



U.S.-Israeli ‘steal of the century’

Palestinians reject land theft

By Monica Moorehead

Palestinian organizations have issued a strong joint condemnation of the so-called peace plan, aka colonial “deal of the century,” from the Trump administration. It is supported by the racist, Zionist Israeli regime led by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

This misnamed “Vision of Peace” announced by Trump Jan. 28 calls for Israel’s annexation of all stolen Palestinian lands taken during the 1967 war and the illegal expansion of Zionist settlements from the West Bank to the Jordan Valley.

This annexation includes historical holy sites inside East Jerusalem on the West Bank where the U.S. had threatened to move its embassy from Tel Aviv since 2017. Washington moved the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem on May 14, 2018.

Under the phony guise of a “two-state solution,” this annexation will, in essence, force the already displaced Palestinians onto just 15 percent of their occupied lands — after Israel has already seized their most arable agricultural lands and best water sources.

Trump’s plan — justifiably characterized as the “steal of the century” — is a

blatant slap in the face to the Palestinian people’s right to liberation and self-determination. It is the latest blow in the continuing onslaught against the Palestinians which started when they were brutally displaced by the U.S.-backed Israeli state established in 1948.

Trump’s son-in-law, Jared Kushner, was given credit for being the “architect” of this “deal.” In response to the Palestinians’ rejection of the plan, Kushner arrogantly stated, “The Palestinians probably need a little bit of time to take a cold shower and to kind of digest the plan.” (Middle East Eye, Jan. 31)

occupation must be stopped. We are running out of choices and all options on how to respond to this deal are now on the table. Palestinians have been deprived of their rights for decades and they will not let this [deal] pass without a fight.” (Middle East Eye, Jan. 28)

In the days following Trump’s announcement, protests occurred in solidarity with the Palestinians not only in the Occupied Territories of Gaza and the West Bank, but in refugee camps in Jordan and Pakistan. At demonstrations in Beirut, Israeli flags were burned in front of the U.S. Embassy. There were also solidarity protests in Canada, Europe, New Zealand and the U.S.

The Palestinian Authority—which has been policing the borders between Israel and the West Bank, while cooperating with the CIA—reportedly cut all ties with Israel and the U.S. In an emergency summit with the Arab League in Cairo, Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas stated Feb. 1: “We’ve informed the Israeli side ... that there will be no relations at all

Continued on page 11



Houston demonstration in solidarity with Palestine, Feb. 1. See Page 10. WW PHOTO: GLORIA RUBAC

Editorials

Palestine: No justice, no peace 10

Abusers out! 10

Palestinian people voice opposition

Even before Trump’s announcement became official, members of three different Palestinian political currents, Hamas, Fatah and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, held a united demonstration in Gaza, known as the largest open-air prison in the world.

Ismail Radwan, a member of Hamas’ political bureau, commented: “The security coordination with the Israeli



Rally for Mumia, Philadelphia, Jan. 31. Read more on page 8. WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE



U.S. hands off Venezuela 6-7

Embassy Protectors

Caracas conference targeted

Sanctions Kill 2

Malaysia Goodson — Subway justice 3

Patients before profits

Iowa & Seattle job actions 4

Stop SSI cuts 5

Free Mumia NOW! 8

Defend ‘protocols’ protesters 8

Australia: Fire this time 9

Mumia Abu-Jamal commentary

Subscribe to Workers World

☐ 4 weeks trial FREE ☐ 1 year subscription \$36

☐ Sign me up for the WWP Supporter Program: workers.org/donate

Name _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Street _____

City / State / Zip _____

Workers World Weekly Newspaper
147 W. 24th St., 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10011

workers.org
212.627.2994

Campaign mobilizes for March 13-15 actions

By G. Dunkel
New York City

Beginning in the fall of 2019, anti-war and progressive activists became increasingly concerned that the United States had weaponized its control of the dollar. Using a form of economic warfare, the U.S. had imposed sanctions on 39 countries. Among them were Zimbabwe, Libya and Mali in Africa; Cuba, Nicaragua and Venezuela in Latin America; Syria, Yemen and Iran in the Middle East; Myanmar and Democratic People’s Republic of Korea in Asia; and Belarus and Russia in Europe.

A group of activists, who were working on anti-sanctions campaigns in particular countries or areas, joined together as the Sanctions Kill Campaign and started meeting to plan an international campaign to oppose all the sanctions imposed by the U.S. In 15 different languages, they have issued a call for demonstrations and meetings for March 13-15 and have drawn an international response.

The most recent organizing meeting, held Feb. 1 at the Solidarity Center here, was chaired by members of the December 12th Movement and the International Action Center, and attended by representatives of the Venceramos Brigade, CODEPINK, the Venezuelan Embassy Protectors Collective, Peoples Power Assembly-New York City and Socialist Action; members of the Ecuadorian, Honduran and Palestinian communities; and progressive unions, including the National Writers Union (UAW Local 1981) and Professional Staff Congress.

SANCTIONS KILL

THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES ARE AFFECTED BY US SANCTIONS: CUBA, VENEZUELA, IRAN, NICARAGUA, ZIMBABWE, DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA, IRAQ, SYRIA, LIBYAN, CHINA, YEMEN, SOMALIA, LIBYA, SUDAN, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO, BURUNDI, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, BELARUS, AND PARTS OF UKRAINE AND RUSSIA.

WHAT ARE SANCTIONS?

THE U.S. AND E.U. PASS LAWS TO BAN, BLOCK, OR RESTRICT TRADE TO A SPECIFIC COUNTRY, GROUP OR INDIVIDUALS WHEN THEY DO NOT COMPLY WITH U.S./E.U. FOREIGN POLICY.

CURRENCIES ARE DEVALUED AND INFLATED WHEN SANCTIONS ARE LEVIED. INTERNATIONAL CREDIT RATINGS TANK, AND COUNTRIES ARE PRESSURED TO STOP DOING BUSINESS WITH TARGETED COUNTRIES.

THE FIRST SECTORS AFFECTED ARE GENERALLY MEDICINES, COST OF FOOD, POWER, WATER TREATMENT, AND OTHER ESSENTIAL HUMAN NEEDS.

BECAUSE THE UNITED STATES HOLDS TRADE, BANKING AND MILITARY DOMINANCE OVER MOST OF THE WORLD, SANCTIONS HAVE KILLED MILLIONS OF VULNERABLE PEOPLE.

SANCTIONS VIOLATE INTERNATIONAL LAW, THE UN CHARTER, GENEVA AND NUREMBERG CONVENTIONS BECAUSE THEY TARGET CIVILIANS BY ECONOMIC STRANGULATION, CREATING FAMINES, LIFE THREATENING SHORTAGES AND ECONOMIC CHAOS.

LEARN MORE AT SANCTIONSKILL.ORG

WORKERS WORLD

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 neverending 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 lack of hope for the future. No social problems can be solved under capitalism.

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

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

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

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

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

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

National Office
147 W. 24th St., 2nd floor
New York, NY 10011
212.627.2994
wwp@workers.org

Atlanta
PO Box 18123
Atlanta, GA 30316
404.627.0185
atlanta@workers.org

Austin
austin@workers.org

Boston
284 Amory St.
Boston, MA 02130
617.522.6626
boston@workers.org

Bay Area
P.O. Box 22947
Oakland, CA 94609
510.394.2207
bayarea@workers.org

Buffalo, N.Y.
335 Richmond Ave.
Buffalo, NY 14222
716.883.2534
buffalo@workers.org

Charlotte
charlotte@workers.org

Cleveland
216.738.0320
cleveland@workers.org

Dallas
dallas@workers.org

Durham, N.C.
804 Old Fayetteville St.
Durham, NC 27701
919.322.9 970
durham@workers.org

Houston
P.O. Box 3454
Houston, TX 77253-3454
713.503.2633
houston@workers.org

Knoxville, Tenn.
knoxville@workers.org

Minneapolis
minneapolis@workers.org

Pensacola, Fla.
pensacola@workers.org

Portland, Ore.
portland@workers.org

Philadelphia
P.O. Box 34249
Philadelphia, PA 19101
610.931.2615
phila@workers.org

Salt Lake City
801.750.0248
slc@workers.org

San Antonio
sanantonio@workers.org

San Diego
sandiego@workers.org

Tucson, Ariz.
tucson@workers.org

Washington, D.C.
dc@workers.org

West Virginia
WestVirginia@workers.org

WORKERS WORLD this week

In the U.S.

Sanctions Kill March 13-15 actions	2
Subway elevators NOW!	3
Stop wage theft!	3
On the picket line	4
Iowa nurses win fair contract at MercyOne.....	4
7,800 Seattle hospital workers strike	4
Resistance to planned cuts on disability benefits ...	5
USW local supports Indigenous Legislative Agenda	5
Embassy Protectors in court.....	6
Embassy protectors continue to defend Venezuela .	7
Rally to free Mumia highlights exonerees	8
Protest of migrant punishment ‘protocols’.....	8
Houston says: No to colonial apartheid plan!	10

Around the world

Palestinians reject land theft.....	1
Attacks on anti-imperialist conference in Venezuela	7
Will Britain become U.S. puppet?	9
Australia: The fire this time	9
Italy’s war policy is tied tighter to Pentagon	9
It’s not Iran’s military that frightens the U.S.	11

Editorial

If no justice for Palestine – then no peace!	10
Zero tolerance! Abusers out!.....	10

Noticias en Español

Si no hay justicia para Palestina, ino hay paz!.....	12
¡Tolerancia cero! ¡Abusadores fuera!.....	12

Announcement

Betsey Piette is the newest managing editor of Workers World newspaper.

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



Vol. 62, No. 6 • Feb. 6, 2020
Closing date: Feb. 5. 2020
Editor: Deirdre Griswold

Managing Editors: John Catalinotto, Martha Grevatt, Monica Moorehead, Betsey Piette, Minnie Bruce Pratt

Web Editors: ABear, Harvey Markowitz, Janet Mayes

Production & Design Editors: Gery Armsby, Sasha Mazumder, Scott Williams

Copyediting and Proofreading: Paddy Colligan, Sue Davis, S. Hedgecoke

Contributing Editors: LeiLani Dowell, G. Dunkel, K. Durkin, Teresa Gutierrez, Gloria Rubac

Mundo Obrero: Alberto García, Teresa Gutierrez, Carlos Vargas

Supporter Program: Coordinator Sue Davis

Copyright © 2020 Workers World. Verbatim copying and distribution of articles is permitted in any medium without royalty provided this notice is preserved.

Workers World (ISSN-1070-4205) 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: \$36; institutions: \$50. Letters to the editor may be condensed and edited. Articles can be freely reprinted, with credit to Workers World, 147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl., New York, NY 10011. Back issues and individual articles are available on microfilm and/or photocopy from NA Publishing, Inc, P.O. Box 998, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-0998. A searchable archive is available on the Web at www.workers.org.

A headline digest is available via e-mail subscription. Subscription information is at 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.

Justice for Malaysia Goodson: Subway elevators NOW!

By Tony Murphy
New York City

Malaysia Goodson, a 22-year-old African-American mother, fell down the stairs in a New York City subway station while carrying her baby in a stroller on Jan. 28, 2019. Her baby survived. She did not.

The hearts of millions of New Yorkers went out to Malaysia Goodson and her family. Anyone who has taken the city’s subways for over a month has either been in the same situation or witnessed or helped others struggling with steep, sometimes wet and icy stairs. This subway system is notorious for its lack of accessibility, with less than a quarter of its stations equipped with elevators and chronic breakdowns of the existing elevators.

Within 48 hours of Malaysia Goodson’s fatal fall, the hardest fighters for the installation of elevators — leaders in the disability rights community, many of them wheelchair users — acted. They mobilized for a vigil and protest at the station where the young mother fell.

People with disabilities have been the most consistent force to remember Malaysia Goodson and show solidarity with her family. Public sentiment for Goodson was massive following her death. However, it has been those daily oppressed by the Metropolitan Transit Authority — wheelchair users and others with disabilities who refuse to accept being locked out of the subways — who have been among the vanguard, along with her relatives, in keeping the young mother’s name alive.

One year after Malaysia Goodson’s death

This year, the same forces who organized last year’s vigil and protest, held a demonstration outside the New York State Supreme Court building on Jan. 28, in recognition of the one-year anniversary of Malaysia Goodson’s death. The action



WW PHOTOS: MARY OWEN (LEFT); BRENDA RYAN (RIGHT)

Left, Terrea Mitchell of the People’s Power Assembly-NYC speaks at the Jan. 28 protest honoring Malaysia Goodson and demanding full transit accessibility. Right, PPA-NYC protesters at the Jan. 31 anti-racist FTP3 day of MTA protests.

was held there because the date coincided with a hearing on the historic subway elevator class-action lawsuit. The suit calls out the MTA for its lack of accessibility as a violation of the city’s Human Rights Law and demands the installation of elevators in every subway station.

These activists used the date to crystallize their demand that the MTA “put it in writing.” In other words, the agency can’t just announce plans and promises for accessible subway stations, it must sign a legally binding agreement with a timeline that mandates the installation of elevators.

The Jan. 28 action was called by The People’s MTA, Rise & Resist, People’s Power Assembly-NYC, the Straphangers Campaign and the Brooklyn Center for the Independence of the Disabled. Members of Disabled In Action, TransitCenter, UP-STAND, an advocacy group for pregnant women and families, and other organizations, participated.

The protest attracted union support, including Alicia Smith, of Communication Workers (CWA) Local 1180’s Committee on People with Disabilities, who spoke.

Melissa Enama Bair, a parent representing UP-STAND spoke, as did NYC Councilmember Helen Rosenthal. PPA-NYC activist Judith Haider brought her toddler in a stroller.

‘Fund elevators, not more cops!’

Placards at the Jan. 28 action read: “We did not forget Malaysia Goodson” “MTA: Put it in writing” and “Elevators are for everybody!” Many sign slogans also reflected the growing anger at racist police terror on the trains, including “Our subways need \$ for elevators, not more cops!”

After the demonstration, 50 protesters packed the courtroom. Ten wheelchair users lined one end of the room. As determined as the MTA is to drown this case in lawyers and legal-wrangling, mobility impaired fighters for accessible public transportation are equally determined. They have shown up for every hearing to protest outside the courthouse and then pack the courtroom.

Anger at the racist cops who serve Wall Street and corporate interests, and terrorize subway riders, boiled over into mass

rebellions throughout the city on Jan. 31 for the third time since November. The media dismiss the “FTP” protests as “vandalism.” But protesters’ militant tactics stand in stark contrast to going through “proper channels” in the courts.

Now in its third year, the legal case presents a just demand, yet it is crawling through the legal system. The Wall Street-backed MTA is stalling and delaying the provision of this vital public need by paying millions of dollars to the high-priced law firm of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison.

The Goodson case is an example of how public transportation — supposed to be a public service — becomes transformed under capitalism into an oppressive institution that is used to serve the rich and foster racist disregard for oppressed and working people.

One injustice after another

The MTA, a profit-making corporation, has lied, obfuscated and done everything to avoid providing working elevators in the subway system for years.

When Malaysia Goodson’s death resulted from their inaction, the MTA refused to even contact her family to offer sympathy or compensation. The officials hid behind a bogus medical examiners’ report that claimed she had a thyroid condition that made her fall. The report took five months to complete, but it was used to explain away the cause of the death in media headlines a mere two days after the needless tragedy occurred.

Even the local coverage of the Jan. 28 action referred to Malaysia Goodson as a rider “with medical problems.” Activist Colin Wright of TransitCenter answered this slander at the rally, covered by NBC’s local news that day: “No person with a ‘medical issue’ should be forced to use the stairs. If the subway system had been accessible, we think Malaysia Goodson would be alive today.” □

New York

Stop wage theft!



Workers and community groups held a spirited rally in front of the office of New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo on Jan. 30 to protest his veto of the Securing Wages Against Theft Bill. SWEAT legislation would give tools to workers and the New York State Department of Labor to stop bosses from transferring and hiding their assets to cheat workers out of the pay they owe them. (sweatnys.org)

Protesters demanded, “Wage Theft Commander-in-Chief” Cuomo — who has shown he would rather aid

and abet criminal bosses who refuse to follow labor law than workers — should right his wrongs and support the reintroduced SWEAT bill, A9008/S7256. The rally was organized by members of the SWEAT Coalition, grassroots organizations, workers centers, legal service providers and advocates, who are fighting to ensure workers in New York state are able to recover the wages which employers owe them.

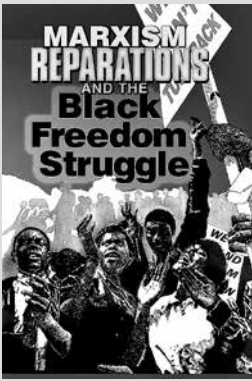
— Photo and report by Brenda Ryan

Marxism, Reparations and the Black Freedom Struggle

An anthology of writings from Workers World newspaper.

Edited by Monica Moorehead.

Racism, National Oppression & Self-Determination • Black Labor from Chattel Slavery to Wage Slavery • Black Youth: Repression & Resistance • The Struggle for Socialism Is Key • Domestic Workers United Demand Passage of a Bill of Rights • Black & Brown Unity • Harriet Tubman, Woman Warrior • Racism & Poverty in the Delta • Haiti Needs Reparations, Not Sanctions • Alabama’s Black Belt: Legacy of Slavery, Sharecropping & Segregation • Are Conditions Ripe Again Today? Anniversary of the 1965 Watts Rebellion



Download it from workers.org/books. Also available at major online booksellers.

On the picket line

By Alex Bolchi and Sue Davis

St. Louis janitors ready to strike for \$15 an hour

Some 2,100 Service Employees (SEIU) Local 1 janitors in St. Louis voted to strike on Jan. 30, the last day of their current contract. The workers could walk off the job any day now at major buildings like St. Louis County facilities, U.S. Bank Plaza, Bayer, Boeing and the Wells Fargo building. Many workers are struggling to raise families on wages as low as \$10 an hour — so low they need public assistance to pay bills.

The janitors, majority African Americans, staged a strong civil disobedience action the morning of Jan. 27 at the major midtown intersection of Washington Avenue and North 7th Street. Many protesters held signs reading “Honor King: End Racism,” linking their low pay to the fight for racial equity. As the St. Louis American reported, “The racial income gap in the St. Louis region has grown by more than 10 percent since 2010, with black families three times more likely to live in poverty than white families.” Alishea Bell, a single mother with two teenage children, says she needs to work another full-time job on top of full-time janitorial work cleaning the trading floor at Wells Fargo.

Janitors say they’re fighting for One St. Louis, a region where all working families can support themselves with at least a \$15 wage and good union jobs. Both the St. Louis Board of Aldermen and St. Louis County Council passed resolutions supporting janitors negotiating for a \$15 wage. Mayor Lyda Krewson signed an executive order Jan. 17 for a new \$15 an hour minimum wage for city civil service workers. (Labor Tribune, Jan. 30) Stay tuned.

Negotiations continue for grocery workers in D.C. area

Local 400 of the Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) in the Baltimore/Washington, D.C., area has been in negotiations for a new contract at Giant and Safeway stores since September. Their goals are “wages we can live on, schedules we can depend on, health care we can afford and retirement we can count on.” (OTPL, Dec. 8)

After several more weeks of contentious bargaining, a federal mediator urged both sides to take a cooling off period until the new year. However, as of Jan. 24, after three weeks of “difficult, complicated and frustrating” negotiations, Local 400 reported that “we remain far apart on nearly every single issue. ... We will not be rushed into a bad deal.”

UFCW knows that owners of both chains used similar delaying tactics last year when negotiating contracts on the West Coast. For the record, Ahold Delhaize, the parent company of Giant Food, made profits totaling more than \$2 billion in 2018. Cerberus, the private equity firm behind Safeway’s parent company, has extracted more than \$350 million in management fees and dividend payments from Safeway/Albertsons since 2013.

Meanwhile, on Dec. 11, Local 400 learned that 17 Shoppers stores were being sold or closed immediately, with 26 to follow in coming months. So Local 400 had to scramble to negotiate a fair compensation package for workers who were being laid off. The final deal, which only a union could bargain for, included months of severance pay based on years of work as well as health care coverage.

The union’s strategy over the past five months is to accept contract extensions in order to continue bargaining and to “keep the pressure on” through dozens of protests involving thousands of members. (ufcw400.org)

Transit Equity Day, Feb. 4

One of the national actions of the Labor Network for Sustainability is Transit Equity Day, Feb. 4. Transit Equity was launched a few years ago by the Amalgamated Transit Union to align workers’ rights with civil rights and promote a green environment. Feb. 4, Rosa Parks birthday, was chosen by TED to celebrate her role in the Civil Rights Movement for refusing to give up her seat on a (public) bus. As noted on labor4sustainability.org, “We want to make the connection to this act of resistance to highlight the rights of all people to high-quality public transportation powered by clean/renewable energy.” The website invites all unions to join in the campaign to educate, agitate and organize workers by setting up committees and passing resolutions to support public transit as a civil right and fight climate chaos. □

Iowa nurses win fair contract at MercyOne hospital

By Mike Kühlenbeck
Sioux City, Iowa

The union nurses of MercyOne Siouxland Medical Center ratified a new contract Jan. 29. After rejecting the hospital’s original offer and threatening to strike, they won a fair contract and scored a victory for nurse and patient safety.

The nurses, represented by Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 222, fought during seven months of intense negotiations for a contract with competitive wages and benefits, improved workplace safety and safe nurse-to-patient ratios.

Hospital management greeted their efforts with hostility. During negotiations, the nurses were disrespected and intimidated by hospital management, which spread rumors and misinformation about the nurses’ rights and the union’s efforts to help secure those rights.

In response to this poor treatment, Local 222 members overwhelmingly rejected the hospital’s “best offer” and authorized an unfair labor practice strike on Jan. 13.

“Our community’s caregivers should never have to struggle to provide for their families or tend to their patients, but that is the current reality for hundreds who work at MercyOne Hospital,” a Jan. 13 union statement explained. “Nor should they face discipline for simply fighting for a fair contract.”

As the nurses geared up for the strike, MercyOne finally backed down and agreed to make concessions. The union and the hospital, with the intervention of a federal mediator, reached a tentative agreement on Jan. 23.

“I absolutely think our strike authorization vote was the driving factor in getting leadership back to the table to negotiate a serious contract,” MercyOne ER/Trauma nurse Alyssa Rusch told Workers World.

Nurses are underappreciated and overworked in a field that’s vulnerable nationally to abuse and exploitation. A high percentage of nurses experience harassment, verbal threats and physical violence, as well as heavy tolls on their mental health.



The new contract will increase wages, provide retroactive pay bonuses, improve staffing, protect health care, support fair scheduling and strengthen workplace safety.

The three-day voting process (Jan. 27-29) took place at a Holiday Inn, which also hosted Local 222 rallies and other gatherings over the past few months. The tentative agreement passed with 97 percent of the members voting “yes.”

“We knew something had to be changed with our organization,” Rusch said, “and we didn’t give up until we made it happen. We were willing to put ourselves on the line to make sure we took care of each other and the community we provide for.”

As hospitals increasingly function like profit-driven assembly lines providing costly services, instead of health care facilities to treat those with injuries and illnesses, nurses and other hospital workers are rising around the country to stand up for their rights and the well-being of patients.

According to a UFCW 222 statement following the ratification vote, “With today’s vote for a new MercyOne contract that improves wages and benefits, Registered nurses with UFCW Local 222 sent a strong message about the power that comes from nurses standing together.” They won in part because they “received strong support from the Siouxland community through petitions, a candlelight vigil, and rallies.” □

Seattle hospital workers strike 7,800 say ‘Patients before profits!’

By Jim McMahon

For three days, from Jan. 28 to 30, 7,800 Seattle-area hospital workers struck the giant consortium Swedish at seven hospitals

Their big issue was unsafe staffing levels — there are 900 vacant positions. The result is unsafe conditions for patients and overworked nurses and other workers. By striking, mass picketing at the hospitals and marching in the streets, the workers got their message across.

The giant merger of Providence with Swedish five years ago created a corporation set on a course of anti-union attacks and deteriorating conditions. Service Employees (SEIU) Local 1199NW has been bargaining without a contract for 10 months. The strike was an unfair labor practice action; the company has broken labor laws over a dozen times, including disciplining and firing workers for speaking out.

The striking workers included nurses, nursing assistants, tech and lab workers, dietitians, environmental service workers and others. They are fighting for safe nurse-to-patient ratios; manageable workloads for environmental service technicians so they can properly clean and disinfect patients’ rooms; safeguards against racial discrimination so everyone is treated with respect on the job; and fair wages that attract and retain qualified staff.

Many studies have proven that unsafe staffing levels in hospitals can lead to lower quality care, including falls, infections, medication errors and increased deaths. Conditions like these are criminal at Swedish, especially when there is a potential

spread of the coronavirus epidemic.

The Chinese public medical system has organized a mass health care mobilization, better than the captains of the health industry in the U.S. would even think of doing. Local 1199NW has charged that it’s not safe for patients when environmental service technicians are overloaded with too many rooms to clean.

Multibillion-dollar strikebreaker

Swedish is a giant \$24 billion corporation with an \$11 billion cash reserve, the union points out. Providence controls over 1,000 facilities in seven states. It spent \$11 million to fly in hundreds of replacement personnel just before the strike and hired 200 “tactical security guards,” which outraged the strikers.

Providence shut down two of its hospital emergency rooms, rescheduled all elective surgeries and patient classes, and closed the labor and delivery unit at one hospital.

Some 1,000 striking caregivers rallied on Jan. 29 at Swedish First Hill Hospital Campus and marched to downtown Seattle. The mainly women strikers chanted, “Swedish, Jump Off It; Put Patients Before Profit!” They carried such signs as “United For Our Patients!”

At the downtown Westlake Center rally, Lisette Vanunu, an intensive care nurse, said, “We are working to provide our patients with the highest level of care they need. We often have to work an extra four hours after working 12 hours to make sure everyone is cared for.”

Continued on page 5

Resistance grows to planned cuts on disability benefits

By John Catalinotto

Feb. 4 — While impeachment, the Iowa caucuses and the State of the Union message dominate the news cycle, the White House is again quietly pushing forward its attack on the poorest and most oppressed sectors of U.S. society. And it is disguising its offensive as efficiency, eliminating waste and saving taxpayers’ money.

This continued effort to eliminate the possibility of people receiving health and disability benefits exploded in the summer of 2017 with the administration’s attempt to shut down progressive aspects of the Affordable Care Act and to cut out much Medicaid coverage.

That summer, heroic direct actions in Senate buildings by people in organizations like National ADAPT (Americans Disabled for Attendant Programs Today) prevented the cuts from being passed by Congress.

On the July 25 National Day of Action, senators voted to take up the first anti-ACA bill — and 95 people were arrested in protest. Police grabbed 31 protesters in the Senate chambers as they chanted, “Kill the bill! Don’t kill us!” Then 64 people were arrested in the Hart Senate Office Building as they yelled they would “rather go to jail than die without Medicaid.” (tinyurl.com/whjdzay)



In 2017, members of National ADAPT took part in direct actions at the U.S. Senate to prevent cuts to the Affordable Care Act.



PHOTOS: ADAPT

With mass pressure at their back, a few Republican senators joined the Democrats to vote down rescinding the ACA.

New plans to cut benefits

Now, since the Democratic Party-led House of Representatives is unlikely to pass any anti-popular law in an election year, the Trump right-wingers are waging their attack through bureaucratic action. On Nov. 18, the Social Security Administration announced de facto plans to eliminate Social Security disability benefits for many adults and children.

Of course, the bureaucrats don’t express their plans that openly. Instead they say they will simply conduct more frequent reviews of eligibility for the 2.6 million people affected — every two years. That means most people will be in a continuous state of “review.”

This may sound reasonable to people who do not need this support to stay alive. But some people — how many can’t be estimated now — who need these benefits would lose them. And all will go through the unnecessary anxiety of facing that loss and being unable to plan their future with any security.

In reality, it is very difficult to get eligibility for these benefits, even for those in need. In a Jan. 16 op-ed in the New York Times, former public service attorney Jon Stein explained: “The current system already presents plenty of hurdles. It can take years to qualify for disability benefits and the eligibility test is so tough that more than 60 percent of applicants are initially denied. Once awarded, the benefits are subject to government review at periodic intervals.” (tinyurl.com/uwqhxxv6)

The author goes on to detail what the new policies will mean, and who will be targeted: Adults with disabilities nearing retirement; impoverished children with disabilities at ages 6 and 12 without standard medical reasons; adults and children with disabling conditions like cancer and serious behavioral mental disorders.

What’s the alleged benefit? The SSA claims the revised policies will save \$2.6 billion. But it will cost \$1.8 billion to administer the reevaluations!

The government could save more money canceling an aircraft carrier — which is always a good idea. The figures just prove that the goal is to punish oppressed people defined as “not productive” under capitalism.

The potential for combatting this SSA offensive exists. Before the op-ed was published on Jan. 16, some 46,000 people had sent public comments on the punitive rule change, almost all opposing it. By the Jan. 31 closing date for comment, more than 120,000 had expressed their opinions, almost all opposing the changes.

The comments show a mass attitude united against this right-wing, bureaucratic scapegoating. What will be more decisive in stopping the attacks is the kind of actions like those taken by ADAPT and others who fought to keep ACA benefits in the summer of 2017. □

USW local supports Indigenous Legislative Agenda

The resolution below was passed unanimously at the monthly membership meeting of United Steelworkers Local 8751, the Boston School Bus Drivers Union, at the Boston Teachers Union hall, presided over by President André François, on Jan. 23.

Whereas, USW Local 8751 represents over 1,000 school bus drivers in Boston and Randolph, Mass., most of whose families are from Haiti, Cape Verde, Barbados, Jamaica, Ethiopia, Santo Domingo, Vietnam, Honduras, states of the U.S. South, homelands that experienced waves of successive enslavement, invasion and occupation since 1492 by armies from Spain, Portugal, France, Britain, Italy and the United States, and;

Whereas, USW Local 8751 has since its founding worked to promote solidarity between our members, their families and Indigenous nations and organizations, to honor Indigenous nations and peoples upon whose land we work and currently live, including for decades supporting through our finances, attendance, logistical support and union calendars and contract language the efforts of the Wampanoag Nation and the United American Indians of New England, and;

Whereas, USW Local 8751 has for decades marked the fourth Thursday of November as a “National Day of Mourning” in Plymouth, Mass., and the second Monday of October as “Indigenous Peoples Day,”



National Day of Mourning, Plymouth, Mass., Nov. 27, 2018. The Boston School Bus Drivers Union sent a delegation and provided the sound truck.

joining justice-minded unions, cities and towns from coast to coast working to rectify the centuries of racism, land theft, genocide and mythology that accompanied European settler colonialism and that Indigenous peoples continue to experience today,

Therefore, Be It Resolved that USW Local 8751 demands

that the Massachusetts House of Representatives, Senate and Governor Baker immediately enact the full Massachusetts Indigenous Legislative Agenda to:

- Replace “Columbus Day” with “Indigenous Peoples Day” to honor and celebrate Indigenous resilience and survival. (H.3665)
- Change the Massachusetts Flag and Seal, which have kept a sword hanging over the heads of Native Americans for hundreds of years. (H.2776/S.1877)
- Protect Native American Heritage, and ensure Native American funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony held in governmental or non-profit collections are not sold for profit but returned to their peoples. (H.2948/S.1811)
- Remove and Prohibit Racist, Native American mascots in Massachusetts public schools. (S.247/H.443)
- Improve educational outcomes and opportunities for American Indian and Alaska Native students. (H.444) □

Seattle hospital workers strike

Continued from page 4

There the hospital workers received needed support for their fight against Swedish. Three public school nurses from the Seattle Education Association spoke in solidarity with the strikers. The Washington State Nurses Association and the Food and Commercial Workers Local 21, who represent many health care workers across the state, also had speakers.

A strong solidarity message was read from Sara Nelson, president of the 50,000-member Flight Attendants. April Sims, Secretary-Treasurer of the Washington

State Labor Council, and Diane Sosne, president of SEIU 1199NW, with 30,000 members, also spoke.

After the three-day strike, Swedish bosses tried on Jan. 29 to interfere with the workers’ return to work by saying their replacements were still on the job under five-day contracts. But the workers came to work early en masse led by President Sosne at First Hill.

They came back from a strong and very well organized mass strike. Following the path of the great 1199 union struggles which organized New York City hospitals, this was the largest health care strike in the country in recent history, according to Local 1199NW. □

Embassy Protectors in court

Defense challenges Trump prosecutors

By Ajamu Baraka and Bahman Azad

The statement below, written by the Co-Chairs of the Embassy Protectors Defense Committee, was released Feb. 1 following a pretrial court appearance of the Embassy Protectors, who face charges for defending the Venezuelan Embassy last year.

A pretrial hearing of the four Embassy Protectors facing federal prosecution took place before Judge Beryl A. Howell on Jan. 29 in Washington, DC. The hearing, which was to define the parameters of the upcoming trial, became complicated as the judge learned more about the facts of the case.

When the hearing started, Judge Howell stated that she expected to rule on all the issues requiring decisions that day. She added that her previous ruling on discovery, where she denied all of the defendants' discovery requests, ought to tell the defendants what to expect. However, after four hours, the judge decided to delay some of her decisions on critical elements such as what the jury will be allowed to hear and whether the Embassy Protectors will be able to present a meaningful defense.

During the course of the morning, it was also evident that the prosecutors were trying to manipulate the upcoming trial in a way that would guarantee a conviction. The first area of contention was whether the word "trespassing" or its equivalent should be included in the trial statement that would be read to the jurors. The Embassy Protectors were not charged with trespassing, yet the prosecution wanted to describe them as trespassing without allowing the four defendants to explain they were in the Venezuelan

Embassy with the full permission of the Venezuelan government. This was left unresolved at the end of the day.

The next hurdle for the defendants was whether photos and videos of people who are not on trial or of signs with political messages ought to be included in the exhibits. The defendants' lawyers argued that people who are not being tried are not relevant to the case and that political messages should not be included, especially if the defendants will not be allowed to explain what they mean to the jury. This was also left unresolved at the end of the day.

The most important part of the hearing was the motion by the Trump prosecutors to prevent the four Embassy Protectors or their lawyers from being allowed to tell the jury anything that would explain the context of the case. The prosecutors sought to limit what the jury would hear to three things: The Embassy Protectors were in the Venezuelan Embassy, they were ordered to leave, and they didn't.

Judge delays key decisions

The judge was initially inclined to agree with the prosecutors, questioning the defense about why it mattered that the jury know about things such as who is the president of Venezuela, international law that governs the treatment of embassies and what happened during the time the four protectors were in the embassy.

As the hearing proceeded, it seemed the judge was hearing information that was new to her. She was not familiar with the Vienna Convention or with Protecting Power Agreements, which have been used in diplomatic relations for hundreds of years and are incorporated in the Vienna Convention. The U.S. already has 20 such agreements with other nations. She did



Rally in front of White House to defend the Venezuelan Embassy and the Embassy Protectors, May 2019.

WW PHOTO: JOHN STEFFIN

not seem to know that the four protectors were given permission to be in the Venezuelan Embassy by the elected government and were given the keys to the embassy.

When one of the defense lawyers described the pro-coup mob as "hoodlums," she was perplexed. When he explained that the pro-coup mob outside the embassy broke doors and windows, broke into the embassy and damaged it, and cut off access to food, she seemed unaware of their violent actions and attacks on the embassy. The prosecutors failed to inform the court about the fact that the U.S. Secret Service did nothing to stop the mob from physically attacking the embassy as it was their responsibility to protect the embassy. Nor did they mention that the power and water had been illegally shut off.

The judge said granting the prosecutors' motion would be the equivalent of a directed verdict, i.e., the judge directing a guilty verdict. She asked what defense the protectors would have if she granted their motion. The prosecutors struggled to answer and then posited that the four protectors could say they didn't understand the order. The judge quickly retorted that this was unlikely given the education levels of the defendants, a medical doctor, a nurse with a master's

degree, a lawyer and a college professor with a Ph.D.

Will the court respect international law or will the four protectors become political prisoners of U.S. Empire?

The prosecutors, who had entered the courtroom in the morning fully confident that their requests would be granted, squirmed uncomfortably and worked ineffectively to justify their requests as the day progressed. In the end, the judge decided to delay her decisions on these key issues, saying she would take the motions under advisement. The hearing was adjourned at approximately 1:30 p.m.

Now, the defendants will have to wait for the judge's rulings on whether the process will be rigged against them or they will be allowed to present a defense. It likely helped that over two dozen supporters attended the hearing.

The trial begins on Feb. 11. We encourage supporters to attend the trial as the defendants face the full force of the Trump administration. The outcome of this trial impacts all who take bold actions to resist imperialism and respect the self-determination and sovereignty of people around the world.

If you choose to attend the trial, please visit tinyurl.com/szwhgxv for guidelines and directions. □



Rise Against Militarism, Racism and the Climate Crisis Building Power Together

Join us for the National Conference of UNAC - People's Forum in New York
Feb. 21 – 23, register now! Limited space



and the administration and congress have agreed to start a new program that will militarize space. Many of us who have traveled to other countries that are being attacked by the US militarily or through economic sanctions, coup attempts and propaganda wars understand that people all over the world look to the US peace movement to aid them in their struggle to be able to determine their own future. To live up to these expectations we need to build a strong, unified antiwar movement. So, we urge you to join us at the UNAC conference.

Please go to the conference web site to register, to put an ad in the conference journal or to find lodging and logistics information: www.UNACconference2020.org

speakers include Ann Wright, Ajamu Baraka, Glen Ford, Kevin Zeese, Medea Benjamin, Gail Walker, Margaret Flowers, Margaret Kimberly, Sara Flounders, Jeff Mackler, Rhonda Ramiro, Joe Lombardo, Bahman Azad, Frank Chapman, Abby Martin, Eva Bartlett, Pam Africa, Cassia Laham and more.

www.UNACpeace.org UNACpeace@gmail.com 518-281-1968



Banners hung outside the Venezuelan Embassy in April, 2019.

Attacks on the anti-imperialist conference in Venezuela

By Iñaki Gil de San Vicente

Published by Resumen Latinoamericano and translated into English by its North America bureau. Slightly edited by Workers World. The author is a Basque Marxist. He's writing about an important anti-imperialist conference held in Caracas at the end of January and the five obstacles U.S. imperialism created as part of its relentless attack on revolutionary Venezuela.



Jan. 23 — The hostile reaction directed from abroad against the Anti-imperialist Encounter for Life, Sovereignty and Peace, held in Caracas on Jan. 22-25, demands thoughtful attention from all of us, especially from those who were not allowed to attend the event.

First: The boycott carried out by several airlines trying to prevent delegates from attending the event confirms the need to celebrate that it happened at all and that the United Socialist Party of Venezuela (PSUV) made a good move in organizing it.

Nowadays, we are facing several decisive battlefronts in the war between imperialism and exploited humanity. Venezuela is one of them. Together with Cuba, it forms the most decisive front in the double task of restoring the emancipating forces of Our America and moving the revolutionary process to the offensive.

But Venezuela and Cuba are also important worldwide because, besides strengthening their alliance with other powers that are in one way or another confronting imperialism, and given their own diverse interests above all, these two countries also confirm the unquestionable historical lesson that the people's sovereignty depends on its capacity for self-defence.

Bolivia's catastrophe confirms history once again: Imperialism will never give up. It is always updating its counterattacks; it never ceases its destabilizing attempts to bribe and co-opt despicable people, getting mercenaries appointed to fulfill the orders given by the local bourgeoisie and by imperialism itself.

Second: For a while good people, revolutionary people, have been enduring airport restrictions and attacks on their freedom of communication, of movement, of attending events, debates and solidarity meetings. We face increasing repression directed against these rights.

These repressive steps remind us of the desperate measures taken by many states that go back generations.

Let's start with the prevention of any expression of solidarity during the Roman – Greek and medieval wars; the suffocating vigilance over enslaved people; the peasant wars; Andean and continental revolts; the first bourgeois revolutions; the beginning of working-class and popular movements — all faced every sort of obstacle. There were the 1848 repressive controls imposed on meetings to organize the First International and the siege during the 1871 Paris Commune.

Then came the anti-socialist laws of the late 19th century and the siege laid against the Second International and Third International. And today there is the obsession over limiting and silencing Cuba and Our America, which always fails.

We also recall the Spanish king's ridiculous aspiration of silencing Hugo Chávez — whose voice is still heard in this crucial anti-imperialist event in Caracas, as well as the voices of Cuba's Fidel Castro, Colombian leader Manuel Marulanda, Basque leader Argala, Chile's Salvador Allende, Colombia's Camilo Torres, Congo's Patrice Lumumba, Burkina Faso's Thomas Sankara, Guinean politician Amilcar Cabral, Che Guevara, Ho Chi Minh, Mao Zedong, Leon Trotsky, Spain's Buenaventura Durruti, Andreu Nin Pérez, Julio Antonio Mella, Peru's Mariátegui, Vladimir Lenin, Emiliano Zapata, Rosa Luxemburg, Cuba's José Martí, Mikhail Bakunin, Haiti's Jean-Jacques Dessalines, Alexandre Pétion, Venezuela's Simón Bolívar, Inca leader Túpac Amaru, Puerto Rico's Negro Miguel — and so many working women who are made invisible but are in fact the intellect and heart of the dignity we have today.

Third: Everything indicates that the open repressive

trend is speeding up. This time, imperialism coordinated sabotage against the anti-imperialist event taking place now in Caracas, getting civilian airlines from a third country not to process airline tickets to Venezuela.

Thus political-military commands have torpedoed foreign civilian companies, extending this attack to the basic human rights of travel and free speech. We are witnessing another leap forward in the recent process of coordinating repression carried out by secret services and international political bodies, confirming that imperialism's nature is irreconcilable with the slightest democracy. This complexity is right now explaining this obsessive attack against the anti-imperialist event in Caracas.

Fourth: The capitalist economy nowadays and the power of the United States and the European Union are facing more and more serious obstacles. For instance, the giant global debt won't stop growing, given the suicidal policy maintained by the large banking system during the last few years amidst what's known as "cheap money."

This debt represents about 320 percent of the world's annual gross domestic product. According to the perspective of imperialism, there are only two ways to reduce it to a manageable amount: transferring it to workers, as well as to any competing powers that refuse to be pawns of imperialism.

But this is not the only existing threat. There are more. The most serious are the Law of the Tendency of the Rate of Profit to Fall and the General Law of Capitalist Accumulation [as explained by Karl Marx].

When the different levels of this crisis merge in a single collapse, imperialism has no other recourse than mass destruction of accrued value, or dead work, so that infrastructure and productive forces can try to start another phase of expansion. This is why they can't stand it if people just gather to discuss a minimal step toward the people's emancipation.

Fifth: Regardless of the repression and harassment, we must multiply these encounters, these debates. We must coordinate them and advance in the anti-imperialist practice, because every second we lose is a vital second we give to the imperialists to regroup and counterattack. □

Philadelphia

Embassy Protectors continue defense of Bolivarian Venezuela

By Scott Warren
Philadelphia

Four members of the Embassy Protection Collective — Kevin Zeese, Margaret Flowers, Adriene Pine and David Paul — spoke in Philadelphia on Jan. 28. They were there to spread awareness about their struggle for Bolivarian Venezuela, as well as raise money for their ongoing court battle against the criminal Trump administration. The event was sponsored by the Coalición Fortaleza Latina PA, Black Alliance for Peace, the International Action Center and Workers World Party.

On April 24, 2019, the democratically elected president of Venezuela, Nicolás Maduro, recalled his diplomatic staff from the Venezuelan Embassy in Washington, D.C. He gave the keys to a group called the Embassy Protection Collective in hopes that they could occupy and hold the embassy until a protective power agreement could come into play. That legal action would have prevented U.S.-backed anti-Maduro forces from taking over the embassy.

While inside, the embassy protectors were besieged by a pro-U.S. coup mob that refused to let

anyone come through with food or water. The coup opposition in Venezuela is characterized by extreme right-wing positions on race and class, including promoting anti-Indigenous genocide. The opposition in D.C. frequently displayed these attitudes, exhibiting homophobia, transphobia, racism and sexism as well as committing physical and sexual violence. Many of the opposition mob looked like they had come for a vacation

or on business, with some of them in suits and ties.

On May 16, 2019, the four embassy protectors remaining in the building — Zeese, Flowers, Pine and Paul — were arrested under U.S. law, in violation of the Vienna Convention, which affirms the sovereign integrity of a nation's embassy.

These protectors now face an uphill court battle where it is anticipated that the judge will not allow them a "discovery phase" for evidence — thus setting up a show trial to guarantee they are convicted. The documents the embassy protectors seek to submit in discovery would prove their innocence under international law.

Information the jury would not be able to know includes that the four were allowed to be there by the democratically elected Maduro administration, which held sovereign power over the embassy.

At their Philadelphia presentation, the four talked about their experiences not only in the embassy but also when they traveled to Venezuela. Flowers noted, "What we hear in the United States about Venezuela is basically the complete opposite of the reality down there." □



Philadelphia, Jan. 28.

WW PHOTO: SCOTT WARREN

Philadelphia

Rally to free Mumia highlights exonerees

By Joe Piette

Mumia Abu-Jamal’s supporters rallied outside Philadelphia District Attorney Larry Krasner’s office on Jan. 31. That day he was expected to file his response to legal briefs filed in September by Abu-Jamal’s attorneys for Post Conviction Relief Act hearings and a request to remand the political prisoner’s case back to the Court of Common Pleas.

Rally participants instead learned that Krasner asked the court for a 30-day postponement. Once again, after 38 years of being wrongfully held behind bars for a crime he did not commit, justice is still denied to Abu-Jamal.

The rally drew attention to recent actions by Krasner’s office that resulted in the release of 10 unjustly convicted individuals. Minister of Confrontation of the MOVE Organization Pam Africa stressed, “Krasner, do for Mumia what you’ve done for these men here. Based on his innocence, he should be released like they were.”

Innocent Black men unjustly convicted

Mobilization4Mumia issued a Jan. 30 press release, which stated: “Recent exonerations of 10 Philadelphia residents, unfairly convicted for crimes they did not commit reveal a simple truth — the Philadelphia police, courts and prosecutors convict innocent Black men based on gross violations of their constitutional rights. The same patterns of constitutional violations plague the case of Abu-Jamal.” (tiny.cc/733hjz)

Since January 2018, investigations by the Conviction Integrity Unit of the Philadelphia District Attorney’s office have resulted in the exonerations of Sherman McCoy, James Frazier, Dwayne Thorpe, Terrance Lewis, Jamaal Simmons, Dontia Patterson, John Miller, Willie Veasey,



Activists Megan Malachi and Kamau Becktemba outside District Attorney Larry Krasner’s office.

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Johnny Berry and Chester Holmann III. (Washington Post, Nov. 12, 2019)

Seven of the 10 men released in Philadelphia were convicted by former District Attorney Lynne Abraham, a “tough-on-crime” prosecutor who regularly sought maximum punishments and death sentences. As a Court of Common Pleas judge, Abraham arraigned Abu-Jamal in 1981. Years later as district attorney, she fought against his appeals in postconviction relief hearings.

Ineffective counsel, false witness testimony, witness coercion and intimidation, phony ballistics evidence, prosecution failure to turn over evidence to the defense as required by law, racist jury selection and other legal errors led to the exoneration of the 10 innocent defendants after they spent decades in prison. These are the same unjust practices that Abu-Jamal’s attorneys and supporters

have witnessed since 1982.

Philadelphia is not alone. The National Registry of Exonerations counted 165 exonerations in the U.S. last year. The registry has tallied 2,549 wrongful convictions since 1989, unjustly incarcerating these defendants for a total of 22,540 years. (tiny.cc/3d4hjz)

Police target Mumia

In the late 1970s and early 1980s, Abu-Jamal was a daily radio reporter for WHYI and NPR where he earned acclaim for his award-winning reporting. As a journalist who reported fairly on the MOVE organization’s resistance against state repression, he drew the ire of the Philadelphia Fraternal Order of Police and the notoriously racist police commissioner, and later mayor, Frank Rizzo.

On Dec. 9, 1981, while driving a cab to supplement his income, Abu-Jamal came

upon his brother in an altercation with police officer, Daniel Faulkner. Faulkner was killed. Abu-Jamal, who was then shot and severely beaten by police, was charged with Faulkner’s death—even though witnesses reported seeing another man, likely the passenger in the car of Abu-Jamal’s brother, running from the scene.

Imprisoned for nearly four decades, Abu-Jamal has maintained his innocence. He successfully won his release from Pennsylvania’s death row in 2011. He won the right to appeal his 1982 conviction in December 2018 because of biased judicial oversight by former Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice Ronald Castille.

In early January 2019, Krasner reported finding six boxes of previously undisclosed evidence held by prosecutors in the case. After Abu-Jamal’s attorneys Judith Ritter and Sam Spital reviewed the material, they filed new appellate briefs in September of that year. They also requested that the case be returned for a hearing before the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas based on finding concrete evidence of prosecutorial misconduct by the District Attorney’s office in Abu-Jamal’s 1982 trial.

Abu-Jamal’s lawyers argue the prosecution failed to disclose evidence as required and discriminated against African Americans when selecting the jury in his trial. They charge that his lawyer in 1982 did not adequately challenge the state’s witnesses. The attorneys also filed a motion revealing new evidence of constitutional violations, such as promises by the prosecutor to pay for or give leniency to two of their witnesses. Ritter contends that the new evidence shows Abu-Jamal’s trial was “fundamentally unfair and tainted by serious constitutional violations.”

Free Mumia! Free all political prisoners! □

San Antonio

Protest of migrant punishment ‘protocols’



Immigrant-rights activists and advocates gathered in protest outside a San Antonio, Texas, courthouse on Jan. 29, the anniversary of the implementation of the “Migrant Protection Protocols.” MPP, one of the crueler elements of Trump’s war on migrants, has forced over 57,000 vulnerable asylum seekers to wait in dangerous conditions in Mexico for months, according to a statement from the group RAICES (The Refugee and Immigrant

Center for Education and Legal Services), which called the demonstration. Inside, immigration judges were spending only two to three minutes per case via video-conference to rule on asylum appeals. Outside, speakers told of the horrors of the system and protesters vowed to ramp up the fight to shut it down.

— Report and photo by Shelley Ettinger

RED SALUTE TO ALL OF OUR
104 NEW SUBSCRIBERS
IN THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE
CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES AT
FRACKVILLE & MAHANOV!

**WORKERS
WORLD
SUPPORTS
PRISONERS
IN STRUGGLE**

WWP IS PROUD TO PROVIDE FREE NEWSPAPER
SUBSCRIPTIONS TO ANYONE WHO IS CURRENTLY
INCARCERATED. PLEASE CONSIDER SUPPORTING THE
PRISONER SUBSCRIPTION PROGRAM AT PATREON.COM/WWP

Attica Prison Uprising, 1971

After Brexit

Will Britain become U.S. puppet?

By G. Dunkel

At the stroke of 11 p.m. on Jan. 31, Britain was no longer part of the European Union and free to make any kind of trade deal its government could reach “without let or hindrance” from the EU.

But this “freedom” means that U.S. imperialism is free to put intense pressure on a stand-alone country whose major trading partner is the EU — just across the Channel. Forty-five percent of all Britain’s exports in 2019 were to the EU and 53 percent of all its imports from the EU. Only 13 percent of its exports were to the U.S.

London has conflicts with Washington over taxes, trade and technology. If the British government imposes a digital-services tax that hits U.S.-based tech giants, the Trump administration threatens to retaliate with a 100 percent tariff on British car exports.

The U.S. and the EU have conflicting health and safety standards. The EU forbids the sale or import of frozen chlorinated chicken. In the U.S., it is a common way of treating frozen chicken.

The U.S. trade model is a lot looser than the EU’s, but Britain is going to have trouble straddling between them. If British corporations adhere to U.S. rules on food safety, they could run into the EU’s nontariff barriers. If Britain adopts U.S. rules on social protections for workers, which are far less protective than EU rules, Britain can have problems trading with the EU.

The contradictions could create a problem for cross-border trade between the Republic of Ireland, which is part of the EU, and the six counties of northeast

Ireland, which for now are part of Britain.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson is scheduled to say on Feb. 3: “There is no need for a free trade agreement to involve accepting EU rules on competition policy, subsidies, social protection, the environment, or anything similar any more than the EU should be obliged to accept UK rules.” (Guardian, Feb. 2)

U.S.-British conflict over Huawei

The market for 5G network gear, software and the hardware necessary to use the new standard is estimated to be around \$700 billion for the decade 2019-29. The Chinese firm Huawei is a world leader in 5G technology, providing reliable gear at relatively low prices. Huawei is the world's second-largest cell phone provider and has a major share of Britain's market.

The technological issue between the U.S. and Britain centers on Johnson’s decision to use some kits from Huawei for the 5G network that is being built in England. This decision was announced two days before Secretary of State Mike Pompeo went to Britain to discuss the changes in U.S.-British relations that Brexit will produce. Pompeo aims to deny China and Huawei the ability to shape the future of the internet.

5G is a new network standard that is faster, more reliable and more capable than the current 4G network. If England excludes Huawei from its 5G network build, its people will have to bear the heavy costs of ripping Huawei gear out of its 4G network.

5G will accelerate the growth and expansion of telecommunications. It will also redefine industries such as

automotive, entertainment, computing and manufacturing. Like any advanced economy, Britain’s will have to adopt it.

Washington claims that British use of Huawei equipment would create a grave security risk, opening up networks to monitoring by Chinese intelligence. Huawei denies this claim and points to its use of open source code.

The French government has stated that it will use Huawei equipment. Huawei

has 25 percent of the telecommunications market in France. German network operators say that banning Huawei may add years of delays and billions in costs to Germany's 5G network launch.

Responding to U.S. pressure on the security issue, a number of Conservative members of the British Parliament have challenged Johnson's decision on Huawei's gear. □

Australia: The fire this time

By Mumia Abu-Jamal

Taken from a Jan. 26 audio recording posted on prisonradio.org.

Tongues of fire licked the trees of New South Wales, a state in southeast Australia. Like a beggar at a feast, red flowers of flame jumped across the nation, eating all in its path.

A living expression of what Aussies call, ‘Fire Season.’ Honestly. “Fire Season.”

This, the time of Australian summer, is the hottest summer since records were kept. And fire season gives a whole new meaning to the passive term “Global Warming.”

How about “Global Burning”? In this fire season alone, over a billion animals—that’s billion—with a “B”—again a billion animals have lost their lives.

This alone seems almost incomprehensible — a billion life forms gone — in a temporal blink of time.

Is this not a sign? A symbol of things to come?



Fire Season, the Season of Fire. Why not call it what it really is — Death Season, the Season of Death; when so-called “civilized society” causes an animal holocaust against life itself.

Australia is burning.

From imprisoned nation, this is Mumia Abu-Jamal. □

Italy’s war policy is tied tighter to Pentagon

By Manlio Dinucci

Published in the Italian daily Il Manifesto on Feb. 4. Translation by John Catalinotto.

“A historically privileged relationship, which must be strengthened as much as possible.” This is how, during his Jan. 29-31 visit to Washington, D.C., Italian Defense Minister Lorenzo Guerini (of the Democratic Party — PD) defined Italy's ties with the United States.

U.S. Secretary of Defense Mark Esper called Italy a “solid NATO ally” which, hosting over 34,000 military and other Pentagon employees, “plays a vital role in our projection of force in Europe, the Mediterranean and North Africa.”

Italy's role is more important than Esper himself says. Enabled by U.S./NATO headquarters and bases, the Pentagon can launch military operations from Italian territory into an area that extends from the Atlantic Ocean to Russia and, more to the south, to the whole of Africa and the Middle East. Always with the consent and collaboration of the Italian state.

“Both countries,” underlines the official Pentagon communiqué, “recognize the destabilizing influence of Iran in the Middle East and agree to continue to work together to contain the increasingly disruptive Iranian activities.”

The formal position taken by the Italian government (and therefore by Guerini himself) after the Trump-ordered killing of Iranian General Qassem Soleimani,

and after the Iranians reacted, had underlined the need to "avoid further escalation and encourage a lowering of tension through diplomacy.” Thus Guerini canceled this formal Italian policy.

Confirming that it is Washington and not Rome that decides, Guerini declared in the press conference at the Pentagon that “Italy has decided to stay in Iraq after a telephone conversation with Secretary Esper.”

Guerini, reports the Ministry of Defense, was also received by President Trump's advisor Jared Kushner, “promoter of the recent peace plan for the Middle East.” In other words, the plan that creates a “Palestinian state” on the model of the Native “Indian reservations” created by the USA in the 19th century.

Esper makes demands

Minister Guerini also got some earfuls from U.S. Secretary of Defense Esper: Italy must do more to bring its military spending (now about \$77 million a day) up to at least 2 percent of its gross domestic product (about \$111 million a day). It must also limit or ban the use of 5G Chinese technology, in particular Huawei, which the U.S. claims “compromises the security of the Alliance.”

Immediately afterwards, however, Minister Guerini had his greatest satisfaction: The head of the Pentagon thanked him for having strengthened Italy's role as a fundamental partner of the United States in the defense industry, and for his strong support for the F-35 fighter

program in which Italy, a second-level partner, “has made important investments in research and development.”

In Washington, according to a statement published in Rome, Minister Guerini met “representatives of the Italian defense industry and the main think tanks in the sector.”

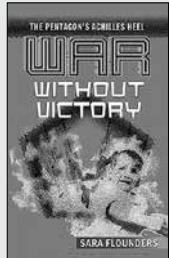
Holding first place, certainly, are the executives of Leonardo — the largest Italian military company, in which the Ministry of Economy and Finance is the main shareholder. Leonardo in the U.S. provides products and services to the armed forces and intelligence agencies, while in Italy it manages the Lockheed Martin F-35 fighter plant in Cameri.

TURN THE GUNS AROUND

by John Catalinotto

“If schools in the United States really wanted to impart historical truth, John Catalinotto’s ‘Turn The Guns Around’ would be required reading. He tells the true story of this epoch. Few participants know more about the massive GI rebellion against the Vietnam War, the anti-war veterans’ movement or the history of soldier revolts from the Paris Commune to the Portuguese coup.”

– Pvt Larry Holmes,
GI resister and organizer for the American Serviceman's Union 1972-74.

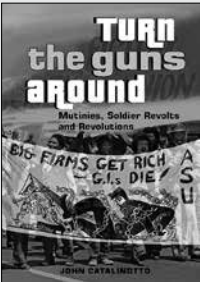


WAR WITHOUT VICTORY

by Sara Flounders

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

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



Available
at online
booksellers.

If no justice for Palestine – then no peace!

Workers World Party expresses its utmost solidarity with the people of Palestine, who are facing an increased onslaught of U.S.-Israeli aggression.

The Jan. 28 “Peace to Prosperity” plan jointly announced by Israel and the U.S. — after not even the pretense of discussion with the Palestinians — would essentially seize much of what little land is left to Palestinians and continue Israeli military control over an even-more-fragmented Palestine. It would deny the right of return to those driven from their homes and land during the violence of the Nakba in the 1948 formation of Israel.

In 1967, when Israel went to war and seized the Golan Heights, the West Bank, Gaza and the Sinai Peninsula, WWP mounted an outraged and continuing protest of that aggression and affirmed unbending solidarity with Palestine.

Now in 2020, Palestinians are fiercely united in opposition to the Trump-Netanyahu plan, and WWP unites with them in that opposition. (See article titled “U.S.-Israeli ‘steal of the century’ Palestinians reject land theft” in this issue.)

The fascist proposal marks the end of the Oslo Accord pretense of 1993 that it would allow a Palestinian state with any form of independence. The plan is a blatant move to try to end forever the Palestinian struggle for national liberation.

Trump described the plan as the “deal of the century.” But it is more accurately dubbed the “steal of the century” — a blatant land grab in order to create “business opportunities” and a captive workforce to make profits for a flailing and failing capitalist system. As Samidoun Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network notes, the U.S.-Israeli plan “repeatedly demands of its envisioned Palestinian bantustans that they must be ‘business-friendly,’ welcoming to ‘multinational corporations’ and ‘foreign direct investment.’” (tinyurl.com/wvl4lgh)

Samidoun also notes: “This ‘deal’ blatantly enshrines settler colonialism and Zionism without even a facade of concern for allegedly universal principles of justice, sovereignty, self-determination and international law from which Palestinians are systematically excluded.”

Palestinians are living in apartheid-like confined areas of land, linked only by heavily militarized and fortified Israeli roads and checkpoints. They are frequently deprived of food, water and electricity by Israeli authorities. They are subjected to arbitrary imprisonment, interrogation and execution for defending their right to their homeland — their right to existence.

Palestinian children are shot for throwing stones, their only weapons, at Israeli soldiers armed with bullpup assault rifles that can be fired at will in semi-automatic or full-automatic mode.

Under the 1949 Geneva Conventions, collective punishment is considered a war crime. But whole Palestinian neighborhoods and communities are collectively punished — homes and olive orchards bulldozed — even if only one person becomes a leader and acts against Israeli occupation.

This new land grab follows the pattern of centuries of capitalist/imperialist crime: settler-colonial occupation and theft of Indigenous lands, genocidal killing of peoples and obliteration of

independent nations, exploitation of stolen resources, and building industries for profit with captured or enforced labor.

This has been the death-dealing path of U.S. “Manifest Destiny,” now in league with Israel’s Zionism — both state powers using far-right religion as an excuse to justify crimes against humanity for profit.

For over a hundred years, the Palestinian people have struggled to keep and remain in their homeland — ever since the 1917 Balfour Declaration by the British began the settler-colonial push to take their land.

The situation of the Palestinians became even worse after World War II. The U.S. and other Allies refused to welcome desperate Jewish refugees from Nazi-occupied Europe. Instead those countries gave support to a “solution” that pushed Jewish survivors of the Holocaust to settle in what by 1948 would become Israel — at the expense of the Palestinian people who had been living there for millennia.

This Jan. 31, as news of the Trump-Netanyahu plan spread through the West Bank, thousands of Palestinians demonstrated in a “Friday of Rage.” And, once more, Israeli soldiers fired live ammunition at unarmed protesters. Now solidarity actions with Palestine have been happening worldwide and throughout the U.S. from Los Angeles to Boston, Columbia, S.C., to Columbus, Ohio.

Palestinians, united in outrage, have emphasized that solidarity actions should include support for the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement and freedom for Palestinian political prisoners, who are leaders of the liberation movement.

Those of us living inside the U.S. witness and experience every day the horrific impact of an economic and social system built on settler-colonial genocide against Indigenous peoples and theft of their lands as well as enslavement and forced labor of African peoples.

The same vile system is at work this very minute against the Palestinian people. As we struggle for Indigenous sovereignty and Black liberation, as we denounce continued colonization from the Philippines to Puerto Rico, as we fight to support freedom from imperialist austerity in Latin America and paths toward socialism in Cuba and Venezuela, as we fight against the predations of capitalism everywhere — with that same dedication we are in solidarity with the Palestinian people. □

Zero tolerance! Abusers out!

The following editorial was written by gender non-conforming and women members of Workers World Party.

The progressive movement has come a long way from its shameful history of gender abuse. There is still a gargantuan mountain to climb toward socialism, gender equity and justice. We link arms and will continue to climb together.

We must resoundingly affirm that we will protect each other from racism, sexism, homophobia, ableism and abuse. If we are to succeed, abusers and their enablers must not be welcome in our spaces or in our movement.

In consulting the 2010 essay, “Why Misogynists Make Great Informants” by Black gender activist and academic Courtney Desiree Morris, we find that the danger is twofold. Misogynists and abusers chase people of oppressed gender out of the movement. In fear for our safety and in recognition that trans and cis women, trans men, lesbians, queer folks and gender-nonconforming individuals’ lives and contributions are not valued the same as cis (het) men’s, we are wary of entering spaces where we are not supported.

Losing comrades in the movement is always a detriment, and losing the unique perspective that gender-oppressed comrades contribute to the struggle is a road to failure. By accepting abusers into movement spaces we allow a fertile ground for state infiltration that takes advantage of the havoc abusers create.

People of oppressed gender have the right to defend themselves from abuse, homophobia and misogyny. We have the right to hold organizations accountable that do not support our self-determination. Spaces and organizations that do not

take this into account create an untenable situation for the 21st century.

Women and others of oppressed gender are expected to silence ourselves and put up with abuse in an effort to build unity. Unity for who? Not unity with women and others of oppressed gender who have every right to insist on their inclusion in the movement. After all, we are also struggling for liberation. We are the backbone of the struggle for liberation.

Abusers and their enablers will see this insistence for safety as proof that we are not putting the movement first. We are told to “close our eyes and think of socialism.” But what socialism can we visualize when we cannot be sure it will prioritize our safety and contributions? We can only see a form of socialism that prioritizes our safety and contributions.

Under a Trump administration that is attacking the bodies of women, trans and GNC people, people of oppressed gender have a rage that is growing. It is a righteous rage. Our fears that our comrades and allies in the movement do not have our back is made manifest every time an abuser is allowed to remain in our movement.

While transformative justice is an important model to develop, it cannot be practiced in an environment where women and people of oppressed gender feel under physical threat. It cannot be developed in an environment where we feel like our comrades and allies do not have our backs. It cannot be developed in an environment where abusers do not take responsibility for their actions.

Until there is unity around removing abusers from our movement, there can be no discussion of how to bring them back as healed individuals. □

Houston says:

No to colonial apartheid plan!

Hundreds gathered at Houston’s busiest intersection Feb. 1 to condemn the “Deal of the Century” after the release of President Donald Trump’s so-called “Peace Plan for Palestine and Israel.” The document has united all Palestinian organizations and people who condemn this as a colonial, apartheid plan that legitimizes the theft of Palestine.

Activists, organizations and extended families came out to strongly condemn both Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for their arrogance in disregarding international law and human rights.

Cars honked in support for the Palestinian cause. From toddlers to great grandparents, people carried signs and Palestinian flags. They cheered and



chanted slogans as speaker after speaker condemned Zionism as well as the U.S. and Israeli governments.

The action was called by the Palestinian Youth Movement, the Palestine American Council, the Palestinian American Cultural Center and Students for Justice in Palestine.

— Report and photo by Gloria Rubac

Honor Black History Month — Support WW

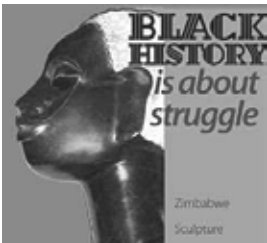
Workers World makes a big deal about Black History Month because racism pervades every aspect of life under capitalism. Everything — from fighting for living-wage jobs to ending police terror, for affordable housing and community-control schools — is rooted in the centuries-long struggle to end this country’s vicious history of racism, rooted in the worst, violence-driven, superexploitation — slavery.

That’s why every month, not just February, the newspaper chronicles the struggles of peoples of African descent to eradicate institutionalized, systemic white supremacy. Case in point is our continuing coverage of the struggle for political prisoners, especially freeing Mumia Abu-Jamal and for parole for

Chuck Africa, the last of the MOVE 9 still waiting to be released after 40-plus years of criminal incarceration.

WW bases our weekly coverage of the Black struggle here and in the African diaspora on breaking imperialist chains and the principle of self-determination. Oppressed people have the right to fight to end all forms of inequality and injustice — by any means necessary.

If you appreciate our coverage, it’s time to join the Workers World Supporter Program or renew your membership promptly. WW Supporter Program was established 43 years ago so readers could help WW publish anti-racist,



working-class truth and build campaigns needed to fight for revolutionary change leading to socialism.

For a donation of at least \$75 a year — \$100 or \$300 or more if you’re able — members receive a subscription to WW, a

monthly letter about timely issues, five free subscriptions to give to friends and a book for donations over \$75. Write checks (either monthly or once a year) to Workers World and mail them, with your name and address, to 147 W. 24th St., 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10011. Or sign up to donate online at workers.org/donate/.

Know that we are grateful for your help in building Workers World! □

It’s not Iran’s military power that frightens the U.S.

By Manuel Raposo

Published in [journalmudardevida.net](#) on Jan. 31. Translation by John Catalinotto.

Jan. 31—The crisis that the U.S. created with Iran, which the Trump gang pushed to the brink of war, has nothing to do with the proclaimed “danger” of the Iranians making an atomic bomb. It is not that they had no desire to have it—or that they did not deserve to have it (in our opinion, they did) to more effectively defend their independence, as the case of North Korea seems to prove. The U.S. rage has other grounds.

The point is that Iran, in the 40 years of independence it has enjoyed since the 1979 revolution, has become a country free from imperialist tutelage, whether U.S. or European imperialism. That is the crux of the matter.

Independence has enabled Iran, thanks in particular to oil, to develop economically and socially, placing it light years ahead of what the country was in the days of Shah Reza Pahlevi [ruled 1941-79]. In addition, despite the regime’s religious ideology, it is way ahead of the dictatorial regimes of the Arabian peninsula, which the U.S. and European imperialists are so keen to keep in power.

All the reports by the International Atomic Energy Agency — the U.N. body charged with monitoring Iran’s compliance with the 2015 agreement with the U.S., France, Britain, Germany, Russia and China — declare that the Iranians committed no violations. Furthermore, apart from Trump’s U.S., no other signatory has accused Iran of failing to comply with its commitments. The reason for U.S. aggressiveness arises elsewhere.

The Trump administration’s anti-Iran campaign, joined by Boris Johnson’s Britain, has a very concrete purpose: to prevent Iran from becoming a

regional (namely economic) power that could change the so-called “balance” in the Middle East — which is already happening.

Now, this “balance,” which Britain set up historically and then the U.S. and its European allies maintained, is actually an absolute imbalance of forces with the imperialist powers in control and with the U.S. at the head.

This imbalance is the aim of the economic sanctions imposed on Iran. Always under U.S. command, they began in 1979, after the revolution that deposed the shah. Under various pretexts, they have been repeatedly maintained, re-imposed or strengthened by all U.S. presidents since then. In 40 years, they have only been relaxed for short periods: from 1981 to 1987, following the Algiers agreements, which ended the so-called “hostage crisis”; and from 2015 to 2018 by virtue of the multilateral agreement that Trump eventually tore up.

As is well known, Israel — which the U.S. has provided with nuclear weapons in violation of all the relevant treaties — and the Arab dictatorships, are the main agents of imperialism in the region, charged with maintaining that imbalance.

This is how the world’s most important sources of energy remain under U.S. and European domination. And also because an overwhelming military presence has been perpetuated for decades throughout the region — using military bases on land, naval squadrons, the latest generation of war material and thousands of troops.

Iran, especially since the U.S. occupation of Afghanistan and Iraq in 2001 and 2003, committed itself to breaking the siege to which it was subjected. Iran did this either by taking position in an Iraq torn apart by U.S. barbarism or by establishing contacts in Afghanistan with the Taliban resistance. (Iran succeeded to the

extent of acting as a mediator between the Taliban and the U.S.)

On the other hand, Iran’s anti-imperialist and anti-Zionist stance gained it sympathy in Lebanon, the Gaza Strip and Syria. Iran established alliances in particular with the Hezbollah and Hamas movements and the Syrian government. The same goes for the Houthi rebels in Yemen, based on their opposition to Saudi aggression.

Considering Iran’s political influence unacceptable, Washington calls it “terrorist action,” thereby trying to cover up its own acts of state terrorism — such as the assassination of General Qassem Soleimani.

In addition, Iran’s trade agreements and political rapprochement with Russia and China have helped it to sustain Teheran’s economic and political independence on the international scene, despite the sanctions and demonization to which the Western powers have subjected Iran.

Iran’s capacity for resistance is a major headache for U.S. imperialism. It also terrifies U.S. client states in the region, whose rulers can only stay in control based on U.S. power. It is all the more worrying for Washington and its puppets that Iran’s alliance with Russia and China favors the influence of these two powers in the region.

And the influence of China and Russia tends to expand and consolidate because it is based on a decisive argument: China’s growing economic power, for which neither the U.S. nor Europe shows any antidotes.

The decline of U.S. hegemony in the Middle East is part of the general decline of U.S. imperialism. This decline opens the way for the expansion of the new global state powers. It also exacerbates the dispute between old and new powers.

It is this decline that to a great extent



PHOTO: MUDAR DE VIDA

A mourner in Iran holds a portrait of Iranian General Qassem Soleimani, assassinated by U.S. military drone in Iraq on Jan. 2.

explains why Europeans and other U.S. allies have recently accused the White House of “unpredictability” regarding the direction of its foreign policy.

It is also this decline that makes it possible to understand and expose the growing belligerence of the entire Trump foreign policy — tearing up agreements, breaking alliances, seeking new partners, strengthening mercenary ties with outlaw states (such as, in this case, Israel and Saudi Arabia), unashamedly threatening war and destruction in all directions. Ultimately, the sole focus of U.S. power is becoming its use of military weapons.

But the decline of the U.S. also represents an opening for the peoples’ struggle to develop and gain new dimensions. Despite the religious and reactionary nature of Iran’s Ayatollah-led regime, Iran, in serving the interest of a powerful national bourgeoisie, is confronting imperialism as very few national leaderships have the courage to do these days.

It is in this capacity as an anti-imperialist force—and as long as it remains so—that Iran must be unequivocally supported by the European and global left. Iran’s struggle will help to erode and bring down the main enemy of the people today, the main war maker threatening all of humanity: U.S. imperialist capitalism. □

Palestinians reject land theft

Continued from page 1

with them and the United States including security ties.” The League, as a whole, has rejected the plan. (Reuters, Feb. 1)

Various statements of condemnation were issued, including the following:

“**Samidoun Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network** joins our voice with that of Palestinians and all people of conscience around the world in rejecting and condemning Donald Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu’s racist, colonialist, so-called ‘Deal of the Century.’ This ‘deal’ blatantly enshrines settler colonialism and Zionism without even a facade of concern for allegedly universal principles of justice, sovereignty, self-determination and international law from which Palestinians are systematically excluded.

“While we are entirely certain of the utter failure of this ‘war plan’ for occupied Palestine (it is certainly not any form of plan for peace) when confronted with the unified rejection of the Palestinian and

Arab peoples and all supporters of justice around the world, we also emphasize the urgency of escalating our struggle to confront Zionism and imperialism and bring about their defeat. This must mean expanding our campaigns for boycott, divestment and sanctions with material effect; defending Palestinian resistance and advancing the demand for freedom for Palestinian political prisoners.” (samidoun.net, Jan. 28)

Al-Awda, the Palestine Right to Return Coalition stated in part: “In reality, Trump’s ‘deal of the century’ is an attempt to legitimize the current status quo in Palestine by giving the title [of] ‘statehood’ to these apartheid Bantustans, precisely the same tactic attempted by the apartheid South African regime and rejected by the world. It is as clear as ever, and perhaps more than ever, that the United States as an imperialist power and the Israeli entity as a colonizing regime have declared identical interests in the continued colonization of Palestinian land and destruction of Palestinian rights.

“The Palestinian vision remains clear: self-determination, continued resistance to colonization and occupation, the return of all Palestinian refugees, the liberation of Palestine, full rights and equality for all of our people, dismantling Zionism, Jerusalem as the capital of one liberated Palestine, from the river to the sea. Palestinians have been struggling for over 100 years, and Trump, Netanyahu, Kushner and their ‘deal’ will

never liquidate the cause and the rights of the Palestinian people.” (al-awda.org, Jan. 30) Al-Awda initiated emergency demonstrations in New York, Houston and Los Angeles.

Susan Abulhawa, a well-known Palestinian activist and writer, told Workers World: “Kushner is a Zionist who for years has been sending millions of dollars for Jewish-only settlements (considered a war crime under international law). He received \$30 million from an Israeli firm while this ‘deal’ was being drafted. He’s part of a decision that will decide the fate of Palestinians, an ancient Indigenous society that has lived continuously on that land for thousands of years.”

Abulhawa went on to say: “Kushner’s stated qualification for being in a position of such extraordinary power is that he read 25 books. Donald Trump appears to have read nothing and didn’t know the



United protest organized by Hamas, Fatah and Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine in Gaza, Jan. 28.

name of Al Aqsa mosque, embarrassingly calling it ‘Al Aqua’ Mosque in full view of the world. The so-called deal of the century is exactly what you would expect from two ignorant rich white men with enormous power colluding with a modern settler colonial project that has one of the worst human rights records in the world.” □



Palestinians protest White House plan at Burj al-Barajneh refugee camp, near Beirut, Lebanon, Jan. 31.

100 Years Later

Some Lessons of the Great Bolshevik Revolution

By Deirdre Griswold

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

Download it free from www.workers.org/books



Palestinas/os protestan en contra del plan de la Casa Blanca. Campo de refugiadas/os de Burj al-Barajneh, cerca de Beirut, Líbano, el 31 de enero.

Si no hay justicia para Palestina, ¡entonces no hay paz!

MUNDO OBRERO editorial

El partido Workers World Party/ Partido Mundo Obrero expresa su máxima solidaridad con el pueblo de Palestina, que se enfrenta a una creciente acometida de agresión estadounidense-israelí.

El plan del 28 de enero de “Paz a la Prosperidad” anunciado conjuntamente por Israel y los Estados Unidos, después de ni siquiera la pretensión de discutir con los palestinos, esencialmente se apoderaría de gran parte de la poca tierra que les queda a los palestinos y continuaría el control militar israelí sobre una Palestina aún más fragmentada. Negaría el derecho de retorno a los expulsados de sus hogares y tierras durante la violencia de la Nakba en la formación de Israel en 1948.

En 1967, cuando Israel entró en guerra y se apoderó de los Altos del Golán, Cisjordania, Gaza y la península del Sinaí, WWP/PMO organizó una protesta indignada y continua de esa agresión y afirmó una solidaridad inflexible con Palestina.

Ahora en el 2020, los palestinos están fuertemente unidos en oposición al plan Trump-Netanyahu, y WWP/PMO se une con ellos en esa oposición.

La propuesta fascista marca el final de la pretensión del Acuerdo de Oslo de 1993 de que permitiría a un estado palestino con cualquier forma de independencia. El plan es un movimiento descarado para tratar de terminar para siempre la lucha palestina por la liberación nacional.

Trump describió el plan como el

“acuerdo del siglo”. Pero se lo denomina con mayor precisión el “robo del siglo”, un acaparamiento de tierras flagrante para crear “oportunidades de negocios” y una fuerza laboral cautiva para obtener ganancias por una crisis y falla del sistema capitalista. Como señala la Red de Solidaridad con los Prisioneros Palestinos de Samidoun, el plan estadounidense-israelí “exige repetidamente a sus bantustanes palestinos imaginados que deben ser ‘amigables para los negocios’, dar la bienvenida a ‘corporaciones multinacionales’ e ‘inversión extranjera directa’” (tinyurl.com/wvl4lgh)

Samidoun también señala: “Este” acuerdo “consagra descaradamente el colonialismo y el sionismo de los colonos sin siquiera una fachada de preocupación por los principios supuestamente universales de justicia, soberanía, autodeterminación y derecho internacional del que los palestinos están sistemáticamente excluidos”.

Los palestinos viven en áreas de tierra confinadas como el apartheid, unidas solo por carreteras y puestos de control israelíes fuertemente militarizados y fortificados. Las autoridades israelíes les privan con frecuencia de alimentos, agua y electricidad. Están sujetos a encarcelamiento arbitrario, interrogatorio y ejecución por defender su derecho a su patria, su derecho a la existencia.

Los niños palestinos son fusilados por lanzar piedras, sus únicas armas, a los soldados israelíes armados con fusiles de asalto bullpup que pueden dispararse a voluntad en modo semiautomático o completamente automático.

Según los Convenios de Ginebra de 1949, el castigo colectivo se considera un crimen de guerra. Pero vecindarios y comunidades palestinas enteras son castigadas colectivamente (casas y huertos de olivos arrasados) incluso si solo una persona se convierte en líder y actúa contra la ocupación israelí.

Este nuevo acaparamiento de tierras sigue el patrón de siglos de crimen capitalista/imperialista: ocupación colonial y robo de tierras indígenas, asesinatos genocidios de pueblos y destrucción de naciones independientes, explotación de recursos robados y construcción de industrias para obtener ganancias con mano de obra capturada o forzada.

Este ha sido el camino de la muerte del “Destino Manifiesto” de los Estados Unidos, ahora en alianza con el sionismo de Israel: ambos poderes estatales utilizan la religión de extrema derecha como una excusa para justificar los crímenes contra la humanidad con fines de lucro.

Durante más de cien años, el pueblo palestino ha luchado por mantener y permanecer en su tierra natal, desde que la Declaración Balfour de 1917 de los británicos comenzó el impulso colonial para tomar sus tierras.

La situación de los palestinos empeoró aún más después de la Segunda Guerra Mundial. Estados Unidos y otros aliados se negaron a recibir refugiados judíos desesperados de la Europa ocupada por los nazis. En cambio, esos países apoyaron una “solución” que empujó a los sobrevivientes judíos del Holocausto a establecerse en lo que en 1948 se convertiría en Israel, a expensas del pueblo palestino que había estado viviendo allí durante generaciones.

Este 31 de enero, cuando la noticia del plan Trump-Netanyahu se extendió por Cisjordania, miles de palestinos se manifestaron en un “Viernes de ira”. Y, una vez más, los soldados israelíes dispararon munición real contra los manifestantes desarmados. Ahora las acciones de solidaridad con Palestina se han llevado a cabo en todo el mundo y en todo Estados Unidos, desde Los Ángeles hasta Boston, Columbia, S.C., hasta Columbus, Ohio.

Los palestinos, unidos por la indignación, han enfatizado que las acciones de solidaridad deben incluir el apoyo al movimiento de boicot, desinversión y sanciones (BDS) y la libertad para los presos políticos palestinos, que son líderes del movimiento de liberación.

Aquellos de nosotros que vivimos dentro de los EE.UU. Somos testigos y experimentamos todos los días el terrible impacto de un sistema económico y social basado en el genocidio colonial de los colonos contra los pueblos indígenas y el robo de sus tierras, así como la esclavitud y el trabajo forzado de los pueblos africanos.

El mismo sistema vil está funcionando en este mismo minuto contra el pueblo palestino. Mientras luchamos por la soberanía indígena y la liberación negra, denunciamos la continua colonización desde las islas Filipinas hasta Puerto Rico, mientras luchamos por apoyar la libertad de la austeridad imperialista en América Latina y los caminos hacia el socialismo en Cuba y Venezuela, mientras luchamos contra las depredaciones de capitalismo en todas partes: con esa misma dedicación somos solidarios con el pueblo palestino. □

¡Tolerancia cero! ¡Abusadores fuera!

MUNDO OBRERO editorial

El siguiente editorial fue escrito por personas no conformes de género y mujeres miembros de Workers World Party/ Partido Mundo Obrero.

El movimiento progresista ha recorrido un largo camino desde su vergonzosa historia de abuso de género. Todavía hay una montaña gigantesca para escalar hacia el socialismo, la equidad de género y la justicia. Vinculamos los brazos y seguiremos subiendo juntos.

Debemos afirmar rotundamente que nos protegeremos mutuamente del racismo, el sexismo, la homofobia, el poder y el abuso. Si queremos tener éxito, los abusadores y sus facilitadores no deben ser bienvenidos en nuestros espacios o en nuestro movimiento.

Al consultar el ensayo de 2010, “Por qué los misóginos son grandes informantes” de la activista y académica de género negra Courtney Desiree Morris, descubrimos que el peligro es doble. Misóginos y abusadores persiguen a las personas de género oprimido fuera del movimiento.

Temiendo por nuestra seguridad y en el

reconocimiento de que las vidas y contribuciones de mujeres trans y cis, hombres trans, lesbianas, personas homosexuales y personas que no cumplen con el género no se valoran de la misma manera que los hombres cis (heteros), desconfiamos de entrar en espacios donde no se no apoya.

Perder compañeros en el movimiento siempre es un detrimento, y perder la perspectiva única de que los compañeros oprimidos por el género contribuyen a la lucha es un camino al fracaso. Al aceptar a los abusadores en los espacios de movimiento, permitimos un terreno fértil para la infiltración estatal que aprovecha los estragos que crean los abusadores.

Las personas de género oprimido tienen derecho a defenderse del abuso, la homofobia y la misoginia. Tenemos derecho a responsabilizar a las organizaciones que no apoyan nuestra autodeterminación. Los espacios y las organizaciones que no tienen esto en cuenta crean una situación insostenible para el siglo XXI.

Se espera que las mujeres y otras personas de género oprimido se silencien y sufran abusos en un esfuerzo por construir la unidad. ¿Unidad para quién? No la unidad con las mujeres y otras personas de género oprimido que tienen todo el derecho de insistir en su inclusión en el movimiento. Después de todo, también estamos luchando por la liberación.

Somos la columna vertebral de la lucha por la liberación.

Los abusadores y sus facilitadores verán esta insistencia por la seguridad como prueba de que no estamos poniendo el movimiento primero. Se nos dice que “cerremos los ojos y pensemos en el socialismo”. Pero, ¿qué socialismo podemos visualizar cuando no podemos estar seguros de que priorizará nuestra seguridad y nuestras contribuciones? Solo podemos ver una forma de socialismo que prioriza nuestra seguridad y contribuciones.

Bajo una administración de Trump que está atacando los cuerpos de mujeres, personas trans y GNC, las personas de género oprimido tienen una ira cada vez mayor. Es una ira justa. Nuestro temor

de que nuestros camaradas y aliados en el movimiento no nos apoyen se manifiesta cada vez que se permite que un abusador permanezca en nuestro movimiento.

Si bien la justicia transformadora es un modelo importante para desarrollar, no se puede practicar en un entorno donde las mujeres y las personas de género oprimido se sientan bajo amenaza física. No puede desarrollarse en un entorno en el que sentimos que nuestros camaradas y aliados no nos apoyen. No se puede desarrollar en un entorno donde los abusadores no se responsabilicen por sus acciones.

Hasta que haya una unidad en torno a eliminar a los abusadores de nuestro movimiento, no puede haber discusión sobre cómo traerlos de regreso como individuos sanados. □



El capitalismo en un callejón sin salida

Por Fred Goldstein

Goldstein utiliza las leyes de la acumulación capitalista de Marx, y la tasa decreciente de ganancia, para demostrar por qué el capitalismo global ha llegado finalmente a un punto de inflexión.

LowWageCapitalism.com