Iraqi protests demand
U.S. troops get OUT!

By John Catalinotto

Hundreds of thousands — maybe millions — of Iraqis demonstrated in Baghdad, Basra and other major Iraqi cities on Jan. 24. They demanded the U.S. pull its remaining 5,200 troops out of Iraq. U.S. imperialism has occupied Iraq since the 2003 illegal invasion of the country, carried out under the phony pretext that the Iraqi government was developing "weapons of mass destruction."

The demonstrators, who approached the "Green Zone" where the U.S. Embassy is located, waved the Iraqi flag and shouted: "Out, out with the occupier!" and "Yes to sovereignty." Iraq Security Forces estimated the crowd at 250,000. Other estimates reached as high as 2.5 million. Organizational associations with the influential Shiite leader Muktada al-Sadr initiated and organized the protest. It took place three weeks after Washington murdered Iranian General Qassem Soleimani and Iraqi military leader Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis in a drone strike.

While the Iraqi population in general opposes the U.S. troop presence, this opposition has grown stronger since the assassination of the two leaders. The Iraqi people fear and resist having Iraq be the scene for a military confrontation between the U.S. and Iran. In response to the assassinations, the Iraqi Parliament voted to expel the U.S. troops from their country on Jan. 6.

At the Jan. 24 demonstration in Baghdad, a spokesperson for Al-Sadr read the Shiite leader’s statement demanding the withdrawal of U.S. troops, the cancellation of "security agreements" with Washington and the closure of Iraqi airspace to military aircraft. He warned the U.S. president not to be arrogant toward Iraqi representatives, saying that if the U.S. did not meet the demands, it would be considered "hostile to Iraq."

The New York Times of Jan. 24 reported that many marchers carried signs in English aimed at the U.S. public such as: “To the families of American soldiers. Insist on the withdrawal of your sons from our country or prepare their coffins.”

The reasons for the hatred of the U.S. occupation should be easy to understand: From 1990 to 2003, strict U.S. sanctions against Iraq caused the death of 1.5 million Iraqis, including 500,000 children under the age of five. The 2003 U.S.-led invasion and occupation killed hundreds of thousands more Iraqis and displaced millions. Also, the U.S. exacerbated religious and ethnic differences that virtually destroyed Iraqi society.

Parallel to the movement led by Al-Sadr, a massive movement over the past months has been protesting corruption within the Iraqi government and demanding Iraqi sovereignty. Al-Sadr withdrew his prior support for this movement right after the Jan. 24 demonstration. Iraqi government forces then severely repressed anti-government demonstrators on Jan. 25 and 26.

Despite the internal contradictions in Iraqi society—which if underestimated would lead to political errors—a large majority of Iraqis share opposition to the ongoing U.S. occupation of their country."

Fight continues for reproductive justice

By Sue Davis

The 47th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, the Supreme Court decision that legalized women’s right to choose abortion, was Jan. 22. While religious anti-abortion forces have been trying to overturn it ever since, the threat has never been greater—especially with woman-hater, racist, anti-LGBTQ+ Trump in control of the state.

Trump took a bold step on Jan. 24 by being the first acting president to address the so-called “March for Life” in Washington, D.C. The reactionary, white supremacist march has been organized by the Catholic Church-backed, misnamed "pro-life" movement right after the Jan. 24 demonstration. The reactionaries themselves admit the assault is not a "pro-life" movement but a "pro-unborn baby" group.

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Honoring King’s radical legacy

Seattle march 4
Oakland Moms win 7

We say NO to imperialist war!

Delbert Africa speaks out 3

Venezuelan Embassy Protectors head to court 9

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Buffalo, N.Y.

Police, private security try to suppress antiwar rally

By Nigel Bouvart

Buffalo, N.Y.

In conjunction with actions in the U.S. and internationally, some 50 anti-war activists demonstrated Jan. 25 in the Canalside district of the Buffalo harbor on Lake Erie. The activists called for an end to U.S. aggression against Iraq and for U.S. withdrawal of all military personnel from the entire Middle East region.

Protesters chanted “Iran wants peace, U.S. out of the Middle East,” “2, 3, 4, we won’t fight a rich man’s war” and “Not U.S. land, not U.S. oil, U.S. off Iraqi soil!” Several gave speeches against U.S. imperialism, the devastating repercussions of U.S. wars abroad for people at home and of the desire for peace that the people of Iran share with people in the U.S.

When protesters attempted to march around the block, they were intercepted by private security forces employed by LECON Harborcenter, the property of natural gas billionaires, Terry and Kim Pegula. Activists were falsely informed that the Harbor sidewalk was private property and told to immediately step into the busy street.

While demonstrators attempted to determine if this was a legal order, a security guard pushed one protester, first into the street and then into a parked vehicle. The guard then began shouting at a National Lawyers Guild legal observer.

Several protesters intervened when the guard attempted to place the NLG observer in a headlock and finally freed him from the guard’s grasp. Around a dozen cars from the Buffalo Police Department soon arrived, including officers wielding billy clubs and lieutenants who ordered protesters out of the street and off the adjacent Metro light rail.

In the end, no arrests were made, and the Buffalo AntiWar coalition is determined to continue demonstrating whenever and wherever necessary.

The successful demonstration was organized by the Buffalo Antirwar Coalition, which includes WWP-Buffalo, IAC-Buffalo, Western New York Peace Center, Green Party of Erie County, Veterans for Peace 128, Diana-Buffalo, U.S. Friends of the Soviet People-Buffalo and U.S. Peace Council-Buffalo. 

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 immigrants, misogyny, LGBTQ+ oppression and mistreatment of people with disabilities. It means joblessness, increasing homelessness and impoverishment and lack of hope for the future. No social problems can be solved under capitalism.

The U.S. is the richest country in the world, yet no one has a guaranteed right to shelter, food, water, health care, education or anything else — unless they can pay for it. Wages are lower every year, 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 wring 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 wealthy 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’re interested in joining Workers World Party contact: 212.627.2994

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

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Managing Editors: John Catalinotto, Martha Grevatt, Monica Moorehead, Minnie Bruce Pratt
Web Editors: Albee, Harvey Markowitz, Janet Meyes Production & Design Editors: Gery Armas, Sasha Mazumder, Scott Williams
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Houston: Fight for fair pay for construction workers

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Significant win for Clark College faculty

Women’s liberation must be anti-capitalist

Jan. 25: Protests against U.S. war

UNAC-Crosswalk protest/hold: 2019

Oakland Moms 4 Housing win

Embassy Protectors speak in New York

Embassy Protectors face court: A trial of our times

Around the world

Iraqi protests demand U.S. troops get out

Worldwide protests slam Modi’s anti-Muslim law

French say ‘No!’ to attack on retirement plan

Puerto Ricans protest undistributed 2017 supplies

China mobilizes to combat coronavirus

Editorials

Trump, Bolton and the impeachment process

Washington embraces Bolivia’s rightists

Noticias en Español

Un conflicto amargo

Desafíos

Mundo Obrero

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New York, NY 10011
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Delbert Africa: Free!

By Mumia Abu-Jamal

This column was transcribed from an audio recording posted on prisonradio.org on Jan. 20.

MOVE member, Delbert Africa, held in prison since the Confrontation of August 8, 1978, has walked out of a PA prison after 42 years.

Delbert, in the 69th year of his life, came out to meet other members of the MOVE Organization: Ramona, Pam, Janet, Janine, Mo, Mary, Carlos and Consuela Africa, who greeted him with a hearty chant: “Long Live John Africa!”— and a MOVE salute.

Del was in a good mood and in high spirits, cracking jokes and eating sandwiches.

August 8, 1978, was a date of infamy, for it marked an attack on the MOVE house in West Philadelphia’s Powelton Village, when hundreds of cops fired thousands of shots into the structure where men, women and babies fell in the basement. Gunfire was joined by water cannons, deluging the MOVE people, who fought to avoid drowning in that dark place.

When Delbert exited the house, he was beaten by several cops, rifle-butted, kicked and stomped viciously.

When several of the cops were charged with assaulting Delbert, they had nothing to worry about for the trial judge, Stanley Kubacki, ignoring videotapes, acquitted them all, citing among other things, Delbert’s muscles as justification for the beating.

Ironically, one of the cops charged might’ve been luckier if sent to prison for several weeks thereafter he was shot and paralyzed by his wife—who also happened to be a cop.

Delbert Africa, MOVE member, walked free after 42 years in the joint.

Delbert Africa speaks

By Betsey Piette

Philadelphia

A historic press conference was held at the Kingsessing Library in West Philadelphia on Jan. 21 to officially welcome home MOVE 9 activist Delbert Africa from his over 41-year imprisonment. The room was packed with press, MOVE supporters and several people who had witnessed the police siege and attack on MOVE’s Powelton Village home that led to Delbert’s 1978 arrest.

Pam Africa, Minister of Confrontation for the MOVE organization, stated, “While this was the first press conference we’re having concerning Delbert’s release, there will be more press conferences as we have more people coming home.” Several speakers noted that MOVE 9 member Chuck Africa expects to be released soon. Court appeals for Mumia Abu-Jamal are in progress.

Pam Africa introduced MOVE members Consuela Africa, Carlos Africa and Sue Africa, noting the number of years each had been imprisoned by the state. With them was Delbert’s daughter, Yvonne Orr-EI, and Ramona Africa, the sole surviving member of state’s infamous bombing of the MOVE family house in 1985—who Pam introduced as “Fire Walker.”

They were later joined by Fred Hampton Jr., whose father, Fred Hampton, a leader of the Black Panther Party, was murdered by Chicago police on Dec. 4, 1969.

“It lifted me right up”

Delbert began, “My name is Delbert Africa and I’m out here free and feeling good— any questions?” He contrasted his experience of four decades of imprisonment with being in the midst of family, friends, supporters and loved ones. “It lifted me right up,” he said.

Delbert recalled his time in prison with Phil Africa, who died while incarcerated. MOVE 9 member Merle Africa also died in prison. Delbert said, “I wish Phil and Merle could be here with us today. Once we get Chuck Africa out and free Mumia, we’ll have all our MOVE family with us.”

Since being released from Pennsylvania’s State Correctional Institution Dallas on Jan. 18, Delbert has yet to formally meet with his parole officer. He addressed the issue of parole restrictions: “The system always throws barricades onto people being and working together. The judge who sentenced us in 1978 threatened us as a family. He gave us 30 to 100 years, and they kept denying us parole saying: ‘You have no remorse.’ But they had no remorse for what they did to our family in 1985. We have no regrets because we were innocent in 1978.”

Delbert continued: “As a family and organization we are still on the move. They claimed they were violent—but we were trying to eliminate violence in our community, trying to stop the exploitation. You live over there with eight houses, yet I live here in a tent. We’re trying to stop that. The system wants to push people down, oppress you, but John Africa taught us that we don’t have to take it anymore. It’s been a long time caught up on somebody else’s schedule, but now I’m back on MOVE’s schedule.”

Constant police attacks on MOVE

Delbert told the audience about the confrontation with Philadelphia Police Commissioner Frank Rizzo in May 1977: “MOVE was peaceful, but we were suffering brutality at the hands of the police—so brutal that they physically kicked a baby out of the womb of one MOVE member and murdered Janine Africa’s baby, Life Africa. We made up what people thought were weapons so we could make an impression on city officials who saw a bunch of primarily black people rescuing animals and growing our own food in an area of Philadelphia where the University of Pennsylvania and Drexel wanted to expand.

“Rizzo went nuts and started a block party. He addressed the issue of parole and brought us food. The city tried to evict us. They got warrants naming people who never lived in the house. But just because it’s legal, don’t make it right. Slavery was also legal.”

Delbert related the events of Aug. 8, 1978: “Neighbors warned us that police were surrounding the house. We got the children and everyone into the basement. They emptied water cannons into the basement. At a press conference after the attack, police bragged about emptying rounds of machine gun fire into the house. During the attack I was shot in the chest, but was able to come out of the house through a window.”

Delbert described the immediate police attack on him when he went outside the house: “One cop hit me with a steel helmet on one side of my face. Another cop used his shotgun against my head to break my jaw. One cop pulled me by my hair across the street where they all started to jump on me, beating me. Their excuse was for claim I was armed, but I had removed my shirt and was naked from the waist up.”

Supporters shout: ‘On the MOVE!’

“At the hospital they removed the shotgun pellet from my chest without using anesthetics.” Delbert stated: “And when I finally got moved to the Round House [police headquarters], there were literally 20 or more people from the neighborhood yelling, ‘On the MOVE!’”

MOVE 9 members were sentenced collectively in connection with the death of Police Officer James Johnson. While he was in the audience, he said: “I was facing the MOVE house and heard gunshots from behind me. I had to hit the ground to avoid being shot. James Ramp was standing outside by a corner of the house. MOVE never killed officer Ramp, and MOVE did not shoot first.”

While several of the cops were charged with assaulting Delbert, they had nothing to worry about for the trial judge, Stanley Kubacki, ignoring videotapes, acquitted them all, citing among other things, Delbert’s muscles as justification for the beating.

Those who spoke seemed to welcome Delbert’s release as an opening for them to finally tell their own stories.

Yvonne Orr-EI spoke about her mother who was an official in the Chicago chapter of the Black Panther Party. Orr-EI told of the circumstances of her birth on the side of a lake as her parents fled police threats against BPP members in Illinois. When she was nine years old, she was traumatized in school witnessing television programming of her father being dragged from the MOVE house and brutally beaten by police.

Palestinian solidarity with MOVE

Palestinian activist and writer Susan Abulhawa, who was in the audience, welcomed Delbert home out of solidarity with Palestinian people. She expressed solidarity from the people of Palestine to the MOVE organization, stating: “The MOVE family is not just a local struggle, it is an international struggle. My people in Gaza live in an open-air prison. We are with you.”

Fred Hampton, Jr. said: “I’m honored and humbled to be here on our terms. The will of the people is greater than the man’s technology. We are the original victims of terrorism: Dec. 4, 1969; Sept. 11, 1971; Aug. 8, 1978; May 13, 1985. We have to acknowledge the war we are in and put this in war terms. Prisons are concentration camps. We have to make this part of every conversation in barber shops and more.”

Editor’s Note: Fred Hampton, a Black Panther Party leader, was killed in an assault by Chicago police on December 4, 1969. On Sept. 11, 2011, leaders of the Afro-American Prison Anytime Action Committee demanded the incarcerated men to the state of New York, which then launched a massacre of inmates. The Philadelphia Police Service made a massive coordinated attack on the MOVE family and house on Aug. 8, 1978. The state bombarded the MOVE house, killing 11 members of the family, including five children, on May 13, 1985.

Following release from prison

Delbert Africa: Free!

By Mumia Abu-Jamal

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Delbert Africa, MOVE member, walks free after 42 years in the joint.

Suzanne Southerland, president of Clark College Association for the workers: “We stand with the workers of America, affirmed student support for Ulow, representing the Young Socialists deal with thieving contractors. efforts to pressure the administration to appeal to students to support their ers are taking their issue of unpaid wages ing wages or overtime pay as required by state law. After months of dealing with the general contractor and subcontractors, the workers are taking their issue of unpaid wages to the university administration. Speaking at the rally during their lunch break, some construction work- ers appealed to students to support their efforts to pressure the administration to deal with thieving contractors.

At the rally, student activist Natasha Ulow, representing the Young Socialists of America, affirmed support for the workers: “We stand with the workers of the Quads who have suffered wage theft.

We unequivocally condemn the university administration, up to and including UIH President Renu Khator, for condoning the conduct of those who have committed wage theft.

Ulow asserted, “We intend to continue standing and fighting alongside the work- ers as long as it takes to bring about justice. It is an affront that workers are under a threat of retaliation if they speak about the conditions of their employment, that students will be living in dorms built by workers who have suffered wage theft. We urge the administration to respond, not only to pay them in full their stolen wages but to sincerely apologize to the workers and their families.”

Other speakers included representatives of the AFL-CIO and the Workers Defense Project. After the rally the crowd of over 20 people marched through campus to UIH President Khator’s office to deliver their message.

Rubac was a union carpenter in New York and Houston for nearly 10 years.

Houston

Students, community demand fair pay for construction workers

By Gloria Rubac Houston

University of Houston students, profes- sors and community activists joined the Workers Defense Project and construc- tion workers at a rally Jan. 23 to protest conditions faced by these workers at the University of Houston’s Quad Housing project. They have not received prevail- ing wages or overtime pay as required by state law. After months of dealing with the general contractor and subcontractors, the workers are taking their issue of unpaid wages to the university administration.

Speaking at the rally during their lunch break, some construction work- ers appealed to students to support their efforts to pressure the administration to deal with thieving contractors. At the rally, student activist Natasha Ulow, representing the Young Socialists of America, affirmed support for the workers: “We stand with the workers of the Quads who have suffered wage theft.

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Seattle

10,000 march to honor Martin Luther King

By Jim McMahan Seattle

The 56th annual march celebrating the legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Jan. 20 was larger than usual this year. The racism and hatred spewed by President Donald Trump and his politi- cal allies, and the crisis of poverty faced by so many people, no doubt motivated many demonstrators to participate.

There was agreement among the crowd with this statement made from the podium: “We can make the Trump era the final thrust of the beast of white supremacy!”

The march and rally were part of an all-day program, organized by the Seattle MLK Jr. Organizing Coalition. There was a morning job and opportunity fair at Garfield High School in Seattle’s historic Black community, followed by 26 work- shops dealing with social justice issues and then a midday rally in the gym. A youth cultural rally was held the day before.

The Duwamish Nation, the first peo- ple of Seattle, welcomed demonstrators to the event. A representative of the Muckleshoot Nation was thanked for a large donation to the march. Singer Josephine Howell led the crowd in sing- ing the Black national anthem, “Lift Every Voice and Sing.” Michael “Quex” Moor from Take ‘Em Down NOLA gave a spoken word performance about their grassroots struggle which led to the removal of four white supremacist monu- ments in New Orleans.

Speakers also honored local veterans of the Civil Rights struggle, including the late Jacquie Jones-Walsh, a “pillar of the community.” She was vice presi- dent of the local Coalition of Black Trade Unions and the Martin Luther King Celebration Committee and served on the executive board of the Washington State Labor Council.

Honoree Larry Gossett spoke at the rally. He recently retired from his 25-year stint as Martin Luther King Jr. coun- cillor. Gossett helped found the Black Student Union and worked on the strug- gle that won affirmative action for stu- dents at the University of Washington.

In 1983, community leaders exposed the fact that King County had been (outrageously!) named after William Rufus DeVane King, a member of one of the largest slave-owning families in Alabama. He was also vice president for six weeks in 1853 in President Franklin Pierce’s administration.

Along with other members of the Black community, Gossett was a key organizer in the struggle which pressured the govern- ment to rename Seattle’s King County after Martin Luther King Jr. and to put Dr. King’s picture as a logo on all Metro buses and other county properties.

Hotel and hospital workers, Machinists march

On the way to downtown Seattle for another rally, the multinational march, which included a large youth contin- gent, detoured to protest a new jail for youth being built in the Black commu- nity. Members of UNITE HERE, who are fighting attacks on their livelihoods at the Edgewater Hotel, marched along- side members of the Machinists union who work at Boeing.

The marchers stopped at Swedish/Pi- hove Hotel to hear hospital work- ers speak. Members of SEIU Healthcare 1199 NW appealed to demonstrators for support in their struggle against severe staffing shortages and low wages. Some 8,000 workers from three unions are set to strike from Jan. 28 to 30 at the giant hos- pital chain. It is anticipated that thousands of workers from around Washington state could join this unfair labor practice strike.

As the protesters continued on to the King County Correctional Facility, a large banner displayed near the front of the march read: “Cops and King County jail guards are brutalizing womxn and girls: Black Womxn’s Lives Matter!”

Outside the penalty, activist Nikiya Olson denounced the jail as “a place where Black and Brown people are disproportionately locked up for crimes of survival.”

The march ended at City Hall Park where Gossett explained: “The reason we are congregating here is because home- less people, our own people, hang out at this park.”

A community meal was provided for everyone at Garfield High School after the march. An atmosphere of solidarity and unity prevailed among those who partici- pated in the day’s activities.

Vancouver, Wash.

Significant win for Clark College faculty

By Lyn Neeley Vancouver, Wash.

On the third day of their strike, 96 per- cent of the over 400 Clark College faculty voted to accept a new three-year contract that gives full-time faculty raises of 7 percent over three years. The contract will prevent Clark College facult- y from being paid a flat rate for each loads to lower-paid part-time faculty.

The strike came after 15 months of negotiations by the union, Clark College Association of Higher Education, an- ate of the Washington Education Association. “I see this as much bigger than just Clark College,” CCACHE President Suzanne Southierland told Northwest Labor Press. “It will influence other colleges, and ultimately the education that stu- dents are going to get.” (nwLaborPress.org, Jan. 17)
Continued from page 1

“Right to Life” for the last 46 years and since 2017 reinforced by white evangelicals.

2017. Trump stated. Too true. Contrast the primary target of these changes was Planned Parenthood, the largest private provider of comprehensive reproductive health services, serving about 40 percent of more than 1.5 million women and gender-oppressed people who need contra- ception, testing for cancers, treatment for sexually transmitted infections and abor- tions. Planned Parenthood stood up to the Trump-Pence assault by opting out of Title X on Aug. 19.

The most important question is: How is the law to be limited the number of abortion clinics as (happened in Texas) and restrict access to surgical abortions.

The Center for Reproductive Rights is arguing that Louisiana’s law is based on the pseudoscience that medical-induced abortions can be reversed and the myth that people who have abortions often regret their decisions. A recent study published in the week of Jan. 13 by the journal Social Science & Medicine on emotional responses post-abortion, showed that 99 percent of women don’t regret their abor- tions after five years. The Guttmacher Institute, which conducts in-depth research on reproductive needs and stated that no evidence shows abortion is responsible for mental health problems.

But what cannot be quantified are the effects of Trump’s Department of Health and Human Services, stacked with anti-abortion, misogynist bigots who issue and promote anti-reproductive health care rulings like “conscience clauses” and the “domestic gag rule.” The latter was designed to reduce access to reproductive health care, particularly abortion, by exer- cising state power over some of the most in-need, vulnerable people in this country: the 4 million low-income women and gen- der-oppressed people enrolled in Title X.

By significantly adulterating Title X of the Public Health Services Act, passed in 1970 during the Nixon era, the revamped regulations do not allow Title X providers, as of Aug. 19, to conduct abortions along- side other services or offer patients refer- rals for abortions. All Title X recipients are poor people of color, youth, rural residents, im/migrants, people with disabilities and survivors of domestic violence. (For back- ground, see WW article, “While rate of abortion declines Title X gag rule will only increase need for abortion...” Oct. 4.)

The primary target of these changes was Planned Parenthood, the largest private provider of comprehensive reproductive health services, serving about 40 percent of more than 1.5 million women and gender-oppressed people who need contra- ception, testing for cancers, treatment for sexually transmitted infections and abor- tions. Planned Parenthood stood up to the Trump-Pence assault by opting out of Title X on Aug. 19.

The most important question is: How is the gag rule affecting Title X patients? The Guttmacher Institute cannot provide such data. It would be difficult, if not impossible, to get DHHS authorization to survey all 4 million Title X patients and clinics that opted in.

How many clinics have been forced out of Title X, denying convenient, timely, afford- able access to abortion and other medical services? How many patients are unable to find licensed health centers that address their needs, excluding abortion? How many patients can’t afford to travel for reproduc- tive care? How many need an abortion but can’t afford to travel? (That can cost hun- dreds of dollars on top of surgical fees.)

Women for Reproductive Justice now!

While anti-abortion politicians and activists cite blatantly misinformation and outright lies that also stigmatize and slut- shame to promote their views, Guttmacher supplies facts to refute them: (1) Safe, legal abortion is common and at its lowest rate since Roe in 1973. (2) State restrictions are not driving the recent decline in abortion. The decrease is due to long-lasting, more effective contraception.

Many pro-choice groups, promoting medical, legal and civil rights for women and gender-oppressed people, issued state- ments on Jan. 22 recognizing Roe.

Destiny Lopez, co-director of All Above All denounced the Dec. 20 DHHS ruling mandating separate billing for abortion care. That ruling and Roe “remind us abortion rights in theory are not enough. We must also fight [for] equitable access to ... safe, healthy and autonomous deci- sions about our lives, bodies and futures [which are part of] the fight for dignity and equality.” She added: “[R]esearch has shown that someone who wants an abortion but is denied... leads to a significant increase in household poverty. Health insurance that respects our decisions and upholds our health must cover abortion.”

Andrea Miller, president of the National Institute for Reproductive Health: “[W]e’re writing a new playbook for advocating for abortion access, focused on passing proactive laws to protect and expand access to abortion at the state level. ...

In 2019 alone, more states passed pro- active protections for abortion rights and expanded access than in any previ- ous year.”

Voto Latino spokeswoman Sandra Sánchez wrote in defense of abortion rights for people of color, low-income folks and the LGBTQ2+ community: “[W]e’re ... fighting to ensure that all Latinx have access to abortion. ...

Research shows 73% of Latinx voters want to see SCOTUS uphold the right to abortion, and 87% say they would support a loved one who received one—because that’s what our community does, we sup- port each other. … No politician should be able to take that away.”

Yamani Hernandez, executive direc- tor of the National Network of Abortion Funds stated: “[H]elp end abortion stigma by sharing loving and bold messages about abortion. It’s up to us to break cycles of shaming and oppression. When we envelop people having abortions in the fierce love and power that’s built in our community, we bring the world one step closer to end- ing the harmful stigma that isolates us from each other—and our collective power.”

Kimberly Inez McGuire, executive director of youth-focused and -led Unite for Reproductive and Gender Equity, was quoted in Truthout: “McGuire expressed a frustration heard and repeated over and over by activists, advocates and social-justi- ce minded legislators and academics. In real life, the ‘promise of Roe’ never reached those who needed it most: the poor, youth, people of color, LGBTQIA people and rural populations.”

Filmpaup article will discuss increase in meditations abortion.

Women's liberation must be anti-capitalist, anti-imperialist!

By Devin Pensacola, Fla.

On Jan. 18 over 200 people took to the streets of downtown Pensacola to reaf- firm the struggle against capitalism and Trump—a symptom of capitalism—and for women’s liberation. People of all races, genders and backgrounds carried signs demanding the end to the patriarchal ruling class that harms and kills women every day. They all marched a mile to a historic Seville Square where multiple speakers spoke on Black libera- tion, immigration, LGBTQ+ struggles, environmentalism and other movements against oppression. This writer spoke on the ongoing genocide against Black trans women—a large majority of all trans women killed last year—and the need for the women’s liberation movement to always bring forward trans women of color and work toward an anti-capitalist, anti-imperialist front.

Several socialist groups set up at the rally, including Workers World Party-Pensacola, Strive (Socialist Trans Party), Party for Socialism and Liberation, and Dream Defenders.

It was announced that MOVE political prisoner Delbert Africa had been released from prison that morning in Pennsylvania, which drew thunderous applause. A tuta continual! 

Pensacola Women’s March

Women’s liberation must be anti-capitalist, anti-imperialist!
The U.S. state continues its war drive, pushed by ruling-class desperation to maintain capitalist economic domination. While the U.S. has not carried out further military strikes on Iran, it has imposed even harsher sanctions in an economic war that could claim untold numbers of Iranian lives. More than ever, “war by sanction” is the U.S. weapon of choice.

World resistance to U.S. aggression is growing. A Global Day of Protest on Jan. 25 called for “No War on Iran! U.S. out of Iraq!” Through international cooperation and on short notice, actions were mounted in 210 cities, with almost 200 groups endorsing, (tinyurl.com/sRhkue) Broad and deep organizing included the International Action Center (IAC), Answer Coalition, CODEPINK, Popular Resistance, Black Alliance for Peace (BAP), National Iranian-American Council, Veterans For Peace (VFP), U.S. Labor Against the War (USLAW), Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, United National Anti-War Coalition (UNAC), Pastors for Peace/Religious Fellowship for Community Organization, International Workers Solidarity Network, United For Peace (UFP), Global March (Right Immigrants and Refugees Everywhere), Alliance For Global Justice, December 12th Movement, World Beyond War, Catholic Worker Movement, Dominican Sisters-ICAN, Nonviolence International, No War on Venezuela, Food Not Bombs, Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP), Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) Anti-Imperialism Network, NuclearBan.US, Roots Action, MADRE, U.S. Peace Council, Party for Socialism and Liberation (PSL), People’s Opposition to War, Imperialism and Racism and many more.

Further actions against sanctions and economic war are called for March 13-15. (actionSkill.org) Here are a few snapshots of the many Jan. 25 actions in the U.S.

Joining protests around the world, hundreds of Boston activists rallied in the Commons near the Massachusetts Statehouse, an action initiated locally by Answer. Brian Shea, a long-time disability rights leader with the IAC, said: “Four million people in Iraq [yesterday] served an eviction notice on U.S. empire and its occupying troops. We need to follow the example … and be hitting the streets!”

After the speakout, students, people of color, women, LGBTQ2Q+ and disability rights activists, socialists, trade unionists, families, veterans, clergy, anti-war and peace activists then had a spirited march through downtown. Kristen Turgeon, a Workers World Party youth leader, galvanized the crowd, belting out the union song, “Which Side Are You On,” reminding everyone: “We’re on the side of the workers worldwide.”

In New York City, people rallied at Columbus Circle in pouring rain and harsh weather, demanding “No U.S. War and Sanctions on Iraq!” Speakers mentioned the march of millions in Iraq demanding “U.S. Out!” and called for an end to U.S. coups and sanctions, including those that have killed more than 1 million Iraqis. The rally was co-chaired by representatives of the IAC and Answer.

In cold gale-wind conditions, Jersey City, N.J., grassroots activists from the Filipino, Latinx, and peace and social justice communities marched. Members of Analahyan – North Jersey Action 21, Jersey City Peace Movement and VFP Chapter 021 took part.

Around 100 people braved heavy rain for a Philadelphia day of protest. A rally at City Hall started the demonstration, with participants sheltering under a covered walkway. Then they marched down Market Street for a soundtrack at a military recruitment center, ending with a march to a second military center on Chestnut Street – a bloc from historic Constitution Hall. Participating groups included the IAC, BAP, Young DSA-Temple, Korean Peace Now, PSL, Green Party, WWP, Socialist Alternative, Philadelphia Tenants Union, Poor People’s Economic Campaign, REAL Justice and Socialist Resurgence.

Global protest brought more than 100 people to Piedmont Park in midtown Atlanta. They took to the streets, marching on Peachtree Street, the city’s main thoroughfare, to the Georgia Tech Research Institute. The lead banner declared, “No Tech for War,” protesting the GTRI’s contracts for hundreds of millions of dollars to develop drone and automated weapons delivery systems.

Speakers focused on war machines in our midst—killer drones at a public educational institution and militarized cops occupying neighborhoods of poor and working people, especially those of color. Collaboration among organizers included Georgia Peace and Justice Coalition, IAC, American Friends Service Committee Atlanta, Answer, Metro Atlanta DSA, Georgia Detention Watch, KSUnited (Kennesaw State) and Housing Justice League.

Worldwide mass protests slam Modi’s anti-Muslim law

By Martha Grevatt

Hundreds of thousands of people protested on Jan. 26 across India and in many cities abroad to oppose the Citizenship Amendment Act and National Citizens Registry that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is pushing. The CAA would deny citizenship to India’s 200 million Muslims, and the NRC would create a national registry. Those who do not register would not be considered citizens.

Tens of thousands of protesters formed “human chains” that stretched for miles in several Indian cities. A protest in Mumbai, the financial hub of India, drew 20,000. Women led many of the actions, including an all-women demonstration of 20,000 in a suburb of Mumbai. In the midst of another mass protest in New Delhi, Modi held a military parade and feted Brazil’s fascist President Jair Bolsonaro.

Jan. 26 is celebrated in India as Republic Day, marking the day the country’s constitution went into effect.

There were huge demonstrations in 30 U.S. cities, including Atlanta, where 1,000 marched from CNN to the National Center for Civil and Human Rights. Another big protest took place in Washington, D.C., while the largest was reportedly in Chicago, where participants formed a huge human chain.

The newly formed Coalition to Stop Genocide initiated the U.S. demonstration. It includes the Indian American Muslim Council, Equality Labs, Black Lives Matter, Jewish Voice for Peace and Halifax for Human Rights.

Thousands of demonstrators marched in London, organized by United Against Fascism in India, despite efforts by the Modi regime to get the British government to ban the protest.

under the slogans “No justice, no peace! U.S. out of the Middle East!” and “No War on Iran!” A broad spectrum of speakers, including independent socialists as well as members of the Green Party, Poor People’s Campaign, Denver Peace Council and Answer, detailed how the cost of war hurts all working people, wasting money needed for the environment and infrastructure, and cutting funds for housing, education and health care. Since then, UNAC has sent delegations to Venezuela, Ukraine, Syria and Cuba and has organized conferences on U.S./NATO military bases in Baltimore, Md., and Dublin, Ireland. UNAC has actively opposed AFRICOM, the militarization of police departments and punishing sanctions against 93 nations of UNAC, as well as the Embassy Defenders Collective, face charges for fighting to prevent the illegal Venezuelan coup government from detaining Venezuela’s Embassy in Washington, D.C.

The theme of the 2020 conference is “Rise Against Militarism, Racism and the Climate Crisis: Housing Power Together.” UNAC has always linked the struggle against racism, oppression and repression in the U.S. to imperialist plunder and devastation abroad.

Speakers including Ajamu Baraka (Black Alliance for Peace), Frank Chang (National Alliance Against Racism and Political Repression) and Glen Ford (Black Agenda Report) will connect the struggles workers and the oppressed face here and abroad.

March honors MLK legacy

The sixth annual MLK march began immediately after the press conference. The event was organized by the Anti-Police-Terror Project, a group that has been working for more than 10 years to counter police terrorism and violence against Black and Brown people in Oakland and around the country. APTP also supported the struggle of Moms 4 Housing.

The march in downtown Oakland began with a rally on a flatbed truck next to Oscar Grant Plaza — renamed by the community to commemorate Oscar Grant, who was killed 11 years ago by BART transit police at Fruitvale Station.

A banner of theabeamread, “We stand with the Moms. Housing is a human right.”

The first speakers were parents and family members of young people murdered by police. The mother of Shasta Tindale reminded the crowd that it had been two years since her son was killed by BART police in West Oakland. Family members and supporters held pictures of their deceased loved ones during the rally.

A moving statement was read by two LGBTIQ+ disability rights activists. “Our disabled kinfolk are queer, trans, Black, Indigenous, people of color. Family members are dying. The cops are killing us. We are in detention centers, institutions, jails, prisons. We are thrown away on the streets.” The activists spoke about Kayla Moore, a transgender person murdered by the Berkeley police. Their parents and the community are still fighting for justice.

A 17-year-old “Oakland born and raised” young woman from Youth vs. the Apocalypse told the crowd, “Climate change is fueled by the same systems of white supremacy, racism, colonialism and greed that are running concentration camps at the border, closing our schools here in Oakland, enabling police murder and brutally throwing people out to live in the streets and fueling American imperialism.”

Following this rally, the crowd marched to the office of Alameda County Sheriff Gregory Ahern to protest his use of AK-47s, a tank and a battering ram against the Moms, Ahern is the top sheriff responsible for police terror against Black and Brown communities in Alameda County.

A large and vibrant group of children led the march chanting, “Housing is a human right.” The disability rights contingent followed the children. At a rally in front of the Sheriff Ahern’s office in the Alameda County Courthouse, speaker after speaker criticized the brutality and racism of the sheriff’s department and conditions at Santa Rita Jail, the county prison for women. They continued to celebrate the victory of the Moms in winning a home for their families and reminded the crowd that the struggles for housing and the fight against police violence and terrorism in Oakland will continue until justice is won for all.
Workers in France say ‘No!’ to government attack on retirement plan

By G. Dunkel

In France 1.3 million workers and their supporters struck, marched and protested Jan. 24 against the Macron government’s plan to create a single, point-based retirement plan to replace the current system. In Paris, 350,000 to 400,000 people came out, and there were big marches in most major French cities; these events were generally militant but not confrontational.

Yellow Vest protests on Jan. 25 were attacked by the cops with baton charges, tear gas and arrests. A number of protest- ers were injured. French police have come under increasing criticism for their brutality, documented in widely seen internet videos.

The current retirement system has 42 specific plans for groups of workers who face difficult conditions on the job. So half of the home developers, those who suffer the most structural damage. Ponce on one of the basements of the buildings that were hit by the earthquakes. Those who were injured.

The warehouse in Ponce holding these goods suffered structural damage. Ponce is one of several cities in the main island’s southeastern region that was hardest hit by the earthquakes. Governor of the city of Peñuelas, whose city was one of the hardest hit.

The rapid and sloppy secession of the island’s infrastructure, that must be understood as the underlying reason why the physical destruction has rendered the island ungovernable. The struggle in Puerto Rico is a struggle against imperialism.

The impact of hurricanes, earthquakes and Wall Street bankers has meant insurmountable. But in the end, the power of the people is extraordinary and, when concentrated, its force can overturn any empire.
Embassy Protectors speak in New York City

The four American peace activists who protected the Venezuelan Embassy in Washington, D.C., for 37 days during the attempted coup, spoke at The People’s Forum in New York City Jan. 24. The event was part of a speaking and fundraising tour by the four: Margaret Flowers, Kevin Zeese, Adrienne Pine and David Paul face trumped-up charges of “interfering with certain protective functions” of the government for their effort to prevent the transfer of the Venezuelan Embassy to Juan Guaidó, illegally appointed president of Venezuela by the U.S. government.

The trial will begin Feb. 11 at the federal courthouse in Washington. The four are each charged with a misdemeanor, with a maximum penalty of one-year imprisonment and $100,000 fine.

Sara Flounders, co-director of the International Action Center, and Margaret Kimberley, editor and senior columnist of Black Agenda Report, who are members of the Protectors’ Defense Committee, co-chaired the event. Flowers explained that the four stayed at the embassy to try to stop the U.S. from violating international law, noting the Vienna Convention states that embassies are inviolable. “We were there to try to hold that space while the U.S. and Venezuela negotiated for a mutually protecting power agreement,” she said. She noted that when there is a breach in diplomatic relations between countries, they are to find a third country to be a protecting power for the embassy.

By Lauren Smith

Embassy Protectors face court

A trial of our times

By Lauren Smith

Smith is an independent journalist.

On Feb. 11, four American peace activists, known as the Embassy Protectors Collective, will begin their defense of the U.S. empire for “interfering with certain protective functions” of its federal government for their occupation of the Venezuelan Embassy in Washington, D.C., to prevent it from being handed over to coup leaders sponsored by the Trump administration.

Their occupation ended on May 16, 2019, when federal agents broke into the sealed embassy, against international law, and arrested them in a SWAT-style raid. The government’s accusation against them is merely a pretext used for their arrest and prosecution, since they haven’t broken any laws. Matter of fact, their true crime in the minds of the Trump administration is just the opposite — it’s their brilliant defense of international law and Venezuela’s sovereign right to self-determination against Yankee imperialism.

Although the Trump administration didn’t go after Venezuela’s government, it is in a bid for the second term, 67 percent of Venezuelans did. This stands in stark contrast with President Donald Trump’s own experience, since he lost the popular vote in 2016 to former Senator and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, a candidate despised by her own Democratic Party base — who only managed to secure her place as a presidential nominee due to the fraud perpetrated by the party’s elite. Even the Republican Party’s use of targeted racist and classist voter suppression and purge techniques could not secure Trump winning numbers at the polls.

In the United States of America, as demonstrated by Trump, a loser can win the presidency. Compare this with former President Jimmy Carter’s 2012 declaration that “the election process in Venezuela is the best in the world.” (VenezuelaAnalysis.com, Sept. 21, 2012) Note the adequacy of his statement set its heart on Juan Guaidó, a man who was not even a candidate in the 2013 election. Yet, with the help of the Bachelete’s backing, what would be a farce in any other context still remains a threat — as Guaidó, left to his own devices, is merely a stooge for a president as well as being a self-appointed leader of a self-appointed assembly.

What elevates this trial in our collective consciousness is the fact that these brave activists struck a successful blow against imperialist aggression from inside the belly of the beast — literally from within Washington, D.C. For 37 days, the Trump administration was powerless against the guile and guts of pediatrician Margaret Flowers; medical anthropologist Adrienne Pine; attorney Kevin Zeese; and activist David Paul as they bravely upheld Article 22 of the 1961 Vienna Convention.

The four were aided by a strong coalition of activist groups. In solidarity, 70 members of the various groups, including the activists, took turns staying inside the embassy with them. As conditions worsened, or for personal reasons, they disbursed prior to the raid. However, many remained outside the embassy protesting the siege conditions faced by their comrades inside and delivered food despite facing assault and arrest. Even the veteran civil rights defender, the Rev. Jesse Jackson, personally took part in a food delivery to the Embassy Protectors.

Fortunately, unlike the 73-year-old president of Veterans for Peace, Gerry Condon, he was not assaulted by police and arrested in this process. Despite the efforts of the biased judge who ruled on Dec. 13 against their right to critical information needed for their defense, its acts of bravery cannot be silenced — as activists will ensure their story is told. On Jan. 29, Judge Beryl Howell will hear pretrial arguments concerning a recent motion filed by government lawyers that even more severely restricts what can be discussed during their Feb. 11 trial.

If Judge Howell grants the government’s motion, it will leave the Embassy Protectors virtually defenseless. The government wants the prosecution to be limited to its three charges: (1) they were in the embassy; (2) they were given a notice of eviction by the police; and (3) they refused to leave. Essentially, the government wants the jury that decides their fate to be blindedfolded. This will ensure the Trump administration’s desired outcome, which is to turn the Embassy Protectors into a gang,” stated facts in a way that supported their guilt, and made it clear that a trial will result in their conviction.

Among the issues the Trump administration is asking to not be discussed in the Embassy Protectors’ trial are the following:

• That Nicolás Maduro is the democratically elected president of Venezuela. More than 300 election observers for the 2018 election agreed that the election met international standards. Additionally, more than 150 governments around the world recognize him as the President of Venezuela as does the United Nations.
• That Juan Guaidó has no legitimacy to represent the Venezuelan government. Additionally, he is under investigation for his role in the “humanitarian aid” corruption scandal.
• That Carlos Vecchio, whose demand that the Embassy Protectors leave the embassy was the basis for their eviction, is not an ambassador from Venezuela but part of Guaidó’s failed coup. Additionally, Vecchio, a former Exxon oil executive, is charged with fraud, embezzlement and money laundering to the tune of U.S. $70 million through CITGO, Venezuela’s U.S.-based subsidiary of the state oil company PDVSA.
• That they were in the embassy with the permission of the elected government of Venezuela.
• That they received advice that they were in the Embassy legally.
• That negotiations were ongoing between the U.S. and Venezuela for a mutual protecting power agreement which would have resulted in Switzerland protecting the U.S. embassy in Caracas and Turkey protecting the Venezuelan Embassy in D.C. And that the Embassy Protectors had stated that they would leave voluntarily when that agreement was reached.

Additionally, the day before the four were arrested, Samuel Moncada, the Venezuelan ambassador to the U.S., held a press conference where he discussed the negotiation for a protecting power agreement and confirmed that the Embassy Protectors were evicted by federal U.S. agents.

• That they were surrounded by a coup mob that was blocking food from coming into the embassy.
• That the electricity and water were turned off on them.
• That the Vienna Convention was violated by federal agents, who had no legitimate right to enter the embassy to arrest them.
• That the Embassy Protectors were acting within their First Amendment rights.

The Embassy Protectors face federal charges punishable by up to one year in prison, a $100,000 fine each, and restitution to the government for police time and damages, which is considerable given the duration of their occupation and the absurd amount of armed forces used in the embassy raid — as they remain four unarmed senior and middle-aged peace activists.

Since their charges are unjust and anything can happen in prison, especially to dissidents, people of conscience must ensure all charges are dropped. So, let us stand on the right side of history with the Embassy Protectors and show solidarity by attending their trial in Washington, D.C., which begins on Feb. 11, donating to their legal fund (tinyurl.com/28g6fksf), and spreading the truth widely of what’s really happening.
The Jan. 23 announcement that the U.S. would resume diplomatic relations with Bolivia’s government—a after breaking with Evo Morales’s progressive government 11 years ago—should come as no surprise. The current regime in the Andean country was established by a right-wing coup, carried out by racist, anti-Indigenous forces, and backed by the military and police. All this makes it a good friend of U.S. imperialism.

Breaking relations with popular gov ernments and supporting fascist and/or military coups are the staples of U.S. foreign policy. They are aimed at weakening the armed forces and the police, even if the threat is only lower profits. And this strategy is shared by U.S. imperialism’s two main political parties, the Republicans and Democrats.

That shared strategy was shown when the Obama administration quickly recognized and supplied aid to the reac tionary coup regime in Honduras after the Obama administration quickly recognized and supplied aid to the reac tionary coup regime in Honduras after the most hawkish insiders in the establishment want Trump out. The Washington Post on Jan. 17 published an article called “You’re a bunch of dopes and babies.” Indeed, Trump’s stum ming tirade against generals. The article is adapted from the book, A Very Stable Genius: Donald J. Trump’s Testing of America,” published Jan. 21 by Penguin Press. The book is misnamed. Trump’s “testing of America” detailed in this article is actually his testing of the military establish ment. Even the president isn’t supposed to call the generals and admirals “dopes and babies,” as the book says he did in one of his first meetings with the Pentagon chiefs. The military brass are not used to this. They expect and demand the utmost ser vitude toward their power. No surprise if they would be furious and want him gone—impeached or even court-mar ried, if possible.

Trump’s real “testing” of the people in this country has been through all his horri bly reactionary, racist and sexist acts and statements, which are legion. His murderous policy against migrants. His horrors in the “Europe first” in equat ing Nazis with progressive spokespersons. His stacking of government departments with appointees chosen by his corporate buddies—although this certainly is not a crime unique to Trump.

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China mobilizes to combat coronavirus

By Joshua Hanks

China’s response to the outbreak has been swift and massive. In cooperation with WHO and the international scientific community, it is taking this outbreak very seriously.

“Party committees and governments at all levels must take novel coronavirus outbreak prevention and control as the top priority of their work,” said President Xi Jinping at a Jan. 23 meeting of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, which set up a high-level task force to combat the virus. Led by Premier Li Keqiang, the task force—led by Premier Li Keqiang, the task force—will be responsible for a series of decisions that can focus on meeting the public’s needs instead of extracting short-term profits. Unlike capitalist companies, state-owned firms can operate at a loss, in the interest of the country.

State-owned Telecom China Mobile has set up a special 5G network in a Wuhan hospital to facilitate telemedicine, which will reduce the pressure of medical resources on workers to the virus. Factors have been ordered to massively increase production of medical supplies, like masks and gloves, after shortages of these items were initially reported. Prices for these items spiked, but e-commerce giant Alibaba announced it would work to eliminate price hikes.

Two very different responses

No response to an outbreak like this will be perfect, but on-the-ground reports attest to the efficiency and seriousness with which it is being handled. This reporter spoke with Victoria Sinclair, a U.S. citizen living in the city of Dalian in northwest China. She said, “I’ve always been impressed with how quickly Chinese construction workers manage to work. Our highway was done in a few months and about the time that the hotels they are building in Wuhan will be done quickly.” Sinclair added, “The buses and subway are still running in our city, but they [workers] are taking extra precau-
tions and sanitizing frequently.”

Coverage in the Western media has been largely negative, portraying China’s response as inept and lacking transparency, despite the central government calling on all cases of the virus to be immediately reported and several local officials in Wuhan facing repercussions for not acting swiftly enough. That doesn’t sound like the central government is trying to cover up the outbreak; yet it has been a major talking point in Western reporting. Despite the rapid and massive measures China has taken—only possible in a country with large amounts of public ownership, economic planning and leadership of the Communist Party—the Western media seem largely devoted to only criticizing China.

It should be remembered that the Reagan administration not only ignored the AIDS crisis in the 1980s but mocked and ridiculed the tens of thousands of people dying from that deadly disease. And during the 2017-18 flu season in the U.S., more than 60,000 people died—a fact rarely mentioned—which puts China’s current outbreak in perspective.

The current U.S. flu season has already seen over 6,000 fatalities, presenting a much greater threat than the coronavirus. Yet the Western corporate media, driven by an endless need for more viewers and more advertising revenue, choose to put forward a sensationalist narrative regarding China—to grab people’s attention and generate more clicks.

Resurgence of diseases in U.S.

There has been a resurgence in the U.S. of leprosy and typhus in Los Angeles’ homeless population and measles and mumps in unvaccinated people. The U.S. actually has a lower vaccination rate than the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, which has a much smaller population and economy so it can spend much less on health care. A 2016 study published by the National Institutes of Health investigated vaccination rates of children living below the poverty line in four states and found that 40 percent had not received a single dose of the vaccine for rotavirus. Before introduction in 2006, rotavirus caused 20 to 60 deaths a year among children and up to 70,000 hospitalizations.

Racism is also apparent in how little concern Western reporters and commentators in the West have shown for those who do not have an income due to the outbreak. The China Banking and Regulatory Commission announced it is freezing late-payment obligations on mortgages, loans and credit cards for those who do not have an income due to the outbreak. This is unheard of in Western capitalist countries, where every flu season many are forced to go to work sick or face deep debts and even homelessness.

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Un conflicto amargo en el seno de la clase dominante EE.UU.

Por John Catalinotto

Traducción: María Piedad Osauba, Lapilama.net.

1 de enero – Un amargo conflicto entre los dos principales partidos políticos que representan al imperialismo estadounidense se perfila en el horizonte para el próximo año. Lucharán en su primera ronda en el Senado, en el juicio que seguirá a la Cámara de Representantes para destituir al presidente. La segunda ronda será la elección presidencial de noviembre.

Tanto el partido republicano como el demócrata son enemigos de los trabajadores del mundo. Ambos son enemigos de la clase trabajadora de EE.UU. Sin embargo, el mundo entero estará observando este conflicto. Afecta a todos los países del mundo.

¿Este conflicto – interno de la clase dominante imperialista amERICana – tendrá lugar de una manera que permita a la gente trabajadora común y corriente de EE.UU. intervenir en sus propias destíduas? Esto parece improbable en la actualidad, pero han ocurrido cosas más sorprendentes.

Según la Constitución de los EE.UU., para destituir a un presidente, la Cámara de Representantes debe votar, por mayoría simple, para presentar cargos contra un presidente en ejercicio, acusaciones que ella considere lo suficientemente graves como para destituirlo del cargo. El Senado organiza posteriormente un juicio basado en esos cargos. Para condenar y destituir al presidente de su cargo se requiere el voto de por lo menos dos tercios de los miembros del Senado.

En la historia de los EE.UU., hay una vez que se ha producido una destitución del cargo. El presidente Andrew Johnson en 1868 y Bill Clinton en 1998. Ni Johnson ni Clinton fueron condenados por el Senado. Los republicanos controlan el Senado. Aún hoy, no hay indicios en el reciente pasado de que estos republicanos condenen a Trump.

La presidenta de la Cámara de Representantes, Nancy Pelosi, una de las principales demócratas, dice que enviará las órdenes de destitución al Senado solo cuando los líderes republicanos de allí garanticen un “juicio justo”. Pelosi se refiere a un juicio en el que los demócratas pueden llamar a los antiguos colaboradores de Trump a testificar bajo juramento.

¿A quién quieren los demócratas llamar como testigo? A nada menos que al jefe del Pentágono, John Bolton.

Antes de 2016, los estrategas imperialistas –incluyendo a Bolton– habían basado su dominación mundial del EE.UU. en una alianza con otras potencias imperialistas (Europa Occidental, Japón, Australia). Al igual que en la OTAN, EE.UU. es la fuerza hegemonía y hace el tráfico militar pesado y se lleva la mayor parte del saqueo imperialista. Trump antagonizó a las instituciones cuando pareció amenazar con anular el tratado nuclear con Corea del Norte, lo que podría amenazar a la OTAN.

El odio del pueblo

Por razones completamente diferentes, Trump se ha ganado el odio de grandes sectores de la población amERICana –y del mundo. Ha hecho innumerables comentarios siniestros insensibles y groseros, culminando con los latinoamericanos y a los africanos, insultando a las mujeres. Provoca la violencia ultraderechista. En sus programas políticos ha hecho la guerra a los pobres. Ha nombrado jueces federales anti-mujeres. Mientras tanto, ha concedido la redacción de impuestos a los ricos, al tiempo que ha abierto las tierras indígenas y los recursos naturales al saqueo por las empresas; para ello, el 0,001% de los ríos siguen siendo sus contribuciones en la campaña política de Trump.

De todos sus crímenes, la dirección del partido demócrata escogió a propósito uno en el que Trump enfrentó a los estrategas de la Guerra Fría. Rechazó la denuncia de que el gobierno ruso de Ucrania. Trump presionó al presidente ucraniano para que investigara a Hillary Clinton por “fusiles”.

La diputada Tlaib, una de las cuatro representantes femeninas de color conocidas como “la escuadra” (The Squad), también criticó la guerra financiada por EE.UU. contra Yemen, la nueva Fuerza Estratégica y las nuevas armas nucleares previstos en el proyecto de ley.

Políticos imperialistas y racistas

Trump presta apoyo político a los políticos imperialistas y racistas de todo el mundo, como Boris Johnson en Gran Bretaña, Marine Le Pen en Francia, Matteo Salvini en Italia, que trastocan la solidaridad de la clase obrera. Con sus tácticas, el presidente ha envenenado la atmósfera política, dividiendo a los trabajadores usamericanos sobre la base de la raza, el género y la religión. Trump ha apoyado a las personas de color condenadas por incitar a la violencia con base en su raza, el género y la religión.

La presidencia de Trump ha desatado conflictos. Afecta a todo el mundo. El odio del pueblo se perfila en el horizonte para el próximo año. Existe la posibilidad de que Trump sea acusado en el proceso de destitución por incitar a la violencia con base en su raza, el género y la religión.

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