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New stage in struggle to

FREE MUMIA!



Demonstration at Philadelphia Justice Center for Mumia on October 28, 2018. WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

By **Betsey Piette**  
**Philadelphia**

Political prisoner and world-renowned journalist Mumia Abu-Jamal and his supporters are closer than ever to winning his release, 38 years after he was imprisoned for a crime he did not commit.

The Fraternal Order of Police, former district attorneys and other political higher-ups who participated in the frameup are now shaking in their boots because this innocent man may be given a new trial in which judicial, police and prosecutorial misconduct will be exposed.

In the late 1970s and early 80s, Abu-Jamal was a daily radio reporter for WHYY and NPR who earned acclaim for his award-winning reporting. As a reporter who supported the MOVE organization against state repression, he drew the ire of the Philadelphia FOP and the notoriously racist Police Commissioner and later Mayor Frank Rizzo.

On Dec. 9, 1981, while driving a cab to supplement his income, Abu-Jamal happened upon his brother in an altercation with Philadelphia police officer Daniel Faulkner. Faulkner was killed. Abu-Jamal, who was shot and severely beaten

by police, was charged in Faulkner’s death, even though witnesses reported seeing another man, most probably the passenger in Abu-Jamal’s brother’s car, running from the scene.

Imprisoned for nearly four decades, Abu-Jamal has maintained his innocence. With global support, he successfully won his release from Pennsylvania’s death row in 2011. In December 2018 he won the right to appeal his 1982 conviction because of biased judicial oversight by former PA Supreme Court Justice Ronald Castille.

In early January 2019, Philadelphia District Attorney Larry Krasner reported finding six boxes of previously undisclosed evidence held by prosecutors in the case and allowed Abu-Jamal’s attorneys to review the files.

In September 2019 Abu-Jamal’s lawyers filed new appellate briefs, including a request that the case be returned for a hearing before the Philadelphia Common Pleas Court based on their finding of concrete evidence of prosecutorial misconduct by the DA’s office in his 1982 trial.

A Sept. 9 press release from attorneys Judith Ritter and Sam Spital reads: “This week, Mumia Abu-Jamal filed a brief in PA Superior Court to support his claim that

his 1982 trial was fundamentally unfair in violation of the Constitution. For example, he argues that the prosecution failed to disclose evidence as required and discriminated against African Americans when selecting the jury. And, his lawyer did not adequately challenge the State’s witnesses.

“Mr. Abu-Jamal also filed a motion containing new evidence of constitutional violations such as promises by the prosecutor to pay or give leniency to two witnesses. There is also new evidence of racial discrimination in jury selection.”

*Continued on page 3*

Racist ‘Thanksgiving’ myth challenged at Plymouth



United American Indians of New England lead 50th National Day of Mourning, page 5. WW PHOTO: RACHEL JONES

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Philadelphia

Defend Malcolm Jenkins against Fraternal Order of Police

By Betsey Piette  
Philadelphia

For decades the Philadelphia Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) has functioned like an organized racist mob, running rampant over oppressed communities and anyone else who dared to stand up to them. While technically a “union” because the FOP negotiates police contracts with the city, police rain terror on Black, Latinx and Asian neighborhoods, using whatever means are at their disposal. Historically, FOP members have used their armed power to crush genuine workers’ struggles led by real unions.

Police dropped a bomb on — and destroyed — a Black community in 1985, in Philadelphia, which resulted in the murder of 11 members of the MOVE family and the destruction of 62 homes. Police have used stop-and-frisk tactics and random traffic stops to escalate the disproportionate arrests and murders of Black and Brown people, while doing little to address the increasing number of shootings that have caused the deaths of children in the city.

Earlier this year, when over 300 Philadelphia police officers faced suspension and potential firings for posting blatantly racist and sexist media posts, the FOP exerted pressure on then-Police Commissioner Richard Ross. The police organization forced his resignation, allegedly because of claims of sexual harassment. All accused officers were eventually brought back into the force.

The FOP organized demonstrations against Philadelphia District Attorney Larry Krasner twice this year after he agreed with attorneys for political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal that evidence existed to justify returning the case for a hearing with the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas. The FOP is supporting a legal petition asking Pennsylvania’s higher courts to remove DA Krasner as prosecutor of the case, anticipating that higher state courts would agree with him and Abu-Jamal’s attorneys.

On Oct. 28, Philadelphia Eagles’ football safety Malcolm Jenkins, who is African-American, hosted a town hall along with rapper Meek Mill, a victim of the city’s racist cops and courts, which focused on policing. Rather than having the invited “experts” speak, Jenkins turned the podium over to community residents to voice their concerns to the experts.

Malcolm Jenkins challenges FOP

Since the FOP is arrogantly used to getting their way, the police organization was caught off guard when Jenkins wrote an op-ed in the Nov. 18 Philadelphia Inquirer calling on Mayor Jim Kenney to prioritize the needs of the city’s Black and Brown communities when selecting the next police commissioner. His commentary specifically called for a commissioner “who fights back against the police union.”

Jenkins challenged Mayor Kenney to be more transparent in the search process, calling his failure to commit to having potential candidates meet with the community a mistake. “Representatives of our community should be part of the hiring process,” he wrote.

In his op-ed, Jenkins commented on the racist Facebook posts written by police officers: “We need a commissioner who isn’t in lockstep with the union and who will instead push back when the union tries to hide and justify bad behavior. The commissioner must also support a union contract that allows for more officer accountability, even if that is an unpopular position with the rank and file.”

Jenkins called for a “radical transformation in how we police,” writing: “We do not need to answer every societal problem with arrests and imprisonment. Broken windows policing, stop-and-frisk practices, and the war on drugs have not made us safer. What those policies have done, however, is lead to alarming rates of arrests for black and brown boys and men. The next commissioner should pledge to focus on solving the serious violent crimes that are harming the community instead of harassing citizens for low-level offenses.”



Malcolm Jenkins

PHOTO: PHILLYVOICE.COM

While many Black Lives Matter and anti-police brutality activists in Philadelphia—who are to the left of Jenkins—advocate abolishing the police, even Jenkins’ transformative proposals were too much for the FOP. On Nov. 19, one day after Jenkins’ op-ed was published, Philadelphia FOP President John McNesby launched an attack, calling him a “nonresident, washed-up football player.”

McNesby, who is white and lives in the greater Northeast section of the city—which once tried to secede from the city—absurdly called Jenkins’ op-ed a “racist attack.” These words opened up a floodgate of commentary in print and social media and on television, mostly supporting Jenkins.

Defend Jenkins, Kaepernick, James!

Jenkins is a two-time Super Bowl champion, All-Pro Safety, and team captain who has not missed a game in six seasons. He resides in Philadelphia’s Northern Liberties neighborhood.

McNesby’s attack on Jenkins mirrors that of politicians like Donald Trump, sports team owners and media commentators who have criticized Black athletes,

including Colin Kaepernick, LeBron James and others, for taking a stand (or a knee) to protest police brutality and racism. And—while racially attacking Jenkins—McNesby fails to address the complaints that he and others are justifiably making about the lack of accountability by Philadelphia police.

Even Mayor Kenney, who initially ran on a platform to end stop-and-frisk—but never did—was forced to publicly back Jenkins following McNesby’s attack. DA Krasner chimed in, too, noting that Jenkins has “a right to hold public officials accountable.”

On Nov. 22, the Court of Common Pleas upheld its Aug. 21 ruling that had dismissed a lawsuit brought last year by the FOP challenging DA Krasner for issuing a list of tainted cops to keep them from testifying in court.

Jenkins’ courageous stand against the FOP is welcomed by many people in Philadelphia. But, in the long run, it will be the empowerment of Black, Brown and working-class community residents collectively pushing back against the FOP that will bring real change. □

New stage in struggle to Free Mumia

Continued from page 1

The evidence uncovered in the hidden boxes shows that Joseph McGill, the prosecutor in Abu-Jamal’s case, paid off witnesses with favors and cash, while allowing a cab-driver witness with a suspended license to keep driving. McGill illegally struck down Black jurors and fixed outstanding cases of key witnesses.

Attorney Ritter contends that the new evidence shows Abu-Jamal’s trial was “fundamentally unfair and tainted by serious constitutional violations.”

DA Krasner under attack by FOP

In April of this year, DA Larry Krasner bowed to massive community pressure and withdrew his initial opposition to Abu-Jamal’s appeal moving forward in Pennsylvania’s higher courts. Following the September filings by Abu-Jamal’s attorneys, Krasner acquiesced to their petition that the newly uncovered evidence is grounds for the case to be sent back to Common Pleas Court.

This was the final straw as far as the FOP is concerned. They immediately launched an attack on Krasner, using Faulkner’s widow, Maureen Faulkner-Palkovic. On Sept. 18, claiming “victim’s rights,” she

filed a petition to have Krasner replaced by Pennsylvania Attorney General Josh Shapiro “in criminal actions in which there is an appeal.” She alleges that the lack of “finality” in this case has caused trauma for her—completely ignoring the impact on Abu-Jamal’s family.

Faulkner bases her petition largely on unfounded claims that DA Krasner and attorneys in his office had some connection with Abu-Jamal’s case in the past. When her petition was dismissed by higher courts, Faulkner and the FOP tried another ploy.

Faulkner filed a King’s Bench Petition on Nov. 12 with the state’s higher courts, again requesting Krasner’s removal from the case. In addition to charging Krasner with conflicts of interest in the Abu-Jamal case, Faulkner claims that Krasner should have colluded with former prosecutor McGill to bury the evidence.

The use of the “King’s Bench” application shows the growing desperation of the FOP team. Their petition would skip past the popularly elected district attorney and the Common Pleas Court. It would bring the matter directly to the PA Supreme Court where they hope for more sympathy from the conservative and classist institution.

All out Dec. 7 for Mumia!

Krasner is expected to submit a response soon to arguments from Abu-Jamal’s lawyers for a new trial—taking a stand for justice against FOP intimidation. The current FOP attack on Krasner is part of the 38-year effort to silence Abu-Jamal once and for all.

We who believe in justice will not allow that to happen.

Abu-Jamal’s 38th year of unjust imprisonment will be marked on Dec. 7 with a program titled “Youth Rise Up Against U.S. Empire” in Philadelphia. The event, to be held at Mastery Charter School-Shoemaker Campus, 5301 Media St., will include a report on all the new developments in his legal case, while focusing on his trilogy of books on U.S. imperialism.



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

March in Philadelphia this April 27 to free imprisoned journalist Mumia Abu-Jamal.

Speakers and videos will express solidarity with the inspiring mass protests, many led by youth, taking place all over the globe as they call out white supremacist oppression and exploitation by U.S. capitalism.

For more information, please visit [mobilization4mumia.com](http://mobilization4mumia.com).



# Google workers vow to fight firings of activists

By Kathy Durkin

Four Google employees, named the “Thanksgiving Four” by the Tech Workers Coalition, were fired Nov. 25. Engineers Rebecca Rivers and Laurence Berland had already been suspended for “allegedly accessing and sharing data without permission.” Their co-workers maintain management was retaliating against them for organizing against workplace inequities and actively opposing policies of the company, especially its collaboration with Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Some 200 Google employees and other tech workers rallied in San Francisco on Nov. 20, calling for the reinstatement of Rivers and Berland — who risked their livelihood to act in keeping with their pro-worker and humanitarian principles. Three days later, bosses fired Rivers, Berland and two other employees. The multibillion-dollar company’s goal: to crush worker organizing.

Google executives hired IRI Consultants, a union-busting firm. Around the same time, the company made it a “fireable offense to even look at certain documents,” said Google Walkout for Real Change. It was “an excuse to retaliate against organizers. With these firings, Google is ramping up its illegal retaliation against workers engaged in protected organizing. This is

classic unionbusting dressed up in tech industry jargon. We won’t stand for it!” (Twitter, Nov. 25)

### Stop systemic racism and sexism!

Last year, 20,000 workers walked off the job on four continents Nov. 1 in the coordinated “Google Walkout for Real Change” to protest multimillion-dollar payouts to male executives found culpable of sexual misconduct. Going even further, the organizing committee objected to the company’s rampant racism, sexism and discrimination, and expressed solidarity with vendors as well as contract and temporary workers, many of them African-American, Latinx, immigrants and lower-paid workers.

After the walkout, Google management reformed some practices regarding sexual harassment complaints, but would not make other changes. Since then, the company has carried out a campaign of intimidation intended to stifle workers from speaking out and organizing against workplace inequities. It curbed what political topics could be discussed at work, even online. There were reprisals against key walkout organizers, forcing out long-time employee Claire Stapleton and artificial intelligence researcher and ethicist Meredith Whittaker. Others left too.

Recently, bosses canceled the weekly all-employee meetings to stop staff

questioning of and vocal opposition to company practices. Meanwhile, workers found out about an internal tracking tool put on their web browsers—a blatant invasion of privacy. The so-called “open” culture at Google became rife with intimidation, censorship and suspicion, say employees. There are reports of retaliation, especially against women and LGBTQ+ workers. Two of the fired employees are transgender.

The scare tactics, restrictions on internal speech and dissent, hiring of an anti-union law firm and now the firings reflect management’s alarm about — and steps to curtail — the upsurge of worker activism. Employees are increasingly demanding their rights and seeking to ensure that their labor is used for ethical purposes.

Google workers have also objected to company exploitation of subcontracted workers, mishandling of sexual misconduct charges, contracts with the Pentagon to develop technology to streamline drone attacks, work for fossil fuel corporations and collaboration with ICE. In August, 1,500 Google employees signed a petition, created by Rivers, opposing the company’s signing a contract with ICE, citing its “human rights abuses.”

### Workers call for solidarity

Amr Gaber, another walkout organizer, charged on Twitter that bosses

fired the four workers because they alerted co-workers about company complicity with ICE and the Border Patrol in separating migrant families and caging children. He said instead of “reversing course on child abuse and human rights violations, Google has chosen to punish the brave people who are standing up for themselves and others.”

Gaber stressed: “I, and several others, are not willing to accept this. If we don’t [unite] to make our voices heard, then Google’s divide-and-conquer strategy will be complete. There will be no one to oppose the racist, sexist, precarious and climate-ending future that Google is steering and massively profiting from.” He said Google’s attempt to silence its workforce won’t succeed, because “the boss knows we have power when we stick together.”

Walkout organizer Stephanie Parker epitomized many workers’ attitudes on Twitter: “I’m still here, still fighting, and not afraid.”

Google workers strongly assert: “For every one they retaliate against, there are hundreds of us who will fight. Together we will win! One of the most powerful companies in the world wouldn’t be retaliating against us if collective action didn’t work.” □

## Low-paid airport workers arrested while picketing

“Get sick, go broke! Our health care is a joke.” That call-and-response was chanted loudly and clearly on Nov. 26 by hundreds of airport catering workers and supporters outside Philadelphia Airport’s American Airlines Terminal B.

Before the demonstration came to an end, police had arrested 39 workers and supporters for “failure to disperse,” or blocking the airport’s busy terminal road. Similar protests organized by UNITE HERE took place at 17 other airports across the U.S. on the same day.

Here in Philadelphia, about 400 workers who prepare and provide food and beverages served aboard American

Airlines flights are demanding better wages and health care benefits. Most of the workers are from West Africa. UNITE HERE represents them against the airline, which subcontracts LSG Sky Chefs for food catering. Since the airline holds the ultimate power, workers are hoping pressure at the terminal will force Sky Chefs to give in to their demands.

While American Airlines has made \$12 billion in profits since 2015, subcontracted catering workers who service the company’s flights struggle with a health care plan that is too expensive for most of them. At the cost of \$28 a week for an individual and \$123 a week for the family plan, only 28

percent of the low-paid workers get single coverage and only 5 percent choose family coverage. The rest of the workers and their families can’t afford the high cost of health insurance and are uninsured.

Many workers refuse to apply for Medicaid, even though they may qualify for it, because of fear the Trump administration might count those public benefits against anyone applying for citizenship.

The workers have been in negotiations since May with Sky Chefs and have authorized a strike. However, federal law mandates workers cannot hit the bricks until released from mediation by the National Mediation Board, which handles



labor-management disputes in rail and airline industries.

— Report and photo by Joe Piette

## On the picket line

By Alex Bolchi and Sue Davis

### Strike threat wins 4-year contract for 83,000 health care workers

On Aug. 12, more than 57,000 health care workers at Kaiser Permanente in California authorized an unfair labor practices strike, set for early October. They were joined by 26,000 Kaiser workers in other states. That would have been the biggest U.S. strike since the Teamsters’ walkout at United Parcel Service in 1997. The last contract for members of the Service Employees-United Healthcare Workers West (SEIU-UHW) expired Sept. 30, 2018. In December 2018 the National Labor Relations Board (no friend to labor) charged Kaiser with failure to bargain in good faith.

The workers accuse Kaiser of putting profits before patients. Not only did Kaiser bank more than \$5.2 billion during the first half of 2019, the company sits on \$35 billion in reserves. Kaiser gave its CEO a \$6 million raise to \$16 million a year and pays 36 executives a million or more a year. Meanwhile, Kaiser provides very little care to Medicaid patients, far less than nonprofit health systems, though it gets huge tax breaks for “working in the public interest.”

After a year without a contract, the strike threat worked. Some 57,000 workers in California overwhelmingly

ratified a 4-year contract on Oct. 16 that includes 3 percent yearly raises and protected benefits and establishes a \$130 million fund to recruit and train future staff to deal with huge projected shortages over the next decade. It also revitalized the worker-management partnership to improve delivery of patient care, create better job conditions and lower costs. Critical wins were banning subcontracting and greatly limiting outsourcing of current positions.

An additional 26,000 Kaiser Permanente workers in Colorado, Washington, Oregon, Hawaii, Virginia, Maryland and Washington, D.C., also voted, with a majority for ratification. The 83,000 workers comprise the Coalition of Kaiser Permanente Unions. (seiu-uhw.org, Aug. 16 and Oct. 16)

### Grocery workers fight for fair contract in D.C. area

Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 400 has been negotiating for a new contract at Giant and Safeway stores in the Baltimore/Washington, D.C., area for more than two months. Their goals include “wages we can live on, schedules we can depend on, health care we can afford and retirement we can count on.”

But both companies are stalling. They continue to propose starting rates and wage increases for new hires below the starting wage and scheduled increases for long-time employees and department managers — clearly a scheme to create a two-tier pay differential and destroy solidarity. The companies also propose cuts in health care benefits and switching new hires to 401(k) accounts, whose value fluctuates based on the crap shoot known as the stock market, rather than defined benefit pensions, which help guarantee secure retirement. Cerberus Capital Management, the private equity firm that runs Safeway,

controls close to \$40 billion in assets.

According to a Local 400 statement: “What is standing between us and the fair deal we deserve is the greed of these companies. The only way we are going to get what we deserve is by keeping the pressure on.” Local 400 organized two days of pre-Thanksgiving informational picketing, Nov. 24 and Nov. 26, to inform customers of the companies’ anti-worker aims. (ufcw400.org, Nov. 22) Stay tuned.

### 38,000 Calif. McDonald’s workers win \$26 million settlement

After a 7-year class-action lawsuit over wages and working conditions, 38,000 workers at corporate-run McDonald’s restaurants in California will share in a \$26 million settlement. The company signed off on the settlement on Nov. 25. According to a Fight for \$15 email, the company cheated thousands of cooks and cashiers out of minimum and overtime wages, violating federal and state labor laws. They told employees they couldn’t take meal or restroom breaks and made them pay for uniforms. “But the McDonald’s workers in California stood up for their rights and held the second-largest private employer accountable for breaking the law. This is the most McDonald’s has ever paid to workers for wage theft.” (Nov. 25)

“We’re going to keep fighting until the day comes when we don’t have to sue McDonald’s to get the company to treat us right and pay us fair wages, provide a safe workplace free of sexual harassment and violence, and respect our right to a union,” said Los Angeles worker Rosario Mercado. To tell McDonald’s to stop exploiting employees nationwide and pay them \$15 an hour so they can support their families, sign the petition at [tinyurl.com/t68xytd/](https://tinyurl.com/t68xytd/). End wage theft now! □



# Message to Day of Mourning

## ‘We will keep fighting, telling the truth’

By Stephanie Hedgecoke

*These slightly edited remarks were given at the National Day of Mourning rally on Nov. 28, 2019, in Plymouth, Mass. The event was organized by United American Indians of New England (UAINE).*

Thank you Mahtowin [Munro] and Moonanum [James] and UAINE for bringing us back here for the 50th National Day of Mourning. This is the scene of the opening of the settler crimes against all our relations — Indigenous peoples and all the life of this land.

And from the start, it’s all tied together. Those settlers were afraid of the beautiful, mighty forests they found here. Eighty percent of Mother Earth’s plants and animals are native to forests, but the settlers hated the forests. [Thomas] Jefferson and Ben Franklin wrote a lot about it. Franklin wrote in 1763 that “cleared land absorbs more heat and melts snow quicker.” And we’re supposed to believe he was a genius?

By the early 1800s, settlers clear-cut a 100-mile swath from what’s now Maine to Georgia, with one-third to three-fourths of the trees killed for abuse and plunder, and they damaged the soil. Now you need forests for clean air and fresh water.

We all support the struggles against the pipelines — the “black snakes” [fossil fuel pipelines] crossing the land. We hear less about some of the many other local struggles, many led by Indigenous women, across Turtle Island and the Land of the Condor, and still less about the third continent that settler colonialism has raked and pillaged, which is Africa.

Make no mistake: When you hear bad words from the U.S. and Europe about Zimbabwe, it’s because their people took the land back. When we hear about Africa, we need to keep our decolonial eyes and ears open!

Here, across Turtle Island, there are hard fights to take down the dams on the rivers to save the salmon. Stopping the

Keystone XL is tied to stopping the tar sands oil and the tankers going out from the Northwest Coast that are killing the remaining orcas.

We all saw the mother orca last year mourning her dead baby, carrying the dead baby for weeks telling settlers to stop! And we hear about the Amazon burning because of [Brazilian President] Bolsonaro and the settler cattle ranchers.

What we don’t hear much about are the western reservations that are on forest lands. Forestry scientists have observed that the Native foresters in the West do better work than they can do with only one-third the funding. This is because on those reservations, the elders teach the people to care for all our relations. Native foresters work to keep whole ecosystems healthy, not just the plots between the borders assigned by the U.S. government.

So those reservations have some needed jobs that way, but they are also sustaining the fish and wildlife, growing food and medicinal plants, keeping the air clean and maintaining their own nation’s traditional practices that way.

We all suffer from eco-grief! Where are the birds? We want to save all life on Mother Earth — the biosphere. We want the wolves back! We want the orcas and the birds, the bats and the frogs!

### Cuba kicked the settlers out

But I’m here to carry a message of hope. This summer I got to visit a biosphere in Cuba, where after hundreds of years of Spanish and American settler colonialism, they threw it off. We heard from the Commission on Race and Relations in Cuba, and the Afro-Cuban scholars actually said to us, “We kicked the settlers out!”

And the Cubans have created biospheres renewing Indigenous ecosystems. In the Sierra del Rosario Mountains in western Cuba, they reforested what had been literally stripped naked. It’s beautiful again now; 7 million Indigenous trees are there, clean water, clean air. And when

they were doing that, the original plants, the medicinal and food plants, and the animals all came back!

It was the best day of my life to go there and see what they have accomplished. We do have hope! If little Cuba can do that, while suffering still under the criminal U.S. blockade, we know that we have hope in our fight against settler-colonial capitalism and its global destruction of Mother Earth.

And we will keep fighting and speaking the truth until we win reparations for Native people and African-American people who have suffered destruction and death, until all Indigenous lands are returned, and all the black snake pipelines removed from Mother Earth!

*Hedgecoke’s heritage is Huron non-status and mixed Southeast nations undocumented.*

## National Day of Mourning

### 50 years of Indigenous struggle



WW PHOTO: RACHEL JONES

Hundreds of Indigenous people, their allies and supporters gathered on Cole’s Hill in Plymouth, Mass., Nov. 28 to commemorate the 50th observance of the founding of the National Day of Mourning, an appropriate antidote to the racist myth of so-called Thanksgiving and the Pilgrims.

On the mic is Mahtowin Munro, co-chair of United American Indians of New England, speaking in front of the Plymouth Rock memorial. Standing next to her is Moonanum James, co-chair

of UAINE and son of National Day of Mourning founder Wamsutta Frank James.

Before marching, the crowd attended a rally, with only Indigenous people speaking. The event culminated in a potluck at a nearby church. The day, organized by UAINE, attracted people from all over the country, especially the New England region. Marchers also traveled from Labrador (Canada), Mexico, the Caribbean and South America to attend it.

— Report by Monica Moorehead

## ‘Thanksgiving’ statement from political prisoner Leonard Peltier

*Leonard Peltier is the revered former leader of the American Indian Movement who has been behind bars on totally fabricated charges since 1976 — 43 years! His message was read during the rally at the 50th anniversary of the National Day of Mourning on Nov. 28, 2019, by Wampanoag elder Bert Waters, who is 89 years old.*

The year of 2019 is coming to a close and with it comes the day most Americans set aside as a day for Thanksgiving. As I let my mind wander beyond the steel bars and concrete walls, I try to imagine what the people who live outside the prison gates are doing, and what they are thinking.

Do they ever think of the Indigenous people who were forced from their homelands? Do they understand that with every step they take, no matter the direction, that they are walking on stolen land? Can they imagine, even for one minute, what it was like to watch the suffering of the women, the children and babies and yes, the sick and elderly, as they were made to keep pushing west in freezing temperatures, with little or no food? These were my people and this was our land.

There was a time when we enjoyed freedom and were able to hunt buffalo and

gather the foods and sacred medicines. We were able to fish and we enjoyed the clean, clear water! My people were generous; we shared everything we had, including the knowledge of how to survive the long harsh winters or the hot humid summers. We were appreciative of the gifts from our Creator and remembered to give thanks on a daily basis. We had ceremonies and special dances that were a celebration of life.

With the coming of foreigners to our shores, life as we knew it would change drastically. Individual ownership was foreign to my people. Fences?? Unheard of, back then. We were a communal people and we took care of each other.

Our grandparents weren’t isolated from us! They were the wisdom keepers and story tellers and were an important link in our families. The babies? They were and are our future! Look at the brilliant young people who put themselves at risk, fighting to keep our water and environment clean and safe for the generations yet to come. They are willing to confront the giant, multinational corporations by educating the general public of the devastation being caused.

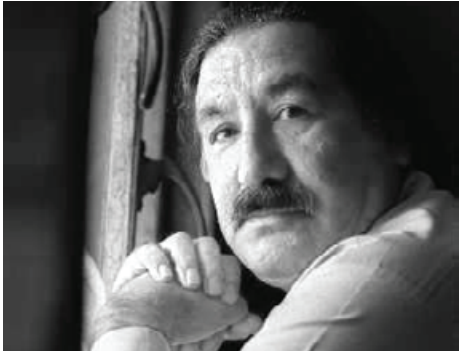
I smile with hope when I think of them. They are fearless and ready to speak the

truth to all who are willing to listen. We also remember our brothers and sisters of Bolivia, who are rioting, in support of the first Indigenous President, Evo Morales. His commitment to the people, the land, their resources and protection against corruption is commendable. We recognize and identify with that struggle so well.

So today, I thank all the people who are willing to have an open mind, those who are willing to accept the responsibility of planning for seven generations ahead, those who remember the sacrifices made by our ancestors so we can continue to speak our own language, practice our own way of thankfulness in our own skin, and that we always acknowledge and respect the Indigenous lineage that we carry.

For those of you who are thankful that you have enough food to feed your families, please give to those who aren’t as fortunate. If you are warm and have a comfortable shelter to live in, please give to those who are cold and homeless; if you see someone hurting and in need of a kind word or two, be that person who steps forward and lends a hand. And especially, when you see injustice anywhere, please be brave enough to speak up to confront it.

I want to thank all who are kind enough to remember me and my family in your



thoughts and prayers. Thank you for continuing to support and believe in me. There isn’t a minute in any day that passes without me hoping that this will be the day I will be granted freedom. I long for the day when I can smell clean fresh air, when I can feel a gentle breeze in my hair, witness the clouds as their movement hides the sun and when the moon shines the light on the path to the sacred Inipi [Lakota ceremony]. That would truly be a day I could call a day of Thanksgiving.

Thank you for listening to whomever is voicing my words. My Spirit is there with you.

Doksha,  
In the Spirit of Crazy Horse,  
Leonard Peltier





# Racism at home and abroad: The

By Makasi Motema

*These slightly edited remarks were made at a Nov. 23 Workers World Party forum titled, “What road to socialism?” Motema is an organizer with the People’s Power Assemblies/NYC.*

Racism perpetrated by the U.S. state, whether by police domestically or by the CIA, U.S. State Department and U.S. military in other countries, operates the same way. The foundation of racialized violence is to lie about the victim, and these lies always follow a similar pattern.

We are told that (1) the primary target of U.S. state violence is a violent thug, that (2) they come from a broken culture that produces criminality, and that (3) the use of violent force is a net benefit to the targeted community at large.

**The road to socialism**

Everyone in this room understands this. Many of you have written on this subject and documented the lies of the U.S. state in detail. What bears discussion is how this information is communicated to the masses at large. The road to socialism is through the people.

The road to socialism is through organizing the masses. Educating them about the political character of their oppression and identifying their class enemies. By collectivizing and educating the masses, we can then concentrate our forces against the capitalist ruling class and engage in revolutionary struggle.

But this requires that we explain to folks that their oppression is directly linked with the oppression faced by people living

thousands of miles away. Further, we have to explain that this link goes beyond moral empathy. Someone living in New York City can easily understand why the lynching of Indigenous people in Bolivia is wrong. They do not need Marxists to explain the basics of morality.

But what may not be clear is how the overthrow of a democratic government in Bolivia is part of the same neoliberal program that brought 500 new cops to our subway platforms. And further, that a defeat of the forces of imperialism in Bolivia is a victory for oppressed people here. Our job is to provide that clarity.

The focus of my talk will be on the way that domestic and international state repression mirror each other. I have found that discussing the international struggle in this way resonates strongly with people who are new to the struggle.

**Capitalism is racist**

One of the most important things to communicate to people when organizing is that racism is motivated by the material interests of the ruling class. Liberals have been extremely effective at spreading the myth that racism is driven by individual hatred. Under the liberal model, in order to determine whether someone is perpetuating racism, we need to perform a heart exam.

That is, we need to find out if so and so is truly a racist “in their heart.” This false paradigm leads to confusing and unproductive discussions where people end up debating whether all cops are racist or if some are redeemable.

It’s important to refocus the discussion

on the material dimension. Specifically, the extraction of wealth. The police in the U.S. exist to protect the ruling class and to extract wealth from the working class — especially the Black and Brown community. The current MTA [Manhattan Transit Authority] struggle serves as a clear example.

Wall Street desperately wants to continue collecting debt service from MTA fares. However, due to crumbling infrastructure and increasing poverty, the working class is less and less likely to tolerate a toll for public transportation.

The only way Wall Street can continue to extract wealth from the working class is through an injection of police officers on subway platforms who use violence to force Black and Brown people to pay for a service that barely works.

This process repeats itself in other countries. As the environmental crisis worsens, there is an incredible demand for non-fossil-fuel sources. These alternative energy sources rely on battery power storage, and one of the primary components of rechargeable batteries is lithium.

The people of Bolivia have the fortune — and the misfortune — of living on top of one of the world’s largest stores of lithium. [Former President] Evo Morales understood that national ownership of Bolivia’s lithium could provide his country with an increasing standard of living while helping the rest of the world convert to green energy.

But such an arrangement would deny U.S. and European companies’ profits from the mining of lithium, and therefore, this arrangement was intolerable. U.S. foreign economic policy demands that U.S./European companies have unfettered access to the resources of the Global South and the profits that result.

In order to extract those profits and wealth, the emerging picture seems to be that the U.S.-backed, right-wing military, police and militia in Bolivia forced Evo Morales out of office to make room for a Christo-fascist [evangelical] government that would ensure U.S./European economic control in Bolivia.

These coup forces have used

anti-Indigenous racism as a rallying standard for their movement. In La Paz, Bolivia, as in New York City, racism serves the goal of capitalist wealth extraction.

**Lies and criminalization: ‘thugs, dictators and thuggish dictators’**

The U.S. does not present itself as an evil empire. In spite of its immense crimes against humanity, the U.S. claims to be the leading moral force in the world. Therefore, the murder of unarmed Black people in the U.S., or the overthrow of foreign governments, need to be justified somehow as moral acts. The way they do this is by lying and slandering the victims of U.S. aggression.

Black and Brown people immediately understand what you are talking about when you say the phrase, “He was no angel.” They understand the racialized nature of the term “thug.” They know that this is the way the police reinforce the stereotype of Black criminality.

They know that after an unarmed person of color is killed by the police, their personal records will be searched for any infraction — no matter how minor, no matter how unrelated — to smear their character.

This character assassination, following the physical assassination, is done to morally justify state violence and to make white people feel comfortable about the actions of the state. And oppressed nationalities understand this. So it’s important to explain that the U.S. follows the same pattern of violence and slander in other countries.

Countries that use their resources primarily for the benefit of their own people, rather than for the benefit of U.S. companies, do not have “democratically elected” presidents and prime ministers, at least according to U.S. media. The U.S. State Department, and its propaganda arm in the media, will only ever refer to these leaders as dictators, no matter how many votes they receive. These dictators are not the heads of governments or administrations; they are the leaders of “regimes.” Usually “brutal regimes.”

Black and Brown people know that the



From left to right: Larry Holmes, Makasi Motema, Stephanie Tromblay (who chaired the forum), Scott Williams and Taryn Fivek. WW PHOTO: MONICA MOOREHEAD

## WWP forum on ‘What Road to Socialism?’

The New York branch of Workers World Party held a public and livestream forum Nov. 23 on “What Road to Socialism?” The speakers included Makasi Motema, an organizer with the People’s Power Assemblies/NYC, who spoke on connecting the struggle against racism worldwide and breaking down imperialism’s lies; Larry Holmes, First Secretary of WWP, on uncovering the nuances in the turn in consciousness we are witnessing today toward socialism and struggle, the role of

revolutionaries and a revolutionary party; Scott Williams, a Philadelphia WWP organizer, who spoke on the upsurge in interest in socialism among youth and the need for revolutionary strategy in the coming period; and Taryn Fivek, who gave a report back from an anti-imperialist gathering in Cuba against neoliberalism and for socialist democracy. Fivek also noted the differences between bourgeois and working-class democracy.

— Report by Monica Moorehead

## Protest disrupts football game over climate crisis

During halftime at the classic Yale and Harvard football game on Nov. 23 in New Haven, Conn., hundreds of protesters from both schools took to the middle of the football field with signs and banners to protest the complicity of both universities’ administrations in the climate crisis. The students are demanding that both schools, whose combined endowments amount to over \$70 billion, divest from the fossil fuel industry.

Protesters also carried signs demanding cancellation of Puerto Rico’s debt in

response to the devastation wreaked on the U.S. colony in September 2017. It was caused by both Hurricane Maria and the Trump administration’s ongoing racist and callous response to the island’s plight.

Dozens of students, faculty and allies were arrested, but not before the game was delayed by an estimated 48 minutes. The protest made international headlines due to social media publicity, especially on Twitter and Instagram.

— Report by Monica Moorehead





# lies are the same

terms “thug” and “gang member” are racial codes that signal that the person being described is inferior and violent. As revolutionary organizers, we need to make the connection that terms like “dictator” and “regime” are always used in the exact same way. The parallels are so close that we often hear them cross over, and certain leaders are referred to as “thuggish dictators.”

Another dog whistle is the term “corruption.” Foreign governments, especially in Africa and Latin America, are said to be “plagued by corruption.” The use of the word “plague” implies an affliction. Something that becomes part of a person whom they cannot control.

What’s really being said here is that Black and Latinx people are not capable of being in positions of responsibility without stealing whenever they get the chance. Oftentimes, allegations of corruption are completely manufactured. This is the same racist ideology that argues that Black and Brown people in the U.S. suffer from poverty, crime and a lack of education for “cultural reasons.”

But Black and Brown people do not steal for cultural reasons, here or abroad. They are not poor for cultural reasons, in North America or South America. Black and Brown people in the U.S. and abroad are stolen from. They are made poor by the thievery of the ruling class and the U.S. state.

And perhaps the primary moral appeal is to invoke sympathy for innocent bystanders within a targeted community. During the height of the war on drugs, the incredible violence used against mostly Black men was justified as a means of protecting the larger Black community. The victims of police violence were skillfully divided from their own population through clever language.

The police told us that drug dealers were “poisoning their own community.” The idea is that targeted individuals are not members of the community who are victimized by police violence; rather they are aberrant predators who are inflicting harm on other innocent people, whom we should pity.

This is how police violence against Black men becomes an act of mercy toward the Black community at large.

We have to explain that this language that says, “thugs and drug dealers are poisoning their own community” comes from the same template as the phrase, “dictators who gas their own people.” It’s the exact same concept.

The U.S. masks its racism by feigning pity for the innocent civilians of a targeted country, and they pretend that the political leaders of that country are a distinct and separate element which is harming the people of that country. But when they talk about poisoning communities, they will never talk about the Flint water crisis or depleted uranium in Iraq.

### Us against them

What’s necessary as we build toward socialist revolution is to explain to the masses who their class enemies are and who their allies are. We must organize the working class into political mass organizations that have the power to take control of the means of production. Class consciousness is higher today than it has been in decades. But there is a tremendous amount of political education that still needs to be done.

We can’t effectively organize the working class if they don’t understand that the people of Bolivia are part of the international working class. They can’t fight against the ruling class unless they understand that folks in the South Bronx are on the exact same side as the folks in La Paz and that the NYPD [New York Police Department] and the CIA are two sides of the same coin.

Making these connections is not just important for solidarity. It’s important because it provides clarity in the struggle. It prevents future contradictions from emerging within the struggle, such as the contradiction between POC [People of Color] who are U.S. citizens and POC who are undocumented.

And it inoculates the working class from attempts at cooption and controlled opposition by nongovernmental organizations, Democrats and social democrats because those forces are totally incapable of standing against U.S. imperialism.

The road to socialism is through agitation, education and organization of the masses. An essential part of that is explaining that U.S. racism respects no borders. □

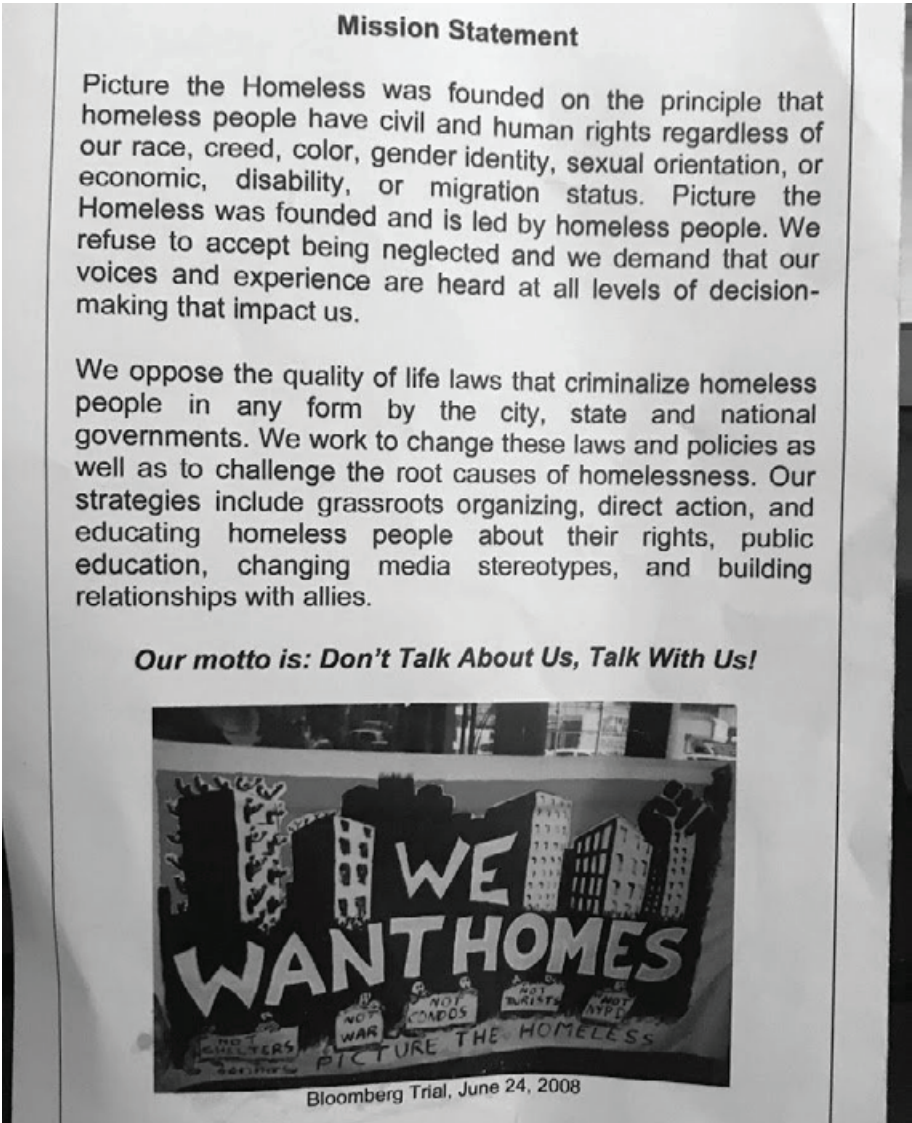


PHOTO: PICTURE THE HOMELESS

## Picture the Homeless

### 20 years of organizing for housing as a human right

Picture the Homeless celebrated the 20th anniversary of its founding by sponsoring a fundraising program on Nov. 25 in Harlem, N.Y.

PTH has been in the forefront of advocating — through direct action, marches, rallies, research and legislation — for the right of the homeless to decent housing, as opposed to relying on shelters as an alternative. PTH was founded on Nov. 16, 1999, by two homeless men, Anthony Williams and Lewis Haggins, who were living in Bellevue Men’s Shelter.

Williams received the Founder’s Award and gave a heartfelt thanks during the ceremony. The inscription on the award reads: “For your Vision, Courage & Belief Those Human Beings without Housing Can Organize & Speak for Themselves.”

Other awards were given to longtime PTH organizers Jean Rice, recipient of a lifetime award, as well as Nikita Price, DeBoRah Dickinson, William Burnett, Rachel Brumfeld and Sam J. Miller. Before each organizer received their award, their recorded oral testimony on how PTH changed their life was played.

Part of the program description of PTH states: “PTH has forever changed how homeless people are pictured by our fellow New Yorkers. As a result, Picture the Homeless has organized to win public policies in the areas of policing, housing, land use and the shelter system. Don’t Talk About Us: Talk with Us!”

For more information, go to [picturethehomeless.org](http://picturethehomeless.org).

— Report by Monica Moorehead

## Fifty years after his death

# Long live the revolutionary spirit of Fred Hampton

By Monica Moorehead

Fred Hampton, the official chairman of the Illinois chapter of the Black Panther Party and deputy chairman of the national BPP, was only 21 years old on Dec. 4, 1969, when he was brutally assassinated while sleeping in his bed. He suffered multiple gunshot wounds in a raid by white, local Chicago police and other repressive state agencies after he had been drugged.

His partner, Akua Njeri, aka Deborah Johnson, was eight months pregnant with their son, Fred Hampton, Jr., at the time of the raid. She survived, but BPP member Mark Clark was also killed.

When Hampton died exactly 50 years ago, spontaneous demonstrations sprang up all over the country with the rallying cry, “Avenge Fred Hampton.”

Hampton was a victim of the U.S. government’s Cointelpro (Counter Intelligence Program), founded by FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover during the

early 1950s to target for imprisonment and assassination individual leaders or movements fighting for national liberation and social justice. Some of the most well-known targets, besides Hampton, for Cointelpro’s 24-hour surveillance, especially in the 1960s and 1970s, were Malcolm X, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the Young Lords, political prisoners Leonard Peltier and Mumia Abu-Jamal, and the Black Panthers.

Hampton was in the midst of helping to build a multinational united front of smaller revolutionary formations with varying ideologies in order to organize against U.S. imperialism at home and abroad. This strategy suffered a devastating setback with his assassination.

Hampton had gained national prominence due to the dynamic way he spoke revolutionary truth to power, which resonated among the super-oppressed Black people. His growing popularity among the masses and the movement no doubt made

him a primary target of the racist, repressive state.

Sitting next to the blood-soaked bed where Hampton was killed was a book written by Vladimir Lenin, the leader of the 1917 Russian Revolution.

Fifty years after Hampton’s death, the following quotes heard from him in the 1971 documentary, “The Murder of Fred Hampton,” continue to inspire prior and new generations of activists who hate capitalism:

“I believe I’m going to die doing the things I was born to do. I believe I’m going to die high off the people. I believe I’m going to die a revolutionary in the international revolutionary proletarian struggle. [Y]ou can kill a revolutionary, but you can’t kill revolution ... you can jail a liberator but you can’t jail liberation.”

Fred Hampton, ipresente! □



Workers World front page, Dec. 5, 1969, covering the murder of Fred Hampton. WW PHOTO



# U.S. war on the defenseless

## Sanctions harm one-third of world's people

By Sara Flounders

The most insidious and pervasive form of modern warfare by Wall Street and the Pentagon, acting in coordination, is passing largely unnoticed and unchallenged. This calculated attack is rolling back decades of progress in health care, sanitation, housing, essential infrastructure and industrial development all around the world.

Almost every developing country attempting any level of social programs for its population is being targeted.

U.S. imperialism and its junior partners have refined economic strangulation into a devastating weapon. Sanctions in the hands of the dominant military and economic powers now cause more deaths than bombs or guns. This weapon is stunting the growth of millions of youth and driving desperate migrations, dislocating tens of millions.

### 'A crime against humanity'

Sanctions and economic blockades against Venezuela, Cuba and Iran are well known. But the devastating impacts of U.S. sanctions on occupied Palestine — or on already impoverished countries such as Mali, Central African Republic, Guinea-Bissau, Kyrgyzstan, Fiji, Nicaragua and Laos — are not even on the radar screen of human rights groups.

Most sanctions are intentionally hidden; they don't generate even a line of news. Some sanctions are quickly passed after a sudden news article about an alleged atrocity. The civilians who will suffer have nothing to do with whatever crime the corporate media use as an excuse. What are never mentioned are the economic or political concessions the U.S. government or corporations are seeking.

Sanctions cannot be posed as an alternative to war. They are in fact the most brutal form of warfare, deliberately targeting the most defenseless civilians — youth, the elderly, sick and disabled people. In a period of human history when hunger and disease are scientifically solvable, depriving hundreds of millions from

getting basic necessities is a crime against humanity.

International law and conventions, including the Geneva Convention and Nuremberg Principles, United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, explicitly prohibit the targeting of defenseless civilians, especially in times of war.

### Sanctions draw condemnation

Modern industrial society is built on a fragile web of essential technology. If pumps and sewage lines, elevators and generators can't function due to lack of simple spare parts, entire cities can be overwhelmed by swamps. If farmers are denied seed, fertilizer, field equipment and storage facilities, and if food, medicine and essential equipment are deliberately denied, an entire country is at risk.

The Venezuelan ambassador to the United Nations, Samuel Moncada, spoke to the XVIII Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement held in Baku, Azerbaijan, Oct. 26. Addressing the 120 countries represented, he denounced the imposition of arbitrary measures, called "sanctions" by the U.S., as "economic terrorism which affects a third of humanity with more than 8,000 measures in 39 countries."

This terrorism, he said, constitutes a "threat to the entire system of international relations and is the greatest violation of human rights in the world." ([tinyurl.com/uwlm99r](https://tinyurl.com/uwlm99r))

The Group of 77 and China, an international body based at the U.N. and representing 134 developing countries, called upon "the international community to condemn and reject the imposition of the use of such measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries."

The Group explained: "The criminal, anti-human policy of targeting defenseless

populations, which is in clear violation of United Nations Charter and international law, has now become the new weapon of choice for these powerful states since they are faced with strong opposition from the majority of their own population to the endless wars of occupation that they are already involved in."

### The power of banks

The mechanism and the ability of one country or one vote to destroy a country on the other side of the world are not well understood.

International capital uses the dollar system. All international transactions go through U.S. banks. These banks are in a position to block money transfers for the smallest transaction and to confiscate billions of dollars held by targeted governments and individuals.

They are also in a position to demand that every other bank accept sudden restrictions imposed from Washington or face sanctions themselves.

This is similar to how the U.S. Navy can claim the authority to intercept ships and interrupt trade anywhere, or the U.S. military can target people with drones and invade countries without even asking for a declaration of war.

Sometimes a corporate media outlet, a U.S.-funded "human rights" group or a financial institution issues charges, often unsubstantiated, of human rights violations, or political repression, drug trafficking, terrorist funding, money laundering, cyber-security infractions, corruption or non-compliance with an international financial institution. These charges become the opening wedge for a demand for sanctions as punishment.

Sanctions can be imposed through a U.S. Congressional resolution or Presidential declaration or be authorized by a U.S. government agency, such as the

departments of the Treasury, Commerce, State or Defense. The U.S. might apply pressure to get support from the European Union, the U.N. Security Council or one of countless U.S.-established regional security organizations, such as the Organization of American States.

A U.S. corporate body that wants a more favorable trade deal is able to influence numerous agencies or politicians to act on its behalf. Deep-state secret agencies, military contractors, nongovernmental organizations funded by the National Endowment for Democracy, and numerous corporate-funded foundations maneuver to create economic dislocation and pressure resource-rich countries.

Even sanctions that appear mild and limited can have a devastating impact. U.S. officials will claim that some sanctions are only military sanctions, needed to block weapons sales. But under the category of possible "dual use," the bans include chlorine needed to purify water, pesticides, fertilizers, medical equipment, simple batteries and spare parts of any kind.

Another subterfuge is sanctions that supposedly apply only to government officials or specific agencies. But in fact any and every transaction they carry out can be blocked while endless inquiries are held. Anonymous bank officials can freeze all transactions in progress and scrutinize all accounts a country holds. Any form of sanctions, even against individuals, raises the cost and risk level for credit and loans.

There are more than 6,300 names on the Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons List of individuals sanctioned by the Office of Foreign Assets Control at the U.S. Treasury Department.

The OFAC describes its role this way: "OFAC administers a number of different sanctions programs. The sanctions can be either comprehensive or selective, using the blocking of assets and trade restrictions to accomplish foreign policy and national security goals."

There is also a Financial Action Task Force list and an International Traffic in Arms Regulations list.

*Continued on page 11*



IMAGE: NATHANIEL ST. CLAIR

# Outrage over NFL's racist suspension of player

By Martha Grevatt  
Cleveland

Local Cleveland celebrities were serving meals to 8,000 homeless and low-income residents on Nov. 26 at an annual event, "Feed the Need." Among them was Cleveland Browns defensive end Myles Garrett, whose indefinite suspension from playing had been upheld by National Football League Commissioner Roger Goodell five days earlier. Garrett displayed the characteristic warm and giving demeanor which has endeared him to Cleveland fans since his arrival in 2017.

Garrett's suspension came after a physical fight between him and Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Mason Rudolph toward the end of a game in Cleveland on Nov. 14. Garrett tackled Rudolph, who then pulled on Garrett's helmet and went for his groin. Garrett pulled off Rudolph's helmet. Rudolph charged Garrett, who hit him on the head with his own helmet.

Garrett is Black. Rudolph is white. Garrett and two other Black players involved in the confrontation were ejected from the game and later suspended — Browns defensive tackle Larry Ogunjobi for one game and Steelers center

Maurkice Pouncey for three games, later reduced to two.

Rudolph, the instigator, was not suspended. Rudolph's subsequent fine was only for "unsportsmanlike conduct."

Garrett's union, the NFL Players Association, defended him before NFL Appeals Officer James Thrash on Nov. 20. There, in proceedings not expected to be made public, Garrett stated that Rudolph had uttered a racist slur. This accusation was disregarded by the NFL bosses, who said there was no proof the comment was made — based on the dubious assertion that no audio was available.

The union also argued that there was no precedent for indefinite suspension in comparable situations and that their collective bargaining agreement with the NFL prohibits indefinite suspensions for on-field conduct. Nevertheless Goodell upheld Garrett's suspension, meaning he cannot play for the rest of the season or the postseason and must convince the NFL Commission to let him play again next year.

In upholding the suspension and leaking comments made in a private union-management grievance hearing, Goodell displayed the typical boss mindset

of "the hell with the contract; we can do what we want." This is the same Roger Goodell who attempted to sabotage Colin Kaepernick's Nov. 19 workout. For this abuse of players of color, Goodell receives a salary of over \$31 million a year — more than most players.

### Popular support for Garrett

Since Garrett's accusation against Rudolph made the news, Garrett's teammates have attested to his character and credibility. So have Browns Coach Freddie Kitchens, former quarterback and sportscaster Bernie Kosar, and friend and Ultimate Fighting Championship's current Heavyweight Champion Stipe Miocic. They are convinced that Garrett would not make up a false accusation.

Rudolph, through his agent, has called Garrett a liar. Rudolph is saying, in so many words, "I'm not a racist." But from his social media "likes," it appears Rudolph supports President Trump and the NFL's stance against Kaepernick. That's racism!

Cleveland fans of all nationalities have rallied behind Garrett in massive numbers. Over 85,000 signed a petition asking Goodell to overturn the indefinite suspension. Hats and jerseys bearing Garrett's



Fans show support for Myles Garrett at Cleveland-Miami game Nov. 24.

name and number 95 can be seen all over town, along with T-shirts reading "Pittsburgh started it."

Signs at the Nov. 24 Cleveland game against the Miami Dolphins bore the hashtag "#Free Myles Garrett." That Twitter feed has drawn over 200 comments supporting Garrett and protesting the suspension. The tweets are primarily expressing fan love. But a number of fans are stating explicitly they believe Rudolph made a racist remark.

Even if not consciously anti-racist, the mass outpouring of support for Myles Garrett is objectively a blow to the racist bosses of the sports industry — which is an integral part of the capitalist profit system. □



# Anti-colonial fighters resist French war in Mali

By G. Dunkel

Seven years of France fighting to control Mali burst into the open Nov. 25 as two French military helicopters collided. They were trying to land commandos on a totally dark night in a cloud of fine black sand that the copter blades had kicked up. Thirteen French soldiers died instantly.

French army spokespeople called it an accident. The insurgents who have been fighting France's rule said they shot down the helicopters.

The deceased commandos will be given a big, glorious state funeral Dec. 2 at Les Invalides, national monuments in Paris to the French military. President Emmanuel Macron is expected to give a fulsome oration about sacrifice in the "struggle against terrorism." Generals will talk of the heroism of these fallen fighters, and religious leaders will bless their souls.

While most French politicians repeat the lie that France is fighting in Mali to defeat terrorism, some — particularly members of La France Insoumise (France Untamed Party) — have questioned the military intervention, its impact on the people of Mali, and how the army will extricate itself.

In recent demonstrations in Bamako, the capital of Mali, some signs have called France a "terrorist state" and called for stopping "French genocide in Mali."

A coalition of Malian community organizations and political tendencies in France called for a big demonstration in



People in Bamako, Mali, protest French neocolonial war.

Paris on Nov. 30 to protest the "nefarious interference of foreign forces" in Mali and to support Mali's army. (maliactu.net, Nov. 28)

Mali is a very poor, landlocked country in the Sahel region of Africa with nearly 20 million people. Some 65 percent of it is desert, and most of the country supports itself through subsistence farming or fishing. Its neighbors Niger and Burkina Faso are also landlocked, poor and with large areas of desert. They were all seized by French colonialism in the 19th century and won nominal independence in 1960.

However, France has some 4,500 troops in Mali, who have taken about 30 casualties in recent fighting. The only other European country with troops operating in conjunction with French imperialism is Estonia. It has 50 soldiers at a guard post in Gao, a small Niger River town in eastern Mali. Gao, historically a major trading center in Trans-Sahara commerce, was the capital of a breakaway region of Mali called Azawad that French forces finally recaptured in 2013.

Besides France, the European Union has a military mission in southern Mali.

The stated goal of the 569 soldiers from 27 different European countries in this mission is "training" the Malian army.

There is also a U.N. "stabilization force" called MINUSMA with about 12,500 soldiers and 1,800 cops, headed by a Swedish general. A majority of MINUSMA's soldiers are from African countries. MINUSMA has taken more than 200 casualties since it was established in 2013.

The U.S. military has openly provided some logistics support to the French forces — moving supplies. The Pentagon also has a major \$120 million drone base in neighboring Niger at Agadez. Washington undoubtedly supplies intelligence to its imperialist partner France.

According to the major French bourgeois newspaper Le Monde (Nov. 25), leading French politicians say that the French army in Mali doesn't have the military initiative. It is mainly reacting to its opponents' attacks. There is a secretive military alliance called "Takuba" ("Sword" in the local Tuareg language of Tomachek) that is composed of special forces from France, Great Britain, the Czech Republic and the U.S., whose goal is to regain the military initiative in Mali.

Even on the edge of the Sahara Desert in the middle of Africa, the resistance to imperialism has put down deep roots that neither France nor the U.S., working separately or together, has been able to rip up. □

## France

# General strike in motion for Dec. 5

By G. Dunkel

Dec. 2 — When the CGT (Confédération Générale du Travail) and Force Ouvrière, the two militant labor union confederations in France, called a general strike for Thursday, Dec. 5, the expectation was that they were calling for a limited but militant expression of their discontent with the government's retirement "reform."

That sweeping overhaul will significantly cut the state's contribution to the pension system, which threatens to curtail unions' say on contributions and benefits.

Then students and their unions started expressing support. While French universities don't charge tuition, fees are going up, and student stipends for housing and sustenance are being cut while not keeping up with inflation.

The surprising news is that 94 percent of the operational staff in the transit unions intend to go out on Dec. 5. Operators on local and high-speed train lines have to

indicate in advance that they are going to use their constitutional right to strike. Generally from 40 to 60 percent support a strike. Though some unions, generally affiliated with the CGT or SUD (Solidaires, Unitaires, Démocratiques), are always in support, the CFDT (Confédération Française Démocratique du Travail) transport unions generally are not. There have been reports on French television that railroad managers are being trained as scabs.

Some sections of the CFDT, the more conservative labor confederation closely connected to the so-called Socialist Party, have announced that they are going to strike on Dec. 5.

Yellow Vest groups, which began demonstrations nationwide on Nov. 17, 2018, have been working with the union movement to figure out how the Yellow Vest approach to organizing can be fitted into the unions' approach.

Le Monde reported in a Dec. 2 article



Some 94 percent of the staff of French transit unions announced they would join the Dec. 5 general strike.

about a recent meeting between Yellow Vests and union activists in transportation, mainly those from the CGT and a small radical union confederation. Among the tactics discussed were how to use encrypted phone apps to coordinate picket lines at bus depots and how to deliver leaflets when transportation is disrupted.

The Dec. 2 issue of Le Monde, one of the leading bourgeois newspapers in France, ran over 16 articles on issues raised by the general strike.

The French bourgeoisie must fear that the united militancy of workers and the Yellow Vest movement on Dec. 5 will lead to a continuation of the strike on Dec. 6 — or even longer. □

# After 46 years, Greek people refuse to forget

By G. Dunkel

Tens of thousands of people marched in Athens, Thessaloniki and other Greek cities on Nov. 17 to commemorate a student takeover, strongly supported by workers, that had been brutally crushed by tanks 46 years ago. This is an annual event.

Students had occupied the Athens Polytechnic on Nov. 14, 1973, to protest the fascist military government (also called "Regime of the Colonels") that from 1967 to 1974 served "by fire and iron" the interests of the bourgeois class at the expense of the people — while implementing plans of U.S. and NATO imperialists.

The students had set up an underground radio station that began agitating for people to come by. They asked soldiers to refuse orders to shoot the "brothers protesting," raising a sharp challenge to the colonels in power.

While the colonels might have started their coup on their own initiative, they received billions of dollars in military and economic aid from the United States — money given within the framework of the Cold War against the Soviet Union.

This year's march wound through the streets of Athens and ended at the U.S. Embassy, where European Union and U.S. flags were burned. □



Protesters march on U.S. Embassy in Athens, Nov. 17.



# Defend the Latin American mass revolts

Popular, massive anti-government demonstrations and strikes have been challenging the corrupt and anti-popular regimes ruling various Latin America countries, starting at different times over the past six months. These countries include Puerto Rico, Haiti, Ecuador, Chile and Colombia.

How the local regimes and their backers in Washington reacted to these revolts—and to similar struggles in other countries in the region—contain lessons also for progressives and revolutionaries in the United States who want to support these popular revolts against neoliberal regimes.

While each of these countries has its own specific issues, their governments have all imposed neoliberal policies in order to wage war on the working class and all poor people. They have imposed rampant capitalism, privatized state-owned property, cut social programs and in general used government and state power to increase the rate of exploitation of the working class and the pillage of natural resources, often targeting Indigenous peoples. These neoliberal policies have served both transnational corporations and the local oligarchy.

U.S. imperialism puts its political, diplomatic, economic, media, and military and intelligence apparatus behind keeping these regimes in power. The regimes, in turn, serve U.S.-based corporate and banking interests. The recent conflicts have shown that the local as well as the imperialist ruling class will use all their

advantages and employ the most ruthless and brutal tactics to remain in and expand their power.

### Ruling class tactics and the case of Bolivia

What are those advantages? First of all, control of the state apparatus—the rich ruling class has a monopoly on violence. Second, control of the capitalist media, which are owned by the rich and lie incessantly to expand the interests of the rich, while spreading reactionary and often racist ideology. Third, access to the worldwide imperialist economy and the U.S. dollar.

All these advantages were used during the recent struggle in Bolivia—which is not yet over.

The progressive and first Indigenous President Evo Morales won the Oct. 20 election that should have made him legally president until 2025. Bolivia’s racist oligarchy spread the Big Lie that there was electoral fraud, for which there was no evidence. The U.S.-controlled Organization of American States backed this lie, as did the U.S. State Department, and it was repeated in all the local and imperialist corporate media.

Bolivia’s ruling class mobilized a fascist movement based on anti-Indigenous racism and religious bigotry. In the end, the rich used their control of the state—that is, the national police and the Armed Forces—to force Morales and his governmental supporters to leave Bolivia or face death.

Bolivia’s state power, now fully serving

a de-facto coup regime with no constitutional standing, then opened fire with live ammunition on mass demonstrations of Indigenous people and workers in El Alto and Cochabamba. The people continue mass resistance under difficult conditions.

### Lessons of solidarity during capitalist crisis

The brutality and ruthlessness of the ruling class, especially since its world capitalist system went into crisis mode in 2008, are clear. The lesson for progressives is that we must continue to protest and expose the crimes of U.S. imperialism and its lackeys in the Latin American oligarchy in their use of state power.

That means to protest the Chilean government’s firing at the eyes of the young protesters, the brutality of the Colombian regime and paramilitaries, the murders of Ecuadorian demonstrators in October, and the shooting of Haitians throughout the last year.

Countering media lies is one task that North American progressives should take on with energy. Our default position can be that anything most leading U.S. politicians—of both big bourgeois parties—say about these developments in Latin America and anything the corporate media repeat ad infinitum is an outright lie.

For example, an overwhelming number of reports appeared in all the corporate media in the U.S. that gave “electoral fraud” as the reason Morales was overthrown—without one scintilla

of evidence. We should never allow these lies to creep into whatever progressive media exist.

Regarding state power, we note that Venezuela’s Bolivarian government has managed throughout the course of 2019 to defend itself against an all-out imperialist attack and the attempt to organize a coup. Nicolás Maduro’s government has so far maintained its support from the Bolivarian Armed Forces and has organized popular militias of armed workers and farmers.

We should continue to support the Venezuelan government and its righteous use of state forces against reactionary gangs backed by U.S. imperialism.

We should also applaud any attempt by popular movements or governments to break up the ruling-class monopoly on violence. As the Russian revolutionary leader V.I. Lenin pointed out over a century ago, this is a difficult but necessary step for the success of any revolution that intends to put an oppressed and exploited class in power.

Venezuela’s organizing of popular militias is an example of such an attempt. We should give political support to all such attempts.

The Latin American class struggle is in a new phase. The oppressed masses in the Americas who continue to battle against their ruthless ruling-class enemies, with whatever means they are able to employ, deserve our support. □

## Bay Area protests

# ‘Stop killings and repression in the Philippines!’

By Judy Greenspan  
Oakland, Calif.

A series of events in the Bay Area and around the U.S. have put the spotlight on U.S.-funded repression and killings in the Philippines that target progressive political organizations and unionists.

The attacks began to escalate on Oct. 31 when police and military raided the offices of Gabriela, a women’s organization; the National Federation of Sugar Workers; and the anti-imperialist Bayan Muna, belonging to the leftist political party Makabayan, based in the Philippines. More than 57 activists, unionists and human rights defenders were arrested.

Then on Nov. 4, Rey Malaborbor, a former political prisoner, was murdered, and another activist, Honey Mae Suazo, disappeared. On Nov. 5, the offices of Bayan were raided in Manila, and leaders of Bayan, Manila Workers Unity and Kadamay, an organization of urban poor people, were arrested.

In the U.S., a candlelight vigil of protest was held at Oscar Grant Plaza in Oakland on Nov. 8, led by PUSO (Philippines-US Solidarity Organization), BAYAN USA-Northern California, GABRIELA-Oakland and Anakbayan-East Bay. They rallied under the call, “Stand with the Human Rights Defenders of the Philippines.”

Rhonda Ramiro of BAYAN stated: “The list of the atrocities runs really long. We are talking about air strikes and raids, arrests of union members, women’s organizers, human rights defenders, killings of judges and journalists, and the disappearances of farmworkers.”

Ramiro spoke in depth about the attacks on the many union, peasant and people’s movements in her country: “We are outraged by these attacks because they are a part of the Trump-backed Duterte regime’s concerted campaign to end the successful organizing of workers, many of whom are, like us, struggling for a livable wage. The government is trying to repress Indigenous people who are just protecting their land

that is being stolen by multinational corporate interests. Some of these corporations are right here, like Chevron, in our backyard [in the U.S.]”

Ramiro and others at the rally linked the repressive attacks in the Philippines with the struggles in the Black and Brown communities of Oakland against police violence, for education and for housing. Other speakers called for “international solidarity” against the U.S.-funded Duterte regime.

An international day to support Filipino unions, with demands to “stop trade union repression, unionizing is a right, free our unionists” was organized on Nov. 16. The Kilusang Mayo Uno (May First Labor Movement) of independent labor centers asked for union supporters around the world to use social media to send solidarity messages. The International Action Center and the International Workers’ Solidarity Network immediately responded to mobilize their social media networks.



WW PHOTO: JUDY GREENSPAN

**Solidarity with progressive Filipino organizers at Oscar Grant Plaza Nov. 8.**

Demonstrations were held in Washington, D.C., and other parts of the country to demand that Filipino union members be released immediately. (iacenter.org)

On IAC- and IWSN-related websites, workers were urged to “struggle against the repressive measures of governments and big and local corporations. Neoliberal policies that serve big corporations attack workers by pressing down wages and by depriving them of basic rights including the right to unionize. □

## Meeting reestablishes anti-racist alliance

Chicago—More than 1,200 people joined together on Nov. 22 at the hall of the Chicago Teachers Union to refound the National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression. The newly refounded Alliance will center its efforts on building the fight against police crimes and for community control of the police, and it will campaign for the release of political prisoners and the wrongfully convicted.

Longtime leaders of the Black Liberation movement Angela Davis and Frank Chapman, along with elected officials, trade unionists and other progressive activists, addressed the packed rally that opened the conference.

— Report by Fight Back! News

## En el 50° Día Nacional de Luto, el Partido Mundo Obrero rinde homenaje a los pueblos indígenas

Continúa de la página 12

fracking corporativo, perforación y minería. Años de lucha ganaron el estatus de monumento nacional para Bears Ears; ahora estas naciones nativas están luchando contra este acaparamiento de tierras para recuperar la supervisión de su sitio sagrado y protegerlo.

Los pueblos indígenas de Hawai han estado ocupando Mauna Kea, la montaña más grande del mundo, para evitar la instalación del telescopio multimillonario de treinta metros. Es un lugar sagrado, un sitio de conservación y la cuenca de la Isla Grande.

Una lucha exitosa es ganar la conmemoración del Día de los Pueblos Indígenas en ciudades y estados de todo el país, ya que más personas rechazan el mito de Colón y quieren honrar a los nativos, no a los colonizadores.

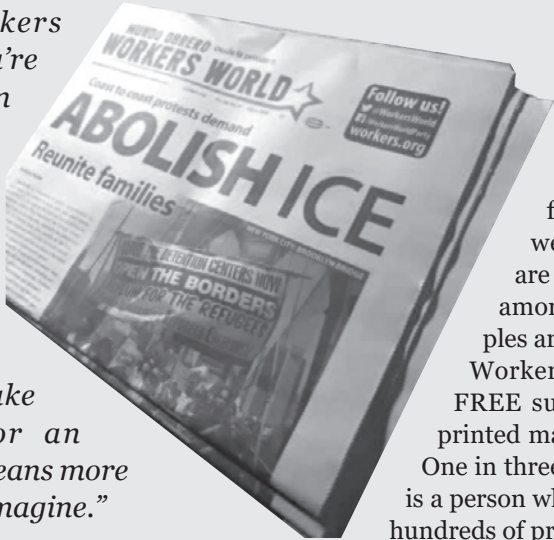
En el 50° Día Nacional de Luto, Workers World/Mundo Obrero extiende nuestra máxima solidaridad a los pueblos indígenas de todo el mundo, y brinda nuestro apoyo incondicional a todas las luchas contra el racismo ambiental y la opresión imperialista y por la preservación del planeta y todas las formas de vida en este. □



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— Makasi Motema



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# Sanctions harm one-third of world’s people

Continued from page 8

The sanctions weapon has become so extensive that there is now a whole body of law to guide U.S. corporations and banks in navigating sales, credit and loans. It is intended to be opaque, murky and open to interpretation, payoffs and subterfuge. There seems to be no single online site that lists all the different countries and individuals under U.S. sanctions.

Once a country is sanctioned, it must then “negotiate” with various U.S. agencies that demand austerity measures, elections that meet Western approval, cuts in social programs, and other political and economic concessions to get sanctions lifted.

Sanctions are an essential part of U.S. regime change operations, designed in the most cynical way to exact maximum human cost. Sudden hyperinflation, economic disruption and unexpected shortages are then hypocritically blamed on the government in office in the sanctioned country. Officials are labeled inept or corrupt.

Agencies carefully monitor the internal crisis they are creating to determine the optimum time to impose regime change or manufacture a color revolution. The State Department and U.S. covert agencies fund numerous NGOs and social organizations that instigate dissent. These tactics have been used in Venezuela, Nicaragua, Iran, Syria, Libya, Zimbabwe, Sudan and many other countries.

### A weapon of imperialism in decline

Gone are the days of Marshall Plan-type promises of rebuilding, trade, loans and infrastructure development. They are not even offered in this period of capitalist decay. The sanctions weapon is now such a pervasive instrument that hardly a week goes by without new sanctions, even on past allies.

In October the U.S. threatened harsh sanctions on Turkey, a 70-year member of the U.S.-commanded NATO military alliance.

On Nov. 27, Trump suddenly announced, by presidential decree, harsher sanctions on Nicaragua, calling

it a “National Security Threat.” He also declared Mexico a “terrorist” threat and refused to rule out military intervention. Both countries have democratically elected governments.

Other sanctions sail through the U.S. Congress without a roll call vote — just a cheer and a unanimous voice vote, such as the sanctions on Hong Kong in support of U.S.-funded protests.

### Why Wall Street can’t be sanctioned

Is there any possibility that the U.S. could be sanctioned for its endless wars under the same provisions by which it has asserted the right to wreak havoc on other countries?

The Chief Prosecutor at the International Criminal Court, Fatou Bensouda, in November 2017 asked the Hague-based ICC to open formal investigations of war crimes committed by the Taliban, the Haqqani network, Afghan forces, and the U.S. military and the CIA.

The very idea of the U.S. being charged with war crimes led then White House National Security Advisor John Bolton to threaten judges and other ICC officials with arrest and sanction if they even considered any charge against U.S. forces in Afghanistan.

“If the court comes after us, Israel or other U.S. allies, we will not sit quietly,” Bolton said. He noted that the U.S. “is prepared to slap financial sanctions and criminal charges on officials of the court if they proceed against any U.S. personnel. ... We will ban its judges and prosecutors from entering the United States. We will sanction their funds in the U.S. financial system, and we will prosecute them in the U.S. criminal system. ... We will do the same for any company or state that assists an ICC investigation of Americans.” (The Guardian, Sept. 10, 2018)

Bolton also cited a recent move by Palestinian leaders to have Israeli officials prosecuted at the ICC for human rights violations. The ICC judges got the message. They ruled that despite “a reasonable basis” to consider war crimes committed in Afghanistan, there was little chance of

a successful prosecution. An investigation “would not serve the interests of justice.” Chief Prosecutor Bensouda, for proposing an even-handed inquiry, had her U.S. visa revoked by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

Sanctions are a weapon in the capitalist world order used by the most powerful countries against those that are weaker and developing. One hundred years ago, in 1919, President Woodrow Wilson advocated sanctions as a quiet but lethal weapon that exerts pressure no nation in the modern world can withstand. Sanctions demonstrate how capitalist laws protect the right of eight multibillionaires to own more than the population of half the world.

### U.N. sanctions demanded by Washington

The U.S., with the largest nuclear arsenal on the planet and 800 military bases, claims — while engaged in wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria and Libya — that the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea and the Islamic Republic of Iran are the greatest threats to world peace.

In the U.N. Security Council, the U.S. succeeded in winning harsh new sanctions against Iran and the DPRK by threatening, on the eve of “war games,” that the U.S. would escalate hostilities to an open military attack.

This threat proved sufficient to get other Security Council members to fall in line and either vote for sanctions or abstain.

These strong-arm tactics have succeeded again and again. During the Korean War, when the U.S. military was saturation-bombing Korea, U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Warren Austin held up a submachine gun in the Security Council to demand expanded authority in the war from that body.

Throughout the 1990s the U.S. government used sanctions on Iraq as a horrendous social experiment to calculate how to drastically lower caloric intake, destroy crop output and ruin water purification. The impact of these sanctions were widely publicized — as a threat to other countries. Bill Clinton’s Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, when asked about the half a million children who died as a result of U.S. sanctions on Iraq, replied, “We think the price is worth it.”

The sanctions imposed by the U.S. against Iran are book-length, spanning 40 years since the Iranian Revolution. The blockade and sanctions on Cuba have continued for 60 years.



Cover of *The Children are Dying*, a book published by the International Action Center detailing the genocidal impact of sanctions on Iraq.

### Sanctions Kill campaign

It is an enormous political challenge to break the media silence and expose this crime. We need to put a human face on the suffering.

Targeted countries cannot be left to struggle by themselves in isolation — there must be full solidarity with their efforts. The sheer number of countries being starved into compliance via U.S.-imposed sanctions must be dragged into the light of day. And one step in challenging the injustice of capitalist property relations is to attack the criminal role of the banks.

The effort to rally world opinion against sanctions as a war crime is beginning with a call for International Days of Action Against Sanctions & Economic War on March 13-15, 2020. Its slogans are “Sanctions Kill! Sanctions Are War! End Sanctions Now!”

These coordinated international demonstrations are a crucial first step. Research and testimony; resolutions by unions, student groups, cultural workers and community organizations; social media campaigns; and bringing medical supplies and international relief to sanctioned countries can all play a role. Every kind of political campaign to expose the international crime of sanctions is a crucial contribution.

For more information and to register your support, see [SanctionsKill.org](https://SanctionsKill.org).



IMAGE: SANCTIONS KILL.ORG





Leonard Peltier, indígena lakota, preso hace más de 40 años, por falsos delitos, padece de aneurisma. Su vida está en serio peligro. ¡Exigimos libertad y atención médica urgente para él!

**¡LIBERTAD A TODOS LOS PRESOS POLÍTICOS DEL MUNDO!**

## ¿Alguna vez piensan en la gente indígena que se vio obligada a abandonar sus tierras?

Por Leonard Peltier, via Prison Radio

*Mensaje del preso político Leonard Peltier en el Día de Acción de Gracias. También saluda a los hermanos y hermanas de Bolivia que se levantan en apoyo al primer presidente indígena Evo Morales. Leído por Mumia Abu-Jamal, desde la nación encarcelada. Traducción: Amig@s de Mumia, México.*

El año 2019 está por terminar y con esto viene el día que la mayoría de estadounidenses conocen como el Día de Acción de Gracias. Mientras dejo que mi mente divague más allá de las barras de acero y muros de concreto, intento imaginar lo que hace y lo que piensan las personas que viven fuera de las puertas de la prisión.

¿Alguna vez piensan en la gente indígena que se vio obligada a abandonar sus tierras? ¿Entienden que con cada paso que dan, sea cual sea la dirección, están caminando sobre tierras robadas? ¿Pueden imaginar, aunque sea por un minuto, cómo era ver el sufrimiento de las mujeres, los niños y niñas y bebés, también de la gente enferma y la gente de mayor edad cuando fueron obligados a mudarse al Oeste con temperaturas bajo

cero con poca o ninguna comida?

Eran mi pueblo y ésta fue nuestra tierra. Hubo un tiempo cuando disfrutábamos de libertad y pudimos cazar búfalos y recolectar alimentos y medicinas sagradas. Pudimos pescar y disfrutábamos del agua limpia y clara. Mi pueblo era generoso. Compartimos todo lo que teníamos, incluyendo el conocimiento de cómo sobrevivir los inviernos largos y duros o los veranos calurosos y húmedos. Apreciamos los regalos de nuestro Creador y recordamos dar gracias cada día. Tuvimos ceremonias y danzas especiales que eran una celebración de vida.

Con la llegada de extranjeros a nuestras costas, la vida como la conocíamos cambió radicalmente. La propiedad individual era ajena a mi pueblo. ¿Las vallas? Desconocidas en aquel entonces. Éramos un pueblo comunal y nos cuidábamos el uno al otro.

Nuestros abuelos y abuelas no estaban aislados de nosotros. Eran las y los guardianes de la sabiduría y narradores de historias; eran un vínculo importante en nuestras familias. ¿Las criaturas? ¡Fueron y son nuestro futuro!

Miren a las y los brillantes jóvenes que se ponen en riesgo al luchar por mantener

la limpieza de nuestra agua y nuestro medioambiente para las generaciones por venir. Se muestran dispuestos a enfrentar las gigantescas corporaciones multinacionales al educar al público sobre la devastación que hacen.

Sonrí con esperanza cuando pienso en ellas y ellos. No temen a nada y están ahí para decir la verdad a cualquier persona dispuesta a escuchar. También recordamos a nuestros hermanos y hermanas de Bolivia que se levantan en apoyo al primer presidente indígena Evo Morales. Su compromiso con el pueblo, la tierra, los recursos y la protección contra la corrupción es admirable. Saludamos esta lucha y nos identificamos con ella.

Quisiera agradecer a todas las personas dispuestas a mantener una mentalidad abierta, a las que aceptan la responsabilidad de planear para siete generaciones por delante, a las que recuerdan los sacrificios hechos por nuestros antepasados para que podamos seguir hablando nuestro propio idioma y mostrar gratitud a nuestra manera en nuestra piel.

Si algunos de ustedes dan las gracias por tener suficiente comida para alimentar a sus familias, les pido que aporten algo a las personas no tan afortunadas.

Si se mantienen calientitos y viven en un lugar cómodo, por favor pasen algo a la gente sin techo que tenga frío. Si ves a alguien que sufra dolor y necesite una palabra de apoyo, échale la mano.

Y en especial, cuando vean la injusticia en cualquier lugar, sean suficientemente valientes para alzar la voz y enfrentarla.

Quiero agradecer a todos ustedes que amablemente me recuerdan a mí y a mi familia en sus oraciones. Gracias por seguir apoyando y creyendo en mí. No hay un minuto en un día que pase sin que yo espere que éste sea el día cuando se me otorgue la libertad. Añoño el día en que pueda oler el aire fresco y limpio, cuando pueda sentir una suave brisa en mi cabello, cuando sea testigo del movimiento de las nubes ocultando el sol y cuando la luna ilumina el camino hacia el sagrado Inipi. Esto realmente sería un día que pudiera llamar un día de Acción de Gracias.

Gracias por escuchar. Mi espíritu está ahí con ustedes.

Doksha.

*En el Espíritu del Caballo Loco, han estado escuchando las palabras de Leonard Peltier.*

*Ha sido mi placer compartirlas con ustedes. Soy Mumia Abu-Jamal. □*

## En el 50° Día Nacional de Luto, el Partido Mundo Obrero rinde homenaje a los pueblos indígenas

El 28 de noviembre se celebra el 50° Día Nacional de Luto en Plymouth, Massachusetts, cuando los pueblos indígenas rinden homenaje a sus antepasados y relatan su historia como los habitantes originales de este país, mientras exponen los mitos sobre los peregrinos “benevolentes”. De hecho, los colonialistas europeos cometieron crímenes masivos contra los pueblos nativos, robando sus tierras y alimentos, destruyendo su cultura y participando en el genocidio.

El evento de este año honrará al prisionero político indígena enfermo, Leonard Peltier, de 75 años, quien ha sido encarcelado injustamente durante 43 años, actualmente en Florida, separado por miles de millas de su familia y nación en Dakota del Norte.

Es un día para elogiar a los pueblos indígenas de todo el mundo que luchan contra la opresión y lideran las luchas para salvar tierras, bosques y ríos de la destrucción capitalista. Este es un momento para rendir homenaje a todos los protectores nativos del agua y defensores de la tierra, incluidos los asesinados por atreverse a oponerse a los especuladores corporativos, como la hondureña Berta Cáceres, una líder lenca.

El partido Workers World Party/ Partido Mundo Obrero saluda a Evo Morales, presidente indígena de Bolivia, quien fue derrocado en un golpe ilegal por los ricos derechistas, en alianza con Washington. Los pueblos indígenas

valientes allí se han manifestado contra los golpistas brutales y racistas, a pesar de la horrible represión. Honramos a los pueblos indígenas, trabajadores y jóvenes que participan en manifestaciones antigubernamentales en Chile, Colombia y Ecuador.

WWP/PMO expresamos nuestra solidaridad con todos los migrantes/inmigrantes y refugiados retenidos como rehenes por el Servicio de Inmigración y Control de Aduanas por órdenes de la Casa Blanca y aquellos deportados y a quienes se les negó la entrada. Condenamos a la Patrulla Fronteriza por separar a las familias migrantes en la frontera entre Estados Unidos y México, enjaular y maltratar a los niños.

Con respecto a la separación familiar, las fuerzas reaccionarias se están movilizand para revocar la Ley de Bienestar Infantil India, destinada a mantener a los niños indígenas con sus familias y naciones, en lugar de ser adoptados por las redes de derecha. Esta campaña es un esfuerzo deliberado para suprimir la cultura indígena y socavar la protección legal obtenida por las comunidades nativas.

Datos impactantes de 71 ciudades hablan de 506 mujeres y niñas nativas asesinadas o desaparecidas; Esa es una gran cantidad de personas. Ha habido poco seguimiento o cobertura mediática. La legislación federal sobre esto está avanzando solo debido a la presión pública.

Otro problema al que se enfrentan los

indígenas es el Servicio de Salud Indígena con fondos insuficientes, inadecuados y poco confiables, que deja a muchas familias indígenas con poca o ninguna atención médica.

### Pueblos indígenas lideran resistencia contra contaminadores corporativos

Se libró una lucha militante para detener la construcción del oleoducto Dakota Access en las Dakotas, diseñado para transportar petróleo a través de varios estados en gran riesgo. Un derrame de petróleo envenenaría las preciosas fuentes de agua de las que dependen millones de personas y contaminaría la tierra nativa y los sitios sagrados.

Dirigidos por la Nación Sioux de Standing Rock, con otras naciones nativas y unidos por ambientalistas y otros partidarios, los protectores del agua ocuparon heroicamente la tierra, desafiando la brutal represión de la seguridad estatal y privada. Cientos de personas fueron arrestadas y detenidas en condiciones inhumanas, incluso en jaulas.

Algunos combatientes nativos fueron condenados a penas federales de prisión. Dakota del Norte arrestó a cientos y procesó a muchos. Actualmente, el propietario de DAPL, Energy Transfer Partners, busca duplicar su flujo de petróleo en Dakota del Norte. Los Sioux de Standing Rock están luchando contra esta expansión en la corte.

Mientras tanto, 9.120 barriles de

petróleo se derramaron el 28 de octubre desde el oleoducto Keystone XL, que transporta petróleo de arenas bituminosas desde Alberta, Canadá, hasta Texas, contaminando los humedales de Dakota del Norte. Una fuga en el ducto KXL de 210,000 galones de petróleo en Dakota del Sur desató las protestas de miles de personas en 2017. A pesar de estos desastres, TC Energy, el propietario de KXL, planea expandir el ducto, que los grupos nativos y los ambientalistas están desafiando.

No es de extrañar: el contaminador en jefe Donald Trump emitió una orden ejecutiva que permite la construcción de KXL, independientemente de los peligros para el medio ambiente y la salud, la violación de los derechos indígenas a la tierra o la oposición masiva.

Las empresas codiciosas que se benefician de estos gasoductos han presionado con éxito a muchos estados para prohibir el activismo contra los oleoductos, negando el derecho básico a manifestarse. ¡Estas leyes pro corporativas diseñadas para reprimir el movimiento deben ser opuestas!

La administración racista de Trump muestra desprecio por la soberanía de los pueblos indígenas, se apodera de sus tierras y pisotea sus derechos y cultura: el amigo de Big Oil en la Casa Blanca ordenó que Bears Ears, tierra ancestral de cinco naciones nativas en Utah, se abriera al

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