General strike rocks Ecuador

By Michael Otto and Zoila Ramirez
Ibarra, Imbabura, Ecuador

Oct. 7 — Support for a call for a general strike in Ecuador has grown quickly in the past few days, bringing the country to the brink of a change in government.

The latest upsurge in mass struggle began after the unpopular President Lenin Moreno issued a decree on Oct. 1 ending subsidies for diesel and extra gasoline with ethanol, fuels used for nearly all vehicles. Moreno did this following the International Monetary Fund’s requirements for granting Ecuador a loan. Since Oct. 2, many thousands of citizens from all social sectors have gone out into the streets in numerous Ecuadorian cities and villages every day.

The massive mobilization taking place now far exceeds the two-day nationwide strike of truckers, bus and taxi drivers on Oct. 3-4. That strike by itself paralyzed the country in the transport unions’ unsuccessful attempt to save the more than four-decades-old subsidy.

The national government suspended school classes Oct. 3-4, which added weight to the protests. On Oct. 3, Moreno imposed a state of exception, which for the next 60 days nullified the freedoms of assembly and association (without mentioning the constitutional right of resistance). The state of exception also allowed Moreno to flee his presidential palace in Quito to the military base in Guayaquil.

The National Assembly is not in session, and people don’t know who is actually running the government. People all over the country continue to defy the president’s orders.

Resumen Latino American reported Oct. 7: “47 members of the military were detained [by the people] after they used tear gas bombs to attack the inhabitants of the community of Tixan, in the canton of Clausí, in Chimborazo Province.”

The leaders of the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of Ecuador (CONAIE) and the United Workers Front (FUT) announced a national strike of activities on Oct. 9. It is significant that both these groups supported the president 20 months ago in his successful attempt to push through a reactionary referendum and are now breaking with him.

The strike in Ibarra and Imbabura

Ibarra is a city of 300,000 people, about 100 miles north of Quito, the capital.

Christian Pabón, a leader of the youth wing of the Revolución Ciudadana (Citizen’s Revolution), spoke passionately at the Ibarra Obelisk on Oct. 4:

“We are protesting in peace and they throw the horses at us...

But we’ll go forward without violence. It’s always with the revolution. In hard; it’s always with the revolution.

“We are protesting in peace and they throw the horses at us ... they are shooting gas canisters at our bodies ... the only thing we have is our voice, our screams, our screams ..."
Gala celebrates women laundry workers

By Monica Moorehead

New York

The Laundry Workers Center held a fundraising gala at St. Peter’s Church in Manhattan on Oct. 4. The center’s political philosophy “is rooted in organizing workers and building their leadership skills and political power through a variety of worker-led tools and tactics, including direct action at the workplace, serving as their own voice to media outlets, speaking out as members of the community, and acting as their own advocates at the negotiation table.” (laundryworkerscenter.org/our-mission)

The theme of the gala was “Sin Fronteras! Without Borders — Celebrating the Victories of Women Laundry Workers.” The event raised awareness and funds for the important ongoing work of the LWC in organizing low-wage, predominantly immigrant, workers.

These workers are forced to endure higher incidence of wage theft, intolerable working conditions and sexual abuse. The LWC has been in the forefront of organizing and defending the workers, many of whom — especially the women — come without a voice but with solidarity on the job and in the streets and soon become organizers themselves.

One such person is Ricarda, who was born in Guerrero, Mexico, and migrated to the U.S. at the age of 26. Ricarda has worked for 15 years at the Sunshine Shirt Laundry Center in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn. She launched her first campaign as a LWC organizer in February. During the gala, a video was shown of Ricarda presenting grievances to her boss on the job, with other LWC members there to support her. Ricarda received a plaque of recognition from the LWC. Jeanne Mirer, a labor lawyer, received an Immigrant Rights Defender award from the LWC.

Rosanna Rodriguez, LWC co-executive director, reviewed the important work of the LWC over the past year. Advances included winning $220,000 in back pay for workers; initiating an anti-wage theft bill; helping to raise the minimum wage in New Jersey; and working with the grassroots organization Detroit Labor to raise the minimum wage in Detroit.

Ricarda has worked for 15 years at the Sunshine Shirt Laundry Center in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn.

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Inmates fight for health in Frackville

Join us in the fight for socialism!

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.

WWF 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.

If you are interested in joining Workers World Party contact: 212.627.2994

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Contradictions in the impeachment struggle

By Fred Goldstein

The impeachment struggle against Trump poses many contradictions.

On the one hand, hundreds of millions of people around the world would like to see Trump brought down in the hope that this will alleviate his administration’s oppressive, racist and corrupt rule.

On the other hand, the impeachment struggle is, at bottom, a struggle by various factions of the ruling class to keep Trump from undermining the strength of U.S. imperialism at home and abroad. Tens of millions have suffered from Trump’s various forms of reaction. From the gag rule against abortion counseling, to immigrant families separated from their children, to Muslims and immigrants who have been forced to flee, to Zimbabweans under U.S. sanctions and oppressed.

But at present, the masses are relying on the campuses and in the workplaces, on the campuses and in the workplaces. They call and question the witnesses. The truth is that the witnesses to Trump’s maneuvers, is a thoroughly reactionary racist, sexist politician, in addition to being a thoroughly reactionary racist, sexist politician.

On Biden the ‘victim’

Biden, who has been made the victim of Trump’s maneuvers, is a thoroughly reactionary racist, sexist politician. In addition to being a thoroughly reactionary politician.

In 1991, Biden was head of the Senate panel that oversaw the persecution of Anita Hill by Bill Clinton. In 1994, he was a Senator. He wrote the largest crime bill in U.S. history. He and his whole administration, were impeached under pressure from the presidency, etc. Then, the revelation that this will alleviate his administration’s oppressive, racist and corrupt rule.

On the other hand, Trump has antagonized sections of the ruling class as well. He has weakened the NATO alliance; pulled out of the U.S.-sponsored Transpacific Partnership; pulled out of the Paris climate agreement; weakened the Mexican government, the Canadian government and the German government; sided with the Brexit forces in Britain; and done numerous things to offend the allies of U.S. imperialism and to damage the military and diplomatic structure built up by Washington over decades.

Three hundred so-called national security experts have supported the articles of impeachment. What are “national security” officials? They are the CIA, FBI, National Security Council and all the agents of sabotage, subversion, special operations and dirty tricks who job it is to undermine, remove or destroy all obstacles to the advancement of U.S. capitalism and imperialist interests at home and abroad.

Trump’s corruption

Of course, it would be foolish to ignore Trump’s corruption. The Biden scandal would not have come out if he were not so contemptuous of capitalist norms and processes. It is to measure degrees of corruption in bourgeois politics, since it is so pervasive, but usually presidents wait until they leave office to expose the rot at Trump. But wait did not pay off.

He openly cashes in on the presidency to bolster his personal fortune right out to enrich themselves. Trump did not wait. He openly cashes in on the presidency to bolster his personal fortune right out to enrich themselves. Trump did not wait.


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Biggest U.S. strike in over a decade
GM strikers battle on

By Martha Grewatt
Parma, Ohio

As the biggest (numerically) U.S. strike in over a decade enters its fourth week, General Motors workers are showing no signs of giving in. While they would like to see some resolution and return to work, they don’t want to come back in with a bad contract. The 49,000 United Auto Workers members want to see “temporary” and lower-paid “in progression” workers brought up to top pay and given equal benefits. “Everyone Tier One! has become a popular picket sign.

There are also demands to cancel plant closings, raise retiree pensions and give every worker a decent pay increase. One NECA member makes $33 an hour, which is $85 billion in clear profit over the past four years, can well afford to address all their concerns.

The capitalist press has repeated on a near-daily basis that GM’s labor costs per vehicle fall with each new generation of automation technology, which is designed to raise productivity and get more work for the same or less pay. Moreover, GM, Ford and FCA have all cut costs via the outsourcing and subcontracting of work previously done by the Detroit Three UAW workers.

GM employs the biggest number of autoworkers in Mexico; it has more workers in China than in the U.S. For pay these workers don’t begin to approach $62 an hour. South Korean GM workers are striking at the same time as their U.S. counterparts—also for higher wages and to make temporary workers permanent.

Hoping for the best, preparing for the worst
Strikers were on a bit of an emotional roller coaster the weekend of October 5-6. On Saturday, UAW Vice President Terry Dittes gave workers an update, stating that “good progress” had been made, including a path to permanent status for temporary workers. The next day he informed strikers that negotiations had “taken a turn for the worse.”

With all the publicity around corruption in the NCAA International leadership, and the paucity of specific information from their negotiators, rank-and-file workers aren’t sure how much to believe about the deal being negotiated. In the past, the International has pitched concessory contracts that contained the current language allowing the deplorable treatment of temporary workers.

What strikers understand clearly is the sharp class conflict between GM’s determination to shrirk workers’ pay and benefits and UAW workers’ fight for a living wage.

Solidarity with the strike continues to build. The Michigan state chapter of the American Federation of Teachers has called on its members to join the picket lines. The NPL Players Association has just pledged to support the UAW local, representing the FCA Marysville Ade Plant, delivered 30,000 pounds of food to Local 22 at the GM Detroit-Hamtramck assembly plant. Ford workers in Turkey are the latest to send an international solidarity message.

The list goes on of unions here and abroad that see the GM workers’ fight as their fight.

Green is a retired UAW FCA worker and serves on the Executive Board of UAW Local 869.

Fair Pay to Play Act
A step forward to empower student-athletes

By Monica Moorehead

The Fair Pay to Play Act was signed into law by California Gov. Gavin Newsom on Sept. 30. Newsom signed the SB206 on “The Uninterrupted Game Show” a multi-platform show hosted and produced by LeBron James, the superstar forward with the National Basketball Association’s storied franchise, the Los Angeles Lakers. This law will not go into effect until January 2023.

What is FPtoP?
First of all, the name is a misnomer because the bill has nothing to do with schools paying student-athletes a fair wage like other workers for their labor. Instead, according to espn.com, this bill “makes it illegal for schools to prevent an athlete from earning money by using the right to his or her name, image or likeness to outside bidders.” (Sept. 30) The bill gives student-athletes the right, if they wish, to hire agents to represent them to be compensated if approved by big name corporations like Nike or smaller vendors.

Nine other state legislatures—Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Kentucky, Minnesota, Nevada, New York, Pennsylvania and South Carolina—are now debating similar bills.

All California athletes—identified as male, female and gender nonconforming—will be covered. But overwhelmingly those who have the most to gain will be athletes who play football and basketball. These two sports alone bring millions of dollars, along with prestige, into the coffers of athletic programs and school endowments on an annual basis.

Many universities have multibillion-dollar endowments, larger than the economies of developing countries, and can afford to pay their athletic coaches millions of dollars. Salaries of the top ten National Collegiate Athletic Association coaches in 2019 ranged from $6.2 million to $8.9 million a year, according to bestselling author John Feinstein.

These colleges and universities, whether Division I, II or III, operate under the auspices of the NCAA, a non-profit organization of over 1,100 schools that connects sports to education.

Though the NCAA may pay for a player’s scholar- ship—tuition, room and board, and a stipend from semester to semester—this is far from being a paycheck.

The main opposition spokesperson against SB206 has been NCAA President Mark Emmert, whose own salary or III, operate under the auspices of the NCAA, a non-profit organization of schools and can afford to pay their athletic coaches millions of dollars, including the right to collectively bargain.

The players had the backing of the College Athletes Players Association, a United Steelworkers-supported organization that sought to represent them as workers. In essence, these players were aligning themselves with low-wage university workers such as graduate student assistants and student janitors.

However, the NCAA attacked down their petition in August 2015, siding with the NCAA and university administrations, which want to keep athletes powerless, with no bargaining power to mitigate issues of their safety on the field or the court, where devastating injuries can and do occur. Instead, the NCAA tried to appease these players and others by providing a few crumbs like increased funding for scholarships, food stipends and health care.

The FPtoP bill may have legal limitations, but it will be reckoned for helping to launch a much larger struggle for student-athletes and their allies to fight for their rightful place as workers within the global working class.
Subway struggle

‘We want accessibility, not more cops!’

By Tony Murphy

New York City

On Oct. 3, leaders in the disability rights movement led the latest in a growing movement of underground subway actions against the MTA’s racist police crackdown on ‘farebeaters.’

Activists with the People’s MTA joined the People’s Power Assembly NYC for a protest in Brooklyn’s Barclays Center station, a major transit hub connecting multiple subway lines.

The main demand was that money be spent making subways accessible with elevators and ramps — rather than on surveillance cameras and ever-increasing police presence, which all statistics show focus disproportionately on Black and Brown riders.

Carrying placards that read, ‘Our Subways Need 8 for Elevators, Not More Cops’ and ‘End Broken Windows Policing in the Subway,’ activists made it clear who the real farebeaters are: Wall Street firms draining billions from the MTA.

“The MTA spends billions in debt service to the banks,” said Mary Kaessinger, a disability rights leader and wheelchair user, as activists passed out leaflets to commuters, and “they don’t provide good train service to the people of this city.”

The MTA has recently cut service on at least eleven bus lines, including Brooklyn’s busiest line — NYC’s second busiest — and is planning to cut 2,700 transit worker jobs. It has also removed printed schedules from bus stops, requiring riders to use smartphones — which not everyone can afford or is able to use.

At the same time, the MTA announced it was flooding the subway with 1,000 more cops and outfitting stations with surveillance cameras.

Teresa Mitchell, an African-American leader with the PPA NYC who is sight-impaired, did not mince words when cops approached the Barclay’s Center protesters.

“We don’t need more cops; we need accessibility,” she told them.

Even before this year’s increase in police, the predatory and racist nature of subway policing gave rise to the Swipe It Forward campaign. It was started by groups like the Bronx’s Why Accountability to combat the oppressive practice of cops targeting Black and Brown riders who can’t afford the fare.

Two days before a strike was to begin Sept. 30 at all seven public universities in the Oregon University System, Service Employees Union (SEIU) Local 503 announced a tentative agreement that covers about 4,500 university support workers — food preparation and training. The bill empowers the unions to contract with the state Department of Human Resources.

That gives child-care providers the ability to organize for improvements on the job, while setting the stage for the largest union election and organizing campaign in the country for better wages and benefits, retirement planning and training. The bill empowers the unions to contract with the people of this city.

This was a significant concession and a huge advance in the fight for true transit accessibility. Yet it lacked many in the disability rights movement have been demanding: the MTA signing a legally binding commitment to create accessible stations.

Without that, the MTA accessibility announcement could end up being another unfulfilled promise. The Oct. 7 cover of a free daily New York newspaper stated simply, “Experts concerned about how the MTA will pay its bills.”

Uniting the many vectors of our class who face oppression in the city’s public transportation system is the best chance of forcing the MTA to do the right thing.

11,500 teachers, staff win contracts at Oregon universities

Nearly 7,000 workers at Oregon Health and Science University won a new contract last week after negotiating for months when ratifying a new three-year contract by 98.9 percent on Sept. 9. Members of American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 328 get a lump bonus payment of $1,000 and a raise of 3.25 percent on Nov. 1 to work and $1 more an hour for training co-workers. It will provide relief for needed food, transportation, medical bills, their student loans and the $2.75 fare that is continuously rising.

The MTA announced the creation of new elevators in 70 stations.

On the picket line

By Alex Bolch and Sue Davis

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Meanwhile, Local 328 has a legal case against OHSU: an unpaid labor practice charge filed Aug. 8, with the Oregon Employment Relations Board. OHSU violated its duty to bargain in good faith when two members of its team used fake Twitter and Facebook accounts to pose as employees and undermine the union on social media. A hearing was scheduled for Oct. 1. (NW Labor Press, Sept. 18)

California child care workers win union rights!

Nearly 40,000 California at-home child care workers won the right to bargain collectively on Sept. 30, thanks to a community advocacy that pushed for union rights for 16 years. As it stands now, California child care workers earn poverty wages and no benefits.

The “Building a Better Early Care and Education System Act” was co-sponsored by two unions: the Service Employees union (SEIU) California and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees.

The workers will work with an umbrella bargaining agreement, tentatively with the state Department of Human Resources.
Over 50 demonstrators gathered in Center City on Oct. 4 to rally for an end to mass incarceration and cop corruption cover-ups under the slogan: “This Shit Ain’t New! Cop corruption Cover-ups Continue.” The protest took place at the bitterly contested statue of Frank Rizzo, notoriously racist and fascistic former police commissioner and later mayor of Philadelphia.

Speakers called for freedom for Mumia Abu-Jamal, the remaining imprisoned MOVE members, and all unjustly convicted prisoners. They were responding to the Philadelphia Fraternal Order of Police’s staged show of concern held earlier that day at FOP headquarters for “victims of crime.” The FOP highlighted Maureen Faulkner, widow of the cop whose death was used to send activist-journalist Abu-Jamal to death row.

Police from the “victims” event later rallied at the office of Philadelphia District Attorney Larry Krasner, calling for his removal from participation in Abu-Jamal’s ongoing appeals process. The counter-FOP protest pointed out that the FOP and supporters are mobilizing against everyone who wants to end police misconduct. They emphasized that the FOP’s showcasing of Faulkner stationed contempt for friends and relatives of thousands of Philadelphians whose loved ones have been unfairly imprisoned and murdered by cops. Many of those victims’ names were called out at the rally’s end.

On Sept. 3, Abu-Jamal’s attorneys filed new appeal briefs as well as a request, based on their finding of new evidence in his case, for the U.S. Supreme Court to review the 1980 Pennsylvania Supreme Court decision that upheld his conviction for the murder of Officer Daniel Faulkner. The new appeals, if granted, would allow aawai the constitutional and human rights violations that have occurred in his case.

“If we need to, we’ll demand a new trial,” said Lynda Wilkerson, Abu-Jamal’s wife, who was joined at the rally by family members and activists.

Abu-Jamal, a Black writer and political leader, was sentenced to death in 1982 for the murder of Officer Faulkner, but the Pennsylvania Supreme Court later struck down his death sentence on due process grounds.

The rally, organized by the Imam Jamil Action Network, the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement, MOVE and Workers World Party, read from Abu-Jamal’s book, “Have Black Lives Ever Mattered?” describing the police as servants of capital, of those who run this system from the bank vaults and corporate offices. Kelly addressed the function of the FOP and how it came to be established, not as a real workers’ union, but as a structure used by police to exert political power. The FOP has a multimillion-dollar slush fund designed to buy politicians and judges.

Morgan Malachi, also with REAL Justice, stated: “We was the grandfather of racist Facebook posts. Instead of a computer, he used the media. He had years of stacking his influence in this city. We know that the fix was in for Mumia, for the MOVE family and for every Black Philadelphian. But we know that resistance will outlive racists like Rizzo. Resistance will bring Mumia home.”

Several speakers denounced the FOP’s intervention on behalf of cops either fired or convicted of serious crimes, only to have them returned to policing city streets. One police commander accused of sexual harassment of at least four female cops was promoted to supervise the Special Victims Unit.

Following the rally, demonstrators took to the streets, curb-to-curb, blocking traffic as they marched around City Hall and down South Broad Street where they held a mini-rally outside the historically racist and sexist Union League. The march finally ended at 33rd and Locust streets, site of the 1981 shooting for which Abu-Jamal was falsely convicted. A moment of silence was held for all victims of police brutality, including two MOVE 9 members, Merle Africa and Phil Africa, who died during incarceration.


**Targeted by the FBI**

**Free H. Rap Brown/ Imam Jamil Al-Amin!**

By Dianne Mathiowetz

Atlanta

A two-day conference, “Re-Learning H. Rap Brown,” was held in Atlanta Oct. 4 and 5. Those dates mark the globally known Black freedom fighter’s 70th birthday and the 50th anniversary of publication of his ground-shaking book, “Die Nigger Die,” a searing account of white racism and police terror over 50 years ago that in 1968 the U.S. Congress passed the “Rap Brown” Federal Anti-Riot Act, making it illegal to travel from one state to another, write a letter, make a phone call or speak on radio or television with the “intent” to encourage a person to riot.

Brown’s conviction was based on a false confession by a 17-year-old Black youth who had been forced to sign it under police torture and threats. It took over 30 years of stacking Brown’s influence in this city. We know that the fix was in for Mumia, for the MOVE family and for every Black Philadelphian. But we know that resistance will outlive racists like Rizzo. Resistance will bring Mumia home.”

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For more information and to become involved, go to whatthappenednap.com or imamjamialactionnetwork.werby.com. To send a message of solidarity, write Imam Jamil Al-Amin, #99973-55G, USP Tucson, U.S. Penitentiary, PO Box 24550, Tucson, AZ 85734.

Party and others, successfully brought the two 5-foot-9 Rap Brown in the 1960s and 70s and its continuation now by Imam Jamil Al-Amin to a new generation of students and activists.

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By Betsy Piette

Philadelphia

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Smash white supremacy! Stop cop killing! End prison slavery!

Party-Pensacola and Strive (Social Translition group based in Florida. The coal-
a coalition led by the Pensacola chap-

people are struggling. A 13-hour shift, entered Botham’s apart-

 announce on Oct. 3

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An officer didn’t even wait until

saying a white Cleveland police officer, while

That is why so many egregious cases

Jeantime, there have been dramatic high points and quiet

Guyger was indicted in all,

November 22, 2014, 12-year-old African

 afflictions. The police officer didn’t even wait until

Guyger was out of his car to open fire. Nor is

Guyger’s office is punished for murder,

who shot Botham believing he was an intruder.

violence have gone unpunished.

Guyger the off-duty officer to murder

an innocent person. Such occurrences are

disturbingly common and seldom result

A common failing of liberal commen-
tators is the attempt to explain police

In 25 years in the Pennsylvania prison

The police officer didn’t even wait until

Guyger’s office is punished for murder,

and capitalism as a whole continues.

The police officer didn’t even wait until

Chinks in the armor of the state

Through it all, the expressive state has

remained firm. The capitalist ruling class,

with its political legitimacy waning,

Within the wider context of the

state are not immune from public pres-
sure. The insistence of Black activists
to continue to struggle, and even to escalate

tactics, must weigh on the minds of

prosecutors, police and politicians every-

Tymar Crawford.

People’s victory

Killer cop fired!

By Devin Cole

Nearly three months after the murder of Tymar Crawford, a young African-Amer-

can man killed in his front yard by Daniel Siemen, an offi-
cer of Pensacola Police Department, the PPD

announced on Oct. 3 that Siemen

had been fired from his position as detective for “violat-
ing the department’s use of deadly force policy.”

This victory comes after three solid months of militant organizing by

Tymar Crawford’s partner, Kimberly Henderson, children and friends, and

a coalition led by the Pensacola chap-
ter of the Dream Defenders, a socialist feminist, Black liberation, prison abo-
lusion group based in Florida. The coa-

tion also included Answer/Party for Socialism and Liberation, Workers World Party-Pensacola and Strive (Social Trans Initiate).

Protests included two marches through down-
town Pensacola up to the front doors of the police department, two disrup-
tions of City Council meet-

ings, a confrontation with Pensacola Mayor Grover Robinson and a People’s Assembly that launched

t of its own march.

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement con-
ducted its own investiga-
tion and has now turned

t he case over to a grand

jury which will determine

if any criminal acts were committed by

police and if the PPD has “adequate poli-
cies and training” in place related to use of

deadly force.

The news of Siemen’s termination

appears to indicate what the verdict of the

grand jury might be. But militant organiz-
er and the people of Pensacola are not

letting their guard down. Their vigilance

against police brutality, anti-Black violence and capitalism as a whole continues.

All power to the people! Tymar Crawford, presente!

Dangerous health conditions in prison

Inmates fight back

By Ted Kelly

For weeks, prisoners at Pennsylvania’s SCI Frackville have been protesting the
deteriorating conditions that have led to

an outbreak of health problems among

inmates. Water from the taps runs a
depth “chocolately brown,” according to

prison activist Bryant Arroyo. In the

showers on their wing. Afterwards,

Arroyo and many of his fellow

inmates are now being treated for fungal

infections.

Arroyo is serving a life sentence for

other crimes, while

Guyger has yet seen— further protests

broke out to demand their release.

And when those activists remained in jail

for several days— more time behind bars

than Guyger has yet seen— further protests

broke out to demand their release.

Arroyo was also white and police officers

were killed in July 2016, and nine others

wounded, by Micah Johnson— seemingly

in reaction to the surge of police killings at

that time. This is what Malcolm’s powder

keg looks like when the fuse gets too short.

In order to maintain power, the capital-

ist ruling class and their state agents are

motivated to remain firm in the face of

liberal demands for reform. And yet,

they must weigh that policy against sporadic

but determined unrest—and the threat of

full-blown uprisings— by the most militant

forces in the Black struggle. The conviction of Amber Guyger is a result of that contra-

dicting giving way in favor of the people.

While this conviction cannot be viewed as the start of a major sea change, it shows

the power of politically oppressed people

within the U.S. working class. There

will no doubt be further outrages from the police and attacks by white supremacists.

But this event should serve as a signal that

the ruling class has weaknesses— gaps

in its armor. Increased pressure from a

united working class can exploit those

gaps and secure greater victories.

The lesson of the conviction of Amber Guyger

then is to struggle, to unite, to persist.

Finally came in to clean the showers, Bryant is still taking an oral anti-fungal

treatment and a topical solution for a skin condition on his feet and ankles caused by prolonged mold exposure.

Even after dozens of grievances were

filed by inmates, prison authorities failed

to address the shower conditions. Then

last month an outside inspection team

happened to be on the premises to evalu-

ate the facilities at SCI Frackville. Inmates

banged on doors and called out to the

inspectors, demanding they investigate

the showers on their wing. Afterwards,

one inspector was heard saying,

“This place needs to be shut down.”

Prisoners denied family, other visitors

Ironically, last year Pennsylvania Gov.

Tom Wolf and Corrections Secretary

Continued on page 8
Inmates fight back

Continued from page 7

John Wetzel manufactured a “health cri-
sis” among prison staff to provide a pre-
text to lock down prisoners who went on
strike. But when a genuine outbreak occurred
among the prison population, the authorities
marched to silence and punish
prisoners. Indeed, during this health
crisis, lifers at Frackville were systemat-
ically denied visits from family members
and friends.

Claudio Manzanet is one of many inmates
who have been arbitrarily denied visitation
rights. It’s been a year or more since
he’s been able to see family members, who
have twice been denied access to the prison
when it was closed for normal visi-
ting hours. Derrick Broadax looked for-
toward to seeing his mother, brother-in-law
and older sister recently, only to learn that
all three were denied entry at the gates by
Frackville staff. The brother of Dominic
Williams was likewise prevented from vis-
iting during this time.

This reporter was barred entry to the
Frackville visiting room to see Arroyo last
month, despite a gate clearance and offi-
cial visitor status with the Pennsylvania
Prison Society. Arroyo said later in a
phone call that it is “no coincidence that it’s
all lifers who got our visits denied.”

After a forceful protest and sign
outside and inside the prison, it
appears that Frackville staff have relented
and lifers will be allowed to see
their families, with the exception of
visitation rights. Signage in the waiting
room lobby has been updated with clearer
and more accurate explanations of state
prison visitation rules. The facility is
reported to be full again during normal hours.

Inmates fight back

Mental health support withheld

Meanwhile, the scant services that
prison staff are supposed to provide are
under attack. The Correctional Peer
Support Specialist (CPS) run 24 hours a
day have been given some training on
how to talk with fellow prisoners who are
experiencing mental health crises or sui-
cidal ideations. Such struggles are com-
mon, considering isolation from family
and community and being trapped in
dangerous and unhealthy conditions.
The CPS are supposed to have unlimited
access to fellow prisoners who are hav-
ing difficulty coping. However, CPS like
John Ludovici report that the program
has come under serious attack.

At today’s rally, as a busload of chanting
supporters joined the picket line. Even
before the rally start time of 4:30 p.m., 100
people were there. The spirit of solidarity
was electrifying as students, unions
and community orga-
izations began arriving to swell the line
by four to five times.

The Battery Wharf strikers, mostly
migrants, are represented by UNITE
HERE Local 26. They are fighting for
affordable health care, job security, a pen-
sion and a yearly wage increase. They
are also fighting against racism in the hotel
industry, demanding steps be taken to
diversify the workforce and hire more
African-American workers. The hotel
owners, Westmont Hospitality Group,
have refused to negotiate.

The 75 strikers want what their com-
rades at Marriott hotels won in 2018
when they struck nationwide. In Boston
seven hotels were virtually shut down for
days. The Marriott victory set a prece-
dent for workers’ rights with contract
language guaranteeing paid parental leave,
accomodations for pregnant workers and
an alert system for housekeepers in case
of sexual assault. Workers also won a cru-
cial guarantee that immigrants who lose
their protected status will have their jobs
waiting for them if they regain the right to
work within five years.

The majority of hotels in the Boston area
were forced to match the benefits won as a
result of the historic Marriott victory. But
Battery Wharf owners have refused.

After a month on strike, the Battery
Wharf workers are still determined to
fight on. Union supporters showing up in
solidarity included the building and
construction trades, Teamsters Local 25;
United Steelworkers Local 8751, Boston
School Bus Drivers; Service Employees
union (SEIU) 32 BJ; American Federation
of State, County and Municipal Employees
union (AFSCME) Local 293, the Boston
Teachers Union and the Harvard
Graduate Student Union. At today’s rally,
a busload of chanting nurses represented
by the Massachusetts Nurses Association
pulled up, they were greeted with cheers.
Later, the boisterous picket line took to the
narrow streets of the North End, marching
to a final rally where Billy Bragg, English musician and
labour activist, sang union songs.
Cuba, reforestation and the climate crisis

The following is Part 1 of a slightly edited talk given at a Workers World Party forum on Oct. 3 in New York City. Hedgcocke participated in the 50th Venceremos Brigade this summer.

Part 2 will be published in the Oct. 17 issue of Workers World newspaper.

By Stephanie Hedgcocke

We meet on stolen land. This is Lenapehoking, Lenape homeland. We look forward to the day that all Indigenous nations’ land claims are paid in full.

As we write on environmental issues tonight, I wonder how many of you may have read part of the new U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report on the status of the oceans? The report covered the point of view of people first impacted by global warming. It said, “Based on Indigenous and local knowledge, climate change is affecting food security in drylands, particularly those in Africa, and high mountain regions in North and South America.”

Many young people are reading these reports. For those of you who have not been keeping up with the news about global heating, the youth have left you behind. It’s time to catch up.

Settlers’ war with nature

Deforestation and environmental devastation started in North and South America and in Africa with colonialism, and the arrogant thieving mentality that came with it. “Settler” and “Teak trees.” Those settlers started a war with nature in these lands. In fact, Europe’s massive ship-building phase, [which enabled settlers] to go forth with nature in these lands. In fact, Europe’s massive

Socialist Cuba saw a need to implement social and economic projects in the rural areas. This reforestation plan, launched along with the establishment of community services and livelihoods, targeted improving soil quality and providing essential work for the area’s people. They used a terrace-planting system on the mountain slopes. The plan began with an initial 12,335 acres (5,000 hectares) in the eastern part of the mountain range. Cuban scientists assisted [the project] to determine which indigenous trees to plant, and the villagers planted Mahogany, Hibiscus and Teak trees. Within eight years, the rural people in the valley had planted 6 million trees. In 1971, they founded the village of Las Terrazas [the terraces].

Reforestation began in 1968 in the mountainous region of Sierra del Rosario, with support from the revolutionary government, when local villagers decided on a plan.

Socialist Cuba saw a need to implement social and economic projects in the rural areas. This reforestation plan, launched along with the establishment of community services and livelihoods, targeted improving soil quality and providing essential work for the area’s people. They used a terrace-planting system on the mountain slopes. The plan began with an initial 12,335 acres (5,000 hectares) in the eastern part of the mountain range. Cuban scientists assisted [the project] to determine which indigenous trees to plant, and the villagers planted Mahogany, Hibiscus and Teak trees. Within eight years, the rural people in the valley had planted 6 million trees. In 1971, they founded the village of Las Terrazas [the terraces].

Indigenous ecosystems restored

When the Cuban people restored the forests, the indigenous mammals, plants, birds and insects, many of which had become endangered during centuries of colonialist and capitalist exploitation of the environment, began to come back. The indigenous ecosystems began to be restored.

Today Cuba has 131 species of birds, 26 [of them] indigenous, the rest pass through on migratory routes to their nesting

Unnatural Disasters

Workers World articles on the climate crisis, 2001–12

Available at tinyurl.com/y5y6nhwh/
What major country in the world can claim greater progress than China’s? China in raising the standard of living and the educational level of its people over the last 70 years?

In 1949, the leader of the Chinese socialist revolution, Mao Zedong, declared victory, crushed enemies, corpora-
tions, banks and imperialists who had ruled China. His famous words were, “China has stood up,” delivered to an immense crowd in Tiananmen Square.

China was then a terribly poor and underdeveloped country of 541 million people. The vast majority were peasants who had lived on the edge of starvation for generations, suffering monstrous abuse from the land, their feet bound and their labor discounted.

Yet, when People’s China celebrated its 70th anniversary this Oct. 1, the bourgeois media mentioned none of this tremendous progress achieved by the Chinese people. Everything was focused on accusing China’s Communist Party leaders of being dictatorial and autocratic.

What the capitalists around the world dare not admit is that China’s centrally planned economy is superior to the dog-eat-dog system of capitalism, in which privately owned corporations and banks hold a monopoly over production and must turn a profit for their obscenely wealthy owners.

China’s incredible advances have come despite its leaders deciding they had to compromise with world capitalism and let in foreign exploiters to get the capital to build up the country’s infrastructure. That has been a two-edged sword, resulting in a class of millionaires now feasting at a table set for the working class. But as I was sitting there with Mumia, I did think it was remarkable how easy he is to talk to. He’s warm
to me, and at best a warm, working class man.

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Mass protests demand president resign, U.S. butt out

By G. Dunkel

Angry Haitians flooded the streets of Port-au-Prince Oct. 4, coming from many of its neighborhoods, such as Nazon, Soleil, Milot and St. Marc, to converge at the U.S. logistics base in Clercine near the airport. According to reports in the Haitian press, the action included people in wheelchairs.

What angered the crowd in particular was the support that the Core Group—ambassadors of the U.S., France, Germany, Canada, Spain, the EU and some big international organizations—was giving to President Jovenel Moïse and his gang, known as the Party of Bald Blondes (PPKB). The Core Group wants at least a truce or a dialogue between the PPKB and the militants in the streets—some period of calm.


Protesters in Haiti demanding ouster of U.S.-backed government hold their flag in defiance of armed repression.

Change is essential! Build Workers World!

As a newspaper that promotes revolutionary socialism, it’s essential to welcome change — especially long overdue change. Like throwing Christopher Columbus into the dustbin of world history with other false idols of colonialism and imperialism.

A movement has been afoot for several decades to eliminate Columbus Day, the second Monday in October, and rename it Indigenous Peoples’ Day to call attention to U.S. genocidal policies of warfare, massacres, smallpox blankets and forced assimilation.

Indigenous Peoples’ Day also commemorates and honors the great historical, cultural, social, economic and political contributions that Native nations and peoples have made across this country. If you agree that it’s essential for Workers World to salute the importance of change this month, then it’s time to join the Workers World Supporter Program, which since 1977 has helped put out the paper. Members receive a year’s subscription to WW, a monthly letter about timely issues and five free subscriptions to give to friends for a year. Workers World appreciates your generosity.

Write checks to Workers World and mail them, with your name and address, to 147 W. 24th St., 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10011. Or donate online at workers.org/donate; it’s easy to set up monthly donations. Know we’re grateful for your help in building Workers World—for today and for the future! ☑
Los verdaderos crímenes del racista Trump

Por Minnie Bruce Pratt

En Montreal, provincia de Quebec, Canadá, más de 900.000 personas marcharon el 27 de septiembre en un esfuerzo por detener la crisis climática, en la huelga más grande en la historia de la ciudad, según los organizadores.

Estos y otros eventos de Global Climate Strike terminaron una semana después, cuando 7,5 millones de personas participaron en 6.125 acciones en 165 países, junto con más de 70 sindicatos nacionales e internacionales, y más de 800 organizaciones que respaldaron y marcharon. La movilización global del 20 al 27 de septiembre fue la mayor participación de personas decididas a defender el planeta contra la explotación y la destrucción. (globalclimatestrike.net)

Muchos manifestantes acusaron enfáticamente a la economía capitalista, las empresas con fines de lucro y los políticos empobrecidos y vendidos como responsables. En Inglaterra señalaron “Capitalismo de la Nación Anishinabek.” El liderazgo de los pueblos indígenas en el planeta se despierta a escala mundial.

Huelgas climáticas mundiales

La crisis de la Tierra despierta millones

Por Autumn Peltier

Los jóvenes indígenas emprendieron una campaña radicales contra Central Park 5, jóvenes negros y latinos encarcelados por falsos acusaciones de violar a una corredora, quienes finalmente fueron exonerados. En el campo, despierto a varios países, llamados “basura” todos los cuales eran países de África y habitaban por personas de ascendencia africana. “En Escocia, los signos airados proclaman “Cambio del sistema, no cambio climático”. En Atlanta, más de 200 personas marcharon el 27 de septiembre en un esfuerzo por detener la crisis climática, en la huelga más grande en la historia de la ciudad, según los organizadores.


El joven grupo multinacional mantuvo su estilo sin tregua en todo el mundo. Los verdaderos crímenes del racista Trump Trump trajo sonrisas a los rostros de quienes dominan el sistema sin con lo anterior escrito ha cometido delitos tan graves contra las masas trabajadoras y oprimidas.

En Inglaterra, más de 200 personas marcharon el 27 de septiembre en una manifestación pidiendo soluciones inmediatas a la crisis climática. El grupo Extinction Rebellion cantó y se apoderó de las calles, concentrándose primero en el Distrito Comercial de Buckhead, la parte más lujosa de la ciudad. Después de bloquear el tráfico y tomar arrestos allí, se trasladaron al distrito comercial de Midtown. Una vez más bloquearon una intersección importante, llevando 19 arrestos en total. El joven grupo multicultural mantuvo su actitud energética en un día con un nivel de calor récord en los altos 90.

El 25 de septiembre, activistas de la huelga mundial marcharon en varios países, llamados “basura” todos los cuales eran países de África y habitaban por personas de ascendencia africana. “En Escocia, los signos airados proclaman “Cambio del sistema, no cambio climático”. En Atlanta, más de 200 personas marcharon el 27 de septiembre en un esfuerzo por detener la crisis climática, en la huelga más grande en la historia de la ciudad, según los organizadores.


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La acusación parece posible, quizás también para Trump, quien expuso contra los demócratas que lo atacaron. En su habitual estilo descaradamente racista, llamó a esos demócratas que encabezan la investigación de la Cámara como el “salvajes”, señalando a Alexander Occasio-Cortez y al resto de “The Squad”, además de Adam Schiff y Jerrold Nadler, cuatro mujeres de color y dos hombres judíos. El presidente también insinuó que su juicio político podría provocar una guerra civil. Estos crímenes verbales son dignos de una más macabro que asabo de desahacerse del presidente. Pero lo que realmente se necesita es no una maniobra legal que reemplace a Trump con el subordinado de América. El liderazgo de los pueblos indígenas en el planeta se despierta a escala mundial. Eso falló.

Ahora los cargos de destitución involucrarán el intento de Trump de utilizar un régimen ucraniano instalado por Estados Unidos contra Joe Biden, uno de los caníbales demócratas más probables para presidente el próximo año.

El primer año de la administración Trump trajo sonrisas a los rostros de quienes dominan el sistema sin con lo anterior escrito ha cometido delitos tan graves contra las masas trabajadoras y oprimidas.

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