big as FIBC's strike and impossible to imagine if FIBC hadn't taken the tiger's leap into Chicago history one year ago this month! We lost this battle, but we are winning the war.

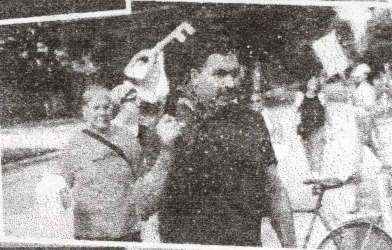
I am reminded of one afternoon in early 2024, before I knew Anay, Lely, Gregorio and the rest of FIBC. I went to see our Palestinian friend Yaba at his store in Humboldt Park. All day he watched the endless horror of israel's genocide and attentively followed the heroic resistance of the Palestinian fighters on the news. When I approached him, I nodded to the TV and said, "How is it going?" He smiled and invited me to sit down and said, "On the battlefield, everything is excellent!" Yaba, I agree!

So here is to April 1; let it be known as "The First Of Fuerzas", or the real and historic beginning of Tenant Spring! ★

★ NEWS FROM THE TENANT POINT OF VIEW ★

FIBC: A YEAR OF STRUGGLE

MEETING #1



MEETING #96



IMRAN KHAN ASKS COURT TO THROW 59 FAMILIES INTO THE STREETS!

The tenants of Fuerzas Activas de la Damen (FAD), a Rogers Park tenant union, has been seeking to negotiate with their landlord since their creation last summer. Supported by the All-Chicago Tenant Alliance, the tenants of FAD have been on the largest rent strike Chicago has seen in decades, demanding to negotiate a lease renewal at a fair rate.

Those who have kept up with the story will not be surprised to hear that Imran Khan and his gang of gentrifiers have continued to pursue various avenues to get rid of them. Why? Simply because they are not the desired type of tenant to make them a quick buck! Instead of coming to an agreement with the union, Imran Khan has filed evictions in a move to displace the residents. These investors would rather spend thousands of dollars, months of litigation, and suffer financial setbacks than to let the tenants stay. Their hatred towards the working class blinds them towards making a decision that would result in peace. They don't want peace, they want to throw the tenants away. If they were allowed to, they would send their goons to physically remove people. If you want war, we're ready for war!

The evictions cover 59 units, making it one of the largest single acts of displacement that Rogers Park has ever seen! Tenants see the attempt to remove them from their homes as part of a broader gentrification wave sweeping over Rogers Park and all of Chicago. It is also the latest step in a series of escalations by Khan and New York investor Faria Ibrahim. Last month, tenants put up banners announcing their union to the world. Management quickly tore the banners down and threatened fines against tenants with union posters in their windows. Khan called police on the tenants peacefully filming the banner removal. Despite the retaliation, tenants continue to call for management to come to the negotiating table.

The potential displacement of dozens of families would have devastating consequences for the community, including loss of neighborhood stability and the erosion of Rogers Park's longstanding cultural diversity. Follow ACTA to stay in the know about upcoming events to support FAD!



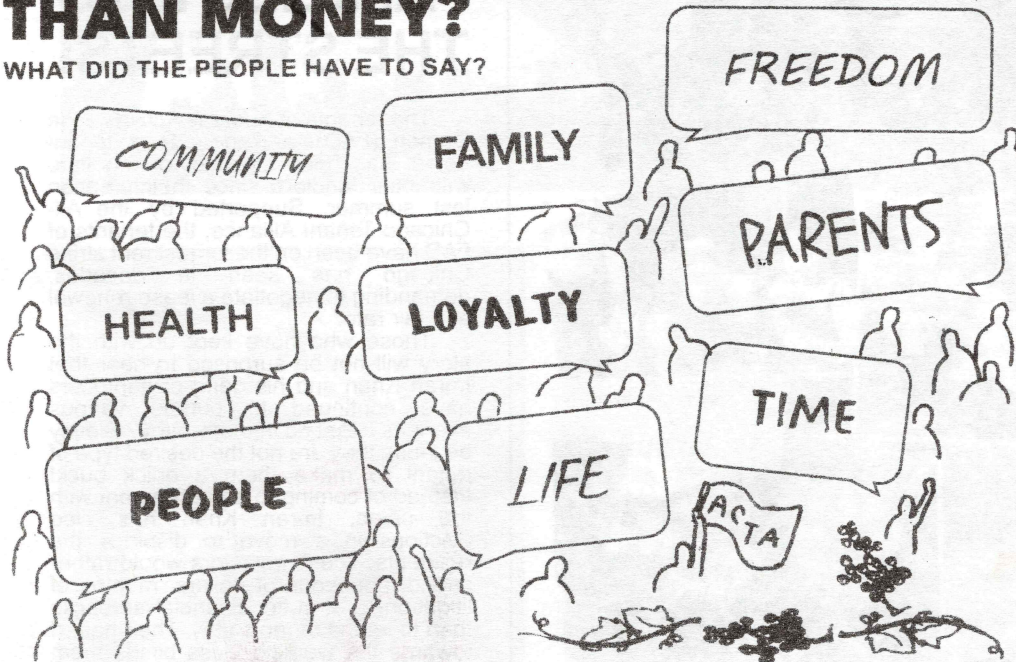
★ NEWS FROM THE TENANT POINT OF VIEW ★

TENANT GRAPEVINE

QUESTION OF THE MONTH:

WHAT IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN MONEY?

WHAT DID THE PEOPLE HAVE TO SAY?



WHAT IS THE ALL-CHICAGO TENANT ALLIANCE?

The All-Chicago Tenant Alliance (ACTA) is an organization of Chicago tenants who organize tenants into tenant unions. We do this because we believe that building robust tenant organizations is the only real way to stop the landlord terror that we've witnessed firsthand in the slums of Chicago. Relying on laws made by and for landlords has only gotten tenants so far. Realizing this has led us to stress the economic relationship between tenants and landlords as the key arena of struggle because, put simply, landlords care about one thing: money. If a solid organization of tenants is able to threaten the flow of cash to the landlord by way of a rent strike, the landlord will be faced with an existential decision: do what the tenants demand or go broke. It is ACTA's goal to build this capacity in the unions we help birth. On the citywide scale, ACTA's intention is to create an organization of tenant unions: a union of unions. We understand that the 'housing crisis' cannot be solved

piecemeal—a union here and a union there will not lift all of Chicago's tenants from their scandalous conditions. The thousands of slums across the city are not the result of a prevalence of bad landlords, but instead are the inevitable result of the commodification and private ownership of housing, where landlords own more homes than they can use as a way to generate profit and nothing else. In order to confront this fact, ACTA is working to build a united movement of strong tenant unions that can begin to change how housing is owned and operated. We believe that this will require a large degree of coordination between unions, in order for tactics and resources to be shared, ideas to be sharpened, culture to be built and a collective strategy to develop.

It is our hope that through a serious and creative attempt at developing Chicago tenants into a unified fighting force, the racialized and deplorable reality of renting in the city will be confronted and transformed. This is a serious undertaking that will require the participation of a great number of tenants. We are not discouraged by this fact, but instead look forward to all the difficulties that we'll face standing together with the tenants of Chicago. Join the organization with your interests at heart.★



TIP LINE

Landlord hiking you and your neighbors rent?

Landlord kicking you and your neighbors to the curb?

Want to build a union and do something about it?

Text us at (773) 770-5650



SUPPORT ACTA

The All-Chicago Tenant Alliance is run entirely by volunteers and is supported by dues and donations from supporters across Chicago.



If you have the means, please support our organization with a regular monthly commitment of \$10.

A Hungry Mouse

[This is part three of our translation of a story by Iranian revolutionary author Samad Behrangji]

The hungry mouse arrived at an old lady's house and said: "Hey old lady! I went to the garden and ate three apples. The wind blew leaves onto my head and I ate those too. I ate a man and the bucket he was holding. I ate missus bride. I ate the girls who were sewing flowers. I ate the boys who were playing marbles. Now I will eat you too, it's your turn!"

The old lady thought for a while and said: "Dear grandchild, I'm only skin and bones. I wouldn't fill you up. Last night, I made something with the stale bread, oil, and cheese we had left over from dinner. Let me go bring that for you to eat."

The mouse said: "Fine, go. But come back quickly."

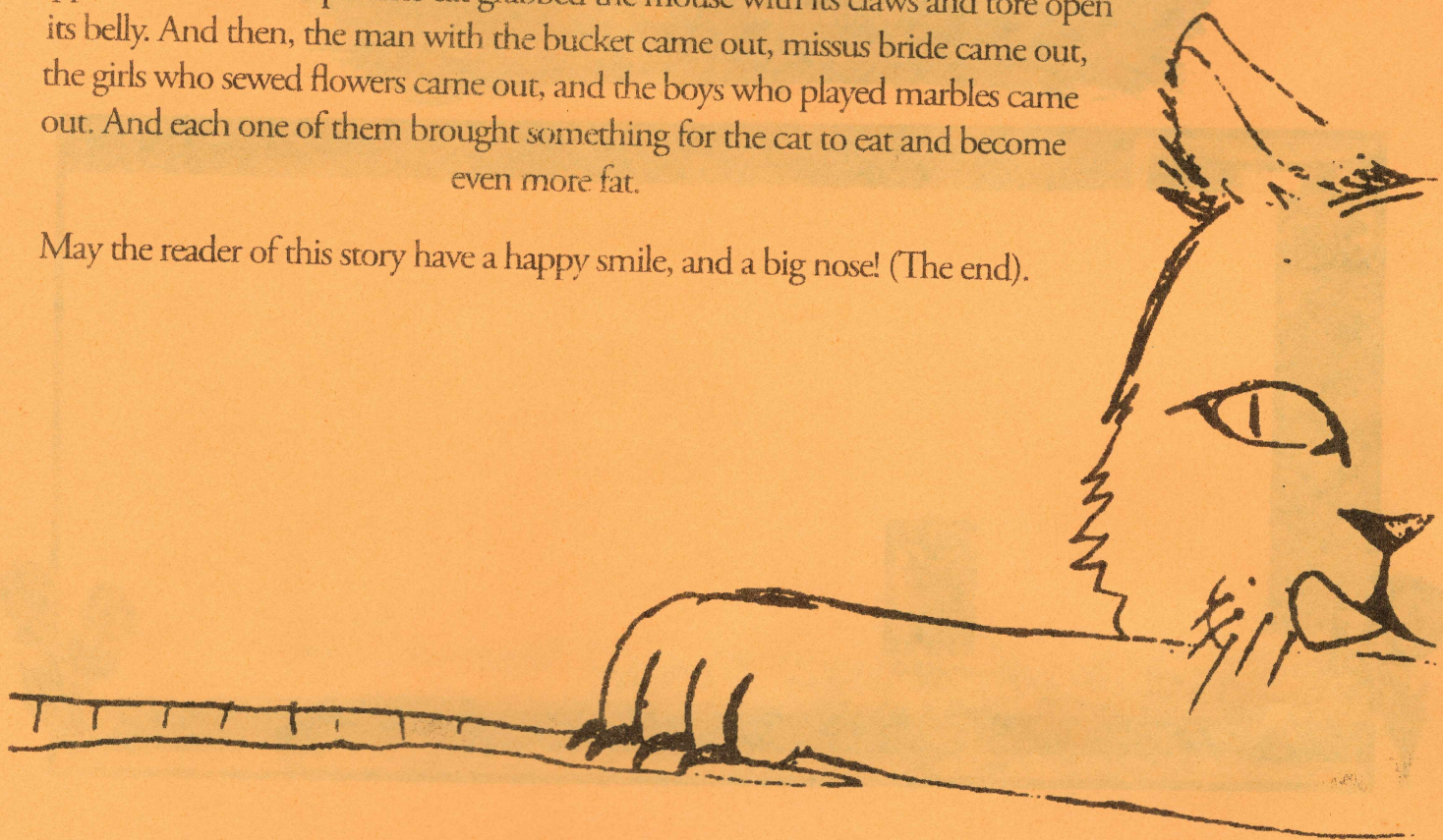
The old lady had a sparkly fat cat, who was also extremely clever. She went to her house and put the cat in her dress and walked back until she came to the mouse. She said: "Here, grandchild, take it and eat it."

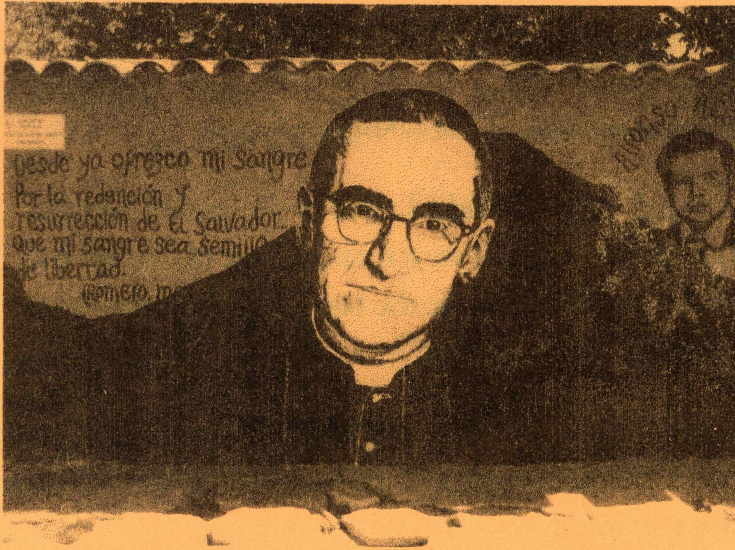
And she tossed the cat at the mouse. As soon as the mouse saw the cat, he fled. The cat ran after him, but couldn't get him. The mouse went into a hole and hid. The cat sat by the hole and prepared an ambush. Time passed, and everything went quiet. The mouse looked this way and that way, and didn't see the cat.

The mouse thought the cat had gotten tired and left.

He cautiously lifted his head out of the hole, but the cat didn't give any more opportunities for escape. The cat grabbed the mouse with its claws and tore open its belly. And then, the man with the bucket came out, missus bride came out, the girls who sewed flowers came out, and the boys who played marbles came out. And each one of them brought something for the cat to eat and become even more fat.

May the reader of this story have a happy smile, and a big nose! (The end).





Óscar Romero in El Salvador



Fred Hampton in Chicago

MAKE A REVOLUTIONARY MURAL!

All around the world, people paint giant pictures on buildings and walls to tell a story. Often, the story is of those who dedicated their lives to fight for others, like Óscar Romero and Fred Hampton.

What story would you tell?
Who would you paint?
Draw someone below who fights for a better world.

