Jailers lock down striking prisoners

By Ted Kelly
Philadelphia

Thousands of prisoners across Pennsylvania have been confined to their cells since Aug. 29. That’s when the state’s Department of Corrections Secretary John Wetzel declared an indefinite lockdown of all facilities under his jurisdiction.

The lockdown, which began just days into the National Prison Strike (Aug. 21 to Sept. 9) is the most blatant in a series of repressive tactics that the state has resorted to in response to the strike. It was timed to preempt some major strike actions planned by prisoners.

Attacks on right to legal counsel

One week into the lockdown, Wetzel appeared alongside Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf, who announced a sweeping series of new policies that constitute an unprecedented crackdown on the rights of prisoners. Among the many petty and punitive policies, like banning prisoners from taking photos with their visitors, there are also new measures that will systematically deny prisoners their right to privacy with legal counsel.

All correspondence sent to prisoners is now to be transported to a third-party facility in Florida, where it will be opened and photocopied before copies are sent to the respective prisons to be delivered to the intended recipients. Since prison officials are at least in theory not allowed to open any mail containing legal correspondence, except in the presence of its recipient, a farcical new method has been introduced to get around this protection.

A prisoner in one state facility described how this is done: The mail is put into a laboratory glovebox meant for handling hazardous material where it is opened. The envelope and contents are then passed to another corrections officer wearing neoprene gloves, who photocopies them. The copies are then given to the prisoner, while the originals are kept in possession of the prison authorities for 15 days. After that, the authorities say they will be destroyed.

In both theory and practice, this arrangement shatters any remaining rights that prisoners have to private communications with counsel. Prison officials and corrections officers will now know ahead of time whenever a prisoner is planning to meet or correspond with lawyers, as well as the legal strategies they plan to use to win their case. “And since the prisons are a wing of the District Attorney’s office, this constitutes an egregious violation of our rights,” says Bryant Arroyo, a jailhouse lawyer and environmental

Continued on page 8
One year since Hurricane Maria - Day of Action
1. Support Boricua-led actions in your area!
   Check the list of actions at: PuertoricoTribunal.org
2. Organize a demonstration at Santander Bank or U.S. Federal Building to demand: Reparations & Decolonization for Puerto Rico!

Defend Public Education in P.R. - Call-in Day
Tell Puerto Rico’s Secretary of Education, gringa Julia Keleher, to demand: Stop Closing Schools! Stop privatizing education! Quality education is a right!
Call: (787) 759-2000  Tweet: @educacionPR, @SecEducacionPR

Grito De Lares - Commemorates P.R. Uprising for Independence
This day marks the 150th anniversary of the historic uprising for independence in Puerto Rico
1. Support Boricua-led actions/events in your area!
   Check the list of actions at PuertoricoTribunal.org
2. Organize a film screening of a P.R. film or other cultural event.

Sign & Share the Petition to the U.S. Government

Build the Int’l Tribunal on U.S. Crimes in Puerto Rico
October 27, 2018  -  Holyrood Church (715 179th Street) in New York City
1. Attend: organize a delegation to the Tribunal
2. Donate: gofundme.com/tribunalpuertorico
3. Endorse: Get local unions and orgs to sign up at puertoricotribunal.org/endorse/
Planning an action? Sign up here and tell us what you are doing at http://bit.ly/PRDaysOfAction

Workers World is a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist party inside the belly of the imperialist beast. We are a multinational, multigenerational organization that not only aims to abolish capitalism, but to build a socialist society because it’s the only way forward.

Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world and the planet itself in the never-ending quest for ever-greater profits. Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, joblessness and lack of hope for the future. No social problems can be solved under capitalism.

The U.S. is the richest country in the world, yet no one has a guaranteed right to shelter, food, water, health care, education or anything else — unless they can pay for it.

Contact a Workers World Party branch near you:

Workers World Party Branches

Join us in the fight for socialism!
Wages are lower than ever, and youth are saddled with seemingly insurmountable student debt, if they even make it to college. Black and Brown youth and trans people are ganged up on by cops and pigs on a regular basis.

WWP fights for socialism because the working class produces all wealth in society, and this wealth should remain in their hands, not be stolen in the form of capitalist profits. The wealth workers create should be socially owned and its distribution planned to satisfy and guarantee basic human needs.

Since 1959, Workers World Party has been out in the streets defending the workers and oppressed here and worldwide. If you’re interested in Marxism, socialism and fighting for a socialist future, please contact a WWP branch near you.

workers.org/wwp

Welcome to Workers World!
Reform and revolution

This article about the Cuban Revolution by Workers World Party founder Sam Marcy first appeared in the WW issue of December 6, 1960.

What has made the Cuban Revolution unique? Why is it such a beacon to the people of Latin America and the Caribbean but not to the imperialists themselves who express such obvious sympathy for the workers and landlords of the U.S. and other imperialist countries?

There have been many uprisings, guerrillas and revolutionary government forces in Latin America in the course of this century. But the triumph of Fidel Castro’s guerrilla army over the Batista dictatorship did something that no previous struggle had accomplished.

It broke up the old state apparatus. The revolution did not merely change governing groups, as had happened so many times before. It unseated the bourgeoisie itself from its role as the ruling class by demolishing its instrument of rule, the bourgeois state.

It once again proved the monumental words of Karl Marx on the Paris Commune: that one of the fundamental characteristics of a change of class structures is the crushing of the old state apparatus and the establishment of a new government. It is a test imposed on the popular consent of the masses.

This is what happened in Paris in 1871, when popular revolutionary committees took power in the Commune. Such committees of the urban masses had first appeared in the French Revolution of 1789, when the bourgeoisie had to call out the National Guard in order to prevent artisans to be able to completely uproot the old feudal order.

In 1871, the popular committees or communes exemplified again, but this time they represented the revolutionary struggle of the proletariat against the bourgeoisie.

In Cuba, the Committees in Defense of the Revolution became the eyes and ears of the new class power and its most important link with the masses. A similar relationship was forged to congressional offices showing the strong popular support for ending the unilateral U.S. economic, financial and commercial blockade of Cuba. See the schedule of activities and trails for the films at tinyurl.com/y7en38s/

Cuban delegation to visit New York

A high-level Cuban delegation will be in New York for the opening of the 73rd United Nations General Assembly. Organizations in solidarity with the Cuban Revolution are planning a public event on Sept. 26 at the historic Riverside Church, near Harlem, to welcome and hear from the Cuban delegation. In September 2000, Fidel Castro spoke at Riverside Church while at the height of the U.S. terrorist attacks on Afghanistan and Iraq.

Harlem has held a special place in U.S.-Cuba relations since the Hotel Theresa opened its doors and welcomed Fidel Castro and the Cuban delegation in 1960.

They went to Harlem after the Chavez massacre was disrepected by the racist Hotel Shelburne in midtown Manhattan, and it was there that Fidel Castro met Malcolm X. Chavez’s revolution and hatred for the beacon of the world’s oppressed people, particularly Black and Latinx communities in the U.S. It is not forgotten that Cuba allied with Angola at Cuito Cuanavale to decisively defeat invading troops from the white supremacist and U.S.-backed South African apartheid regime. Cuba exports literacy with its “Yo si puedo” teachers and brings health care, training of doctors and new medicines to the people of the world.

It was Fidel Castro’s and Bovarian Venezuela’s Hugo Chavez who developed a model of solidarity trade for countries stunted and diminished by centuries of colonialism, slavery and economic exploitation. That model promotes mutual development through cooperation and trade, not aid that serves the arrogant imperialist financial system.

U.S. imperialism is sharpening its knives to undo the advances made by the people of Latin America and the Caribbean. It makes an event like the one planned for Sept. 26 in New York more than just a meeting. It will be an important demonstration of solidarity.

Tickets to the event are required; a $5 donation is requested. Ticket distribution centers are:

• IPGC, 418 W. 145th St., Harlem, N.Y. Tickets can be picked up Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Call 212-926-5737 ext. 6 before coming. Contact person: Sharon E.

• International Action Center, 147 W. 24th St., Midtown Manhattan. Tickets can be picked up Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Call 212-629-6646 before coming. Contact person: Laura Paley.

• Holyrood Church, 715 W. 179th St., Washington Heights, N.Y. Tickets can be picked up Monday through Friday from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Contact person: Rayme Mundie.

They can be picked up Monday through Friday from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Call 718-338-1766 before coming. Contact person: Roger Wareham.

• Sistas’ Place, 456 Nostrand Ave., Brooklyn, N.Y. Tickets can be picked up Monday through Friday from 9 p.m. to 7 p.m. Call 718-338-1766 before coming. Contact person: Roger Wareham.

Strong unions and Communist Party

It’s important to note that before the rise of the 26th July Movement that launched the revolutionary struggle for freedom, Cuba was a strong Communist Party and trade unions that survived years of repression. The early liberal and progressive literature in the United States about the Cuban Revolution often overlooked this. But objective and subjective conditions in Cuba had matured to the point where a strong Communist Party was possible.

In the United States, the discussion of the class character of the Cuban Revolution came to a rather abrupt end when Comrade Fidel Castro, in a speech made just as CIA planes were bombing Cuba during the April 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion, for the first time put it quite explicitly: “What the Yankee imperialists will not forgive is that we have made a socialist revolution right under their very noses.”

Continued on page 10

Workers.org Sept. 13, 2018

Page 3

In Washington and New York Show solidarity with Cuba!

By Cheryl L. Bash

Washington, D.C.

Education is under attack in both the United States and its colony of Puerto Rico. In socialist Cuba, however, education is a national priority.

The International Committee for Peace, Justice and Dignity will examine this contrast in its Days of Action against the U.S. blockade of Cuba Sept. 24-28 in Washington, D.C.

On Wednesday, Sept. 26, a double-feature film screening will premiere “Lucha por el Cobre” and “América Latina contra la Guerra,” with a post-viewing discussion, along with actual participants in the struggles depicted on screen.

Puerto Rican film “Lucha Sí!” co-director Jinnette Morales will bring the frontline struggle of Puerto Rican teachers, students and parents to Washington. More than Hurricane María, the Fiscal Control Board and Puerto Rico’s colonial U.S. handouts are endangering all levels of education, particularly for children with disabilities.

From Cuba, Norma Guillain joins the discussion. She is one of the nine women who were the first Speakers and combined with archival footage and still pictures to bring alive Cuba’s revolutionary transformation and what it has meant for the lives and futures of these young women. A Cuban of African descent, Guillain, now a retired psychologist, has played a role in issues of gender, education against homophobia and prevention of AIDS. She is also a poet, a theater and documentary producer.

Space at the Landmark E Street Cinema, where these films will be shown, is limited. Tickets are available online at tinyurl.com/ydhbtg8/

Other activities during the week include public meetings at the University of Maryland’s Nyumbu Cultural Center in Howard University; a screening for high school students promoted by a Teachers Union; and a meeting for congressional offices showing the strong popular support for ending the unilateral U.S. economic, financial and commercial blockade of Cuba.

The landlords eventually lay their hands on the lands of the foreign oil companies in Mexico, losing the property rights to the class characterized by them as “land holders, both feudal and capitalist.”

The landlords eventually laid their hands on the lands of the foreign oil companies in Mexico, losing the property rights to the class characterized by them as “land holders, both feudal and capitalist.”

The history of peasant rebellions in the United States and its colony of Puerto Rico is the crushing of the old state apparatus, abolishing its instrument of rule, the CDRs because they were the living representatives of the class structure of society.

In Cuba, the Committees in Defense of the Revolution became the eyes and ears of the new class power and its most important link with the masses. The landlords eventually laid their hands on the lands of the foreign oil companies in Mexico, losing the property rights to the class characterized by them as “land holders, both feudal and capitalist.”

The landlords eventually laid their hands on the lands of the foreign oil companies in Mexico, losing the property rights to the class characterized by them as “land holders, both feudal and capitalist.”

It is instructive to compare this to the Mexican Revolution of 1910-1917, for which all its great achievements, did not go beyond progressive, bourgeois democrats.

In Cuba, the Committees in Defense of the Revolution became the eyes and ears of the new class power and its most important link with the masses. The landlords eventually laid their hands on the lands of the foreign oil companies in Mexico, losing the property rights to the class characterized by them as “land holders, both feudal and capitalist.”

The landlords eventually laid their hands on the lands of the foreign oil companies in Mexico, losing the property rights to the class characterized by them as “land holders, both feudal and capitalist.”

In Cuba, the Committees in Defense of the Revolution became the eyes and ears of the new class power and its most important link with the masses. The landlords eventually laid their hands on the lands of the foreign oil companies in Mexico, losing the property rights to the class characterized by them as “land holders, both feudal and capitalist.”

The landlords eventually laid their hands on the lands of the foreign oil companies in Mexico, losing the property rights to the class characterized by them as “land holders, both feudal and capitalist.”

In Cuba, the Committees in Defense of the Revolution became the eyes and ears of the new class power and its most important link with the masses. The landlords eventually laid their hands on the lands of the foreign oil companies in Mexico, losing the property rights to the class characterized by them as “land holders, both feudal and capitalist.”

The landlords eventually laid their hands on the lands of the foreign oil companies in Mexico, losing the property rights to the class characterized by them as “land holders, both feudal and capitalist.”

They seemed necessary in order to withstand the utterly unprecedented vileness of the economic arteries.

The Mexican Revolution was a political revolution that reformed the state. This was what happened in Paris in 1871, when the bourgeois took power in the Commune. Such committees of the urban masses had first appeared in the French Revolution of 1789, when the bourgeoisie had to call out the National Guard in order to prevent artisans to be able to completely uproot the old feudal order.

In 1871, the popular committees or communes exemplified again, but this time they represented the revolutionary struggle of the proletariat against the bourgeoisie.

In Cuba, the Committees in Defense of the Revolution became the eyes and ears of the new class power and its most important link with the masses. The landlords eventually laid their hands on the lands of the foreign oil companies in Mexico, losing the property rights to the class characterized by them as “land holders, both feudal and capitalist.”

They seemed necessary in order to withstand the utterly unprecedented vileness of the economic arteries.

The Mexican Revolution was a political revolution that reformed the state. This was what happened in Paris in 1871, when the bourgeois took power in the Commune. Such committees of the urban masses had first appeared in the French Revolution of 1789, when the bourgeoisie had to call out the National Guard in order to prevent artisans to be able to completely uproot the old feudal order.

In 1871, the popular committees or communes exemplified again, but this time they represented the revolutionary struggle of the proletariat against the bourgeoisie.

In Cuba, the Committees in Defense of the Revolution became the eyes and ears of the new class power and its most important link with the masses. The landlords eventually laid their hands on the lands of the foreign oil companies in Mexico, losing the property rights to the class characterized by them as “land holders, both feudal and capitalist.”

They seemed necessary in order to withstand the utterly unprecedented vileness of the economic arteries.

The Mexican Revolution was a political revolution that reformed the state. This was what happened in Paris in 1871, when the bourgeois took power in the Commune. Such committees of the urban masses had first appeared in the French Revolution of 1789, when the bourgeoisie had to call out the National Guard in order to prevent artisans to be able to completely uproot the old feudal order.

In 1871, the popular committees or communes exemplified again, but this time they represented the revolutionary struggle of the proletariat against the bourgeoisie.
By Martha Grevatt

Detroit

Polls of Michigan residents repeatedly in- dicate that fixing the state’s dilapidated road infrastructure is a top concern. Yet most construction work has been at a standstill since Sept. 4, when members of Operating Engineers Local 324, which represents equipment operators in the whole state of Michigan, were told not to report for work by the anti-union contractors’ consortium, Michigan Infrastructure and Transportation Associates.

In metropolitan Detroit alone, dozens of road repair projects are shut down. If work is not resumed soon, the driving public can expect to spend another winter navigating a maze of inconvenient detours that lengthen their daily commute.

Let’s be clear: The union members, who operate heavy equipment, are not on strike. MITA is calling the work stoppage that it ini- tiated “a defensive lockout.”

It’s important to note, however, that OE’s master contract with MITA and other Mich- igan contractors expired June 1, at which time their bargaining relationship with the contractor group ceased. The union contends that “the lack of a contract means the em- ployers are unilaterally making changes to the terms of the master contract, but the an- ti-union companies that control MITA have threatened to use their clout to deprive such contractors from getting jobs. MITA has threatened out-of-state companies that they will not get work in Michigan if they negoti- ate directly with Local 324.

MITA says it will bring OE members back to work if the operators ratify a contract that the association drafted unilaterally. The me-

dia have emphasized that the MITA contract raises pay and benefits by $8 an hour over five years.

But the contract the union signed with several dozen companies actually has a smaller pay increase than what MITA is of- fering. Why then did the union decide not to deal with MITA?

The major contract improvements OE se- cured from other companies had stronger language on subcontracting and new appren- ticeship opportunities. This assures job security for current employees and oppor- tunities for the next generation. These im- provements are exactly what MITA is stead- ily resisting.

As OE spokesperson Dan McKernan ex- plained to WW, even if the union signs with a MITA contractor, if that contractor secures a bid with the state, they will turn around and subcontract the work to a nonunion outfit, throwing OE members out of work.

MITA counts about 600 companies as members, two-thirds of them nonunion. Only 40 of those companies have contracts with OE 324. Thus, nonunion and anti-union contractors are using the weapon of income inequality to muscle MITA members off the job.

In the process they are holding Michigan’s driving public and taxpayers hostage. Will the Michigan Department of Transportation, which does not employ OE members directly, fine the companies — as state law allows — for creating unnecessary delays? Or will the state pay additional costs on the public’s dime?

MITA has encouraged its member com- panies to allow untrained workers to oper- ate equipment. However, this is skilled work requiring years of training. Ultimately, this is a “race to the bottom,” as the workers’ fight against the greedy management for creating unnecessary delays? Or will the state pay additional costs on the public’s dime?

MITA says it will bring OE members back to work if the operators ratify a contract that the association drafted unilaterally. The me-

dia have emphasized that the MITA contract raises pay and benefits by $8 an hour over five years.

But the contract the union signed with several dozen companies actually has a smaller pay increase than what MITA is of- fering. Why then did the union decide not to deal with MITA?

The major contract improvements OE se- cured from other companies had stronger language on subcontracting and new appren- ticeship opportunities. This assures job security for current employees and oppor- tunities for the next generation. These im- provements are exactly what MITA is stead- ily resisting.

As OE spokesperson Dan McKernan ex- plained to WW, even if the union signs with a MITA contractor, if that contractor secures a bid with the state, they will turn around and subcontract the work to a nonunion outfit, throwing OE members out of work.

MITA counts about 600 companies as members, two-thirds of them nonunion. Only 40 of those companies have contracts with OE 324. Thus, nonunion and anti-union contractors are using the weapon of income inequality to muscle MITA members off the job.

In the process they are holding Michigan’s driving public and taxpayers hostage. Will the Michigan Department of Transportation, which does not employ OE members directly, fine the companies — as state law allows — for creating unnecessary delays? Or will the state pay additional costs on the public’s dime?

MITA has encouraged its member com- panies to allow untrained workers to oper- ate equipment. However, this is skilled work requiring years of training. Ultimately, this is a “race to the bottom,” as the workers’ fight against the greedy management for creating unnecessary delays? Or will the state pay additional costs on the public’s dime?

MITA says it will bring OE members back to work if the operators ratify a contract that the association drafted unilaterally. The me-


Arizona educators resist state teacher strike

By Otis Grotewohl

Arizona education workers are once again in motion, following a stunning, reactionary decision on Aug. 29 by the state’s corporate-batched Supreme Court to remove Proposition 203, the Invest in Education Act, from the November ballot. The initiative would have increased school funding by $650 million. The ruling cannot be appealed.

Following the Arizona #RedForEd school workers’ strike in April and May, educators employed inititated a petition campaign to collect the signatures required to get the proposal on the ballot for the upcoming general election. They worked hard all summer and got 270,000 signatures, many more than the 151,000 legally required. The signatures were certified, and the measure was officially on the Nov. 6 ballot.

State officials promised education workers a pay raise, as well as money for school supplies, materials and support staff. The funding would specifically be used to reduce the overcrowded class sizes in a state where a majority of the student population is Latino, Indigenous and African-American. Smaller class sizes have been proven to create a more productive learning environment, especially important for oppressed youth.

The Invest in Education Act would have imposed a progressive tax increase on wealthy Arizonans. However, the ballot measure was nixed as a result of intense pressure from a union-busting front group for the state’s Chamber of Commerce called Arizona for Great Schools and a Strong Economy.

Both the state Supreme Court and the pro-business, anti-worker Chamber of Commerce have the blessings of the far-right Republican-led Legislature, as well as Gov. Doug Ducey. Ducey once served as a Chamber operational manager, notoriously for paying its workers low wages. He also served as state treasurer under his openly racist predecessor, former Gov. Jan Brewer. Most notably, the fascist former sheriff of Maricopa County in Arizona, Joe Arpaio, endorsed Ducey. Ducey and his legislative cronies did everything they could to defeat funding for public schools before, during and after the strike. Arizona is a haven of for-profit charter schools. The state’s leaders would like to keep it that way.

More school employee actions

Comments and posts flooded the Arizona Educators United (AEU) Facebook page on the evening of Aug. 29, calling for immediate action. Arizona Education Association (AEA) President Joe Thomas invoked words attributed to labor activist Joe Hill: “Don’t mourn. Organize!” (An immigrant from Sweden and later organizes for the IWW, the Western Workers of the World, Hill was executed by the state of Utah in 1915.)

In the days after the state Supreme Court ruling, education workers rallied at the state capital in Phoenix. Thomas encouraged AEA members to wear red to school to show strength in numbers and express solidarity. In the spring, education strikers had donned red in West Virginia and Oklahoma, while Arizona school employees created the #RedForEd movement.

The National Education Association, with all its members, called those wearing red to show solidarity with their Arizona colleagues.

The next day, education workers and their supporters picketed the Chamber of Commerce in Phoenix for funding the legal challenge that got the InvestInEd Act removed from the ballot. An action also took place in Tucson.

...and more on the horizon

The wave of education worker walkouts has spread into the 2018-2019 school year. Thousands of education workers walked out on the first day of school in Wash- ington state, the majority of them African-American and Latino, voted to authorize a strike for the first time in 30 years. While labor leaders are focusing on the November elections, promoting the pro-capitalist Democratic Party, rank-and-file education union members are weighing all options.

Despite the state of Arizona's broken promises to fund public schools, educators are not giving up their struggle. In fact, the AEA and AEU are now using the #StillHittingBack campaign to show Arizona’s education workers are using the betrayal as a teachable moment to build the fightback.

‘Labor Day’ unmasked: Build Workers World!

Did you know that the federal holiday “Labor Day,” held the first Monday in September, was found ed in 1894? The reason Labor Day is not May 1, celebrated today in more than 100 countries as International Workers’ Day, has nothing to do with honoring the role of labor in building this country. Rather, it has everything to do with denying the role of socialists, anarchists and other radical organizers in the labor movement.

The American Federation of Labor, ever fearful of alienating the ruling class, suggested in 1887 that Labor Day be “celebrated” in September to take attention away from May Day and the fight of working people for the 8-hour day in Chicago. A police riot against organiz ers there on May 4, 1886, known as the Haymarket Massacre, resulted in cops killing four workers (and seven of their own), and rounding up leading labor or ganizers. Most of these were well-known socialists or anarchists who had not even been on the scene. Four were executed by the state in 1887.

There is nothing honorable, worthy or celebratory behind “Labor Day.” Its roots are deeply embedded in the most vile kind of capitalist lies, police terror and fear of working people’s rights — including our righteous demands for a socialist revolution.

That’s the kind of information you’ve come to expect from Workers World — hard-hitting, anti-racist, anti-sexist, pro-LGBTQ and pro-working class truth. But Workers World can’t do it without your help. We established the Workers World Supporter Program 41 years ago so read ers could invest in the paper and promote working-class truth that heralds revolution ary change.

For a donation of at least $75 or $100 a year — and much more if you’re able — members receive a year’s subscription to WW, a monthly letter about timely issues and five free subscriptions to give to friends. Write checks (either monthly or only once a year) to Workers World and mail them, with your name and address, to 147 W. 24th St., 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10011. Or sign up to donate online at workers.org/donate/. It’s easy to set up monthly deductions. Know that we’re grateful for your help in building Workers World — for today and for the future.
**African-American suffrage: Voting rights and suppression**

By Dolores Cox

At the end of the U.S. Civil War, the 13th, 14th and 15th Reconstruction Amendments to the U.S. Constitution were ratified. In the 15th Amendment, abolished "slavery and involuntary servitude" — except for people convicted of a crime. In 1866, the U.S. Congress granted citizenship to African Americans, albeit second-class citizenship. The 15th Amendment, passed in February 1870, prohibited the denial of the right to vote based on a citizen's race, color or previous condition. This included Black men, but not women.

On March 1, 1870, in Perth Amboy, N.J., Thomas Mundy Peterson became the first African American to vote, one month after the passage of the 15th Amendment. Some whites were appalled at a Black man voting. In the 1900s, Perth Amboy had served as a slave port. Peterson’s father was enslaved by the Mundy family. His mother was enslaved by Hugh Newell in the Freehold Township of New Jersey. She was freed in Newell’s will. Peterson was 12 when the Peterson was born. Peterson died Feb. 4, 1904, in Metuchen, N.J.

While working in a horse stable, Peterson had been approached and encouraged to exercise his voting right by attorneys who had worked hard but unsuccessfully to acquire abolition. Peterson, the leader of the 1899 anti-slavery Harvest’s Ferry raid. Peterson, who cast his vote in a campaign to revise Perth Amboy’s town charter, was subsequently appointed to a seat in the board’s effort to close the sites ahead of the November election. "It is highly significant that the election results were for the predominately black community is racist, ablest and deplorable."

The REV UP Campaign (Register! Educate! Vote to UP) has vowed to turn in the state’s 15th Amendment..."the rule in the Shelby County, Alabama..."the ruling...the consequence of colonial domination and capitalist austerity."

"The Arc Georgia, an organization of people with intellectual and development disabilities in the state, has made it clear that instead of working to fix inaccessible polling places and bringing them into compliance with the ADA, officials are willing to close those sites..."A spokesman for the National Council on Independent Living pointed out that one of the polling places selected to be closed was a middle school..."If it's inaccessible, how are disabled kids going to get an education?"

Successful fightback

Community reaction was swift and..."The American Civil Liberties Union..."The election board and..."The decision..."We strongly condemn..."and that that government..."[County officials'] decision to invoke the ADA in order to suppress the vote of the predominantly black community is racist, ablest and deplorable."

The REV UP Campaign (Register! Educate! Vote to UP) has vowed to turn in the state’s 15th Amendment..."the rule in the Shelby County, Alabama..."the ruling...the consequence of colonial domination and capitalist austerity."

"The Arc Georgia, an organization of people with intellectual and development disabilities in the state, has made it clear that instead of working to fix inaccessible polling places and bringing them into compliance with the ADA, officials are willing to close those sites..."A spokesman for the National Council on Independent Living pointed out that one of the polling places selected to be closed was a middle school..."If it's inaccessible, how are disabled kids going to get an education?"

Successful fightback

Community reaction was swift and..."The American Civil Liberties Union..."The election board and..."The decision..."We strongly condemn..."and that that government..."[County officials'] decision to invoke the ADA in order to suppress the vote of the predominantly black community is racist, ablest and deplorable."

The REV UP Campaign (Register! Educate! Vote to UP) has vowed to turn in the state’s 15th Amendment..."the rule in the Shelby County, Alabama..."the ruling...the consequence of colonial domination and capitalist austerity."

"The Arc Georgia, an organization of people with intellectual and development disabilities in the state, has made it clear that instead of working to fix inaccessible polling places and bringing them into compliance with the ADA, officials are willing to close those sites..."A spokesman for the National Council on Independent Living pointed out that one of the polling places selected to be closed was a middle school..."If it's inaccessible, how are disabled kids going to get an education?"
Serena Williams fights back against sexist attacks

By Monica Moorhead

The 2018 U.S. Open will be most remembered for how the 23-time Grand Slam tennis champion Serena Williams challenged the sexist behavior of chair referee Carlos Ramos — rather than for how her opponent, the young, talented Naomi Osaka, won the championship on Sept. 8 in Flushing, New York.

Ramos accused Williams of cheating when her coach, Patrick Mouratoglou, admittedly made a coaching gesture to her from the stands. Williams stated repeatedly that she deserved an apology for being accused of cheating, since many coaches have made similar gestures for decades without retribution.

Ramos called a second violation after Williams smashed her racket on the court out of frustration. The third violation, after Williams called him a “thief” for taking a point away from her, resulted in having a full game taken away from her.

On Sept. 9, the tournament referee fined Williams $170,000 for three code violations: $4,000 for the coaching violation, $5,000 for racket abuse and $150,000 for verbal abuse.

In her postgame interview, Williams stated, “I’ve seen other men call other umpires ‘thieves,’ and they’re fighting for women’s rights and for women’s equality. … For me to say ‘thief’ and for him to take a game? … It was a sexist remark. He’s never taken a game from a man because they said thief. For me, it blows my mind. But I’m going to continue to fight for women.” (theequ.com, Sept. 9)

Williams’ actions and words on and off the court must be viewed within a historical context. Serena Williams and her sister, Venus, have endured at least 20 years of both sexist and racist abuse as tennis champions who happen to be African American. Despite these obstacles, they are currently the collective winners of an unprecedented 30 Grand Slam titles. Serena is considered by many to be tennis’ GOAT — greatest of all time.

A year ago Serena was punished by tennis officials by having her No. 1 ranking stolen after giving birth to her daughter, Olympia, on Sept. 1, 2017. The GOAT was given an outrageously low 421 ranking.

The form-fitting cat suit, black from neck to toe, that she wore in the French Open to help control her chronic blood clots exacerbated after her birth, was later banned by French Open officials. This is not the first time that authoritative male sports figures have policed Serena’s powerful, muscular body.

Legendary tennis player Billie Jean King, who is a lesbian, wrote a Sept. 9 op-ed piece in the Washington Post in defense of Serena Williams. It reads in part: “Did Ramos treat Williams differently than male players have been treated? I think he did.”

Women are treated differently in most arenas of life. This is especially true for women of color.

And what played out on the court yesterday happens far too often.

After the match, King tweeted, “When a woman is emotional, she’s ‘hysterical’ and she’s penalized for it. When a man does the same, he’s ‘outspoken’ and there are no repercussions.”

Kudos to Serena Williams for not being afraid to defend herself, inspiring other women, especially women of color, to do the same.

Stop the war on migrants!

Chicago mayor may move on up as Killer cop heads to trial

By Sav Ray

Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel announced on Sept. 4 that he would not run for a third term, bringing joy and relief to the many organizations that have fought to get him out of office. This is the same day before jury selection began in the trial of Jason Van Dyke.

Van Dyke is the Chicago police officer who fatally shot unarmed 17-year-old Laquan McDonald 16 times in 2014. He is now on trial for first degree murder. He is one of the first cops in the U.S. to face this charge for killing a Black person while on duty. Hundreds of people gathered outside the Cook County Criminal Courthouse for a rally the morning Van Dyke’s trial opened.

Immediately following the shooting of McDonald, protests demanded the release of police dashcam footage. Mayor Emanuel was in the midst of a reelection campaign. It was only after he had secured his reelection in April 2015 that his office released the incriminating footage.

In fact, the city paid a $5 million settlement to McDonald’s family 18 days after the election, yet did not release the footage until November 2015. Only then was Van Dyke charged with first degree murder. Shortly thereafter, community pressure forced Emanuel to fire Police Superintendent Garry McCarthy, a prime perpetrator in this racist coverup and so many others.

The role that city officials played in covering up McDonald’s murder has shaped the political scene in Chicago ever since. Emanuel and Anita Alvarez, at that time state’s attorney for Cook County, were the main targets of a campaign to oust officials who placed protecting murderous police officers above justice. Led primarily by Black organizations, including Assata’s Daughters, Black Lives Matter Chicago and BYP100, a massive grassroots campaign moved to get Alvarez voted out of office in the March 2016 elections. Activists organized train takeovers and rallies and used the hashtag #ByAnita on social media to successfully garner support for voting her out, without expressly endorsing or opposing her competitors.

They then turned their focus to Rahm Emanuel.

During Emanuel’s seven years in office, he has closed 30 public schools, shut down half of the city’s public mental health clinics and initiated the building of a $95 million police academy. Had he released the damning dashcam footage of Laquan McDonald’s execution before the 2015 election, he likely would have lost his main challenger, Chicago community activist Jesús “Chuy” García.

When the dashcam footage of Jason Van Dyke’s crime was released to the public, it was already clear to many that the mayor had anything but Chicago’s best interests at heart. Today, the struggle continues.

As Van Dyke’s trial heads to completion, nobody is市场上 in campaign funds in a massive war chest, so he will likely continue to influence Chicago politics. But now that he’s been forced to step down and jump into a copcov cover-ups McCarthy and Alvarez on the political sidelines, justice demands that the actual triggerman get convicted and sentenced. Jail Jason Van Dyke! Jail all killer cops!
Solidarity with national prison strike

FIRE targets notorious Bristol County, Mass., sheriff

By Sam Ordóñez
Dartmouth, Mass.

A crowd of 30 people gathered at the entrance to the Bristol County Jail here on Sept. 8 for a noise demonstration. It was held by the Boston chapter of FIRE (Fight for Immigrants and Refugees Everywhere) in solidarity with the national prison strike scheduled to end the next day, as well as with earlier acts of resistance inside Bristol County Jail itself. Most of the demonstrators travelled from Boston or Providence, R.I., to show solidarity with prisoners in the jail.

The rally began with a land acknowledgment by Nat Heathman of the United American Indians of New England in solidarity with the national prison strike.

“Two of the speakers led the demonstration in song: “Which Side Are You On?” and “Solidarity Forever.” Recognizing that prisoners are also members of the working class, both these songs come from the early 20th century union movement, with the former updated during the 1960s’ Civil Rights Movement.

Conditions in Bristol County

Bristol County Jail has a long history of abuse and terrible conditions, particularly around medical neglect and the use of chain gangs.

At the end of July, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement detained the jail by putting on hunger strike to protest inhumane living conditions such as inedible food, medical neglect and exploitative phone and commissary rates. They were joined by prisoners in the general population in a powerful show of solidarity.

Siham Byah, a Moroccan activist who spent two months in the ICE detention center in Bristol County before being deported, phoned in to the rally: “It is a falsity that takes pride in mistreating and dehumanizing its inmates... Health care is nonexistent. The food is inedible. It’s not something you would give an animal, never mind people. We did not see the shadow of a fruit or vegetable unless you have a special order from a doctor, and even then you get a rotten apple once a day. People have their basic rights stripped away from them. I certainly didn’t feel like a human being when I was kept in there.”

Sheriff’s response

Despite the presence of guards with flak jackets, three cars of state troopers patrolling the area and a K9 unit with barking dogs, the demonstrators refused to be intimidated and held a two-hour rally outside the entrance, using a powerful sound system. They had been barred entry onto the property.

Thomas Hodgson, the notorious, fascist sheriff of Bristol County, recently traveled to Washington, D.C., to give an award to President Trump. He arrived at the jail shortly after the rally began, wearing an ICE shirt.

Several speakers confronted Hodgson directly, calling attention to the fact that he was visually laughing and making mocking faces as speakers exposed the crimes committed in his facilities.

The sheriff also made headlines earlier this year when he offered to send his prisoners to the Mexican border to be used as slave labor in the construction of Trump’s racist border wall.

Pennsylvania jailers lock down striking prisoners

Continued from page 1

talist at SCI Frackville with a history of successfully challenging DOC abuses.

Health crisis: phony and real

The DOC claims that a number of pris- on staff have fallen ill in recent weeks, mostly in the western region of the state. The first such accounts began as early as Aug. 6, but skepticism has met the few details that have been disclosed. No clear pattern of illness has emerged. In one inci- dent, an officer was administered Narcan, used to treat emergency overdoses, but it is not clear under what circumstances.

Another case that allegedly contrib- uted to the lockdown involved a guard escorting a prisoner who, he claimed, “appeared” to be under the influence of a drug. Later, that guard developed “bumps around his forehead” and went to the hospital for a few short hours before being discharged. The DOC is using these minor incidents to suggest that a wide- spread and sudden health crisis among staff is the reason for the unprecedented state of lockdown.

Actually, there is a widespread health crisis in prisons across the country, which is one of the factors that incited the national strike, which launched a hunger strike. High temperature levels and denial of medical care are all extremely dangerous conditions. The next step is to demand DOC policies, not ameliorated by them.

WW newspaper banned, prisoners harassed

This lockdown is just the latest in a series of new instances of repression that prisoners have reported in recent months. Workers World newspaper itself has been notified that three recent issues have been banned from distribution in Pennsylvania prisons. As of last week, over 500 inmates are subscribers and perhaps thousands are readers. The reason given for this censorship—the third such inci- dent of Workers World being banned in Pennsylvania prisons this year—was its reporting on the National Prison Strike.

For weeks running up to the first day of the strike, the ion scanner that suppos- edly tests for toxic or illegal substances began issuing dozens of false positives at SCI Frackville. Guards turned away up- wards of 20 visitors per day, which only inflamed tensions between inmates and officers. Since the lockdown, inmates at Frackville report they’re being served inedible food (rotten bananas, for instance, and cold, watery rice with broccoli and cauliflower mashed into it) and experi- ence delays in the delivery of commissary food—which they have to pay for.

This summer also brought the long- awaited closure of a notorious work camp in Ter- terford, site of one of the worst toxic wa- ter conditions in the state. Inmates were moved to a new $400 million facility called SCI Phoenix, only to be met by guards who had destroyed their property, smearing their clothes with food and dirt and shred- ding their mail and legal paper while it was in transport. Multiple prisoners re- ported their property had been vandalized with scratched racial slurs and drawings of swastikas. At least one inmate was hospi- talized because of inconsistent access to his needed medication.

Among those moved to SCI Phoenix was Michael Africa Sr., one of nine mem- bers of the MOVE Organization who was arrested in 1978 and falsely convicted of shooting a Philly cop. He is one of several remaining MOVE members who are fi- nally up for parole in the coming months. The lockdown not only coincides with Mi- chael Africa’s next parole hearing, which is just weeks away, but also preempted a major strike action. Prisoners had in- tended to launch a boycott of telephone and commissary purchases on Sept. 2.

Since the Aug. 29 lockdown, prison- ers have been protesting by chanting and hanging on their doors in unison for hours on end. Some cell blocks have now also started refusing food. That same tactic was deployed by prisoners held in the Pennsylvania Industrial Correctional Center, who launched a hunger strike ear- lier this summer to protest a lockdown. When Wetzel and Wolf announced their sweeping new policy changes, it did not change the conditions they llevar to. The DOC is using these minor incidents to suggest that a widespread health crisis among staff is the reason for the unprecedented state of lockdown.

Repression continues under Democrats

Governor Wolf is one of several Demo- crats who assumed office with a suppos- edly “progressive” agenda—and have since entered into high-profile partner- ships with reactionary white supremacists. Wolf came into power alongside Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney, who was so eager to remove protest encampments that he came back so eager to remove protest encampments up around the city that he em- powered the police to beat demonstra- tors and destroy their property. He even brought out bulldozers to dig up the earth all around City Hall the same morning that the encampments were removed.

The new prison policy regarding legal mail is a huge boon for chief prosecutor Larry Krasner, whose district attorney office has entered into an obvious pact with the Fraternal Order of Police to keep Mumia Abu-Jamal in prison until the conditions there kill him. Lawyers for Mumia, who is held at SCI Mahanoy, are in an ongoing struggle with the DOC’s office over the release of files that would prove prosecutorial and judicial misconduct in Mumia’s case. Krasner’s office has either destroyed the documents or is with- holding them from the court. That should demonstrate just how dangerous it is that all legal mail for prisoners across the state will now basically be up for prosecution by prosecutors and prison officials.

Workers World will continue to protest on behalf of the prisoners whose rights to read this publication is being unlawfully denied. Additionally, the Abolitionist Law Center asks that any reports of abuse or violations of rights related to the lock- down be reported to keyes@alcenter.org.
Syria’s war
With an end in sight, more obstacles remain

By G. Dunkel

As the war in Syria enters its apparent end phase, it’s obvious that this country has paid a high price for U.S. imperialism’s attempt at regime change. By some estimates, over 500,000 Syrians, out of a total population of about 20 million, have been killed in fighting since 2011, when armed conflict broke out. Hundreds of thousands are “internally displaced,” forced to flee their homes because of violence and threats but remaining in Syria.

Syria’s economy has been devastated. Social relations between various communities have been disrupted and enervated.

The major powers trying to replace Bashar al-Assad and his government — U.S. imperialism and its major European partners, Britain and France — have intervened mainly through proxies, while sending large numbers of troops. Sometimes, they even funneled money and arms through Qatar, the Emirates and the United Arab Emirates. That regime from the start intended to try to overthrow the Syrian government and always against Kurdish forces. Israel has bombed Syrian targets.

Washington made its largest troop intervention with Special Forces in the jungles covering troop movements, and starve the people, as well as destroy the area that had been under reactionary control of the regimes that started the conflict. However, the resolution that our peoples face today.

This U.S. threat to Syria is the height of hypocrisy, especially given the chemical weapons the U.S. dropped in Vietnam and Laos during the Vietnam war, euphemistically known as “defoliants.” They were designed to destroy the crops and starve people, as well as destroy the jungles covering troop movements.

By Kathy Durkin

Palestinians confined in Israel’s brutal prisons issued a statement of solidarity on Aug. 20 with the National Prison Strike in the U.S. Members of the Popular Prisoner Solidarity Committee in Palestine issued a statement of solidarity with U.S. prisoners engaged in work stoppages and protests against forced prison labor, racism and mass incarceration. The same ruling class is also extensive coverage of the prison strike.

The Palestinians behind bars extend a sister solidarity with the heroic 6,000 Palestinians who face the Israeli regime for the “crime” of fighting for the liberation of their people. There is also extensive coverage of the prison strike and support actions across the U.S. at the website. By revealing the underbelly of the empire, Flounders sheds insight on how to stand up to the latest war on terror, and in doing so, save ourselves and humanity.”

Available at all major online booksellers. PentagonAchilles.net

Israel punishes jailed Palestinians for support of U.S. prison strike

By Nairobi Flounders

The Palestinians wishing to leave the area has already been established. In the province, up to 100,000 army troops face the decision of whether to accept an agreement from al-Qaeda-related forces. A humanitarian corridor for civilians wishing to leave the area has already been established.

A large area of eastern Syria, mainly desert but containing most of Syria’s oil, is now under the control of Kurdish groups. Some 2,000 U.S. troops are also in that region.

A series of meetings among belligerents was first held in Astana, the capital of Kazakhstan, in 2017. The Astana goal was to de-escalate the struggle in Syria by exchanging prisoners and bodies, providing services like water and electricity, and reducing violence. These meetings were held between the Syrian opposition and the Syrian government in the presence of observers from Turkey, Russia and Iran — the countries which guaranteed the process. There has been no participation of “Western Powers,” the Damascus term Al-Jazeera uses to refer to Washington and its European allies.

The opposition fighters still remaining are concentrated in Idlib. Most observers believe that they are under the protection of other Syrian forces. The Assad regime is also trying to limit casualties suffered by civilians and to both sides. A typical deal allowed the fighters who refused to surrender to Syrian control to leave and take their families on a one-way bus trip to Idlib, a province in northwestern Syria.

Aastana agreement and military pressure on Idlib

A series of meetings among belligerents has been held in Astana, the capital of Kazakhstan, in 2017. The Astana goal was to de-escalate the struggle in Syria by exchanging prisoners and bodies, providing services like water and electricity, and reducing violence. These meetings were held between the Syrian opposition and the Syrian government in the presence of observers from Turkey, Russia and Iran — the countries which guaranteed the process. There has been no participation of “Western Powers,” the Damascus term Al-Jazeera uses to refer to Washington and its European allies.

The opposition fighters still remaining are concentrated in Idlib. Most observers believe that they are under the protection of other Syrian forces. The Assad regime is also trying to limit casualties suffered by civilians and to both sides. A typical deal allowed the fighters who refused to surrender to Syrian control to leave and take their families on a one-way bus trip to Idlib, a province in northwestern Syria.

As the Syrian army began to win back areas that had been under reactionary control in the cities of Aleppo and Homs, as well as the suburb of Damascus called East Ghouta and the southern border with Jordan, it would make agreements to limit casualties suffered by civilians and to both sides. A typical deal allowed the fighters who refused to surrender to Syrian control to leave and take their families on a one-way bus trip to Idlib, a province in northwestern Syria.

Syria’s war
With an end in sight, more obstacles remain

By G. Dunkel

As the war in Syria enters its apparent end phase, it’s obvious that this country has paid a high price for U.S. imperialism’s attempt at regime change. By some estimates, over 500,000 Syrians, out of a total population of about 20 million, have been killed in fighting since 2011, when armed conflict broke out. Hundreds of thousands are “internally displaced,” forced to flee their homes because of violence and threats but remaining in Syria.

Syria’s economy has been devastated. Social relations between various communities have been disrupted and enervated.

The major powers trying to replace Bashar al-Assad and his government — U.S. imperialism and its major European partners, Britain and France — have intervened mainly through proxies, while sending large numbers of troops. Sometimes, they even funneled money and arms through Qatar, the Emirates and the United Arab Emirates. That regime from the start intended to try to overthrow the Syrian government and always against Kurdish forces. Israel has bombed Syrian targets.

Washington made its largest troop intervention with Special Forces in the jungles covering troop movements, and starve the people, as well as destroy the area that had been under reactionary control of the regimes that started the conflict. However, the resolution that our peoples face today.

This U.S. threat to Syria is the height of hypocrisy, especially given the chemical weapons the U.S. dropped in Vietnam and Laos during the Vietnam war, euphemistically known as “defoliants.” They were designed to destroy the crops and starve people, as well as destroy the jungles covering troop movements.

By Kathy Durkin

Palestinians confined in Israel’s brutal prisons issued a statement of solidarity on Aug. 20 with the National Prison Strike in the U.S. Members of the Popular Prisoner Solidarity Committee in Palestine issued a statement of solidarity with U.S. prisoners engaged in work stoppages and protests against forced prison labor, racism and mass incarceration. The same ruling class is also extensive coverage of the prison strike.

The Palestinians behind bars extend a sister solidarity with the heroic 6,000 Palestinians who face the Israeli regime for the “crime” of fighting for the liberation of their people. There is also extensive coverage of the prison strike and support actions across the U.S. at the website. By revealing the underbelly of the empire, Flounders sheds insight on how to stand up to the latest war on terror, and in doing so, save ourselves and humanity.”

Available at all major online booksellers. PentagonAchilles.net

Israel punishes jailed Palestinians for support of U.S. prison strike

By Nairobi Flounders

The Palestinians wishing to leave the area has already been established. In the province, up to 100,000 army troops face the decision of whether to accept an agreement from al-Qaeda-related forces. A humanitarian corridor for civilians wishing to leave the area has already been established.

A large area of eastern Syria, mainly desert but containing most of Syria’s oil, is now under the control of Kurdish groups. Some 2,000 U.S. troops are also in that region.

A series of meetings among belligerents was first held in Astana, the capital of Kazakhstan, in 2017. The Astana goal was to de-escalate the struggle in Syria by exchanging prisoners and bodies, providing services like water and electricity, and reducing violence. These meetings were held between the Syrian opposition and the Syrian government in the presence of observers from Turkey, Russia and Iran — the countries which guaranteed the process. There has been no participation of “Western Powers,” the Damascus term Al-Jazeera uses to refer to Washington and its European allies.

The opposition fighters still remaining are concentrated in Idlib. Most observers believe that they are under the protection of other Syrian forces. The Assad regime is also trying to limit casualties suffered by civilians and to both sides. A typical deal allowed the fighters who refused to surrender to Syrian control to leave and take their families on a one-way bus trip to Idlib, a province in northwestern Syria.

As the Syrian army began to win back areas that had been under reactionary control in the cities of Aleppo and Homs, as well as the suburb of Damascus called East Ghouta and the southern border with Jordan, it would make agreements to limit casualties suffered by civilians and to both sides. A typical deal allowed the fighters who refused to surrender to Syrian control to leave and take their families on a one-way bus trip to Idlib, a province in northwestern Syria.

Syria’s economy has been devastated. Social relations between various communities have been disrupted and enervated.

The major powers trying to replace Bashar al-Assad and his government — U.S. imperialism and its major European partners, Britain and France — have intervened mainly through proxies, while sending large numbers of troops. Sometimes, they even funneled money and arms through Qatar, the Emirates and the United Arab Emirates. That regime from the start intended to try to overthrow the Syrian government and always against Kurdish forces. Israel has bombed Syrian targets.

Washington made its largest troop intervention with Special Forces in the jungles covering troop movements, and starve the people, as well as destroy the area that had been under reactionary control of the regimes that started the conflict. However, the resolution that our peoples face today.

This U.S. threat to Syria is the height of hypocrisy, especially given the chemical weapons the U.S. dropped in Vietnam and Laos during the Vietnam war, euphemistically known as “defoliants.” They were designed to destroy the crops and starve people, as well as destroy the jungles covering troop movements.
A lot of words in the corporate media this week have been devoted to remembering Sept. 11, 2001. That attack has served as a pretext for U.S. aggression ever since.

But there was another Sept. 11 — solemnly documented. On Sept. 11, 1973, generals in Chile working with the CIA carried out a military coup that overthrew the democratically elected government of Salvador Allende. What followed was the brutal torture and assassination of thousands of progressives in the country, including the president.

Now Washington is threatening a direct military attack on Venezuela.

In May, Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro said that top U.S. diplomats were engaged in a military conspiracy against his country. Maduro’s charges were roundly dismissed by both the U.S. administration and the billionaire media.

Until Sept. 9.

Then the New York Times finally admitted the U.S. plan for regime change in an article headlined: “Trump administration discussed coup plans with rebel Venezuelan officials.”

The Times ran this story, not to warn the people of Venezuela, but to criticize his country’s attempts to be free of U.S. domination. It continually blames the Maduro administration, which it considers dangerous to strategic U.S. imperi al interests.

The Times spreads its own vicious propaganda against President Maduro and his country’s attempts to be free of U.S. domination. It continually blames the Bolivarian Revolution for difficulties in Venezuela without mentioning the full-scale sabotage by U.S. and Western European imperialism.

Max Weinman of the Center for Economic and Policy Research has filled in what the Times omits — stressing that the U.S. economic war on Venezuela is behind the country’s current depression. In early 2017 Washington began imposing sanctions against Venezuela, including freezing the country’s billions of dollars in U.S. accounts.

Weisbrot noted that “with Trump’s [recent] executive order, even if Venezuela were to stabilize the exchange rate, Cuba would return to growth, it would be cut off from borrowing, investment, and proprietary sources of income such as dividend payments from Venezuela-owned but U.S.-based Citgo Petroleum.” (The Nation, Sept. 7, 2017)

The Venezuelan oligarchs hate that Maduro is a former bus driver. They have had Venezuela’s late revolutionary President Hugo Chávez for siding with the poor and oppressed. They prefer the people to be apathetic and to Oppressx them subservient. So do their U.S. imperialist masters.

Since the right-wing parties in Venezuela that represent the rich are completely disciplined and disgraceful among the people, U.S. imperialism has to consider more direct interventions.

The Times article said that for the last two years high-ranking U.S. diplomats have been meeting with Venezuelan military officers to discuss a military rebellion and the extent of U.S. military support. Is this an admission — or a threat?

Whatever the details, the record of U.S. interventions south of the border makes the overall message believable: The U.S. has intervened in Haiti starting in 1804, in Cuba, Nicaragua, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, Panama, Guatemala and Mexico — not to mention most of South America. This includes training Latin American officers in the U.S. in torture techniques, along with direct U.S. invasions.

Despite the country’s crisis, however, the Venezuelan military — both the officers and now the politicized rank- and-file troopers — have in great measure maintained loyalty to the democratically elected president.

And the working people of Venezuela continue to affirm their belief that the development of the Bolivarian Revolution is the path to a better future. In the May presidential election, Maduro won a new six-year term in a landslide, with three times the votes of the next candidate.

What lessons are we workers in the U.S. to take from this struggle?

That capitalism is not only for getting — lie, cheat, rape, conspire, invade, plunder and murder — to keep its profits and its system of ascendency.

Our solidarity and our hope remain with the international struggle of the workers — a struggle that has no borders.

WOMEN’S DAY

Solidarity with the DPRK

The following message of solidarity was sent on Sept. 9 to Kim Jong Un, Chairman of the Workers’ Party of Korea, by Workers World Party. (DeboraGRADE RAY, war, etc.)

We join you and the Korean people in celebrating the 70th anniversary of the founding of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea. For 70 years, the Workers’ Party of Korea has led the DPRK in fierce resistance to the imperialists’ attempts to thwart its people’s self-reliant development. During the 1950-53 war of aggression, begun only two years after the founding of the DPRK, the imperialist blockade could not crush your aspirations and force your surrender.

But the people of the DPRK, led by the legendary Kim Il Sung and the Workers’ Party, heroically stood up to this genocidal assault. For the first time in its history, U.S. imperialism had to admit the defeat of its plans for conquest.

However, the U.S. rulers still have not agreed to sign a peace treaty to end that imperialist aggression. The DPRK’s struggle has since achieved great scientific and technological development, based upon socialist planning, and become a model for all peoples engaged in the most aggressive forces in the imperialist camp.

The Korean reunification is a great victory not only for the DPRK but for people struggling everywhere against capitalist exploitation and national oppression. We join you and the Korean people in the DPRK and express our deepest solidarity with the Workers’ Party of Korea, Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un, and the people of the DPRK.

Solidarity with the DPRK

Continued from page 3

Nor were conditions ripe for such a rapture. The party that came out of the Mexican revolutionary process was the National Revolutionary Party, a bourgeois party that has ruled until the present day.

Isolation of socialist states

After the Russian Revolution of 1917, the first workers’ state faced imperialist intervention, civil war and isolation. One basic reason was that it was able to overcome all this, even after the failure of revolutions in Europe, was the enormous size of the country. The Chinese revolution was less isolated because of the existence of the USSR. Nevertheless, no sooner had the Chinese Communists marched into Beijing in 1949 than the U.S. imperialists opened an attack right next door in Korea.

The Chinese, meanwhile, opened an offensive in their former colony of Vietnam. And the British were fighting an insur genent movement in Malaya. For many years, it seemed as though China would be the target of an imperialist war in Asia led by the U.S.

Until 1971, the U.S. and its imperialist allies on the United Nations Security Council prevented China’s entry into the UN, and blocked diplomatic recognition of China by other capitalist countries.

So when the Cuban Revolution began to break the bonds of imperialism, the U.S. quickly moved to isolate this island of revolutionary people. Washington thought the revolutionary government would not long survive an economic blockade coupled with military intervention.

It was an incorrect and fatal mistake that without the very significant material, political and diplomatic support extended to Cuba by the Soviet Union and China’s position at that time would have been almost impos sible. It took a nuclear confrontation to bring the U.S. military colossus to a ra tional, temporary suspension of its attack to overthrow the Cuban socialist govern ment. The hearts and minds of the bulk of humanity during the entire course of the Cuban crisis are with the government of the side of Cuba and the USSR.

Regardless of the further exigencies of the relationship, that historic experience is not likely to be forgotten, either in the camp of Cuba’s friends or of its foes.

Attempts to isolate Cuba fail

The fact that the U.S. attempt to isolate Cuba has failed was confirmed once again in November [1994] when the UN General Assembly voted 88 to four for an end to the embargo. The three countries that voted against U.S. were Cuba, Angola and Afghanistan.

The U.S. imperialists could not even get one of their own imperialist allies on board, nor one country of any size.

Despite the attempts at isolation, Cuba is a most cosmopolitan place. It is constantly hosting international conferences and exhibits on science, technology and the arts. It has contacts with all the progressive movements in Latin America and the Caribbean, ranging across a broad political spectrum. All over the world, Cuba retains its diplomatic and political standing.

When President Fidel Castro travels around the world, the populace turns out to greet him. Cuba is being hurt economically because of the vast array of U.S. forces against it. But it cannot be isolated politically.

Breaking the ice here

Finally, resistance to imperialism’s war against Cuba is rising inside the U.S. as never before. The old hate campaigns against Cuba are disintegrating, from Maine to New York to San Francisco.

The ice was first broken in January, 1992, when a rally for Cuba in New York’s spacio us Jacob Javits Convention Center was filled to overflowing. The splendid turnout made a mockery of counter-revolutionary Cubans’ threats to disrupt the rally.

Another Peace for Cuba rally is about to take place in New York Feb. 12, is already sold out. Plans are being made for a second rally for the overflow crowd. What does this mean? But that the ice is breaking.

As we said on an earlier occasion, the need of the hour is not only to challenge the U.S. blockade but to change the political climate in this country toward Cuba. Now we are beginning to see the results of just such a campaign.

The 30-year U.S. effort to isolate Cuba diplomatically, economically and politically, the Cuban Revolution stands tall as an unassailable fortress of the world revolution and no force on the face of the earth will overturn it.
Brazil’s presidential elections jolted by events

By John Catalinotto

Sept. 10 — As Brazil heads for the first round of presidential election, electioneering on Oct. 7, three dramatic events are shaking this massive country. Encompassing nearly half the land area of South America and more than half its people, Brazil has the biggest economic, diplomatic and military weight of any single country on the continent.

The first event was the Aug. 31 decision to forbid Luis Inácio “Lula” da Silva, an historic leader of the Workers Party (PT), from running in the election. Lula is in prison for alleged corruption — a pretext used to keep him from running. The real reason Brazil’s ruling class wants to keep him out of the election is that he has been getting about twice the support of any other single candidate in opinion polls, and could again be elected president.

Lula led Brazil’s government for eight years, winning two terms in 2002 and 2006, followed by PT’s Dilma Rousseff in 2010 and 2014. During the government of Rousseff, and even more so with Lula, government programs improved the living conditions and standards of tens of millions of the poorest of Brazil’s 210 million people. Partly for this reason, PT won the assembly election on Oct. 7, three dramatic events that jolted Brazil’s presidential elections.

Candidate stabbed

An alleged dramatic political event occurred on Sept. 6. While campaigning in the city of Juiz de Fora in the state of Minas Gerais, Bolsonaro was stabbed in the abdomen and is in the hospital. He is expected to survive the attack, but may not be able to campaign.

A former captain in the Brazilian army, who praises the military dictatorship that ran the country from 1964 to 1985, he is openly and viciously misogynist, anti-Black, anti-Indigenous and anti-LGBTQ and calls for even more police murders of Brazil’s poor and Black population. Brazil has the second-largest number of people of African descent, after the West African country of Nigeria.

One example gives an idea of how vicious Bolsonaro can be. In the National Assembly to depose Rousseff in 2016, he dedicated his vote to the military officer who ran the prison where Rousseff was tortured for three years. She had been imprisoned for combating the military dictatorship that ruled Brazil for more than two decades.

While Bolsonaro now leads polls that, since the attack, show he has gained some “sympathy” votes, there are questions whether he will hold on to them. If no candidate gets more than 50 percent, there would be a second round between the two leaders of the first round who get the most support. With the class struggle as sharp as it seems to be now in Brazil, formal election results do not necessarily determine who will be president.

The military dictatorship that ruled Brazil from 1964 to 1985. He is openly and viciously misogynist, anti-Black, anti-Indigenous and anti-LGBTQ and calls for even more police murders of Brazil’s poor and Black population. Brazil has the second-largest number of people of African descent, after the West African country of Nigeria.

Amaral blames the fire on the coup regime’s so-called “austerity policy” that froze public funds and attacked education, science, research and culture. “According to the Budget Consultancy of the Chamber of Deputies, the amounts received by the National Museum fell from 979 million reais in 2013 to 98 million reais in 2016.” That is from approximately 1.45 billion reais in 2013.

The British “Queensland Penal Code” of 1863 that made same-sex relations between males punishable by death. Later, the British Indian Labour Code Amendment of 1872 was the law under which female homosexual worker Oscar Wilde was sentenced to hard labor.

Gay rights suffered — and relations in India, Malaysia, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Singapore, Malaysia and Brunei all have the same name — “Article 377” — because the colonial power wrote the law. Britain. The colonial-drafted legislation is misleadingly named the “Indian Penal Code.” Hindu law had not punished consensual sexual relations before the British arrived. Historian Douglas Sanders explains: “Article 377 of the Indian Penal Code of 1860 made ‘carnal intercourse against the order of nature’ an offence.”

The British also imposed this legislation in the Straits Settlements of Singapore, Penang and Malacca in 1872. By the early 20th century Britain and France also enforced the law in Hong Kong, Fiji, the Malay Peninsula and Burma.

Herald journalist Benjamin Joty quotes Utopia-asia.com, which offers information about the same-sexuality scene in Asia: “Asia has rich and unique homosexual traditions almost everywhere you look. The true enemy of homosexuality in places like Korea, Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines are anti-colonial colonial laws and religious non-Aryan religions that bully citizens with skewed views of the natural world.”

Sanders notes, “This provision, or something very close to it, is presently in force in all former British colonies in Asia with the exception of Hong Kong.” He adds: “Sri Lanka, Seychelles and the Maldives, which were granted independence from Britain between 1954 and 1972, also were left with the colonial-era law. This means they could be listed as countries with anti-LGBTQ laws by the UN Human Rights Committee and might be punished by the International Criminal Court for human rights violations.”

In 2018, the British government passed the “Domestic Violence, Economic Abuse and Sexual Harm” Act which creates legal protections for LGBTQ people. However, it is not clear if this law would supersede the 1863 colonial-era law.

The British Indian Penal Code of 1869 was “adopted in Northern Nigeria in 1960,” according to a 2007 International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association’s ”State-Sponsored Homophobia” report. (CNN)
Trump bajo fuego: el dilema de la clase dominante

Por Fred Goldstein

Donald Trump ha sufrido una serie de golpes por las fuerzas anti Trump en la clase dominante y el establecimiento legal. Esto es debido a una ola de campañas de grupos de derechas y revisionistas y revolucionarias que legitima-mente quiere ver a este Trump reaccionar, autoritar a, racista y misógino caer.

Los eventos recientes han golpeado a Trump. Su gira de campaña, Paul Manafort, fue condenado en el juicio por ocho cargos criminales de fraude y evasión fiscal. Su abogado de muchos años y "reparado", Michael Cohen, se declaró culpable y anotó con el dedo a Trump por violaciones de la ley de campaña. Estos acontecimientos llegaron el mismo día.

Al día siguiente se reveló que el presidente estadounidense, Mike Pompeo fue obligado a suspender su viaje a la República Popular Democrática de Corea con la amenaza de retirarse. Esto fue una reacción a la agresión hacia Rusia y la apertura de relaciones entre Corea del Norte y Estados Unidos hacia Rusia. Además, Mike Pompeo fue obligado a suspender su viaje a la República Popular Democrática de Corea con la amenaza de retirarse. Esto fue una reacción a la ira en las ciudades y comunidades ne-groamericanas, las fuerzas revolucionarias y radicales izquierdistas, dada la relativa debilidad numérica de los fascistas de Trump en este momento.

En este momento, el liderazgo de Trump, como candidatos del Partido Demócrata. Pero la fuerza que condicionó a la poderosa mayoría de los trabajadores en el Partido Demócrata, un partido cuyo liderazgo está siempre colaborador, conciliador o cobardes frente a la lucha de clases. Así, por ejemplo, en cuestiones de la ira en las ciudades y comunidades ne-groamericanas, las fuerzas revolucionarias y radicales izquierdistas, dada la relativa debilidad numérica de los fascistas de Trump en este momento.

En este momento, el liderazgo de Trump, como candidatos del Partido Demócrata. Pero la fuerza que condicionó a la poderosa mayoría de los trabajadores en el Partido Demócrata, un partido cuyo liderazgo está siempre colaborador, conciliador o cobardes frente a la lucha de clases. Así, por ejemplo, en cuestiones de la ira en las ciudades y comunidades ne-groamericanas, las fuerzas revolucionarias y radicales izquierdistas, dada la relativa debilidad numérica de los fascistas de Trump en este momento.

En este momento, el liderazgo de Trump, como candidatos del Partido Demócrata. Pero la fuerza que condicionó a la poderosa mayoría de los trabajadores en el Partido Demócrata, un partido cuyo liderazgo está siempre colaborador, conciliador o cobardes frente a la lucha de clases. Así, por ejemplo, en cuestiones de la ira en las ciudades y comunidades ne-groamericanas, las fuerzas revolucionarias y radicales izquierdistas, dada la relativa debilidad numérica de los fascistas de Trump en este momento.

En este momento, el liderazgo de Trump, como candidatos del Partido Demócrata. Pero la fuerza que condicionó a la poderosa mayoría de los trabajadores en el Partido Demócrata, un partido cuyo liderazgo está siempre colaborador, conciliador o cobardes frente a la lucha de clases. Así, por ejemplo, en cuestiones de la ira en las ciudades y comunidades ne-groamericanas, las fuerzas revolucionarias y radicales izquierdistas, dada la relativa debilidad numérica de los fascistas de Trump en este momento.

En este momento, el liderazgo de Trump, como candidatos del Partido Demócrata. Pero la fuerza que condicionó a la poderosa mayoría de los trabajadores en el Partido Demócrata, un partido cuyo liderazgo está siempre colaborador, conciliador o cobardes frente a la lucha de clases. Así, por ejemplo, en cuestiones de la ira en las ciudades y comunidades ne-groamericanas, las fuerzas revolucionarias y radicales izquierdistas, dada la relativa debilidad numérica de los fascistas de Trump en este momento.