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Amazon’s response is deeply bizarre, untrue, and borders on defamatory. The response fails to even acknowledge or address their union-busting training video. Amazon’s past assertion that the Gizmodo article simply “cherry-picked soundbites” is blatantly false. The video clearly attempts to train management in monitoring for “normal behavior” amongst employees as a way to look for union activity. The contents of this disturbing video are what we would expect to see in a dystopian fascist society. Defining what “normal” behavior is and then monitoring for it, is something that doesn’t belong in society or the workplace.

The video also clearly states that unionization can lead to inefficiency and even job loss. Both are frequently used as anti-union talking points and may be illegal. With how weak labor laws are for protecting workers in the U.S, this speaks to how aggressive Amazon’s anti-unionism is. Like all abusers, Amazon will continue to claim that its anti-union stance is for the benefit of employees or that it never engaged in such activity.

As for the bizarre and defamatory, we need to look at Amazon’s comment that “Workers must not be penalized or subjected to harassment or intimidation for the non-violent exercise of their right to join or refrain from joining such legal organizations.” No member of Whole Worker, or any other worker organization attempting to unionize Amazon, has committed or advocated for violence. Why is Amazon injecting the word “non-violent” when there was never a need for clarification on this? Amazon appears to be defaming activists and its employees that are attempting to unionize by implying we could be or have been violent.

Invoking the possibility of violence is another common union-busting tactic designed to spread fear by associating unions with organized crime and violence. The only one engaging in violence is Amazon as they continue to provide technological assistance in the oppression of marginalized people via ICE and other law enforcement agencies. The only one engaging in workplace violence is Amazon by their continued disregard for the mental and physical health of their employees through its inhumane working conditions.

Lastly, the idea that a company once unionized somehow begins respecting the rights of workers is ludicrous. Unionized companies can be as virulently anti-union as non-union ones. Employee relations are so awful that during a strike at a warehouse in Spain, Amazon asked police "to force employees to go to their respective jobs and ensure their performance was identical to that of a normal working day." Jeff Bezos is nothing but a high-tec robber baron.

Whole Worker Organizing Committee