Black vote dumps Trump

By Monica Moorehead

Once it was confirmed on Nov. 7 that the Joe Biden and Kamala Harris ticket had defeated Trump, literally tens of thousands of people around the U.S. spontaneously took to the streets for hours in jubilation and celebration. Not only were downtown areas taken over but also neighborhoods, block by block, where traffic came to a standstill with horns blazing.

While the majority of those in the streets were young people, all ages participated regardless of nationality, gender, gender expression and abilities. People could hardly wait to let off steam after waiting for what must have seemed like an eternity — if only five days — to see if the four-year nightmare of Trump would come to an end.

And who could blame them, for he had insulted and degraded the dignity and integrity of so many sectors of the working class inside and outside the U.S. These include im/migrants, Black, Latinx, Asian and Indigenous communities, women, LGBTQ2S+ people and people with disabilities — anyone and everyone who has felt marginalized by Trump’s racism and misogyny felt exuberated to be seen and heard. Even other world imperialist leaders, though with a diplomatic tone, expressed relief at seeing Trump ousted.

And while many carried Biden/Harris placards and waved U.S. flags, there were many carrying Black Lives Matter signs as well as carrying the names and images of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor, murdered by the police in Minneapolis, Minn., and Louisville, Ky., respectively this past spring. There were also signs saying that the election was not about Biden/Harris, but about the defeat of Trump and that the struggle will continue.

There was also the recognition of history being made with Kamala Harris being the first woman and the first woman of color to become a vice-president elect. While describing herself as a Black woman of Jamaican heritage, her family roots also come from the Indian state of Tamil Nadu. There were thousands of women, including Muslims, carrying signs expressing equal if not more support for Harris winning than Biden.

While there was a wide gauntlet of political views of people who poured out in the streets of Philadelphia, Atlanta, New York City, Chicago, the Bay Area, Washington, D.C., Los Angeles and elsewhere, there was one view that united them all — their utter hatred and disgust for Trump.

Referendum on police violence, health crisis

Close to 145 million people cast votes in the presidential election with Biden/Harris winning more than 74 million, the most in any U.S. election. The percentage of eligible voters who turned out was 66.3%, the highest since the 1908 election. And more than 100 million votes were cast early, compared to 47 million in 2016. (CBS Sunday Morning, Nov. 8)

Biden was able to garner more votes than Trump and was bracing for a possible legal challenge. But the real challenge loomed the following day as Trump’s court-appointed lawyers and Attorney General William Barr embarked on the legal challenge that is considered necessary to “clear the runway” for incoming President-elect Joe Biden.

Since Trump’s attacks on the ballots cast early in some states, the Biden campaign’s legal team has asked the courts in several states to require recounts to ensure the votes were counted properly. The Biden campaign has said it has evidence of widespread irregularities and fraud, including votes being cast for nonexistent candidates.

The United Front, initiated by Workers World Party’s Philadelphia branch, is a broad assembly of progressive and radical organizations, including Philly Boricuas, Black Alliance for Peace, Black Lives Matter and the Philadelphia Black Radical Collective, Black Alliance for Peace, Black Lives Matter and the Philadelphia Black Radical Collective.

Philly celebrates, pledges to keep fighting

As soon as the news broke late on the morning of Nov. 7 that the 2020 U.S. presidential election was over, workers here could be heard cheering the humiliating defeat of Donald Trump. Soon after, they were in the streets — dancing and banging pots and pans. Strangers greeted each other warmly on corners and waved to each other from their cars.

Thousands began to assemble at City Hall, Independence Mall, West Philadelphia’s Clark Park and elsewhere in this city, which is credited with pushing the vote for former Vice President Biden over the top. The spontaneous jubilation sparked by news of Trump’s ouster should not be underestimated!

Yet at the same time these celebrations began, a very different event was underway across town — the funeral of Walter Wallace Jr., a 27-year-old Black man gunned down Oct. 26 by two white Philadelphia cops, Sean Matarazzo and Thomas Munz. Classmates of Matarazzo claim that he is a longtime white supremacist.

Protests erupted immediately after Wallace’s killing, as communities across the city condemned the cops for responding with deadly force to a Black man who was experiencing a mental health crisis. Police body camera footage released the day after the election reveals the cops saying “Shoot him” to each other as bystanders — including Wallace’s mother — beg the cops not to shoot.

On Nov. 7, one part of the city wept as the other danced. The distance between these two realities is only widened by the election of Biden, who, when asked prior to Election Day if he had any response to the murder of Wallace, responded by condemning the people protesting police violence.

Philly United Front: ‘Keep the struggle in the streets’

Nov. 7 was also the day chosen by the Philly United Front to stage their first public demonstration in the city.

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Anti-racist marches continue during election week

By Jim McMahan
Seattle

Black-led marches against racist and economic oppression continued during election week in Seattle. Trump’s racism has led more people to stay in the streets. While the vote for Biden was big, the election definitely didn’t take people out of the streets.

The marches continued to press the five basic demands of the local Black Lives Matter movement: “Defund the Seattle police department—by 50% at least!” “Invest in the Black community!” “Free all the protesters!” “No new youth jail!” and “Mayor Durkan, you resign!”

On Nov. 4, mainly Black demonstrators marched past the East Precinct on Capitol Hill, carrying Black Lives Matter signs. The cops attacked. Seven were arrested for standing up against racist attacks on their community. Kel Murphy-Duford, a Black trans man, was grabbed by cops. They slammed him to the ground and “his head hit the pavement,” according to his lawyer, Karen Koeler. This was witnessed by demonstrators and even recorded on police body cameras.

Public officials and the cops have been extremely vague about Murphy-Duford’s medical condition. On the evening of Nov. 5, Karen Koeler reported he was “still intubated and unconscious” in the hospital. Murphy-Duford has been active in the LGBTQ+ community and has been a regular at anti-racist protests since June.

On Nov. 5 a large rally was held in Occidental Park for Black lives and to “count every vote—protect every person!” A Native Duwamish man from the First People of Seattle spoke and sang a drum song. Palimira Figueroa spoke from the Washington Immigrant Solidarity Network. A Black undocumented activist reminded the crowd that Joe Biden was a member of an administration that deported 4 million people between 2009 and 2017.

There were speakers from the Washington State Labor Council, representing 550,000 workers, and the Washington state Poor Peoples Campaign. The famous “Katie,” organizer of the daily Morning March, also spoke. People heard from the Black Action Coalition, which then led the 400-person crowd on a march through downtown.

The following night the Black Action Coalition led demonstrators on an evening march to the massive construction site of a new youth jail. The march was guarded by volunteer car brigades in both the front and the rear, and bike brigades along the sides—a common security set-up. Marchers sat down and blocked the street for over an hour while a peoples assembly was held in front of the jail. People of color spoke bitterness and exposed the racist torture and loss of youth they endured in the so-called “Youth Service Center.”

In Seattle, Black Lives Matter protesters have marched for over 150 days and provided energy and leadership for the overall struggle of the working class. The struggle continues.

Workers World

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

The U.S. is the richest country in the world, yet no one has a guaranteed right to shelter, food, water, health care, education or anything else — unless they can pay for it. Wages are lower 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 be shared freely. The working class needs a government that works for the workers and oppressed here and worldwide. If you’re interested in Marxism, socialism and fighting for a socialist future, please contact a WWP branch near you.

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

Workers World

Get out, 45! 

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**Movement welcomes release of Ant Smith**

By Ted Kelly

Philadelphia

Beloved community organizer and teacher Anthony (Ant) Smith was finally released from federal custody on Nov. 9. “For the second time in just a few days, Ant’s defense attorney Paul Hetznecker successfully argued for his release on bail,” stated supporter Jasmine Peake-Miles. “We won the appeal, and Ant will be coming home. Let’s get ready to welcome him back!”

Smith was kidnapped by federal forces on May 30 amid a protest against U.S. Attorney William McSwain, the feds trashed Smith’s house and terrorized his family. He was brought into custody on bogus charges related to vandalism of a cop car during a May 30 protest amid the uprisings protesting George Floyd’s murder by police.

Smith has been held in general population in Lehigh County Jail since then, over an hour outside Philadelphia.

Despite the fact that a federal judge ordered his release on Nov. 6, Smith remained imprisoned in Allentown, Pa., after McSwain’s team appealed the ruling. The detention hearing in an attempt to keep Smith in custody until his trial. If convicted of arson, he faces a mandatory minimum of 7 years in federal prison.

A petition circulated by Black Lives Matter Philly, a constituent of the Black Phily Radical Collective reads, “As we await his second detention hearing, we urge the community to recommit to standing by Anthony as we continue the fight for his release. Anthony has always fought for the equitable treatment in front of the members of our community, and now it is our duty to stand up and fight for him.”

Supporters note that Smith is a key figure in the community, both as an activist and a teacher.

Over 70 letters testifying to Smith’s upstanding character and service to the people of Philadelphia were sent to the judge prior to the ruling that ordered his release. As well as being a member of REAL Action, Ant spends every Friday feeding people in need at 60th and Market streets with Food Not Bombs Solidarity. Supporters have circulated a photo of Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney giving Smith an award for his distinguished service to the people of the city.

William McSwain, the U.S. attorney who brought these politically motivated charges against Smith, is an ambitious and corrupt prosecutor who has been using public funds to plaster his face on billboards across the state, boasting of his “tough on crime” and “law and order” record. He regularly barges into the city to hold press conferences and claim jurisdiction on cases he deems the Philadelphia District Attorney’s office to be “too soft on.”

McSwain made the bogus claim at a press conference announcing the charges, that he did not know who Anthony Smith was before targeting this well-known activist in the midst of another uprising against police murder, this time against the murder of West Philly resident Walter Wallace Jr. He was killed by two white cops in front of his mother on Oct. 26, two days before Smith’s arrest.

Speaking at a press conference held for Smith on Oct. 30, DeAndra Jefferson said, “They messed with the wrong person.”

Worlds Workers Party welcomes the release of Anthony Smith and calls for all charges against him to be dropped immediately.

Free Ant! 😎

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**Wallace family calls for firing officers, criticizes lack of police reform**

By Betsey Piette

The Oct. 26 police killing of Walter Wallace Jr. in Philadelphia was caught on video that went viral, bringing thousands into the streets to demand justice for the 27-year-old Black man, who had been experiencing a mental health crisis. Despite a series of 911 callers saying Wallace needed an ambulance and two previous police visits where they were made aware of Wallace’s condition, the final response was by two police officers who fired 14 shots at Wallace within minutes of their arrival.

On Nov. 4, one day after the election, the city released police bodycam footage of Wallace’s killing by officers Thomas Munz Jr. and Sean Matarazzo, both in their 20s. The Wallace family had been shown the video days before it was made public. In the footage, one of the officers can be heard saying, “Shoot him” before both officers fired.

The Black Phily Radical Collective called a protest to disclose the officers’ names and denounce the city’s delay in releasing the footage. They gathered on one side of City Hall, while demonstrators demanding that every vote be counted in the presidential election amassed on the other side. Eventually both demonstrations merged.

The 911 dispatch recordings that brought Munz and Matarazzo to the scene made no mention of Wallace’s mental health or the two earlier police responses. In the bodycam footage, Wallace, who had a knife, appears to be walking aimlessly rather than aggressively. His mother and two neighbors are yelling at the police not to shoot.

Members of the Wallace family, their attorney Shaka Johnson and Gwen Carr, the mother of Eric Garner, spoke out at a press conference Nov. 6. Garner was killed by New York police in July 2014. His final words, like George Floyd’s, were “I can’t breathe,” and his case was a milestone in the Black Lives Matter movement.

**Failure to follow 2015 Department of Justice call for reforms**

While not calling for charges to be brought against the two officers, the Wallace family is demanding they be fired. Johnson criticized the Philadelphia Police Department for failing to implement reforms and training recommendations made in a 2015 U.S. Department of Justice report. The report, requested in 2013 by then Police Commissioner Charles Ramsey, identified “serious deficiencies in the department’s use-of-force policies and training, including a failure to maintain a certified field training program; deficient, inconsistent supervision and operational control of officer-involved shooting investigations and crime scenes.”

While the DOJ report applied to the entire Philadelphia Police Department, it named police districts where civilian complaints of brutality were particularly high — including the 18th district where Munz and Matarazzo are currently employed.

Johnson and other speakers called for all police to be armed with Tasers and for a change in the way the city responds to mental health crises. However, even with reforms like mandatory bodycam use implemented, it has not changed the “shoot him” mentality of racist police officers.

Gwen Carr noted that while she had learned of her son’s death in a phone call, Wallace’s parents had the horror of witnessing his killing. “Can you imagine, just imagine, what trauma they went through seeing their son murdered right in front of their eyes? There are thousands of mentally ill people who are getting gunned down every day because the police are the first responders. This has to stop.” (Philly.com, Nov. 7)

In addition to support from Carr, other parents of victims of police violence visited with the Wallace family to offer support. They included Samaria Rice, whose 12-year-old son Tamir Rice was gunned down by Cleveland police Nov. 22, 2014, and Lia Simpson, whose 18-year-old son Richard Rosher was shot by police in Los Angeles July 25, 2016.

A rank-and-file caucus of APSCME District Council 53 and DC 47 issued a statement calling on Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney and the City Council to immediately defund the Philadelphia Police Department by at least half — $354 million — with the money to go instead to fund public services, including mental health. Wallace’s father is a 37-year veteran of the city’s Streets Department.

Several hundred people attended the funeral for Wallace Nov. 7. All Wallace’s nine children including his infant daughter, born just days after he was murdered, were there. In his obituary, Wallace was remembered as “a handyman who would try to fix almost anything, he was dependable and an avid learner.”

The family wrote: “We never saw Walter having a disability. We saw the man who fought through it and did so with his best ability.” (Philly.com, Nov. 8)

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**Workers Assembly against racism**

A Workers Assembly against Racism rally in New York, near Trump International Hotel and Tower, builds anti-racist solidarity between organized and unorganized workers. This event started just as the Biden electoral victory was being announced on Nov. 7. Tens of thousands of people came out onto the streets of New York to celebrate the defeat of Trump. The message by the Workers Assembly Against Racism — of the need to continue the struggle against far beyond Biden — was well received. The Workers Assembly Against Racism was a dose of class struggle and reality in the midst of a Biden celebration. Anti-racist solidarity is the key to uniting the struggles of working and oppressed people!

—By Sara Flounders

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**Workers Assembly Against Racism**

18th district 

354 million

Philadelphia

Workers Assembly Against Racism

San Quentin
Sistas With Voices demand mass releases

By Judy Greenspan
San Rafael, Calif.

Nov. 8 — Today, prisoner support groups and family members held a spirited demonstration at San Quentin State Prison’s main gate, demanding the state order a mass release of incarcerated people instead of a transfer to other prisons. The protest was organized by Sistas With Voices and family members of people inside.

On Oct. 21, a state appellate court ordered the prison population at San Quentin be cut by 50%, due to mismanage- ment at the facility during the COVID-19 pandemic. San Quentin is not only the oldest California state prison, it houses rows for approximately 7,000 people, classified “male” by the California Department of Corrections and “Rehabilitation.” (AP, Oct. 21)

A transfer in May spread COVID from the California Institution for Men in Chino to San Quentin. Since then, over 2,800 of those held in San Quentin are infected with the virus, and 28 have died. The immunocompromised health suffered by most of the incarcerated population — coupled with poor housing, sanitation and untreated conditions — accelerated COVID transmission.

As families of those inside rallied to demand “Mass Releases, Not Transfers!” a speak-out was held to reinforce this demand. As Elsie Lee of Sistas With Voices teared, family members who had traveled from all over the state read statements from loved ones — most of whom had caught COVID while incarcerated.

Formerly incarcerated people from San Quentin and other state prisons spoke and emphasized the horror of contracting COVID while inside. Lisa Strawn, a recently released trans woman spoke of getting COVID toward the end of her 25-year sentence: “I actually didn’t think I was going to make it out alive.” Strawn reminded the crowd that San Quentin is not just a “men’s prison.” There is an entire LGBTQI+ community inside. I am here to rep- resent that community.

A phone call by J.B., who is held inside San Quentin, helped make it clear why CDCR is only interested in transfers, not releases: “CDCR knows that as long as they keep the prisons filled, the cells filled, that’s money coming in for the prison system. He added that the transfers from CIM have spread COVID to other prisons around the state besides San Quentin.

The decision by San Quentin’s First District Court of Appeal called the CDCR’s handling of the virus “the worst epidemi- ological disaster in California correctional history.” But though the decision mandates the San Quentin prisoner population be reduced by 50%, it does not rule out the use of transfers.

Activism by groups like Sistas with Voices and No Justice Under Capitalism pushed the California courts to order some relief for those held in San Quentin.

It will take additional pressure from prisoner- rights organizations, family members, formerly incarcerated people, health care advocates and other allies to win the mass release of 1,500 San Quentin prisoners.

The Sistas organizers say that COVID-19 should not be a death sentence. Mass releases, not transfers — now! [Image 156x804 to 359x938]

New Jersey releases 2,261— but to what?

By Mirinda Crissman

The State of New Jersey released 2,261 incarcer- ated workers from its state prisons on Nov. 4. This largest single-day release in U.S. history comes on the heels of state law S2530, passed in September, which calls for the release of up to 7,500 people in prisons to stop the rampant spread of disease inside and protect the health of the public during the ravenous coronavirus pandemic. (NBC News, Nov. 4)

This release is an important win that was hard fought by vari- ous community organizations and saves thousands of lives. And, as we see this system reproducing its violence in mutated and new forms, we must be sure to fight all the conditions that have allowed the death-making policies of human captivity, trafficking, and family separation to flourish since settlers first stepped foot on the Western Hemisphere.

Whether it’s an immigrant detention center, jail and/or prison, those walls don’t and won’t ever stop the spread of disease and death from overcrowding and unsanitary outside walls. These cages in their various forms exist to maintain the law and so-called order of settler-imposed capitalism on stolen land, while simultaneously serving as lethal, over-crowding cells for society’s contradictions.

Because prisons have been hotspots for COVID and a detriment to public health, the legislation passed in September explains that “prisoners in New Jersey within a year of completing sentences for crimes other than murder and sexual assault are eligible to be released as many as eight months early.” (New York Times, Nov. 4)

This selection — between who is granted release from their own kidnapping from their communities at the hands of police, and who is left to face a possi- ble COVID-19 death sentence inside jail facilities — reinforces and reproduces the myth that cages keep society safer from real harm, like murder and sexual assault. This false myth disregards the material reality that these cages reproduce murder and assault themselves, rather than addressing the root causes of these ills.

Mia Mingus, of the Bay Area Transformative Justice Collective and a fierce advocate around Disability Justice, explains: “As a survivor of child sexual abuse, working for abolition via trans- formative justice, more police and more prisons will not stop sexual violence. If it did, we would not have the devastatingly high epi- demic rates of sexual violence that continue to persist.” (tinyurl.com/yy6e9rzd, June 26)

Collectively attacking cultural conditions of rac- ism, ableism, patriarchal violence, and homopho- bia alongside attacking the structural conditions of housing, food and job insecurities are essential in our efforts to break free of the rot of this system, which was designed to divide and conquer. Fighting further criminalization

In anticipation of these New Jersey mass releases, many volunteers and community organizers who greeted released people at bus stations used

Continued on page 5
Class oppression and the virus

By Deirdre Griswold

The United States continues to lead the world — in the number of COVID-19 cases as well as in deaths. As of Dec. 7, more than 15,000 people in high-tech imperialist country has now registered 243,302 deaths from the virus. This is twice as many coronavirus deaths as in India, even though the population of India is four times that of the U.S. and India is a country with a much lower standard of living.

The contrast becomes even more shocking when comparing the U.S. to China. With a population four times that of the U.S., China has had only 4,634 deaths from the virus. [Coronavirus Update (Live)] Breaking that down further, the U.S. has suffered 734 COVID-19 deaths per million people, while China has had only 3 deaths per million.

In addition, China is where the virus first broke out, meaning that everything about combating it there had to be learned from scratch.

How is this huge disparity possible? Clearly, this virulent epidemic calls for an examination of health care in the U.S. But there are other issues here as well. How much trust do people here put in what their government says needs to be done? How does the economic system we live under affect human behavior and solidarity?

The biggest difference between China and the U.S. is not population size or level of development. It is the type of social system that is in power.

The U.S. is unabashedly capitalist. Billionaires and millionaires control the political system. The people vote, yes, but they have to pick from candidates chosen by the ruling class. Trump is obviously a millionaire, but so is Biden. And Biden is also a serious contender only because he has the backing of the Democratic Party establishment.

China has a very different history. A Communist-led popular revolution came to power in 1949, after years of guerrilla struggle against the old regime. At the time, China was impoverished, having been pillaged for decades by the imperialist powers of Japan and the West. Rich landlords occupied the majority, made up of landless peasants. Landlordism had been wiped out. But millions of lives are at stake. The COVID-19 epidemic must spur on the movement for universal, free health care.

Both the economy and COVID are vitally important issues for working people in the United States. Lost in the tension of the postelection week, news about better-than-expected unemployment figures and the horrible surge in COVID-19 cases was both hailed and completely ignored.

The official report of the Bureau of Labor Statistics makes this point: The unemployment rate for white workers is 6.0% while for Black workers it is 10.8%, which is more than 70% higher. The overall unemployment rate declined by a percentage point to 6.9%.

This rate understates real unemployment. A more accurate rate, called the U–6 rate, which includes workers who have given up looking for a job and workers who are forced to take part-time jobs, has unemployment at 11.4%.

But neither of these unemployment rates accurately reflects a more basic rate, that of participation in the labor force. This rate, which knocks out the number of people working or seeking work as a percentage of the total population of working-age people. This has decreased during the pandemic, particularly for parents, mostly women.

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The official report of the Bureau of Labor Statistics makes this point: The unemployment rate for white workers is 6.0% while for Black workers it is 10.8%, which is more than 70% higher. The overall unemployment rate declined by a percentage point to 6.9%.

This rate understates real unemployment. A more accurate rate, called the U–6 rate, which includes workers who have given up looking for a job and workers who are forced to take part-time jobs, has unemployment at 11.4%.

But neither of these unemployment rates accurately reflects a more basic rate, that of participation in the labor force. This rate, which knocks out the number of people working or seeking work as a percentage of the total population of working-age people. This has decreased during the pandemic, particularly for parents, mostly women.

How much trust do people here put in what their government says needs to be done? How does the economic system we live under affect human behavior and solidarity?

The contrast becomes even more shocking when comparing the U.S. to China. With a population four times that of the U.S., China has had only 4,634 deaths from the virus. [Coronavirus Update (Live)] Breaking that down further, the U.S. has suffered 734 COVID-19 deaths per million people, while China has had only 3 deaths per million.

In addition, China is where the virus first broke out, meaning that everything about combating it there had to be learned from scratch.

How is this huge disparity possible? Clearly, this virulent epidemic calls for an examination of health care in the U.S. But there are other issues here as well. How much trust do people here put in what their government says needs to be done? How does the economic system we live under affect human behavior and solidarity?

The biggest difference between China and the U.S. is not population size or level of development. It is the type of social system that is in power.

The U.S. is unabashedly capitalist. Billionaires and millionaires control the political system. The people vote, yes, but they have to pick from candidates chosen by the ruling class. Trump is obviously a millionaire, but so is Biden. And Biden is also a serious contender only because he has the backing of the Democratic Party establishment.

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Black vote dumps Trump

Continued from page 1

did not wear face masks, and there was no social distancing, until he and others in his administration tested positive. To date, close to 240,000 people have died in the U.S. from the virus.

Trump openly backed police assaults and arrests on activists in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement following the Floyd lynching. Every police “union” endorsed the reelection of Trump.

Impact of Black Lives Matter

Following the vicious attack on democratic demonstrators by federal troops and police in Washington, D.C., on June 1 in front of the White House, paving the way for Trump to have a photo op with a bible in his hand, it was reported that voter registration increased dramatically during the BLM-led protests.

In the first half of June, more than 1 million registered to vote, compared to 1.5 million during the whole month of June 2016. Before June 1, there had been a decline in voter registration due to the coronavirus pandemic.

According to Pew Research Center, an estimated 76% of registered Biden supporters surveyed over the summer said that racial inequality would be a determining factor on who they voted for, compared to 68% surveyed around the question of climate change as a determining factor.

Some grassroots nonprofit groups that organized voter registration projects include Rock the Vote; Color of Change; New Georgia Project, initiated by former state gubernatorial candidate Stacey Abrams; and More Than a Vote, organized by Black National Basketball players like Lebron James to register athletes. Football stadiums and basketball arenas were transformed into voting areas, following a three-day strike by NBA playoff teams following the police shooting of Jacob Blake in Kenosha, Wis.

The threat of voter suppression was also on the minds of these voting rights projects and rightfully so. Trump cried “voter fraud” in mainly cities like Philadelphia, Milwaukee and Detroit with large Black and brown populations who voted early by mail to help defeat Trump. Some of his supporters went to voting centers to try to intimidate and physically stop poll workers from counting votes.

With the changing of the guard in the White House, there is the immediate question of how will Trump’s neofascist base react to the defeat, especially with his not conceding defeat? How will the workers, organized and unorganized, along with revolutionaries and socialists respond to any right-wing attacks? These questions and many more will be answered in due time.

The electoral defeat of Trump has invigorated the more than 74 million people who voted for Biden and Harris, but it can’t be discounted that 70 million people voted for Trump. What also can’t be discounted is that an election cannot vote away police terror, mass incarceration, the lack of employment, the lack of affordable housing or education. The members of the Atlanta Dream— the WNBA basketball team Loeffler partially owns—are wearing Vote for Warmth T-shirts.

The other Senate seat is currently held by Sen. David Perdue, a wealthy businessman who was appointed to the influential Georgia State Board by his cousin, then-Governor Sonny Perdue, before David Perdue jumped into the Senate race. Perdue’s opponent is Jon Ossoff, who barely lost a U.S. House election in 2018.

As the first postelection demonstration in Buffalo, N.Y., on Nov. 4, workers gathered in front of the Desde House, waving signs that read: “No matter who wins, we lose!” By Lydian Dodef

Workers World Party and the Green Party of Erie County held a jointly sponsored protest, which was called “No matter who wins, we lose!” on Nov. 4 evening. While most of the country is enraptured by the drama of the phony U.S. democracy, the demonstration carried the message that we must not relent in our work as activists in the streets.

No matter who sits in the Oval Office— class struggle, not electoral politics— is in the cards for oppressed people.

The rally drew around 50 left-wing activists. The two scheduled speakers of the event were Sandy Prybylak of the Green Party and RJ Red from Workers World Party. After the main speakers, an open atmosphere encouraged people to take the megaphone who do not often have the chance to have their voices heard. The evening was capped off by WWP friend Knaviye Jumale, who spoke about her experience as an African immigrant, and Elise Schreiber (Seneca) who reminded people to take the megaphone who do not often have the chance to have their voices heard.

County sheriffs campaigned on the promise of ending the program and won decisively.

Buffalo, N.Y.

‘No matter who wins, we lose!’

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Georgia remains squarely in the national spotlight with two Senate seats in a runoff scheduled for Jan. 5. Sen. Kelly Loeffler, appointed to the Senate position by Governor Kemp, touts her 100% record of support for Trump. Her opponent is Rev. Raphael Warnock, well-known pastor of the historic Ebenezer Baptist Church, long identified with Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and his family.

Many officials, who has described herself as being to “the right of Attila the Hun” in a series of TV ads, has so publicly dis- paraged the Black Lives Matter movement that the members of the Atlanta Dream— the WNBA basketball team Loeffler partially owns—are wearing Vote for Warmth T-shirts.

The other Senate seat is currently held by Sen. David Perdue, a wealthy business- man who was appointed to the influen- tial Georgia State Board by his cousin, then-Governor Sonny Perdue, before David Perdue jumped into the Senate race. Six years ago, David Perdue’s opponent Jon Ossoff, who barely lost a U.S. House election in 2018, heads a documentary film company that investigates corruption and other criminal behavior internationally.

At stake is potential Democratic con- trol of the U.S. Senate, possibly ending a barrier to COVID stimulus legislation sought by millions without jobs, health care, affordable housing or education.

The many I spoke with on Saturday who celebrated Biden’s electoral victory said, “voting is just one element of the struggle for real justice. What people do afterwards is decisive.”
The following is a brief excerpt from an article about the U.S. elections, including commentary on the election's outcomes.

The election of Trump in 2016 reflected the decadence of the United States. His presidency has accentuated that decadence. The social crisis has worsened for years. Most of the people of the greatest capitalist power live in poverty, even if they have a job. At the same time, the ruling class accumulates obscene wealth.

Inequality has reached unprecedented levels for many decades. The disaster of COVID-19 in the U.S. reflects Trump's and Biden's anti-Communist politization of the epidemic. But it reflects much more than that: the absence of a national health service and basic labor rights such as sick leave and glaring levels of police repression.

The election of Trump in 2016, like the election of Obama in 2008, was due in part to deep discontent under the surface. The discontent had been building up and that sentiment was shot up when police abandoned amidst growing tension and fear gripping the troubled and disease-ridden country. We unequivocally condemn reports of armed militia, who back the embattled president, roaming the streets and interfering with voting processes.

We condemn the pronouncements by the unhinged Trump and call on the People's Congress to multi-state action to slow the spread of COVID-19. We also call on the People's Front of Working People to multi-state action to slow the spread of the coronavirus. We call for an end to police brutality and for the rights of workers to be respected. We call for an end to all forms of racism and for the rights of workers to be respected.

The following is an edited interview conducted by John Catalinotto, Workers World managing editor.

Larry Holmes:

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Nov. 9 — The 2020 presidential election ended just short of noon ET on Nov. 7, when networks announced that former Vice President Joe Biden had passed the 270 Electoral College votes needed to be declared a winner. Although Biden’s delegate count is now closer to 300, much of the progressive movement are stunned that Donald Trump received over 70 million popular votes in spite of his blatant failure to contain the coronavirus pandemic and his rabid embrace of far right, racist and neo-fascist elements.

While the vote counting is still ongoing, there are strong signs of hope in the variety of progressive referendums passed on state and local ballots.

Stop the cops!

Spurred by mass protest against the cops killing of George Floyd in May, 18 police-related measures were on the Nov. 3 ballot in nine cities and four counties in six states. The measures related to police practices on use of force boards, staffing, funding, the use of police bodycams and more. At least ten measures designed to curtail police abuse passed.

Measure B in San Diego, Calif., replaced the existing police review board with one appointed by the City Council and having the power to conduct investigations and also subpoena witnesses and documents related to deaths from police interactions and other complaints against police officers.

Nov. 3 ballot in San Francisco removed mandatory police staffing levels from the city’s charter. In Portland, Ore., Measure 26-217 established a new police oversight board in the city’s charter. Question 1 on the ballot in Philadelphia added language to the city’s charter calling for police to “eliminate the practice of unconstitutional stop and frisk, consistent with judicial precedent.”

In Washington state’s King County, voters approved Charter Amendment 1 requiring investigating into all police-related deaths and providing public attorney representation to the decedent’s family during the investigations. The full impact of all these measures remains to be seen, but their passage clearly reflects the ongoing broad and vehe- me nt movement against police brutality.

More progressive wins

Ballot referenda for a $15-per-hour minimum wage passed in Portland, Maine, and Florida, despite that state’s precedent-setting 2016 vote going to Trump. Portland also voted for rent control, against facial surveillance and for a local Green New Deal. Voters in Wisconsin, Arizona and elsewhere passed referenda to increase public school funding.

In Boulder, Colo., a No Eviction Without Representation measure will tax landlords and use the money for legal representation for tenants facing eviction. Colorado also defeated an attempt to restrict abortions, family leave and medical leave. Oregon voters supported a “tax the rich” resolution to fund universal health care. Several state and local voters approved decriminalizing a range of drugs.

In Mississippi 73 percent of voters finally rejected the “Lest Cause” of the enacting Confederacy by adopting a new state flag with the former Confederate symbol removed.

Gains in representation

While several centrist Democrats failed to win over incumbent Republicans on the state and local levels, many progressive incumbents were re-elected by wide margins. Winners included “the Squad” of women of color and immigrant descent frequently demonized by Trump: Ilhan Omar, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Ayanna Pressley and Rashida Tlaib.

Other gains were widespread throughout the country. In New York state progressive educator Jamaal Bowman defeated an entrenched incumbent representative, while in Missouri Cori Bush became the first Black woman to represent the state in Congress. Kim Jackson, a lesbian social justice advocate, became the first openly queer member of the Georgia Senate. In Florida, Shervin Jones is now the first openly gay member of the state’s Senate, while Michele Rayner-Goolsby is the first openly queer Black woman elected to its House of Representatives. In Kansas, Stephanie Byers, who is Indigenous, was elected as the state’s first transgender legislative member.

Desperate conditions demand faster change

All of these wins are to be applauded, but relying on the electoral process for change is too late in the midst of country-wide crises. Millions of workers continue to remain unjustly incarcerated by the U.S. justice system. Nearly a quarter million have already died from COVID-19. Millions face job loss and the inability to feed and house their families. Police brutality, while challenged, continues to attack the lives of Black and Brown people. And in this election, no effective measures to curtail environmental destruction were on ballots for voters to okay.

Working and oppressed people in the U.S. are in desperate need of real social and economic change. Stopping Trump is important, but fighting capitalism—and its attacks on workers and oppressed people—must be the goal. This oppressive system can’t be voted away with a ballot initiative. We need a people’s revolution. This is change that for socialism can bring on!

By Betsey Piette

After ‘Defund Police’ victory, Portland keeps marching

By Lyn Neely

Portland Labor, Ore.

After 170 days of uninterrupted protests against racism, fascism and police brutality, 82 percent of Portlanders have voted for a community oversight board to investigate and discipline cases of police violence.

Since the brutal lynching of George Floyd by Minneapolis police, protests have finally led to this measure to partially curtail police abuse. The board will “investigate police misconduct cases related to death, use of force, and discrimination — and to mandate officer discipline, including an officer’s termination, without a police chief’s approval.” (tinyurl.com/yy37v9gr)

Portland Labor for BLM Against Fascism, a newly formed group, joined the Nov. 4 “Count Every Vote” rally organized by the Democratic Delegation Coalition. Hundreds of workers, unionists and unemployed people, many wearing union tee shirts, gathered at Portland’s Revolution Hall and marched across the river to Waterfront Park. They were joined by protesters from a second rally organized by the Pacific Northwest Community Action Network. Speakers addressed Trump’s attempts to sabotage the election and prevent votes from being counted in other states. Black Lives Matter demonstrators joined the rally and then marched through downtown Portland later in the evening.

Protests continued in Portland all week after the election. On Nov. 7, 300 people took part in a Black Lives Matter march called “Break the White Silence.” Demonstrators carried signs saying “Just because Biden won doesn’t mean the job is done” and “The Vote Is Over. The Fight Goes On.”

On Nov. 8, a rally for Black Lives Matter and to defend workers’ rights ended with a silent vigil for eight minutes and 46 seconds in remembrance of George Floyd. The rally was organized by Jobs with Justice, Labor Action to Defend Democracy and the Black-led group J.U.I.C.E. (Justice, Unity, Integrity, Community, Equality).

Drug decriminalization: It works!

By Harmony Rodriguez

In Portugal, the drug policy since 2001 has been focused on decriminalization and treatment. The country decriminalized the use and possession of small amounts of drugs, which led to a fall in HIV, hepatitis B, and overdose rates, as well as overdose rates. People who had predicted that such a policy would cause a rise in drug use were proven wrong; fewer people there now use hard drugs.

Prior to the drug decriminalization policy, illnesses like HIV, hepatitis B, hepatitis C, and tuberculosis were on the rise in drug-injecting groups. Portugal didn’t just expand drug treatment spending, it expanded its welfare state and this aided in dealing with the drug problem.

In this year’s election, in which Trump and Biden were duties being duties at the top of the ticket, Oregon passed Measure 110. M-110 decriminalizes small amounts of drugs, including so-called ‘hard drugs’ like crystal methamphetamine and heroin. Additionally, money from the state’s marijuana tax revenue is to go towards drug treatment programs.

Why is this new drug policy important? It will serve as a pilot program for other states looking to end the supposed “War on Drugs,” which has driven a rise in mass incarceration.

Based in New York state, the Drug Policy Alliance, which supported legalizing marijuana in Oregon, was the primary backer of the Yes on M-110 campaign. The Alliance backs decriminalization of all drugs and supports the legalization of marijuana in all 50 states. The United States spends $1 trillion on drug criminalization and the War on Drugs, with out any major achievements. The DPA supports the repeal of the Controlled Substances Act and the abolition of the Drug Enforcement Administration.

Decriminalization involves the elimination of punishment for possession of small amounts of drugs, drug paraphernalia such as needles and syringes, and low-level drug sales. This would save money spent on prisons, prioritize drug treatment above carceral non-solutions, and remove barriers to marijuana legalization and heroin/methadone/buprenorphine-assisted treatment.

In Portugal, drug use levels remained about the same before and during decriminalization, but overdoes, HIV and AIDS diagnoses, and crime spend- ing went down. This is what we can look forward to if the whole U.S. goes down the path of decriminalization.
When the incumbent U.S. president declared that he had won the election, but that it was rigged, which is why he went to the courts, he then once again changed the structure of the U.S. state system to make it recognizable. Billionaires like him don’t even bother with a façade democracy, but instead they throw a political party with all the trappings of vulgarity, criminal energy, enjoyment of dispossession, habitual corruption, infamous me-me shouting, including state-terror-assassinating regime and so on. Trump may have not started a great war, but he did everything he could to make future wars “great again.”

A President Joseph Biden will probably slow down the [U.S.] decline, but nothing is certain. After all, for almost 50 years he was one of the people high up in Washington who helped to bring the United States into the impasse in which it up to recently the “only superpower” today finds itself.

**Revolutionaries worldwide on U.S. elections**

**Continued from page 7**

**Some things remain: Trump, Biden and the U.S. elections**

*By Arnold Schätzle*

Junge Welt daily newspaper, Germany

The simultaneous protests in Nigeria and the United States are a positive development. It warms my heart to witness the long traditions of Black women and femmes continuing and driving political movements forward. From Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth during the 19th-century abolition movement, to today’s pro-Black Lives Matter organizations, Americans have been rendered invisible and women have played in the #EndSARS movement. While a large focus on police brutality centers on cis men, women are also victims of sexual violence at the hands of SARS and the Nigerian police in general. One grassroots organization in particular, the Feminist Coalition, is playing a pivotal role in the ongoing protests, providing food, shelter and medical treatment to protesters fighting for an end to police brutality.

Black Lives Matter was founded in the U.S. in 2012 by Civil Rights War policy, the danger of an openly fascist overthrow in the short term should not be underestimated in a U.S. brought to the point of ignition by the systemic crisis of capitalism. This election remains in fact marked by the daily decline of the hegemon, which wanted to be bigger than China, not to mention the record of health problems that cannot be compared, either remotely or closely, to that of China, not to mention the record of Cuba or Venezuela, both of which are under an American blockade.

If there is one thing that is certain, it is that the openly pro-fascist Trump, the current President of the United States of America, is a clear loser at the ballot box in the American general elections that are drawing to a close. This is obviously not a surprise. Not that the candidate nominated by the Democratic Party leadership after a completely unfair “primary” process—which once again discarded the most progressive candidate of Bernie Sanders—raises any enthusiasm.

Let us also recall at the international level that Biden, Obama’s right-hand man in every sense of the word, makes no secret of his intention to continue his ambitious warfare program and to step up the imperialist wars waged by Washington against the peoples who dare to claim sovereignty and a multi-polar world, and above all toward those states that are considered as Cuba, Venezuela, Bolivia and North Korea.

While there is nothing to be expected from the U.S. on the international level, since Trump and Biden are two similar political parties with all the trimmings of a violent outburst is by no means to be excluded than here the means of its frank and direct expression, so explosive, and the class struggle there lacks even more ---

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**By Olujimi Alade**

As a Nigerian-American, I was very disappointed with myself for lack of knowledge about #EndSARS protests in Nigeria that have captivated the world recently. (In Nigeria, SARS stands for the so-called “Special Anti-Robbery Squad” police force unit.)

The dissonance between my words and my action was painfully obvious. I’ve been saying that all Black lives should matter, no matter what part of the world they inhabit, and I was ignoring an important movement from my mother country. Rectifying that, I spent the past week reading up on #EndSARS protests. As I read, I noticed similarities between violent police raids put out by SARS in Nigeria and violence doled out by the “men in blue” in the U.S. Both forces rely on profiling in order to identify and gets for their attacks. The SARS forces carouse the streets looking for “suspects” based on certain lifestyle traits, such as the clothing they are wearing or the jewelry on their wrists. SARS used this disturbing method on Oct. 3 to rob a young black man in Ughelli, a town in southeastern Nigeria. He was killed for the dangerous crime of driving a Lexus. Two days later, SARS forces shot and killed Daniel Chibuke, a 20-year-old up-and-coming rapper, for daring to sit in his car.

In Nigeria the deaths of the two young men became a call to action for that country’s marginalized, just like Trayvon Martin’s death in 2012 provided the impetus for the Black Lives Matter movement in the U.S.

Nigerian LGBTQ+ resistance builds

Learning about the origin of the #EndSARS movement piqued my interest. To find out more about this grassroots organizing, I googled SARS and discovered this hashtag: #QueerNigerianLivesMatter. Seeing those four words pleasantly surprised me as it’s not often that LGBTQ+ people in Nigeria are granted such visibility. There, as in the States, queer and trans people live under the specter of police violence. Earlier this year, police raided a Lagos Hotel and arrested 87 men on the mere suspicion of being gay. Similar police raids are conducted all over Nigeria on gay men and lesbian women.

Since President Muhammadu Buhari signed the 2014 Same Sex Marriage Prohibition Act into law, police violence against queer and trans people has skyrocketed. It is noteworthy that many queer and trans people from the colonial era when the British instituted puritanical, Western-style sex norms in Nigeria were granted such visibility. The Stonewall Rebellion in the modern day, Queer and trans Nigerians’ fight to have the #EndSARS movement recognize their trials and tribulations mirrors the fight for Black LGBTQ+ people to gain visibility.

In Nigeria, people such as non-binary activist Matthew Blaise and queer liberation organizer Ayo Kelechi have been murdered for their activism. The #EndSARS movement has taken the fight for Black LGBTQ+ people to the streets. The #EndSARS movement was named in honor of Daniel Chibuke, a young man who died because of medical negligence by medical workers.org    Nov. 12, 2020    Page 9
Get out, 45!

President-elect Joe Biden probably scored points with voters when he said, bluntly, to the 45th president: “Will you shut up already?”

But Trump is defying tradition and insisting, over appeals from some of his advisors and family members and with zero proof, that the election is being stolen from him. A captive Republican Party, with a few notable exceptions, has so far allowed him to rule the right wing — after more days of posturing and tantrums and baseless legal attacks — accepts defeat remains to be seen.

Accepts defeat remains to be seen. If a smooth transition to a Biden presidency is the best case scenario for workers and oppressed people, it leaves a lot to be desired.

Once elections are out of the way, capitalists politicians usually commence a wide range of vicious bipartisan acts from sanctions and war to expelling the prison-industrial complex. The exploitation of labor by capital goes on regardless of who controls the branches of government, despite all the blather about compassion, empathy and the sanctity of democracy.

This since election, mainstream Democrats have wasted no time in denouncing the party’s “progressive” wing, blaming key losses in the House and Senate on candidates who raised Medicare for All, “Defund the Police,” and a “Green New Deal.”

A lot of their ire is directed at the four women of color known as ‘The Squad,’ even though Ayanna Pressley, Ilhan Omar, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (AOC) and Rashida Tlaib easily won reelection to Congress. Ocasio-Cortez pointed out in a post-election interview: “Every single candidate that co-sponsored Medicare for All in a swing district kept their seat.”

When the interviewer asked, “What if the administration is hostile? If they take the [former Republican governor of Ohio] John Kasich view of who Joe Biden should be?” Ocasio-Cortez replied, “It’s going to be really hard after immigrating youth activists helped potentially deliver Arizona and Nevada. It’s going to be really hard after Detroit and Rashida Tlaib ran up the numbers in her district.”

Arguing “electability,” the Biden win is being used to counter progressives. The New York Times cites examples where voters picked Biden but voted for Republicans in Senate and House races. But the flip side is that many reluctantly voted for Biden to get rid of Trump but skipped over the rest of the ballot because they didn’t see much difference between the candidates.

Socialist-baiting is not the sole province of the Republicans. “We need to reframe the words ‘socialist’ or ‘socialism’ ever again,” Virginia’s Democratic Congresswoman Abigail Spanberger stated. Biden repeatedly bragged that he “beat the socialist” — a reference to Bernie Sanders. (wjla.com)

In fact, the only meaningful message to workers worried about their future is a real socialist program. Reforms under the capitalist system of exploitation go only so far. Any serious threat to Wall Street’s bottom line will face a right-wing backlash — and a Biden administration won’t offer up a serious challenge.

Stay in the streets — and not just to dance. Keep your marching shoes nearby.

Marxism, Reparations & the Black Freedom Struggle

An anthology of writings from Workers World newspaper. Edited by Monica Moorehead.

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

Available at online booksellers and workers.org/books

Philly celebrates, pledges to keep fighting

Continued from page 8

Matter Philly, Mobilization For Mumia, the International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal, the MOVE Organization, Anakhanay Philly, Socialist Alternative, the Black and Brown Coalition, the Black Trans Assembly for Abolition, Abolition Project, Food Not Bombs Solidarity, the Party for Socialism and Liberation and the Democratic Socialists of America. It also includes rank-and-file members of the Temple Association of University Professionals, Philadelphia Joint Board Workers, the International Electrical Workers (IBEW), the Philadelphia Federation of Teachers, and retired postal workers.

Organizers from this impressive alliance gathered for a rally at City Hall, where hundreds joined in to voice their commitment to the principles that unite them: opposition to white supremacy; abolishing police and carceral violence; and defending workers rights.

“We’re gonna keep our feet on the gas,” said Kempis Ghani Songster of the Amistad Law Project, who opened the rally. “We don’t care about your mandate,” Songster said, referring to the recent electoral victory of the Democrats, “Our movement has a mandate!

For the first time ever, we have a woman in the White House. Make no mistake, women of color showed up strong. So let’s salute our sisters; let’s salute all women, but especially those who are always forgotten. They got Trump out of there. Now we have a woman of color in the White House, which is poetic, con-sidering her political career on birtherism, which is essentially delegitimizing nonwhite people in positions of power.

“But the real story. Women in seats of power don’t necessarily translate into power for women, if those women are upholding patriarchy and white male domination. Just as Black people in seats of power don’t translate into the empowerment of Black communities. We know [Kamala Harris] history — we know her history, especially as it relates to the Black community. And we know Biden’s history.”

‘Fighting injustice is a lifelong struggle’

Vanessa Maria of Philly Boricuas told the growing crowd, ‘Fighting against injustice is a lifelong struggle. We have to be committed to organizing beyond this election and to fighting for the rest of our lives, not just to make sure that we’re free, but that everybody is free. We have millions of comrades who are behind bars right now, who don’t have a say in what’s happening in these elections. We have to continue to fight for them and to free them all.”

Tamaranda Anderson from the Racial Justice Organizing Committee explained the history of Philadelphia arch-racist mayor and police commissioner Frank Rizzo and gave an emotional appeal. “Just like how America has never achieved the promise of democracy for all its citizens, American public schools have not achieved equity, democracy, and liberation for all of her students. If this Philadelphia is where the history of America began, then we should be the leader in showing everyone else what it should be.”

Gabe Bryant from the Black Philly Radical Collective came to the rally straight from the funeral of Walter Wallace, Jr., saying: “Although we may have slayed the dragon today, we have several more dragons out there to fight.”

“If you been fighting, if you been campaigning, if you been hitting the streets, if you been dismantling, if you been destroying, you know it in your heart that today felt a little bit still a little bit yesterday,” he said. “Because you’re gonna keep fighting; you’re gonna keep building; you’re gonna keep collaborating; you’re gonna keep fighting, if you been dismantling, if you been destroying, if you been building, if you been representing the interests of who controls the branches of government, despite all the blather about compassion, empathy and the sanctity of democracy.”

“Justice for Walter Wallace! Free Andy!”

Hundreds of workers marched behind the United Front’s banners from City Hall to Rittenhouse Square, one of the city’s wealthiest neighborhoods, demanding justice for Walter Wallace Jr. and calling for the release of Anthony Smith, a local organizer who was arrested on false charges by federal forces. Several people in outdoor restaurant seating stood and applauded the march and joined in with “Justice for Walter Wallace” chants.

Fermin Morales, a union worker and member of Philly Boricuas, took to the mic after the march wound its way around Center City, where it picked up hundreds more protesters to swell the ranks of the United Front. He proudly and uncompromisingly declared that he was a socialist and that this movement should be ashamed to say it: "When you become a socialist, you stop being a racist. Socialism is the way we will end racism and imperialism. Don’t learn about socialism from a capitalist! Learn what socialism really is!”

Keep your marching shoes nearby.

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by John Catalinotto.

Matters to come are matters to be thought about by COVID, by the capitalist crisis, by the struggles calling for a general strike if Trump is not removed from office. Morales is expected to return to Bolivia from exile on Nov. 9 for a triumphant caravan. Translation by John Catalinotto.

Bolivia

Massive rally ushers in new MAS government

By Marco Teruggi

La Paz, Bolivia

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Bolivia
¡La autodefensa es un derecho!  
estáta en California contra  
violencia doméstica

Por Judy Greenspan

23 de octubre — El coro de “La autodefensa no es un crimen! Liberen a nuestros hermanos que cumplen condenas!” sonó hoy en el edificio de la Corte Superior del Condado de Kern en apoyo de dos mujeres que se defendieron a sí mismas y a sus familias contra parejas abusivas. 

Las sobrevivientes de violencia doméstica, personas anteriormente encarceladas, activistas por la abolición de la prisión, crímenes y familares que convergen en el tribunal estuvieron allí en apoyo de Wendy Howard, una mujer blanca que enfrenta cargos de asesinato en primer grado por matar a su compañero abusivo, y Michaela Bowers, una mujer negra encarcelada desde febrero de 2017 por defenderse de su abusador. 

Howard — una madre, abuela y líder de la comunidad en el condado de Kern — no pudo hablar en el mitin debido a una “orden de mandada” de la corte. Fue representada por amigos y varios de sus hijos, que llevaban fotos de su madre con las palabras “Justicia para Wendy”. La hija mayor, Miranda, habló de la violencia que había sufrido la familia y de por qué creen que Howard no debería ser encarcelada por defenderse a sí misma y a sus hijas del abuso físico. 

También se leyó una declaración del hijo de Michael Bowers, Orlynn Bailey, durante la manifestación. Aunque dos jueces en desacuerdo han producido juicios erróneos en el caso de Bowers, Bailey señaló: “El fiscal insiste en mantener a mi madre encarcelada”. 

Bailey también criticó el racismo del sistema de justicia del condado de Kern: “El condado de Kern sigue marginando a los negros a través de la aplicación de la ley y el sistema judicial. Hay grandes disparidades entre las mujeres negras y las mujeres caucásicas que enfrentan cargos similares, y las mujeres negras suelen cumplir sentencias más severas”. 

Un grupo de comunidad que apoya ambos casos es Survived and Punished, con sede en Los Ángeles. Varios miembros hablaron en la manifestación en nombre de ambas mujeres. Alisa Bierria vinculó la lucha de las mujeres maltratadas con el Black Lives Matter Movement, diciendo: “Estamos aquí para ganar justicia para Michaela Bowers y Wendy Howard. Y recuerden que Black Lives Matter incluye vidas negras que son víctimas de violencia doméstica”. 

Bierria añadió: “Diga su nombre” para todas las mujeres negras cuyas vidas se han perdido por la violencia policial, y también para todas aquellas mujeres negras que siguen vivas pero no están con sus familias porque han sido atacadas y criminalizadas y encarceladas”. 

Lucha contra la violencia doméstica

Después de la charla, el grupo se reunió en la oficina de la Fiscal de Distrito Cynthia Zimmer, que está procesando los casos. Allí la gente sacó sus teléfonos celulares y marcó a Zimmer, exigiendo que retirara todos los cargos contra Bowers y Howard. “Retiren los cargos ahora!” sonó durante todo el día. 

El mitin estaba programado para coincidir con una audiencia para Howard, cuyo juicio se pospone hasta finales de marzo de 2021. Permanece libre bajo fianza hasta entonces pero bajo la sombra de una posible sentencia a cadena perpetua. 

Mientras Howard estaba en la cárcel del condado de Kern, conoció a Bowers y a otras mujeres con cargos similares. Ahora Bowers y Howard están luchando por retirar los cargos y educar a la comunidad sobre las diferencias de los sobrevivientes de la violencia doméstica. 

La protesta, durante el mes de octubre, fue organizada y coordinada por No Justice Under Capitalism (No hay justicia bajo el capitalismo), una coalición del área de la bahía que protestaba por las condiciones dentro de las prisiones para las personas con COVID, y Survived and Punished (Sobrevivida y Castigada), que apoya a las mujeres encarceladas y a los trans sexuales dentro de las prisiones de mujeres. 

Para obtener más información, consulte el equipo y el comunicado de prensa de Violencia Doméstica y Procesamiento de la Autodefensa preparado por la NUWC.

El Departamento de Seguridad Nacional de EE.UU. ha tenido un papel relevante en la separación de padres e hijos a través de la estrategia de construcción del “enjaulamiento” de las familias migrantes y de las familias indígenas al exilio, donde muchas murieron de hambre. 

El “enjaulamiento” de las familias migrantes y de las familias indígenas al exilio, donde muchas murieron de hambre, es una forma de la estructura misma de los Estados Unidos como país imperialista sigue descansando en ataques sistemáticos y legalmente “justificados” de supremacía blanca contra las comunidades de indígenas, negras y mestizas. 

Niños perdidos — y el imperio de los EE.UU.

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Estas protestas deben continuar — constantemente y efectivamente — contra todas las políticas racistas de los Estados Unidos que atacan, socavan y atropellan las comunidades negras. 

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