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Outrage over Trump attacks

Portland movement fights back

By Joshua Hanks  
Portland, Ore.

Federal officers were deployed to “quell” Portland’s protests beginning the weekend of July 10 and continuing the following week. Camouflaged unidentified agents arrested and detained demonstrators without even a pretext. The Trump administration has escalated the confrontation between the people and the state apparatus, bringing a whiff of fascism to the city. Portland’s movement is fighting back.

Like every large city in the U.S., Portland, Ore., has seen thousands of people pouring onto the city streets, bridges and squares since the murder of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police. People have protested Floyd’s murder and that of all the thousands of other primarily Black, Brown and Indigenous victims of rampant police brutality. In Portland, the protests have continued for over 50 consecutive days.

Across the country, this movement against racist police violence has been met with more police violence, choking city centers from coast to coast with tear gas and a wide array of so-called less-than-lethal weapons. Used improperly, as police have done on many occasions, such weapons have in fact been lethal. Tear gas itself is a chemical weapon banned in war by international law.

Ted Wheeler, Portland’s Democratic mayor, has protested Trump’s federal officers, so it might surprise people around the country that the throngs of people who Portland police have brutalized nightly loathe him. Wheeler initially agreed to limit the Portland Police Bureau’s use of tear gas, though not ban it entirely, after mass outrage over the cops’ freewheeling assault with the chemical weapon.

Wheeler is both the mayor and the PPB commissioner and thus has unilateral power within the City Council for PPB assignments. Portland is the last major city in



Moms Against Police Brutality hold the line against federal cops, shielding protesters outside Multnomah County Justice Center, Portland, Ore., early morning, July 20. More on protests from California to North Carolina, 6-7.

the U.S. that uses the commission form of government, which blends legislative and executive authority by giving the mayor and city commissioners control over individual bureaus like the police bureau, the transportation bureau, the parks bureau, etc.

The mayor has resisted calls to hand over control of PPB to Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty and end his

blatant conflict of interest. Elected in 2018, Hardesty is the first and only Black woman ever elected to the Portland City Council and is seen by many as the most sympathetic to the city’s often raucous activist community.


But the federal repressive forces were even worse

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# Shut down Fort Hood now! Justice for PFC. Vanessa Guillén!

*Petition issued by FIRE (Fight for Im/Migrants & Refugees Everywhere) and the IAC (International Action Center). Sign the petition at: [tinyurl.com/y6ozp2ra](https://tinyurl.com/y6ozp2ra).*

In late April, Pfc. Vanessa Guillén went missing from her base in Ft. Hood, Texas. It took her family and friends working night and day to appeal to the commanding officers to get any attention whatsoever about her whereabouts. Vanessa had told her family she had been sexually harassed by her supervisor.

For more than three months, Vanessa’s higher-ups paid little attention to her family’s urgent pleas to investigate her disappearance. She was treated as being disposable.

In late June, her body was found 25 miles from the base. Vanessa had been tragically murdered by her abuser who later killed himself upon capture.

The unspeakable crimes against Vanessa Guillén have opened a floodgate of testimonies about sexual assault in the military. Many women and LGBTQ2S+ people are telling their heartbreaking stories with the hashtag #IAmVanessaGuillén.

Vanessa’s death is a result of sexual harassment in the military, which is deplorable. Fort Hood is the worst. According to the Pentagon’s own reports, it has the most sexual assaults of any Army post in the country. That is why it must be shut down now!

In addition, Fort Hood, the single biggest military post

in the U.S. Armed Forces, is named after a Confederate general. Its name glorifies racism and slavery.

When Vanessa Guillén enlisted in the Army, she thought she’d be doing good and it would be helpful to her. Instead, it destroyed her. But how could it not, when the military exists not to help people, but to defend Wall Street? It invaded and still occupies Iraq and Afghanistan, killing millions, just for oil profits.

The case for Justice for Vanessa is very much linked to the Movement for Black Lives. Young people of color must have other options than police violence or going to war for their future.

## WE DEMAND:

- ★ Investigate Fort Hood Commanding General Robert White and others for conspiracy to cover up Pfc. Vanessa Guillén’s murder. Why did it take a mass movement to find out what happened?
- ★ Shut down Ft. Hood! There is no other way to end the deplorable conditions soldiers face.
- ★ Job training, education, COVID-19 relief, not war! If we shut down the Pentagon, the annual U.S. defense budget of \$1 trillion could be used for people’s needs, not war.
- ★ End misogyny and homophobia in the military. Justice for Vanessa and all survivors.



Join us in the fight  
for socialism!

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. □

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# Like apple pie and baseball — and football

By Martha Grevatt

Tom Morello—renowned Black guitarist in the band Rage Against the Machine—spoke truth to power when he said June 7 that “racism is as American as apple pie and baseball”—a reference repeatedly invoked following the lynching of George Floyd. (“American” is wrongly used to refer to the United States; it is a racist negation of all the other countries of the Americas, which include North, Central and South America and the Caribbean.)

Morello could have added football along with baseball. He could also have added sexism.

White supremacy and misogyny have converged around the Washington, D.C., football team. On July 13, Washington NFL team owner Dan Snyder announced that its vile name, a slur against Indigenous people that refers to settler murder for a bounty, would be changed. Days later, the Washington Post broke the story of at least 15 women team employees who had been subjected to numerous incidents of sexual harassment.

Originally a Boston team known as the Braves, the football team changed its name to R-----s in 1933 and moved to Washington in 1937. Efforts to have the name changed span decades, with complaints reported in Washington newspapers as early as 1971. After the team’s 1988 victory in Super Bowl XXII, led by the first Black quarterback in NFL history, then-owner Jack Cooke was hit with numerous letters from Indigenous activists asking for a name change, which went unheeded.

In 1992, 2,000 people demonstrated outside Super Bowl XXVI, a match between Washington and Buffalo. Many more protests against the name followed, but successive team owners remained intransigent.

A number of Indigenous Tribal Councils called for the name to be dropped. In 2013, 10 members of Congress wrote Snyder requesting a name change. He told USA Today: “We’ll never change the name. ... It’s that simple. NEVER — you can use caps.”

In 2018, NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell, who represents the owners, reaffirmed that the racist name



Protests demand Washington, D.C., NFL team drop racist name and mascot, Minneapolis, 2019.

would stick.

Neither Snyder nor Goodell have suddenly become enlightened on racial sensitivity — far from it. Yet the July 13 news release stated, “Today, we are announcing we will be retiring the [R-----s] name and logo.” It was only when FedEx, Nike and Pepsico threatened to end their multimillion-dollar endorsements that Snyder agreed to the name change.

The Cleveland “Indians” baseball team has also indicated that their name is changing. The despicable “Chief Wahoo” mascot — protested since the 1960s — had already been removed from player uniforms, but was still available on fan merchandise.

### Sexism rampant in sports-industrial complex

Not surprisingly, the same Washington team bosses who refused to budge on the issue of racism were likewise complicit in a case of workplace sexual abuse. The July 16 Washington Post describes in detail what Emily Applegate and 14 other former workers had to endure: “The allegations raised by Applegate and others — running from 2006 to 2019—span most of Snyder’s tenure as owner and fall into two categories: unwelcome overtures or comments of a sexual nature and exhortations to wear revealing clothing and flirt with clients to close sales deals. Among the men

accused of harassment and verbal abuse are three former members of Snyder’s inner circle and two longtime members of the personnel department.”

Specifically, the women have accused Larry Michael, former senior vice president of content and its play-by-play radio announcer; Alex Santos, former director of pro personnel; Richard Mann II, former assistant director of pro personnel; Dennis Greene, former president of business operations; and Mitch Gershman, former chief operating officer. Michael abruptly retired, and Santos and Mann were fired.

“It was the most miserable experience of my life,” said Applegate, referring to the year she worked as team director of marketing. While the women did not experience harassment by Dan Snyder directly, they regard him as responsible for the team’s toxic workplace culture.

While the NFL may fine the Washington team for inappropriate conduct, it appears that Commissioner Goodell will not exercise his power to force owner Snyder to sell the team. In fact, Goodell has been silent on Snyder hiring a legal team to “investigate” the accusations.

Goodell did not compel Carolina Panthers owner Jerry Richardson to sell his team after Sports Illustrated exposed his blatantly racist and sexist conduct. The team was nevertheless sold in 2018, and recently the statue of Richardson was removed from outside the Panther stadium.

When Richardson owned the Panthers, he was known to grope and make degrading comments to women workers. Under capitalism, putting up with this widespread abuse is often a condition of employment. Complaining draws retaliation, including firing.

Misogyny, ingrained in the culture of sports-for-profit, is also evident in the gross salary disparities between men and women — the only two genders even acknowledged — in professional sports.

### The big picture

Sports and entertainment do not exist in a vacuum. Karl Marx said: “The ideas of the ruling class are in

*Continued on page 6*

## Philly marches for ‘¡Justicia por Vanessa!’



Over 100 people, predominantly Mexican-American and young, marched in Philadelphia on July 12 to demand justice for Pfc. Vanessa Guillén. The protest was organized by JUNTOS and Lazos America Unida.

Participants carried “Justicia por Vanessa” signs and large photos of the young soldier who was stationed at Fort Hood, Texas. She disappeared after telling friends and family she was being sexually harassed and threatened within the military system. Speakers demanded justice from the higher-ups commanding the Army.

Guillén disappeared in April, evidently killed at that time, but her body was not found on the Fort Hood installation until June 30. The remains of another soldier, Pvt. Gregory Wedel-Morales, were also found there in late June. Both the Guillén and Wedel-Morales families charge Army and local officials with not searching for their missing loved ones with urgency and empathy.

Protesters also carried Black Lives Matter signs, photos of Dominique “Rem’mie” Fells—a transwoman brutally murdered in Philadelphia on June 8—and photos of Breonna Taylor, killed by police in Louisville, Ky., on March 13 when they invaded her home without a warrant. As in Texas, Kentucky officials delayed waging a serious investigation until family and community pressure forced them to do so.

As the march passed by a large encampment of houseless people, speakers stopped to express solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement and those struggling to obtain decent housing, especially during the current pandemic.

— Report and photo by Joe Piette

# Athletes demand justice for Breonna Taylor

By Monica Moorehead

The struggle to bring about justice for Breonna Taylor continues. The 26-year-old African American emergency medical technician was fatally shot eight times by three white police officers who invaded her Louisville, Ky., home on March 13 during a no-knock warrant narcotics search. Originally it was reported that Taylor was asleep when her home was attacked by the police.

Four months after this heinous crime, none of the cops have been arrested or charged with murder. Only one of the cops, Brett Hankison — who fired the fatal shots — has been terminated from his job.

A recent lawsuit filed by Taylor’s mother states that she was not in her bed as originally reported, but was standing near the front door when she was killed. Taylor actually lived another five to six minutes before succumbing to her wounds. The police did nothing to come to her aid and placed no calls to medics to try to save her or even check to see if she was still alive.

In a sworn statement, Taylor’s life partner, Kenneth Walker, described the moment after shots were fired by the police: “I was on the phone with [Taylor’s mom], when I kind of realized that it was the police, ‘cause now they’re yelling like ‘Come out, come out!’ I’m still yelling ‘Help!’ because [Taylor’s] over here coughing [due to her wounds] and I’m just freaking out.” (CNN, July 18)

Taylor’s case continues to be uplifted around the country by the Black Lives Matter movement, ignited by the public lynching of George Floyd on May 25. A 70-square-foot BLM mural of Taylor was recently painted in the streets of Annapolis, Md., during the first weekend in July.

Prominent sports athletes have spoken up and often about this case. Jemani Grant, a National Basketball Association forward with the Denver Nuggets, referenced Breonna Taylor several times during a July 15 press interview, two weeks before the resumption of the NBA season. The Nuggets have officially taken this



Artists and activists honor Breonna Taylor with this 7,000-square-foot mural, about the size of two basketball courts, in Annapolis, Md.

position on their Twitter account: “Arrest the cops who killed Breonna Taylor.”

Kenny Stills, a National Football League wide receiver with the Houston Texans, was arrested during a July 14 protest for Taylor in front of the home of Kentucky Attorney General Daniel Cameron. He and 86 other protesters were arrested while demanding that Taylor’s killers be brought to justice. The felony charges against Stills were dropped a few days later.

Along with a photo of himself wearing a T-shirt that stated “Breonna Taylor’s killers are still police,” Stills later tweeted, “‘Good trouble’ with my brothers and sisters — organized by @untilfreedom. Arrested for peacefully protesting. While Breonna Taylor’s murderers are still out on the street.” When Stills was with the Miami Dolphins, he consistently took a knee during the playing of the national anthem, in solidarity with Colin Kaepernick’s protest against police brutality and systemic racism. □



# Boston Teamsters Paratransit drivers win victory over union-busting contractor

By Steve Gillis  
Boston

July 20 — Some 350 paratransit drivers in Boston celebrated their victory last night after waging a 100% solid, weeklong strike against Veterans Transportation. The local taxi boss, their profitable new employer, is a notorious union buster.

Veterans Transportation recently underbid another private outfit for a Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority’s contract for The Ride, which provides door-to-door service for disabled and elder passengers. They then came at the multinational, predominantly Haitian workforce with a list of wage and benefit concessions. Most disgusting and potentially deadly was the company’s and its government client’s demand that these workers, deemed “essential” by local government during the COVID-19 pandemic, pay substantially more out-of-pocket for their families’ health insurance. They also tried to deny wage increases, substituting a one-time bonus with impossible strings attached, and balked at the union’s pandemic-related health and safety concerns. These were the final insults these Teamster Local 25 members unanimously rejected. On July 10, they hit the bricks 24/7.

The strikers made headlines and allies during their weeklong shutdown as many other unions, politicians and community leaders, including disabled activists, picketed bus yards in Boston suburbs of Everett, Waltham and Watertown.

Passengers who depend on The Ride have suffered



WW PHOTO: STEVE GILLIS  
**UNITE HERE Local 26 leader Ed Childs and United Steelworkers Local 8751 Trustee Fred Floreal join the Teamster strike line, July 15.**

deteriorating service and infuriating delays in recent years, as the state’s bipartisan administration took a budget axe to the essential service. During the strike, professional union drivers and MBTA vehicles were replaced with vouchers for app companies Uber and Lyft, whose drivers under current law have zero worker rights or benefits.

The spirit on the strike lines was fighting mad, as well as inspiring and uplifting, with blaring Caribbean music, barbecue and the Local 25 tractor-trailer soundstage bringing major resources, including personal protective equipment, to the picket lines daily.

In a statement issued from Local 25’s parking lot in Charlestown, where physically distanced members ratified the new contract July 19 by over 90%, President Sean M. O’Brien spotlighted “significant health insurance

increases.”

“Our members at Veterans Transportation are heroes who have put themselves and their families at risk during the pandemic, providing transit services for our most at-risk citizens,” O’Brien said in a media statement. “Teamsters Local 25 is proud to represent the MBTA [the Ride] drivers and will never stop fighting to make sure our members are treated with dignity and respect and receive fair wages, affordable health insurance and a safe working environment.”

Teamsters Local 25 has also moved the workers’ struggle forward on the legal front in recent weeks. State legislators and the attorney general have been forced, by the labor movement and the pandemic’s resulting economic crisis of mass unemployment, to move bills and initiate lawsuits recognizing gig drivers as workers. These bills will mean rights to unemployment insurance, health benefits, minimum wage protections and to organize a union, as opposed to Wall-Street-sponsored, fake “independent contractors.”

In Public Service Announcements during the strike, the MBTA urged The Ride passengers to cancel appointments or use Uber/Lyft. Its transparent, ill-advised and ultimately futile attempt to break the strike by running a non-union, substandard, failure-of-a-scab operation behind the scenes earned local government nothing but hatred from the communities served and from the labor movement.

*Gillis serves on the Executive Board of USW Local 8751 —the Boston School Bus Drivers Union.*

## On the picket line

By Sue Davis

### Flight attendants unite: ‘No concessions’

Three unions, representing 80% of all U.S. flight attendants, issued a joint open letter July 3 addressed to their members and the airline industry: “Concessions cannot and will not resolve the crisis in the industry. We are putting management on notice: Don’t even think about it.” Initiated by the Association of Flight Attendants-Communication Workers (AFA-CWA), led by President Sara Nelson, cosigners included the Association of Professional Flight Attendants and the Transport Workers Union.

Noting that passenger demand is now only about 20% of what it was a year ago, due to the worldwide pandemic and the economic depression, which have drastically cut business and social travel. The statement asserts: “Our wages, health care benefits, work rules and job protections are not the problem in this industry. The problem is one of demand, which will only be resolved when the flying public feels safe to travel.”

The letter concludes: “We must not let management set up a false choice of pitting our careers against our contracts. ... Cutting wages and work rules will not bring our jobs back. ... [W]e stand united in our opposition to concessions. Flight Attendants must not be allowed to bear the burden of the aviation crisis.”

### Nurses in motion from coast to coast

National Nurses United held a memorial in front of the Capitol on July 21 honoring the more than 160 nurses who have lost their lives from COVID-19. They are demanding essential personal protective equipment and regulatory protection for frontline nurses and other health care workers.

Previously on March 6, 1,600 registered nurses at Mission Hospital, the largest health care center in Western North Carolina, petitioned the National Labor Relations Board to form an NNU unit in the country’s second-least unionized state. The nurses want to raise hospital staffing levels to lower nurse-to-patient ratios. This is believed to be one of the largest union campaigns

in the country today. (Portside, July 15)

NNU proudly announced on July 16 that the registered nurses at St. Mary’s Hospital and St. Joseph’s Hospital in Tucson, Ariz., voted overwhelmingly to approve their first contract with the NNU. This is a first for RNs in the state. The three-year contract includes safe patient care protections during COVID-19, with a voice for nurses about PPE, optimal patient handling, lift equipment and communicable disease issues; a Professional Practice Committee to meet monthly about optimal patient care and nursing practice; and at least 8 hours rest between shifts.

The July 10 Payday Report cites nurses on strike in areas with a major surge in COVID-19 hospitalizations, including Riverside, Calif., Houston and Joliet, Ill., to name a few. The newsletter has recorded over 900 labor strikes since March.

### To create jobs, Missouri labor joins fight for Medicaid

Seeking to create 16,000 jobs in Missouri, a coalition of organized labor, businesses, patient advocates and faith leaders is supporting the “Yes on 2” ballot initiative, which would expand Medicaid in the state. Already nearly 300 organizations, including the Missouri AFL-CIO and the Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry, have transcended party politics, racial lines, the rural-urban split and other usually divisive barriers.

“Our partners recognize the urgency of Medicaid expansion to protect frontline health care jobs, help

keep endangered rural hospitals open, boost our state’s economy and generate additional jobs during our ongoing economic crisis,” campaign manager A.J. Bockelman told the July 23 Labor Tribune.

Researchers at Washington University report the expansion will save the state more than \$1 billion annually by 2026, with tax dollars coming back from Washington and cutting state costs. An independent study by economic analysts projected job growth will happen at nearly 80% outside the health care industry and Missouri’s big cities. Average personal income would grow by \$1.1 billion annually — with an extra \$500 on average for each Missouri household.

### Hire Oregon workers for renewable energy projects there!

Why are Oregon renewable energy projects, which get state tax subsidies, going to out-of-state contractors? Oregon Building Trades Council Executive Secretary Robert Camarillo is organizing to end that. If fossil fuel developers have to sign a Project Labor Agreement, he wants the same rules to apply to renewable energy projects: mandating in-state hiring, paying prevailing wage and instituting apprenticeship training programs. Camarillo set up an ad hoc task force with staff and leaders of five building trade unions that meets weekly. They are making videos in which Eastern Oregon residents and union members talk about why they want that work. Stay tuned. □



PHOTO: BENJAMIN SHEPHERD  
**Teachers and staff caravanned for funding and health care throughout NYC boroughs, July 18.**

## Teachers and staff organize during COVID-19

By G. Dunkel

The Professional Staff Congress, the American Federation of Teachers union representing 30,000 faculty and staff at the City University of New York, held four simultaneous car and bike caravans July 18, plus a Zoom meeting with nearly 700 participants. The caravans took place in Brooklyn, the Bronx, Queens and Staten Island, directed at CUNY facilities in those boroughs.

The demonstrations protested against the recent layoffs of 2,900 adjunct employees, who also lost health care coverage.

Potential state cuts to CUNY funding and the possibility of a “dangerous, premature return to in-person instruction” were also raised.

“The members of the PSC refuse to normalize cuts and layoffs at CUNY. And we will not allow the University administration to put the lives of our members and students at risk by returning to campus before it is safe,” said Barbara Bowen, president of the PSC. “That’s why we’re demonstrating in the communities where our students live.”

The PSC is also projecting another, more militant event at the end of August shortly before the fall semester starts. □



# End federal executions! End the racist death penalty!



By Gloria Rubac

In just four days, the U.S. government doubled to six the number of federal executions since Congress reauthorized the federal death penalty in 1988. Three men were put to death in the federal penitentiary in Terre Haute, Ind., on July 14, 16 and 17.

After a flurry of last minute appeals, stays of execution, the lifting of stays, injunctions and petitions regarding the nature of the drugs to be used, witnesses fearing exposure to COVID-19 and victims' families asking for a halt — Daniel Lee, Wesley Purkey and Dustin Honken, all white, are now dead. Another federal prisoner, Keith Nelson, is scheduled to be executed on Aug. 28.

While the U.S. should be shut down to stop the spread of the COVID-19 virus, we should all be asking why President Trump's Department of Justice was in such a rush to schedule these executions. Only three federal executions were previously carried out since 2003.

From the point of view of people's health, there are many unanswered questions. Attorneys could not visit their clients for months due to the pandemic. Investigators could not work. Victims' families feared traveling to witness the executions. Spiritual advisors worried about the virus, as did reporters assigned to cover the executions. The execution team feared the virus after one of its members tested positive. The disrespect for people's health and lives is abhorrent.



PHOTO: TERRE HAUTE DEATH PENALTY RESISTANCE

Sylvester Edwards of the Terre Haute NAACP protests the federal execution of Wesley Purkey on July 16 near the death house in Terre Haute, Ind.

Why the rush? William Barr, head of the DOJ, announced the rush to the summer's executions June 15. This is in stark contradiction to the trends regarding the death penalty in the U.S. Public support for the death penalty is currently at historic lows, according to public opinion polls. The number of people being sentenced to death is down. The number of executions is down.

What is up is the number of people being exonerated. This year Kareem Johnson had all charges dismissed against him in his Pennsylvania capital murder case, making him the third death row exoneration this year, and the 170th that Witness To Innocence has confirmed since 1973.

According to the National Registry of Exonerations, there have been 2,649 exonerations of various crimes since 1989. These exonerees lost 23,590 years while they were wrongfully imprisoned. In a 2017 report, they found that African Americans are only 13% of the U.S. population, but a majority of innocent defendants wrongfully convicted of crimes and later exonerated.

## The link between slavery and executions

The long, racist history of capital punishment is well documented. Slavery and racist lynching in the U.S. led to the institutionalization of executions. The death penalty became legalized lynching. This is reported quite effectively in many books, articles and webpages. The U.S. has gone from the rope to the chair to the needle.

In a recent op-ed in the Tampa Bay Times, activist Derrick Jamison writes, "As a Black man in America, I know all too well what it is like to face an angry lynch mob. I spent 20 years on death row for a crime someone else committed."

"I had six death warrants and six execution dates in Ohio. All six executions were later stayed by the governor; the last came within 90 minutes of my scheduled execution. I was asked about my last rites, where my dead body was to be sent and what I wanted for my last meal. But my story ends differently than most. I am the survivor of what could have been a legal lynching. My story illustrates everything that is wrong with the death penalty." (July 7)

This month's federal executions are the culmination of over three years work securing a secret supply chain to make and test lethal-injection drugs within months of Trump becoming president.

From an extensive investigation released by Reuters on July 10, here is the timeline of when Trump began planning to resume executions:

- In May 2017, the DOJ hired an Arizona litigation consulting firm, Elite Medical Experts LLC, in anticipation of legal challenges to plans for executions.

- By March 2018, the DOJ had secured a compounding pharmacy willing to make an injectable pentobarbital. This was done because no legitimate businesses would sell drugs for lethal injections, so states as well as the feds had turned to compounding pharmacies to make the lethal solution.

- By October 2018, the DOJ had found a "bulk manufacturer" of the raw pentobarbital powder.

- Then the compounding pharmacy ordered quality-control testing on sample batches of the pentobarbital.

- But when ARL Bio Pharma tested the initial sample on Oct. 20, 2018, it found it was contaminated with unknown impurities.

- By February 2019, the pentobarbital powder passed purity tests.

- On April 9, 2019, a St. Louis company, DynaLabs, said vials containing 50 milliliters of pentobarbital began arriving at the firm for testing. Two other labs also began testing, one in Oklahoma City and one in Houston.

- On June 15, five weeks later, the DOJ announced the executions for July and August 2020.

## Abolish executions; people's lives must come first

With unemployment skyrocketing and a health care crisis gripping the country, workers need support to pay rent and mortgages, buy groceries and pay utility bills. In the richest country in the world, there should be no hunger or evictions or unaffordable health care.

On Feb. 10, Trump sent Congress a proposed Fiscal Year 2021 budget request of \$740.5 billion for national security, \$705.4 billion of which is for the Department of Defense.

This is OUR money, so this money should be used for the people. Expensive and unnecessary policies like executions should be immediately abolished.

After these recent executions by the Republican government, there was not a peep of protest from any of the so-called liberals like Bernie Sanders or Nancy Pelosi. Where is the outrage of the bourgeois media?

It is up to our class to make this country fit for all. Until the system is turned upside down, we must work to end racist practices of the cops, the courts and the prisons. We must stop all executions, which mainly target the poor and people of color. □

## Mumia Abu-Jamal commentary: A crack in the wall

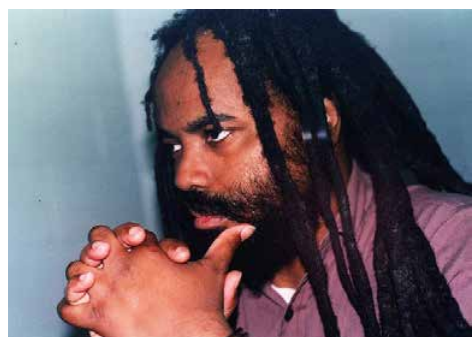
By Mumia Abu-Jamal

*This column, posted initially on prison-radio.org, first appeared on workers.org on Jan. 4, 2017.*

*We are running this column this week in light of the resumption of the federal death penalty. Daniel Lee, executed July 14, was a white supremacist who later denounced racism. The death penalty, even when used against white supremacists, upholds a racist and anti-poor institution that hurts us all.*

For Dylann Roof, the next few days and weeks of his young life will prove his most memorable. That's saying something, considering his slaughter of nine sweet souls in a Black Charleston church.

For, in the next few days and weeks,



Mumia Abu-Jamal

a jury will convene to decide whether he gets a death sentence or life.

As someone who lived a lifetime on Death Row, my opposition is unequivocal. Even in a case such as this, my opposition to the State taking life doesn't falter. Even in this case, of a witless white supremacist, a killer of nine Black Christian souls.

If I know anything, it's Death Row. I've seen it drive men stark raving mad.

That said, my one opinion carries no real weight in this case, for unless I miss my guess, no juror will ever hear these words. They will decide Roof's fate after he delivers his own closing arguments, which will hardly endear him to his jurors.

A death verdict for Roof strengthens the repressive powers of the State and gives it the false patina of "justice." If a death sentence fails, it helps show the inherent injustice of the death penalty. It would help all the men and women on Death Row.

My decision to oppose death for Roof wasn't an easy one, but I believe it's the right one.

No matter his beliefs, decades on Death Row, as well as in solitary, are mind-frying experiences. Nothing he has experienced in his brief life can prepare him for such outcomes.

For life, in prison, is no picnic. □



PHOTO: FREE THEM ALL CONNECTICUT

## Prisoners Solidarity Committee – online!

The Prisoners Solidarity Committee has put on a number of online panels with speakers on subjects including Juneteenth and the Black Lives Matter Rebellion and Free Mumia! Free Them All! You can find the recordings of the events at:

[tinyurl.com/JuneteenthWWP](https://tinyurl.com/JuneteenthWWP)

[tinyurl.com/FreeMumiaWWP](https://tinyurl.com/FreeMumiaWWP)

The next PSC online panel will cover Black August on August 13. Join us! □





# Outrage over Trump attacks

## Portland movement fights back

Continued from page 1

than the PPB.

Oregon Public Broadcasting reported on July 12 that a U.S. Marshals officer shot protester Donavan LaBella, 26, in the head with “less-than-lethal” munitions in what witnesses described as an unprovoked attack, causing facial and skull fractures that required reconstructive surgeries. LaBella remains hospitalized in critical condition.

### The feds move in

Acting head of Department of Homeland Security Chad Wolf arrived in Portland July 16 on Trump’s orders to oversee the federal crackdown. Federal officers have ramped up the use of tear gas, throwing canisters of the chemical weapon into large crowds without warning, which this reporter experienced first-hand the night of July 17.

Multiple reports and video footage portray camo-clad federal officers, who lack any identifying badge numbers or name tags, grabbing people off the streets and pulling them into unmarked vans, then driving them blindfolded to an undisclosed location. Now people know this was the Hatfield Federal Courthouse, one block north of the PPB headquarters, where they were questioned and photographed.

Workers World spoke with a protester (unnamed here for his safety) on the night of July 17, who described how federal officers grabbed him off the sidewalk and shoved him into an unmarked van. He was released the following day after a night of intense questioning at the federal courthouse.

Detainees are either not told what crimes they are being charged with or are given only vague reasons for their detainment. These arrests have aroused anger and concern in Portland. Here fascist paramilitaries dressed in similar camo and gear regularly show up to demonstrations where they assault leftists and aid police.

The federal officers are blurring the lines between themselves and the fascist paramilitaries. Many people suspect that some U.S. Border Patrol officers are involved in these abductions. The Border Patrol has enhanced authority within 100 miles from any coast or border, and thus encompasses Portland and two-thirds of the entire U.S. population.

Local newspaper Willamette Week, after identifying license plate numbers on several vans from video footage of abductions, determined they were rented from EAN Holdings LLC, an operating subsidiary of Enterprise Holdings which owns the Enterprise, Alamo and National car rental brands. This should come as no surprise to anyone who is aware of the deep relationships between corporations and the police.

Greyhound bus lines, for example, has been a frequent target of protesters denouncing their collaboration with Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents who conduct raids on Greyhound riders.

Willamette Week reported on July 20 that over the weekend, “Viral videos and photos from Saturday night’s



July 20: Crowds near the Multnomah County Justice Center, on the 54th consecutive day of demonstrations in Portland.

protest showed federal police beating a Navy veteran, Christopher David, with batons and tear gassing a crowd that included Multnomah County Commissioner Sharon Meieran.” Meieran tweeted: “Last night I was teargassed by a federal occupying force I SAW throw canisters of poison, without warning, into a nonviolent crowd, including elders, the vulnerable.”

### Repression of graffiti arouses resistance

In previous weeks, crowds had dwindled to hundreds at the nightly protests. Now, the arrival of federal officers and officials has galvanized thousands of people in Portland, including many older residents. Many who don’t typically attend demonstrations are shocked and outraged at what they view as an occupation of their city by violent outside agitators — the federal agents.

Trump’s goal of quelling the protests and intimidating people into staying home has boomeranged, a predictable outcome in a city known for its large, regular protests.

To justify the extreme tactics used by federal officers — tactics that fit former dictator Pinochet’s Chile — DHS acting head Wolf released a list of the dates and locations of graffiti that protesters had painted. If the conflict were less grave, Wolf’s iron-fisted response to graffiti would be laughable. Instead, it underscores the government’s real motive: to crush an anti-racist, anti-fascist people’s movement that has swept the country like wildfire and sustained itself for over two months.

The state seeks any reason, no matter how absurd or untrue, to justify its vicious attacks against protesters. It labels anyone a terrorist or a violent anarchist for involvement in the movement, no matter how peaceful

or constitutional their involvement may be.

Even Oregon Gov. Kate Brown, along with many other state and local politicians, has condemned the crack-down as a case of gross federal over-reach and asked for the officers to leave. Historically, federal officers have assisted only at the request of state and local leaders. They have never before been imposed by the White House on states, as is happening now in Oregon.

It’s ironic that so-called conservatives, who often say they support states’ rights and oppose federal over-reach, have remained silent.

Mayor Wheeler, who joined Gov. Brown in condemning the violent presence of federal officers, initially assured the public that the PPB, under his direct control, was not coordinating with federal officers and would not do so. Yet after several nights of protests, it has become clear that PPB offi-

cers have advanced on protesters in coordination with federal agents.

“Portland police and federal officers marched shoulder-to-shoulder Sunday morning to disperse protesters downtown,” read a July 18 article in The Oregonian, the state’s largest newspaper. At a press conference, “Portland Police Chief Chuck Lovell confirmed the two forces share real-time plans with each other.”

Deputy Chief Chris Davis revealed to state lawmakers in a legislative hearing that “a member of the Federal Protective Service is in the Portland Police command post during downtown demonstrations.”

Commissioner Hardesty issued this public statement July 18 on Twitter: “We know that Portland Police Association President Daryl Turner met with DHS Secretary Chad Wolf. We know Portland Police are collaborating with this federal occupying force.” To date, Secretary Wolf has only met with Turner and not with any city or state officials.

The federal government’s escalation occurs just months before the 2020 general election as Trump’s position in election polls plummets. Desperate to reverse his fortune, Trump and his backers, including the cops, could be using Portland to test authoritarian tactics, preparing to use them elsewhere.

It is encouraging that the first reaction from Portland was to meet the escalated repression with an escalated

fight — with a “Wall of Moms” shielding the protesters at the Federal Courthouse. It’s a good beginning. The state’s repression and fascistic tactics must be met by an anti-racist, anti-fascist people’s movement that will never stop pushing its demands for justice and freedom from racism, white supremacy and police brutality. □

**Multiple reports and video footage portray camo-clad federal officers, who lack any identifying badge numbers or name tags, grabbing people off the streets and pulling them into unmarked vans, then driving them blindfolded to an undisclosed location.**



WW PHOTO: LYN NEELEY

Workers World Party-Portland branch in the streets on the evening of July 21.

## Like apple pie and baseball — and football

Continued from page 3

every epoch the ruling ideas.” Their ideas include white supremacy and misogyny, which logically permeate the world of for-profit professional sports. The ruling class isn’t just hateful; it profits from the super-exploitation of the most oppressed and uses bigotry to divide the working class.

Reversals of previously held, hard-line positions are happening because of the powerful mass movement in the streets that is aggressively taking on systemic racism — of which police terror is one piece. Athletes and other celebrities are speaking up in solidarity — and coming under fire for doing so.

The multinational, working-class youth understand that the ugly history of slavery and genocide has been upheld and sanitized by statues of killers and enslavers, the widespread presence of Confederate flags and the use of demeaning sports team names and mascots. This powerful rebellion is taking down these hated symbols all over the country and even worldwide. Not long before this historic development, the #MeToo movement gave voice to millions of women and gender-oppressed people who survived sexual abuse.

That is the context in which to understand the retiring of team names in Washington and Cleveland, along with any attempts to address sexual harassment by the racist, sexist sports-industrial complex. □



# Anti-racist protests accelerate across North Carolina

By calvin deutschbein  
Durham, N.C.

July 20 — Throughout North Carolina, from urban to rural areas, the anti-racist uprising continues, most prominently with concurrent anti-jail demonstrations in four counties — Forsyth, Durham, Wake, Mecklenburg — on Friday, July 17.

Last week the anti-police campaign, #DefundAvlPD, in **Buncombe County** won a city-level reparations commitment. But it continues to push, demanding defunding to stop the ongoing white supremacist violence as well as make efforts to repair it. Multiple banner drops the week of July 13 as part of the #Justice4Jerry campaign sought justice for Jerry Williams, who **Asheville** police shot and killed in 2016.

Following the in-custody murder of John Neville in **Forsyth County** jail earlier this year, organizers formed a community bond fund, staged solidarity actions by first responders with Black firefighters organizing against racism, and supported the NC BORN 7-day Governor’s Mansion action in Raleigh, the capital. Now Triad Abolition Project is in the fifth day of an encampment on the steps of the Forsyth County Jail demanding justice for John Neville.

In **Alamance County** there have been increasingly large anti-police and anti-white supremacy mobilizations against a Confederate monument erected on the steps of the historical courthouse in **Graham**. That’s where in 1870 the Ku Klux Klan lynched Wyatt Outlaw, the first Black elected official in Graham.

The monument has been guarded in equal parts by the Southern Poverty Law Center-designated hate group ACTBAC (Alamance County Take Back Alamance County); the Graham Police Department, an inter-agency tactical unit based in nearby Burlington, the largest city in the county; Elon University Police, the private police force of the second largest private employer in the county; and the Alamance County Sheriff’s Department, which was under investigation for racial violence by the Department of Justice until the Trump administration suspended the investigation.

The county, town and university have faced increasing calls against policing. A massive, predominantly Black demonstration marched on **Graham** on July 18 in the wake of a successful lawsuit by civil rights organizations against protest bans. The city of Graham has faced renewed investigations into the police killing of Jaquyn Light by statewide journalists.

Down Home NC, a rural organizing formation, has continued to demand that charges be dropped against Bobby Harvey, who was severely beaten by **Burlington** police last year and placed under arrest on false charges. Harvey was held in the county jail for over 24 hours before receiving medical attention and being transferred to a hospital. At **Elon University**, a coalition of student organizations, including the Black Student Union and

revolutionary workers rights and anti-war student groups, are calling for Elon University Police to be defunded.

### Anti-policing education

In **Greensboro**, the largest city in **Guilford County**, the Working Class-Homeless Organizing Alliance (WHOA), a group of a multi-left tendencies, and the Socialist Rifle Association hold weekly mutual aid distributions and anti-policing educationals for the city’s large homeless population. WHOA was formed after the police murder of homeless person Marcus Smith in late 2018. BLM GSO, the local #BlackLivesMatter group, has had mass events with Smith’s family nearly every week since May 30.

On July 4, a Confederate monument was torn down by demonstrators in the Greensboro cemetery. Police report that their investigations have found no one who saw or has any knowledge of how it was taken down.

In the city of **Durham**, Can’t Pay Won’t Pay, a rent refusal collective, took over the old police headquarters on Saturday, July 18, until Durham cops made 27 brutal arrests, with some people requiring medical treatment on site. Demonstrators were then moved to the Durham Jail.

The Other America Movement has sustained an encampment outside the new police headquarters — in the heart of East Durham which is historically Black — for just over a month demanding the reversal of recent funding increases to the Durham Police Department.

In **Durham County**, there have been gatherings at the Durham Jail on Friday every week since March 17 to demand #FreeThemAll, led by the Durham Beyond Policing coalition. This group, which includes Black Youth Project 100 and the United Electrical Workers Local 150, prevented expansion of the Durham Police Department last year.



PHOTO: DEFUNDAVL PD

#DefundAvlPD banner dropped in Asheville the week of July 13.



WW PHOTO: WWP DURHAM BUREAU

ABOLISH and RECLAIM banners hang from the former police station in Durham.

Directly affected families in **Wake County** have been holding daily solidarity demonstrations with people in solitary confinement in Wake County jails, with a major block party style demonstration on Friday, July 18.

NC BORN, a statewide revolutionary Black socialist organization, has held daily actions in **Raleigh** for over a month. On July 16 they held a vigil for Kendra Shanice Reid, a student at Winston Salem State University, a Historically Black College/University in the University of North Carolina system whose lynching was covered up by police in 2017. On July 17, they marched on gentrified neighborhoods in Raleigh after an intimidating letter to a Black family living there threatened them for having a #BlackLivesMatter lawn sign.

In **Cary**, the Wake County Black Student Coalition marched on the Board of Education meeting on Tuesday, July 14, to demand the county discontinue the school resource officer program and held a traffic blockade for several hours.

Charlotte Uprising has maintained a 24-hour presence outside **Mecklenburg County** Jail since regular demonstrations began in **Charlotte** on May 29. On July 12, when the public first became aware that Michael Daniel Mangan was killed in the Mecklenburg Jail, demonstrators covered the entrance of the Sheriff’s Office with red paint. □



PHOTO: A. CRIDER

The March For Justice and Community and massive #BlackLivesMatter mobilization marched from Burlington to Graham on July 11.



PHOTO: WHOA-GSO

WHOA-GSO distribute anti-police mutual aid to homeless people in Greensboro, July 11.



PHOTO: TRIAD ABOLITION PROJECT

The Triad Abolition Project enters day four of continuous presence outside Forsyth County Jail.

# Berkeley City Council refuses to counter cops

By Judy Greenspan  
Berkeley, Calif.

“Don’t Believe the Hype,” released in 1988 by Public Enemy, still rings true today in Berkeley. Local media call the July 14 City Council decision to study and curtail police actions a victory. Black students, led by Youth Protect the Bay and a community coalition to defund the police, say otherwise.

As James Baldwin so aptly put it, “I can’t believe what you say because I see what you do.” This quote could apply to the council’s refusal to approve the only concrete resolution: to defund the Berkeley Police Department by 50%. This “liberal” council would not even second a motion by one brave councilmember to censure Berkeley Police Chief Andrew Greenwood for his racist and abusive statements against protesters.

Since late May when police murdered George Floyd and Breonna Taylor’s murder became public, Berkeley High School’s Black students have led rallies and demonstrations in the streets. The

students called for Berkeley educators and other members of the larger community to support their efforts against police violence.

The only city government member who responded to the students is District 2 City Councilmember Cheryl Davila, who crafted a real plan with timelines to immediately begin defunding BPD by 50%. A coalition of students, community organizations and anti-racist activists have coalesced around this demand.

On June 9, Black students led a militant march through Berkeley to address a special City Council meeting focused on the Black Lives Matter movement. That night, the council voted to prohibit the use of any tear gas during the COVID-19 pandemic. When media asked Berkeley Chief Greenwood what police would do to stop demonstrators if they couldn’t use tear gas, he said, “Firearms. We can shoot people.” (Berkeleyside, July 14)

Angered by Greenwood’s response, Black high school students from Oakland and Berkeley continued to organize and marched to the Berkeley Police

Department on July 13. They “camped out” in front of the BPD until 11 p.m. that night to support Councilmember Davila’s resolution to defund the BPD.

### People back call to defund cops

The next day, over 300 people participated in the City Council meeting either in person or via Zoom. The audience overwhelmingly backed Davila’s resolution to defund. Many people criticized the council for refusing to vote no confidence for the police chief. The council bypassed Davila’s resolution and passed a series of weaker resolutions limiting the participation of the police in traffic stops and mental health calls. However, none of the resolutions that were passed addressed the broader issues of police brutality and the cops’ systemic racism.

Berkeley’s history

and reputation of being a hotbed of radical thought and action has worn thin over the past several decades of police terror and gentrification. Now its image has been further tarnished by the refusal of the Berkeley City Council to address the real issues. It is up to the Berkeley and Oakland students and the progressive anti-racist surrounding community to keep up the struggle to not only defund the police, but abolish it forever! Reach out and support at #standwithblackyouth. □



WW PHOTO: JUDY GREENSPAN

Berkeley High School student organizers gather on sound truck before June 9 march through Berkeley to protest police terror.



# Standing Rock wins legal victory against Dakota Access Pipeline

By Stephanie Tromblay

In a victory for the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe against the Dakota Access Pipeline, U.S. District Judge James Boasberg ruled July 6 that DAPL operations must shut down while the government conducts a full-fledged environmental analysis examining risks posed to the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. (USA Today, July 7)

On March 26, Judge Boasberg had ruled the Army Corps of Engineers violated the National Environmental Policy Act and glossed over the devastating consequences of a potential oil spill in its 2016 decision to permit the pipeline. (tinyurl.com/yy7ftzes) His July 6 ruling concluded that shutting down the pipeline was necessary, based on the seriousness of the government’s legal violations and potential damages to the Tribe and third parties. The Corps must reexamine the risks of the pipeline and prepare a full environmental impact statement.

The Oceti Sakowin — the Lakota/Dakota/Nakota Sioux Nation — courageously battled construction of DAPL to protect their lands and waters, their sovereignty and the lives of future generations, and to protect the great Missouri and Mississippi Rivers. Indigenous peoples from throughout the Western Hemisphere went to Standing Rock. Supporters came from all over the world.

DAPL bulldozed sacred and burial sites and used G4S and TigerSwan mercenaries against the water protectors, all on unceded stolen lands. Former N.D. Gov. Jack Dalrymple, who invested in the pipeline, mobilized cops from other states and brought in the National Guard to repress unarmed peaceful adults and children.

Water protectors were beaten, bitten by attack dogs, pepper sprayed, shot with rubber bullets, injured by criminal use of sound cannons, brutalized while praying, strip searched, numbered and held in dog kennels, and hosed down with fire hoses in freezing weather. A young woman had her arm blown up. The National Guard used snipers to threaten water defenders and even shot horses with rubber bullets, killing one. Indigenous water protectors, land defenders and medics were arrested. One noted case involved a setup of a medic, Red Fawn Fallis, on a felony charge by an infiltrator posing as a boyfriend. (tinyurl.com/y7qn69xc)



Standing Rock, 2016.



Indigenous nations gathered at a construction site for the Dakota Access Pipeline to perform a daily prayer ceremony, July 2016.



A caravan of veterans traveled in support to Standing Rock, December 2016.

Energy Transfer Partners built DAPL to move crude oil from western North Dakota under the Missouri River, at Standing Rock Reservation, to a pipeline in Illinois and to refineries in the Gulf for export. But while the Army Corps of Engineers is under federal mandate to engage in meaningful consultation with reservations before signing off on pipeline route permits, Standing Rock was never properly consulted.

Standing Rock is under the 1851 Treaty of Ft. Laramie. While treaties are recognized under the U.S. Constitution as the “law of the land,” all treaty lands, according to a 1908 Supreme Court ruling, must reserve sufficient water to fulfill the purposes of reservations. These rights are known as federal reserved water rights or Winters rights.

Yet pipelines corrode and rupture. Fossil fuel infrastructure causes damage to the health of communities and ecosystems. A Missouri spill on the pipeline would destroy clean water for Standing Rock and 18 million people downstream, in addition to wildlife species and millions of square miles of habitats.

The Standing Rock Tribal council has voted unanimously every year since 2016 to continue legal challenges to the pipeline, which carries 600,000 barrels of crude oil a day within a mile upstream from Standing Rock Reservation.

According to Earthjustice attorneys, the shutdown will remain in place pending completion of a full environmental review, which normally takes several years and issuance of new permits. “It took four long years, but today justice has been served at Standing Rock,” said Earthjustice attorney Jan Hasselman, who represents the Tribe. “If the events of 2020 have taught us anything, it’s that health and justice must be prioritized early on in any decision-making process if we want to avoid a crisis later on.”

“Today is a historic day for the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and the many people who have supported us in the fight against the pipeline,” said Tribal Chairman Mike Faith. “This pipeline should have never been built here. We told them that from the beginning.”

*Tromblay’s heritage is Huron nonstatus and mixed Southeast nations undocumented.*

# Philadelphia houseless activists vs. growing housing crisis

By Betsey Piette  
Philadelphia

Dozens of houseless people set up a tent encampment on June 11, right on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, within sight of high-rise towers where rents average \$5,000 a month. The encampment grew to nearly 150 people and was named the James Talib-Dean encampment after a housing activist who recently died. Demands were for immediate housing and attention to the critical lack of affordable housing, the poor conditions in city shelters and the need for permanent housing.

At a press conference on July 13 — after city officials had threatened to evict them on July 17 — the group demanded an emergency transfer of vacant city-owned property into a community land trust for permanent low-to-no-income housing.

“The Philadelphia Housing Authority has about 5,000 vacant properties,” said Sterling Johnson, a Black and Brown Workers Cooperative organizer, speaking on behalf of the broader Philadelphia Housing Action Coalition that organized the encampment. “We want to use them to create a community land trust. We need housing for no-income people, for disabled people.

“What the Housing Authority in Philadelphia and other housing authorities across the country have been doing is to basically privatize public property. This is public property. What they want to do is auction it off to private developers.”

On July 16, Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney announced postponement of the eviction, stating a commitment to affordable housing. Kenney said the camp “casts an important light on the racial inequities in our society that impact homelessness.” Since the eviction threat was removed, more houseless people are joining the camp.

## City assaults on encampments

Kenney’s action underscores the city’s responsibility to address the housing crisis. Nothing has been done for decades while gentrification has pushed working-class and poor families out of their homes. Black and Latinx communities have been hardest hit.



Sterling Johnson at July 13 press conference.

Even with the mayor’s concession, the struggle is far from over. Within hours of his announcement, the city cut off sanitation contracts that provided bathroom support for the camp. Organizers quickly demanded the city provide access to public restrooms in nearby Von Colln Memorial Field.

In recent months, Philadelphia city officials have cleared several houseless camps, including one outside the Convention Center and one along an I-676 overpass. Houseless people sleeping at the Philadelphia International Airport during the height of the coronavirus pandemic were forced to leave. Only a few individuals, at high risk for COVID-19, were given temporary shelter in empty hotels.

Organized by the PHAC, Occupy PHA, Workers’ Revolutionary Collective and the Black and Brown Workers Cooperative, the current encampment also reflects the movement against racism and police brutality, with streetwide “Black Lives Matter” banners and several signs declaring the encampment a “No cop zone.”

## Civil war between homeless people and gentrifiers

At the July 13 press conference, encampment organizer Jen Bennetch stated: “This protest is really part of a civil war between homeless people and the city, which has pushed us out of our homes and sold off public housing to gentrifiers.” She called for defunding the police and other city departments whose administrators make six-figure salaries but essentially do nothing to address the housing crisis.

Bennetch pointed out the PHA is the largest housing provider in Philadelphia, yet it has a waitlist that has not moved since 2013. PHA has a history of corruption and blighting properties, particularly in Black and Brown communities. Current housing needs in Philadelphia could be as high as 50,000 units — not just for low-income but no-income families.

This city is not alone. In the U.S., between 8 to 11 million homeless people are living on the streets, in a crumbling shelter system or in encampments, trapped in immediate need for secure housing. Despite the COVID-19 crisis, New York City officials waited an extra week to close schools in March because 100,000 students were homeless and relied on school services for regular meals and shelter.

Yet in early February, as the growing pandemic was becoming known, the Trump administration cut low-income housing assistance programs by \$4.2 billion, decreased public housing operating funds by 21% and ended all funding for public housing capital repairs.

## Mass evictions loom

In the last five months, over 44 million people in the U.S. have filed for unemployment. Unless Congress passes an extension, expanded unemployment benefits end on July 31. Eviction moratoriums, in place in some U.S. cities, will end on Aug. 31. Renters and tenant advocates are sounding the alarm about the coming eviction crisis.

The COVID-19 Eviction Defense Project estimates that, of the 110 million people who live in renter households in the U.S., 1 in 5 is at risk of eviction by Sept. 30. As the virus crisis escalates — coupled with the economic collapse that started before the health crisis — mass evictions may soon threaten 19 million to 23 million renters in the U.S.

Housing is a human right. Housing activists, led by the recently reconstituted National Union of the Homeless, are compiling statistics on actual need. They are asking why the U.S. government can spend billions on the military while funding for housing, already seriously limited, is being cut back even more during an aggressive pandemic. □



‘U.S. Chernobyl’

Why the U.S. failed and China won against COVID-19

By Lee Siu Hin 李小軒

*This slightly edited talk was given at the July 16 Workers World Party webinar, “Why We Defend China.” The webinar can be viewed at [tinyurl.com/yxbbpwwy](https://tinyurl.com/yxbbpwwy).*



Lee Siu Hin

What’s going on?

In January 2020, several cases of viral pneumonia of unknown origin were detected in the central Chinese city of Wuhan. No one knew exactly what the virus was, hence the vague identifier of “coronavirus” so popularly known today.

Thousands of miles away in the U.S., when the virus was believed not to have reached its soil yet, right-wing U.S. elites, media and politicians began using cruel words and ridicule against China, calling the virus “China’s Chernobyl.” U.S. Sen. Tom Cotton, famous for his anti-China

rhetoric, along with the right-wing media and the “liberal” Washington Post, began spreading the “Wuhan military-lab-made virus” conspiracy theory.

On the ground in China

I was in China at the time. As a Chinese American community activist, I had been working and traveling between China and the U.S. for the Bi-National Activist Solidarity Network project and working in the medical field. Due to the increased U.S. cold-war hostilities against China, we organized a 21-people British/U.S. activist delegation to China from December 2019 to January 2020.

We traveled from Beijing along the Silk Road to Urumqi, China, the capital of Xingjian province. Our main purpose was a fact-finding tour to fight U.S.-Western propaganda against China regarding [the Muslim Uyghur minority] in Xingjian. We met many people and talked to Muslims and Uyghurs about the true situation. ([tinyurl.com/y46k2jtx/](https://tinyurl.com/y46k2jtx/))

It was right after the New Year, on the tour bus to Dunhuang, China, when we heard the breaking story of the U.S. assassination of Iranian General Qasem Soleimani and the small but developing news about a mysterious virus that had broken out in Wuhan. By the time we returned to Beijing at the end of the tour on Jan. 7, the situation in Wuhan seemed to be getting serious, with more and more local news coverage and public health warnings.

I stayed in China until Jan. 20 and flew back to the U.S., three days before the Chinese government ordered Wuhan’s lockdown and tens of thousands of medical workers were sent to the city. It became the biggest medical emergency mission in human history.

Based on my medical experience, I knew it could develop into a health crisis, but no one could have expected a

pandemic to emerge and become a major global crisis that would deeply affect each and every country. This was a turning point in history that occurred over the course of just a few weeks.

It seemed with every passing day less was known about the pandemic, yet China beat the odds by completely containing the virus within three months. When the Wuhan lockdown officially ended on April 8, it marked the official end of the COVID-19 crisis in China.

But no one could predict that the pandemic would spread rapidly to Europe or that the U.S. would become the COVID-19 epicenter in the world, with nearly a quarter of all global cases and deaths.

Again, we need to ask: What’s going on?

U.S. cold war on China

The success of China’s struggle against the virus and the U.S. failure demonstrates the success of China’s socialist system and the failure and dysfunction of the U.S. capitalist system.

It also shows that the arrogance of the U.S., from left to right, due to the ceaseless anti-communist cold war against China, has meant that the U.S. could not put aside differences and learn from China’s successful experience. This arrogance sent the U.S. into an abyss of corona disaster, with over 135,000 COVID-19 deaths, millions of cases and trillions worth of economic losses, with no end in sight.

The first reported case in Wuhan came at the height of China-U.S. tensions. There was a U.S.-instigated trade war and a U.S.-Western-backed “color revolution” in Hong Kong, China. The U.S. was routinely sending its naval carriers and war planes to the South China Sea. The U.S. mobilized its entire state machine against Huawei, China’s burgeoning telecom company. The U.S. Congress passed the so-called “Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act of 2019” on Dec. 3, 2019, in a

blatant example of interference in China’s Xingjian region.

Most of these China-bashing U.S. campaigns have failed. The U.S. was forced to sign the trade accord with China to ease the trade war. Huawei didn’t fall. Hong Kong police are now under new leadership that has cracked down and arrested thousands of neo-Nazi Hong Kong pro-independent rioters in mid-December 2019. Additionally, no uprising occurred in Xingjian after U.S. political pressure. The D.C. elite certainly felt humiliated and defeated by China. Now they are furious.

Just like a money-losing gambler in desperate need to make a comeback, the coronavirus was the perfect bet for turning the tables. Sinisterly calling it “China’s Chernobyl,” U.S. anti-communist, war-monger imperialists painted a sick fantasy that mirrored the Soviet Union’s Chernobyl nuclear disaster in 1986.

They made accusations that China covered up the problem. They hoped that China would have poor medical support, causing massive deaths — which would then lead to the country’s economic collapse, causing condemnation and isolation from the international community. This in turn would lead to mass anger and uprising and finally to the collapse and overthrow of Communist China.

Impact on U.S. workers

Ironically, China successively mobilized the masses to beat the virus quickly and effectively, while the U.S. under the Trump regime was led to total disaster. The U.S. not only became the hardest hit country with the highest rate of infected people and the highest casualties, but the country has spiraled into economic collapse with massive unemployment and has even been unable to provide enough personal protective equipment for medical workers.

While the rich feast, in the foodpacking,

*Continued on page 10*

Quick facts on China and COVID

By calvin deutschbein

*This slightly edited talk was given at the July 16 Workers World Party webinar: “Why We Defend China.” The webinar can be viewed at [tinyurl.com/yxbbpwwy](https://tinyurl.com/yxbbpwwy). It is based on a slide show prepared for the International Action Center (see [tinyurl.com/y5pn4q3q](https://tinyurl.com/y5pn4q3q)).*

The U.S. ruling class has increasingly turned to misinformation and propaganda campaigns to maintain control of the country during the COVID-19 epidemic and to concoct imperialist conflict with China. The International Action Center opposes these moves and has gathered these facts to highlight the failures of the U.S. and to oppose attacks on China that set the stage for conflict.

FACT #1: The U.S. has more COVID-19 cases than anywhere in the world.

On July 4, 2020, there were 2.8 million confirmed U.S. cases, over 25% of the world’s total (11.1 million). Brazil, which has the next most, has only about half the cases of the U.S. (1.5 million). China has only 84,000, Iran 240,000 and the entire European Union and Britain about 1.5 million ([ecdc.europa.eu](https://ecdc.europa.eu)).

FACT #2: The U.S. outbreak is growing faster than anywhere in the world.

The U.S. has had the most daily new cases anywhere in the world since early

March, other than a brief period when Brazil matched the U.S. The U.S. growth rate continues to increase. As of July 4, the U.S. had 132,000 deaths, 661 in the preceding 24 hours. China has had only 4,634 deaths, with the most recent on May 16.

FACT #3: The U.S. for-profit health care system makes treatment inaccessible.

The U.S. spends 17% of its gross domestic product on health care, over half the next highest country, 11% in Switzerland. Yet only 84% of adults see doctors each year, and drugs cost more than in the rest of the world. While its population grows, the U.S. has fewer hospital beds per person than most countries and closes hospitals faster than most countries.

FACT #4: The U.S. government has refused international aid.

Within 12 days of discovering the virus, Chinese researchers sequenced its genome and shared it with the World Health Organization to develop diagnostic tests made available weeks before the first U.S. deaths. The U.S. did not collaborate with Chinese or other WHO researchers, leading to the catastrophic outbreak.

FACT #5: The U.S. failed to deploy disease control measures.

The overall U.S. response never slowed viral spread to half its highest rate, and the U.S. reopened sectors of its economy while having the most cases in the world

and the fastest spread. In contrast, the Chinese response in Wuhan sustained a lockdown of 57 million people until there were no new daily cases.

FACT #6: In the U.S., responses focused on economic profit rather than human lives.

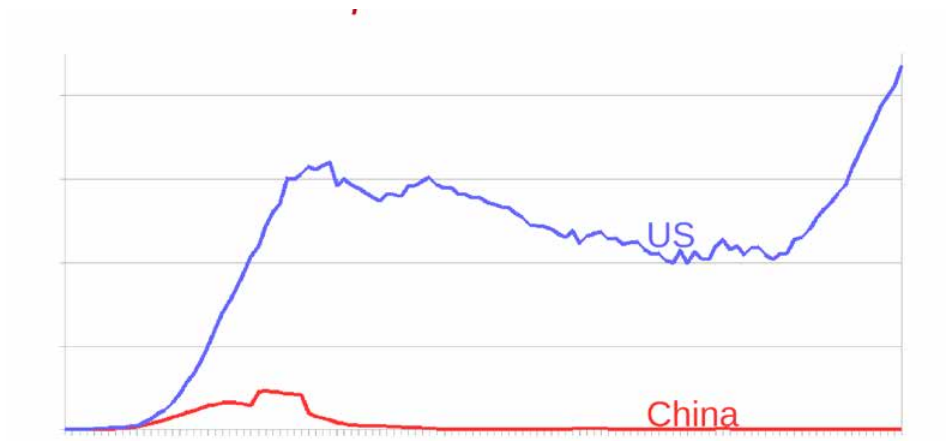
The U.S. has spent trillions on Wall Street and the Pentagon, instead of providing health care, housing or food, and has offered only a one-time cash payment to the people. Despite massive national wealth, the U.S. has no universal health care, housing, food security or higher education programs.

FACT #7: Effective response in China centers human needs.

By contrast China has safely implemented ambitious containment programs based on collective health care, food stability and educational programs won by the 1949 Communist Revolution.

FACT #8: The U.S. has chosen militarism over health.

Since the outbreak, the U.S. has stoked Sinophobic attacks against Chinese people and falsely blamed China for spreading the virus. The U.S. has aggressively placed aircraft carriers near China, leaked false reports claiming the virus was a biological weapon and postured in general for war rather than peace and health. □



Chinese (red) vs. U.S. (blue) daily new cases, 7 day average, first 120 days after first confirmed death. Horizontal lines represent 10,000 cases.



# The NYPD’s Big Lie

To put the Police Department’s spasm of slander directed at the Black Lives Matter movement in New York City in perspective, it’s useful to recall an experience from nearly three decades ago. Anti-war forces in 1991 established a popular tribunal to protest the criminal war against Iraq unleashed by U.S. political and military leaders and their allies.

At this tribunal, two undercover agents in the audience — disguised as Danish media but obviously not, given their accents and actions — harassed and bullied an Iraqi who had testified on the bombing deaths of much of his family. When organizers tried to stop the harassment, they were surprised at what these government agents shouted. “Let him speak,” they boomed out, contradicting what they were doing.

This “Big Lie” — applied to a small

confrontation — was not just hypocrisy. It was an attempt to misdirect and confuse others in the audience. It worked. Some people who heard the encounter believed the organizers, not the agents, were suppressing the Iraqi.

This “trick” foreshadowed the NYPD’s current Big Lie that is being shouted out to confuse the public about the cops’ confrontation with the BLM movement. The movement calls for defunding, even for abolishing the police. So the NYPD slanders the movement as “violent” or “anarchist” and dangerous, accusing it of attacking the police.

The cops are saying they simply are trying to “keep the peace.”

It is a desperate move by the purveyors of state repression to hang onto their \$7 billion budget in the U.S.’s biggest city. All it takes to explode this Big Lie is

a 20-minute look at the dozens of videos published by the New York Times and much social media. The videos show police actions against demonstrators starting in late May and going into June. These police assaults have only worsened since.

Anyone observing the videos and ignoring the lying rants of the NYPD authorities and cop organizations can observe police using clubs and pepper spray against demonstrators, punching and kicking people whom they have already knocked down, even throwing bicycles at them. Like the government agents in the 1990s, the NYPD tries to confuse the public with charges of movement “violence.”

The NYPD, like all police departments in capitalist society, is an instrument of state terror. The U.S. police forces in general, descended from those who hunted down enslaved people trying to escape,

today serve the capitalist rulers. Police repression, still marked by racism, targets the working class and occupies oppressed communities.

To expose the role of the police and fight for abolition, we must highlight the cops’ Big Lie about alleged movement violence. This lie is meant to misdirect public opinion. It blames the movement — the movement aimed at ending racism, white supremacy and police brutality — for the violence caused by the very instrument of state terror itself.

Understanding and explaining this true role of the police in class society should help redouble the effort to defund and abolish the police. They must be replaced by an instrument to defend people’s safety that answers to popular organizations instead of to the capitalist ruling class. □

# Time for the next great leap

Was capitalism ever progressive? Well, yes — compared to feudalism. The revolutionary struggles that overthrew feudal landlords, starting centuries ago in many parts of the world, did away with land slavery. They also uprooted reactionary institutions and ideology.

This opened the way for the development of science and technology after centuries of medieval superstitions, especially in Europe.

That was a long time ago. Long enough for capitalism to have grown rotten ripe, having outlived any usefulness it once might have had. It is a system now controlled both politically and economically by multimillionaires and billionaires of the Trump ilk, often hereditary. In place of calls for reason, we have the daily tweets of a president who attacks science and even medicine — in the middle of a pandemic.

COVID-19 has put a glaring spotlight on the inability of the existing capitalist

institutions — both public and private — to mobilize an effective response to this growing health crisis. Those impacted the most are of course the poor, Black, Brown and Indigenous communities, people in overcrowded prisons and migrant detention centers, workers in packinghouses and farms, orderlies and janitors in hospitals and low-income senior housing. But no one is safe.

Making it even worse is the federal government’s know-nothing response. For example, the Trump administration is now withdrawing the U.S. from the World Health Organization, right when global cooperation to stem the pandemic is more important than ever.

And speaking of medieval thinking, this government is desperately trying to hide what is really happening. One of Trump’s favorite targets is Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

The White House has ordered — yes, ordered — hospitals to bypass the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and send all COVID-19 patient information to the Department of Health and Human Services which has hired a privately owned database company in Pennsylvania.

By July 15, information about how many hospital beds were occupied by patients with the virus was no longer available to the public. With this heightened ruling-class focus on its own narrow interests, knowledge is being thrown out the window. It’s politically too dangerous to let the people know how bad things really are.

What to do about this horrendous situation? Thankfully, there is a growing progressive movement in this country that is in the streets every day, from Portland, Ore., to cities and rural counties in North Carolina. It is reviving the spirit of struggle that grew strong in the 1960s and

1970s fighting racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia and imperialist war.

But those movements, as great as they were, left the power of the super-rich intact. The consequences are all too obvious. Of all the capitalist countries, the U.S. is the worst when it comes to funding public services that should be free. Yet the money could easily come from Wall Street, which continues to pile up ever greater fortunes for the few.

Let’s take the demand for free, universal health care into the streets! Along with the demand for a well-funded, science-based public health service!

And let’s aim our fire at the ruling class and the system of capitalism itself, which must be replaced by workers’ power and control over the economy. Socializing the wealth — all of it created by workers of all nationalities but expropriated by capitalists — is the only sure way to make the next great leap forward for humanity. □

## Why the U.S. failed and China won against COVID

*Continued from page 9*

meat and farm industries, workers and “guest workers” from south of the U.S. border are suffering. The greedy pursuit of profit by capitalist bosses cares nothing about the workers who produce our food. In Evansville, Tenn., every one of the 200 farmworkers has tested positive for the virus. Southern New Jersey has seen hundreds of migrant farmworkers become infected with the virus. According to WHYY radio in Philadelphia, these workers are not covered by medical insurance and, simply put, no one cares about them. In fact, no one knows exactly how many have been infected or died from the virus.

It’s the same situation at meat and poultry processing facilities. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, between April and May, 16,233 workers were infected in 239 facilities across the U.S., with 86 deaths.

No doubt, COVID-19 has been a “Chernobyl disaster” — for the U.S.!

*Lee Siu Hin, a Chinese American long-time, low-paid immigrant worker activist, now working on community health, is the national coordinator of National Immigrant Solidarity Network (ImmigrantSolidarity.org). ‘Capitalism on a Ventilator: Impact of COVID-19 in China vs. U.S.,’ to be published by the International Action Center in August 2020, will include a selection from Lee. More information at ActionLA.org, activistweb@gmail.com and twitter@siuhin.*

## Revolución y democracia proletaria

*Continúa de la página 12*

que la clase trabajadora organizada y los oprimidos se alzan contra sus opresores.

**Los soviéticos**

La palabra rusa para “consejo” es soviética. A principios del siglo XX, el gobierno zarista de Rusia a regañadientes permitió la creación de consejos, o soviets, de la clase obrera y el campesinado. Estos soviéticos tomaron preguntas políticas locales. Inicialmente, se trataba de una reforma destinada a aplacar a las masas dándoles una salida política para sus frustraciones. Pero con el advenimiento de la Primera Guerra Mundial y el surgimiento de la organización de la clase trabajadora, la naturaleza de los soviéticos cambió.

Los trabajadores con conciencia de clase participaron en intensas campañas de organización, y esto condujo a un aumento en el número de soviéticos. Los trabajadores formaron soviéticos dentro de sus lugares de trabajo y conectaron esos cuerpos políticos a soviéticos más grandes de toda la ciudad en lugares como Petrogrado. Incluso el simple acto de participar en el soviet de los trabajadores tuvo un efecto radicalizador en los trabajadores.

Las demandas de los trabajadores crecieron al sentir que tenían cierto control sobre su lugar de trabajo o su gobierno. A medida que aumentó la radicalización, también lo hizo la influencia de los bolcheviques, el ala revolucionaria del Partido de los Trabajadores Socialdemócratas de Rusia. Al mismo tiempo, el creciente poder de los soviéticos significó una disminución del poder primero para el Zar, que condujo a la Revolución de febrero de 1917 y su abdicación, y luego para el Gobierno Provisional capitalista que lo reemplazó.

Además de los trabajadores industriales, los soldados de la guarnición de Petrogrado y los marineros de la flota rusa también se unieron y participaron en los soviéticos. Los marineros de la base de Kronstadt cerca de Petrogrado fueron particularmente revolucionarios y fueron los primeros en presionar por el derrocamiento del gobierno capitalista y el establecimiento de una república socialista. Esta participación de soldados y marineros puso una fuerza armada a disposición del gobierno revolucionario.

Como Lenin escribió unos meses después de la Revolución de febrero:

“Las masas trabajadoras constituyen la gran mayoría de la población, controlan a los soviéticos, son conscientes de su poder como mayoría, ven en todas partes la promesa de una vida ‘democratizada’, saben que la democracia es la regla de la mayoría sobre la minoría (y no al revés, que es lo que quieren los capitalistas) ... no pueden sino aspirar al gobierno supremo del pueblo, es decir, la mayoría de la población, a los asuntos que se manejan de acuerdo con la voluntad de la mayoría de los trabajadores en lugar de La minoría capitalista. ... No hay otra salida. O volvemos al gobierno supremo de los capitalistas, o avanzamos hacia una democracia real, hacia decisiones mayoritarias. Este doble poder no puede durar mucho”. (tinyurl.com/y7jvezpe)

Los trabajadores rusos sí avanzaron. En la revolución de octubre de 1917, los bolcheviques y los soviéticos derrocaron al gobierno provisional. El gobierno revolucionario que surgió, que finalmente se conoció como la Unión de Repúblicas Socialistas Soviéticas (URSS), dio un ejemplo para el mundo de lo que el poder político de la clase trabajadora podría lograr.

*Este análisis continuará en la próxima edición.*



# Mali: Popular protest shakes former French colony

By G. Dunkel

Tens of thousands of Malians in the capital Bamako came out in the streets July 10 for three days of protest demanding the resignation of Mali’s president Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta (IBK). The government reported that 11 people died and 158 were wounded. The June 5 Movement: Rally of Patriotic Forces, one of the prime forces in the opposition and the protest, said casualties were much higher.

Protesters blocked Bamako’s streets with burning tires and piles of trash, erected barricades and shut down the capital city. Organizers sent small groups from the Monument of Independence, one of the gathering spots, to occupy the TV and radio station and legislative offices. Cops had to pry out the occupiers with tear gas, but not before offices were trashed and cars burned. Demonstrators blocked bridges over the Niger River. (Maliweb.net, July 13)

The reasons different groups give for demanding that President Keïta resign vary, but generally include: He is corrupt. He has not made the problem of hunger in Mali a priority. He manipulated the recent legislative elections.

Espoir Mali Koura, a new group in Mali that demands a complete system change, charges that under Keïta’s watch, armed groups in central Mali have completely destroyed 400 villages and killed 10,000 people. (tinyurl.com/y5vwsacq; in French)

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) sent a team to Bamako the third week of July to mediate between the opposition and the government. Headed by Nigeria’s former President Goodluck Jonathan, the team had made no progress by July 20. A number of countries neighboring Mali express concern that Mali’s troubles could be contagious.

## U.S. backs French troops in Mali

Mali’s 20 million people inhabit a half-million square miles of territory in West Africa. While there has been a UN-sponsored peacekeeping mission in northern Mali since 2013, France also has 4,500 troops in Mali who aggressively prop up IBK’s government. France is the

former colonial power and leading imperialist power in Mali, where French is the official language. Mali’s currency is tied to the Euro.

The French military deployment gets essential logistical support from the U.S. AFRICOM command and intelligence from the U.S. drone base in Agadez, Niger.

In early June, a group of French helicopter gunships engaged an armed group that opposes the French presence and the Malian government, in the area where Mali borders Niger and Burkina Faso. The French press sometimes calls these groups jihadists, sometime drug smugglers, sometimes Islamic militants. The groups have no apparent affiliation with political forces agitating in the western part of Mali around Bamako or ethnic militias in central Mali.

The armed insurgents managed to shoot down one of the French helicopters, but the pilots and gunner survived. Another helicopter landed under the insurgents’ fire and managed to rescue the three wounded French fliers by the skin of their teeth.

A month later the footage of this rescue, with video of the helicopter going down and interviews with the rescuers, was shown with great fanfare on France TV2 the day before Bastille Day, July 14 — the day when the French imperialist bourgeoisie celebrates its military.

On Bastille Day itself, Army Minister Florence Parly gave solemn assurances on France TV2 that France was going to keep its troops in Mali for “Operation Barkhane.” She said that despite the COVID-19 crisis, the French must celebrate their army and its victories.

## Hunger and COVID-19

The Sahel, which includes parts of the countries of Mauritania, Senegal, Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso and Chad, has had to confront pandemics like SARS and



Bamako, Mali, July 10.

Ebola in the past few years, but COVID-19 has turned into a virus of hunger in the Sahel. The pandemic intensifies the disruptions caused by global warming and the low-level armed conflicts in central and northern Mali and in neighboring Burkina Faso and Niger.

Closure of the borders between these countries required by the conflicts has had some unintended consequences, both for the subsistence farmers and herders in these countries.

July through September is when most of the farmers plant crops in the Sahel. They buy their seed on the international market, which means — for landlocked countries — truck shipment across borders.

Herders, whose migration corridors follow the logic of geography, rather than the distorted schemes left over from the region’s colonial past, have seen important markets and major grazing areas closed. (Le Monde, July 15) □

## ADA not enough

# Disabled people need socialism

By Workers World Disabilities bureau

The pandemic is teaching able-bodied people what it’s like to be disabled. Not being able to get around like you used to, facing endless unemployment, being stuck in the house, finding ways to get food delivered, and speaking to family and friends only on the phone — not in person.

Joanie Marquardt commented at the July 8 Workers World Disability Rights Caucus meeting: “People are getting infected and becoming immediately disabled to some extent. If they survive, they remain somewhat disabled. The world population is getting a feel of what it is like to be restrained by a health care crisis. This is the best time to talk about disability and to raise consciousness on it because we all have just gotten a taste of it in the last few months.”

The caucus is presenting a webinar on “The ADA is not enough: Disabled People need socialism to end ableism, racism & all bigotry” on July 30 at 8 p.m. EDT. For more information, contact [drcwup@workers.org](mailto:drcwup@workers.org).

On March 12, 1990, over 1,000 disability rights activists from 30 states descended on the U.S. Capitol demanding passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act. After the rally, over 60 activists abandoned their wheelchairs and mobility devices and began crawling the 83 stone steps up to the U.S. Capitol building entrance, as people loudly chanted “What do we want? ADA! When do we want it? Now!”

The ADA was passed a few months later on July 26, codifying further than in previous U.S. history our right to access and other civil rights. Before COVID-19, there were many parades to celebrate our ADA victory, and this month there will be virtual celebrations at Disability Unite ([disabilityunite.org](http://disabilityunite.org)).

But the ADA has not been enough: Some 80 percent of NYC subway stations are inaccessible — still without



A Black Lives Matter protest was held by disabled activists, June 7, in Milwaukee. Workers World Party’s Disability Rights Caucus will host a webinar, Thursday, July 30, 8 p.m. ET, under the slogan: ‘Smash ableism, racism and all bigotry and oppression!’ For more information, contact [drcwup@workers.org](mailto:drcwup@workers.org) or register at <https://cutt.ly/WWPDisabilityRights>

elevators. Many restaurants and shops have stairs, but no ramps at their entrance. Many voting places lack accessible equipment for blind folks, although they are paying taxes.

## Half of people killed by police had a disability

If you are a disabled person of color, you have to be very careful how you react to the police. Not following their commands in a split second could lead to your murder.

Disability rights journalist David M. Perry, whose son has Down syndrome, documented, in research for the Ruderman Family Foundation, that as many as half of all people killed by police had a disability. ([tinyurl.com/y7hau3fu](http://tinyurl.com/y7hau3fu)) A June 24 New Scientist article warned that U.S. police kill up to 6 times more African Americans than caucasian people.

It is no accident that many folks in the Disability

Community support the Black Lives Matter movement and the national rebellion following the racist police murders of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor.

## Cuba and disabilities

In addition to marking the passage of the ADA, July 26 is the anniversary of the storming of the Moncada barracks on July 26, 1953 — the spark that led to the Cuban revolution of 1959.

Jean Bowdish, a member of the Workers World Disability Rights Caucus, participated in the 3rd (1970), 20th (1989) and 50th (2019) Venceremos Brigades. Bowdish told WW: “I have worn hearing aids for over 15 years. Getting hearing tests and hearing aids is a challenge in the U.S. Insurance and Medicare/Medicaid cover only a small portion of the cost of a pair of hearing aids, which can be \$3,000 per hearing aid.

“When I was on the 50th anniversary Venceremos Brigade to Cuba in July 2019, I was part of the group that visited the Center for Neurosciences of Cuba (CNEURO). One of the advances being made by CNEURO is in hearing devices. Scans are taken of the ear canal so devices can be created to fit a specific ear. An additional benefit is that hearing aids in Cuba are at a very low cost or free if needed — around \$1.50 in 2014.”

It’s going to take a radical change in society to make these rights real! The slogan of the Workers World Party Disability Caucus: “From Each According to Our Abilities, To Each According to Our Needs,” was first coined by Karl Marx in his 1875 “Critique of the Gotha Program.”

As a great leader of the Cuban revolution and a person with the disability of asthma, Ernesto Che Guevara once said, “If you tremble with indignation at every injustice, then you are a comrade of mine.” □





Filadelfia, 12 de julio.

WW FOTO: JOE PIETTE

Parte 1

Revolución y democracia proletaria

Por Makasi Motema

*Esta es la 1ra. parte de un análisis inspirado en el levantamiento antirracista.*

Una revolución socialista es un levantamiento del proletariado: la clase trabajadora, aquellos que no poseen la propiedad necesaria para administrar un negocio, sino que deben trabajar para otra persona. Una revolución socialista es un despertar que hace que la masa de trabajadores se resista a su opresión. Para que este estallido de energía genere un cambio revolucionario, la clase trabajadora debe tener una forma de expresar esa energía políticamente.

Históricamente, esa forma política es la creación de una nueva democracia para la clase trabajadora. Esta nueva democracia de la clase trabajadora existe tanto por separado como en oposición al sistema político capitalista existente.

Este nuevo sistema político está destinado a representar los intereses de la clase trabajadora y los oprimidos. Está compuesto por miembros de la clase obrera, y lo administran, para llevar a cabo sus

intereses. Como el líder revolucionario ruso V.I. Lenin describió:

“¿Cuál es la composición de clase de este otro gobierno? Comprende al proletariado y a los campesinos (en uniformes de soldados). ¿Cuál es la naturaleza política de este gobierno? Es una dictadura revolucionaria, esto es, un poder directamente basado en la toma revolucionaria, en la directa iniciativa del pueblo desde abajo, y no en una ley promulgada por un poder estatal centralizado. Es una clase de poder totalmente diferente de la que existe generalmente en las repúblicas democrático-burguesas parlamentarias del tipo usual que aún prevalece en los países avanzados de Europa y América.” (tinyurl.com/yy94emm8)

Organización profunda

Si el surgimiento de un nuevo sistema político de la clase trabajadora es necesario para la revolución, es importante entender que este sistema no se forma espontáneamente. Este sistema, donde sea que haya surgido, está forjado por una intensa labor organizativa.

El principal problema para la clase trabajadora no es el capitalismo per se; Es división. Los miembros de la clase obrera superan con creces a la clase capitalista. Si el único problema que enfrentaban los trabajadores era la opresión de los capitalistas, entonces esos capitalistas podrían ser fácilmente derrocados en una sola tarde por la acción colectiva de la clase trabajadora.

Pero la acción colectiva es

más fácil de describir que emprender. La clase trabajadora en la mayoría de los países, especialmente los Estados Unidos, no está unida. Está dividida en muchas líneas que incluyen, entre otras, raza, género, sexualidad, preferencia sexual, discapacidad, edad y estado de ciudadanía. La clase capitalista hace todo lo posible para reforzar estas divisiones para que los trabajadores no vean sus intereses comunes como una clase.

Si el problema principal de la clase trabajadora es la división, entonces la tarea principal de los revolucionarios es la organización. Para crear una democracia de la clase trabajadora, esa clase debe unirse mediante intensos esfuerzos de organización. Como los miembros más conscientes de la clase de la clase trabajadora, los socialistas revolucionarios están obligados a asumir el trabajo de organización. Debemos coser las lágrimas en el tejido de nuestra clase. Solo entonces se puede construir una democracia de la clase trabajadora.

La organización profunda es el proceso de agitación política, educación y organización. La agitación política significa que los trabajadores, a nivel individual, deben estar indignados por la opresión que enfrentan, en lugar de resignarse a ella. La agitación explica a los trabajadores que sus problemas no son una consecuencia inevitable de la estructura del mundo, sino que resultan de elecciones deliberadas hechas por el opresor.

La educación política es necesaria para identificar, en los términos más claros, exactamente quiénes son los opresores: los capitalistas y los agentes estatales violentos a su servicio, y con qué precisión los trabajadores pueden resistirlos mejor.

La organización es el proceso de construcción de estructuras políticas. En un contexto revolucionario, esa estructura es la democracia de la clase trabajadora.

Doble poder

¿Qué sucede cuando la clase trabajadora se organiza en una estructura política democrática? ¿Qué sucede con la estructura política capitalista que existe para gestionar la explotación económica de la sociedad? ¿Pueden estos dos sistemas coexistir?

No pueden. Una situación en la que existen dos sistemas políticos rivales en el mismo país es inherentemente inestable. Si un gobierno es legítimo, el otro no puede serlo. ¿Pero quién determina la legitimidad? No se trata de aprobar leyes (dos gobiernos rivales pueden aprobar leyes que se contradicen entre sí). Lo que determina la legitimidad es el respaldo del pueblo.

El gobierno de la clase obrera es la democracia real. Es gobernado por la mayoría sobre la minoría. El sistema capitalista es el reverso (gobierno de la minoría (capitalistas) sobre la mayoría (trabajadores)) y por lo tanto, es inherentemente antidemocrático.

A medida que aumenta la organización política y cada vez más trabajadores entran en la estructura política de la clase trabajadora, aumenta la legitimidad de la estructura de la clase trabajadora. Como la legitimidad política es un juego de suma cero, el sistema capitalista comenzará a perder su legitimidad a su vez. Solo un sistema político puede sobrevivir. Un estudio de las revoluciones sociales muestra que este proceso se desarrolla cada vez

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FOTO: TANNER SCHAEF

Estación de policía de Minneapolis en llamas, 28 de mayo.

Standing Rock gana la victoria legal contra Oleoducto

Por Stephanie Tromblay

En una victoria para la tribu Sioux de Standing Rock contra el oleoducto Dakota Access, el juez de distrito de los Estados Unidos James Boasberg dictaminó el 6 de julio que las operaciones del oleoducto DAPL deben cerrarse mientras el gobierno realiza un análisis ambiental completo que examina los riesgos que representa para la tribu Sioux de Standing Rock. (USA Today, 7 de julio)

El 26 de marzo, el juez Boasberg dictaminó que el Cuerpo de Ingenieros del Ejército violó la Ley Nacional de Política Ambiental y pasó por alto las devastadoras consecuencias de un posible derrame de petróleo en su decisión de 2016 de permitir el oleoducto. (tinyurl.com/yy7ftzes). Su fallo del 6 de julio concluyó que era necesario cerrar la tubería, debido a la gravedad de las violaciones legales del gobierno y los posibles daños a la Tribu y a terceros. El

Cuerpo debe volver a examinar los riesgos de la tubería y preparar una declaración completa de impacto ambiental.

El Oceti Sakowin, la Nación Sioux Lakota / Dakota / Nakota, luchó valientemente en la construcción de DAPL para proteger sus tierras y aguas, su soberanía y la vida de las generaciones futuras, y para proteger los grandes ríos Missouri y Mississippi. Los pueblos indígenas de todo el hemisferio occidental fueron a Standing Rock. Los partidarios vinieron de todo el mundo.

DAPL arrasó sitios sagrados y de entierro y usó mercenarios G4S y TigerSwan contra los protectores de agua, todo en tierras robadas. El ex gobernador del N.D. Jack Dalrymple, quien invirtió en la tubería, movilizó a policías de otros estados y trajo a la Guardia Nacional para reprimir a adultos y niños pacíficos desarmados.

Los protectores de agua fueron golpeados, mordidos por perros de ataque, rociados con pimienta, disparados con balas de goma, heridos por el uso criminal de cañones de sonido, brutalizados mientras rezaban, tirados, numerados y retenidos en perreras, y lavados con mangueras contra incendios en climas helados. A una mujer joven le volaron el brazo. La Guardia Nacional usó francotiradores para amenazar a los defensores del agua e incluso disparó a los caballos con balas de

goma, matando a uno. Protectores indígenas del agua, defensores de la tierra y médicos fueron arrestados.

Energy Transfer Partners construyó DAPL para trasladar petróleo crudo del oeste de Dakota del Norte bajo el río Missouri, en la Reserva Standing Rock, a un oleoducto en Illinois y a las refinerías en el Golfo para su exportación. Pero si bien el Cuerpo de Ingenieros del Ejército está bajo el mandato federal de realizar consultas significativas con las reservas antes de firmar los permisos de ruta del oleoducto, Standing Rock nunca fue consultado adecuadamente.

Standing Rock está bajo el Tratado de Ft de 1851. Laramie. Si bien los tratados están reconocidos en la Constitución de los Estados Unidos como la “ley del país”, todos los territorios con tratados, según un fallo por la Corte Suprema de 1908, deben reservar suficiente agua para cumplir con los propósitos de las reservas. Estos derechos se conocen como derechos federales de agua reservados o derechos de invierno.

Sin embargo, las tuberías se corroen y se rompen. La infraestructura de combustibles fósiles causa daños a la salud de las comunidades y los ecosistemas. Un derrame en Missouri en la tubería destruiría el agua limpia para Standing Rock y 18.000.000 de personas río abajo,

además de especies de vida silvestre y millones de millas cuadradas de hábitats.

El consejo Tribal de Standing Rock ha votado unánimemente cada año desde el 2016 para continuar los desafíos legales al oleoducto, que transporta 600.000 barriles de petróleo crudo por día a menos de una milla de la reserva de Standing Rock.

Según los abogados de Earthjustice, el cierre permanecerá hasta que se complete una revisión ambiental completa, que normalmente lleva varios años y la emisión de nuevos permisos. “Tomó cuatro largos años, pero hoy se ha hecho justicia en Standing Rock”, dijo el abogado de Earthjustice Jan Hasselman, quien representa a la Tribu. “Si los acontecimientos del 2020 nos han enseñado algo, es que la salud y la justicia deben ser priorizadas desde el principio en cualquier proceso de toma de decisiones si queremos evitar una crisis más adelante”.

“Hoy es un día histórico para la tribu Sioux de Standing Rock y las muchas personas que nos han apoyado en la lucha contra el oleoducto”, dijo el presidente tribal Mike Faith. “Esta tubería nunca debería haberse construido aquí. Les dijimos eso desde el principio”.

La herencia de Tromblay es Huron nonstatus y las naciones mixtas del sudeste indocumentadas.



Protectores de Agua, Standing Rock, 2016.