Higher risk for infection

Black essential workers refuse to be invisible

By Monica Moorehead

April 12 — Just last week, U.S. bourgeois papers — the New York Times, Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, Boston Globe and others — published major articles on the devastating numbers of confirmed infections and deaths of African Americans caused by COVID-19. The articles emphasized the numbers were disproportionate compared to the percentage of African-American people in the U.S. population.

And in this tragic way, the virus is helping to publicize on a wider basis the racial inequality that has been the foundation of capitalism in the U.S.

An April 6 WW article, “Racism, COVID-19 and Black people,” pointed to the institutionalized racism — including the institutionalized racism — including the institutionalized racism — including the institutionalized racism — including the institutionalized racism — including the institutionalized racism — including the institutionalized racism — including the institutionalized racism — including the institutionalized racism — including the institutionalized racism — including the institutionalized racism — including the institutionalized racism — including the institutionalized racism — including the institutionalized racism — including the institutionalized racism — including the institutionalized racism — including the institutionalized racism — including the institutionalized racism — including the institutionalized racism — including the institutionalized racism — including the institutionalized racism — including the institutionalized racism — including the institutionalized 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Capitalism kills
Health workers lack protection

By Richard Kossaly

Over the last three months, the U.S. government has proven its inability to protect and incompetence at caring for the population. A basic step to promote public health in the face of an epidemic — recommending that we wear protective face coverings when in public — was beyond the capitalist government.

We are now paying a terrible price for that inaction.

However, the federal government was not the only entity that failed miserably. The Trump administration did not act out of thin air. They did not become horrible overnight.

There are many large and wealthy hospital systems and other institutions that also fell asleep at the wheel. Starting in late March — when shortages were becoming more acute — some hospital systems finally started to seek out supplies of more personal protective equipment (PPE) and ventilators on their own.

Why wait for shortages that they knew would come? They should have recognized that the government’s inaction would lead to the current problem, and they should have acted to prevent it, instead of wasting two months.

While the primary failure was that of the government, we are seeing the failure of capitalism. Most of the major hospitals in the U.S. are private, for-profit businesses. In this era, businesses generally operate on small margins and with small inventories.

Hospitals probably do not have internal structures that allow for the decisive measures that were necessary. There is no mechanism under capitalism to build a temporary hospital in three days as China did, for example.

There are courageous health care workers who are risking their lives to care for others. Some of them have died; others will die. Their government and their employers have failed them.

This has been a major failure of the capitalist system. The big capitalist countries in Europe also responded poorly to the crisis. In recent days, the U.S. and at least a couple of European countries have pirated PPE destined for a supposed allied country. There are disputes between European Union countries and between Canada and the U.S. over PPE and medical equipment.

While these disputes are brewing, China is delivering material aid all over the world, including to these pariah countries.

Capitalism has again proven to be inadequate to meet the needs of the working class on a world scale. Capitalism must be overthrown. Our livelihoods, our health, the health of the planet — our very lives depend on it.

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Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and oppression and mistreatment of people with disabilities. The repressive, attacks on im/migrants, misogyny, LGBTQ2+ discrimination, are just a few of the many problems.

Workers World Party is a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist party inside the belly of the imperialist beast. We are a multinational, multigenerational 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 and the planet itself in the never-ending quest for ever-greater profits.

Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, attacks on im/migrants, misogyny, LGBTQ2+ oppression and mistreatment of people with disabilities. It means joblessness, increasing homelessness and impoverishment and a 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 student debt, if they even make it to college. Black, Brown and Indigenous youth and trans people are gummed down by cops and bigots on a regular basis.

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

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

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

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PHOTO: NATIONAL NURSES UNITED
Build Workers Assemblies, build a workers’ world!

By Makasi Motema

Unemployment is skyrocketing. In April so far, a third of tenants nationwide were unable to pay their rent. In a capitalist society, the solutions to these problems are as simple as they are inaccessible. Any sensible government would freeze mortgage and rent payments and provide a livable income for the duration of the lockdown. This is unthinkable for U.S. policy makers and their capitalist masters. It is unthinkable not because of the cost—the U.S. incinerated $1.5 trillion trying to calm the stock market just a few weeks ago—but because it would undermine the legitimacy of the entire sociopolitical system.

If rent payments simply “be turned off,” if a living income can be distributed with the stroke of a pen—then why has the working class been forced to struggle to make ends meet until now?

A common sense response to this crisis would show that all the pain and suffering hitherto endured by the working class has been intentionally inflicted by those in power. The system of inequity is not the result of the unpredictable, uncontrollable character of this world, but of a conscious choice to deprive the working class of their exposed as so callous.

Nevertheless, the legitimacy of this government is slipping through its fingers. The U.S. has been in the fight against COVID-19, and soon it will be unable to stop the economic recession. The economy was already teetering on an unstable foundation before the coronavirus.

The dual shocks of a collapsing health care system and exploding unemploy- ment sends some signals to predict that the greatest economic recession in our lifetime is imminent.

When the next great depression arrives, who will place their faith in Washington, D.C.?

The needs of the people

The only shelter available to the working class is in unity: The creation of true working-class power is our only countermeasure to disaster capitalism. The working class must be organized into Worker Assemblies—highly structured political bodies that stand in opposition to the capitalist system. That the ruling class fears most is working-class communities banding together to determine their own destiny.

From Petrograd, Russia (1917), and Jiangxi, China (1931), to Caracas, Venezuela, and Chapare, Bolivia, today, the assemblies and councils of the working class have been the engines that drive socialist revolutions.

Given the obstacles we face, only Workers Assemblies can coordinate an effective response to COVID-19 that leaves no one behind. The only way to provide the health care needs of the people is to bring medical resources to be publicly owned and administered—not by capitalist policy-makers—but by Workers Assemblies.

True democratic governance by the working class would put an end to corporate resource hoarding and ensure that all Americans are protected and cared for. No matter what the working class administration, representing all oppressions, allow for the inequitable treat- ment currently given to people of color, women, people living with disabilities and LGBTQ+ patients.

Control of housing must also fall under the sovereignty of the working class, not enough to say that no one should be forced from their home because they can not afford rent. Workers Assemblies must be formed to take control of real estate properties and finally end the scourge of homelessness.

There are also many businesses outside the medical industry which claim their workers are essential. However, the pay, protection and benefits these work- ers receive do not match their newly elevated status. The creation of Workers Assemblies will put an end to this as well. If a business deems its workers essential, then Workers Assemblies must take control of that business.

Build Workers Assemblies

How can all this be achieved? Building a people’s army requires an army of organizers. The single moral imperative of socialist cadre is to organize those around them. Through deep organizing, socialists must establish connections with workers in every sector. Non-union workers must be unionized, and unionized workers must be radicalized. Tenants, apartment blocks and entire neighborhoods must be brought together to fight landlords, develop police and border patrol opposition. Socialists must seed ourselves throughout the working class to provide political agita- tion, education and organization.

The working class is in motion. Already people are organizing together to provide aid and support as COVID-19 ransacks communities. Wildcat strikes are on the rise, as is class consciousness. These are the incipient moves of a larger trend toward workers’ power.

Socialists must allow this grow- ing movement to be crushed by inevi- table capitalist counterreaction. It is our responsibility to see that workers are organized into Workers Assemblies that have the strength to withstand the oppressive tactics of the ruling class.

It is time to build Workers Assemblies. It is time to build a workers’ world.

Black essential workers refuse to be invisible

Continued from page 1

An estimated 3 million grocery workers are in greater demand now because so many people are stocking up with food as restaurants, cafés and delis are shut down. But as more and more of these workers become sick due to the virus, they either refuse to show up for work or walk off the job to protest Whole Food Markets—in order to survive, even at the risk of permanently losing their jobs.

Other debilitating factors

Racism has intensified preventable diseases that cause slow death throughout the Black community—asthma, hyper- tension, heart disease, diabetes and more. People are not born with these diseases, but are victimized by social environments undermined by racism, resulting in lack of healthy foods and health care, overcrowded living conditions, poverty and incarceration. And these toxic conditions are more often than not inherited by each generation.

Viruses like COVID-19 can become deadly because they feed off these pre-existing conditions and the compromised immune systems, making recovery almost impossible.

Vedette Gavrin, an investigator for the Community Action Project’s Healthy Neighborhood Study, explained the relation- ship between people of color and the environment, especially the fact that chil- dren become more susceptible to asthma due to lack of decent housing.

She stated, “There are huge issues with housing that are at play. The poorer hous- ing stock and code violations for asbestos, mold and cockroaches increase the risk and prevalence of respiratory and pulmonary diseases, which heighten the severity of symptoms those who are at risk contract. Covid. Black and [Latinx] families in urban centers tend to double and tri- ple up when rent becomes unaffordable, making distancing in the home impossible.”

(Washington Post, April 9)

Hospitals in Black majority neighbor- hoods are twice as likely to close than hospitals in white majority neighbor- hoods, making it even more difficult for people to get care.

Essential workers from the most oppressed communities not only deserve to be tested immediately, but should be granted full unemployment benefits if forced out of work. They should also have their hazard pay and be granted a mor- atorium on rent, foreclosures and utility shut-offs. Fulfilling these demands would be another form of reparations to people who have been victimized for centuries by systemic policies of social apartheid.
Many drivers, said the Crush Bar Workers Collective, said, “Yesterday we all were informed via text or phone call or from the Crush Facebook page that the bar was going to close and we expect this owner to do what is his owner prerogative.” When their demands were refused, they walked out on April 4 after learning that several workers tested positive. They argued that the facility should be closed, as “hazard pay for the drivers, many of whom have been hit multiple times. Police broke up a protest in Los Angeles April 7 after workers blocked the fast food drive-through with their cars. Strikers also hit the San Jose McDonald’s April 7, standing a distance apart and holding signs in English and Spanish demanding PPE. PPE. Fight for $15 began but not at McDonald’s, Burger King, Taco Bell, Domino’s and other chains in a statewide strike of 50 fast food restaurants April 9. Bay Area McDonald’s workers protested in their cars, with taped-on signs reading, “No gloves, no masks, on strike now.” The Monterey Park McDonald’s, near Los Angeles, was strike again April 10. The workers want to be able to quaran‑
tine with pay for two weeks while the store is professionally cleaned. They charge store owners with not providing PPE and not informing workers immedi‑ately if they have been exposed. Amazon, GE strikes continue Despite the firing of Amazon worker Chris Smalls, who organized a walkout at the company’s Staten Island ware‑ house on March 30, the fight for safe working conditions at Amazon contin‑ues. Walkouts took place in Detroit April 1 and again at Smalls’ warehouse April 6, the latter protesting Smalls’ firing. A third Amazon strike hit a Pennsylvania facility. On March 28 General Electric workers in Lynn, Mass., walked out to demand, along with a safe workplace, that their plant recall laid-off workers to make ven‑tilators. Now GE reports it has spread to other GE plants, with April 8 protests in Dallas, Salem, Va., and Schenectady, N.Y. Members of the Union of Electrical Workers-Communications Workers (UE-CWA) held signs with the slogan, “Hey GE, we can make ventilators.” The Salem plant is now closed, and workers want their jobs back. At a Palmuya, Pa., warehouse run by HERSHEY-owned XPO Logistics, dozens of workers walked out April 4 after learn‑ing that several workers tested positive.

None of strikes all say ‘no work!’ By Martha Grevatt April 12 — About 40 workers at a New York City Chipotle store staged a walkout on March 6 after a worker was written up for calling in sick. The store was not pro‑viding the five paid sick days mandated by city law, forcing workers to come to work sick and potentially infect other workers with COVID-19.

As the death toll climbs, workers deemed “essential” have staged at least 75 separate job actions since the Chipotle walkout. Walkouts, sickouts, sit-ins and, most recently, car and social-distance pickets have involved people from a wide range of occupations. In addition to many fast food workers, those protesting include workers in health care, construction, man‑ufacturing, meat and poultry processing, retail, e‑stores, public transit, bars and restaurants, water and sewage, beverage bottling, nursing home care and more. Common demands of the walkouts are for employer-provided personal pro‑tective equipment such as masks, gloves and hand sanitizer, social distancing, hazard pay and the right of sick workers to stay home with pay. Payday Report lists almost 30 work stoppages that have occurred since April 1.

McDonald’s workers have been hit multiple times. Police broke up a protest in Los Angeles April 7 after workers blocked the fast food drive-through with their cars. Strikers also hit the San Jose McDonald’s April 7, standing a distance apart and holding signs in English and Spanish demanding PPE. PPE. Fight for $15 began but not at McDonald’s, Burger King, Taco Bell, Domino’s and other chains in a statewide strike of 50 fast food restaurants April 9. Bay Area McDonald’s workers protested in their cars, with taped-on signs reading, “No gloves, no masks, on strike now.” The Monterey Park McDonald’s, near Los Angeles, was strike again April 10. The workers want to be able to quaran‑
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whenver the bosses want and — what‑ever they want to do to drivers. Drivers have control of our own destiny. The only way to win real flexibility for drivers is to come together and organize a powerful drivers’ union!’

Other union members joined the rally in solidarity. Merrie Najimy, president of the Massachusetts Nurses Association, addressed the rally, saying, “We have to be physically distancing but we have to be socially connected. We live in an economic system that is designed— it is designed to build workers up, and then use maximum extraction of our labor.” (tinyurl.com/xnrwlfzk) Sign the BIDG petition to Massachusetts Government for Emergency COVID-19 Unemployment and other worker benefi‑
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Los Angeles McDonald’s workers strike in their cars, April 9.

By Steve Gillis

Boston Uber/Lyft drivers rebel as the Transportation Network Companies airport lot on April 6 and staged an in-car broadcast through Zoom.
The rally launched a miles-long caravan of drivers and support‑ers that encircled the Massachusetts State House. As President Joe Biden, the Boston Independent Drivers Guild, the action demanded an immediate end to the misclassification by TNC of millions of workers as “inde‑pendent contractors,” who would tradi‑tionally be ineligible for unemployment benefits. They argued that the facility should be closed, as “hazard pay for the drivers, many of whom have been hit multiple times. Police broke up a protest in Los Angeles April 7 after workers blocked the fast food drive-through with their cars. Strikers also hit the San Jose McDonald’s April 7, standing a distance apart and holding signs in English and Spanish demanding PPE. PPE. Fight for $15 began but not at McDonald’s, Burger King, Taco Bell, Domino’s and other chains in a statewide strike of 50 fast food restaurants April 9. Bay Area McDonald’s workers protested in their cars, with taped-on signs reading, “No gloves, no masks, on strike now.” The Monterey Park McDonald’s, near Los Angeles, was strike again April 10. The workers want to be able to quaran‑
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By Steve Gillis

Boston Uber/Lyft drivers rebel as the Transportation Network Companies airport lot on April 6 and staged an in-car broadcast through Zoom.
The rally launched a miles-long caravan of drivers and support‑ers that encircled the Massachusetts State House. As President Joe Biden, the Boston Independent Drivers Guild, the action demanded an immediate end to the misclassification by TNC of millions of workers as “inde‑pendent contractors,” who would tradi‑tionally be ineligible for unemployment benefits. They argued that the facility should be closed, as “hazard pay for the drivers, many of whom have been hit multiple times. Police broke up a protest in Los Angeles April 7 after workers blocked the fast food drive-through with their cars. Strikers also hit the San Jose McDonald’s April 7, standing a distance apart and holding signs in English and Spanish demanding PPE. PPE. Fight for $15 began but not at McDonald’s, Burger King, Taco Bell, Domino’s and other chains in a statewide strike of 50 fast food restaurants April 9. Bay Area McDonald’s workers protested in their cars, with taped-on signs reading, “No gloves, no masks, on strike now.” The Monterey Park McDonald’s, near Los Angeles, was strike again April 10. The workers want to be able to quaran‑
tine with pay for two weeks while the stores are professionally cleaned. They charge store owners with not providing PPE and not informing workers immedi‑ately if they have been exposed. Amazon, GE strikes continue Despite the firing of Amazon worker Chris Smalls, who organized a walkout at the company’s Staten Island ware‑house on March 30, the fight for safe working conditions at Amazon contin‑ues. Walkouts took place in Detroit April 1 and again at Smalls’ warehouse April 6, the latter protesting Smalls’ firing. A third Amazon strike hit a Pennsylvania facility. On March 28 General Electric workers in Lynn, Mass., walked out to demand, along with a safe workplace, that their plant recall laid-off workers to make ven‑tilators. Now GE reports it has spread to other GE plants, with April 8 protests in Dallas, Salem, Va., and Schenectady, N.Y. Members of the Union of Electrical Workers-Communications Workers (UE- CWA) held signs with the slogan, “Hey GE, we can make ventilators.” The Salem plant is now closed, and workers want their jobs back. At a Palmuya, Pa., warehouse run by HERSHEY-owned XPO Logistics, dozens of workers walked out April 4 after learn‑ing that several workers tested positive.

whenver the bosses want and — what‑ever they want to do to drivers. Drivers have control of our own destiny. The only way to win real flexibility for drivers is to come together and organize a powerful drivers’ union!’

Other union members joined the rally in solidarity. Merrie Najimy, president of the Massachusetts Nurses Association, addressed the rally, saying, “We have to be physically distancing but we have to be socially connected. We live in an economic system that is designed— it is designed to build workers up, and then use maximum extraction of our labor.” (tinyurl.com/xnrwlfzk) Sign the BIDG petition to Massachusetts Government for Emergency COVID-19 Unemployment and other worker benefi‑
tis at tinyurl.com/stfthqlta. (tinyurl.com/stfthqlta)

Los Angeles McDonald’s workers strike in their cars, April 9.
Grocery workers demand: More hazard pay, more protection on the job!

By Maureen Skehan

A grassroots coalition of grocery workers from Whole Foods Markets, Shop & Shop, Trader Joe’s and Shaw’s supermarkets held a well-organized “social distancing” protest and press conference April 7 in front of Whole Foods in Boston’s gentrified South End. Their demands included “essential pay for essential work,” paid sick leave and family leave, time and a half hazard pay, and immediate, on-the-job protections, including face masks and gloves for all workers, stringent disinfectant protocols and social distancing guidelines.

Boston grocery workers demonstrate outside Whole Foods, April 7.

Prisoners rebel during pandemic

Continued from page 1

survival, we see state repression. Prison officials are using force in response to worker strikes, hunger strikes and other forms of protest. Prisons are deliberately not designed with health in mind, and we are seeing some facilities respond to virus symptoms by separating infected people from the general population into “segregation” or solitary confinement. By United Nations standards prolonged solitary confinement is torture.

People need decarceration, health care and humane housing including not just the ability to maintain, but the ability to thrive. This is what is required for health in our communities.

Punitive and solitary confinement. By United Nations standards prolonged solitary confinement is torture. Jail and prison walls can’t contain the spread of the virus. What is on the outside will affect us all.

Before Them All Connected

Rebellions break out

Prisoners in the large Yakima County (Washington state) jail righteously rose up on March 23 in rebellion over being huddled together during the COVID-19 epidemic. Fifteen prisoners escaped. After 6 inmates tested positive for the COVID-19 virus at the Monroe Correctional Complex, Washington state facilities 30 miles northeast of Seattle, on April 9, 2020 prisoners rebelled. Police, including state troopers, fired “blast balls” and pepper spray on the protesting prisoners. Eighteen prisoners were put in “segregation.”

Washington Gov. Jay Inslee has done nothing to stop the prison overcrowding in state prisons, despite warnings from health officials, including the World Health Organization.

After one inmate tested positive at the Women’s Prison in Pierre, S.D., in late March, nine prisoners, including six who are Indigenous, successfully fled the facility. The warden of the prison has resigned, and while seven prisoners have been apprehended, two remain at large. (U.S. News & World Report, April 3)

Lansing Correctional Facility in Kansas saw prisoners rebel after 12 of them and 16 guards tested positive for COVID-19. Prisoners swept through offices, broke windows and chairs, and set small fires in the facility before being corralled back under control. (Guardian, April 10)

In a video of the uprising taken on a contraband cell phone and circulated online, guards were shown locked in a room where prisoners voiced their fears of the virus and concerns over the lack of health care. Corizon Health and the state of Kansas have been locked in a battle over the prison’s health care contract with the state. (KMBN News, April 10)

No human being is illegal on stolen land!

Migrants in detention in Immigration and Customs Enforcement processing facilities are facing the same fears about the virus as those in jails and prisons. At least four ICE processing facilities in the last week of March saw determined crowds of prisoners protest against potentially lethal conditions with work and hunger strikes.

The ICE processing facilities include Aurora Contract Detention Center in Denver; the South Texas Processing Center in San Antonio; and Lasalle and Pine Prairie facilities in Louisiana. Those demanding humane conditions and/or their release were met with guards in riot gear, using pepper spray and rubber bullets to disperse protesters into separate facilities. (Buzzfeed News, March 23)

“Over 350 people at Stewart Detention Center in Georgia went on a hunger strike on March 24. One Mexican detainee, Ventura Quintanar-Rico, 32, said, ‘We’re just waiting to get infected? They’re not taking the most basic coronavirus precautions at this place. If one of us gets infected, all of us will, we are not able to stay 6 feet apart. We are all living in the same space. People. We don’t want to die. It usually takes three to four days to get medical attention here.’” (Mijente, March 27)

Under racial and social state control, like many incarcerated people in jails, most migrants have not been lawfully convicted of anything. People held in ICE processing facilities often have come through ports of entry and applied for asylum, currently considered a legal route. Though the law has been used to codify and uphold systems of white supremacy and colonialism, no human being is illegal on stolen land.

The U.S. has exported its punitive prison system to at least 38 countries, according to the Alliance for Global Justice. Colombia saw at least 13 prison uprisings in the face of the coronavirus, leaving 23 dead. From inside La Picota, a Bogotá prison, inmate Oscar Sanchez, 42, called the clashes between prisoners and authorities “a massacre that until now has taken more lives than coronavirus in Colombia.” Hundreds of prisoners escaped uprisings in four São Paulo facilities after Brazilian state officials suspended temporary leave permits for 34,000 inmates. (New York Times, March 22)

Governors: Grant clemency from coast to coast! The fears driving these righteous rebellions are grounded in heartbreakingly real. The rate of coronavirus infection at Rikers Island in New York City and Cook County Jail in Chicago are among the highest in the world, with nearly 300 confirmed cases at Rikers and 400 confirmed cases in Cook County. (tinyurl.com/5qq276q) Advocates and abolitionists have been warning officials against this very outcome in the early stages of the pandemic, only to be met with inaction from officials.

From coast to coast, governors in the U.S. have the power to grant mass clemencies or reparations. Instead New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo is banking that the masses of people do not care about those caged. New York continues to exploit prison labor to produce hand sanitizer. They are also paying prisoners less than the minimum wage to dig mass graves on Hart Island while continuing to incarcerate new people.

To avoid genocide we need mass releases without exceptions and without ankle monitors or fines. The people in cages staring down the barrel of execution by virus are waking to the reality that they have very little to lose in resisting their conditions. The prison industries that profit off these deplorable conditions are willing to kill while trying to squeeze every last dime out of caged labor.

The generative project of prison abolition that would transform social relations while meeting human needs is coming, whether the prison-industrial system is ready or not.

Jim McMahon contributed information about the rebellion at the Monroe Correctional Complex in Washington state.
Today is the anniversary of the Deir Yasin massacre, which took place on April 9, 1948, when Zionist gangs (Jrgn, Haganah and Stern Gang) went house-to-house in a small Palestinian village, lined people against the wall and sprayed them with bullets, setting pregnant women and smashed the skulls of children. The Jrgn and Haganah gangs were the precursors to Israel’s current state military. I want to acknowledge that moment in Palestinian history.

There is a trend, currently going on in Israel, to use a variety of methods to arrest and imprison Palestinians in order to reduce infections. A telling example is Mahmoud Atta. He was arrested in point by the prison authorities then banned soap and soaps in a clear move to provoke the prisoners while the world is distracted by the coronavirus.

Political prisoners are held in crowded, unsanitary conditions, with a high level of contact among them and no real way to protect themselves from infection. On April 1, Israel released a Palestinian from prison who tested positive for COVID-19. It is clear that prisoners are indeed infected.

However, Israel has released its own criminals in order to reduce infections among Jewish prisoners. Human rights groups are calling on Israel to do the same for Palestinian political prisoners, particularly for vulnerable Palestinians who are older or have underlying medical conditions. Most of those in administrative detention who have not even been charged with anything.

There are currently 180 Palestinian children in Israeli prisons, some as young as 12 years old. None have been able to speak with their parents, advocates or lawyers. Under normal circumstances, their conditions are dire, but the level of their bewilderment is surely intensified now that they are not allowed contact with the outside world.

The scale of the problem remains unknown as Israel has not tested any of the 5,500 Palestinians in its jails, even those who were known to be in contact with infected guards.

We need every means to expeditiously release the incarcerated Palestinian prisoners through expeditious release of the incarcerated Palestinian prisoners. The Israel is actually exacerbating the problem by weaponizing the virus. A case in point is Mahmoud Atta. He was arrested in his home on March 22 and sent to Megiddo prison—on suspicion that he had been in contact with someone who tested positive. Israel extended his detention twice and postponed a hearing for his appeal. Right now there is a hunger strike among Palestinian prisoners demanding to be tested and even adequate protective gear. They are refusing to allow new detainees into their wing. They are also demanding that authorities conduct head counts through the camera system and that guards, who are the source of the infection being brought into isolated populations, also wear masks.

The years passed and we got used to our dad going to prison every few months. We thought it was just a normal thing. It was our normal. We understood that every Palestinian had to go to prison and had to get tortured. When I was 10 years old, I began to worry that I wouldn’t be able to withstand torture when my turn came.

Today, “My mother is in prison now, and we don’t know how to reach her during this pandemic and we know nothing about her condition. We don’t know if she has the virus, if she’s able to breathe. She’s already sick and has a weakened immune system. This coronavirus has immense political dimensions.”

**Activists support Portland prison rebellion**

By Anika Kear
Portland, Ore.

Honking horns, waving fists and flashing protest signs, activists drove to Portland’s Columbia River Correctional Institute to support prisoners who are frustrated, scared and concerned for their lives.

Just a day before, prisoners at this minimum-security facility staged a mass protest after a guard who was positive for COVID-19 was sent home. Prison protest was so forceful, guards locked themselves in their offices.

A contact on the inside said prisoners were excited and grateful for the support from the honking caravan. Prison guards immediately opened the doors and put the inmates on full lockdown.

Local television KOIN reported on the car caravan organized by Workers World Party-PDX, with help from the International League of Peoples’ Struggle and Jobs with Justice. Founding WWP-PDX branch member Lyn Neely told KOIN: “Prisoners should be provided with masks, gloves and testing kits.” (See full interview at tinyurl.com/slobe8h.)

As prisoners across the country are starting to test positive for COVID-19, she added, “It’s like a powder keg. Prisoners will be living in a cesspool of coronavirus. They are furious because they are being sentenced to death.”

CRCI had not had a full lockdown for years, but has experienced three full security lockdowns in the last two weeks. The prison has recently stopped its normal medical triage services for non-COVID-19 related issues. Prisoners have gone without soap for two days and been kept in crowded living conditions, putting them at high risk of contracting and spreading the virus. They are now pressing the facility to meet their critical needs.

With support from community members, they recently established the Columbia River Inside Support Senate (CRISS) to communicate their reasonable demands to the guards. These include no limits on soap, paper towels, toilet paper and sanitizing spray; social distancing (6 feet between personal bunk areas); nonpunitive isolation; regular Medical Triage and testing for COVID-19; daily access to phones, mail and mental health services.

The current situation for prisoners across the United States is dire, and immediate action is necessary. Portland’s Workers World Party branch demands that prisoners be supplied with PPE immediately, that they have access to testing and treatment, and that social distancing protocols are implemented.

Most importantly, WWP demands the expeditious release of the incarcerated community. Free Them All!
Tear down the walls! Free them all!

By Arielle Robinson

Georgia activist groups Women on the Rise and Southerners on New Ground (SONG) organized a protest outside the Fulton County Jail on April 7, calling on District Attorney Paul Howard to release all incarcerated people in the jail because of the risk posed by COVID-19.

After the protest, Howard announced that Fulton planned to stagger releases of up to 700 people, who will be given mandatory ankle monitors and curfews. The first groups of people to be released have been people over 60, who are some of the people most vulnerable to the virus.

According to WABE News (NPR Atlanta), Howard said that 47 inmates at Fulton Jail were released April 6, with about 30 more to be released April 9. Howard’s office is recommending that those serving time for ordinance violations and probation violations be released with family and friends, religious services, and coronavirus. Meals in the chow hall, visits, and cell exercise in a cage. After over a decade, it is finally over.

For some men and women, being in prison for 23 hours a day, with 1 hour for out-of-cell exercise in a cage. After over a decade, it is finally over. Over 400 men have tested positive for the virus. Then comes Cook County, Ill., where 18 people—prisoners—have been released.

Overcrowding leads to chaos. For example, have followed suit. And then prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal.

But this lockdown is occasioned by the Coronavirus. Meals in the chow hall, visits, and cell exercise in a cage. After over a decade, it is finally over. For nearly a month now, all prisoners in the jail have been on lockdown. The prisoners page seeks to reduce our fear and anxiety about the virus.

An April 7 caravan protest in Atlanta demanded “Free Them All!” from the Fulton County Jail.

**Introduction of the WW Prisoners Page**

By Mirinda Crissman

Houston

This article is based on remarks given by Crissman during a Workers World Party webinar on April 9: “Free Them All!” COVID-19 and Racist Mass Incarceration.

Workers World Party provides nearly 1,000 free newspaper subscriptions to incarcerated people and the prison-industrial complex. This prisoners page draws on a legacy of newsletters like “Through the Looking Glass: A Women and Children’s Prison Newsletter,” “The Bond,” the monthly newsletter of the American Servicemen’s Union, and a variety of written prisoner contributions.

What does “locked down” mean? Men and women—have been locked down. What does “locked down” mean? Men and women—have been locked down. For some men and women, being in prison in county jails isn’t just something that that disperses the abundance of those things in an oppressive manner that can only be called deliberate apartheid.

We understand that there are many kinds of prisoners—women, children, LGBTQ2+ folks; migrants and refugees in concentration camps; workers forced to wear ankle monitors under house arrest; those on parole, on probation, those who have been released from prison but face restrictions on their ability to work and vote because of prior convictions—and any combination of the above.

 Tear Down the Walls! Activists protest to ‘Free Them All!’

By Mumia Abu-Jamal

The following slightly edited April 10 commentary by political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal is available at prisonradio.org/media/audio/mumia.

For nearly a month now, all prisoners in Pennsylvania state prisons—over 40,000 men and women—have been locked down. What does “locked down” mean?

When I was on death row, all of us were locked down—as the saying went: “23 and 1.” Or for 23 hours a day, with 1 hour for out-of-cell exercise in a cage. After over a decade, it is finally over.

But this lockdown is occasioned by the coronavirus. Meals in the chow hall, visits, and cell exercise in a cage. After over a decade, it is finally over. Women on the Rise asks supporters to call the jail, “Fulton, Free Them All,” and “Stop the Spread; Close the Jail,” among others.

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An action by Women on the Rise and others in Philadelphia county prisons an estimated 18 people—prisoners—have the virus. Then comes Cook County, Ill., where 18 people—prisoners—have been released.

Sixteen incarcerated people in the jail have been diagnosed with COVID-19—one has been hospitalized and another hospitalization has been reported. According to WABE News (NPR Atlanta), Howard said that 47 inmates at Fulton Jail were released April 6, with about 30 more to be released April 9. Howard’s office is recommending that those serving time for ordinance violations and probation violations be released with family and friends, religious services, and coronavirus. Meals in the chow hall, visits, and cell exercise in a cage. After over a decade, it is finally over.

A corridor in their cars, demanded Mayor Jim Kenney and people who are medically. (tinyurl.com/w2lptsl)

We know prisons are monuments to white supremacy and colonialism. We see that particularly in the United States’ most influential exports—mass incarceration and militarized border violence. The U.S. government is involved in prison systems of at least 36 different countries.

These U.S. programs involve construction of new prisons as well as prison guard training, accreditation, data management and overall design. The maximum-security prison La Tramacúa in Valledupar, Colombia, is modeled exactly after the maximum-security Coleman Prison in Florida.

Common features of prisons structured on the U.S. model include overcrowding, neglect of health care, use of torture and extreme/punitive isolation, transfer of prisoners far away from families and communities, severe restrictions on visits including legal defenders and prison militarization. (Alliance for Global Justice, 2018)

In the face of the coronavirus pandemic, we’ve seen those in power retaliate against unarmed people in detention for going on hunger and work strikes by using pepper spray, rubber bullets and other punitive measures.

These actions only strengthen our resolve to change the conditions necessary to make the generative project of abolition possible. We say no to prison imperialism, no New Jim Crow, free them all and tear down the walls!

**Caravan targets Philadelphia City Hall and jail**

By Mirinda Crissman

Houston

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Locked up and locked down

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**Caravan targets Philadelphia City Hall and jail**

By Mirinda Crissman

Houston

Traffic around Philadelphia City Hall came to a standstill for an hour April 9 as hundreds of protesters, from social distance in their cars, demanded Mayor Jim Kenney and First Judicial District Judges Patrick Dugan, Leon Tucker and Idee Fox decrease the number of incarcerated people in the city’s jails.

Just days after being hailed out by the Philadelphia Community Bail Fund, Luz Acevedo said over a sound system: “I don’t think we should die in jail like animals die in cages,” referring to prisoners’ risk of death from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Over 75 drivers then moved to the city’s jail complex several miles away where a delegation of religious leaders held signs outside the stout and racy barriers, giving speeches and saying prayers. Protesters applauded by sounding their horns, hoping the more than 4,200 prisoners on the other side of the walls could hear them.

The #No215Jail Coalition is demanding the city release the vast majority of people in pretrial detention, ending cash bail, calling everyone in detention for possible release, and pressing for a full release for youth, elderly people and people who are medically vulnerable.

The coalition includes the ACLU-PA, Decarcerate PA, Frontline Dads, Movement Alliance Project (formerly Media Mobilization Project), Philadelphia Bail Fund, Philadelphia Community Bail Fund, the Youth Art & Self-Empowerment Project, the Philadelphia Domestic Workers Alliance, Juntos, Disabled in Action of PA, Philly ADAPT, PA ADAPT and Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies.

**Story and photo by Joe Piette**
Earth Day 2020: Climate change and COVID-19

By Betsey Piette

Earth Day 2020: Climate change and COVID-19

By Sue Davis

Texas ban seeks to overturn legal abortion

By Alwin Marwadi writing in the Guardian, “There is nothing pro-life about exploiting an emergency to further a political agenda. There’s nothing pro-life about forcing women to give birth during a pandemic. There’s nothing pro-life [about] women having to put themselves in danger to get the help they need, and the services the Constitution is

Continued on page 9

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Bernie Sanders and pandemics in a voting

By Teresa Gutierrez

This article is for the thousands of young people who supported Bernie Sanders and for the social organizations that came out for Sanders, some endorsing a presi‑
dential candidate for the first time. It is for the historic masses who put the push in the way in the fight for Medicare for All and for all those seeking a more progressive agenda for this country.

On April 8, presidential candidate Senator Bernie Sanders withdrew from the 2020 election. For thousands among his fans, quite a painful day. Activists who identify as democratic socialists like Sanders must have been disheartened.

For young Sanders supporters facing one existential crisis after another, a loss of hope in the political arena that is the bourgeoisie elections is probably no small thing. Among the revolutionary left, it is another sign of the destruction of a socialist project.

There are no uniform views among communists in the U.S. toward the candi‑
dacy of Bernie Sanders. There are commu‑nists who have rallied and consistently voted Democratic, while others in the left
consider this a class betrayal.

The Democratic Party is seen by rev‑
olutionary socialists as the party of the bosses, one that defends the interests of the capitalists just as the Republicans do. At times it may have a more liberal prog‑ram and a more diverse social base, but historically the Democratic Party func‑
tions more as a brake on the struggle than as a defender of the interests of the people.

The danger is that the Democrats are closer to the masses than the racist, reac‑tionary, super-rich Republicans.

For example, when the vicious police beating of Rodney King led to a righteous rebellion in Los Angeles in 1992, it was the Democratic Party leaders and allies who came out in sympathy for King, yet criticized the rebellion. The left cheered the d’Artagnan hundreds of thousands as a righteous attack on repression and supported the rebellion. The Democrats called it “riot” and “rage.”

Note that the left of today that is on the left agrees that voting for a Democrat is the “lesser of two evils.” Evil is still evil even if it might look like you and smile at you. There is no evidence to demonstrate that, despite some differences, both parties unite to defend the capitalist system and not the workers and oppressed. Countless imperialist wars prove their allegiance to the capitalist class. Just ask the Iraqis if a Democrat in office made a difference.

Capitalism at a dead end: A democratic socialist’s ‘imperial moment’

In both 2016 and 2020, running as a democratic socialist, Sanders got atten‑tion and rose not only in popularity but in fact got airborne. Though never as much as Trump did in 2016 when CNN covered Trump rally after rally.

Sanders gained momentum without having to tap into corporate money, a right which to buy the elections. It was under‑standable that democratic socialists by the thousandfold, as well as others, supported or gave critical support to his campaign.

Why did Bernie rise? More than any other reason, it was the material condi‑tions of capitalism that propelled him to come forward. The economic crisis — which is in an acute freefall and has been exacerbated by a decade of underemployment, no affordable educa‑tion, foreclosures and skyrocketing health care costs.

The war on migrants took one ominous turn after another as racism toward Black and Brown people continued unabated. In fact, racism intensified, and white suprem‑acy acquired a supreme place in society as the Trump administration right‑wing zeal‑ots enveloped the White House.

The only way to defeat white suprem‑acy, and the Great Depression, socialism must be desperately fought for if humanity is to survive.

The war on migrants took one ominous turn after another as racism toward Black and Brown people continued unabated. In fact, racism intensified, and white suprem‑acy acquired a supreme place in society as the Trump administration right‑wing zeal‑ots enveloped the White House.

Wisconsin voters stand in line during April 7 presidential primary.

Wisconsin: ‘A day that will live in infamy’

“It’s not going to be a safe election. People are going to sick from this,” said Brook Soltvedt, a 60-year-old in Madison. (Photo: April 7)

Wisconsin has been ground zero for many reactionary policies, includ‑ing union busting and so-called welfare reform. But it was also the scene of a heroic battle in 2011 when people occu‑pied the State Capitol for several days. Even as progressive forces mobilized for the April 7 election and even though public health officials called for a post‑pemtment because of the pandemic, the right-wing State Supreme Court ordered that the election proceed.

The Portsmouth article stated: “The U.S. Supreme Court added insult to injury — overturning a lower court ruling that ended the deadline for absentee voting.”

Absentee ballots had to be postmarked Tuesday or returned by 8 p.m.

On April 9, the Wisconsin State Journal reported: “[A] postal worker had discov‑ered a large number of absentee ballots … that never reached voters.”

Wisconsin is another sign that the reac‑tory right wing of the bourgeoisie, man‑ifested currently through the Republican Party, has moved more and more to posi‑tion itself to deny even the most basic rights to the masses. The movement must be on guard. The chicanery in Wisconsin may foreshadow events in November. Trump is openly stating he opposes mail-in voting because it benefits his opponents.

Black people and women fought like hell for the right to vote. Black people in particular died for that basic democratic right. History has shown that it is mass struggle that creates real change, not elec‑tions. But even basic right that workers have won must be defended.

Rights are being hampered, from the right to vote in a pandemic to the right to an abortion, education, a home, a job — and especially the right to live, as COVID-19 destroys communities, partic‑ularly communities of color.

And now Sanders, at a high level in the government, with a social movement behind him that could have helped to delay these attacks, has withdrawn.

In 2016, a Chicanx actor took the stage during the Democratic Party Convention and said, “We did not cross the border, the border crossed us.” This year at a Sanders event in San Antonio, Texas, a Black actor closed his speech with the anguish chanted spoken at many Black Lives Matter and other revolutionary events.

While deeply moving, it is tiring to hear these slogans — developed in the streets — co-opted by the very party machine that is not only complicit in, but completely loyal to the capitalist system. The Working Peoples movement should embrace the young people and oth‑ers who wanted to see “Tio Bernic” win. We should hold them close because, together, we can create a new real: Socialism will just be around the corner.
There were 27 progressive demands made by a united front of Black, Latinx and anti-racist white incarcerated men who carried out the historic Attica Prison rebellion in September 1971. This point was 8: “We Demand that inmates be granted the right to join or form labour unions.” Point 7 read in part: “We Demand that industries be allowed to enter the institutions and employ inmates to work eight hours a day and fit into the category of workers for scale wages.” The prisoners also demanded adequate health care, education, and wages. They were calling themselves as a human right, in or out of prison.

Many of these heroic prisoners were eventually slaughtered by the state troopers of Nelson Rockefeller, then eventually slaughtered by the state right, in or out of prison. These troopers of Nelson Rockefeller, then eventually slaughtered by the state right, in or out of prison.

For aren’t these prisoners like other workers who are super-exploited for their labor? Are they not workers who come from poor and working-class communities, whether urban or rural? And aren’t these workers being deeply impacted by the coronavirus in huge disproportionate numbers because they are Black, Brown and Indigenous? As so in many instances, this pandemic is helping to shine a bright light on the class character of prisons under capitalist and social inequality. What is revealed is ugly injustice that has existed for over two centuries. Prisoners do not exist for rehabilitation of those convicted, whether innocent or not. Prisoners are not set up to guide people to a productive life beyond antiscocial behavior such as theft, robbery, domestic violence, drug possession or killings.

Capitalist laws and courts exist to punish people through extreme brutal force, and not to resolve the root cause of their behavior with knowledge, patience and compassion. One’s being determines consciousness. If a person grows up in an environment of poverty, unemployment and police occupation, they will have near to little chance to make a better life for themselves. That is a life under capitalism — that puts the profits of the super-rich before the needs of the people. And even if there wasn’t a pandemic of COVID-19 now, there should still be a demand to free all prisoners. Because no human being can be expected to survive in small cells under lock and key for 23 days a day, given rotten food and no showers, sanitation, light or health care, assaulted by guards and more.

But now the pandemic has accelerated the prisons into a full-scale crisis. The inhumane conditions, especially cramped cell blocks where social distancing can never happen, have become a breeding ground for infections and deaths. It is no wonder that prisoners are fighting for their voices to be heard through their own protests, which have led to the release of prisoners in Chicago, Atlanta and elsewhere.

And people ask, Well, where will these prisoners go once they are released? Isn’t it too dangerous to release them? Aren’t they a “threat” to society? Released prisoners should be treated like the millions of other people being impacted by the pandemic. Their health should be cared for. Community groups should be funded by local and state governments to organize housing for prisoners in empty hotels and abandoned housing. Food should be distributed to them instead of sitting on grocery shelves and rotting. These prison workers should be eligible for unemployment benefits!

There are health care workers, many of whom have been laid off, who could provide vital counseling for prisoners who will need therapeutic treatment and even some social isolation — just not behind bars.

All of this and more could be done with organization on a mass scale even under capitalism. Where there is a will, there is a way.

If ruling-class criminals like those in the Trump administration can run free, don’t we owe it to our class — the working class who control nothing, even their own lives — to free these members of our human family from the death traps called prisons?

That’s why we say: Don’t wait a moment longer. Free them all NOW!
Infection of carrier crew blows up into Trump regime battle

By John Catalinotto

April 13 — Some 580 of the 4,800 sailors in the crew of the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt have tested positive for COVID-19 and have been quarantined. The death toll has reached six, with the total number of infections rising to 5,000. The rapid spread of the coronavirus has revealed and exacerbated a bitter conflict within the Navy command and between that command and the Trump administration.

What is still to be seen is will this serious conflict among those who give the orders to maintain U.S. world domination — as well as economic and military domination alter how rank-and-file sailors in a professional military understand their role as cannon fodder? How much does this rift at the top reflect turmoil in the ranks?

The conflict broke into the open when the Roosevelt’s commander, Capt. Brett Crozier, emailed a letter to 20 officers in the naval command arguing for him to allow crew of the ship with COVID-19 on deck to be tested for the virus and enter quarantine if necessary. This letter, published in the San Francisco Chronicle on March 31, estimated that “at least hundreds will be lost” and “Sailors don’t need to die.” (tinyurl.com/qkg9aq)

According to a lengthy article on April 12 in The Times, one of the top military analysts, Acting Secretary of the Navy Thomas Modly was worried that Capt. Crozier, a former aide, written after four days of rebuffs from superior officers, would anger President Trump. He wanted to take action before Trump did, so he called colleagues to ask for advice on firing Capt. Crozier. (tinyurl.com/vsgxyd)

“Most of them, including Adm. Michael M. Gilday, the chief of naval operations, and Gen. Mark A. Milley, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told Modly he should order an investigation into the incident, and wait and see the outcome” rather than firing him, said the Times article.

But on April 2, Modly fired Crozier, relieving him of command of the aircraft carrier. The same day, as the captain said farewell to his crew and the hundreds of sailors he cared for, he wrote a letter on his letterhead: “Sailors don’t need to die.”

In a vain attempt to stem the sailors for their support of Crozier and whip them back into line, Modly flew to Guam and addressed the crew on the ship’s loudspeaker on April 6. He insulted Crozier, calling him either “too naive or too stupid to be the commanding officer of an aircraft carrier if Crozier didn’t realize his letter would leak.” He also openly scolded the crew for cheering Crozier and for being overly afraid of the virus.

Modly apparently failed to anticipate that his insulting speech would also leak. The recording of his epithet-laden comments got as much publicity as the cheers for Crozier had the day before.

A storm of criticism

Modly’s comments unleashed a boomerang of criticism. Current and former top officers of the Navy criticized Modly for firing Crozier. Democrats in Congress demanded Crozier’s reinstatement. (tinyurl.com/403jut)

The CARES Act also specifies that the Office of Reemployment Assistance agents had to hand out printed application forms to people lined up in their cars. Filling these forms out and mailing them in adds further time-consuming steps to funneling through the bureaucracy that blocks workers from getting the aid to which they are legally entitled.

In addition, unemployed workers told the Miami Herald that they made hundreds of unanswered telephone calls to the UI offices only to not be given a check, you have to complete a call.

The $2 trillion CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act should provide an additional $600 a week per unemployed applicant through July and an extension of the total benefit to 39 weeks. But these funds must be funneled through individual states UI.

Florida, whose website can’t accept applications, still hasn’t developed procedures and forms for unemployed workers to get funds due them.

Some workers in New York state with existing UI claims have gotten the supplemental payment, but they report it is far from automatic.

Workers need these payments to pay their bills, buy food, pay the rent or mortgage. Many lower-paid workers live paycheck to paycheck. Missing one payment creates big problems.

Payments to workers, even if they are not working, also prop up the economy, which is one of the reasons the capitalists tolerate UI. Another is to avoid provoking workers, who could get angry and take action.

The CARES Act also specifies that every U.S. taxpayer with a Social Security number, even those who make too little income to file tax returns, gets a payment from the IRS of $1,200, with $500 for dependent children 16 and under on a sliding scale. Workers who have bank accounts that accept direct deposits should get these payments automatically.

However, the 30 percent of U.S. workers without a bank account, who are considered “underbanked,” will have to get a check in the mail. This is scheduled to take up to 20 weeks, into mid-September.

That the surge in unemployment is so rapid makes normal estimates of how this crisis is affecting economic activity totally unreliable. Some economists guess U.S. economic output could fall by a percent in the second quarter of 2020— Others guess 30 percent. What happens to the pandemic and policy choices by the governors and the White House will play a big role in what happens with unemployment.

Paradoxically, the stock market is going great guns. After April 9, the S&P 500 was up 25 percent from its recent low on March 23 and down only about 14 percent for the year. Investors appear satisfied that the stimulus package from Congress and the actions of the Federal Reserve will boost the shares of big corporations.

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By G. Dunkel

At least 17 million workers in the United States lost their jobs from the second week of March to the second week of April. That’s 10 percent of the total workforce. Some 23 million workers globally in the second quarter of 2020 — equivalent to 193 million full-time workers. More than four out of five (82 percent) in the global workforce of 2.9 billion are currently affected by full or partial job losses globally in the second quarter of 2020.

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Trabajador de Amazon
lucha contra el multimillonario Bezos

Por Ted Kelly

Chris Smalls es un ex trabajador de Amazon que fue despedido por organizar una huelga el 30 de marzo en las instalaciones de JFK8 en Queens, Nueva York.

Los trabajadores de Amazon salieron de las instalaciones de JFK8 en Queens, Nueva York, el 30 de marzo. WW: Hablamos de ese memorando filtrado de los ejecutivos de Amazon, donde dijeron que no eran "inteligente" o "elocuente". ¿Crees que el racismo jugó un papel en que se atacaron?

CS: Definitivamente me encontré con perfiles racistas trabajando para Amazon. Esta fue en realidad la segunda vez que me dieron de baja. Soy alguien que ha aguantado muchas tonterías en los últimos cinco años. Especialmente siendo un supervisor afroamericano.