Millions of youth say

Planet, not profits!

By Betsey Piette

Sept. 20 — Around the world today, it’s estimated that 4 million people took to the streets in an unprecedented Global Climate Strike, led for the most part by youth under 18. Many students walked out of school in unexcused absences, while others came with teachers or parents. Many young workers left their jobs to join in.

The day of global coordinated actions took place in over 185 countries starting in the South Pacific islands, through Australia, across Asia, Africa, into Europe and finally the Americas. Demonstrations took place on every continent and in every major city. The list is too long to enumerate here.

The Global Climate Strike was the third in a worldwide series of climate rallies organized by students in the last 12 months. September 20 may go down in history as the largest global demonstration in the fight against climate crisis—to date. Australia reported its largest turnouts in 2003 preceding the U.S. war on Iraq. In the U.S. alone climate strikes were organized in over 1,000 cities—many reporting numbers from the hundreds to the tens of thousands or more.

At least a quarter of a million people filled New York’s Foley Square, followed by a march to Battery Park.

Recent climate catastrophes — super hurricanes in the Bahamas and Puerto Rico, rapidly melting ice caps in Greenland and out-of-control fires in rainforests in the Amazon, Africa and Indonesia — certainly accelerated the turnout. Protests in the Solomon Islands and elsewhere in the South Pacific targeted rising sea levels which have wiped out entire communities. In South Africa, a major concern was toxic waste, in India air pollution and plastic waste, and in Australia coal expansion.

The strike coincided with the start of the United Nations climate summit called in response to the urgency for government actions needed to restrict rising global temperatures.

The common factor in most of these actions was that leadership came from youth — students and workers — whose concern for their future is fueling this movement. In many cities children led the marches, in some cities even requesting that older activists take up the rear. The average age of participants in many protests was between 12 and 18 years.

Many young participants see the climate crisis as a crisis for humanity.

The common factor in most of these actions was that leadership came from youth — students and workers — whose concern for their future is fueling this movement. In many cities children led the marches, in some cities even requesting that older activists take up the rear. The average age of participants in many protests was between 12 and 18 years.

Many young participants see the climate crisis as a crisis for humanity.
Workers World Party is a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist party inside the belly of the imperialist beast. We are a multinational, multigenderal and multigendered organization that not only aims to abolish capitalism, but to build a socialist society because it’s the only way forward! Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world with their planet in the neverending quest for ever-greater profits.

Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, attacks on im/migrants, misogyny, LGBTQ oppression, the privatization 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 rulers of today seek 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 working class and their families with the demise of the American Empire. The wealth workers create should be socially owned and distributed to guarantee basic human needs.

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

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

Workers World
147 W. 24th St. 2nd Floor
New York, NY 10011
Phone: 212.627.2994
E-mail: ww@workers.org
Website: www.workers.org

Vol. 61, No. 39 • Sept. 26, 2019
Closing date: Sept. 25, 2019

Editor: Deirdre Griswold
Managing Editors: John Catalanotto, Martha Grevatt, Monica Moorehead, Minnie Bruce Pratt
Web Editors: Ben Carroll, John Steffin
Production & Design Editors: Gery Armsby, Sasha Mazumder, Scott Williams
Copyediting and Proofreading: Paddy Colligan, Sue Davis, S. Hedgecock
Contributing Editors: LeiLani Dowell, G. Dunkel, K. Durkin, Teresa Gutierrez, Betsy Piette, Gloria Rubac
Mundo Obrero: Alberto Garcia, Teresa Gutierrez, Carlos Vargas

Supporter Program: Coordinator Sue Davis

Copyright © 2019 Workers World. Verbatim copying and distribution of articles is permitted in any medium without royalty provided this notice is preserved.

Workers World (ISSN 0197-4205) is published weekly except the last week of December by WW Publishers, 147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl., New York, NY 10011. Phone: 212.627.2994. Subscriptions: One year: $35, institutions: $35. Letters to the editor may be condensed and edited. Articles can be freely reprinted, with credit to Workers World.

A searchable archive is available on the Web at www.workers.org.

A deadline digest is available via e-mail subscription. Subscription information is at www.workers.org.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, N.Y. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Workers World, 147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl., New York, N.Y. 10011.

Join us in the fight for socialism!
**Urgent organizing to stop Rodney Reeds' execution**

By Gloria Rubac

Houston

The historic Kerr Community Center in Bastrop, Texas, was filled to the rafters on Sept. 21 as chants of “Free Rodney Reed!” echoed off the walls. Family, supporters, activists, prosecutors, attorneys and death row exonerates all spoke to the standing-room-only crowd about the science and the evidence that has proved Rodney Reed did not commit the murder for which he was sent to death row in 1998.

Nation of Islam Minister Robert L. Muhammad of Austin declared: “For over 20 years the Reed family has been asking for the truth to be heard. Test the DNA, find the truth and bring it out. We woke up today in a country, a state, a city where the history of injustice is written in blood. Whether it’s what happened to the Chinese when they were brought here, or the Africans when they were brought here, or the Indigenous people who were already here, or poor white people—we know and understand what injustice looks like. Now, we are demanding justice!”

Justice being denied

Reed, who is African American, was accused of murdering a young white woman he was having a relationship with, Stacey Stites. She was also engaged to a cop, Jimmy Fennell, who had said publicly that if Stites ever cheated on him he would strangle her with a belt. That is precisely how Stites was murdered. The same year Reed was convicted of Stites’ murder, Fennell pleaded guilty to raping a woman in his custody as a police officer, for which he spent ten years in prison.

Now the Bastrop County District Attorney has given Reed a Nov. 20 execution date — set just one day after the local newspaper ran a story about the Reed family protesting at the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington. This apparent retaliation angered Reed’s Innocence Project attorneys. They have filed a federal civil rights suit against the state of Texas because DNA testing has been repeatedly denied.

“We know DNA testing can secure evidence of innocence to support Reed’s claim, and the denial of such testing violates his constitutional rights,” said Bryce Bonet, one of Reed’s attorneys.

At the Sept. 21 rally three death row exonerates spoke from Witness To Innocence, an organization composed of and led by death row survivors and family memebers. “I have no doubt in my mind that Rodney is innocent!” said Gary Drinkard, who spent almost six years on Alabama’s death row before exoneration in 2001. Also speaking were Albert Burrell, who did 13 years at the infamous Angola State Penitentiary in Louisiana, and Ron Keine who was on death row in New Mexico for three years for a crime that a cop finally admitted to having committed.

A system ‘working just as designed’

During the two-hour rally, the audience hung on every word. From the children to the elders, emotions ranged from anger to inspiration to horror to commitment to love. Each talk educated the crowd that the criminal justice system has nothing to do with justice. The racism the system is based on affects everyone.

The highlighted guest of the evening was Texas exoneree Anthony Graves, who was freed in 2010. He reminded the audience that awaiting execution doesn’t just affect the people on the row: “Let’s talk about my mom. She was on Death Row with me for 18 ½ years and two execution dates. I watched as over 400 men went to their deaths, and some of them were innocent.

The event began with a performance “People talk about fixing a broken system, but it’s not broke. It’s working just as it was designed to work. But this system has never worked for us. Let’s talk about throwing the whole system out and creating one fair system that works for all of us.”

This past summer, Reed’s family began the Reed Justice Initiative, designed to spread information about the case, pressure public officials to recognize the frame-up of Reed and stop his execution. The initiative has rallied at the Texas Capitol, protested outside the governor’s mansion, demonstrated every day for a week at the DA’s office, and issued press statements on each of the three Texas executions in August and September. Noted activist and author of “Dead Man Walking,” Sister Helen Prejean, has taken up Reed’s case. There will be protests at the governor’s mansion daily from Sept. 30 through Oct. 4. Reed’s mother, Sandra Reed, ended the evening by telling everyone present that she loved them and thanked them for their support. “Our family has grown throughout the decades we’ve been fighting for my son because all of you are now our family.”

And Rodrick Reed, one of Reed’s five brothers, promised: “We are going to work every single day to free my brother. We only have 60 days left to stop his execution and we’re not stopping to rest.”

For more information, go to Reed Justice Initiative on Facebook and justice4rodneyreed.org. Mail letters of support to Rodney Reed #990927, Polunsky Unit, 3872 FM 350 South, Livingston, TX 77351.

---

Portland demands ICE off Greyhound buses!

The Portland branch of Workers World Party organized a protest Sept. 21 against Greyhound’s collaboration with Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Customs and Border Patrol. A crowd of several dozen people gathered on a corner in the city’s downtown, near Greyhound’s recently closed terminal and Amtrak’s Portland Union Station.

Activists and organizers from several groups, including Freedom Road Socialist Organization, the Portland Central America Solidarity Committee, the International League of People’s Struggles and Hands Off Venezuela PDX endorsed the event and turned out in support. Speakers denounced Greyhound’s complicity in the racist war on im/migrants and called for the closure of im/migrant concentration camps.

The lively crowd chanted and marched to Greyhound’s ticket office, handing a letter to those inside. The letter reiterated that the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1700, which represents Greyhound drivers, mechanics, terminal workers and other employees, has denounced ICE’s targeting of bus riders. Before the march, participants discussed ways to continue the struggle against ICE and the war on im/migrants.

---

**Sept. 16: Day Without Immigrants SF**

On Sept. 16, more than 3,000 im/migrants and their supporters gathered in San Francisco’s Mission District to demand “Close the Camps” and “Free the Children.” It was organized by a coalition, predominantly in the Latinx community, as “A Day Without Immigrants.”

The event began with a performance by Aztec dancers. Hundreds of students from local elementary and middle schools like Buena Vista/ Horace Mann and Cesar Chavez joined the gathering and helped lead the chants. “Si Se Puede” resonated loudly.

The march wound through the Mission District and stopped at City Hall where community activists spoke about the need to stand against the deportations and the attacks on migrants. Later, the coalition held a rally in front of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement office in downtown San Francisco. The coalition has future events planned to fight against attacks on migrants at the border. For more information check out their Facebook page at tinyurl.com/y2f6spd1.

---

Report and photo by Judy Greenspan
The strike of autoworkers at General Motors is just over a week old, but already the class lines are clear. At more than one location, pickets were injured by delivery drivers hurrying through the lines and into the plants. Police have harassed pickets, and in Spring Hill, Tenn., strikers were arrested after police asked them to move.

Almost immediately GM bosses took a hard-line against the striking workers, allegedly cutting off health insurance. Normally, health benefits would not be allowed to lapse until the end of the month, at which point if the strike is not settled the United Auto Workers union would pick up the costs.

GM’s shock-and-awe strategy left workers, some in the middle of medical treatments, wondering if they would be allowed to get the medications they needed. Normally, they would have been covered. Others were denied chemother- apy treatment or taken off lists for organ transplants. Pregnant workers were anxious as their due dates loomed.

The companies can put the pressure on the bosses, too. The strike is reportedly costing GM as much as $75 million a day. The rank and file want a contract that protects health benefits, keeps plants open, improves wages and bonuses, and gives “temporary” workers a path to permanent, full-time positions.

The company’s offer, made just hours before the Sept. 15 strike deadline, demands hourly workers pay thousands more a year for health care, offers nothing to temporary workers and actually increases the number of lower-paying jobs contracted to third parties or assigned to the GM Subsystems division.

Striking alongside GM work- ers at five plants are 850 janitors and maintenance workers, who are UAW members employed by Aramark. They do work that GM workers had performed before they were outsourced in 2007, but for little more than half what GM janitors had been paid. Only after five years do Aramark workers make as much as $15.18 an hour for dangerous work using high-pressure washers.

When they walked out, 24 hours before the GM strike started, their chant was “What do you want? Respect.” Aramark workers have struck without a contract for a year and a half.

Over the years GM, Ford and Fiat Chrysler Automobiles have vowed to rework contracts to benefit companies like Aramark. GM also created “GM Subsystems,” whose Brownsville, Mich., battery factory pays much lower wages than other GM plants.

In Lordstown, Ohio, GM wants to replace a recently closed assembly plant with a battery manufacturing facility run by an as-yet-to-be-called company a deal — perhaps a third party or GM Subsystems.

Solidarity all around

The strike has been successful in shut- ting down production at GM. As a result, a large percentage of GM’s Canadian work- ers, who are not on strike, have been laid off. Yet Canadian GM workers describe their widespread solidarity with strikers in the U.S. From Brazil, too, autoworkers have sent messages of support.

Dozens of Ford and FCA work- ers joined pickets Sept. 19 outside the Warren, Mich., transmission plant, which is nearly closed. On Sept. 22, after a power outage caused the union meeting to be unexpectedly cancelled, a delegation of Local 869 members, who work at FCA Warren Stamping, walked across the street to picket with Local 999 members outside the transmission plant.

Just hours into the strike, FCA workers at the Toledo, Ohio, deep assembly line organized a 400-strong car caravan that drove past the picket line and honored the pickets. The sound of sol- idarity honking continues non-stop, day and night at every picket line.

Ford and FCA workers know that if the strike wins a decent contract at GM, it will also mean better conditions at other major auto companies. Whatever gains with the GM strike, other au- toworkers could also find themselves on picket lines fighting companies that are just as profit-driven as GM.

Other unions are supporting the strike, joining for more than just the needs of UAW members. They see the growth of a temporary or part-time workforce throughout the econ- omy. They know their strike can impact the lives of all low-wage and contingent workers.

The critical fight to protect health care will be pushed for- ward if the strike wins, or it will be set back if it loses. Health Care for Profit means costs for pre- scriptions, hospital stays, insur- ance, etc., could rise to whatever the market will bear. Instead of demanding lower prices from fellow-capitalist medical prof- iters, the auto barons want workers to pay more for medical care — much more.

Workers reach beyond autoworkers

In taking on GM, autoworkers are fight- ing for more than just the needs of UAW members. They see the growth of a temporary or part-time workforce throughout the econ- omy. They know their strike can impact the lives of all low-wage and contingent workers.

The critical fight to protect health care will be pushed for- ward if the strike wins, or it will be set back if it loses. Health Care for Profit means costs for pre- scriptions, hospital stays, insur- ance, etc., could rise to whatever the market will bear. Instead of demanding lower prices from fellow-capitalist medical prof- iters, the auto barons want workers to pay more for medical care — much more.

“As a hospital RN in one of the larg- est managed care corporations that pay for our work, GM — whose CEO Mary Barra’s sal- ary was $32 million last year — wants to maintain the system of tiered wages, with ‘traditional’ (first tier), ‘in progression’ (second tier) and ‘temporary’ (third tier) all working side by side doing the same work for different wages. GM uses tiers to foster differences among the workers, with the end goal of making all the work- ers lower tier.

What GM just paid out in quarterly shareholder dividends — over half a bil- lion dollars — is double what it claims to pay quarterly for health care benefits.

This first strike against an auto com- pany since 2007 is the biggest strike in the country in 12 years; nearly 50,000 workers are out. This worker action is not happening in a vacuum. Since the mili- tant 2018 West Virginia teachers strike, the number of strikes countrywide has risen dramatically.

The growing number of strikes shows that the working class is fed up with capitalist greed. Polls show support for unions is at a high of 60 percent, even though only 10 percent of U.S. workers have the benefit of union representation.

The stakes are high, and the battle lines are drawn. Which side are you on?
Philadelphia march to free Mumia.

“Here’s another example of why Mumia should be home,” MOVE Organization’s Minister of Confrontation Janet Africa explained.

In response to latest Mumia appeal

Philly cops lash out at district attorney

By Ted Kelly

Philadelphia

In the face of mounting legal victories and an energized movement in the streets to free Mumia Abu-Jamal, the Philadelphia Fraternal Order of Police is now attacking District Attorney Larry Krasner, calling to challenge a request by Abu-Jamal’s attorneys for a new evidentiary hearing. Maureen Faulkner, widow of slain police officer Daniel Faulkner, has been a vocal critic of Krasner, despite his initial efforts to help her perpetuate Abu-Jamal’s acquittal.

Maureen Faulkner has been featured on the regular cop-friendly local media outlets calling for Krasner to rescind his decision to release Abu-Jamal. The policewoman who spoke in Faulkner’s name filed a petition with the Pennsylvania Superior Court to unseal the卷宗 from the case and replaced by conservative Pennsylvania Attorney General Josh Shapiro. The complaint alleges that Krasner has not been sufficiently supported by the courts in late 2018. The FOP is angry with Krasner for

giving in to massive pressure to withdraw his initial opposition, earlier in 2019, to Abu-Jamal’s appeal moving forward in Pennsylvania’s higher courts. His latest acquiescence to the request by Abu-Jamal’s attorneys that newly uncovered evidence is grounds for the case to be sent back to Philadelphia Common Pleas Court may be the final straw as far as the FOP is concerned. (Read accompanying article.)

Maureen Faulkner, claiming “victim’s rights” under state legislation that has yet to be passed, filed a petition Aug. 18 to have Krasner replaced by Pennsylvania AG Shapiro “in criminal actions in which there is an appeal.” She alleges that the lack of “finally” in this case has caused trauma for her.

Faulkner bases her petition largely on unfounded claims that DA Krasner and attorneys in his office had some connection with Abu-Jamal’s case in the past. It specifically mentions Krasner’s traffic case, now Judge Lisa Rau, and Jody Dodd, a former paralegal in Krasner’s law practice. In attacking lawyers whose firms had some prior connection with Abu-Jamal’s case, Faulkner is continuing a pattern of intimidation carried out by the FOP against progressive attorneys. Faulkner also ludicrously claims that Dodd was the former “leader of the International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal” — move on Pam Africa.

Despite living in California, Faulkner is often flown to Philadelphia to make the rounds on television and radio to parrot FOP talking points and has only lobbied for Mumia’s execution or permanent imprisonment without appeal. If she were truly concerned about justice for her late spouse, she would join the call for a retrial and the immediate release of Abu-Jamal who was clearly framed for the crime. The movement also won a huge victory in September when Mumia, who suffers from severe health problems due to the toxic and deadly conditions of US prisons, was finally allowed to have cataract surgery. His eyehope had become so bad that Mumia said he was functionally blind before surgery.

MOVE 9 members released

This new phase of the battle to release Mumia comes on the heels of the release in recent years of five members of the MOVE 9, a group of Black radicals who helped Mumia were freed from prison. The last person to be a murderer of a police officer. Michael, Debbie, Janet, Janine, and Eddie Africa have all walked free after over 40 years of false imprisonment.

“If they deal with this issue honestly, they’ll have to release [Mumia] because they know what they did was wrong,” said Eddie Africa.}

Janine Africa also commented “I just got released from prison after 41 years in Mumia said this year to bring Mumia home so he can be taken care of and get proper medical care, and he don’t deserve to be in jail from the very beginning.”

Basyun Hassan, Philadelphia political activist, said “The district attorney clearly violated Mumia’s constitutional rights by withholding clear evidence that should have been exposed from the beginning. Throughout the entire process of Mumia’s approaching the scene up to today’s current developments, the law has not been applied as it was created — to get to the truth of the matter. Hopefully, Mumia will get a retrial and the truth will finally get told. We wait to hear him from hell.”

This historic new phase in Mumia’s legal defense must be joined by a mobilization in the streets that is equally unparalleled. At a time when Mumia’s health is under such threat, when legal proof of his innocence is so clearly outlined, renowned international pressure is needed more than ever.

The release of Mumia Abu-Jamal would be a symbol of victory to the entire nation, a symbol of what the workers of the U.S. are capable of achieving. Reverberations would not only impact Philadelphia but every U.S. city. It would be a well-deserved rebuke to every racist cop in this country, to the neo-fascist warmongers in the White House and indeed to the entire system of capitalism dominated by white supremacy.

Free Mumia, Free Delbert and Chuck Africa. Free All Prisoners! Close the camps, close the prisons! ✱

The fight to free Mumia enters historic new phase

By Ted Kelly

For decades, the movement to release African-American political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal has been on the front lines in the fight against white supremacy and capitalist mismanagement. Generations of new revolutionaries have grown up in this struggle, and Mumia’s longtime supporters have in turn become their leaders as the most erudite and seasoned organizers of the progressive movement. Now in 2019, thanks to these activists and this historic new phase of the struggle has begun.

Abu-Jamal’s legal team filed new briefs this month as part of recently won appeals. They are now attacking Krasner, despite his initial efforts to help her perpetuate Abu-Jamal’s acquittal.

Maureen Faulkner, claiming “victim’s rights” under state legislation that has yet to be passed, filed a petition Aug. 18 to have Krasner replaced by Pennsylvania AG Shapiro “in criminal actions in which there is an appeal.” The complaint alleges that Krasner has not been sufficiently supported by the courts in late 2018. The FOP is angry with Krasner for

giving in to massive pressure to withdraw his initial opposition, earlier in 2019, to Abu-Jamal’s appeal moving forward in Pennsylvania’s higher courts. His latest acquiescence to the request by Abu-Jamal’s attorneys that newly uncovered evidence is grounds for the case to be sent back to Philadelphia Common Pleas Court may be the final straw as far as the FOP is concerned. (Read accompanying article.)

Maureen Faulkner, claiming “victim’s rights” under state legislation that has yet to be passed, filed a petition Aug. 18 to have Krasner replaced by Pennsylvania AG Shapiro “in criminal actions in which there is an appeal.” She alleges that the lack of “finally” in this case has caused trauma for her.

Faulkner bases her petition largely on unfounded claims that DA Krasner and attorneys in his office had some connection with Abu-Jamal’s case in the past. It specifically mentions Krasner’s traffic case, now Judge Lisa Rau, and Jody Dodd, a former paralegal in Krasner’s law practice. In attacking lawyers whose firms had some prior connection with Abu-Jamal’s case, Faulkner is continuing a pattern of intimidation carried out by the FOP against progressive attorneys. Faulkner also ludicrously claims that Dodd was the former “leader of the International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal” — move on Pam Africa.

Despite living in California, Faulkner is often flown to Philadelphia to make the rounds on television and radio to parrot FOP talking points and has only lobbied for Mumia’s execution or permanent imprisonment without appeal. If she were truly concerned about justice for her late spouse, she would join the call for a retrial and the immediate release of Abu-Jamal who was clearly framed for the crime.

The movement also won a huge victory in September when Mumia, who suffers from severe health problems due to the toxic and deadly conditions of US prisons, was finally allowed to have cataract surgery. His eyehope had become so bad that Mumia said he was functionally blind before surgery.

MOVE 9 members released

This new phase of the battle to release Mumia comes on the heels of the release in recent years of five members of the MOVE 9, a group of Black radicals who helped Mumia were freed from prison. The last person to be a murderer of a police officer. Michael, Debbie, Janet, Janine, and Eddie Africa have all walked free after over 40 years of false imprisonment.

“If they deal with this issue honestly, they’ll have to release [Mumia] because they know what they did was wrong,” said Eddie Africa.}

Janine Africa also commented “I just got released from prison after 41 years in Mumia said this year to bring Mumia home so he can be taken care of and get proper medical care, and he don’t deserve to be in jail from the very beginning.”

Basyun Hassan, Philadelphia political activist, said “The district attorney clearly violated Mumia’s constitutional rights by withholding clear evidence that should have been exposed from the beginning. Throughout the entire process of Mumia’s approaching the scene up to today’s current developments, the law has not been applied as it was created — to get to the truth of the matter. Hopefully, Mumia will get a retrial and the truth will finally get told. We wait to hear him from hell.”

This historic new phase in Mumia’s legal defense must be joined by a mobilization in the streets that is equally unparalleled. At a time when Mumia’s health is under such threat, when legal proof of his innocence is so clearly outlined, renowned international pressure is needed more than ever.

The release of Mumia Abu-Jamal would be a symbol of victory to the entire nation, a symbol of what the workers of the U.S. are capable of achieving. Reverberations would not only impact Philadelphia but every U.S. city. It would be a well-deserved rebuke to every racist cop in this country, to the neo-fascist warmongers in the White House and indeed to the entire system of capitalism dominated by white supremacy.

Free Mumia, Free Delbert and Chuck Africa. Free All Prisoners! Close the camps, close the prisons! ✱
**Indonesian fires threaten millions**

By G. Dunkel

Over the past few months, fires have destroyed millions of acres of rainforest in Brazil’s Amazon region, normally one of the wettest areas in the world, as well as in Indonesia, which has been immersed in the world capitalist economy since the U.S. covertly engineered a military coup there in 1965 that massacred up to 3 million progressives. (See “Indonesia: the Second Greatest Crime of the Century,” workers.org/books.)

Two of the oldest areas of the world, Siberia and Alaska, have also endured massive wildfires. The cloud of smoke generated by Siberian fires this summer covered an area larger than all the European Union countries combined. (BBC, Aug. 14) Siberia and Alaska suffered from an extreme heatwave due to global warming, which has dried out the forests and made them vulnerable to lightning strikes. The Tribal Alliance of Territorial Communities, an international coalition of Indigenous leaders, is meeting in New York during the United Nations climate summit to call attention to the destruction of their lands, to confront climate change and to demand protection for the environment. They also contributed a large contingent to New York’s climate strike march on Sept. 20.

**Indonesian fires made in U.S.**

Palm oil is an essential ingredient in all sorts of consumer products, from infant formula to potato chips to shampoo and toothpaste. Much of the menu items and freezing processes in fast food restaurants involve palm oil. Major U.S. corporate consumers, including Mars and PepsiCo, have committed to buying palm oil from “responsible” companies. But Greenpeace has debunked their claims. (“The global demand for palm oil is choking the fires in Indonesia,” qz.com, Sept. 18)

Palm oil is also used to produce biodiesel fuel for trucks. In response to pressure from environmentalists, laws have been passed in the U.S. encouraging the use of biofuels in trucks and cars in an attempt to replace gasoline and diesel. But the way most biofuels are produced doubles the greenhouse effects of conventional fuels. (New York Times Magazine, Nov. 20, 2018)

Once the existing trees have been cut and removed — generally by burning — this peat land creates very good conditions for palm nut trees. When the trees are harvested, they are cut down and burned. More are planted until the soil is no longer productive.

Even though setting fires to clear land is restricted in Indonesia, more than 350,000 fires have been counted this season. (NBC News, Sept. 19) Given that the weather has been unusually warm and dry, the peat land — the earth itself — has caught fire and is burning, sometimes for months, producing a very distinctive smoke and fine particles that can cause tremendous distress. This smoke has spread throughout Southeast Asia, shutting schools and clogging lungs not only in Indonesia (population 255 million) but also in Singapore (5.6 million), Malaysia (31 million) and Vietnam (96 million).

The smoke from the fires in Indonesia is what the U.S. media have focused on. Based on previous fire seasons, the World Bank is predicting the direct costs to the Indonesian economy will add up to around $1.5 billion.

The whole ecology of Indonesia has been distorted and devastated in the service of U.S. imperialist interests — from fast food to biofuels and all the other consumer products that use palm oil. While mineral-based fuels are still Indonesia’s largest export, the category that includes palm oil is the second-largest and has much more impact. If Indonesia stopped producing palm oil, the whole world would notice.

But it can’t stop — because U.S. corporations call the shots.

---

**continued page 2**

**Creative handmade signs read:** “There is no planet B,” “Let the youth be heard,” “We can’t save the world by playing by the rules,” “You’ll die of old age, I’ll die from climate change.” And many said, “System change, not climate change.”

Fifteen-year-old A.J. Connermann, marching in Washington, D.C., put it simply: “I want to grow up. I want to have a future.” Also 15-year-old Marie Lou Sahi, a skipped school in Paris to participate because “The only way to make people listen is to protest.” (AP, Sept. 21) Isha Venturi, a 15-year-old student at the protest in New York, said, “No matter how many times they try to ignore the issue, you can see every teenager in the area is here. We’re not going to put up with this. We’re not just going to allow it.”

Thunberg is expected to participate in a U.N. Youth Climate Summit on Sept. 21 and speak at the U.N. Climate Action Summit with global leadership on Sept. 23. Thunberg addressed the U.S. Congress on Sept. 18.

**Environmental struggle has evolved**

The energy and diversity of this fledgling movement should not be underestimated. This is not your parents’ environmental movement.

Traditional leadership in the environmental movement has tried to contain it, limiting demands and making it more about “individual choices” over what foods to eat and what products to buy. Yet the barrage of recent climate disasters and reports of rapid climate destruction have clearly prodded millions ahead of those who would seek to contain and control it.

Speaking at a rally in Williamsburg, Mass., 16-year-old Ruth Weaver addressed this. Resounding cheers she said, “Switching to a diva cup or buying a metal straw isn’t going to stop this.” The real planet killers at work here are the corporations, toxic waste dumped into water, trees cut, and water contaminated with lead. … This is not our fault but now it is our responsibility to take on these corporations.

Anti-capitalist and pro-socialist slogans could be seen at many actions in cities across the U.S. Recognition that capitalism is at the root of the crisis and has no answer to solve it was evident, along with the understanding that socialist countries — Cuba, China and others — are offering up solutions.

At the Lower Manhattan rally, Workers World Party had a large, well-received banner that read: “System Change, Not Climate Change — Stop Capitalist Pollution with Socialist Revolution.” Signs seen at other protests included: “Our planet is choked by environmental racism,” “Save the planet, end capitalism,” and “It’s capitalism, not straws.” Youth were also open to the teachings of Marx, Lenin, Rosa Luxemburg, Malcolm X and other revolutionary thinkers.

Thousands of Portland, Ore., students packed the streets in a march that stretched nearly a mile. Some signs they carried read: “Don’t track with Mother Nature,” “The solution to pollution is revolution.” “If you don’t act like adults, we will,” “There will be no solution under capitalism” and “Don’t burn my future.”

**Reparations for climate refugees**

The wide diversity of protesters, including ethnicity and nationality, was also evident. While young people were clearly the majority, the age range of demonstrators ran from under 8 to over 80. Participants included Indigenous peoples whose land has been colonized and ravaged by capitalism. In several cities speakers acknowledged their right to reparations for the climate refugees.

**Tribal Alliance of Territorial Communities marches Sept. 20 in New York City.**
The climate crisis is a working-class issue—and the working class has the power to stop it!

This statement was distributed at climate strike actions by the International Workers’ Solidarity Network.

We’re all angry. All of us at these actions worldwide know our future depends on dealing with climate change. The conversation that matters now is: Who is responsible for it—and who can fix it?

Here and abroad, the impact falls disproportionately on the most oppressed: communities of color, especially Indigenous peoples, people with disabilities, women and gender-oppressed, the LGBTQ2S+ community and youth. Most of us are workers, including youth and students. The wild weather patterns and unnatural disasters leave their heaviest mark on us.

Can capitalism fix the problems it creates?

Some in the climate movement simply put the blame on “human activity” without putting it squarely on big oil, big coal, the auto industry, utility firms and the banks they borrow from—or the world’s biggest polluters, the Pentagon.

And some would even suggest that appealing to the profit motive—convinving capitalists that weaning themselves off fossil fuels is good for business or subjecting them to “climate pricing”—can solve the crisis. That’s naive thinking.

Capitalists caused global warming and they can hardly be trusted to reverse it. They calculate short-term profit more or less without regard for the huge carbon footprint their profit-taking actions are leaving. Only they have the means to escape the consequences.

Working-class solidarity to save the environment

Environmental activists, mostly youth, have called for “climate strikes” Sept. 20 and 27. This is a real step forward. Strikes have won higher wages, pensions, union recognition and the like. But there are also political strikes, such as May Day 2006 when millions of imm/migrants and their supporters forced the defeat of an anti-immigrant bill in Congress.

Let’s keep the climate strike conversation alive beyond Sept. 20–27—not just in schools but on the job, in unions, in our communities. And we need to fight environmental racism, defend Indigenous land claims and demand self-determination for oppressed nations suffering the heaviest impacts.

The climate crisis is a working-class issue. We understand this. That’s why several New York City labor organizations are urging union members to support the climate strike. That’s why Amazon workers are walking out to protest the way the company has contributed to the climate crisis.

We have the power to protect life on the planet. Nothing moves without us! And mass actions are what bring real change.

“Unnatural Disasters” Workers World articles on the climate crisis, 2001–12 Available at tinyurl.com/y5y6nhwh/
Astronomical imperialism!

By Janet Mayes

On the 50th anniversary of the first U.S. land

ship for future mining, strategic U.S. military bases

NASA hails “the latest opportunity for industry to

transformation of the approach to space; establish the U.S.

transform our approach to space; establish the U.S.

“Star Wars” creator George Lukas’ mind. It is real.

the moon, there was intensified hoopla about

While corporations scheme to gain riches, the

also thanked its members and their families as well as other unions. But

The Pentagon’s militarization of space is intensifying to pro-

The Pentagon’s stated goals are to: “Fundamentally

In 2018, Commander in Chief, President Donald Trump

forces to develop joint war fighters to ... operate in the space domain.”

The world’s richest billionaires are in on the space

Astronomical imperialism!

Some 30,000 grocery workers who were preparing to

Apart from the recent strike, members of the Food and Commercial Workers

Northwest UFCW workers call boycott of Fred Meyer stores

Local 555 of the Food and Commercial Workers

Local 555 President Dan Clay said in a statement: “We call on our communities to make sure Kroger and Fred Meyer understand our Northwest values of decency, dignity, and respect by shopping elsewhere until our members are treated in accordance with those values.”

Near dusk of bargaining is scheduled for Sept. 26-27, (uwcfw555.org, Sept. 22) Stay tuned.

8,500 nurses strike for better patient care

Some 6,500 National Nurses United members at 12 Tenet Healthcare hospitals in California, Arizona and Florida went on a 24-hour strike Sept. 20. They were joined by more than 2,000 NNU members who walked out of the University of Chicago Medical Center that day. The NNU is demanding better patient care, based on safer and effective nurse-patient ratios, as well as higher pay and other improvements in working condi-

Fight Trump policy changes threatening migrant farmworkers

Trump’s Department of Labor is trying to force through catastrophic regula-

Kaiser Permanente workers — emergency medical

Fight Trump policy changes threatening migrant farmworkers

Some 80,000 Kaiser Permanente workers — emergency medical

Fight Trump policy changes threatening migrant farmworkers

Kaiser Permanente workers — emergency medical

Northern California health care workers are planning to conduct a mass sit-in rally outside the Kaiser Permanente Medical Center in Redwood City, Calif. on Friday, March 17, 2017. The rally is part of a nationwide day of action calling on the company to issue a moratorium on efforts to outsource thousands of union jobs, including nurses, and to improve working conditions. The rally will be held in Redwood City, a Kaiser facility, as part of a larger day of action across the country calling for an end to outsourcing, the end of wage theft, and the protection of jobs. (Photo by D. Ross Cameron)
Sept. 11, 2019.

Hong Kong: Make colonialism great again

A special issue of WW workers.org
Sept. 26, 2019    Page 9

By Fred Goldstein

Posted to low-wagecapitalism.com on Sept. 11, 2019.

Hong Kong mirrored what the new Chinese political system in Hong Kong. The PRC made clear that they had abandoned the attempt to get out from under the shadow of the PLA to take Hong Kong, and it would not take much more than a day. But he did not do that. Why? Because China was a vast and impoverished country. Before the revolution, China was known as the land of hunger. Famines took the lives of hundreds of thousands and sometimes millions of people because of overrule food and the lack of transportation.

The revolution solved that problem with massive land redistribution. The PLA was supreme on mainland China. From a military point of view, the imperialist puppet Nationalist government was not able to defend itself after separating from their families.

They have called for aid from a president who has called for Muslims to be killed and rape women. They have embraced a vile racist who has called millions of people living in booths at fast food places. Their goal is to embarrass the PRC on the 70th anniversary of the revolution.

Despite all the claims in the capital of Hong Kong, they have taken much more than a day. But he did not do that. Why? Because China was a vast and impoverished country. Before the revolution, China was known as the land of hunger. Famines took the lives of hundreds of thousands and sometimes millions of people because of overrule food and the lack of transportation.

The revolution solved that problem with massive land redistribution. The PLA was supreme on mainland China. From a military point of view, the imperialist puppet Nationalist government was not able to defend itself after separating from their families.

They have called for aid from a president who has called for Muslims to be killed and rape women. They have embraced a vile racist who has called millions of people living in booths at fast food places. Their goal is to embarrass the PRC on the 70th anniversary of the revolution.

Despite all the claims in the capital of Hong Kong, they have taken much more than a day. But he did not do that. Why? Because China was a vast and impoverished country. Before the revolution, China was known as the land of hunger. Famines took the lives of hundreds of thousands and sometimes millions of people because of overrule food and the lack of transportation.

The revolution solved that problem with massive land redistribution. The PLA was supreme on mainland China. From a military point of view, the imperialist puppet Nationalist government was not able to defend itself after separating from their families.

They have called for aid from a president who has called for Muslims to be killed and rape women. They have embraced a vile racist who has called millions of people living in booths at fast food places. Their goal is to embarrass the PRC on the 70th anniversary of the revolution.
Being homeless is not a crime

Rather than making a futile attempt to rationalize any of Trump’s horrifying, irrational views, our time is better spent in political action and solidarity. For, like most bourgeois politi- cians, Trump likes to point a finger of blame for this or that issue at other individuals, including victims, instead of at the system that puts profits before meet- ing human needs.

One example is Trump’s Sept. 17 statement on the homeless situation in California, especially Los Angeles and San Francisco. He said: “We can’t let Los Angeles, San Francisco and numerous other cities destroy themselves by allow- ing what’s happening.” He described the homeless situation there as “disgust- ing,” “disgraceful” and “a disgrace to our country” and threatened: “We’ll be doing something about it.” (USA Today, Sept. 17) Trump also stated that home- less people are making the police “sick.” (Washington Post, Sept. 17)

Trump made some of these demonizing comments en route to California to host several fundraisers where tens of mil- lions of dollars were raised for his elec- tion campaign. Trump was targeting local Democratic administrations in Los Angeles and San Francisco as responsible for “the homeless crisis” in hopes of giving his reelection campaign a shot in the arm. He lost the vote in those two cities in 2016.

The problem is that the causes of homelessness—economic hardship, the rising cost of housing, poverty and the impossibility of reaching an agree- ment and minimized the role of the [role of the] public in addressing the housing crisis. This is a position within a scenario marked by three recent events that indi- cate the advance of groups that seek to employ violence to turn the correlation of forces in their favor.

The first event was the [Venezuelan] government’s denunciation of the threat of a Latin-flag section formed from Colombia to provoke an accelerated escalation of confrontations. The sec- ond was the activation [in a meeting of the Organization of American States] of the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance (TIAR). This will be debated among the foreign ministers of the signa- tories during the United Nations General Assembly sessions [the last week of September]. The third was the new con- firmation of Guaidó’s links with sectors of Colombian paramilitaries through photo- graphs and testimonies.

Within this framework, the response of the United States was twofold. First, the Treasury Department announced new sanctions against 16 companies linked to Venezuela. Second, the Senate Banking Committee issued a statement accus- ing the Venezuelan government of being responsible for the failure of the talks, affirmed that it will not remove the block- ade until Maduro leaves the presidency, and underlined the invocation of TIAR to “facilitate more collective actions.”

With its new scenario, the government has taken a step in agreement with some opposition sectors, which were immediately called traitors by the other right-wing forces.

Venezuela

Pact signed with sections of opposition

By Marco Teruggi

Excerpts from article first published in page 13 of the Worker's World English Language, Sept 19, Translation by John Catlinotto.

The Venezuelan government and a sec- tor of its opposition signed a five-point agreement and established the National Dialogue Table on Sept. 16. The event marked a new stage in the con- flict that happened while the negotiations mediated by Norway had been frozen. The general reaction to the broadcast scenes of the meeting was favorable. This de- velopment had been unforeseen in the previ- ously expected scenario in this conflict.

In the last few hours [of discussions], the first step forward was the removal within the framework of the pact. Edgar Zambrano, the vice president and deputy of the National Assembly and a member of the [opposition] Acción Democrática party, was released from prison. He had been arrested for participating in the abor- tive coup attempt of April 30, Zambrano must appear before a judge every 30 days.

The [Venezuelan] government was taking a step in agreement with certain opposition sectors, Chavismo showed no internal differences in what it presented as a central achievement in the midst of an escalation [against President Nicolás Maduro] on several fronts – mainly in diplomacy and on the Colombian border.

Four political formations ratified and defended the agreement before the cam- eras: the [anti-Maduro grouping] MAS, Cambios, Soluciones para Venezuela and Oposición Unida. The opposition forces that are considered the majority, such as Voluntad Popular, were also joined by Javier Bertucci, a for- mer opposition deputy [from the [opposi- tion] groups Primero Justicia, Acción Democrática and Un Nuevo Tiempo rejected the agreement the others signed. Javier Bertucci, former opposition deputy and National Assembly, gave a statement at the same time as the televised signing of the agree- ment. He ended the dialogue session ini- tiated and mediated by Norway, first in Oslo, then in Barbados. Guaidó blamed the [Venezuelan] government for the impossibility of reaching an agree- ment and minimized the role of the [opposition] signatories, ruling out that this could be a possible solution.

The five points of the agreement — still to be developed — were: reincorpora- tion of Chavistas deputies to the National Assembly [this body was declared in con- tempt by the Supreme Court]; and forma- tion of a National Electoral Council (CNE), which would work with the justice system to address the situation of impris- oned or arrested opposites as well as threats of them in permissible cases. Also, re- jection of U.S. economic sanctions; defense of Guyana Esequiel (territory in interna- tional law); and the agreement on the implementation of an oil-for-food program.

Agreement rejects blockade

Therefore, the installation of the National Dialogue Table gives a glimpse of the possibility of an exit from the cur- rent crisis through an election. The cen- tral question would be the renewal of the power, shown by the legislature’s situa- tion and by the joint rejection of the inter- national blockade that impedes economic recovery and normalization.

The negotiation points show a differ- ence with the approach taken by opposi- tion sectors which were absent from the talks. These sectors have defended the need for continued U.S. sanctions aimed at forcing the government to negoti- ate from an unfavorable position. They have also opposed any resolution that omits the departure of Nicolás Maduro as its starting point — before even hold- ing presidential elections in which, they insist, Maduro should not participate.

Those positions are not homogeneous among the opposition groups. Political forces such as Acción Democrática have expressed that they want to favor the electoral scenario, even though they are not signers of the new agreement. Other opposition forces have maintained that no exit exists from the U.S. sanctions box is feasible and the conflict must be resolved by force.

The process is making progress on the announced points, the signed agreement seemingly aims to attract those sectors that oppose a violent exit requiring for- eign intervention. Those sectors could agree on an intermediate position.

The issue of a peaceful, national reso- lution of the conflict was underlined in the agreement and in subsequent statements.
U.S. sends troops to Gulf region, threatens new war

Continued from page 1

with Iran, as well as imposing economic sanctions and sending warships — and now troops — to the Gulf region. These steps raise the probability of a cataclysmic war in Southwest Asia.

While such a war would greatly harm Iran and its people, it’s country is much stronger than Iraq was when attacked by the U.S. in 2003. Iraq today has 80 million people, compared to Iraq’s 25 million at that time. The Iranian government has much greater support from its people, has a better armed and motivated military, and has allied forces in many neighboring countries. Taking this into account, another “undeniable” U.S. aggression in the region would cost much more in lives and wealth than the 2003-11 U.S. war against Iraq.

The inability of the Saudi military to stop the missile attack last week, however, came from, shows that the Saudi oil industry and the reactionary Saudi monarchy itself are vulnerable to collapse.

That same Saudi monarchy has interceded for the past four years in a civil war in Yemen, killing thousands of Yemenis with U.S.-supplied bombs and jets. This U.S.-backed Saudi war has brought millions of Yemenis to the edge of famine, creating a humanitarian disaster among Yemen’s 30 million people. Despite the high-tech Saudi arms, the opposing side in Yemen, Ansar Allah, also called the Houthis, has fought the Saudi army to a standstill.

Yemenis say they did it

The Houthis say they carried out the attack using drones. The Houthis also said they would end the offensive in the event of a political solution. The Houthis described the offensive as “a matter of personal honor for the Houthis, and it is a matter of great shame for me that a Jewish state has been formed in the land of the two holy places.”

The Houthis issued a statement through the Houthi Media Center on Sept. 23, in which they said they would end the offensive in the event of a political solution. The Houthis described the offensive as “a matter of personal honor for the Houthis, and it is a matter of great shame for me that a Jewish state has been formed in the land of the two holy places.”

U.S.制裁津巴布韦

The Brooklyn-based December 12 Movement and Friends of Zimbabwe organized a march from 53rd Street and Lexington Avenue to the United Nations on Sept. 21 and demanded an end to the deadly economic sanctions imposed by the United States on Zimbabwe in southern Africa. The organizers repeatedly chanted “Sanctions kill.”

The sanctions, which are an act of war, have created tremendous hardships for the Zimbabwean people since the early 2000s. Hardships increased due to severe droughts due to climate change. Sanctions were implemented in an attempt to push out of office the late President Robert Mugabe, who ushered in a radical land redistribution program to return land back to war veterans who fought a heroic guerrilla struggle against the racist, colonialist regime of Ian Smith. This struggle resulted in Britain having to compensate white farmers, who illegally occupied and profited from the land for many decades to enrich their coffers.

Once the march reached Dag Hammarskjold Plaza at the U.N., the protesters joined forces with a rally calling for the independence of Puerto Rico, a colony super-exploited by the U.S.

liftus sanctions on Zimbabwe

By Kathy Durkin

Hundreds of authors have publicly denounced the revocation of a German literary prize, the Nelly Sachs Award, from the British writer Kamila Shamsie because of her support for the pro-Palestinian Boycott, Divest and Sanctions campaign.

An open letter entitled “The Right to Boycott,” published Sept. 23 in the London Review of Books, lists over 300 prominent writers who back Shamsie and assert that the prize’s judges are punishing “an author for her human rights advocacy.” (Text and full list of signers: tinyurl.com/y6t4tgqn) Over 100 authors signed the letter immediately after it was disseminated by Ahdaf Soueif and Omar Robert Howaidy, co-founders of the Palestinian Festival of Literature.

It is “a matter of outrage,” stressed Shamsie, referring to the rescinding of the honor by the board of Dortmund. Judges blatantly stated their reason for withdrawing the award on Sept. 18: Shamsie’s pro-Palestinian activism, especially her support for the BDS movement, directed at the Israeli state.

The eight-member jury gave Shamsie the award “for her outstanding literary work” which “builds bridges between societies” on June 28. She was born and grew up in Karachi, Pakistan, before moving to London, is a highly acclaimed writer, and won the Women’s Prize for Fiction 2012 and was longlisted for the Booker Prize in 2017.

The Nelly Sachs prize is named for a German-Jewish Nobel Laureate poet and is given to writers promoting “tolerance and reconciliation.” Except, apparently, when it involves supporters of the Palestinian people. In addition to stripping Shamsie of the book prize due to her principled activism, the Dortmund judges refused to publish her recent novel, “Home,” and issued the news release announcing the award’s revocation, although she requested they do so.

Support the BDS movement!

In her statement, Shamsie asserted: “It is a matter of great sadness to me that a Jewish state should bow to pressure and withdraw a prize from a writer who is exercising her freedom of conscience and expression.”

The Trump administration and the Palestinian government rejects Washington’s charge, saying it was not responsible for the attack. Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif also said that any U.S. or Saudi military attack against his country would result in an all-out war. “I am making a very serious warning that if you want war, don’t want to engage in a military confrontation. ... But we won’t blink to defend our territories,” Zarif told CNN on Sept. 19.

Zarif’s comments expose the double-edged nature of U.S. aggression. Wherever the Pentagon deploys troops in the Gulf region, these U.S. forces are not only a threat but also a target. Forces allied to Iran in Yemen, Iraq, Lebanon and Syria, for example, are far closer to U.S. bases. Any war against Iran would leave tens of thousands of U.S. troops on bases in the region vulnerable to attack, as well as Saudi oil.

The Trump administration and the Pentagon know that an attempt to carry out a limited air strike against Iranian targets could lead to a war in which they don’t control the escalation or the outcome. It should be remembered that U.S. forces invaded a nearly helpless Afghanistan in 2001 and occupied that country with as many as 100,000 troops and mercenaries. The result? The U.S. military is still seemingly unable to leave that country 18 years later, and the people’s suffering continues.

By withdrawing from the treaty, signed by the Obama administration in 2010, which restricted Iran’s potential development of nuclear weapons, the Trump regime has created today’s extreme and dangerous situation. It is important for anti-imperialist forces in the United States to continue to point out that Washington is ready and able to do everything possible to stop a new war in the region.

“Lift U.S. sanctions on Zimbabwe”

President Robert Mugabe, who ushered in a radical land redistribution program to return land back to war veterans who fought a heroic guerrilla struggle against the racist, colonialist regime of Ian Smith. This struggle resulted in Britain having to compensate white farmers, who illegally occupied and profited from the land for many decades to enrich their coffers.

Once the march reached Dag Hammarskjold Plaza at the U.N., the protesters joined forces with a rally calling for the independence of Puerto Rico, a colony super-exploited by the U.S.
Reforestación: Cuba lidera el camino

Por Stephanie Hedgecoke

Antes de 1492, lo que hoy es Estados Unidos tenía alrededor de mil millones de árboles de bosques. Desde 1600 en adelante, cerca de diez mil millones fueron destruidos. En una carta de 1763, Benjamin Franklin escribió: "La tierra despejada aún está más calor y derrite la nieve más rápido".

Debido al colonialismo y al crecimiento de las corporaciones extractivas capitalistas, los bosques que anteriormente reducían el carbón fueron diezmados. Esta deforestación es parte de la crisis del calentamiento global, además del aumento del dióxido de carbono en la atmósfera. El mundo necesita reforestación.

Cuba lo está haciendo!

La reforestación cubana comenzó en la región de la Sierra del Rosario en 1968; Con el apoyo del gobierno revolucionario, los aldeanos comenzaron un plan. El área había sido despojada durante la colonización española, más de 400 años desde 1492 hasta 1898. Los invasores talaron el bosque original para criar ganado y establecer plantaciones. Los árboles indígenas (cetro, abaco, mazaa y otros) ya no crecían allí. A mediados de 1890, el suelo estaba degradado; La deforestación continuó hasta principios de 1900 para el pastoreo de ganado y la cría de cerdos. La población rural empobrecida trabajaba para los ganaderos o quemaba árboles para hacer carbón. En el momento de la Revolución Cubana en 1959, no quedaba nada más que palmeras aisladas.

La Cuba socialista vio la necesidad de implementar proyectos sociales y económicos en las zonas rurales. El Plan Sierra del Rosario fue uno de esos proyectos. El plan de reforestación, lanzado junto con el establecimiento de servicios comunitarios, mejoraría la calidad del suelo y proporcionaría un trabajo importante para las personas en el área.

Fundada en 1971, Las Terrazas recibió el nombre del sistema de plantación de terrazas e incluyó unas 5,000 hectáreas (12,355 acres) hacia la parte oriental de la cordillera. Los científicos ayudan a determinar qué árboles indígenas plantar, y los aldeanos inicialmente plantaron 5,000 árboles de caoba, bichico y teca. En ocho años, la gente del valle había plantado 6 millones de árboles. El gobierno cubano declaró que los árboles frutales deberían plantarse entre las otras especies para alimentar a la gente. Alrededor del 80 por ciento de los alimentos que se comen en Las Terrazas se cultivan localmente. Todo es orgánico, incluyendo plátanos, calabazas, tamarindos, mangoes, naranjas, mandarinas, manzanas, y todo se cultiva entre los árboles del bosque.

Río San Juan, Las Terrazas, Cuba. (IM PHOTO BY STEPHANIE HEDGECOKE)

Las Terrazas se construyó un lago para criar peces, incluyendo truchas, tilapia y otras especies. El pueblo más tarde agregó un ecomuseo, un cine y una discoteca.

Ecosistemas indígenas restaurados

Los mamíferos, plantas, aves e insectos indígenas, muchos de los cuales se habían puesto en peligro debido a siglos de explotación ambiental durante el colonialismo, comenzaron a regresar, y los ecosistemas indígenas comenzaron a restaurarse. Hoy Cuba tiene 131 especies de aves, 26 de las cuales son indígenas de Cuba; el resto pasa por rutas migratorias a sus áreas de anidación. Hay 33 especies de reptiles, incluidas 17 serpientes y 11 lagartos. Algunas de las especies de mamíferos más pequeñas del mundo viven en Cuba, el solomón cubano, en peligro de extinción, la jutía conga y la jutía carabalí, han regresado al bosque.

En 1989, la UNESCO reconoció el proyecto de reforestación como la Reserva de la Bioesfera y agregó Las Terrazas al listado de reservas de importancia internacional. Durante el Período Especial, después de la pérdida de comercio con la Unión Soviética y los otros antiguos socios comerciales, los especialistas de la Unión Soviética, combinando el entendimiento de su bloqueo por parte de Estados Unidos, el gobierno revolucionario apoyó el turismo ecológico y cultural y duplicó el esfuerzo en la sostenibilidad. Las ganancias del turismo en Las Terrazas se utilizaron para construir una biblioteca. También en el Período Especial, el cultivo orgánico se convirtió en obligatorio. El cafetal Buenavista fue restaurado de las ruinas de uno de los cafetales coloniales. Los lugares antiguos plantaron cafetos y comenzaron a cosechar café Arábica Las Terrazas a la sombra. La miel también se produce localmente.

Las Terrazas fue el primer modelo de reforestación en Cuba; Ha inspirado otros 11 proyectos de reforestación. Las otras 11 comunidades se reúnen periódicamente en Las Terrazas para intercambiar semillas indígenas para promover la biodiversidad y el comercio de productos alimenticios. La UNESCO ha reconocido a las organizaciones de reforestación de Cuba por sus principios de incorporación de conocimientos científicos y prácticas tradicionales para fortalecer la participación de la comunidad en la planeación estricta. Hasta la fecha, se han plantado más de 7 millones de árboles indígenas y se ha recuperado una gran cantidad de biodiversidad.

Delegación de solidaridad de EE. UU. visita Las Terrazas

La 49ª Brigada Venceremos visitó Las Terrazas el 28 de julio. Conocimos a Ida, nuestra guía local, en el pueblo, y luego nos llevó al Río San Juan. La bioesfera es un sitio de vacaciones popular para los trabajadores en La Habana. El río San Juan es alimentado por manantiales de agua dulce y se considera un recurso natural. Los niños se banaban en el río y disfrutan de los bosques en sus fiestas nacionales.

Los tres jardines verdes de Las Terrazas apoyan a las escuelas y la comunidad con una oficina de turismo. Los aldeanos cultivan frutas, flores y plantas con usos medicinales en infusio-nes de hierbas y suplementos vitamínicos. Los niños pequeños saben los nombres de todas las plantas y manzanilleros.

La delegación de la 49ª Brigada Venceremos de Estados Unidos visitó Las Terrazas y unió su fuerza para apoyar el desarrollo de la sustentabilidad. Los niños pequeños observan la recolte y aprenden nombres de plantas.

La delegación de la 49ª Brigada de la Alianza Socialista de Solidaridad de EUA en Cuba estrechó lazos de solidaridad con la delegación de la 49ª Brigada Venceremos de Cuba.