

Socialism in Arizona: Chinese Funded Activism Comes to Our State

Behind the anti-ICE, pro-Hamas, anti-Iran war, and some No Kings protests in Arizona (and across the nation) rests the pro-Maoist Party of Socialism and Liberation. The Party for Socialism and Liberation (PSL) is a pro-Maoist communist party funded with millions of dollars by Shanghai-based American millionaire, Neville Roy Singham. Singham has close ties with the Chinese Communist Party. PSL lists on its [website](#) over a hundred chapters located in nearly every state of the union.

PSL is ready at a moment's notice to stage a protest as soon as a news story drops. These protests might be about ICE enforcement, the October 7, 2023 Hamas attack, abortion restrictions, or American action against the communist governments in Venezuela and Cuba.

To a dedicated core of protesters, the issue doesn't matter so long as it can be spun as anti-capitalist and anti-Western. While some protesters join because they are motivated by a specific issue, for the PSL, the revolutionary overthrow of American capitalism and political institutions is the ultimate goal.

The PSL runs candidates for office, but the party's power rests in organizing street protests and disruptive demonstrations. Examples include:

- In February, 2025, the Phoenix chapter of the PSL, [led a series of anti-ICE protests](#) across Maricopa County, including a march to the state house. PSL leaders, Lexia Isais, a public-school teacher, and her comrade, Jordan Napier organized the march on the state house "No one is illegal! Viva Mexico!" Napier shouted. Organizers arranged similar marches [in Flagstaff](#).

Isais got her start in PSL activism as an Arizona State University (ASU) student.

PSL remains active today at ASU. In 2024, it led the construction of an [encampment](#) – the "ASU Liberated Zone" – on the Tempe campus in solidarity with Hamas.

- Highway shutdowns are a specialty. In 2016, they organized the shutdown of a road to [block access](#) to a rally for then-candidate Donald Trump in Fountain Hills. Whether PSL was involved in a road closure and general chaos at [an anti-illegal immigration enforcement](#) rally in Glendale in 2025 is unclear from media reports, but it fits the pattern.



Source: [The State Press](#)

- PSL cultivates college campus memberships. The University of Arizona also sported an [encampment](#), while members of the PSL chapter [chanted](#) “From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free,” at a rally denouncing Israeli actions in Lebanon, American capitalism, and Western imperialism everywhere.

- PSL strongly [continues to support](#) the brutal Maduro regime in Venezuela. [Protests](#) against Maduro’s capture to stand trial in the United States drew few if any Venezuelans, who were thrilled to see the dictator removed from power. Protesters also [rallied](#) to the defense of the [Iranian government](#) at the start of the American Epic Fury campaign. In contrast Iranians turned up as counter-protesters.

- [PSL member](#) Dania Duran was one of the organizers of the ICE Out protest at Phoenix Sky Harbor airport. At a time of public concern about long security lines because of the government shutdown, the stunt was an airport version of blocking traffic, since their presence could add to delays. The protest was sure to make the local mainstream news, even if travelers were annoyed.

In this case and others, the PSL minimized its visibility to the public. The [public-facing](#) organizing group – the one more likely to generate quotes in mainstream press – was the National Day Laborer Organizing Network. It is [funded](#) through left-wing sources.

- Unlike the Democratic Socialists of America, the PSL does not believe that working within the Democratic Party is a viable strategy to gain power. PSL organized a march at a campaign appearance by [Kamala Harris and Tim Walz](#). Kept outside of the venue, they shouted about how the ticket was insufficiently opposed to Isreal.

The PSL does not publish membership totals, but mass membership is not its goal. PSL considers itself a vanguard party with a tight cadre of dedicated revolutionaries.

The party follows the Leninist doctrine of a disciplined revolutionary party spelled out in his lengthy pamphlet "*What Is to Be Done?*" published in 1901. Lenin believed a centralized, disciplined party was necessary for communist revolution. As self-proclaimed vanguard party, PSL is organized as a centralist party in which all members are bound to defend and act on the party's program. Members who don't follow the party line are expelled.

Why PSL Matters

The PSL's instant disruptive protests on most any leftist issue is obviously within their First Amendment rights, even if they dismiss the Constitution as a capitalist farce.

Their funding and connections to Chinese Communist Party groups are what should alarm us.

The PSL collects [dues](#) from members, but the real money comes through Neville Roy Singham, a tech billionaire who cashed out his business fortune to focus on his political passions. From his office in Shanghai, he funds left-wing, pro-Chinese groups the United States as well as India, South America, Great Britain, and Africa.

Singham shares office space with a Chinese media group, with a [link](#) so seamless "It can be hard to tell where Maku begins and Mr. Singham's groups end." It is a connection that goes back to at least 2019.

How much Singham contributes to the PSL is impossible to track.

In a five-part series that documented the Singham network, [Fox News](#) estimated the spending of the total Singham network at \$401 million between 2017 and 2025.

Money that has been partially [entangled with](#) investment in Chinese companies and until recently [passed through](#) an untraceable Goldman Sacks donor-advised fund among other dodges that maximize opacity, makes its way to nonprofits with blandly positive names.

The core group includes The People's Forum, the Justice and Education Fund, the United Community Fund, The Progress Unity Fund, and BreakThrough Media (BT Media). Some exist only as post office boxes in UPS stores.

Media Matters

In media outreach, for example, Ben Becker, a founder of PSL, started BT Media in 2020. As the Network Contagion Research Institute [reports](#), PSL dominates the key offices and editorial team of BT News. They include:

1. Claudia De la Cruz – BT Media’s Secretary and Director, as well as PSL’s candidate for the 2024 Presidential election.
2. Karla Reyes – BT Media’s Chair and Director and De la Cruz’s 2024 PSL Presidential campaign running mate.
3. Yari Osorio – BT Media’s Treasurer and Director and PSL’s 2012 Vice-Presidential candidate.

“The degree of overlap between BT Media and PSL on their executive and editorial teams is so significant,” the NCRI [concludes](#), “that one can easily conclude that the former is functionally serving as a mouthpiece for the latter.” BT Media is now a multimedia outlet for anti-Western content.

The [People's Dispatch](#) published an approving story about No Kings rallies that even included an X post from the Speaker of Iran’s Parliament Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf. “Welcome to the party we started 47 years ago, No kings. This is the people of Iran, and we approve this message. #NoKings.” The People’s Dispatch weirdly characterized the 1979 Iranian Revolution as the fruit of class struggle.

Other Singham-funded media connections are much more subtle. The [Justice and Education Fund](#), for example, has supported [The Independent Media Institute](#). Through that grant, writers for such publications as *Teen Vogue*, *Salon*, and *Food and Wine* wind up in the Singham network.

Demonstration Discord

Agitation and maximum public chaos is PSL’s core business, part of Singham’s [“transnational protest and media machine.”](#)

With PSL as the networking hub, other groups, some basically hashtags for a temporary cause, [demonstrators](#) and pre-printed signs appear as if by magic.

PSL, with its siblings, the ANSWER Coalition, the People’s Forum, and Code Pink (Singham’s wife, Jodie Evans was a co-founder) reliably advance the views and interest of China. Code Pink was [once critical](#) of human rights abuses in China. Evans is now the co-author of [China Is Not Our Enemy](#).

At a February 2026 [Ways and Means committee hearing](#) on foreign influence in America’s tax-exempt sector, Adam Sohn, Co-founder of [Narravance](#), a social media research and intelligence firm, concluded:

*“The ANSWER Coalition and the Party for Socialism and Liberation mobilize the protesters. The People’s Forum trains and coordinates the activists. BreakThrough News handles messaging and media amplification. The impact of this money is ongoing: federal property vandalized at Union Station; American flags burned and police officers assaulted. Airports blocked at JFK and LAX. Brooklyn and Manhattan bridges shut down. Ambulances and commuters disrupted. Wall Street blockaded; holiday commerce halted at Macy’s Herald Square; and immigration and law enforcement facilities targeted. **This is not grassroots protest. It is a repeatable system for paralyzing American infrastructure on demand, financed through U.S. tax law, and aligned with a hostile foreign power.** It is an active vulnerability we cannot afford to leave intact.”*

In multiple decisions, the United States Supreme Court upheld the right for free speech for communist and radical agitators. The Center for American Institutions supports this right for free speech. Citizens though have a right to know that Arizona popup protests are not spontaneous expressions of widespread public discontent. The Arizona mainstream media has an obligation to report the news truthfully.