New stage in struggle to

FREE MUMIA!

By Betsey Piette
Philadelphia

Political prisoners 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 high-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.”

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Racist ‘Thanksgiving’ myth challenged at Plymouth

Google workers support fired activists
Fighting racism on the road to socialism
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To our readers and subscribers

Every time you read Workers World/Mundo Obrero newspaper or online, you know how important it is to share that news and analysis.

You also know that living under capitalism means increasing costs for everything, including printing this newspaper and maintaining a website. It has been almost 8 years since the last time we raised our rates. Now we are making a modest increase to $36 for a one-year print subscription—less than a dollar an issue.

For organizations and media outlets to $40/year and for the paper to your mailbox.

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Defend Malcolm Jenkins against Fraternal Order of Police

By Betsy Piette
Philadelphia

For decades the Philadelphia Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) has functioned like an organized racist mob, running rampant over the community. They use their armed power to crush genuine workers’ struggles led by real unions.

Police dropped a bomb on — and destroyed — a Black community in 1965, 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 communities, while doing little to address the increasing numbers of shoot- ings that have caused the deaths of children in the city.

In April of this year, when over 300 Philadelphia police officers faced suspension and potential firings for posting blatantly racist and sexist media posts, the most powerful body in the city — the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) — sided with 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 then-Defense Attorney Ritter, who was appointed to take on the popularly elected district attorney and prosecutor of the case, anticipating that the new prosecutor 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 transparent union-free interviews for 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 can create a union-free interview process for the community.”

The election shows the growing desperation of the FOP. 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.

Malcolm Jenkins challenges FOP

Since the FOP is arrogantly used to getting their way, the police organization believes they were 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 transparent union-free interviews for the community a mistake. ‘Representatives of our community should be part of the hiring process,’ he wrote.”

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, in his op-ed, Jenkins’ op-ed was published, Philadelphia FOP President John McNesby launched an attack, calling him a “nonsensical, 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 operated a “racial attack.” These words opened up a floodgate of commentary in print and social media and on television, mostly supporting Jenkins.

Malcolm Jenkins

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 account- ability 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 focusing on Abu-Jamal’s family. McGill illegally struck down Black jurors and allowing a cab-driver witness with a suspect impact on Abu-Jamal’s family.

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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 Roberts and Laurence Berland had already been suspended for “allegedly accessing and sharing data without permission.” Their co-workers maintain management is retaliating against them for organizing around 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, those same Google workers, Rivers and Berland and two other employees, the multimillion-dollar company’s goal: to crush worker organizing.

Google executives hired III 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. 4 in the coordinated “Google Walkout for Real Change” to protest multimillion-dollar payouts to male executives at a time of sexual and cultural misconduct. Going even further, the organizing committee objected to the company’s rampant racism, sexism and discrimination, and everyone was put on notice as well, as contract and temporary workers, many of them African-American, Latinx, immigrants and lower-paid workers.

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

In a memo to all employees, management said Google workers “violate” or “engage in protected organizing.” This is the same action taken against three workers fired in 2018 for “engaging in protected organizing.” That was “a political act” against workers who were “upholding our rights as workers.”

Workers call for solidarity

Amer Gabr, another walkout organizer, chided on Twitter that bosses at Kaiser Permanente in California authorized an across-the-U.S. on the same day.

“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 block 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 and supporters engaged in protected organizing. This is the same action taken against three workers fired in 2018 for “engaging in protected organizing.” That was “a political act” against workers who were “upholding our rights as workers.”

Google executives hired IRI Consultants, an anti-immigrant think tank. Google Walkout for Real Change said Google workers “violate” or “engage in protected organizing.” This is the same action taken against three workers fired in 2018 for “engaging in protected organizing.” That was “a political act” against workers who were “upholding our rights as workers.”

Google workers 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 side with 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 workers won’t succeed, “because the bosses know we have power when we stick together.”

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Google workers vowed to fight firings of activists

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

On Aug. 12, more than 57,000 health care workers represented by the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) won a contract with Kaiser Permanente, a major health care provider in California. The workers accused Kaiser of putting profits before patients. Not only did Kaiser bank more than $5.2 billion in profits since 2015, subcontracted its operations across the United States and cut 83,000 health care workers.

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One of the key union wins is a “no co-pays” contract, 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 workers organized two days of pre-Thanksgiving informational picketing, Nov. 24 and Nov. 26, to inform customers of the companies’ anti-worker aims. (uwf400.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 settlement consisted of thousands of cooks and cashiers out of minimum wage 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 workers organized and 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 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 and secure 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 a petition at tinymap.com/tb86t7dy. End wage theft now! □
**Message to Day of Mourning**

‘We will keep fighting, telling the truth’

By Stephanie Hedgecocke

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 1703 that “cleared land absorbs more heat and melts snow quick.” 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 other local struggles, many led by Indigenous women, across Turtle Island and the Land of the Condor, and still less about the third dimension, the oceans. Those lands have been raked and pillaged, which is Africa.

Make no mistake: When you hear about the Amazon, look to 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 Northern Coast that are killing the remaining orcas.

We all saw the mother orca last year mourning her dead baby, carrying the carcass 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 talk 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 see 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 Cubans they have 100,000 acres of banana groves, which have been raked and pillaged, which is Africa.

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!

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

‘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 fabricationated charges since 1976 — 43 years!

Peltier is the revered former leader of the American Indian Movement and is imprisoned under a branding of “terrorism” for a 1973 robbery that killed two FBI agents. The jury was not allowed to know that there were eyewitnesses who did not identify him.

Leonard wrote in 1976, “Thanksgiving” from prison, a statement that still holds true today.

‘Thanksgiving’ statement from political prisoner Leonard Peltier

Leonard Peltier

I am writing to keep all of you 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 breeze 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 whoever is voicing my words. My Spirit is there with you.

Dulutha

In the Spirit of Crazy Horse

Leonard Peltier

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

Daily Nation of Mourning

50 years of Indigenous struggle
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 how this information is communicated to the state in detail. What bears discussion is this. Many of you have written on this subject.

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 perpetrating 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 is important to focus the discussion on the material dimension. Specifically, the materiality 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 lithium-fuelled weapons. The 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 mining 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 point 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 and Brown people.

They know that after an unarmed person of color is killed by the police, their personal records will be searched for any information — no matter how minor, no matter how irrelevant — 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

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 capitalist 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
Racism at home and abroad: The lies are the same

Workers World front page, Dec. 5, 1969,

Black men becomes an act of mercy
are aberrant predators who are inflicting
not members of the community who are
were “poisoning their own community.”
fully divided from their own population
The victims of police violence were skill-
protecting the larger Black community.

incredible violence used against mostly
bystanders within a targeted community.
is to invoke sympathy for innocent
U.S. state.
the thievery of the ruling class and the
are stolen from. They are made poor by
North America or South America. Black

and Brown people do not

But Black and Brown people do not

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

is to invoke sympathy for innocent
U.S. state.
the thievery of the ruling class and the
are stolen from. They are made poor by
North America or South America. Black

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 organi-
zations that have the power to take con-
trol of the means of production. Class
consciousness is higher today than it has
been in decades. But there is a tremen-
dous amount of political education that
still needs to be had.

We can’t effectively organize the working
class if they don’t understand that the peo-
ple 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 strug-
gle. It prevents future contradictions
emerging from within the struggle, such as
the contradiction between POCC [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 organi-
zations, Democrats and social democrats
because those forces are totally incapable
of standing against U.S. imperialism.
The road to socialism is through agi-
education, education, education, organizing
of masses. An essential part of that is explain-
ing that U.S. racism respects no borders.

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 assassinated while sleeping in his bed. He suffered multiple gunshot wounds in a raid by white, local Chicago police and other repressive state agents aimed at drug dealers and their associates.

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. govern-
ment’s COINTELPRO (Counterintelligence 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 liber-
ation and social justice. Some of the most
well-known targets, besides Hampton, for COINTELPRO’s 24-hour surveillance, especially in the south were Malcolm X, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the Young Lords, political pris-
oners 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, using various ideologies in order to organize against U.S. imperialism at home and abroad. This strategy suffered a devastat-
ing setback with his assassination.

Hampton had gained national promi-
nence due to the dynamic way he spoke
revolutionary truth to power, which res-
onated 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 Assassination of Fred Hampton,” continue to inspire 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, a political revolutionary, a revolutionary proletarian struggle. [You] can kill a revolutionary, but you can’t kill revolution... you can jail a liberator but you can’t jail liberation.”

Fred Hampton, ¡presente! □

Other awards were given to longtime
PHT organizers Jean Rice, recipient of
a lifetime award, as well as Nikita Price,
DeRobah Dickinson, William Burnett,
Rachel Brumfeld and Sam J. Miller.

For more information, go to
picturethehomeless.org

— Report by Monica Moorehead
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 involves the use of financial weapons, being largely unnoticed and unchallenged. This calculated tactic is attacking back decades of progress in health care, sanitation, housing, energy, infrastructure, and industrial development all around the world.

As 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, depleting billions of millions from getting basic necessities is a crime against humanity.

International law and conventions, including the Geneva Convention and the 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 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 U.N. Security Council on the Non-Aligned Movement held in Baku, Azerbaijan, Oct. 26. Addressing the 120 countries represented, he denounced the imposition of sanctions against his country as a violation of the U.S., as “economic terrorism which affects a third of humanity with more than 8,000 measures in 39 countries.”

“Sanctions have become the opening wedge for a demand by the U.S., as a financial institution, to control and dominate the world.” (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 or 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 to bring 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 how 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 and military-industrial-entertainment 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.

There are also more than 3,000 names on the Specially Designated Nations 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.”

The sanctions are also often a position of the Financial Action Task Force list and an International Traffic in Arms Regulations list.

Outrage over NFL’s racist suspension of player

By Martha Grevatt

Local Cleveland celebrities were serving meals to 8,000 homeless and low-income residents on Nov. 26 at an annual event “Feed the Poor.” 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 charitable warm and giving demeanor most Cleveland fans since his arrival in 2017.

Garrett’s suspension came after a physical fight between him and Pittsburgh Steeler Mason Rudolph, who knocked down Garrett 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 – for inciting a mass confrontation.

Rudolph and Ogunjobi for one game and Steelers center Maurkie Pouncey for three games, later reduced to two.

Garrett himself was suspen- sed. 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 called him a racial slur. This accusation was disregarded by the NFL, who said there was no proof the comment was made, and did not challenge Garrett’s assertion that no audio was available.

The union also argued that there was no precedent for indefinite suspension in the player labour agreement 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 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 act of subterfuge, he cannot play for the rest of the season.

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Since Garrett’s accusation against Rudolph made news, Garrett’s teammates have attested to his character and credibility. So have Browns Coach Freddie Kitchens, former and current Cleveland Browns player and sportscaster Bernie Kosar, and friend and Ultimate Fighting Championship’s current Lightweight Champion Stipe Miocic.

Fans who support Garrett

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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 en route 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 spokesperson 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 mantra “France is fighting in Mali to defeat terrorism,” some—particularly members of La France Insoumise (France Unnamed 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 Paris on Nov. 30 to protest the “nefarious interference of foreign forces” in Mali and to support Mali’s army. (malialcu.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 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-Saharan 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 969 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.

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 federations in France, called a general strike for Thursday, Dec. 5, the expectation was that they were calling for a limited but militarily significant 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 staff of French transit unions announced they would join the Dec. 5 general strike. 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 as a protest by farmers 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 about a recent meeting between Yellow Vests and union activists in transporation, 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, Thessaloníki 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.
Popular, massive anti-government demonstrations and strikes have been challenging the corrupt and anti-popu-
lar regime of various Latin American countries, starting at different times over the past six months. These countries include Puerto Rico, Haiti, Ecuador, Chile and Bolivia.

How the local regimes and their backers in Washington reacted to these revolts—and to similar struggles in other countries in the region—has been a test for progres-
sives 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 nat-
ural resources from poor and indigenous peoples. These neoliberal policies have served both transnational corporations and the local oligarchy.

U.S. imperialism has put its political, diplo-
matic, economic, media, and military and intelligence apparatus behind keep-
ing these regimes in power. The regimes, in turn, serve U.S.-based corporate and bank-
ing 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 ruling class has a monopoly on violence. Second, control of the capitalist media, which are owned by the rich and lie inces-
santly to hide the interests of the rich, while spreading reactionary and often rac-
ist 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 oli-
garchy tried to block Morales from taking office, while spreading electoral fraud, for which there was no evi-
dence. The U.S.-controlled Organization of American States (OAS)踮 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 rac-
isms 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 sup-
porters to leave Bolivia or face death. Bolivia’s state power, now fully serving a de-facto coup regime with no constitu-
tional standing, then opened fire with live ammunition on mass demonstrations of Indigenous people, as workers in the cities of 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 its world capitalism system went into crisis in 1982, are clear. The lesson for progres-
sives is that we must continue to protest and expand the crimes of the U.S.-funded imperialists and its lackeys in the Latin American oli-
garchy in their use of state power.

That means to protest the Chilean gov-
ernment’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 must take up on energy. Our default position can be that anything most leading U.S. politi-
cians—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 num-
ber of reports appeared in all the cor-
porate 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 through 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 main-
tained 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 rightous 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 cen-
tury 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 mili-
tias 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 country are calling for an end to U.S.-funded repression and killings in the Philippines that target progressive politi-
cal organizations and unions.

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 Anakbayan-Metro Manila, 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 six others arrested. Honey Mae Suarez disappeared. On Nov. 5, the offices of Bayan were raided in Manila, and lead-
ers of Bayan, Manila Workers Unity and Kasarinlaan, 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 orga-

nizers, human rights defenders, killings of judges and journalists, and the disappear-
ances of farmers.”

In a letter about the attacks on the many union, peasant and people’s movements in her country: “We are out-
raged 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 cor-
porations 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 in the Philippines, unionists being kidnapped for evi-
cing other repressive acts and organizations, and other repressive activists, addressed the packed rally that opened the conference.

In the 50º Día Nacional de Luto, the Partido Mundo Obrero rinde homenaje a los pueblos indígenas

Chicago—More than 1,200 people joined together on the ball of the Chicago Teachers Union to refo-
und the National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression. The newly reformed 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 wrongly convicted.

Longtime leaders of the Black Liberation movement Angela Davis and Frank Chapman, along with elected officers of the Alliance, addressed the packed rally that opened the conference.
The sanctions weapon has become so extensive that there is now a whole body of literature guiding the U.S. government, 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 suffering. The sanctions weapon is now such 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 suffering.

Sanctions demonstrate how 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 on 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.

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.

The most 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 handed up a submachine gun to the Security Council to demand expanded authority in the war from that body.

Throughout the 1990s, the U.S. government used sanctions on Iran as a horrendous social experiment to calculate how to drastically lower caloric intake, destroy crops output and ruin living conditions. The impact of these sanctions were widely publicized—as a threat to other countries.

These coordinated international demonstrations are a crucial first step. Research and testimony; resolutions by unions, student groups, imperialists, workers and community organizations; social media campaigns; and bringing medical supplies and international relief to sanctions targets 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.
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, 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 un estilo de vida con alimentos y medicinas sagradas. Padimos pescar y disfrutábamos del agua limpia y clara. Mi pueblo era generoso. Compartimos todo lo que teníamos, incluyendo el conocimiento de cómo sobrevivir a 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. ¿Lás vallas? Desconocidas en aquel entonces. Eramos un pueblo comunal y nos cuidábamos el uno al otro. Nuestros abuelos y abuelas no estaban asidos 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 por las generaciones por venir. Se muestran dispuestos a enfrentar a las corporaciones transnacionales al educar al público sobre la devastación que hacen. Sonríen 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. Leído por Mumia Abu-Jamal, desde la nación encarcelada. Traducción: Amigüis de Mumi, México.

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

En el 50º Día Nacional de Luto, el Partido Mundo Obrero rinde homenaje a los Pueblos Indígenas

El 28 de noviembre se celebra el 50º Día Nacional de Luto en Plymouth, Massachusetts, cuando los pueblos indígenas rinden homenaje a sus antepasados y recordar su historia como los habitantes originales de este país, mientras exponen los mitos sobre los peregrinos “benevolentes de Aduanas por órdenes de la Casa Blanca en jaulas”.

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 liden las luchas para salvar tierras, bosques y ríos de la destrucción capitalista. Este es un momento para rendir homenaje a todos los protegidos nacionales del agua y defensores de la tierra, incluyendo gentes pobres que se oponen a los especuladores corporativos, como la hermosa 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 derechos de personas. El pueblo indígena se levanta en apoyo a sus luchas, desde Alberta, Canadá, hasta Texas. Continúa en la página 10

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