

Uber stock flops after

Global rideshare workers strike

By Martha Grevatt

Uber/Lyft/Via/Juno drivers leveraged their collective power and went on strike May 8 in a global day of action to protest their employers' greed.

Drivers held a number of solidarity rallies and urged consumers to turn off their rideshare apps and not "cross the picket line." These actions raised the voices of drivers seeking higher wages, job security and a say on the job.

In the U.S., strikes and demonstrations took place in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, places in Connecticut, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, New York, Philadelphia, San Diego, San Francisco and Washington, D.C.

The historic action was initiated by Rideshare Drivers United-LA (RDU-LA), who networked with Chicago Rideshare Advocates and Gig Workers Rising.

News of the day of action went viral. The "apps off" protest gained recognition from unions, policymakers and grassroots activists. The AFL-CIO tweeted that members should turn off their Uber apps on May 8.

"It took on a life of its own, completely outside the control of the organizers in Chicago, LA and others who started this," CRA co-founder and organizer Eli Martin told Workers World.

Drivers in Australia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, England, Kenya, Nigeria and other countries joined this historic strike. According to Martin, "We have been getting messages from drivers around the world and all around our nation, joining in solidarity," including France, Japan, Uruguay and beyond.

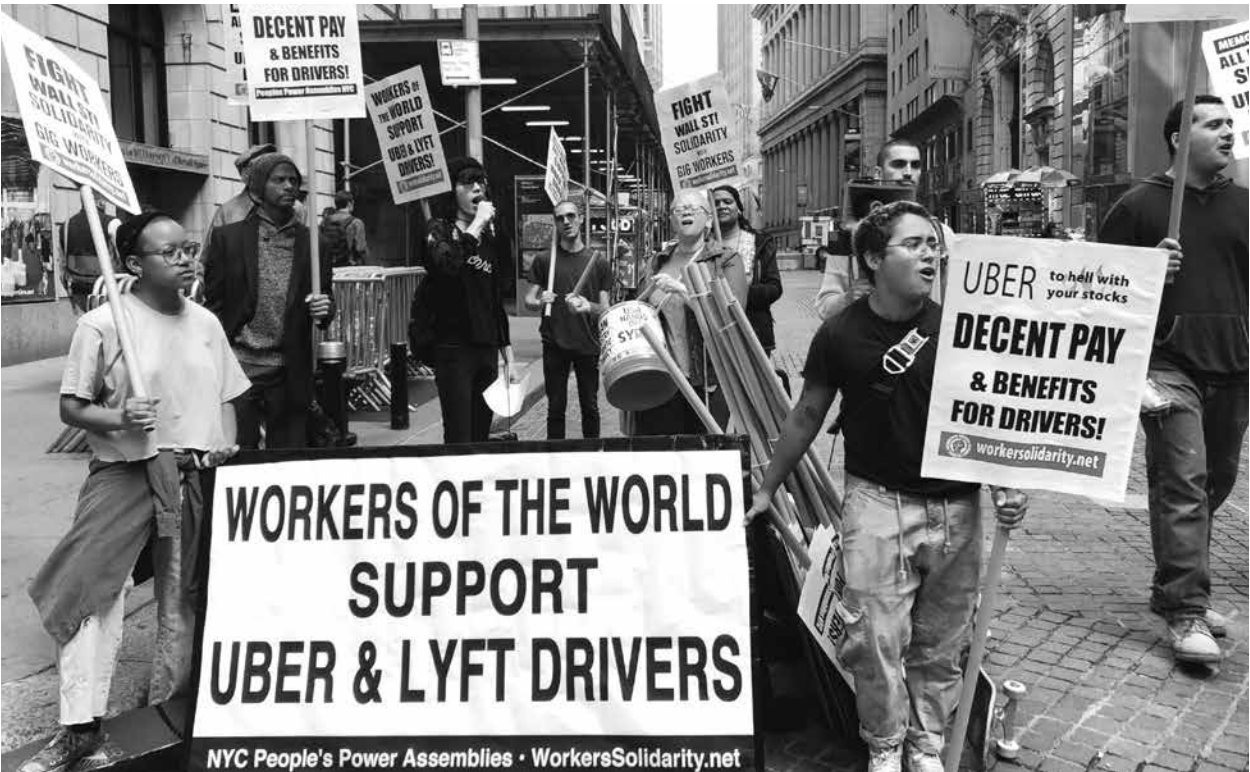
Uber is the largest ride-hailing app company, with millions of drivers. Last year Uber executives were paid \$145 million, with CEO Dara Khosrowshahi receiving \$45 million.

Drivers do not fare as well.

Rideshare drivers are not classified as employees but as "independent contractors," denying them many worker protections. They use their own cars and pay for gas, insurance and upkeep, while the companies get a large percentage of the fares. According to a 2018 Economic Policy Institute report, wages of Uber drivers averaged \$9.21 an hour. Many drivers barely make minimum wage, and some even lose money.

Sending a message

In **Boston** rideshare drivers were joined on May 8 by supporters from United Steelworkers Local 8751 (the Boston School Bus Drivers Union) and Service Employees Local 888. The Boston Independent Rideshare Guild called the



Solidarity with rideshare drivers at May 8 Wall Street protest.

WW PHOTO: TONI ARENSTEIN

demonstration. As Felipe V. Martinez, a leading organizer of the Guild, told Workers World: "The rideshare drivers of America initiated a national campaign of solidarity. Let this be inspiration for all the workers around the country and around the world, whoever you may be, to stand for equality, for the common worker. The workers have risen and we will never give up. I now know the true meaning of solidarity, and I am proud to be a common worker."

In **New York City**, Uber's largest market, the International Workers' Solidarity Network and the People's Power Assembly called a solidarity rally with

the drivers outside the New York Stock Exchange. Strike supporters constantly chanted, "Wall Street take a hike, workers of the world support the strike" and "We are all drivers today, workers demand decent pay!"

The latter was an important chant because decent pay is one big reason app drivers went on strike. According to a Vox article, most Uber/Lyft/Via/Juno drivers get a third of what passengers pay and make an average of \$11.75 an hour. Half of it goes to cover an EZ-Pass and gas. (tinyurl.com/y4w2ye8c)

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PHOTO: VENEZUELA EMBASSY PROTECTORS COLLECTIVE

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Protesters tell Focus on Family ‘New York is a pro-choice town!’

By Siddika Degia
New York City

Times Square rang with chants for reproductive rights on May 4: “Not the church, not the state, women will decide their fate!” and “Get up, get down, New York is a pro-choice town!”

NYC for Abortion Rights, a coalition of groups with various political beliefs, and with strong participation by the People’s Power Assembly and Workers World Party, came out to tell the hate group Focus on the Family that its bigotry does not belong in New York City.

For the last 30 years, Focus on the Family has been an anti-abortion, anti-woman and anti-LGBTQ2s group. FOF organizes to make abortion illegal even in cases of rape and incest. It has spent millions of dollars on political candidates who are against same-sex marriage and oppose anti-discrimination legislation. FOF promotes “gay conversion therapy,” proved to be completely without scientific basis.

Focus on the Family showed up May 4 in New York to create an outcry about the Reproductive Health Act recently passed by the New York State Legislature. RHA updated an earlier, more restrictive state law that predated U.S. Supreme Court (SCOTUS) decisions setting current limits on when women can legally get an



Fierce pro-choice advocates rally in Times Square, May 4.

WW PHOTO: TONI ARENSTEIN

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Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world and the planet itself in the neverending quest for ever-greater profits.

Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, attacks on im/migrants, misogyny, LGBTQ oppression and mistreatment of people with disabilities. It means joblessness, increasing homelessness and impoverishment and lack of hope for the future. No social problems can be solved under capitalism.

The U.S. is the richest country in the world, yet no one has a guaranteed right to shelter, food, water, health care, education or anything else — unless they can pay for it. Wages are lower than ever, and youth are saddled with seemingly insurmountable student debt, if they even make it to college. Black, Brown and Indigenous youth and trans

people are gunned down by cops and bigots on a regular basis.

The ruthless ruling class today seeks to wipe out decades of gains and benefits won by hard-fought struggles by people’s movements. The super-rich and their political representatives have intensified their attacks on the multinational, multigender and multigenerational working class. It is time to point the blame at — and challenge — the capitalist system.

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

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

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To save life on Earth

Abolish capitalism ASAP

By Teresa Gutierrez

Scientists have issued yet another dire warning on the climate crisis. In what the New York Times described May 6 as a “sweeping new United Nations assessment,” a 1,500-page report compiled by “hundreds of international experts and based on thousands of scientific studies” alerts the world that biodiversity around the planet is on a dangerous, alarming decline.

Twenty or 30 years ago, most people might have skimmed this kind of article. Only those following the issue closely would have read the entire article, much less the full report. Today, the entire working class and especially those in the global South must know to read such reports carefully, as the loss of homes, land and lives affects more and more people around the world.

The U.N.’s recent report, “UNEP/Global Environment Outlook 2019,” (available at un.org) concludes that “civilization and humans are accelerating extinction and altering the natural world at a pace unprecedented in human history.” It points out that this is not the first report about the Earth’s ecosystem, but it does elaborate how “human life is intertwined with the fate of other species.”

The authors conclude that the devastation of nature has become so dire that piecemeal efforts are no longer adequate. It calls for “transformative changes that include curbing wasteful consumption, lessening agricultural footprint” and comes down on “illegal logging and fishing.”

This report, like much other analysis, concludes that “humans” or “civilization” is to blame. But it is not “humans” in the abstract who are responsible for the decline in biodiversity or for climate change. It is the capitalist class and their system that are entirely at fault for creating this crisis.

The report calls for “transformative changes” — and that is important. But that is not enough. What is needed are revolutionary changes. What is needed is an end to capitalism and building socialism. This is needed now, not tomorrow.

Biodiversity — and humans — at extreme risk

The report’s statistics on the natural world are indeed alarming. The rain forests of South America, like the jungles of the Congo, are awe inspiring, with an abundance of diverse species not only stunningly beautiful to the eye, but necessary planetwide for the continuation of life itself.

There is awe of another kind, however, at what is happening to the species in these areas — which have already declined by an awful 20 percent.

According to the report, “Activities like farming, logging, poaching, fishing and mining are altering the natural world at a rate unprecedented in human history.” The report estimates that biodiversity loss will accelerate through 2050, just a short 31 years from now. As local climates change, in which fish, mammals, plants, birds and insects evolved over millennia, the very existence of these species is in danger.

‘Our Planet’ is a must-see

A recent Netflix documentary series, “Our Planet,” highlights the all-encompassing connection between these diverse species in our world and human beings. The film opens with narration affirming the U.N. report that in the space of one human lifetime, the whole world has changed. In the last 50 years, wildlife populations have declined by a whopping 60 percent.

Walrus are shown grasping for new space to live on a rocky island because the ice that once provided their home has melted. With no ice, extreme overcrowding leads to stampedes and death. Walrus are having to climb up stony cliffs in search of living space. They are seen plunging from the dangerous cliffs that cannot sustain them. Their bodies pile up in an eerie graveyard on the water’s edge.

The documentary points out that orangutans--indeed a spectacle to behold — are dying at a rate of 100 a week. Only recently this animal was discovered to use tools — a fact highlighting the similarities between humans and the other great apes, our evolutionary cousins.

Why are orangutans dying so rapidly? It’s because some capitalists have decided to clear the animals’ habitat to grow palm oil trees. As a result of that decision, 75 percent of their jungle habitat has disappeared.

It’s true that palm oil is useful to humans, especially for medicinal use such as prevention and treatment of cancer, dementia, high blood pressure, high cholesterol and malaria. But the real issue is about how decisions are made about the land and the species that live there. Capitalists are making those decisions merely to further their drive for profits.

By the end of “Our Planet,” the viewer is committed to saving not only humans, but the natural world from the climate crisis. You might find yourself Googling “eco-warrior!”

All life is connected

If the natural world is in decline, it is an understatement to say that humans are dramatically impacted — because the relationship is as decisive as life and death. Humans cannot live without food security, clean water, clean air — and these are dramatically and negatively affected by climate change.

Humans are producing more food than ever now. But if there are no bees or other insects to help pollinate fruits and vegetables, people won’t have these foods to eat.

Only a fraction of the living creatures on Earth, about 1 million species, have been identified. Scientists estimate there may be 8 million plant and animal species still to identify. But these and other species may cease to exist before they are even recognized. Extinction rates are “currently tens to hundreds of times higher than they have been in the past 10 million years.” (New York Times, May 6)

Land is being ravaged. Forests being cleared for farmland, for unplanned roads and cities that mainly aid the travel of capital, have meant that “three-quarters of the world’s land area has been significantly altered.”

Though tropical jungles and rainforests provide medicines — like the ingredients for aspirin — the unplanned, uncontrolled exploitation of these resources for corporate profit is also driving plant species toward disappearance.

What then for humanity? As the Earth is changed by fossil fuels, as ice caps melt away, the warming of the globe and rising seas result in danger for all the planet’s biodiversity. Just as walrus lose space, so too do humans find themselves uprooted and endangered.

Jakarta, Indonesia, is one of many examples. A city of 10 million, Jakarta faces “obliteration by rising seas and sinking land. Models predict that by 2050, 95 percent of north Jakarta could be submerged.” (Wired, May 2)

Who is to blame?

Who decides what is planted, where and how to log? Who has the equipment to enter the rainforest and pilage its resources? Who decides that palm trees are more important than keeping the rainforest’s land inhabited by its indigenous species?

It is not adequate to say “humans” are making these decisions. An impoverished worker in Kerala, India, may have no choice but to place fishing nets and ropes that trap and kill sea turtles. That worker must eat and support a family.

But who will stop the Trumps of the world from buying and selling ivory? That act has killed off nearly 7,000



PHOTO: SIERRA MAESTRA

Healthy coral reefs flourish in socialist Cuba, world leader in sustainable development.

elephants — wondrous social, communicative, memory-bearing creatures — in the last two years alone.

Who decides when to practice agricultural monoculture rather than grow more than one crop and thus replenish the soil’s natural nutrients? Who decides where, when and how much to clear in the Amazonian forest? With a fascist president in Brazil who is a climate-change denier, who will protect the Amazon? The U.N. can publish all the groundbreaking reports it wants, but that won’t and can’t stop President Jair Bolsonaro.

Will the capitalists of Indonesia allow the government to move a city of 10 million fairly and safely? Will they pay for it? Will the government be up to such a task without the intervention of the masses?

Are these decisions being based on human need — or on profit?

According to the Decolonial Atlas website: “Just 100 companies are responsible for more than 70 percent of the world’s greenhouse gas emissions since 1988. The guys who run those companies — and they are mostly guys — have gotten rich on the backs of literally all life on Earth.” We should add “ultra-rich.”

The most eco-sustainable country on Earth is socialist Cuba. In 2006 the World Wildlife Fund reported Cuba to be “the only country in the world to reach a sustainable development, because the country covers their present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” (tinyurl.com/y2t3w9bj) Merely compare Florida’s coral reefs to Cuba’s, and you will see that the former look like a cancerous lung, while Cuba’s are sparkling with health.

China, with its centrally planned economy under the aegis of its Communist Party, is actively combating global warming. The Environmental Defense Fund admits, “As the United States steps away from global climate leadership, China is stepping up.” Even though China has become “the factory of the world,” it has exceeded the pledges made in the Paris Accords to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, while the U.S. government has walked away from the accords and even denies global warming.

It is capitalism that created climate change. It is socialism that will resolve it. Only a planned economy based on solidarity and human need, not avaricious profit, can adequately and genuinely deal with the effects of climate change.

Remember Hurricane Katrina. Remember Hurricane Maria. □

Build Workers World! Defend workers’ rights

Established to honor the historic 1886 struggle of Chicago workers for the 8-hour day, May Day marks the worldwide fight for workers’ rights on May 1. There’s lots of good news this year: Education workers all over the U.S., from K-12 schools to universities, started a strike wave to organize for higher wages and better working conditions. Well-paid Amazon and Google workers have joined low-wage McDonald’s workers in staging walkouts.

While Trump and the global ruling class are waging war on the Bolivarian Revolution in Venezuela, his administration is making war on Central American im/migrants and refugees seeking entry into the U.S. Workers are threatened with deportation after escaping horrific conditions caused by U.S. intervention in their home countries. Neo-fascist U.S. policies separate infants and children from their parents at the border

and jail underage migrants crossing the border alone.

If you want to fight against capitalist reaction and for socialist change, we invite you to join the WW Supporter Program. The program was founded in 1977. Ever since, our subscribers and friends have helped build the only revolutionary socialist weekly in the U.S. that’s in print as well as on the web.

For a donation of at least \$75 a year — and much more if you’re able — members receive a year’s subscription to WW, a monthly letter about timely issues and five free subscriptions to give to friends. Write checks (either monthly or once a year) to Workers World and mail them, with your name and address, to WWSP, 147 W. 24th St., 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10011. Or sign up to donate online at workers.org/donate/ — it’s easy to set up monthly deductions. We’re grateful for your help in building Workers World — sign up today! □

Venezuela embassy protectors tell State Dept., ‘No illegal eviction!’

On May 13 the Embassy Protection Collective sent this communication to the U.S. State Department.

This is the 34th day of our living in the Venezuelan embassy in Washington, D.C. We are prepared to stay another 34 days, or however long is needed, to resolve the embassy dispute in a peaceful way, consistent with international law.

This memo is being sent to the U.S. and Venezuela as well as members of our Collective and allies. We are encouraging people to publish this memo, as a transparent process is needed to prevent the U.S. from making a unilateral decision that could impact the security of embassies around the world and lead to military conflict.

There are two ways to resolve the issues around the Venezuelan embassy in D.C., which we will explain.

Before doing so, we reiterate that our collective is one of independent people and organizations not affiliated with any government. While we are all U.S. citizens, we are not agents of the United States. While we are here with permission of the Venezuelan government, we are not their agents or representatives.

We are here in the embassy lawfully. We are breaking no laws. We did not unlawfully enter and we are not trespassing.

1. Exiting with a Protecting Power Agreement

The exit from the embassy that best resolves issues to the benefit of the United States and Venezuela is a mutual

Protecting Power Agreement. The United States wants a Protecting Power for its embassy in Caracas. Venezuela wants a Protecting Power for its embassy in D.C. Such agreements are not uncommon when diplomatic relations are severed.

A Protecting Power Agreement would avoid a military conflict that could lead to war. A war in Venezuela would be catastrophic for Venezuela, the United States and for the region. It would lead to lives lost and mass migration from the chaos and conflict of war. It would cost the United States trillions of dollars and become a quagmire involving allied countries around the world.

We are serving as interim protectors in the hope that the two nations can negotiate this resolution. If this occurs, we will take the banners off the building, pack our materials and leave voluntarily. The electricity could be turned on, and we will drive out.

We suggest a video walk-through with embassy officials to show that the Embassy Protection Collective did not damage the building. The only damage to the building has been inflicted by coup supporters in the course of their unprosecuted break-ins.

2. The United States violates the Vienna Convention, makes an illegal eviction and unlawful arrests

This approach will violate international law and is fraught with risks. The United States would have to cut the chains in the front door put up by embassy staff

and violate the embassy. We have put up barriers there and at other entrances to protect us from constant break-ins and threats from the trespassers whom the police are permitting outside the embassy. The police's failure to protect the embassy and the U.S. citizens inside has forced us to take these actions.

The Embassy Protectors will not barricade ourselves or hide in the embassy in the event of an unlawful entry by police. We will gather together and peacefully assert our rights to remain in the building and uphold international law.

Any order to vacate based on a request by coup conspirators [who] lack governing authority will not be a lawful order. The coup has failed multiple times in Venezuela. The elected government is recognized by the Venezuelan courts under Venezuelan law and by the United Nations under international law. An order by the U.S.-appointed coup plotters would not be legal.

Such an entry would put embassies around the world and in the United States at risk. We are concerned about U.S. embassies and personnel around the world if the Vienna Convention is violated at this embassy. It would set a dangerous precedent that would likely be used against U.S. embassies.

If an illegal eviction and unlawful arrests are made, we will hold all decision-makers in the chain of command and all officers who enforce unlawful orders accountable.



WW PHOTO: SARA FLOUNDERS

Embassy protectors display determination.

If there is a notice that we are trespassing and need to vacate the premises, please provide it to our attorney Mara Verheyden-Hilliard, copied on this memo.

We have taken care of this embassy and request a video tour of the building before any arrests.

We hope a wise and calm solution to this issue can be achieved so escalation of this conflict can be avoided.

There is no need for the United States and Venezuela to be enemies. Resolving this embassy dispute diplomatically should lead to negotiations over other issues between the nations. □

Free Imam Jamil Al-Amin!

By Dianne Mathiowetz
Atlanta

Supporters packed the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals courtroom on May 3 to witness the latest legal effort to win a new trial for Imam Jamil Al-Amin, formerly known as H. Rap Brown.

Al-Amin was convicted in 2002 of killing a Fulton County Sheriff's deputy and wounding a second during a shootout in Atlanta's West End neighborhood, a charge he has consistently denied.

The issue at the hearing was the prosecutors' repeated violations, in the original trial, of Al-Amin's constitutional right not to testify. They went so far as to present a mock cross examination of Al-Amin to indicate his guilt.

Two lower courts have agreed the prosecutors' actions violated his constitutional rights, but claimed the abundance of evidence validated his conviction.

If the three-judge Appeals Court panel rules in Al-Amin's favor, it would be a significant expansion of what type of courtroom inequities and violations by the state could trigger a new trial. That there is no real consequence currently for a prosecutor violating a defendant's rights is the crux of Al-Amin's appeal.

Allen Garrett, Jamil's attorney, also questioned the so-called weighty evidence.

For example, the surviving deputy consistently claimed that he looked into the shooter's "cold grey eyes" and that he had wounded him. Al-Amin has brown eyes and was uninjured when arrested four days later. The perpetrator's height was given as 5 feet, 10 inches, but Al-Amin is 6 feet, 5 inches.

Al-Amin's fingerprints were not found on the guns identified as those used to shoot the deputies.

Furthermore, there was a blood trail leaving the scene and eyewitnesses saw a wounded man in the area. Otis Jackson confessed to the shooting, knew details of the event, had been shot and knocked on neighbors' doors seeking help after the shootout. The state deemed his confession not believable.

An FBI agent was at the scene immediately and played a key role in the investigation and capture of Al-Amin. This is important because of the decades-long effort of COINTELPRO (Counter Intelligence Program) to "neutralize" H. Rap Brown, referred to in a 1967 FBI memo.

Persecution of a Black revolutionary

Since his teenage years, Brown was an activist against racial injustice. He was part of Mississippi Freedom Summer, organized voter registration in Alabama and in 1967 became chairperson of SNCC (Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee), then one of the most dynamic Black Power organizations.

A fiery speaker, Brown spoke across the country, rallying Black people to demand the rights guaranteed them by recently passed civil rights laws.

He was charged with "inciting a riot" following a 1967 speech in Cambridge, Md., although the Kerner Commission report totally debunked that account, faulting the local police for fires that happened hours after Brown left the city.

Nonetheless, the "H. Rap Brown law" was passed by Congress, making it a

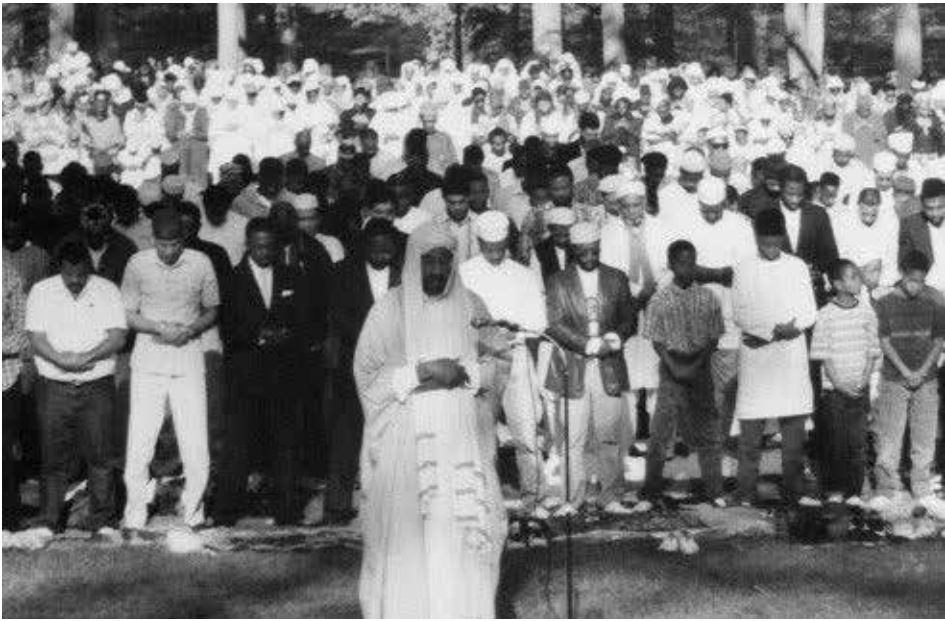


PHOTO: ARCHIVES OF KARIMA AL-AMIN

Jamil Al-Amin leads Eid prayers during the 1990s in Atlanta.

crime to cross state lines to incite a riot.

While in Attica Prison from 1971-76 on a charge of attempted robbery, Brown converted to Islam and changed his name to Jamil Al-Amin. Following his release, he moved to Atlanta, opened a grocery store in the West End and became imam of the nearby mosque. He organized the community to get rid of drug dealers and street crime, helped seniors remain in their homes and set up youth programs.

Brown was recognized nationally and internationally as a religious leader.

In 2002, following his conviction and sentencing to life in prison without parole, Al-Amin was sent to Georgia's maximum security prison in Reidsville.

When Muslim prisoners petitioned the state to have him serve as their imam,

Georgia determined he was a "too high-risk" prisoner. The federal Bureau of Prisons took over his housing. In 2007 he was sent to a Colorado supermax facility and kept in solitary for seven years in an underground cell. He is currently in a Tucson federal penitentiary.

The many supporters in the courtroom reflected his decades of struggle. There were former members of SNCC, Muslims from multiple cities, West End neighbors, Pam Africa of International Concerned Friends and Family of Mumia Abu-Jamal, and members of the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement, Workers World Party and Georgia student organizations.

For additional information, visit imamjamilactionnetwork.org. □

Workers' Solidarity Day: an essential initiative

By Martha Grevatt

This article is based on a talk by Martha Grevatt at the Workers World Party national strategic meeting held May 11-12 in Newark, N.J. Grevatt is a member of the Executive Committee of the WWP Interim Central Committee, a managing editor of this newspaper and a long-time union activist.

Initiatives begin as proposals. Then proposals become reality. That is the goal with Workers' Solidarity Day and the International Workers' Solidarity Network: to make the monthly solidarity days, originally a proposal, essentially "a May Day every month."

The plan was to make the first big push on May Day. In general, workers get it. Once a year is not enough, not by

a longshot. Let's have an International Workers' Day each and every month: That's the pitch and it resonates.

Leading up to May Day, the IWSN accomplished a lot. A call to action was drafted and sent out. The call has gotten around 400 signers from around the country and around the world. There is a website and a presence on social media. And a name for the group spearheading this initiative — International Workers' Solidarity Network.

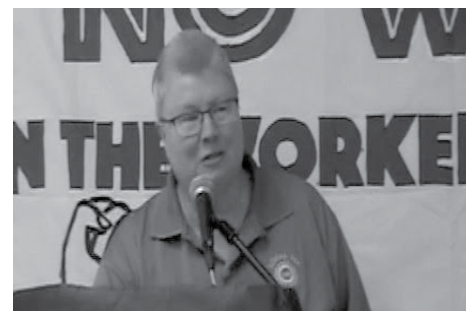
Leaflets have been given out, as well as visibility with placards and banners. The word is getting out from May Day and Stop & Shop picket lines to the annual remembrance of the Kent and Jackson State killings. And of course the courageous Uber, Lyft and other rideshare driver walkouts.

The date for the first solidarity day is June 1. For now there's a continuum from

May 1 to June 1: It's the first of the month. June 1 is a Saturday. What will happen after June 1 still has to be developed.

There will be an emphasis on solidarity with migrants under the theme of "No Walls in the Workers' Struggle." There is also the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion. Some areas will need to bring in local struggles, such as the laundry workers in New York or teachers where they are in motion. Internationalism is a big piece of this. Don't be afraid to customize.

Of all the historical mass units that WWP has helped develop, the IWSN has much in common with CULA — Center for United Labor Action — a formation that was truly engaged in the class struggle of the 1970s. Back then Workers World Party Chairperson Sam Marcy oriented the party with the slogan "Face to



WW PHOTO: PEOPLES VIDEO NETWORK

Martha Grevatt speaking on May 11 in Newark.

the masses."

At that time, union density was much higher, especially in urban areas. But even then our orientation was not exclusively to workers in unions. Remember: There was another organization — the Prisoners Solidarity Committee.

Continued on page 7

Uber stock flops after global rideshare workers strike



WW PHOTOS: STEVAN KIRSCHBAUM (BOSTON), JIMMY RAYNOR (ATLANTA)

Continued from page 1

Workers are demanding that companies pay drivers 80 to 85 percent of the fare and end "arbitrary and unjust deactivations."

"Deactivation" is rideshare company lingo for barring a driver from work for an indefinite length of time. As Caroline Said explained in the Oct. 14, 2018, San Francisco Chronicle, "In the easy-come, easy-go gig world, workers can be deactivated with the click of a button or, more often, the soulless calculations of an algorithm."

After learning of the May 8 coordinated actions, the 21,000-member strong New York Taxi Workers Alliance voted to demonstrate in solidarity with the striking drivers. Taxi drivers rallied at Uber and Lyft's NYC headquarters in Long Island City. The Independent Drivers Guild, which according to a May 7 article in AM New York is funded partially by Uber, did not encourage its workers to go on strike but did express solidarity with them.

NYTWA Executive Director Bhairavi Desai said in a public statement: "Uber and Lyft wrote in their S1 filings that they think they pay drivers too much already. With the IPO, Uber's corporate owners are set to make billions, all while drivers

are left in poverty and go bankrupt." (Uber floated shares in the company, called an IPO [Initial Public Offering] on the stock market on May 10.)

Upwards of 75 Uber drivers, joined by other rideshare workers and community supporters, held a demonstration outside Uber's Greenlight Hub in Philadelphia. The Philadelphia Drivers Union and the Philadelphia Limousine Association organized the action.

The demonstration was entirely worker-led and reflected the multinational and intergenerational demographic of rideshare workers. Fliers listing the drivers' demands were printed in Spanish, Urdu, Hindi, Arabic and English. Many drivers brought homemade signs, led chants and gave speeches to the crowd in various languages.

The main demands were an 80/20 split on fares; a minimum wage of at least \$20 an hour after expenses; deactivation protection for drivers and the creation of an oversight board of workers with enforcement power; and no changes to Terms of Service agreements without bargaining directly with drivers and their union representatives.

Many workers remarked that Uber and Lyft have been systematically lowering drivers' take-home pay without giving workers a say in the policies that impact them, forcing many to work longer hours. Some have had to live in their cars. Workers responded enthusiastically to signs from the International Workers' Solidarity Network, particularly one that read, "Uber profits = Stolen pay from drivers."

After a spirited rally in the parking lot, drivers marched directly to the front doors of the Uber office, demanding to speak with a manager to deliver their demands. Eventually, after stalling, an Uber manager did agree to hear from them.

Drivers and supporters held a rally and press conference outside Uber's hub in Chamblee, a suburb of Atlanta, where

they addressed their working conditions and demands. The rally drew extensive local news coverage. Later, the focus of the strike shifted to Lyft's offices. Drivers announced a statewide meeting later this month to grow their organization.

Rideshare Drivers United-LA, formed in 2018, organized a 24-hour strike with drivers shutting down their apps from midnight to midnight. Drivers set up a picket outside of Los Angeles International Airport.

An RDU-LA press release demanded "major reforms to the industry to make it fair, dignified and sustainable." Lyft driver Karim Bayumi was quoted, "Uber estimates that 15 percent of their revenues come from airport pickups. We provide an essential service, but Uber and Lyft investors are the only ones reaping the benefits."

Strike impacts stock price

Strike events were originally organized to coincide with Uber's Initial Public Offering on May 8 when the company was to sell shares on the stock market. Uber Technologies Inc. was hoping to raise \$9 billion to give the stocks a market valuation worth nearly \$90 billion.

Uber's S1 filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission explains how the company plans to increase its profits by exploiting the drivers even more. Uber is calling for pay cuts, reducing driver incentives and "automated driving systems" to replace human drivers.

As the worldwide strike gained momentum, Uber pushed the date for the IPO — the biggest since Facebook's in 2012 — to May 10. On that day, Uber's opening share price of \$45 declined almost 8 percent and the loss was, according to University of Florida professor Jay Ritter, "bigger than first day dollar losses of any prior IPO in the U.S." (gizmodo.com) Losses continued on the second day of trading, with an even bigger slide of over 10 percent, while Morgan Stanley still squeezed millions of dollars in fees from investors it steered toward Uber stock.

The greedy upstart rideshare companies in the new gig economy have driven

labor costs down to barely above — and in some cases below — the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour, with no benefits.

Since less money for workers means more money for the bosses, one might expect investors to flock to these super-exploitive companies in droves. However, the falling price of Uber stock reflects two problems for the investing class: one, capitalism is in a deep, protracted crisis; two, workers are fighting back.

A New York Uber spokesperson tried claiming that the New York Taxi Workers Alliance was not a real union and therefore not a voice for rideshare drivers. (Vox, May 9)

What Uber fails to realize is that the strike was very successful because it is only the beginning of the gig-economy app drivers organizing and rising up.

As we all know, "The workers united will never be defeated!"

Contributors to this article included Ben Carroll, Siddika Degia, Steve Kirschbaum, Mike Kuhlenbeck and Dianne Mathiowetz.



WW PHOTOS: BEN CARROLL (PHILADELPHIA), PEOPLES VIDEO NETWORK (NEW YORK)

A road to revolution

*Edited version of a talk by **Loan Tran**, a member of the Executive Committee of Workers World Party’s Interim Central Committee and a leading organizer of the Durham branch, at the WWP national strategy meeting held May 11-12 in Newark, N.J.*

Sarah Collins Rudolph refers to herself as the “fifth little girl” from the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala., that killed four Black girls in 1963 — Carol Denise McNair, 11 years old; Carole Robertson, 14; Cynthia Wesley, 14; and Addie Mae Collins, 14. Sarah is captured in a famous photograph in a hospital bed with both eyes covered in gauze. Her sister and the three others were eulogized by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. while she remained in the hospital recovering.

In the past 56 years since the bombing, she has not received a single apology from the city of Birmingham. No therapy, no treatment for her trauma and, perhaps to add insult to injury, she is still paying for the medical bills related to treatment of her eyes — her left one, which she lost, and her right one, which still has glass in it. No restitution and no acknowledgment that she was there and survived. She calls herself the carrier of history. She has lived with that day every day, and today she is witnessing the vile racism of Trump and every KKK member and neo-Nazi whom this administration embodies and enables.

In 1973, four years after the historic Stonewall Rebellion, an arson attack killed 32 people at the Upstairs Lounge, a gay bar and haven in New Orleans — a city at the time where an estimated 60,000 to 100,000 people out of a population of 600,000 were gay and lesbian. Because being openly gay during that time was so dangerous and could get you killed, few family members stepped forward to claim the dead bodies. Those who survived were isolated and kept quiet because the fear they had was justified — identifying with the burn scars on their bodies meant losing their jobs and any semblance of security.

And as the homophobic and transphobic history of this country would have it, many of those survivors would later die during the AIDS epidemic under the horrendous anti-gay policies of the Reagan administration.

In 1994, Dr. John Britton and James Barrett, a clinic escort, were shot to death outside an abortion clinic in Pensacola, Fla. This same clinic was bombed before in 1984 and again in 2012.

The My Lai massacre took place in 1968, where over 300 Vietnamese people were brutally murdered by U.S. troops who were trying to eradicate the Viet Cong and the National Liberation Front. In 1982, ordered by the Israeli Defense Forces, the Phalange killed anywhere between 460 and 3,500 Palestinians in an effort to clear out the Palestine Liberation Organization fighters from Sabra and Shatila. And in 2004, a year after the Iraq War began, 42 Iraqi civilians were killed by U.S. troops during a wedding.

Sara Collins Rudolph’s story perfectly captures what we mean when we say capitalism is dying. History is the past, but it is also the present.

We do not have to reach backwards to tally deaths of our class given the ever-expanding empire. The killings in Palestine continue. The treachery of U.S. occupation continues. Just weeks ago three Black churches were set on fire in Louisiana. Now at least six Ferguson activists have been found dead. The Pulse shootings in 2016 earned the title of the worst hate crime against LGBTQ people in history, with a gunman who killed 49 queer people and left 53 others wounded on Latinx night in an Orlando club.

Capitalism at a dead end

These massacres and shootings, bombings and fires should indicate to even the most minimally politically conscious person that capitalism and its tendrils — white supremacy and patriarchy — are dying, and as it drowns, it seeks to take as many with it as possible. In the course of its death, who will be the carriers of history? And of which history? I imagine for every Palestinian child killed, there is a sister; for every lesbian murdered, there is a lover or family member; for every Iraqi, Venezuelan, Syrian, Yugoslavian, there is a friend, a teacher, a parent, a neighbor.

Faced with this painful reality for every oppressed person and worker here in the U.S. and abroad killed by police, by a boss, by a criminal billionaire like Jeff Bezos, a sexist lawmaker, a developer — there must be

a communist, a revolutionary, an outside agitator holding a picket line, occupying an apartment building or an embassy under siege, defending the land, the water, the air.

It is a matter of human life — not in the idealistic or the moralistic sense — but in a socialist sense, that only socialism has any chance of putting the wealth of the world back into the hands of the billions who have paid for it with their lives and labor.

This is the gravity of the task ahead of us. And so much is beyond our control, as humans and as revolutionaries who only have our bodies and each other. Perhaps things have already tipped over the edge, perhaps at best our efforts are hospice care for the end, perhaps the aspiration to save humanity and change course is as impossible as stopping the Earth from revolving around the sun — but even then, we know we must try. And we must attempt this effort with great clarity.

It is simply not enough to scoff at the Democratic Party and its genius and evil process of absorbing our class into the electoral arena where millions can vote while millions more perish. It is not enough to simply criticize the left for its shortcomings on questions of class and national oppression. It is not enough or even right to simply dismiss the sectors of our class — many of whom are young and oppressed and who are deeply dismayed with capitalism — as being self-absorbed for saying who we are as queer people, as women and trans people, as disabled people.

As workers without work, we matter. We are up against this period of capitalism where we should understand a key characteristic to be the attempt of finance capital to stop, as much as possible, the very human development which could destroy it.

Unfortunately we do not have the favor of the revolutionary fervor of the 1960s. We have 2019, for whatever it’s worth. And as it stands right now, I believe it’s worth \$280 trillion, half of which is being held hostage by 1 percent of the world’s population.

It is worth the 3.5 to 5 million women who formed a 385-mile wall around India’s western coast as they raised the issue of women’s oppression. It is worth the thousands of Uber and Lyft drivers worldwide who went on strike May 8. It is worth the more than a million students worldwide who walked out in March to protest climate change. It is worth the tens of thousands of teachers who went on strike in North Carolina, where striking is illegal, to demand funding for public education.

It is worth the thousands of migrants who have, since last October, come charging against the gates of the empire. It is worth the thousands of McDonald’s workers on the picket lines in defiance of sexual harassment at the workplace. It is worth the millions from Haiti to France, Palestine to Venezuela and beyond who have taken to the streets demonstrating what proletarian democracy really means.

It is worth the tens of thousands of prisoners who last fall went on strike demanding an end to slavery in its newest form.

Preparing for the period ahead

Are we prepared to fight for the worth of the world, the worth of our class? We must fight; we must put forward a revolutionary program and strategy that is capable of tearing down every wall in the workers’ struggle, jumping every barricade, and turning every corner where guns are pointed at us. And it cannot be stated enough, quite literally: Put the wealth of the world back into the hands of the world itself.

Just imagine what it would take and what it could do if every worker and oppressed person would hit the streets, the banks, the workplaces and the bourgie condos and ask: Where is our money? Every worker has the right to make that ask. Are we prepared to receive the fervor and rage that this could unleash?

A revolutionary program for this period not only requires a sharp political analysis of the conditions facing our class, it requires a level of rigor that wrestles with some contradictions and challenges new to communist tradition. The challenges and benefits of technology — of a world that is incredibly well connected and simultaneously incredibly surveilled by social media platforms



Loan Tran speaking May 11 in Newark.

WW PHOTO: PEOPLES VIDEO NETWORK

like Facebook and Twitter — not only buy but sell data on who we are. These platforms are also warping our sense of reality, inundating our psyche with images of violent, capitalist oppression, and worse yet, limiting and repressing the fightback that is taking place within and outside of a digital landscape.

There are many young people, new workers and precarious workers who are caught on a high wire between revolutionary consciousness and demoralization. There is a fatigue in knowing so definitively that the end of capitalism is near. And this fatigue pairs perfectly with the culture of individualism that capitalism has bred — especially here in the center of the empire. How do we offer a way which wins?

We do not say to the distraught worker: Stop worrying about yourself! We say to the distraught worker, the demoralized youth, the oppressed person: Fight for what you deserve! Don’t fight each other! And don’t fight alone!

Class solidarity matters

We demonstrate that solidarity in this period is not lip service. We must be the harbingers of unity, no matter how difficult. But we must not make decisions foolishly — we must not mistake the urgency of this crisis as an opportunity to be rash, to cut corners or to not wrestle with the new conditions of this period which distinguishes it from many of the previous stages of capitalism.

There is enough time for a breath, for ideological rearmament, to take our perspective to the highest level possible and in the most winning way possible. We must tell the truth about what is happening to our class, and we must be truthful in the role we hope to and can play as revolutionaries.

This struggle did not start with us, and it is very possible that it will not end with us. But are we ready to take up the responsibility of giving our class a true, fighting chance? Our class is everywhere. How can we be everywhere with them? How do we fight and organize to make them the best fighters in their own best interests, the best carriers of history?

Is this the year our class becomes a tsunami breaking the chains of capitalism? I don’t know. But I do know this has to be the year we get ready for the years ahead — some of which may be very long, some of which could pass by very quickly. We have no crystal ball, we are not psychics — in fact, we are better than psychics. We are communists, who know that the making of a socialist revolution requires many things. Perhaps foremost is the requirement that we are embedded in struggle, that we contend with reality to make sense of a historical imperative: the liberation of all humanity from capitalism and oppression.

We’ve got to prepare our class to become manifest of its responsibility as the locomotive, the carrier of history.

We must do this for the Birmingham Four, for Flint, for Stonewall, for Mumia, for Leonard Peltier, for Leslie Feinberg, for the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory workers, for the Haymarket Martyrs, for Sandra Bland, for Palestine, Cuba, Venezuela, Syria, Haiti, Libya, for the gravediggers of capitalism, and for the future of and the infinite possibilities of humanity.

Black Lives Matter! Build a Workers World! Smash patriarchy! Free Mumia! Long live Stonewall! □

On the picket line

By Alex Bolchi and Sue Davis

Fighting retaliation at Google and Boeing

Two mega-billion-dollar U.S.-based international corporations retaliated recently against employees who dared to organize for better working conditions.

About 20,000 **Google** workers staged a multicontinent walkout last November demanding changes in how sexual misconduct allegations are handled. An internal email published April 26 by Wired reported that two employee activists behind the protest accuse Google of retaliation. Google denied it.

Employee activist Claire Stapleton was demoted from marketing manager after the walkout. Only after her lawyer contacted Google did management conduct an investigation and walk back her demotion. "While my work has been restored," said Stapleton, "the environment remains hostile." Meredith Whittaker, who co-signed the email, said her role has been "changed dramatically." She was told she had to give up her role at the AI Now Institute at New York University, which she co-founded, and to stop her work on artificial intelligence ethics. The women write: "Our stories aren't the only ones. Google has a culture of retaliation, which too often works to silence women, people of color, and gender minorities." (bbc.com, April 23)

In November 2018, Richard Mester, who brought 30 years of engineering experience to **Boeing** in South Carolina where he has been a flight safety inspector for five years, was suddenly fired — along with two other employees — for allegedly failing to report a bird strike (when a bird collides with a plane). Impossible, said Mester, who had just been elected a union shop steward. The three workers filed Unfair Labor Practice charges with the National Labor Relations Board, alleging there was no bird strike, but that it was just an excuse to fire workers in the ongoing International Association of Machinists unionization drive. Boeing filed an objection. The NLRB refused to comment.

"Boeing has no qualms about squashing any possibility of a union down here," Mester told the May 3 Guardian. IAM Associate General Counsel Bill Haller explained: "[Boeing wanted] to send the message that if you support the union you're going to get fired. They're not being subtle." In an email to the Guardian, Boeing denied retaliation.

In addition to accusing Boeing of spying on workers who voted in the election, the union is seeking \$100 million in a wage theft case — the largest involving a federal contractor. "They started writing people up for things that were the norm. They've targeted union supporters," said an unidentified Boeing worker hoping to avoid retaliation. He noted that after the union vote, Boeing increased the workload of workers who voted for the union, reduced quality control and frequently reassigned workers to job openings in different locations.

Rutgers faculty win historic contract!

In a late-night bargaining session, on the brink of a strike (which would have been the first in the university's 253 years), 5,000 full-time faculty and graduate workers at Rutgers University won a victory with a robust seven-year contract. They organized jointly with the American Association of University Professors and the American Federation of Teachers. During more than a year of pickets and protests, the union won support online and in the classroom with a creative social media campaign as well as "picket with your professor" events.

The workers' gains address equity, security and dignity. Now there is equal pay for equal work for female faculty, faculty of color and for faculty in the Newark and Camden campuses. All faculty can now apply for equity correction if they believe their peers are unjustly earning more. Significant pay increases will help the lowest-paid members. Graduate workers will see their pay increase from \$25,969 to \$30,162 over the course of the contract. The union also won \$20 million for diversity hiring and the guarantee of a workplace free of harassment and stalking, enforced by binding arbitration.

The contract revises the "green card" policy, so that faculty can now sponsor non-tenure-track (NTT) faculty for permanent residency. NTT workers, often the most exploited, will have grievance procedures. Graduate employees and NTT faculty also won greater job security. The union won language requiring academic freedom that applies to social media. Though this is an historic victory, nearly 3,000 part-time adjuncts still await a contract, fair salaries and health care. Stay tuned. (Rutgers AAUP.org, April 17). □

Farmworkers win big over Darigold

By Jim McMahan
Seattle

The United Farm Workers union just scored a big victory over 500-farm dairy producer Darigold in the Pacific Northwest. For years farmworkers have been struggling at Darigold against racist and sexist harassment, along with brutal and unsafe working conditions.

The "Darigold Dozen" — 12 dairy farm workers — filed a wage and hour lawsuit against Darigold member Ruby Ridge farm in 2009. The dozen have finally won their lawsuit and will recover the wages they charge were stolen by Ruby Ridge. Darigold has also agreed to drop its

lawsuit against the UFW and the 12 individual workers, which was filed in retaliation for the workers seeking to recover their wages.

In April the UFW held a large picket line at a Starbucks shareholders' meeting in Seattle. Starbucks is a huge consumer of Darigold milk. Civil rights leader Jesse Jackson came to the UFW picket line and spoke out in solidarity with the workers during the Darigold struggle.

The UFW vowed in a press release that it is still continuing its fight to protect workers at Darigold from retaliation, sexual harassment and unsafe, even deadly, working conditions. □



CREDIT: UNITED FARM WORKERS

Farmworkers picket to demand Starbucks pressure Darigold, one of their primary suppliers.

Workers' Solidarity Day: an essential initiative

Continued from page 5

In other words the party did a lot of work with a section of our class camp, the most oppressed sector, who most certainly did not have a legal right to strike or engage in collective bargaining — although there were strikes and rebellions and demands were negotiated. But the point was: Solidarity was not conditional on these workers being organized in a traditional union structure.

A lot of retooling is imperative when turning our face to the working class of the 21st century. Now there needs to be an understanding on the ever-changing character of the working class. Sam Marcy wrote about this in the groundbreaking 1986 work, "High Tech, Low Pay." But a great deal has changed since then. Work is more precarious and more workers are contingent workers. There is far less income or job security in today's gig economy.

Nevertheless the fundamental class

antagonisms, between the bourgeoisie and the proletariat, remain. That is why one can read Marx and feel like he's writing about life today. He also used the word "precarious" to describe working class life in 1848. But he never saw any segment of the working class as "too hard to organize," and revolutionaries can't fall into that trap when it comes to gig workers. The Uber and Lyft drivers, Google workers, Amazon workers, fast food workers, etc., are going to organize in spite of and around anyone who thinks that way.

Precarity and inhumanity will continue under capitalism. It's only when the proletariat seizes the means of production and takes hold of the repressive state apparatus that we will see needs come before profit. Only the working class can carry out this historic task. The vanguard has to turn its face toward our class. Workers' Solidarity Day is a mechanism to conduct this necessary work.

Go to workersolidarity.net for different leaflets that can be downloaded. □

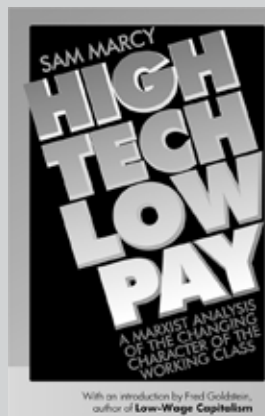


100 Years Later Some Lessons of the Great Bolshevik Revolution

By Deirdre Griswold

Contents: From Marx's view of social evolution to Lenin's 'Imperialism' ♦ Social gains in the early years of Soviet power ♦ 'Whose state? Our state' — meaning all nationalities ♦ External and internal problems, strengths and setbacks ♦ To the 0.001 percent: You are cheering too soon

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High Tech, Low Pay

A Marxist Analysis of the Changing Character of the Working Class

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Did U.S. troops liberate Mauthausen Concentration Camp?

By Ángeles Maestro Martín

The author is a leader of the Red Network, a communist organization in the Spanish state. Translation by Workers World Managing Editor John Catalinotto.

In many European countries, people celebrate the victory of the allied troops over Nazi Germany in World War II. This is especially important now as we witness a widespread growth of fascist organizations and their great myths of that epoch are rehearsed.

Once again the Normandy landing of the Allied troops will be described as a transcendental event, while the liberation of most of Europe by the USSR, which paid for it with the very heavy price of 27 million dead, will be undervalued.

Hardly anyone will speak of how the Allied governments ignored Moscow's repeated requests to open a front in the West, only carrying out their "Operation Overlord" in June 1944, leaving just enough time, they thought, to prevent the Red Army from entering Berlin[1].

The objective then was to portray U.S. intervention as decisive for victory. This was essential to impose U.S. hegemony over European reconstruction, particularly through NATO.

But there was another episode of special significance for us at that time: the liberation of the Mauthausen Concentration Camp [near Linz, Austria], allegedly by U.S. troops.

This myth is repeated in spite of the existence of a well-known and contradictory graphic document: In the photo of the arrival of U.S. armored vehicles at the camp, an enormous banner hangs at the entrance door, over hundreds of prisoners. The banner reads: "The anti-fascist Spaniards salute the liberating forces."

The question is obvious: Who had liberated Mauthausen before the U.S. troops arrived?

Resistance was organized inside the camp, led by Spanish communists [who were there because Mauthausen Concentration Camp was the main place where the Nazis incarcerated Republican political prisoners from Spain].

In Mauthausen, unlike in other Nazi camps, where mass executions took place practically without opposition, an important international clandestine organization was established for four years.

This was the organization that liberated the camp — saving hundreds of lives — before the arrival of Allied troops. This feat, unknown to most and carried out in the harshest conditions imaginable, is full of Spanish surnames.

Some documents exist, but without a doubt it is the Spanish communist Mariano Constante[2] who has described it best, and with such historical rigor that he is known as the "notary of Mauthausen." I base my account on his report; the quotes are from his text.

The organization begins

The organization began to take shape on June 22, 1941. Nazi troops had occupied one country after another, the invasion of the USSR began, and the world seemed to collapse.

At Mauthausen that night, the camp administration decided to "disinfect" the camp. They forced all the prisoners, naked, in intense cold, into the "garages."

At that point members of the Communist Party of Spain realized they had to get organized within the camp. They elected eight comrades to the leadership and tried to

expand the organization to other compatriots. The eight formed the nucleus of the Mauthausen International Committee. Their main objective was to maintain morale and uphold political principles in the midst of barbarism.

Constante explains it this way: "It was about making everyone understand that, to struggle inside the camp, we needed to have an unwavering will of combat and hope, without which nothing was possible; to have confidence in the final victory; to fight against depravity and corruption, to avoid playing the SS game that worked to the detriment of other political prisoners; to maintain total solidarity at any time and in any circumstance; to do everything possible to prevent those committing 'common crimes' like stealing our scarce food; to try to introduce trustworthy Spaniards into job assignments where it was possible to help others and, as far as possible, also in the barracks; to obtain intelligence and monitor the conduct of the SS in order to confront and anticipate their reactions; to establish contact with political deportees of other nationalities."

The activities they contemplated included contributing some grams of supplementary food to the weakest and trying to spare them the hardest tasks; obtaining posts that would allow mobility within the camp; hiding the sick so they would not be executed; and carrying out minimal sabotage, such as breaking some tools to "hinder their production by destroying part — a tiny part, it is true — of the war potential of the Third Reich."

International Brigades

Little by little the organization expanded with the arrival, from the beginning of 1942, of political prisoners from all European countries, some of them ex-combatants of the International Brigades [of the Spanish Civil War]. The organization managed to introduce trusted comrades into the kitchen, housekeeping, the infirmary and the administration offices.

They were weaving a spider's web. In the second half of 1942, in the midst of the killings and tortures, the news of Soviet resistance and the subsequent defeat of the Nazis in Stalingrad strengthened the confidence in victory among those who had believed in it when there was not even a ray of hope.

The arrival of a large contingent of French deportees between 1943 and 1944 — communists, socialists, Catholics and, above all, military leaders of the [anti-Nazi] Resistance — allowed the strengthening of the International Committee and, above all, the establishment of the International Military Apparatus (IMA). An Aragonese, Miguel Malle, was the head of the General Staff (GS) of the IMA, composed of four members, including the Czech leader of the International Brigades, Arthur London, and Mariano Constante. Soviet Colonel Pirogoff also joined this apparatus.

The network grew stronger, in spite of continuous casualties, and gained access to a radio that members of the SS had hidden and that allowed the IMA to obtain information broadcast by London or Moscow. Months later, in addition to arming, with the continuous theft of weapons from the SS, the organization obtained a new resource: its own radio set that was then hidden in a rubbish bin.

In April 1945, as German defeats followed one after the other — U.S. planes bombed the nearby city of Linz and the Soviets occupied Vienna — news came that the camp commander, Franz Ziereis,



Who had already liberated Mauthausen when U.S. troops arrived in 1945?

had received Himmler's order to exterminate all prisoners. It was to be carried out by taking advantage of an anti-aircraft alarm, whether there was an air raid or not. The Nazis planned to kill the prisoners by means of a gigantic explosion set off in ships already loaded by the prisoners themselves, who would be gassed inside.

The clandestine organization accelerated its work, intensifying the gathering of intelligence through documents snatched by those who cleaned the offices or who were on night watches. They sent out of the camp incriminating documents and photographs obtained clandestinely by the photographer Paco Boix that proved the barbarity of the extermination and the visits of the Nazi chiefs and, above all, assured discipline and coordination to avoid hoaxes.

Liberation

At the end of April, Mauthausen Commander Ziereis gave orders to mobilize the Spaniards to fight the Soviet troops approaching Mauthausen. Forced to stand in front of the machine guns pointing at them from the turrets, no one stepped forward. "It was a moment when everything could happen and, fully aware of this, we were ready to risk everything: The pistols and the bottles of benzene were ready. Seeing that he could not undermine our determination, Ziereis ordered us to break ranks. I'm sure he was afraid."

A few days later, at night, Vienna city guards replaced the SS guards. "Some SS captured after liberation confirmed to us that Ziereis feared a general uprising and preferred to retreat to the village of Mauthausen with his SS. A delegation from the International Committee demanded that the urban guard surrender all their weapons."

On May 5, 1945, shortly before 2 p.m., two armored vehicles and a jeep of the U.S. Army entered the camp. The urban guards fled, abandoning all their weapons.

The large banner prepared by the Spanish Republicans was mounted and the famous photo taken.

When the International Committee approached the U.S. troops to find out their intentions and explain the situation to them, the U.S. commanding officer explained that his unit was a reconnaissance patrol that had lost its way and that, in fact, U.S. troops were 40 kilometers away. When the IC informed them that the SS were nearby, "The U.S. patrol left without entering the interior of the compound, promising us a quick return with sufficient weapons to defend ourselves. So we were left alone to face whatever came up."

"In the camp confusion reigned. Some prisoners had raided the armory and others had robbed the SS warehouses where the few remaining provisions were stored. Fortunately we had an organization in place and a disciplined military apparatus. The members of the IMS had remained at

their posts, awaiting orders from our GS.

"The military chiefs were summoned to receive orders, and within minutes all the necessary arrangements were made and executed. Internal order was restored, and where the SS had previously been giving orders to exterminate, there was now the International Military Staff."

The struggle was far from over. The SS redeployed to Mauthausen from Czechoslovakia. Spanish and Soviet resistance combatants in Mauthausen Camp confronted the SS and forced them to flee after heavy fighting. The troops of the camp Commandants Ziereis and Bachmayer were on the other side of the Danube and were preparing to attack the camp.

Stopping the SS

To stop this attack, camp combatants had to take the first step and prevent the SS from crossing the river over the only intact bridge, the railway bridge. The battles led by Mauthausen Camp combatants, in which the Soviets, the Spanish and the Czechs participated, stopped the first German Tiger tanks from crossing the bridge.

On May 6, the SS made several attempts to cross the Danube that failed, despite having tanks, cannons and machine guns. The camp's resistance fighters had only machine guns and Panzerfaust (anti-tank tubes — bazookas) stolen from the enemy, which they were using for the first time. The situation was critical and the resistance could not last long, so they decided to blow up the railway bridge with explosives that the Nazis had planted.

The attack against German troops by the Soviets on the Ens Plain had forced the SS to move part of their troops there and reduced the pressure on the resistance, but the struggle continued. "That was a Tower of Babel, where we had to translate all the orders given. [...] Everywhere else German troops received orders to surrender and Berlin had already fallen into the hands of the Soviet Red Army. Yet for us the struggle continued. ... It was our destiny. We had been the first to fight Hitler's hordes and it was written that we would be the last to lay down our weapons," Constante wrote.

Finally, a column of U.S. tanks appeared. The battle was over.

A long journey awaited the Spanish Republicans until France welcomed them, but that's another story.

This story of resistance and liberation has nothing in common with the official story. It is, however, an epic led by Spanish communists, carried out by those who decided to resist and organize against despair and death.

This is the historical confirmation of the continuity of the fight undertaken during the Spanish Civil War, which lasted on European soil against Nazi Germany; it involved the use of organizational

Continued on page 11

France

United May Day march attacked by police

By Rémy Herrera
Paris

Herrera is a Marxist economist and researcher at France’s Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS). He works at the Centre d’Économie de la Sorbonne. He attended the May Day march in Paris and wrote this article May 5. Workers World staff translated it.

May Day off to a strong start

The 220 demonstrations that took place throughout France on May 1 brought together nearly 310,000 people. For now, let us focus on the parade in Paris that brought together 80,000 people (unions’ attendance figures). The major labor unions were the chief organizers of the parade, as they always are on May Day. It was really special.

Let us start at the beginning. The initial rally point was planned for Montparnasse, south of the capital. The procession was supposed to start at 2:30 p.m. Nevertheless, by midday, the police — who also came in droves — had their own event with the workers.

Many demonstrators were already there around noon at the foot of the Montparnasse tower. Tens of thousands of people had arrived, including labor union activists, members of the Yellow Vest movement and the Black Bloc [anarchists]. Ecological activists were also there. Police headquarters had banned their march on the climate crisis, which was planned for that morning in the Latin Quarter. They had all passed through the barriers of "preventive controls" installed by the police, who were stopping the new arrivals, searching backpacks and confiscating masks, protective glasses and helmets.

At around 12:15 p.m. to 12:30 p.m., as the usual peaceful preparations were being made, the procession of trade unionists with thousands of demonstrators, committed marchers, a large number of Yellow Vests, a few Black Bloc groups, and others advanced toward the beginning of the route. They overtook the unions' markers and vans and took the lead of the entire group.

Sudden, brutal police attack

Regular cops and CRS riot police immediately cut off the march and blocked the surrounding streets. Then they fired powerful gas grenades into the air at the dense crowd and tear gas pellets at ground level. If there were any warnings ordering the people to desist, no one heard them. First came the blows from police clubs. Then bottles were thrown, and there were clashes with the protesters. In the confusion inside the crowd and in reaction to the rush, demonstrators had to push back as best they could toward the starting point.

This set the tone. Nothing could have upset the demonstrators more and gotten them angrier. This was a police provocation. And for what purpose? Injured people with bloody faces were treated by street medics, heroic volunteers. Chants of "Here it goes!" "Revolution!" and "Anti-capitalist!" were widely repeated and applauded.

Until 2:15 p.m., those who arrived on time in Montparnasse were harassed by police as described. The preemptive police intervention immediately plunged the crowd into panic. It was a remarkably well-organized mess caused by the harsh instructions of the Minister of the Interior Christophe Castaner and his new police prefect, Didier Lallement.

Before marching out in the clouds of smoke, people had to run in all directions to seek refuge somewhere—under

a building’s porch, into an unbarricaded shop nearby or toward the nearest adjacent street to be able to breathe and try to open their eyes. Union balloons were gone, banners were trampled, orchestras were dislocated and lunch snacks were trampled. Groups of friends were scattered, haggard.

The president had warned everyone that those who joined the protests were accomplices of the “casseurs” [breakers], the looters and the Black Blocs. In the trendy French democracy of President Emmanuel Macron’s party, La République en marche [The Republic on the march], participating in International Workers' Day was undertaken at one’s own risk.

A tag placed near La Rotonde, a famous luxury restaurant, proclaimed: "Repression on the march." Its windows were protected by wooden boards. Macron had celebrated there in anticipation of his victory against ultra-rightist Marine Le Pen, on April 23, 2017, the evening of the first round of presidential elections

Among the many who paid the price of the cops’ violent attack on the demonstration was General Confederation of Labor (CGT) Secretary General Philippe Martinez. However, since the beginning of the Yellow Vests’ mobilization in November, he has been overly cautious and reluctant to openly support the protests. He was trying to keep the Confederation away from the popular rebellion, even though his union’s rank-and-file members have been demonstrating with the Yellow Vests since they began—on a daily basis in the streets. Union members have constantly pushed the CGT leadership to be more resolutely committed to working alongside the Yellow Vests.

Everyone marched together, faced cops

However, everyone marched together on May 1, a happy thing. But the police violence was unprecedented. Parade security forces were targeted. Clearly identifiable CGT members were repeatedly attacked and beaten by police. Martinez, who was positioned at the front of the labor union procession, had to be hastily spirited away by his security guards. A lot of other demonstrators were brutalized, too; many people suffered at the hands of the police.

Some people may have claimed that Black Bloc forces wanted to move forward to attack CGT leaders, but witnesses at the scene saw police attack members of the CGT and Solidaires unions with no provocation. The Paris Police Prefecture quickly denied what many eyewitnesses observed — that labor unionists had been deliberately attacked.

About an hour and a half after the procession was finally allowed to enter the march route, the same attack on demonstrators took place as on Boulevard de l'Hôpital. CRS riot police charged the union parade and again targeted its security guards. The same siege took place near Place d’Italie at the end of the day as had happened at the start of the parade.



Police attack Paris May Day march.



May Day march in Paris.

The mass of demonstrators who had the courage to arrive were forced to retreat again under waves of water cannons and a flood of tear gas grenades.

Under such conditions, is it surprising to learn that these innovative policing methods — encouraging the cops to make physical “contact” — caused relatively harsh clashes to take place at the end of the march route?

State, media try to stop march

In other words, the Parisian parade, in addition to having twice the number of participants as attended last year, according to the CGT, was tense. In the days leading up to May 1, the Ministry of the Interior was sending out communiqués and tweets spewing propaganda — generously relayed by the domesticated media — meant to dramatize the situation, to frighten and strongly dissuade people from going on the march. In short, it was intended to prevent the Workers’ Day parade from taking place.

The alarmist media hype forewarned that this May Day would be “the worst,” “the apocalypse” and a “civil war.” It promised that Paris would become the “capital of the riot.” Therefore, those who chose to join the march and the struggle this year had to overcome widespread apprehension and fear—which was skillfully manipulated from the top by political authorities.

A result of this fear campaign was that no children marched in this year’s parade. Today, people in France can no longer march as a family. Everyone thought of the mind-boggling and incredible, but very real police attacks on the Yellow Vest movement in the last six months which have caused terrible injuries, disfigurements, loss of limbs and eyes, and amputations.

For this May Day parade — after 25 weeks of mobilizing by the Yellow Vests, and more than two years of workers fighting against “labor laws” — 7,500 members of the security forces, wearing armor and equipped for combat, had been deployed in the capital.

Throughout the route from Montparnasse to Place d’Italie, this overwhelming, oppressive police presence crushed and enclosed the procession,

as if it was a trap. The police regularly interrupted the march by forming bottlenecks, closing off surrounding streets and dividing it into smaller sections to “better manage it.” Cops surrounded it, muzzled it and blocked it, sometimes prohibiting entry or exit. They choked it by gassing people. And they prevented it from completing its journey. In many places, police launched offensives, suddenly charging everyone and everything in their path and removing targeted individuals, according to the new doctrine being implemented.

‘We have to struggle for unity’

It is in this complicated, often confusing, sometimes chaotic context that Yellow Vests and red ponchos of the unionists have learned to blend in on the streets of Paris. Also true of those wearing black T-shirts. The desire for convergence was very widely shared and affirmed by the demonstrators.

They are not all marching to the same beat, but many demands overlap, such as “We have to struggle for unity,” “We have no choice,” “This is an emergency” and “Everything can change for the better or for the worse.”

The French ruling classes have managed to numb a large number of France’s population to the army’s bombardments of people in the global South. Now they are trying to make the people of France indifferent to the misfortunes, suffering and repression that overwhelm the poorest and least fortunate among their compatriots at home by exhuming the figure of the “inner enemy.”

With police clubs, tear gas and crude lies, President Macron and his government — the only ones responsible for this outburst of violence on May 1 — are leading the country straight down the path of a transition resembling the entryway into a form of neofascism that dares not say its name. This would be smooth, reformed neofascism, with a distinguishing feature: It smiles. But it is still frightening.

It represents the dictatorial power of state authorities who represent high finance capitalism; they simulate popular participation while at the same time dissolving social ties and draining the blood from the people, destroying their happiness.

This could be the new page in France’s history that this president is writing for the people. If the man who presents himself as “the rampart against the fascism” of Marine Le Pen looked in the mirror, he would see that he is none other than her double.

Looking closely at this head of state who is being sold to the people with the image of the “best guarantor of democracy” shows that he is really its gravedigger. After all, didn’t he declare — shortly before the Yellow Vest insurrection erupted — that Marshal Henri-Philippe Pétain was “also a great soldier”? [Pétain headed the Nazi-collaborationist Vichy government during World War II.] □

What U.S.-China trade relations reveal

Much has been revealed about the world’s two largest economies in the fallout from the tariffs imposed by the U.S. government on goods from China — and that country’s response.

When the Trump administration announced on May 10 that it was imposing a new 25 percent tariff on \$200 billion worth of goods imported from China, nothing dramatic happened in the stock markets of the two countries. The Shanghai composite stock index fell only slightly and is still up by 15 percent for the year.

Trump then tweeted a warning: “China should not retaliate — will only get worse!”

His imperialist arrogance had no effect. In less than two hours, China did retaliate, but carefully. It announced it would put tariffs ranging up to 25 percent on \$60 billion worth of U.S. goods.

That was later on the same day, May 10. In reaction to this news, the U.S. stock market then plunged 617 points on Monday, May 13 — the biggest drop so far in 2019.

So which economy is more fragile and unstable? That of the wealthy imperialist U.S. or that of People’s China?

Why did talks break down?

The move by Washington to impose new tariffs on Chinese goods came after a breakdown in trade talks. According to the New York Times: “The United States and China were nearing a trade deal that would lift tariffs, open the Chinese market to American companies and strengthen China’s intellectual property protections. But discussions fell apart last weekend, when China called for substantial changes to the negotiating text that both countries had been using as a blueprint for a sweeping trade pact. American officials said that China claimed that provisions of the deal would be in violation of Chinese laws — which could not be easily changed — and that the United States was demanding too much and giving too little.” (May 10)

If this interpretation is correct, it shows several things: The inroads of the capitalist market in China have produced a class of trade negotiators who were willing to make significant concessions to the U.S. in order to promote Chinese businesses.

The U.S. was pushing for changes to China’s laws that would weaken the role of the state in ownership and control of the economy.

When leaders of the government and the Communist Party reviewed these concessions, they saw them as incompatible with China’s socialist roots and an attack on its state-owned industries and financial institutions. They pulled the agreement back.

China’s socialist roots

China is the fastest-growing large economy in the world, set to surpass the U.S. in a few years. It has developed from a time of wrenching poverty for the great mass

of its people to prosperity for the majority in the span of just two generations. Indeed, China plans to have completely eliminated poverty by 2020 — next year!

The basic elements of its economy since its revolution in 1949 have been state-owned and integrated into a broad plan for social development. However, after a great internal struggle, the ruling Communist Party decided in the late 1970s to allow capitalist ownership and investment in order to stimulate economic growth.

The results have been mixed and contradictory, with great successes and great dangers. A class of billionaires now exists in China. Their appetite for luxury and excess have a corroding influence on socialist solidarity and egalitarianism.

At the same time, the spectacular growth of China’s economy has lifted 800 million people out of great poverty — accounting for fully 70 percent of the world’s progress in this period.

Those who put China’s tremendous achievements down solely to the capitalist market — and thereby discount its great socialist revolution against both world imperialism and the internal parasitic classes of landlords and compradore capitalists — should ask themselves this: Why then is China so different from India or Indonesia or Brazil?

Why have the lives of Chinese workers and peasants improved so greatly, while those in truly capitalist countries are mired in poverty?

China — and U.S. workers — push back

The U.S. imperialist ruling class is not used to being resisted by the leaders of a developing country. Their mighty military arsenal and strong industrial development have put this U.S. class of predators on top of the world for several generations.

But the times are changing. Not only has People’s China been on the rise, but conditions for workers in the U.S. have deteriorated, leading to increased class struggle at home.

The U.S. government has accumulated enormous debt after years of giveaways to the corporations and banks, plus the great cost of maintaining U.S. military forces on bases around the world. The U.S. uses many of these bases to actively engage in shoring up repressive regimes that otherwise would have been overthrown by the people long ago.

Debt is weighing down on the U.S. economy, even as changing technology is erasing workers’ jobs and corporations vie with each other to reduce costs at the expense of wages.

To sum up, the U.S. has seen the capitalist part of China’s economy as a Trojan horse that could eventually lead to the breakup of its socialist system. It has been pushing China to change not only the laws regarding trade but the basic relationship between the state and

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Why have the lives of Chinese workers and peasants improved so greatly, while those in truly capitalist countries are mired in poverty?

state-owned industry. If what is being reported is true, it would indicate that the prevailing view in China’s Party leadership is that its trade negotiators were giving in too much to pressure from U.S. imperialists. This is good news for China’s future development as a socialist country. □

USA: Hands off Iran!

As if the White House gang felt incomplete simply leveling economic threats against China, making hostile comments about Russia and imposing illegal sanctions — illegal because they amount to collective punishment of the populations — on Venezuela, Cuba and north Korea — they have once again put the Islamic Republic of Iran in the gun sights of U.S. imperialism.

The Trump gang, in a show of force, has sent an aircraft carrier and B-52 bombers to the Persian Gulf, near Iran’s coastline. They asked the Pentagon to supply a plan for sending 120,000 U.S. troops to prepare an invasion. They have also attempted to stop Iran from exporting any oil to its customers. These exports are necessary for the Iranian economy. Stopping them raises the price other sellers of petroleum can demand — something important for U.S. oil companies trying to increase exports of fracked oil.

In May 2018, Trump pulled the U.S. out

of the nuclear accord with Iran signed by the Barack Obama administration. That had opened up trade with Iran from both the U.S. and European Union countries in return for Iran stopping its nuclear program.

U.S. officials claim, without giving evidence, that Iran poses a threat to U.S. troops in the region. Even some U.S. allies have remarked that this kind of claim sounds much like George W. Bush’s 2002-03 claims that Iraq possessed “weapons of mass destruction.”

The spread of Bush’s “Big Lie” led to the March 2003 invasion and occupation of Iraq. What followed was Iraqi resistance to the U.S. occupation that threatened to drive the troops out. Only a U.S.-instigated civil war that divided and destroyed much of Iraq prevented a U.S. defeat.

Before a Brussels meeting this May 13 that U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo

attended, British Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt said his government was worried about a conflict and an unintended escalation. Germany’s Foreign Minister Heiko Maas told Pompeo his country doesn’t want to see a conflict. And France’s Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian urged Europeans to remain united in support of the Iran nuclear deal. (New York Times, May 13)

While no serious resistance can be expected from the European imperialists to U.S. aggression, it was obvious that none of the governments saw the U.S. moves as something they could openly sign on to. Instead, they are attempting to set up a path for Iran to make trade deals while avoiding the U.S.-controlled global financial system.

Iranians themselves are in a much stronger position than Iraq was in 2003 to resist a U.S. attack and make it costly. An Iranian Revolutionary Guards commander

commented on the growing strength of his country’s defense forces, saying the U.S. military presence in the Gulf used to be a serious threat but now represents a target. (reuters.com, May 12)

If the Pompeo-Bolton-Abrams gang think a few Trump tweets and the movement of warships will bring the rest of the world to its knees, they need to face a new reality. Cubans are organizing rationing to withstand hard economic times; Venezuela already smashed three coup attempts; the DPRK said it would continue to defend itself; and the Iranians are staying strong.

This resistance from around the world should also encourage anti-imperialists within the United States to stay strong and oppose any new aggressive moves by both the White House gang — and the Democratic Party leaders who go along with this aggression.

U.S. hands off Iran! □

Koreans reject U.S. efforts ‘to overthrow our system’

By Deirdre Griswold

Once again, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea has refused to be intimidated by the U.S. imperialist government and its threats to the DPRK’s sovereignty and socialist system.

After the U.S. State Department, headed by notorious right-winger Mike Pompeo, issued a statement on “Supporting Freedom in North Korea,” the DPRK Foreign Ministry responded May 11 with a press release castigating the U.S. for “turning its back on the June 12 [2018] DPRK-U.S. joint statement committing to establish new bilateral relations.” That joint statement was issued after an historic summit between Donald Trump and the DPRK’s Kim Jong Un.

The north Korean release concludes that the State Department is not only obstructing any attempts to improve

relations, but that the “American ulterior intention” is “to overthrow our system.”

For a while, the current U.S. president appeared to be softening the hostile attitude of the U.S. ruling class toward the northern half of Korea. But when Trump met with Kim Jong Un and shook his hand, it was only a gesture—one that Trump’s two most influential advisers on foreign affairs, war hawks John Bolton and Mike Pompeo, immediately overruled.

U.S. unable to turn back Korean Revolution

The hostility of the world’s biggest imperialist power toward the DPRK has prevailed since that country’s establishment in 1948. Even before that, at the end of World War II, when the masses had been struggling against Japanese colonial rule, Washington and Wall Street were determined to prevent a revolution in Korea.

The forces led by Kim Il Sung liberated the north and eventually began a process of socialist construction there, while U.S. troops occupied the south and installed a series of right-wing governments.

The refusal of the U.S. to accept the great and popular Korean socialist revolution, which had begun in the struggle against Japanese imperialism, led to the horrendous imperialist war of 1950-53. The U.S., using the cloak of the United Nations, launched one of the most uneven and ferocious military assaults the world has ever seen.



These U.S. soldiers were captured during the Korean War, then decided to stay in the DPRK after the armistice.

From 1950 to 1953, U.S. planes bombed every structure in north Korea over one story. Millions were killed. Yet the Korean people would not bow down.

The war ended in a stalemate with Korea divided; and ever since then, the U.S. has refused to sign a peace treaty with the DPRK. While the north built up an independent socialist economy, the south remains saddled with U.S. military occupation.

The largest overseas U.S. military base in the world, Camp Humphreys, is in south Korea. It exists to prevent a rapprochement between the south and the north.

That the majority of Koreans fervently want such a rapprochement was

made clear to the world last year when a joint north-south delegation received an ecstatic welcome at the Winter Olympic Games in Pyeongchang, south Korea.

The only person not cheering the joint north-south athletic cooperation was U.S. Vice President Mike Pence, who could be seen in news clips slumping down in his seat as south Koreans around him jumped to their feet, applauding the delegation.

The rising progressive movement in the United States should embrace the desire of the Korean people to end the state of war that still exists between Washington and the DPRK and push to end U.S. occupation of the south, which has so cruelly separated Korean families for almost 75 years. □



A bizarre banquet of anti-Cuba dreamers needs to wake up

By Ricardo Alarcón de Quesada

Between 1993 and 2013, Alarcón was President of the National Assembly of People’s Power of Cuba. This article was published on April 19 at poresto.net and translated by WW Managing Editor John Catalinotto.

After three months of threats and threats and on two stages — the State Department in Washington, D.C., and a theater in Miami — the U.S. administration finally announced what it intends to do to intensify its economic war against Cuba.

On April 17, at midmorning in a ceremony of barely a few minutes in the capital, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced that the administration would fully implement Title III of the Helms-Burton Act. He offered no further explanation, although he did say that as of May 2, "Cuban-Americans" will be able to bring

suits before U.S. courts against those who use in any way the properties they claim belonged to them or their families.

There were no questions. No text was delivered to answer the questions that such a decision must have provoked among those who remember that for 23 years, presidents Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, Barack Obama and Donald Trump himself had adopted a position contrary to what has now been announced.

Official statements were immediately made by Spanish, Canadian, Mexican and European Union authorities who, in addition to protesting, warned that they will take necessary measures to neutralize any attempt to harm their legitimate interests. They also pointed out that they are capable of taking these measures, considering that there is no shortage of U.S.-based investments in their countries.

The most notorious spectacle was reserved for Miami. National Security

Advisor John Bolton played the main role. His audience was the remaining members of those who were part of the 2506 Brigade, that is, the wreckage of the invading group that 58 years ago the Cuban people defeated in 66 hours [at the Bay of Pigs].

Bolton repeated what Pompeo had said about the lawsuits. He also announced the re-imposition of severe restrictions on Cuban-Americans’ trips to their country of origin and on the remittances they send to their families on the island. These measures were previously applied by George W. Bush and generated their rejection by the immense majority of that [Cuban-American] community, which has since been reflected in the Miami-Dade County elections.

The Miami show was as pathetic as it was grotesque.

The old and tired veterans flopped when they were young, when, organized

by the CIA and supported by the U.S. armed forces, they went to Cuba to recover "their" estates, "their" factories and "their" mansions. Now Bolton promises them that their ancient fantasy will finally come true.

Nicolás Gutierrez Castaño summed up the spectacle: "Even in our most feverish dreams, we could not conceive that a U.S. government would do it. No one ever did. Forget Reagan. Forget Bush."

Excited, the skillful managing lawyer of Helms-Burton [Gutierrez] believes the time has come to "recover" the large properties stolen by his great-grandfather.

An unabashed dreamer, Bolton, for his part, invited people to make a toast to the Monroe Doctrine that, according to him, is alive and healthy. Intoxicated, "celebrating" their crushing defeat, the guests at the bizarre banquet applauded him with delirium.

It’s time to wake them up. □

Did U.S. troops liberate Mauthausen?

Continued from page 8

experience and internationalist combat.

What was essential to victory was the conviction that the defeat of the most powerful enemy is possible as long as there is an unshakable will to resist and the ability of the organization to win.

That is probably why the official account is so intent on concealing feats like this one. They prefer us to be defeated, powerless and ignorant. It is up to us to re-establish the red thread of the historical continuity of the struggle, not only to pay tribute to the heroic fighters, but also to know where we come from and who we are.

Note from the author: I obtained part of this information from the testimonies of Tomás Martín, my mother’s brother and representative of the Communist Party of

Spain in the Mauthausen International Committee. Mariano Constante and Miguel Malle considered him their brother.

I wrote a biographical account of the political dimension of his life titled "La voz a ti debida" [3]. It is a personal story, but it bears the same stamp of heroism, pain, ideological firmness and solidarity that thousands of women and men from the best generation of our history bequeathed to us.

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WAR WITHOUT VICTORY

by Sara Flounders

“By revealing the underbelly of the empire, Flounders sheds insight on how to stand up to the imperialist war machine and, in so doing, save ourselves and humanity.”

– Miguel d’Escoto Brockmann, President, U.N. General Assembly, 2008-2009; Foreign Minister of Nicaragua’s Sandinista government.

Available at major online booksellers. PentagonAchillesHeel.com

Rainbow Solidarity in Defense of Cuba

by Leslie Feinberg

This ground-breaking book is a compilation of 25 articles about same-sex love and sex/gender variance in Cuba’s pre- and post-revolutionary history.

Available at major online booksellers.



Progresistas estadounidenses defienden la
embajada de Venezuela en Washington, D.C.

Administración Trump lleva guerra contra mujeres a O.N.U.

Por Sue Davis

La semana pasada, en el 22 de abril, el Presidente Donald Trump llevó su guerra a los derechos de las mujeres y las personas no conformes con el género a la ONU. Es terriblemente irónico que el gobierno de Trump amenazara con vetar la resolución de la ONU sobre el fin de la violencia sexual durante las guerras y los conflictos hostiles si la ONU no estuviera de acuerdo con su agenda anti-mujeres, anti-género oprimido.

El borrador inicial de la resolución decía: “Las entidades de las Naciones Unidas y los donantes brindarán servicios de salud integrales y no discriminatorios, incluidos servicios de salud sexual y reproductiva, psicosociales, legales y medios de subsistencia y otros servicios multisectoriales para sobrevivientes de violencia sexual, teniendo en cuenta las necesidades específicas de las personas con discapacidad”.

La administración de Trump exigió que se eliminara la frase “salud sexual y reproductiva” porque podría interpretarse como un apoyo al derecho al aborto. Incluso después de que el representante alemán que presentó la resolución aceptó eliminar esa frase, los EE. UU. se opusieron a la frase original, “servicios de salud integrales”, en la resolución original del 2008.

Después de que se eliminara toda referencia a la atención médica de la resolución final, así como la “educación integral en sexualidad”, que protegería los derechos de las personas homosexuales, transgénero y no conformes con el género, fue aprobada por una votación de 13 miembros del Consejo de Seguridad. Incluyendo los Estados Unidos, no hay votos en contra, con Rusia y China absteniéndose.

Pero hubo una protesta mundial inmediata. Los representantes de Alemania, Bélgica, Gran Bretaña y Francia no solo hablaron enérgicamente contra el acoso escolar de los Estados Unidos, sino que también lo hicieron muchos representantes de los 90 países que participaron en la reunión.

Llamando a la posición de los Estados Unidos “intolerable e incomprensible”, el Embajador de Francia, Francois Delattre, declaró que “las mujeres y las niñas que sufrieron violencia sexual en conflicto, y que obviamente no eligieron quedar embarazadas, deberían tener el derecho de terminar su embarazo”.

Además de los diplomáticos, otras personas prominentes se manifestaron en contra de la política de los EE. UU., incluida la Ministra de Relaciones Exteriores de Alemania, Heiko Mass, y la actriz Angelina Jolie, en un artículo de opinión del Washington Post del 22 de abril.

Las dos personas galardonadas con el Premio Nobel de la Paz de 2018, Nadia Murad, sobreviviente de la esclavitud del grupo del Estado Islámico de mujeres y niñas yazidi en Irak, y Denis Mukwege, ginecóloga congoleña, emitieron una declaración: “Simplemente no hay excusa para continuar “Falla a quienes ya han sido víctimas, así como a quienes continúan en riesgo de niveles devastadores de violencia sexual en conflicto”.

Si bien el objetivo de la resolución era poner fin al “fenómeno atroz, bárbaro y muy a menudo silencioso de la violencia sexual durante el conflicto” y adoptar un enfoque centrado en el sobreviviente, todas las referencias a expandir el monitoreo de la ONU para rastrear las violaciones de la resolución fueron borradas. Del texto final. Rusia, China y los Estados Unidos se opusieron a ese lenguaje.

El abogado inglés Amal Clooney instó al Consejo de Seguridad a procesar a los miembros del grupo del Estado Islámico por crímenes de guerra, igual que a los funcionarios de alto nivel en el partido nazi fueron procesados después de la Segunda Guerra Mundial. “Este es tu momento de Nuremberg”, subrayó.

El 23 de abril, la Organización Nacional para la Mujer emitió una declaración firme en la que recordaba a

los lectores el primer acto de Trump en 2017: restablecer la llamada “regla de mordaza global”, que prohíbe toda financiación federal para las organizaciones internacionales que brindan asesoramiento sobre el aborto, incluso si también brindan nutrición e higiene; tratamiento para la malaria, tuberculosis y enfermedades tropicales; y atención a la salud maternoinfantil.

Los grupos de ayuda condenan esta regla, que refleja la extrema derecha, el conservadurismo religioso de las personas designadas por Trump en el Departamento de Salud y Servicios Humanos, diciendo que ya está socavando la atención de salud global en general y da como resultado más abortos y un aumento de la mortalidad materna e infantil.

Es reprensible que los EE. UU. puedan acosar al resto del mundo para que queden atrapados detrás de sus políticas totalmente misóginas e insensibles que causan un daño irreparable a mujeres, niñas, hombres, sus



WW FOTO: SOFIA ADAMS

Manifestantes por los derechos de las mujeres. El 4 de mayo, Nueva York.

familias y comunidades en todo el mundo.

El balón está en la cancha de todos los que se oponen al patriarcado capitalista racista, sexista, anti-LGBTQ2S del 1% que controla este país. Continuando con la lucha por eliminar a Trump y todos sus perpetradores de la guerra y la violación de la clase dominante burguesa. □

editorial

¡Palestina será libre!

Otro ataque horrible a la población palestina ocurrió durante el fin de semana del 4 al 5 de mayo. Una vez más, las muertes incluyen algunas de las personas más vulnerables, de un pueblo que ya se ha vuelto completamente vulnerable por décadas de condiciones de apartheid, incluida la inanición de rutina, el encarcelamiento y el desempleo.

Una vez más, los grandes negocios mediáticos jugaron un juego de números en un intento por ocultar la verdadera naturaleza de la ocupación. Que varios cohetes lanzados desde Gaza se usan para desviar el hecho de que 24 de las muertes eran palestinos — o el 86 por ciento — en comparación a las cuatro de Israel.

Los políticos estadounidenses aprovecharon la oportunidad para mostrar su complicidad en los continuos intentos de Israel por el genocidio del pueblo palestino. En términos inequívocos, el presidente Donald Trump tuiteó: “Apoyamos a Israel al 100 por ciento”.

Según el Jerusalem Post, también envió un mensaje paternalista, altivo e hipócrita: “Para el pueblo de Gaza: estos actos terroristas contra Israel no le traerán más que más miseria. FIN a la violencia y trabajen por la paz: ¡puede suceder!” (6 de mayo)

Hace solo un par de meses, Trump firmó una orden ejecutiva que afirma que Israel tiene soberanía sobre el Golán sirio, ocupado ilegalmente por colonos sionistas desde 1967.

Mientras tanto, una nueva voz de disidencia en el Congreso fue atacada de inmediato. El representante Ilhan Omar, la congresista musulmana somalí-estadounidense de Minnesota, tuiteó: “¿Cuántos manifestantes más deben ser fusilados, deben dispararse cohetes y deben matarse niños hasta que termine el ciclo interminable de violencia?”

Los conservadores furiosos enfocaron su ira en ella, incluido un video publicado por el asesor principal de campaña de Trump. El video intentó presentar el lanzamiento de cohetes en Ucrania, otro lugar donde la intervención de Estados Unidos ha alimentado la guerra y la destrucción, como un ataque palestino contra Israel. (Haaretz.com, 5 de mayo)

Incluso los medios de comunicación burgueses admiten que el tenue cese al fuego alcanzado el 5 de mayo fue promovido por Israel para que la nación de los colonos pueda tratar de limpiar su imagen, iesta vez organizando una próxima competencia de canto de Eurovisión en Tel Aviv!

El hecho es que los palestinos continúan resistiendo y exigiendo el fin de la ocupación, nada menos.

En un artículo de opinión publicado en Aljazeera.com, Haidar Eid, profesor asociado de la Universidad Al-Aqsa en Gaza, declara: “Nosotros, los palestinos en Gaza, ya hemos hecho nuestra elección. No moriremos de manera deshonrosa una muerte lenta mientras agradecemos a nuestros asesinos el autoengaño que presenta la esclavitud al invasor como un hecho consumado.

“No. Continuaremos luchando por nuestra dignidad, por nosotros mismos y por nuestros hijos”, continúa Eid. “Nosotros, miembros de la sociedad civil palestina, hemos sostenido durante mucho tiempo que el camino a seguir debería ser el poder del pueblo, la única fuerza capaz de enfrentar la enorme asimetría del poder en la lucha contra Israel. ... No queremos migas de pan. Queremos regresar a nuestras tierras, queremos que nuestros derechos conforme al derecho internacional sean reconocidos”. (6 de mayo)

La llamada de Eid nos recuerda aquí en los EE. UU.: Ejercemos nuestro “poder popular” para continuar nuestra máxima solidaridad con el pueblo palestino. □