

## Portland

# RESISTANCE BROADENS

By Joshua Hanks  
Portland, Ore.

Thousands of anti-racist, anti-fascist protesters continue to come out night after night into the streets of Portland, Ore., to protest against police brutality, racism and the iron-fisted federal occupation of the city. After two months of continuous protests in the wake of the murder of George Floyd, the protests swelled yet again after the Trump administration sent federal officers to crush the movement.

The escalation of repression has only invigorated the protesters, with thousands gathering nightly in the epicenter of the protests near two government buildings in the core of downtown Portland. Large protests have occurred in North Portland as well, outside the office of the police “union.”

Two downtown parks, encompassing the blocks directly west of the Mark O. Hatfield Federal Courthouse, where federal officers mount their attacks, and the Multnomah County Justice Center, which houses the Portland Police Bureau (PPB) headquarters and the Multnomah County Jail, are being occupied. Protesters have built an area resembling Seattle’s Capitol Hill Organized Protest (CHOP). Authorities declared the two parks off-limits and fenced them off, but on the night of July 17 protesters tore the fences

down and have occupied the area ever since. Federal and city police have not attempted to enforce the parks’ closure or wrest control from the massive crowds.

Tents have been set up where free food is distributed. One called Riot Ribs gives away barbecue and other hot foods to protesters. Donated medical supplies, water, clothing and other gear are distributed freely to anyone who needs it. Like CHOP, the area feels almost like a summer block party with disc jockeys, drummers and dancing in the streets — broken up periodically by tear gas canisters tossed into the crowds. Teams of protesters armed with leaf blowers and hockey sticks quickly clear the tear gas from the area and the dancing starts back up. Soap bubbles float through the air, creating a surreal effect.

Large groups of local moms, dads, union workers, veterans and nurses, many wearing matching colors (the moms wear yellow, for example), are now a regular fixture at the protests, their arrival greeted with thunderous applause and cheers. Some groups march for miles across the city’s heavily populated east side and over the Willamette River into downtown.

While corporate media and the government paint the protesters as only violent — “anarchists” and “terrorists” — the reality on the ground is completely different. A broad section of Portland’s population makes up the crowds, with Black,



Thousands flood streets in Portland, Ore., for Black Lives Matter and against federal occupation.

WW PHOTO: JOSHUA HANKS

Indigenous and people of color leading most of the chants and giving most of the speeches.

Trump has stated that the situation in Portland is now under control. Yet the protests are larger and more organized than ever, with federal officers usually hiding behind a hastily welded fence encircling the perimeter of the

courthouse. On July 26, that fence was partially torn down.

Trump has offered more federal officers to Portland and to other larger cities such as Seattle and Chicago. A large plane with the Department of Homeland Security logo was spotted at Seattle’s SeaTac Airport recently, carrying

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## Fighting fascism, white supremacy, capitalism



By Larry Holmes

*This is a slightly edited talk given by Workers World Party First Secretary Larry Holmes at the July 23 WWP webinar.*

I hope those of you who can will participate in the several days of actions, starting tomorrow, July 24, in solidarity with the people of Portland against the police state. It’s very important that when an area, be it Seattle, Portland or New York, is under attack, those of us who can should come out in the streets and show this is more than an attack on

some singular geographical area.

We respond as if it’s an attack on our class on a worldwide level. This is regarding the danger of fascism. We are going to be talking about this a lot in the coming months through the election season and perhaps beyond. It’s the tendency of sections of the bourgeois ruling class who disagree with Trump to think that the threat of fascism is tied to a particular leader who is dangerous, who is erratic, who is a white supremacist — and the solution is getting rid of that leader and then you get rid of the problem.

I think that large sections of the progressive and anti-fascist movement also think along those lines. It’s not their fault. It has to do with political education, and perhaps a lack of historical perspective on the question of fascism. They approach it from a moral point of view. Just get rid of the terrible leader, and we’ll be able to defend democracy — as if there ever really was democracy for the working class, and

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# NBA players support reporter vs. right-wing senator

By Monica Moorehead

The intersection between sports culture and politics can happen at any given time. And at this particular juncture, the Black Lives Matter struggle is leaving its imprint on many issues, even international ones.

For instance, on July 10 the ultra-right-wing Sen. Josh Hawley, R.-Mo., released a press release on Twitter attacking the National Basketball Association — whose players are 80% African American — for “Kowtowing to China and refusing to support U.S. military and law enforcement.” His statement was sent to NBA Commissioner Adam Silver.

Hawley was countering the many NBA players who are active and vocal supporters of the Black Lives Matter movement, especially in the aftermath of the legal lynching of George Floyd, but who are also raising police killings of Breonna Taylor and others. Players have voted to wear jerseys that reflect their activism with this dynamic movement for social change when the NBA season resumes the end of July.

Hawley saw the opportunity to push forward his Trump-like, racist attitude toward BLM with an anti-communist agenda: demanding that the players wear “Free Hong Kong” jerseys and other slogans with a pro-cop and pro-military message.

Adrian Wojnarowski, a senior writer for ESPN — arguably the most well-respected commentator when it comes to NBA developments — wrote what he thought was a private two-word response on his Twitter feed to Hawley’s reactionary press release: “F--k you.” Of course, this response from “Woj” (as he is affectionately called) went viral. The ESPN owners — not known for being politically progressive — suspended Woj for two weeks without pay for violating their policy by sending a “profane” rebuttal. The suspension ends July 24.

### #FreeWoj

Woj sent an apology for his response, but in the meantime, NBA players came to his defense. A group of NBA players, led by Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James, set up a Twitter hashtag #FreeWoj to protest the ESPN



suspension.

This is not the first time ESPN has suspended its commentators for speaking out on progressive issues. Former ESPN reporter Jemele Hill, a Black woman, was suspended for two weeks in October 2017 for suggesting that Dallas Cowboys players ask corporate sponsors to boycott the team after its billionaire owner and Trump supporter Jerry Jones threatened to severely penalize players for kneeling during the national anthem to protest police brutality.

Other players who retweeted #FreeWoj include Patrick Beverley, Lou Williams, Isaiah Thomas, Jamal Murray, Enes Kanter, Spencer Dinwiddie and others. Showing solidarity with Woj in essence meant rejecting Hawley’s demands to defend the pro-Western Hong Kong protests and, at the same time, support the Black Lives Matter movement. Many of these same players, especially LeBron James, have tens of millions of fans in China, a major global market for the NBA.

Whatever varying views they may have toward the Chinese government, these players do not want to risk saying anything publicly that could be misinterpreted as interference in China’s internal affairs — which U.S. imperialism has repeatedly engaged in since 1949 and is ratcheting up now with military threats. □

## MUNDO OBRERO WORKERS WORLD

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## 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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# New USPS work rules threaten postal jobs and services

By Joe Piette

As if pandemic challenges, a deep financial crisis and an openly hostile president were not bad enough, over 600,000 postal workers now face new work rules which impose speedups, while delaying the delivery of first-class mail and parcels.

Louis DeJoy, newly appointed Postmaster General, a Trump ally and big Republican Party donor, has an anti-labor history. He issued a directive on July 10 which puts a torch to a centuries-old culture of the postal system on the sanctity of first-class mail. It says: “Carriers must begin on time, leave for the street on time, and return on time. One aspect of these changes that may be difficult for employees is that — temporarily — we may see mail left behind or mail on the workroom floor or docks, which is not typical.” (tinyurl.com/y63uh9b4)

For decades, postal management threatened workers with suspensions and terminations for delaying the mail, a violation of service standards. On the other side of the divide, union stewards filed grievances defending workers by pointing out management policies were causing the delay of first-class mail.

### Directive violates federal laws, postal rules

DeJoy is instructing postal management to violate decades of postal regulations and federal law as everyday policy. Federal law 18 U.S. Code Section 1703 (a) headed “Delay or destruction of mail or newspapers,” says: “[A] Postal Service officer or employee [who] unlawfully secretes, destroys, detains, delays, or opens any ... mail entrusted to [them] or ... come[s] into [their] possession, which was intended to be conveyed by mail, or carried or delivered by any ... employee of the Postal Service, or forwarded through or delivered from any post office or station ... shall be fined ... or imprisoned not more than five years, or both.” (tinyurl.com/y3xd8odj)

The American Postal Workers Union National Executive Board’s statement on July 20 objected: “[W]ithout consultation or input from any of the postal unions, postal customers or mailing community [DeJoy] has launched a series of actions that will undermine the postal service and are an insult to every postal worker, every postal craft and every postal customer.

“These initial actions include reducing hours in retail units including Saturday closings, delaying mail, slowing down service, further removal of mail processing equipment, arbitrarily reducing work hours and eliminating overtime. With an already understaffed operation, reducing hours and overtime can only lead to severely delayed mail and packages.” (tinyurl.com/y2kblwvr)



Protest against postal job threats on June 23 in Philadelphia.

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

### Strains on postal workers grow

APWU President Mark Dimondstein assailed the new measures, saying they hit at the very core of the agency’s mission, which is to “provide prompt, reliable, and efficient service.” He stated: “These additional moves by the new postmaster general seem to send the opposite message, which is that mail can wait. It will likely undermine the mission we’re dedicated to. ... [I]t will likely lead to slower, less prompt, less reliable, and really less efficient service.” (Business Insider, July 14)

In addition to delaying mail, the new work rules will increase tensions on the job, as supervisors pressure workers to do their deliveries and other work within eight hours.

As Diamondstein explains, USPS overtime cuts during the pandemic puts a strain on postal employees as well as customers: “When you combine a pandemic with short staffing, you’re going to have some overtime, and to arbitrarily just say it’s done means that the service that’s coming with that overtime is going to be gone.” (Federal News Network, July 16)

Postal workers have been working 10 to 12 hours a day six days a week because of the huge increase in parcel deliveries, understaffing due to coronavirus-caused absences, frequent turnover of part-time workers, overburdened routes and management’s refusal to hire enough workers.

Over 4,000 postal workers have been diagnosed with COVID-19, and 64 postal employees have died from the disease. Thousands of exposed workers have had to self-quarantine for two weeks or more.

Hundreds of grievances are bound to be filed as workers fight back against these unfair, counterproductive measures. Time favors those who want to privatize the postal service. More militant actions may be required if it

takes weeks or months to resolve the contentious issues caused by DeJoy’s directive, and the public gets tired of undependable service and looks to competitors for postal delivery.

### Defend universal postal services!

At the same time as they fight back within the post office, postal workers and their unions are organizing support for the right of all people in all communities to universal postal services.

The USPS provides universal mail delivery at the lowest standardized prices in the world. Only the USPS makes regular deliveries to remote islands and secluded areas that would not be profitable for a private business. In rural and low-income regions where broadband isn’t commonly available, the postal service provides a much-needed lifeline of communication.

The USPS also plays an important role in ensuring that voters can cast their ballots by mail. DeJoy’s work rule changes could also decrease people’s confidence in the post office’s ability to deliver their ballots accurately and on time.

### #SavetheUSPS

The USPS is normally self-sufficient, financing operations with its own revenues without using taxpayer money. Congress passed a law in 2006 that required the postal service to fund retiree health benefits for an incredible 75 years into the future! That’s an onerous \$5 billion annual financial burden not imposed on any other government agency or private corporation. Combined with the unprecedented financial effects of the pandemic, the USPS may run out of funds later this year.

As a result, the Postal Board of Governors has asked for direct emergency financial assistance, similar to the huge amounts of aid given to large corporations in earlier stimulus bills approved by Congress this spring.

The Senate is scheduled to vote on a new stimulus bill in August that would include a \$25 billion rescue plan for the USPS. The APWU asks everyone to call their senators on July 23 or thereafter to save the postal service. (apwu.org/savepostoffice)

If postal workers and communities work together, we can save the people’s post office!

*For more on DeJoy’s anti-labor history, read Piette’s article entitled “Racist, sexist, job-killing, union-busting robber baron appointed to head USPS,” posted May 25 at workers.org. Piette is a retired letter carrier and member of the National Association of Letter Carriers.*

## With no plan for safety

# Billionaires push to reopen schools

By G. Dunkel

Schools in the U.S. provide students with much more than an education. They provide child care, meals (for 14 million students), medical services (mostly for students with disabilities), psychological counseling, supervised physical activity and social connections.

There are more than 135,000 educational institutions and 56.6 million students in grades K through 12. Since 2014 the majority of all public school students have been children of color. (National Center for Education Statistics)

While all parents want their children to be able to return to school, more than two-thirds polled want schools physically reopened only if safe. That feeling is strongest in Black and Latinx families.

But President Donald Trump wants students in this coming semester to physically face their teachers. His billionaire Education Secretary Betsy DeVos has said in interview after interview: “Students have to go back to the classroom.”

Apparently Trump believes that, unless kids are back in school, the economy is not going to recover, which he needs to be reelected. However, he and DeVos don’t have a plan for how to do this. They criticized an early draft from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as “very tough and expensive guidelines.” Trump and DeVos demand the country’s 13,000 public school districts draw up plans to keep their staff and students safe, even with severe budget cuts.

The recently modified CDC guidelines read like a

political justification of the Trump-DeVos position — rather than recommendations for actions/policies based on scientific facts.

Most of the country’s teachers, pediatricians and parents want the kids back in school. But the schools are so underfunded that the physical changes needed to make them safe (airflow, social distancing, cleaning) are not currently available or affordable. In some schools, it’s a big deal to get any windows to open in a classroom.

Teachers didn’t sign on to risk their lives so businesses can function normally. Other workers in the school system — bus drivers, maintenance, paraprofessionals, counselors and food service workers — have the same issues with re-opening.

New York City schools didn’t close in March until a growing sick-out made it difficult for the system to function.

### Union reaction to Trump/DeVos ‘plan’

Almost three-quarters of all teachers in the United States are in unions affiliated with either the American Federation of Teachers or the National Education Association. In some states, like New York, the AFT and NEA are merged.

On July 17, Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers, told the Guardian: “It’s as if Trump and DeVos want to create chaos and want to jeopardize reopening. There’s no other reason why they would be this reckless, this callous, this cruel.”

NEA President Lily Eskelsen García wrote a column for the July 7 USA Today slamming President Trump’s suggestion that schools reopen this fall: “The White House



PHOTO: LAURA GÓMEZ/ ARIZONA MIRROR

Teachers and parents rally July 14 at the Arizona Capitol to oppose the state’s school reopening plan.

pressure campaign presents a false choice between the health of our students and the health of our economy. It’s appallingly reckless.”

García added: “No one wants to welcome students back to classrooms more than America’s educators. We know that nothing can replace the magic of a student’s curiosity when they are able to learn alongside their peers from a teacher who has dedicated her life to the success of other people’s children.”

García went on to examine the recent loss of funding for education. While billionaires like DeVos, Trump and Jeff Bezos, owner of Amazon, have seen their wealth blossom during the COVID-19 crisis, workers in education and elsewhere have had to confront sickness and unemployment. □

# Behind the walls

By Mirinda Crissman

## Voting rights for the incarcerated in Florida

The Supreme Court upheld a ruling of the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals allowing a modern-day poll tax to remain in effect for formerly incarcerated people trying to vote in the state of Florida. This directly contradicts nearly two-thirds of the Florida electorate, who voted in 2018 to amend their state constitution to allow those convicted of felonies to vote. (NPR, July 17)

The most recent ruling specifically says that this group of formerly incarcerated folks cannot vote if they have any fees or fines owed to the state. “This court’s order prevents thousands of otherwise eligible voters from participating in Florida’s primary election simply because they are poor,” explained Justice Sonia Sotomayor in her dissent. (LA Times, July 16) This is the fourth case this election year alone where SCOTUS has declined to protect voting rights. The U.S. has not ever been committed to holding free and fair elections anywhere in the world, much less for folks deemed “criminal.”

## Sites of resistance

In the face of inhumane conditions, heightened by the COVID crisis, many locked-up people are fighting back against injustice. According to journalist

Keri Blakinger and several sources, the Briscoe Unit in South Texas saw 90 prisoners rise up and take a 21-year-old guard hostage on July 18. This move was reportedly in response to continued COVID restrictions limiting phone and out-of-cell time. (tinyurl.com/yynph752) Being able to talk on the phone and move a bit more freely are the prisoners’ only connections to others outside their cramped cages.

Dozens of massive prison rebellions that took place across Italy at the beginning of this pandemic were in response to lack of visitation. (Workers World, April 3)

The Mesa Verde Detention Center in California announced a work stoppage on July 23. As reported by Workers World, the coordinated hunger strike was in response to the murder of George Floyd. Those behind bars at Mesa Verde explained, “Mesa Verde runs off of our labor. We are the ones who prepare and serve the food, who clean the bathrooms and the dorms. We are paid \$5 per week

for our official jobs, and the rest we do for free. We will not work and we will not collaborate with GEOGroup. We refuse to make it easier for you to continue unnecessarily caging and murdering us.” (tinyurl.com/y28at72m)

The Mesa Verde actions were coordinated in solidarity with a hunger strike going on in the immigration pod at nearby Yuba County Jail. Folks locked up at both facilities released unified sets of demands. The first set targeted Gov. Gavin Newsom and Attorney General Xavier Becerra: “1. Stop transferring people who are released from California custody into [Immigration and Customs Enforcement] detention centers. 2. Halt the expansion of immigration detention facilities in the state. 3. Immediately inspect all ICE facilities in the state to oversee the standards of care in these facilities and independently investigate the deaths that have occurred there during the pandemic.”

The second set of demands addressed



PHOTO: SURVIVED AND PUNISHED

**Solidarity with Mesa Verde! Undocumented organizers and immigration attorneys of the California Liberation Collective chained themselves to the gate at Gov. Gavin Newsom's mansion on July 27 with a call to free them all.**



ICE, GEOGroup and the Yuba County Sheriff’s Department about conditions on the inside. These brave detained leaders are moving forward to take what they need in the only way those who cage them will understand: Work stoppage!

## No one ‘blooms’ in detention

A Michigan family court judge, Mary Ellen Brennan, denied the release of a 15-year-old from detention in the middle of a deadly pandemic. The Black child was caged simply because she did not turn in her online schoolwork, which the court considered a violation of her probation. The judge said at the July 13 hearing: “I think you are exactly where you are supposed to be. You are blooming there, but there is more work to be done.” (ProPublica, July 20)

Nothing exemplifies the callousness of the courts and brutality of policing and prisons more than this decision to punish a Black child with the full weight of the state for not completing homework. While the young girl has shown exemplary behavior inside, that is no reason to continue to detain her during a pandemic. No one “blooms” in detention. Tear down the walls! □

# Racist guards attack Soledad prisoners

By Judy Greenspan  
Oakland, Calif.

In a 3 a.m. raid July 20, approximately 200 Black prisoners at California’s Soledad state prison were violently taken from their cells with nothing on but their boxer shorts.

The men were herded into the chow hall, handcuffed with zip ties and forced to sit shoulder-to-shoulder without masks for hours, while their cells were ransacked. Their property, including books, letters and legal papers, was confiscated or destroyed.

Guards brutalized and beat many prisoners, including

Talib Williams, who has written several extensive articles about this racist cell extraction for a national Black newspaper, the San Francisco Bay View. (tinyurl.com/y47mhuo8) He told his spouse Tasha Williams that prison guards were shouting, “Black Lives Don’t Matter” and calling the prisoners the N-word. An elderly prisoner was tossed down a flight of stairs.

Talib Williams, in prison for 18 years (since he was 17 years old), has spent the last six years at Soledad and has published four books. His most recent was on the racist and violent history of Soledad prison toward Black prisoner organizers like George Jackson. According to Tasha Williams, the guards seized much of his library,

including works of Jackson and other Black revolutionaries and a list he compiled of Jackson quotes.

## George Jackson’s legacy

On Jan. 13, 1970, a group of Black and white Soledad prisoners were released to the exercise yard, which provoked a fist fight. A white guard marksman shot and killed three Black prisoners. Black prisoners started a hunger strike in protest; a grand jury exonerated the guard.

One week later, a white prison guard was killed and three prisoner leaders — George Jackson, Fleeta Drumgo and John Wesley John Wesley Cluchette — were charged with murder and became known as the Soledad Brothers. A broad defense committee came forward, and Jackson published his famous work, “Soledad Brother: The Prison Letters of George Jackson.”

The California prison system and especially Soledad prison — notorious for violence against Black prisoners — hate George Jackson, his writings and his legacy.

Tasha Williams, who heard firsthand accounts of the violent attack from several Soledad prisoners, said prison officials claimed they were investigating gang activity. Talib noted that he saw a piece of paper about his father being in the Black Panther Party.

Most of the Black prisoners have no prior gang affiliation. That is often used as an excuse to attack incarcerated people who speak out, advocate for others and fight the system. Several of the prisoners reported being questioned about the Black Lives Matter movement and being asked if they were BLM members.

Tasha Williams believes the violent cell extraction was carried out to intimidate Black prisoners. In an interview with this reporter, she said, “Officials were trying to incite them into a riot. This was a targeted hit job. The men were blindsided. They weren’t organizing anything. There was nothing going on. They told my husband if he sagged his pants under his ass and had less books in his cell, he wouldn’t be bothered. My husband and the others are not going to play that game.”

Williams is asking people to spread the word and mobilize support for the people inside. (San Francisco Bay View, July 20 and 22) □



George Jackson 1971.

## Aug. 8, All out for MOVE protest and tribute to Delbert Africa

By Betsey Piette  
Philadelphia

The MOVE organization has called a protest against police terror on Saturday, Aug. 8, the 42nd anniversary of the state’s attack on the group’s Powelton Village home in West Philadelphia.

The event will start with a rally at the Art Museum, 2600 Benjamin Franklin Parkway, followed by a march to the site of the historic

1978 police attack. MOVE plans to also pay tribute to MOVE 9 member Delbert Africa, who died June 1 just months after his release from prison after over 41 years.

Early on the morning of Aug. 8, 1978, hundreds of heavily armed Philadelphia police and firefighters invaded the surrounding community and laid siege to MOVE’s home, forcing members to seek shelter in the basement. Police fired tear gas, smoke bombs and hundreds of rounds of ammunition into the house. Firefighters used high-pressure water hoses to destroy the wooden foundation and flood the basement.

The assault forced MOVE to evacuate their home. Outside, waiting police snatched children from their mothers’ arms. Cops brutally assaulted MOVE members, in particular Delbert Africa, whom they beat unconscious in plain sight of the media.

Nine MOVE members were arrested, framed, charged, tried

and sentenced from 30 to 100 years each in connection with the death of a police officer who had very likely been killed by friendly fire. Although police admitted to shooting at MOVE, and they even testified to having fired into corners where they heard babies crying, MOVE was blamed for the entire confrontation.

When asked by Mumia Abu-Jamal on a local talk show, the trial judge admitted that he had absolutely no idea who had killed the officer. Two MOVE members — Merle and Phil Africa — died in prison. After 40 plus years of unjust imprisonment, the surviving MOVE 9 members were finally released from prison due to immense pressure from supporters around the world.

“Eliminating police terror is a single step in the million-mile journey to freedom,” said Mike Africa Jr., son of MOVE 9 members Mike and Debbie Africa. “Let’s get on the MOVE!”



PHOTO: NEW YORK AMSTERDAM NEWS  
Delbert Africa, freed after 41 years.

# The state's use of technology: An issue for the movement

By Ben Carroll

Data are everywhere. In 2020, technology is a ubiquitous part of everyday life for many workers in this country and around the world. We use social media and email to keep in touch with family and friends. We watch livestreams of events and activities that take place across the globe. We text and stream music on our commutes to work. The list goes on.

In the midst of the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, technology has played an even greater role in our everyday lives as a means to maintain social contact in an era of social distancing.

The incredible development of technology in even the last 20 to 30 years has ushered in a number of changes to global capitalism, largely to the advantage of capital. (Read “High Tech, Low Pay” at [workers.org/books](http://workers.org/books). In the book, published in 1986, Workers World Party Chairperson Sam Marcy showed how these developments affected workers and globalized the economy.)

Technology has increased capital's ability to put workers into direct competition with one another for jobs — and drive their wages downward and worsen their working conditions, irrespective of the country in which they reside. It has given rise to higher levels of automation and led to many other developments.

On the other hand, technology has given the working class the ability to communicate and organize itself on a global basis; that was not possible even a short time ago. Driving down wages and working conditions lays the objective basis for the further politicization of the multinational working class.

## Profits, power surge for 'Big Five'

These technological developments have been tremendously profitable for the capitalist class. The Big Five tech giants — Apple, Microsoft, Amazon, Alphabet (Google) and Facebook, as they are collectively known — have had a 184% increase in market value in the last three years. ([tinyurl.com/y2vudh2h](http://tinyurl.com/y2vudh2h)) This has occurred while the value of the rest of the stock market during the same period has more or less stayed the same. In turn, these five corporations wield an incredible amount of political power and influence, which are woven into many facets of our lives in more ways than we may realize.

Along with the militarization of police departments has been their increasing reliance on and use of high-tech tools for surveillance and repression. They are employed in large part against working-class and communities of color, as well as the political movement. The federal forces now being mobilized by Trump to put down the righteous rebellion against white supremacy across the U.S. have a battery of these tools at their disposal.

Major tech corporations are not only making software and other products that are used by police agencies, but they are actively cooperating with many state agencies to develop sophisticated tools for their use. The list of such collaborations is extensive. They include Amazon's sharing video and images captured by their Ring doorbell devices, Microsoft's development of databases for use by police departments in major cities, and the development of racist facial recognition software and “predictive algorithms,” to name a few.

At the same time, workers at these giant tech corporations have engaged in a new wave of organizing in recent years, not only around their own working conditions. They have increasingly opposed the role their corporate employers play in society — from providing technology for the Pentagon to collaborating with Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the police, contributing to climate change and enabling workplace sexual harassment and violence faced by women and gender-nonconforming workers.

Notably, many Google workers have objected to the company's collaboration with ICE and the U.S. Border Patrol. Also, the company's rewarding sexual abusers with multimillion-dollar severance packages led to a global walkout by employees. Executives retaliated against some organizers of the protests.

## Harnessing technology to aid the struggle

As organizers, activists and revolutionaries, we make every attempt to harness these tremendous developments to strengthen our ability to communicate with one another, to reach our class, to propagandize against the system — and ultimately to aid in the development of struggle-oriented organizing.

Our first instinct should always be to figure out how to politicize and organize

our class however and wherever we can. Naturally, we use many of these tools in our day-to-day work — setting up Facebook events, sending mass emails and communicating via text messages and phone calls. During the pandemic, we have regularly used Zoom to conduct webinars to put forward our perspective on the pressing political questions of the day.

While we must continue to do this work, it's worth taking a critical look at how our movements use technology and then assess dangers presented to our work and our class by the development of technology and the use of regular massive data collections by these corporations, particularly now. Consideration should be given to what is needed to protect ourselves in the short term and move toward a longer-term strategy to break our reliance on these corporate tools altogether.

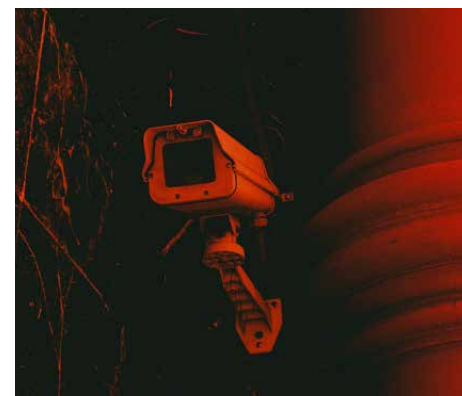
## Assessing the risks of using social media

Examples of egregious collection of data by police agencies and the active use of and collaboration by law enforcement with these giant tech corporations for the purposes of repressing our class are numerous.

In one instance, FBI agents arrived at the home of Lore Elisabeth Blumenthal in the Germantown neighborhood of Philadelphia on the morning of June 16 with a warrant for her arrest. Blumenthal is being held without bail by the federal government on charges that she allegedly participated in burning two police cars during protests on May 30 in response to the heinous police murder of George Floyd. She faces up to 80 years in prison. In identifying Blumenthal, federal agents used photos and publicly available information from such popular social media sites as Etsy, LinkedIn and Poshmark.

This is only one of many examples of police forces increasingly using social media and other technological tools to surveil and repress the current Black Lives Matter uprising, in addition to the outright mobilization of federal agents to attack and repress righteous demonstrations, such as those in Portland, Ore.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection has been purchasing access to automated license plate reader databases since 2017. The agency stores images collected from public and private license plate readers on roadways across the U.S. This information gives CBP the unprecedented



Growing surveillance like this challenges the political movement.

ability to track and target the movement of nearly anyone. This is on top of CBP and other police agencies' regular and well-documented purchases of cell phone location data, which the Wall Street Journal reports has been used by ICE to terrorize and detain migrant workers.

According to research conducted in 2016, the Big Five tech corporations complied with roughly 70% to 80% of requests from law enforcement agencies to share user data with them. Additionally, Google reports that in 2019, it received over 52,000 requests for user data affecting over 140,000 accounts, and the company complied with 82.5% of these requests. ([tinyurl.com/yy5z4qk6](http://tinyurl.com/yy5z4qk6)) In some cases, these “requests” were accompanied by a National Security Letter, essentially an indefinite gag order that prevents the recipient from even saying they received such a letter.

These examples are in addition to regular and ongoing surveillance, terror and repression faced every day by working-class communities, particularly those composed of Black and migrant workers. They are subjected to regular interruptions conducted by state agencies and right-wing forces which use social media, cell phone location data, facial recognition software and other high-tech tools for repression.

## What can organizers do?

So what should we do about the threats we face every day, not only in our political work, but also when members of our class leave their homes or connect on the internet? Are these challenges so vast that we should simply acquiesce to the fact that our information is being regularly collected and troved by big tech and police

*Continued on page 11*

# Mumia Abu-Jamal commentary: A rogue nation?

By Mumia Abu-Jamal

*This slightly edited commentary from July 8 by political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal is available at [prisonradio.org/media/audio/mumia](http://prisonradio.org/media/audio/mumia).*

Several days ago, the European Union announced that Americans were not welcome to visit any of the 28 member countries of the EU.

Why? Because of the explosive expansion of the coronavirus among U.S. states, which surpasses that in many foreign nations.

At last count, over 3 million people in the U.S. are infected, resulting in at least some 130,000 deaths. Americans, long regarded as disputatious, quarrelsome and argumentative, are now regarded as a threat to the public health of European states. The U.S. now joins Brazil as a nation banned from European soil.

Europeans must also regard Americans as foolish and undisciplined for failure to abide by simple health rules which threaten to surge [the virus] throughout European society.

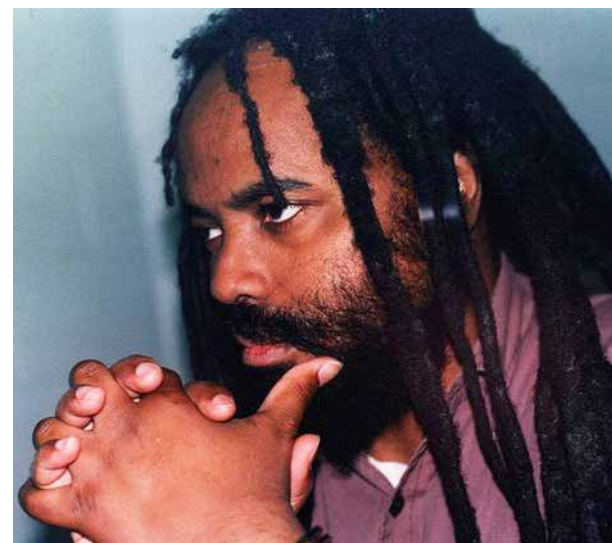
In the U.S., meanwhile, Southern and Southwestern states regarded masking as an assault on “American rights” and an affront to freedom.

What is most unnerving, however, is the elevation of politics over science, for the U.S. proves that he who substitutes a politician's decision for that of a doctor has a fool for a patient.

For politicians serve their egos or their donors, and others suffer the consequences.

The U.S. has emerged as a nation out of control, either unwilling or unable to follow simple medical directions designed to mitigate a pandemic.

Here, state governments seem ineffective; the national government seems simply incompetent. □



Mumia Abu-Jamal

# Black library workers force director’s resignation

By Marie Kelly  
Philadelphia

The Free Library of Philadelphia is the latest city institution to succumb to the power of workers organized against oppression and unfair labor practices. On June 25, library workers formed the Concerned Black Workers of the Free Library. By July 23, their public revelations about a long-time culture of discrimination forced the resignation of Director Siobhan Reardon.

In an open letter to management, Black workers described a work environment that failed to address their safety and welfare during both the COVID-19 pandemic and the days of police violence that followed the murder of George Floyd. As libraries reopened during the pandemic, workers reported expired hand sanitizer, personal protective equipment of poor quality and insufficient supplies overall.

Library management showed an insincere commitment to the Black Lives Matter movement when they allowed the National Guard to house troops in the Northwest Philadelphia library branch, located in the predominantly Black community. But the library employees’ petition against this practice got no results. The troops had been deployed to the city to terrorize peaceful protesters who were calling for an end to state violence against Black people.

Now these workers are calling for the removal of library Board of Trustees’ chair Pamela Dembe. Both Director

Reardon and Dembe failed to respond to repeated calls to address racial bias within the library, including pay inequality and poor representation of people of color in leadership positions and on the library board.

Dembe made a particularly offensive remark that people of color who were rich enough to be board members were hard to find. Dembe has a history of racial bias.

Prior to joining the library board, Dembe served as the presiding judge of the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas. In 2001 she refused a motion by political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal for an evidentiary hearing on new evidence of overt racial bias in his case.

Dembe deemed it irrelevant that a court stenographer overheard Judge Albert Sabo tell a prosecutor, “Yes, I’m going to help them fry the n----r.” In 2012, Dembe imposed a life sentence without parole on Abu-Jamal, without even notifying him — a violation of constitutional and Pennsylvania statutory law.

### Rampant racial discrimination

Black workers at the Free Library have been making their demands known for some time, but the response from Reardon and the library board has been slow, at best. The workers describe an environment where racial discrimination is rampant and grievances are not taken seriously by management.

When one Black staff member planned to use a National Endowment for the

Humanities grant she received in 2017 to host programming around the killing of Black men by police, she was told the title she proposed, “Black and Blue,” was controversial, since it portrayed police in a negative light. Her new title selection, “The Legacy of Race and Policing,” also met with resistance, including a proposal that she invite “divergent opinions — which could include hate groups.” (libraryjournal.com)

In 2019 the Free Library had just over 800 employees. Some 391 were Black and earned an average of \$7,533 less than the library system’s median salary, while white workers averaged \$12,012 above the median. Payroll data show Black workers are disproportionately represented in lower-paying subordinate or maintenance roles.

In June 2019, library employees disrupted an all-staff meeting to address the racial biases and the need for a functioning Diversity and Inclusion Committee. A survey sent to employees revealed that 86 percent of respondents had witnessed or experienced racial bias, along with reports of homophobia, Islamophobia, transphobia, xenophobia and anti-Semitism.

These revelations by the Concerned Black Workers of the Free Library caught the attention of several well-known speakers scheduled to be part of the library’s on-line summer events. On July 2, Colson Whitehead, a Pulitzer prize-winning author of “The Underground Railroad” and “Nickel Boys,” cancelled



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Black Lives Matter protesters in Philadelphia June 2.

his Philadelphia library event in solidarity with the workers. Other speakers followed Whitehead’s lead. Whitehead said his backing out of the speaking engagement was a “no-brainer when so much of the Black staff is in revolt about how they’ve been treated.”

On July 17, more than 240 non-Black library staff signed a letter to Reardon, the Board of Trustees and the Board of Directors supporting the demands of their Black co-workers. □

# Seattle protest in solidarity with Portland

by Jim McMahan  
Seattle

On July 25, 2,000 youthful anti-racists marched here in solidarity with Portland resistance. As in Portland, Ore., federal repressive forces have been sent to Seattle.

The march was called by the Youth Liberation Front. Chanting “Black Lives Matter,” the demonstrators headed to the site of a new youth jail. Located in Seattle’s historic Black community, the youth jail is going through a massive \$200 billion construction rebuild. As demonstrators chanted, “Free them all,” five construction trailers were set ablaze at the site.

Demonstrators then marched on the East Precinct, a base of police repression. This precinct was forced to close

in June for about 20 days after anti-racist resistance to the cops led to the community takeover of six surrounding city blocks. The site was named the Capital Hill Organized Protest and occupied by thousands of people, until police repression forcibly dismantled CHOP.

The East Precinct was attacked by anti-racists during a June 25 demonstration and suffered serious damage. The cops then attacked the protesters, since in their role property is more valuable than working-class human beings. They used blast balls, sponge rounds and pepper spray in a wave of brutality. Forty-five demonstrators were arrested. (South Seattle Emerald)

The July 25 militant mass protest showed that the movement is prepared to answer the racist repression of Trump. The police response proved that Trump and

his Democratic Party counterparts in the political establishment of Seattle and Portland are part of the same repressive state apparatus. □



Construction trailers for youth jail, located in historically Black neighborhood, burned by Seattle protesters, July 25.

# RESISTANCE BROADENS

Continued from page 1

unknown cargo.

The PPB’s liberal use of tear gas had begun to taper off (though the mayor never banned it entirely), but now federal officers are using massive amounts again. Tear gas had gotten into the ventilation system of the Multnomah County Jail, as high up as the 8th floor, with inmates trapped in their cells while the building was filled with gas. As a result officials at the jail decided to close the ventilation system overnight, which raises concern about the spread of COVID-19.

Many inmates are seniors or have pre-existing conditions, making them especially vulnerable to the deadly virus. Being exposed to chemical weapons and a lethal virus while incarcerated represents a serious violation of human rights.

Portland’s mayor, Ted Wheeler, a Democrat with sinking popularity, finally showed up to the protests on July 23, over 50 days after they started. As police commissioner, Mayor Wheeler oversaw the heavy-handed tactics of the PPB in response to the protests, a fact not

unnoticed by the thousands of people in the streets.

After giving a speech that was largely drowned out by jeers and boos from the crowd, Mayor Wheeler and many others, including this writer, were teargassed by federal officers. But while the mayor quickly left the scene and took refuge in a municipal office building a block away, the crowds regrouped and continued their protest late into the night.

The situation in Portland remains tense though fluid, with conditions changing rapidly. But for now, the protesters seem to have the upper hand, being able to withstand assaults from the authorities and hold their ground. Donations and people continue to pour in, and despite round-the-clock negative coverage in the corporate media, the protests still enjoy widespread popularity.

This writer, who lives in downtown Portland about five blocks from the protests, has spoken to many downtown residents who are all in solidarity with the movement. They realize that their current difficulties living downtown are the fault of the police and the feds, not protesters. □

## ‘No tax dollars for union busters’

Fired union janitors and allies picketed the downtown Cleveland office building known as “The Fives” on July 24, protesting the owner’s decision to switch to a non-union cleaning contractor. Over 250 supporters have signed a petition demanding the janitors, members of Service Employees (SEIU) Local 1, be rehired. The union is also pressuring both City Hall and Cuyahoga County, which lease office space in The Fives, to use their leverage

to win the janitors’ jobs back. “Janitors like me were battling the spread of COVID-19, which is disproportionately harming Black and Brown communities, all while Express Janitorial took away our livelihood,” explains Monta McLaughlin.

Protesters carried signs reading “Union janitors keep you safe” and “No tax dollars for union busters.”

— Story and photo by Martha Grevatt



# Athletes continue to build broad support for BLM

By Monica Moorehead

U.S. athletes continue to express their solidarity with Black Lives Matter protests around the country, as professional sports attempt to resume some kind of normalcy since totally shutting down in mid-March due to the COVID-19 crisis.

For instance, the Women’s National Basketball Association voted to dedicate its entire season to women of color who have lost their lives to police violence. All WNBA players will be wearing jerseys with messages of either #SayHerName or the names of women murdered by the police, most notably Breonna Taylor. The 26-year-old African American emergency medical technician was murdered by a Louisville, Ky., police officer in March during a no-knock drug search warrant.

Taylor was fatally shot eight times. None of the three white officers involved in the shooting were arrested or charged. Only the officer who did the shooting was fired. Protests demanding the arrests of all the officers have been taking place almost daily in Louisville, and other cities since May 25.

The season opener of the New York Liberty and the Seattle Storm on July 25 began with an empty court and 26 seconds of silence in honor of Taylor’s age when she was killed. After both teams came out, they then purposely walked off the court during the playing of the

national anthem — in defense of Black Lives Matter.

Layshia Clarendon, a New York Liberty guard and representative of the newly formed WNBA Social Justice Council, said before the game began, “We will be a voice for the voiceless.” (New York Times, July 25)

Major League Baseball began its truncated 60-game season with all players from the defending MLB champions, Washington Nationals and the New York Yankees, kneeling in unity before the playing of the national anthem before their opening season game on July 23.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the U.S. infectious disease specialist — who has been vilified by Trump during the coronavirus pandemic — threw out the honorary first pitch at this game, usually reserved for the U.S. president. Every player on the Cincinnati Reds and Detroit Tigers teams also took a knee before their game.

The Tampa Bay Rays team officially tweeted on July 24: “Today is Opening Day, which means it’s a great day to arrest the killers of Breonna Taylor.” Every MLB team has added to their individual infields the insignia “BLM.”

It is significant that the MLB is recognizing BLM since unlike the majority Black WNBA, the National Basketball Association and the National Football League, African Americans make up a

very tiny minority in the MLB compared to Latinx and white players.

**Is BLM a movement or a ‘lifestyle’?**

LeBron James from the NBA’s Los Angeles Lakers made the following statement on July 24: “A lot of people kind of use this analogy, talking about Black Lives Matter as a movement. It’s not a movement. When you’re Black, it’s not a movement. It’s a lifestyle. We sit here and say it’s a movement, and, OK, how long is this movement going to last? ‘Don’t stop the movement.’ No, this is a walk of life. When you wake up and you’re Black, that is what it is. It shouldn’t be a movement. It should be a lifestyle. This is who we are. I don’t like the word ‘movement’ because, unfortunately, in America and in society, there ain’t been no damn movement for us. There ain’t been no movement.” (ESPN)

BLM is not only a statement of fact, but it has a organizational formation to back it up, ever since it was founded by three Black women, Patrisse Khan-Cullors, Opal Tometi and Alicia Garza in response to the racist lynching of Trayvon Martin by vigilante George Zimmerman in 2012. One cannot separate one from the other. James has recently been outspoken on the police murders of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor.

The Black struggle has taken on many organizational forms since the military



defeat of the slavocracy in the Civil War, followed by Black Reconstruction to the Garveyite Movement to the Civil Rights and the Black Liberation Movement to BLM. No matter the form, the goals of the Black struggle have been the same — to win economic and political equality on the same level as whites.

The big question is: How is this to be achieved? Since the demise of Reconstruction, over 150 years ago, these various forms of struggles have gone through victories and defeats under a capitalist democracy — a democracy for the super-rich dominated by white supremacy.

For BLM to truly become a “lifestyle” and a reality, only a socialist revolution will ultimately win that goal with the eradication of racism and all forms of oppression under a true workers’ democracy. But until that day, BLM will need the broadest support possible on a class-wide basis as the example of progressive athletes is showing. □

## Unions call for ‘Strike for Black Lives’

By Betsey Piette

On July 20, unions led protests under the general banner “Strike for Black Lives” in over 160 U.S. cities, with tens of thousands participating. The call, initiated by Service Employees (SEIU), was endorsed by over 60 unions and social justice groups.

Many of those participating in the protests were essential workers — janitors, fast-food workers, nursing home and hospital workers, and gig-economy drivers — coming out in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement for racial justice in the aftermath of the police murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and others.

In calling the one-day protest, organizers encouraged workers unable to participate for a full day to take a knee or walk off their jobs at noon for eight minutes and 46 seconds — the amount of time

the white police officer held his knee on Floyd’s neck resulting in his death.

Key demands included that corporations dismantle racism, white supremacy and economic exploitation at work, as well as “unions for all.” However, the vaguely worded demand that “elected officials use their authority to rewrite rules, so that Black people can thrive” fell short of calling

for defunding or abolishing police. The SEIU has not dealt with the role of police “unions” in labor federations or as units within unions such as SEIU.

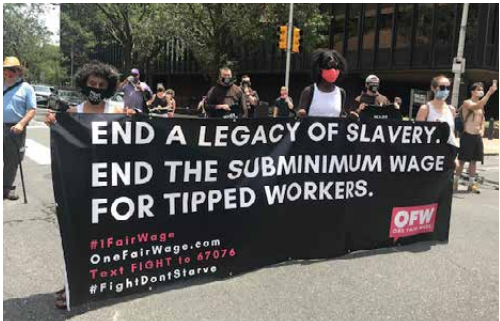
In many cities, workers participating in “strike” actions brought signs to “Defund the Police,” for safer working conditions for essential workers during the pandemic and demands for hazard pay and fair wages.



Contingent of nurses in New York City July 20 strike.



The Strike for Black Lives in Cleveland.



Participants in Philadelphia Strike for Black Lives.

The coordinated actions could have been stronger if the 1.1 million workers SEIU represents had actually walked out — with their leadership backing them.

Actions included marches of several hundred protesters in San Francisco and New York City, a caravan of several hundred cars and trucks in South Los Angeles, murals painted on buildings in eight cities and demonstrations held in Philadelphia, Cleveland, Chicago, Detroit and numerous other cities. □

## Students demand: ‘Police-free schools!’

A crowd of about 150 students, teachers, parents and community members rallied on July 25 to get cops out of Philadelphia schools. A march led by the Philadelphia Student Union went from LOVE Park to Family Court and ended at the School District of Philadelphia headquarters on North Broad Street.

Philadelphia Student Union speakers demanded the Board of Education pass a

Police-Free Schools resolution and repurpose its current Office of School Safety by replacing school police officers with community members. They would be trained to provide the safety that comes from building peace and restorative justice, not police occupation and the school-to-prison pipeline.

— Report and photo by Joe Piette



## Opening Day: Change the name protest in Cleveland

For 28 consecutive years, the Committee of 500 Years of f Dignity and Resistance has been protesting the use of the racist name and image of the Cleveland baseball team. In 2019, the team dropped the hated “mascot,” after removing it from team apparel in 2018. This spring team owner Paul Dolan finally announced the team will change its name.

Over 100 people rallied outside the Progressive Field stadium on opening day, July 24. Speaker Phil Yenyo, executive director of the American Indian Movement of Ohio, credited the rise

of the Black Lives Matter movement for increasing the pace of changing racist imagery of sports teams at all levels.

— Report and photo by Susan Schnur



# Days of Resistance for Palestine, Aug. 7-9

By Kathy Durkin and Betsey Piette

The Samidoun Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network has called on “all Palestinians and those who stand for justice in Palestine to join together to organize the Days of Resistance for Palestine from August 7-9.” These actions are dedicated to the memory of writer and revolutionary Marxist Ghassan Kanafani. They mark the 48th anniversary of his assassination in Beirut, Lebanon, by car bomb planted by Mossad, Israel’s brutal intelligence agency, on July 8, 1972. He was 36 years old.

Recognized as a leading figure in Palestinian “resistance literature” — and the originator of the term — Kanafani stressed that Palestinian literature was deeply connected with global struggles against oppression. A true internationalist, he wrote: “Imperialism has laid its body over the world, the head in Eastern Asia, the heart in the Middle East, its arteries reaching Africa and Latin America. Wherever you strike it, you damage it, and you serve the world revolution. ... The Palestinian cause is not a cause for Palestinians only, but a cause for every revolutionary, wherever he is, as a cause of the exploited and oppressed masses in our era.”

**Stop Israel’s annexation plan!**

Samidoun’s call explains that Israel’s dangerous program of annexation “continues to threaten Palestinians in the West Bank, including the most fertile agricultural land of the Jordan Valley, which is still slated for Israel’s

latest land grab. ... This is simply the continuation of over 72 years of land theft, dispossession, apartheid and genocide — but it requires continued mobilization and action to confront, alongside the siege on Gaza, the mass imprisonment of Palestinians, the demolition of homes, the denial of Palestinian refugees’ right to return and further war crimes and crimes against humanity.”

Further, Samidoun stresses the strength of Palestinian resistance: “Annexation is a continuing threat — especially if the Israeli state thinks that it can pass unnoticed without continued resistance. The struggle is not over; in many ways, it has just begun. ... It must inspire us to mobilize and organize — as Kanafani so clearly expressed — to confront imperialism, Zionism and the reactionary regimes that continue to collaborate with these forces of oppression, and to struggle for liberation. Every victory of the peoples in struggle against these forces is a victory for Palestine and for our collective victory.”

**Mobilize!**

The Samidoun Network urges “all Palestinians inside and outside Palestine, and all of the national forces, popular institutions, youth, student and women’s movements, social justice movements and solidarity organizations to participate actively in ‘banging on the walls of the tank’ ... to break down the walls of silence.”

Samidoun stresses: “Join in marches, popular activities, demonstrations and remind the world that the Palestinian people will continue to rise and confront all

attempts of liquidation and destruction of the cause of Palestine and resist dispossession, exile and genocide — and that all people of conscience stand beside the Palestinian people in this critical moment.”

Over 70 organizations have joined the call, including National Students for Justice in Palestine in the United States, Within our Lifetime-United for Palestine, the Palestinian Youth Movement, Al-Awda, the Palestine Right to Return Coalition and Africa for Palestine. Workers World Party is an endorser.

Events will highlight the struggles of Palestinian prisoners and their role in all areas of revolutionary struggle. So far, activities are planned in Charleroi, Belgium; Manchester, England; New York City and Vancouver, and more will be announced as they unfold.

Samidoun salutes the martyrs of the Palestinian liberation struggle and calls for freedom for all Palestinian prisoners and the right of return for all refugees. The organization declares: “Victory, liberation and return will come for the struggling Palestinian people!”

For further information and to endorse, see [samidoun.net](http://samidoun.net). If there are questions, email [samidoun@samidoun.net](mailto:samidoun@samidoun.net). □



PHOTO: SAMIDOUN

# Fight COVID, not China!

By Workers World Houston bureau

Workers World Party and other local activists delivered a letter of solidarity to Consul General Cai Wei at the Chinese Consulate in Houston on July 23. They demonstrated outside to oppose the Trump administration’s order that the consulate be vacated by July 24. The consulate served eight states across the southern U.S., providing assistance to Chinese citizens.

Activist Caleb Granger stated: “The People’s Republic of China is increasingly scapegoated for the failures of the U.S. government. Since the Communist Party came to power in 1949 and the People’s Republic of China was established, a total of 800 million people have been lifted out of poverty. In the meantime, the U.S. has managed to reach #1 in the worst way.”

Granger explained that the U.S. is now the #1 weapons exporter in the world, sending death to nearly 100 countries; the #1 possessor of weapons of mass destruction, including a mind-boggling 6,200 nuclear warheads; and #1 in military budget at \$1 trillion a year and counting.

The U.S. is also #1 for mass shootings, with nearly one-third of these massacres occurring in the U.S., and #1 in caging human beings. With only 4% of the Earth’s population, the U.S. holds 25% of the incarcerated population.

Now the U.S. is #1 in COVID-19 cases and deaths in the world. While China warned the world of the impending pandemic in early January and shared medical expertise to stem its spread, the U.S. continues to use the virus to try to scapegoat China.

**Series of U.S. attacks on China**

The U.S. attack on China’s consulate is the most recent U.S. aggression. The capitalists running the U.S. make unsubstantiated claims about China to provoke economic war, while failing to meet the basic needs of people in the U.S. during the global pandemic.

After over 150,000 U.S. deaths due to COVID — and more deaths related to the capitalist crisis — it’s clear the ruling class cannot be relied upon to even keep alive the workers who generate their profits.

As Joshua Hanks noted in Workers World on May 26, “The U.S., with its highly developed economy, marshals massive resources for things like the Pentagon, Wall Street bailouts, mass incarceration of Black and Brown people, and extensive border controls. States like Kerala [in India] and countries such as Laos and Vietnam do not have economies that are as highly developed, yet what they do have, and what appears to be the key factor in containing the virus, are proactive, people-centered leftist governments and mass organizations that can mobilize millions of party members and the masses to achieve common goals for the public good.”



WW PHOTO: GLORIA RUBAC

**Demonstration outside the Chinese Consulate in Houston, July 23.**

China, using similar strategies under the leadership of its Communist Party, has successfully contained the pandemic. In the U.S. deaths from the virus rise, and unemployment is skyrocketing. Corporations are bailed out, with most of the money voted “for relief” going to businesses and banks, but not to the people for necessities like food and shelter.

**Fight COVID, not China!**

At the July 23 Houston rally, Workers World Party condemned the U.S. attacks on China, including on the consulate, and the U.S. lack of response to the pandemic. Prioritizing profits over people is a deadly response that puts the whole world at risk.

Workers World Party called on the Trump administration to reverse its order to China to vacate its consulate. Fight COVID-19, not China!

- WWP demands for the COVID crisis remain:
1. Free health care for all;
  2. Nationalize the health care system under community control and build emergency hospitals;
  3. Full pay, benefits and guaranteed income for all;
  4. Food, housing, medical supplies and utilities including internet for all;
  5. Suspend rent, evictions, mortgages, utility shutoffs and ALL debt;
  6. Prioritize resources for communities of color, migrants, LGBTQ2S+ people, seniors, youth and people with disabilities;
  7. Empty prisons and detention centers, shut down ICE and end racist attacks;
  8. Community control — No cops — No military;
  9. \$2 trillion to the workers, not the banks; and
  10. End U.S. wars, sanctions and environmental destruction. □

## U.S. ‘war games’ threaten COVID spread in Hawai’i



PHOTO: DIY ROOTS ACTION

**RIMPAC, the world’s largest naval war practice that with COVID endangers Hawai’i and the world.**

**By Quell Nessuno**

Despite the ongoing global pandemic, the U.S. military has no plans to cancel RIMPAC (Rim of the Pacific Exercise), the largest international military exercise in the world.

Beginning in 1971, and held every two years in June and July off the coast of Hawai’i, RIMPAC is a show of imperialist force, a demonstration of the military capability of the U.S. and its allies.

In spite of the threat posed by COVID-19, petitions against the exercises and even requests from Hawai’ian Gov. David Ige for participants not to disembark, the U.S. military has every intention of going through with the war games.

The islands of Hawai’i, colonial subjects of the United States since their annexation in 1898, have reported more than 1,600 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 25 deaths. Beyond just the risk of infection to the islands’ inhabitants, the exercises have long been proven an environmental disaster. From brush fires caused by live-fire demonstrations and disruption of local marine ecosystems by noise pollution to contamination of the waters themselves, the U.S. capitalist government has proven itself all too willing to desecrate lands which it originally stole to serve its business interests.

In this period of escalating tensions between the U.S. and China, these exercises cannot be seen as anything other than provocative. The Pentagon’s determination to conduct war games in the midst of a devastating pandemic should be seen as shocking and alarming, a sign of willingness to sacrifice untold lives to disease while preparing for a major power conflict. These exercises need to be understood as a threat to China, and the world — showing that the U.S. imperialist ruling class will do anything to cement its hegemony, no matter the cost to human or ecological life.

In these times, it is absolutely critical to join with Hawai’i in opposing these exercises and demanding their cancellation. U.S. military out of Hawai’i! Cancel RIMPAC! No war with China! □

# Why the best medicine is solidarity

# COVID-19, China and the U.S.

By Sara Flounders

The following slightly edited article is based on a talk at the July 16 Workers World Party webinar, “Why We Defend China.” It can be viewed on Facebook at [tinyurl.com/y2fevsmx](https://tinyurl.com/y2fevsmx) and also at [youtube.com/watch?v=R79sBDszTS4](https://youtube.com/watch?v=R79sBDszTS4).

Whenever the U.S. ruling class targets a country, it immediately whips up a campaign in the background to create an ugly climate of fear. It blankets the media with the most negative images and racist stereotypes. This is psychological warfare to silence opposition.

The Trump administration is doing this today against China in the most overtly vicious way.

They are not the first to use this tactic. The U.S. was built on racism, slavery and genocide. Racism is the fabric of every political act and every war — racism against Black people and all people of color and against migrants.

We can’t forget the vicious anti-Muslim attacks that for decades have accompanied U.S. wars in the Middle East, Africa and Central Asia — from Afghanistan to Iraq, Libya, Syria, Sudan and Somalia, as well as in the U.S. support of Israel’s war on the Palestinians. Muslims were labeled terrorists, rounded up, deported en masse, disappeared and jailed.

We can’t forget that about 120,000 Japanese Americans were forced into U.S. concentration camps during World War II. More recent wars were accompanied by racist caricatures of Korean and Vietnamese people.

### What about today?

The COVID-19 pandemic has hit the U.S. hard due to the complete lack of any government preparation. We are also in the midst of a growing capitalist economic collapse.

The U.S. government has failed to protect the population here or contain the COVID virus. As a result, the U.S. has the most cases in the world. China, where the outbreak began, has very successfully contained the virus. [Editor’s note: As of July 20, the U.S. had 433 cases per million people; China had 3.]

Instead of learning from what China has done to protect its people, the authorities here are instead trying to divert popular opinion into a “Blame China” campaign.

### Impact of the Chinese Revolution

From its earliest days, Workers World Party has been discussing the impact of the Chinese Revolution on the global class struggle.

We evaluated it as one of the most thoroughgoing revolutionary upheavals in history. And it profoundly impacted the class struggle in the U.S.

The U.S. ruling class was shocked in 1949 by the victory of China’s Red Army. The revolution awakened a world movement across Asia and Africa against colonialism and Western domination.

It was a huge setback for imperialism’s plans after World War II.

A major question posed in the Cold War and the 1950s witch hunt in the U.S. was “Who LOST China?”

The Korean War and the Vietnam War were efforts by Wall Street to turn back the revolutionary surge in Asia for self-determination and sovereignty.

Then, in 1979, the U.S. capitalist class had new hopes of gaining a foothold in China as the capitalist market expanded there, threatening to overturn

the huge accomplishments of the Chinese Revolution.

### U.S. military realignment

But U.S. imperialism’s hopes of overturning the revolution were an illusion. China has developed a strong central government and through central planning rapidly developed into the world’s second-largest economy. Not only could China feed its entire population, but it lifted 800 million people out of dire poverty and illiteracy. This is an historic accomplishment!

The realization of that fact led to a military realignment under the Obama administration called the “pivot to Asia.”

Today, U.S. rulers from liberal to conservative, Democrats to Republicans, are united in attacking China and blaming each other for not being harsh or threatening enough. This political unity of both capitalist parties against China was confirmed in a recent unanimous vote in the U.S. Congress for new sanctions against China.

Today we face an increasingly dangerous situation. Two nuclear aircraft carrier battle groups — each with accompanying destroyers, frigates and nuclear submarines, 70 aircraft and a B-1 supersonic bomber — are conducting a “freedom of navigation” show of force in the South China Sea, right off the coast of China.

This brazen act is denounced by China as “inciting confrontation.”

The U.S. ruling class wants to return to the days when it had fleets of naval gunboats on the rivers of China capable of traveling 1,000 miles inland to enforce unequal treaties.

The U.S. Navy was there to protect what? The “free trade” in opium.

It is also staggering hypocrisy for the U.S. government to now claim support for Muslims in Xinjiang, China, when Washington has for decades launched wars, bombings, invasions and occupations against Muslim people. It has even built special prisons to jail Muslims, from its illegal dungeon in Guantanamo to its air base in Bagram, Afghanistan.

This is an effort to rewrite the violent history of U.S. wars against Muslims.

### Hiding U.S. imperialist failure

Like clockwork, capitalism crashes. There has been a guaranteed recession or depression every 7 to 10 years for the last 300 years.

But the current capitalist crash comes with the global pandemic of COVID-19. This virus changes everything. The whole system is tottering.

During this global crisis, however, China is building an increasingly coordinated economy, based on planning and human needs.

China’s COVID fatalities are still under 5,000 people, while U.S. COVID deaths are above 152,000 and rising, the highest in the world. In the latest count, some 4.5 million people in the U.S. have tested positive for COVID-19.

The U.S., the center of world capitalism, has spent decades building the most fabulously expensive military machine in history. Internally, it finances a huge repressive apparatus of police and prisons. All this repressive apparatus is an endless source of profit.

At the same time, there is no funding for a comprehensive public health infrastructure. Hospitals, medicines and tests exist in an archaic, competitive for-profit system. The result is that a child born now in Beijing has a longer life



expectancy than a child born in Chicago or Washington, D.C.

The difference is staggering. China’s scientific approach to the outbreak ensured widespread testing, tracking and making available huge supplies of essential equipment. The national health infrastructure extends down to the neighborhood level and has mobilized the entire population.

In the U.S., there has been no social mobilization, no provision of necessary materials in place, no planning. To deflect mass anger at the complete incompetence and disarray of the system, the standard response is to blame China and resort to raw anti-communism.

### Only competition, never cooperation

The capitalist response is to take advantage of every crisis as leverage against any perceived competitor who may be smaller or weaker.

What this has meant internationally is intensifying sanctions — a weapon of shortages and economic crisis — at a time when many developing countries are most vulnerable. So Washington has intensified threats against Venezuela, Iran, Syria, Cuba and throughout African countries. One-third of the world’s population is now under U.S. sanctions!

Rather than cooperating and sharing, the capitalist system cynically calculates how to capture markets and drive up

prices — even for treatments, essential tests, possible cures or hoped-for vaccines. Everything must turn a profit.

Meanwhile, much to the frustration of U.S. corporate power, China has established trade and aid with these targeted and sanctioned countries. This provides relief from the oppressive “world order” that U.S. imperialism has built.

Our task is to tear down the racist myths and confront the propaganda. Organize others to take a stand in defense of China and against racist attacks and war threats.

We need to explain to working people in crisis here in the U.S. that financing, training and organizing disruptions in Hong Kong is not to promote “democracy.” Voting for sanctions on China and 39 other targeted countries is not to “defend human rights.” Surrounding China with aircraft carriers and missile batteries is not to ensure “freedom of navigation” or “freedom of trade.”

It’s the same here at home. Deploying racist police is not to protect our communities.

We urgently need to help build unity among the forces challenging these U.S. corporate lies and military threats. We may not all agree on every point of China’s complex social development. But we all agree that U.S. imperialism is never a force for liberation or human progress. □

## 100,000 workers say ‘Pivot to Peace with China and the World’

By Dave Welsh  
San Francisco

The following is based on a webinar presentation given on the July 18 Workers World Party webinar: “Why We Defend China.” It can be viewed on Facebook at [tinyurl.com/y2fevsmx](https://tinyurl.com/y2fevsmx).

Military veterans tend to have a deeper understanding of the human costs of war. So it was not surprising that Veterans for Peace, East Bay chapter 162, introduced a resolution, “Pivot to Peace with China and the World,” urging a de-escalation of international tensions that could lead to a major war. On July 13, the San Francisco Labor Council, concerned that leaders of both major political parties were back to beating the drums for war, adopted this resolution for use by labor unions:

“Whereas, the San Francisco Labor Council, representing some 100,000 working people in labor unions, has many times advocated the resolution of international problems by peaceful means, and opposed attempts to draw the United States into war, and

“Whereas, the so-called Pivot to Asia



of 2011 was in fact a pivot toward war and confrontation that identified China as a competitor and adversary, carrying with it the threat of nuclear war, and

“Whereas, this dangerous policy has created palpable feelings of fear, animosity and even hatred not only toward the People’s Republic of China but toward Chinese people in general and Chinese-American citizens and other Asian peoples in the United States, and

“Whereas, humanity now faces multiple crises which threaten the well-being and very survival of our species, crises which demand the cooperation of the two largest and most powerful countries, China and the United States,

“Therefore, be it resolved that the San Francisco Labor Council urges the government of the United States to reject escalation toward global conflict and instead pursue peace, non-intervention, and cooperation with China and the rest of the world.” □

# Impasse over CARES 2

As COVID-19 spreads exponentially in most of the United States where the ruling class has rushed to “open” the capitalist economy, unemployment has again exploded. Personal economic disaster looms for most working people.

Congress must pass new emergency measures to aid the tens of millions of workers — disproportionately Black, Brown, Indigenous and all other people who experience systemic racism — who now face economic catastrophe.

The virus has thrown a spotlight on the contradictions and inequalities at the core of capitalism. Millions see that the capitalist system itself is responsible for their suffering. In the most blatant way, U.S. society under Trump exposes capitalism’s failures.

CARES Act 1, the “stimulus package” that bailed out the biggest capitalist corporations and banks in March and kept some small businesses alive, while

grudgingly feeding and sheltering tens of millions of workers — although not the undocumented nor many gig workers — ends on Aug. 1.

For those tens of millions of people, the abyss looms: Weekly payments of \$600 for all unemployed workers stop. Protection from evictions stops. The one-time \$1,200 payment is long spent.

This election year both big capitalist parties — Republicans and Democrats — must come through with an emergency program, CARES 2, to avoid chaos. They must agree very soon. Right now, July 28, the Republicans have yet to announce their own program — but what they are discussing is so bad for the workers, it makes the Democratic Party program look good in comparison.

The Republicans want unemployment payments to be 70 percent of each worker’s salary and no more. The bigger the salaries, the bigger the unemployment

payments. Essential workers with small salaries go hungry.

The Democrats propose extending the flat \$600 supplement until Jan. 1, 2021. This provides more benefits for more workers and reduces inequality.

Republicans oppose the flat \$600, calling it an incentive to stay unemployed. If that were the real reason, they should immediately increase the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour — poverty wages, even when set in 2009 — to at least \$15, support union drives, raise salaries across the board, while insisting that bosses provide personal protective equipment and clothing. The truth is: They despise workers.

Another vital protection is the moratorium on evictions. For unemployed workers whose payments arrive late or not at all, a moratorium is absolutely necessary to stop them from being thrown out on the streets — in blatant contradiction to

the fact that many have to stay home to stop the spread of the virus.

Free testing and medical care for COVID-19 are also vital, as are subsidies for public schools to provide equal access to safe education for all — including students with disabilities, education workers and families — and food for all.

Much more is needed. Some of that will be argued about publicly in Congress — though mostly behind closed doors. The points raised here are the absolute minimum that the capitalist class and its representatives must ensure that Congress passes in CARES 2.

Let the Democrats also feel the fire of rebellion to stop them from trading away the most desperate needs of the workers. If the parties provide less than this minimum, they demonstrate that they and the ruling class they represent are incapable of running society. □

# Solidarity, the best antitoxin

As the coronavirus spreads around the globe, the United States continues to report by far the largest number of cases and deaths. As of July 27, the figures show nearly 4.5 million cases in this country and over 150,000 deaths. That comes to 454 deaths per million people.

By contrast, China has had 3 deaths per million, even though it was the first country to discover the virus and had to start from scratch in figuring out how to deal with the epidemic. Vietnam has had no deaths. Cuba has had 8 deaths per million.

We’ve made this point before, but with each passing day the contrast between the two social systems — capitalism and socialism — becomes more glaring.

Even the U.S. government admits that poverty and racism are factors determining who in this capitalist country gets the disease and who dies from it. The CDC — Centers for Disease Control and Prevention — on July 24 released an updated version of the report, “Health Equity Considerations and Racial and Ethnic Minority Groups.” It shows that

racial discrimination by itself is a risk factor, in addition to its damaging effects on health care access and utilization.

People targeted by racism are more likely to work in areas of the economy most exposed to the virus. They suffer from subpar education, low income and wealth gaps, as well as less access to housing and health care, all of which make them more vulnerable in the pandemic.

The spread of COVID-19 in the U.S. has shone a glaring light on the great social inequalities here. At the same time, many people are literally risking their lives to go to work — and to take part in demonstrations against the system.

The risk comes not only from being exposed to the virus in a crowd. One marcher, Garrett Foster, was shot and killed by a right-winger on July 25 while at a Black Lives Matter protest against police brutality in Austin, Texas. Foster was white; his fiancée is Black and a quadruple amputee.

Hatred — the opposite of solidarity — is what drives the far right.

The anthem of the labor movement in the 1930s was “Solidarity Forever.” Today we see courageous people in the streets demonstrating against racism and oppression of all kinds who are reviving the meaning of solidarity.

And solidarity is what is needed to get through this crisis. Solidarity is how China, Cuba and Vietnam have stamped out the virus before it could spread. It takes the active trust of the population in the government and in your fellow workers, neighbors and acquaintances to carry out an effective campaign against this disease.

On a governmental level in the U.S., there is certainly no solidarity. It is a snake pit of rivalry, backstabbing, lying, cheating and accusations. All of it is driven by the viciously competitive character of capitalism. The victor takes the spoils. Whoever takes over the levers of political power — Republican or Democrat — gets to distribute the lucrative government contracts.

But the struggle against this rotten,



Sign in the window of a Manchester, Conn. hair salon.

PHOTO: KITTY STAPP

racist system is building solidarity in the grassroots. We are seeing it in the streets of Portland, Ore., and in all the places where workers come together and risk their lives each day. □

# Fighting fascism, white supremacy, capitalism

*Continued from page 1*

particularly for people of color and the most oppressed.

## Capitalist system in crisis

A revolutionary Marxist view of the threat of fascism is completely different. We see the danger of a fascist movement and the danger of a militarized police state as a symptom of the fact that the capitalist economic system has reached a level of crisis that completely overwhelms the ruling class. They don’t know what to do about it. And they’re worried about having political control.

So frantically and desperately, they look for extreme measures to defend their system, the capitalist system, to make sure that it doesn’t literally fall apart. I believe that this is such a time. First, the ruling class employs fascism as a movement and then as a form of rule to displace bourgeois democracy.

The working class, especially an enlightened working class, is a big question. We’ve got to work to make more of our working class enlightened. That is a big part of our problem. Nothing is bigger than that. But I’m optimistic about it.

We should see the problem like this. Obviously, fascism is dangerous. But here’s the contradiction. The fact that the ruling class, or some elements in the ruling class, are toying with fascism, and that they feel desperate enough to try to employ it, is a sign that the capitalist system is falling apart at the seams.

While one side of this contradiction is dangerous, the other side is very promising if the working class and the revolutionary forces get their act together and organize to turn the crisis of the system into a revolutionary crisis instead of a fascist crisis — one that will ultimately lead to socialist revolution.

What the struggle is like when fascism is a real danger we learned from what happened in Germany, Italy and Spain less than a century ago. The struggle between fascism and socialism is ultimately a class struggle for power. Our class lost back then. Some of you know what the consequences of that were. Others will have to learn.

## Turn the struggle into a class struggle!

I believe, with this understanding, Workers World Party and those amongst the revolutionary forces, however they

characterize themselves — as communists, trade unionists, anarchists, anti-imperialists, or in some cases, internationalists — that our job now is to take a very decisive turn toward organizing our class, the working class, to defend itself against the threat of fascism and military dictatorship. But not by kowtowing to the Democratic Party and thinking that a Democratic Congress or a new Democratic president will be the solution.

History has shown us that’s not the truth.

Demonstrating that the working class is organizing itself, enlightening itself, becoming more radical, becoming more militant, becoming more anti-capitalist and more pro-socialist is the answer to the fascist threat.

I invite everyone to join all my comrades in this bold but essential effort to begin to turn the struggle into a class struggle. The struggle against racism and white supremacy is a class struggle. The struggle against Confederate statues is a class struggle. The struggle for immigrant rights is a class struggle. And the struggles against anti-LGBTQ2S+ bigotry and misogyny are class struggles.

The more we define it as a class struggle and organize it as a class struggle against mass unemployment, mass evictions and mass hunger, then the closer we are getting to the point where we can turn the fear of the threat of fascism into an opportunity to make revolutionary socialism.

## Join Workers World Party!

I think people should think very hard about joining Workers World Party. We love our name because we’re a workers’ party. We want people to know that there is a workers’ party and that this party represents workers around the world. You can’t divide us with racism and chauvinism of any type.

Think about the call for workers’ assemblies — not to take the place of unions where they’re doing good work — but to begin the process of the mass organization of our class to defend itself first and foremost against attacks. Then when the working class is strong enough to turn the crisis into a revolutionary possibility in that respect, the socialist revolution will all of a sudden appear on the horizon — not too far away. □

# Does ‘Operation Legend’ signal growing fascist threat?

By Teresa Gutierrez

The top attorney in the country, the person who is supposed to uphold the law the most, is also the most crooked and dangerous.

Not to mention that he is an utter white supremacist who wouldn’t mind at all if the country went fascist.

Even his own colleagues, other lawyers who operate daily in an unjust justice system to begin with, charge U.S. Attorney General William Barr with “a pattern of alleged ethical violations ... in the last two years” alone. (Bloomberg Law, July 24)

In fact, the New York Law Journal published an article titled “It’s Clear: Attorney General William Barr Must Go” written by Elliott Jacobson. (June 25) Jacobson is not alone in calling for Barr’s disbarment.

So it was no surprise to anyone when on July 22, Attorney General William Barr stated that the responses to the murder of George Floyd are “extreme reactions that have demonized police.” (CNN, July 23)

As a result, he went on, there has been “a significant increase in violent crime in many cities.”

This statement was made at the very moment that federal and Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents, under Barr’s leadership, are beating, gassing and arresting protesters in Portland, Ore., in actions that are reminiscent of Nazi Germany or fascist Chile. Those arrested are activists who are determined to honor the name of George Floyd while others are being brutally pulled off the streets and into unmarked cars.

Barr’s statement was made at the same time that he and Trump promised to send these very same storm troopers to other urban areas under the direction of only the federal government. This is a far departure from what exists now, where local governments have more say.

Why did Barr say this now, over two months since Brother Floyd was killed?

Barr and the cabal in the White House are sending messages to the right wing, and especially the cops, that they are determined to continue carrying out



Stand-off with federal troops in Seattle on July 25.

PHOTO: ROBIN EVERETT

their war against the workers and the oppressed. Furthermore, they are setting up a situation where Barr and Trump alone dictate the actions of the federal storm troopers.

The fact that the protests that erupted after the heinous murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and countless others have not ebbed has the ruling capitalist class not only worried but frightened.

The perfect storm of ongoing police terror against people of color and an economic crisis aggravated by a cruel health pandemic have resulted in not only disillusionment with the capitalist system, but anger that is not likely to cool down.

## Operation Legend ‘surges’

Barr’s comments were made at a White House press conference where the Trump administration announced that the government will be launching a “federal law enforcement surge” to urban areas. (Justice Department, July 8)

The program is called “Operation Legend,” cynically and mockingly named after four-year-old LeGenD Taliferro, a child killed while asleep in Kansas City,

Mo., allegedly by an unknown drive-by shooter.

With “Operation Legend,” the Trump administration has sarcastically taken the actual war of racist police against people of color and turned it around to launch a program that will intensify that war.

The DOJ describes Operation Legend as a “sustained, systematic and coordinated law enforcement initiative across all federal law enforcement agencies working in conjunction with state and local law enforcement officials to fight the sudden surge of violent crime, beginning in Kansas City, MO. Operation Legend was created as a result of President Trump’s promise to assist America’s cities that are plagued by recent violence.”

The DOJ, instead of investigating and punishing police and vigilantes who terrorize the people, is launching a “surge” of those who carry out that terror.

Federal and ICE agents are terrorizing the people of Portland. Racists are killing protesters in Austin, Texas.

With Operation Legend, the Trump administration, including Barr, is not just sending a dog whistle, but an air

raid siren calling on all white supremacists to continue these attacks against the movement.

The so-called violence that Barr and Trump refer to may or may not be real. It may be serious or not. But the solution to any antisocial actions in the communities of color and among the poor will not be resolved with Operation Legend. In fact, it will only aggravate them. It will divert attention from the real problems of unemployment, lack of education and health care.

A “surge” of the very agents who killed George Floyd means further occupation of a terrorist force.

The only solution to problems in the cities is money for jobs, health care and education, not police occupation. Block-by-block organizing, self-defense committees, domestic violence hot lines, food pantries, etc., are desperately needed, not more police occupation.

When the Trump administration announced the “surge” of police to Chicago, Mayor Lori Lightfoot said in a July 21 tweet: “Under no circumstances will I allow Donald Trump’s troops to come to Chicago and terrorize our residents.”

According to Channel 5 news in Chicago, Mayor Lightfoot stated: “In Portland (the feds) ignored the (local) U.S. Attorney, put these agents on the street and I don’t think anyone can quibble with the fact that what happened was not only unconstitutional, it was undemocratic.” (July 22) The city of Chicago is launching a lawsuit against Troop to prevent federal troops from coming there.

The top attorney in this country is a white supremacist crook with no respect for democracy or the Constitution, his own colleagues in the legal world have now stated.

But revolutionaries have always known that the legal system under capitalism has never represented the interests of the workers and the oppressed. When it is coming for the liberals, it’s time to worry about the encroachment of fascism in the U.S. □

## The state’s use of technology: An issue for the movement

Continued from page 5

agencies alike? Or should we retreat into only using the latest encrypted apps and leave social media altogether?

Both acquiescing and retreating are incorrect responses. Considerations around security must be balanced against the necessary tasks of intervening in the living class struggle and building a broad mass movement that brings in workers, particularly now during the uprising that continues to break out around us.

Adopting organizational and personal practices around security, and advancing broader consciousness about the myriad ways that the state, the right-wing and technology corporations collaborate to surveil and impede our movements, is paramount. Several guides on how to do just that have been developed by movement organizations and are readily available online.

Raising demands and engaging in the struggle to defend our movements

against political repression, which include pushing back against the arsenal of high-tech tools, will become increasingly important. So too is connecting this fight with active worker struggles inside these corporations.

In the long run, our movements must be more concerned with our overreliance on corporate-owned technology tools. We must take seriously the task of developing left technology that can support our work and help build our movements, while avoiding the pitfalls and risks associated with our overuse of corporate-owned technologies.

To be sure, such a task is much easier said than done. But as these issues become more widely understood and addressed in a serious way by our movements, this task should orient our long-term interventions around them. This will aid in the development of a revolutionary movement of the working class that can fight for and win socialism. □

## El movimiento de Portland contraataca

Continúa de la página 12

“La policía de Portland y los oficiales federales marcharon hombro con hombro el domingo por la mañana para dispersar a los manifestantes en el centro”, se dijo en un artículo del 18 de julio en The Oregonian, el periódico más grande del estado. En una conferencia de prensa, “el jefe de policía de Portland Chuck Lovell confirmó que las dos fuerzas comparten planes en tiempo real entre sí”.

El subjefe Chris Davis reveló a los legisladores estatales en una audiencia legislativa que “un miembro del Servicio Federal de Protección se encuentra en el puesto de mando de la Policía de Portland durante las manifestaciones en el centro”.

El Comisionado Hardesty emitió esta declaración pública el 18 de julio en Twitter: “Sabemos que el presidente de la Asociación de Policía de Portland, Daryl Turner, se reunió con el secretario del DHS, Chad Wolf. Sabemos que la policía de Portland está colaborando con esta fuerza de ocupación federal”.

Hasta la fecha, el Secretario Wolf solo se ha reunido con Turner y no con ningún funcionario de la ciudad o del estado.

La escalada del gobierno federal ocurre solo unos meses antes de las elecciones generales de 2020 a medida que la posición de Trump en las encuestas electorales se desploma. Desesperado por revertir su fortuna, Trump y sus partidarios, incluidos los policías, podrían estar usando a Portland para probar tácticas autoritarias, preparándose para usarlas en otros lugares.

Es alentador que la primera reacción de Portland fue enfrentar la creciente represión con una lucha intensificada, con un “Muro de las madres” que protege a los manifestantes en el Palacio de Justicia Federal. Es un buen comienzo. La represión y las tácticas fascistas del estado deben ser cumplidas por un movimiento popular antirracista y antifascista que nunca dejará de impulsar sus demandas de justicia y libertad del racismo, la supremacía blanca y la brutalidad policial. □



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

[LowWageCapitalism.com](http://LowWageCapitalism.com)

## Indignación por ataque de Trump

# El movimiento de Portland contraataca

Por Joshua Hanks  
Portland, Oregon

22 de julio. Se desplegaron oficiales federales para “sofocar” las protestas de Portland a partir del fin de semana del 10 de julio y continuando la semana siguiente. Agentes no identificados y camuflados arrestaron y detuvieron a manifestantes sin siquiera un pretexto. La administración Trump ha intensificado la confrontación entre la gente y el aparato estatal, trayendo un olor a fascismo a la ciudad. El movimiento de Portland está luchando.

Como en todas las grandes ciudades de los EE.UU., Portland, Oregón, ha visto a miles de personas irrumpir en las calles, puentes y plazas de la ciudad desde el asesinato de George Floyd a manos de la policía de Minneapolis. La gente ha protestado por el asesinato de Floyd y el de los miles de otras víctimas principalmente negras, morenas e indígenas de la brutalidad policial desenfrenada. Las protestas en Portland han continuado durante más de 50 días consecutivos.

En todo el país, este movimiento contra la violencia policial racista se ha encontrado con más violencia policial, asfixiando los centros urbanos de costa a costa con gases lacrimógenos y una amplia gama de las llamadas armas menos letales. Utilizado incorrectamente, como lo ha hecho la policía en muchas ocasiones, tales armas han sido de hecho letales. El gas lacrimógeno en sí es un arma química prohibida en la guerra por el derecho internacional.

Ted Wheeler, el alcalde demócrata de Portland, ha protestado contra los oficiales federales de Trump, por lo que podría sorprender a la gente de todo el país que las multitudes de personas que la policía de Portland ha brutalizado todas las noches, lo detestan. Wheeler inicialmente acordó limitar el uso de gases lacrimógenos por parte de la Oficina de Policía de Portland, aunque no prohibirlo por completo, después de la indignación masiva por el asalto desenfrenado de la policía con el arma química.

Wheeler es el alcalde y el comisionado de la Oficina Policial de Portland (PPB, siglas en inglés), y por lo tanto, tiene un poder unilateral dentro del Ayuntamiento para las asignaciones de la PPB. Portland es la última ciudad importante en los EE. UU. que utiliza la forma de gobierno, que se llama comisión. Esta forma combina la autoridad legislativa y ejecutiva al dar al alcalde y a los comisionados de la ciudad el control sobre oficinas individuales como la oficina de policía, la oficina de transporte, la oficina de parques, etc.

El alcalde se ha resistido a los llamados a entregar el control de PPB a la comisionada Jo Ann Hardesty y poner fin a su evidente conflicto de intereses. Elegida en 2018, Hardesty es la primera y única mujer negra elegida para el Consejo de la



Las madres contra la brutalidad policial mantienen la línea contra los policías federales, protegiendo a los manifestantes frente al Centro de Justicia del Condado de Multnomah, Portland, Oregon, en las primeras horas de la mañana del 20 de julio.

Ciudad de Portland y muchas personas la vean como la que más simpatiza con la comunidad activista a menudo estridente de la ciudad.

Pero las fuerzas represivas federales fueron incluso peores que el PPB. Oregon Public Broadcasting informó el 12 de julio que un oficial de los Alguaciles de EE.UU. le disparó en la cabeza al manifestante Donavan LaBella, de 26 años, con municiones “menos que letales” en lo que los testigos describieron como un ataque no provocado, causando fracturas faciales y del cráneo que requirieron cirugías reconstructivas. LaBella permanece hospitalizada en estado crítico.

### Los federales se movilizan

El jefe interino del Departamento de Seguridad Nacional, Chad Wolf, llegó a Portland el 16 de julio por orden de Trump de supervisar la represión federal. Los oficiales federales han aumentado el uso de gases lacrimógenos, armas químicas a grandes multitudes sin previo aviso, lo que este reportero experimentó de primera mano la noche del 17 de julio.

Múltiples informes y secuencias de video retratan a los oficiales federales vestidos de camuflaje, que carecen de números o etiquetas de identificación, agarran a las personas de las calles y las llevan a camionetas sin marcar, luego las conducen con los ojos vendados a un lugar no revelado. Ahora la gente sabe que este fue el Palacio de Justicia Federal de Hatfield, a una cuadra al norte de la sede del PPB, donde fueron interrogados y fotografiados.

Workers World habló con un manifestante (cuyo nombre no se menciona aquí por su seguridad) en la noche del 17 de julio, quien describió cómo los oficiales federales lo agarraron de la acera y lo empujaron a una camioneta sin marcar. Fue liberado al día siguiente después de una noche de intensos interrogatorios en el tribunal federal.

A los detenidos no se les informa sobre los delitos que se les imputan o solo se les dan razones vagas para su detención. Estos arrestos han despertado enojo y preocupación en Portland. Aquí, los paramilitares fascistas vestidos con camuflaje y equipo similares aparecen regularmente en manifestaciones donde atacan a izquierdistas y ayudan a la policía.

Los oficiales federales están confundiendo las líneas entre ellos y los paramilitares fascistas. Muchas personas sospechan que algunos oficiales de la Patrulla Fronteriza de los Estados Unidos están involucrados en estos secuestros. La Patrulla Fronteriza ha mejorado la sua autoridad dentro de las 100 millas de cualquier costa o frontera, y por lo tanto abarca Portland y dos tercios de toda la población de los EE. UU.

El periódico local Willamette Week, después de identificar los números de matrícula en varias camionetas del video de los secuestros, determinó que fueron alquilados a EAN Holdings LLC, una subsidiaria operativa de Enterprise Holdings, propietaria de las marcas Enterprise, Alamo y National de alquiler de automóviles. Esto no debería sorprender a nadie que conozca las profundas relaciones entre las corporaciones y la policía.

Greyhound Bus Lines, por ejemplo, ha sido un blanco frecuente de manifestantes que denuncian su colaboración con agentes de Inmigración y Control de Aduanas que realizan incursiones en los pasajeros de Greyhound.

La semana de Willamette informó el 20 de julio que durante el fin de semana, “los videos virales y las fotos de la protesta del sábado por la noche mostraron a la policía federal golpeando a un veterano de la Armada, Christopher David, con porras y gases lacrimógenos a una multitud que incluía al comisionado del condado de Multnomah, Sharon Meieran”. Meieran tuiteó: “Anoche fui golpeada por una fuerza de ocupación federal que vi arrojar

dos latas de veneno, sin previo aviso, a una multitud no violenta, incluidos los ancianos y los vulnerables”.

### La represión del graffiti suscita resistencia

En semanas anteriores, las multitudes habían disminuido a cientos en las protestas nocturnas. Ahora, la llegada de oficiales y funcionarios federales ha galvanizado a miles de personas en Portland, incluidos muchos residentes mayores. Muchos de los que no suelen asistir a las manifestaciones están conmocionados e indignados por lo que ven como una ocupación de su ciudad por parte de violentos agitadores externos--los agentes federales.

El objetivo de Trump de sofocar las protestas e intimidar a las personas para que se queden en casa ha funcionado al revés, un resultado predecible en una ciudad conocida por sus grandes y regulares protestas.

Para justificar las tácticas extremas utilizadas por los oficiales federales, tácticas que se ajustan al Chile del ex dictador Pinochet, el jefe interino del DHS, Wolf, publicó una lista de las fechas y ubicaciones de los graffiti que los manifestantes habían pintado. Si el conflicto fuera menos grave, la respuesta feroz de Wolf al graffiti sería ridícula. En cambio, subraya el motivo real del gobierno: aplastar un movimiento popular antirracista y antifascista que ha barrido el país como un incendio forestal y se ha mantenido durante más de dos meses.

El estado busca cualquier razón, por absurda o falsa que sea, para justificar sus viciosos ataques contra los manifestantes. Etiqueta a cualquiera como terrorista o anarquista violento por su participación en el movimiento, sin importar cuán pacífica o constitucional pueda ser su participación.

Incluso la gobernadora de Oregon, Kate Brown, junto con muchos otros políticos estatales y locales, condenó la represión como un caso de extralimitación federal y pidió que los oficiales se fueran. Históricamente, los oficiales federales han ayudado solo a pedido de los líderes estatales y locales. Nunca han sido impuestas por la Casa Blanca a los estados, como está sucediendo ahora en Oregon.

Es irónico que los llamados conservadores, que a menudo dicen que apoyan los derechos de los estados y se oponen a la extralimitación federal, han permanecido en silencio.

El alcalde Wheeler, quien se unió al gobernador Brown para condenar la presencia violenta de oficiales federales, inicialmente aseguró al público que el PPB, bajo su control directo, no estaba coordinando con los oficiales federales y no lo haría. Sin embargo, después de varias noches de protestas, ha quedado claro que los oficiales del PPB han avanzado sobre los manifestantes en coordinación con los agentes federales.

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