

Release the evidence and Arrest killers of Breonna Taylor!

By Monica Moorehead

Sept. 28 — Protests erupted around the U.S. on Sept. 23 when the announcement first came down that no police officer would be charged in the murder of Breonna Taylor. She had been shot to death in her bed in Louisville, Ky., on March 13.

These protests took place in the thousands over multiple days in both Louisville and New York City.

In New York, an interstate and a bridge between Brooklyn and Manhattan were both shut down.

In Louisville, demonstrators defied curfews and risked arrest as local police and the National Guard attempted to intimidate them with tear gas and swinging batons. Among those arrested were state Rep. Attica Scott (D), the only Black woman state legislator in Kentucky, who is facing one felony count for “rioting” and two misdemeanor charges.

Other protests took place in large and small cities, including Philadelphia, Seattle, St. Louis, Denver, Nashville, Tenn., Oakland, Calif., Boston, Detroit, Eugene, Ore., Los Angeles, Chicago, Washington, and elsewhere. Athletes and



Outraged by grand jury ruling, protesters shut down I-64 in Louisville, Ky., on Sept. 24.

coaches expressed anger and frustration in the National Basketball Association and Women’s NBA playoff bubbles. All the teams in the WNBA have devoted their playoffs to Breonna Taylor.

The University of Louisville men’s basketball team led a protest on Sept. 25 in Louisville.

The main political themes of these demonstrations, besides “Arrest the killers of Breonna Taylor,” were also “Abolish the police!” and “Defund the police!”

The murder of Taylor has generated

a national outcry demanding police accountability for the murders of Black and Brown women, men and children and in defense of Black Lives Matter.

More than six months after the heinous March 13 murder of Taylor — a 26-year-old African American emergency medical technician — by three white Louisville, Ky., police officers, a secret grand jury on Sept. 23 charged only one of those officers with three counts of “wanton endangerment.” And this was after four months of supposed investigation.

What does this mean exactly? It means that Officer Brett Hankison was charged only with endangering others, when bullets he sprayed into Taylor’s apartment traveled into a neighboring unit, threatening the lives of three neighbors, who are white. Not one single charge was filed against the other two cops. Hankison is now out on \$15,000 bail.

Kentucky Attorney General Daniel Cameron (R) made the announcement, explaining that the three cops were justified in shooting multiple rounds — six of which hit Taylor as she was sleeping — in “self-defense.” Taylor’s partner, Kenneth Walker, shot at the cops when they broke down Taylor’s door with a battering ram.

Cameron’s claims that Walker wounded one of the cops turned out to be false based on a recent ballistics report. (courier-journal.com, Sept. 27)

They were carrying out a “no-knock” search warrant during an ill-advised drug bust.

Walker stated that the cops never announced who they were, as he tried to defend Taylor and himself. Rep. Scott proposed a statewide law to negate the “no-knock” warrant, which was recently

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The Left, the election crisis & ‘the elephant in the room’

By Larry Holmes

The writer is First Secretary of Workers World Party.

The head of the U.S. Postal Service is sabotaging delivery of ballots through the mail. Trump is acting like he won’t step down even if he’s defeated in the elections. And it appears that right-wing and neo-fascist forces, who have guns, are getting ready to go into the streets after the elections to support an attempted coup. Every group and activist ready to fight fascism in the streets should be making preparations

right now to intervene in the event of any fascist developments in November.

The political crisis in the ruling class that is playing itself out in the presidential election is not really about Trump, any more than it’s about saving democracy, decency and all the other stuff that Democratic Party leaders are shouting about.

This crisis is about the capitalist system starting to break down and fall apart, and what must be done to rescue capitalism and U.S. imperialism from demise.

This crisis has been building for a long time. The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated the course of the crisis; it’s

like pouring gasoline on a burning police station.

What will the working class do?

The working class is the elephant in the room. In the past, when communist and socialist political parties were strong, especially in developed imperialist countries with large working classes, when a political crisis developed in the ruling class, the response by a militant communist would be: “What is the working class going to do about this?” Communist leaders like Rosa Luxemburg, Antonio Gramsci, or Harry Haywood would ask

their comrades: “How can the working class intervene in this crisis to defend its own class interests?”

During the times when these noted revolutionaries were active in Germany, Italy, and the U.S., it was understood by all the cadre and militants in the working class that the working class was ultimately the only class that could change the big equation — and finally, end capitalism. Moreover, it was understood that if the working class did not intervene during a political crisis, something very bad might happen, like the faction within

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Jalil Muntaqim scheduled for release — Free them all!

By Judy Greenspan

The New York State Parole Board has finally ordered the release of Jalil Muntaqim, aka Anthony Bottom, a former member of the Black Panther Party and the Black Liberation Army. Imprisoned for nearly 50 years, since he was 19, Muntaqim is one of the longest-held political prisoners in the world.

At the end of April, the New York State Supreme Court ordered Muntaqim released because both his age and serious medical conditions, including heart disease and chronic respiratory conditions, made him vulnerable to the coronavirus. Before he could be freed, however, Muntaqim contracted COVID-19, became very ill and was hospitalized.

Fortunately, he recovered and survived, no thanks to the murderous and unforgiving prison system.

Muntaqim was born and raised in Oakland, Calif. He was arrested with Albert “Nuh” Washington after a shoot-out with San Francisco police in 1971, shortly after George Jackson was assassinated at San Quentin prison. Muntaqim was later charged with the shooting of two police officers in Harlem, N.Y. He was prosecuted with Washington and Herman Bell, both former Black Panther Party members.

Washington died in prison in 2000 and Bell was released on parole in 2018.

There is still a group of political activists and revolutionaries like Muntaqim who have been held

hostage for decades in U.S. prisons for their radical and revolutionary activities against racism, police terror, occupation and U.S. military interventions.

Leonard Peltier, Edward Poindexter, Mumia Abu-Jamal, Sundiata Acoli, Dr. Mutulu Shakur, Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin, and David Gilbert are only a few. For more information about U.S. political prisoners, check out freedomarchives.org and thejerichomovement.com.

The Prisoners Solidarity Committee of Workers World Party welcomes the announcement of the release of Jalil Muntaqim. It is long overdue and every additional day that he spends in prison is a threat to his life.

The PSC demands the immediate release of all political prisoners and the abolition of this entire prison system, which only serves to oppress the working class, especially Black and Brown poor people of color. □



Jalil Muntaqim



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

Join us in the fight for socialism!

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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Palestinian and Irish hunger strike in prisons in Ireland

By Christian Noakes

Issam Hijjawi-Bassalat, a Palestinian doctor and dedicated ant-imperialist, was arrested on Aug. 24 along with nine members of the Irish Republican Party Saoradh, as a result of entrapment by the British police agency MI5. These arrests are part of the ongoing repression of the Irish Republican movement* by British military and intelligence forces.

The prisoners were taken to British-operated Maghaberry Prison in Antrim, one of the Occupied Six Counties in Ireland's northeast. After undergoing the initial 14-day isolation now being practiced during the COVID-19 pandemic, they were taken to Roe House at Maghaberry, which is used to detain Republican political prisoners.

Due to persisting, numerous health problems, Dr. Hijjawi-Bassalat, who is 62 years old, was taken to an outside hospital for an MRI scan. However, after the procedure he was separated from his comrades and placed in dilapidated Foyle House at the same jail — where non-political prisoners are held — instead of being taken back to Roe House. Authorities claimed that he had to undergo another 14 days of isolation to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

However, this claim is contradicted by the preferential treatment given to loyalist prisoners. The Irish Republican Prisoners Welfare Association (IRPWA) Facebook page posted a message from a Republican prisoner on Roe 4 landing at Maghaberry jail.

It states: "Issam is being needlessly held in the filth and squalor of the occupation's Foyle House in intense pain, unable to sit or lay down. ..."

The statement continues: "There is no logic to Issam being held [there] ... as over the past two-week period, two loyalist prisoners were taken to outside hospitals and returned to loyalist Bush House. They were not forced to endure the 14-day, 24-hour lock-up due to 'COVID isolation'. This is clear proof that the occupiers' MI5-led jail administration is using the isolation of Issam as a tool to persecute Republican Prisoners."

Cases of COVID-19 have been reported

repression, Dr. Hijjawi-Bassalat began a hunger strike on Sept. 16 to demand his return to the jail's Republican wing. He has been joined in his strike by at least 50 Irish Republican political prisoners in both Maghaberry Prison and Portlaoise Jail in County Laois in the Free State (commonly referred to as the "Republic of Ireland").

Women incarcerated at the Hydebank Wood Prison in Belfast began refusing food on Sept. 23, and stated: "We unreservedly support Issam in his hunger strike and his demand for immediate transfer to Republican Roe House." (The Irish News, Sept. 24)

Activists on the outside have also committed to fasting in solidarity. The hunger strikers are continuing the struggle of Irish Republican hunger strikers, such as Bobby Sands. Thirty-nine years ago, this hero fought to the death for political status and basic human dignity.

Dr. Hijjawi-Bassalat's experience in Maghaberry Prison is reflective of the common experience of political prisoners — whether in Ireland or Occupied Palestine. This is true in regard to both the harsh and brutal conditions in the jails and the prisoners' means of resistance.

Much like Irish political prisoners, Palestinians have a long history of demanding their humanity through tactics such as hunger strikes. Like their anti-imperialist comrades resisting oppression in Ireland, over 300 prisoners plan to go on hunger strike



Irish-Palestinian Solidarity mural on Falls Road peace wall that separates Belfast's Catholic and Protestant communities.

in Foyle House, too. Additionally, there is plenty of room in the Republican section at Roe House to allow Dr. Hijjawi-Bassalat to be in isolation, say Republican activists.

In response to such blatant, brutal

Federal executions paused, racism continues

By Gloria Rubac
Houston

In the previous 56 years, the U.S. government had executed just three prisoners. But in 2020, seven federal executions have already taken place since July.

The most recent was Christopher Vialva, put to death Sept. 24 at the federal prison in Terre Haute, Ind. He was the first Black prisoner executed as part of the Trump administration's resumption of federal executions after a nearly 20-year pause.



Fighting for an innocent loved one on death row can be a full-time job. Here at the Dept. of Justice, Washington, D.C., the week of Sept. 21 is Eve Allen (middle), who is working to free her brother, Billie Allen, from federal death row. Wana Reed and Rodrick Reed, who are fighting to free Rodrick's brother, Rodney Reed, from Texas death row.

Several families of men on death row protested the two executions during the week of Sept. 21, in Washington, D.C., and outside the prison in Terre Haute. Rodrick and Wana Reed traveled from Bastrop, Texas, to be with the families of the two men about to be murdered. Rodrick Reed, brother of Texas death row prisoner Rodney Reed, said it was time for families and those who want to stop all executions to get together to fight.

Joining them was Delia Perez Meyer of Austin, Texas, the sister of Louis Castro Perez, who has spent decades working to prove her brother's innocence. Eve Allen, the sister of Billie Allen, who is on federal death row, traveled to Terre Haute as well. She proclaims her brother is an artist, an author and innocent. (FreeBillyAllen.com)

Racist injustice system

The issue of racism in the criminal justice system has been out front in the public view following George Floyd's murder by a Minneapolis police officer in May, resulting in outrage and demonstrations across the country.

A Sept. 15 report by the Washington, D.C.-based Death Penalty Information Center

states that Black people remain overrepresented on death rows and that Black people who kill white people are far more likely to be sentenced to death than white people who kill Black people.

According to DPIC, of the 56 inmates currently on federal death row, 26 are Black — almost half — while Black people make up only about 13% of the U.S. population.

No more federal executions are presently scheduled, though the Department of Justice could change that at any time. There is one more state execution set for 2020 — Purvis Payne, a man on Tennessee's death row. Payne may be both innocent and intellectually disabled.

Since 2002, it has been unconstitutional to subject those with intellectual disabilities to the death penalty. Payne has sought an opportunity to present evidence of his intellectual disability, but his effort has been denied by the Tennessee state courts.

African American leaders in Tennessee are urging the governor and the courts to stop Payne's execution. State legislators, legal associations, religious leaders and community activists are demanding DNA testing. Their appeal includes postponement of the Dec. 3 execution date so the Tennessee legislature can amend state law with a procedure for death row

Sept. 24 to protest the appalling conditions, brutality and repression in Israel's Ofer Prison in the Occupied West Bank. (Palestine Information Center, Sept. 22)

Solidarity actions with Dr. Hijjawi-Bassalat and the Republican political prisoners have been held in several cities in the north and in Dublin, as well as in Glasgow, Scotland and London. IRPWA is organizing a 24-hour solidarity fast of "activists from across Ireland" on Sept. 26. They will set up a camp outside Maghaberry jail, picket the Kennedy Center in West Belfast, then travel by car caravan to the prison's gates where they will hold a rally.

How you can help!

In addition to pressuring British occupation forces, supporters from around the world can write letters to the hunger strikers. Contact Samidoun Palestine Prisoners Solidarity Network via Facebook or email at samidoun@samidoun.net. Also, see Irish Republican Prisoner Welfare Association via Facebook.

Anti-imperialists worldwide have a responsibility to show solidarity with political prisoners from Ireland to Palestine. They are imprisoned for us! We are out here for them!

Dr. Hijjawi-Bassalat was returned to Republican Roe House and ended his hunger strike, said Irish Republican Prisoners Welfare Association on Sept. 28.

**Irish Republicans have fought for centuries against British imperialism and for the right of self-determination. The loyalists, on the other hand, support and protect Britain's occupation of the northeastern six counties in Ireland and London's policies of global intervention, repression and exploitation.*

Kathy Durkin contributed to this article.



USPS: den of thieves behind DeJoy

By Joe Piette

Many postal workers and the millions of people who support the U.S. Postal Service think its current problems began June 15, when Louis DeJoy took over as Postmaster General (PMG). However, the initial assault dates back to April 12, 2018, when President Trump’s Executive Order 13829 created the Task Force on the United States Postal System, with Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin as chair.

A Task Force participant, the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB), revealed its real purpose June 21, 2018, with a preliminary plan to restructure the Postal System’s business model, before transforming it into a privately held corporation. “USPS privatization through an initial public offering (IPO) or sale to another entity would require the implementation of significant reforms prior to sale to show a possible path to profitability,” the plan said. (Federal News Network, June 22, 2018)

The final Task Force report was released Dec. 4, 2018. (tinyurl.com/y4egr4hm) It drew quick condemnations from postal workers, unions and supporters.

The National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) said the plan “would dramatically raise mailing costs for ‘commercial mailers’ and shippers, slash the frequency and quality of delivery and gut the standard of living of postal employees by outsourcing their jobs, stripping them of collective bargaining rights and reducing their retirement and workers’ compensation benefits. These recommendations would weaken, not strengthen the Postal Service — and threaten the most efficient and affordable universal postal system in the world.” (tinyurl.com/y2h7c9m3)

The American Postal Workers Union added: “The APWU also believes the Task Force’s recommendations represent the first stage of getting the USPS ready for privatization, the clear goal of the current White House. *All told, the report has no less than 20 attacks on workers’ rights, 13 threats to service and 13 privatization threats.*” (Italics in original) (tinyurl.com/y3bq6kt9)

Step two occurred after the report’s release, when Mnuchin began recruiting executives to fill vacant Postal Board of Governors positions and then replacing then-PMG Megan Brennan with a new Postal leader, one whose opinions were more in line with the views of Mnuchin and the egotistical man in the Oval Office.

Mnuchin assembled the Board of Governors with the Task Force’s agenda in mind. Governors were chosen for their specific skills, history of corporate practices and their business and political ties — elements that would be required in forcing a transition to a privatized post office.

Board candidates were given the Task Force Report to read before they appeared at confirmation hearings in front of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs. Predictably, potential board members repeated some of the Task Force’s recommendations during their hearings, significantly on altering the Universal Service Obligation (frequency of delivery, processing and other standards).

Governors chosen to carry out Task Force recommendations

Mnuchin brought forward six wealthy businessmen (four Republicans and two Democrats), all of whom were approved by the Senate, as required by the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2006. None had experience as workers, managers or executives in the Postal

Service. All six were appointed after the release of the Task Force Report.

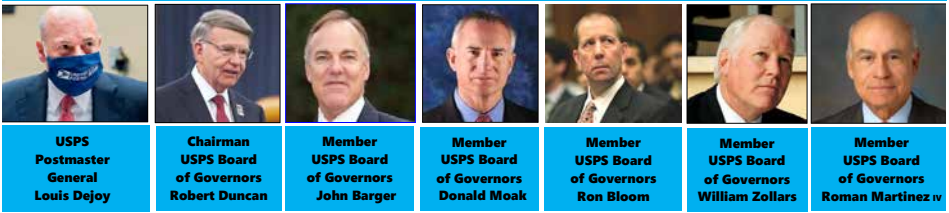
Their backgrounds provide evidence on why they were chosen.

Roman Martinez IV, confirmed by the Senate on Aug. 1, 2019, describes himself as an expert in “public and private financings, mergers and acquisitions, corporate restructurings and overall corporate financial advice.” He worked for

in his first PMG interview. His second talk with postal governors went so badly that Barger repeatedly intervened to help clarify DeJoy’s responses. Williams later resigned in part to protest the new postmaster general’s ascension.

Ron Bloom, confirmed by the Senate on Aug. 20, 2019, is a Democratic Party member of the Board of Governors. As an investment banker, he participated

SAVE THE PEOPLES POSTAL SERVICE! DEPOSE DEJOY & USPS BOARD OF GOVERNORS NOW!



31 years at Lehman Brothers, retiring as Managing Director in 2003. (tinyurl.com/y383bs2h)

Lehman Brothers was implicated in predatory lending in which Black and Brown borrowers were steered to subprime mortgage lenders, while higher-income, white borrowers were served primarily by conventional lending institutions. With \$600 billion in assets, Lehman went bankrupt in 2008 — the largest bankruptcy in U.S. history — triggering the 2008 Great Recession and massive numbers of home foreclosures.

Martinez is on the Board of Directors of CIGNA, making \$336,440 annually, in addition to owning \$7 million in company stock. He is also on the Boards of ORBITAL ATK INC, Bacardi Ltd., Greenpoint Financial Corp. and New York Presbyterian Hospital.

Martinez’ family came to the U.S. when he was 12, as part of the 1960 wave of wealthy and professional Cubans who fled after the popular overthrow of dictator Fulgencio Batista.

William Zollars, confirmed by the Senate on June 18, “led large organizations in three different Fortune 500 companies (YRC, Kodak and Ryder) and served on the board of directors of four different Fortune 500 companies.” He was chosen even though YRC is being sued by the federal government for overcharging the Pentagon millions of dollars. (tinyurl.com/yxoxuuz2)

Zollars also currently sits on the board of directors of Prologis, where he owns over \$1 million in shares. Prologis is a logistics multinational, which rents industrial real estate to the Postal Service as well as to competitors such as UPS and FedEx — which should have been flagged as a financial conflict of interest.

John Barger, confirmed by the Senate on Aug. 1, 2019, is a managing director of Northern Cross Partners, LLC, a Los Angeles-based private investment firm that describes itself as specializing “in improvements of company operating performance, restructuring and recapitalizations, corporate governance and management succession.” (tinyurl.com/y4yka4mb)

Barger played a large role in choosing Louis DeJoy for Postmaster General. Executive search firms Chelsea Partners and Russell Reynolds Associates had recommended 53 PMG candidates but were ignored when DeJoy’s name was added as a late contender by Barger, acting on behalf of the Board’s chairperson, Robert Duncan, former RNC chairperson. DeJoy, Barger and Duncan are all prominent donors to President Trump and other Republicans.

Former Postal Governor David Williams said DeJoy gave a lackluster performance

in more than 100 bankruptcies and reorganizations, including while serving as a special assistant to former United Steelworkers (USW) President George Becker and on the President’s Task Force on the Automotive Industry in 2009.

Bloom’s tenure with the USW included negotiating almost 50 bankruptcies in the steel, rubber, aluminum and paper industries, in most cases recommending severe labor concessions. Bloom served as senior advisor to the Secretary of the Treasury under President Obama. When the federal government bailed out Chrysler and General Motors in 2009, Bloom promoted “shared sacrifice.” Wages for new workers were cut in half to \$14.50 per hour, and over two dozen auto plants and warehouses were closed, resulting in record corporate profits, lost jobs and lower wages.

The National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) hired Bloom as an advisor from 2011-2012 to “help ‘save’ the postal service while avoiding drastic cuts.” His advice to postal workers at the 2012 NALC Convention was again “shared sacrifice,” telling workers to accept wage and benefit cuts. (youtube.com/watch?v=fqr43ko5VAV)

Donald Moak, confirmed by the Senate on June 18, is the other Democratic Party board member. He is the founder and CEO of The Moak Group, a business consulting firm whose website proclaims: “Our team’s experience and expertise allows us to develop and execute innovative strategies and campaigns that allow our clients to achieve desired outcomes, meet commercial objectives, launch tactical executions and issue-advocacy campaigns, build effective coalitions and more.” (moakgroup.com)

As a former president of the Air Line Pilots Association, Moak negotiated complex union contracts, during a period of airline mergers and consolidations. He apparently became so comfortable working with upper management, he ended up switching sides.

While Chair of the Election Mail Committee of the Board of Governors, Moak was responsible for the storm of criticism and lawsuits stemming from the misleading national USPS postcard mailing in early September on mail ballot procedures, which conflict with actual vote-by-mail rules in many states.

Moak spoke out against Eastern District of Washington Chief Judge Stanley Bastian’s ruling on Sep. 18, which blocked DeJoy’s operational changes at the USPS. Moak claimed “Any suggestion that there is a politically motivated attack on the efficiency of the Postal Service is completely and utterly without merit.”

Robert Duncan, first confirmed by the Senate in August 2018 and confirmed

for a second term starting in December 2019, is chairperson of the Postal Board of Governors and the CEO of Inez Deposit Bank. Duncan maneuvered the Board into hiring Louis DeJoy as Postmaster General.

Duncan is a 40-year RNC political strategist, past chairman of the RNC and director of two conservative Super PACs — American Crossroads and the Senate Leadership Fund. He held high positions in the George H.W. Bush White House, the Tennessee Valley Authority and the American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity (ACCCE), a coalition of coal companies, railroads and electric utilities.

Duncan has a history of involvement in racist disenfranchisement. Under his watch, state Republican parties conducted “voter caging” operations to compile lists of voters of color who are vulnerable to having their registrations challenged and denied.

‘Depose DeJoy’

Unanimously chosen as PMG by Mnuchin’s team of governors, **Louis DeJoy** is a former XPO Logistics executive with a decades-long, antilabor record. (workers.org/2020/05/48913/) A mega donor to the Republican Party, DeJoy has \$30 million invested in XPO Logistics, a USPS contractor — a clear conflict of interest.

Since his June 15 appointment, DeJoy has reassigned or displaced 23 postal executives, effectively removing decades of institutional postal knowledge from top organizational positions. He brought in four high-level people who previously worked for his businesses, each making close to \$200,000 in salary.

Most worrisome is that they may bring with them the same record of sexual harassment, discrimination, speedups, workplace injuries, excessive use of temporary workers and other terrible workplace practices notorious in DeJoy’s three companies.

Thirty-eight percent of postal workers are Black, Latinx, Asian or Indigenous. Forty percent are women. Over ninety percent of the 600,000 postal workers are in unions. The antilabor, racist and gender biases of USPS executives will inevitably impact these workers negatively.

Weeks after taking over as PMG, DeJoy imposed several operational changes — including removal of hundreds of mail-sorting machines and blue mail collection boxes and a crackdown on overtime — causing widespread mail delivery slowdowns.

DeJoy plans more extreme changes after Nov. 3. These include raising package rates when delivering the last mile on behalf of big retailers and setting higher postal rates for service in Alaska, Hawaii and Puerto Rico. He has already announced holiday surcharges on commercial customers. Discounts for non-profits and election ballots would be eliminated.

DeJoy’s long history of financial support for the Republican Party totals over \$2.4 million since 2016. He was recently accused of forcing employees in his former company to make political contributions to the RNC and then reimbursing them through “bonuses” — a straw-donor scheme, illegal under federal and state campaign finance laws.

There have been many accusations that DeJoy is purposely degrading USPS operations in coordination with Trump’s efforts to suppress voting rights — all part of a naked attempt to illegitimately

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Florida

Launch of a ‘protester suppression’ bill

By Devin C

Occupied Creek/Muscogee territory —
Pensacola, Fla.

In a Sept. 21 press conference, Florida far-right Governor Ron DeSantis launched a new attack against the continuing protests for Black lives with the announcement of a reactionary legislative bill, the “Combating Violence, Disorder and Looting and Law Enforcement Protection Act.” The bill would drastically intensify criminal charges against protesters, and it would allow civilians to harm protesters with few to no repercussions.

The bill is part of an accelerating wave of neo-Nazi, white-supremacist assault — both legal and vigilante — on protests which have flooded the country after the Minneapolis police murder of George Floyd in May. Right-wing Texas Governor Greg Abbott announced a set of similar legislative bills Sept. 24.

Workers World Party-Central Gulf Coast branch met the threat by DeSantis with a “Fightback Against Protest Suppression” rally of staunch activists in downtown Pensacola on Sept. 26. In the aftermath of Hurricane Sally, with communication networks down, representatives of Socialist Trans Initiative, Black Voters Matter and the WWP branch denounced the governor’s attempt to suppress protest and called for “Justice for Breonna Taylor!” Taylor was killed as she slept, when cops invaded her Kentucky residence in March.

A new ‘Protester Suppression Act’

DeSantis’ bill would make blocking traffic during an “unpermitted protest” a third-degree felony and would

hold the driver not liable for injury or death, if they “flee for their safety.” There have been scores of incidents during the recent uprisings where racists intentionally drive into crowds to harm and kill protesters. This bill would allow these attackers to avoid charges, if they use the same racist excuse that killer cops give for shooting Black people: “I feared for my life.”

In addition, the bill would make destroying or toppling any monuments a second-degree felony. This is a direct attack on protesters after several years of them pulling down racist Confederate statues. It is no surprise to anti-racist, anti-colonialist protesters that statues and monuments to colonialism and white supremacy are being protected, while thousands of people — the majority Black, Brown and poor people — are dying from COVID-19 because of medical malpractice by the state.

[The proposed bill also means that] if a social justice group organizes a rally which police declare ‘disorderly,’ the state could arrest everyone in the organization under a RICO [Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Law] liability, making all members liable to criminal charges. This is an attempt to crush entire organizations that are in the streets fighting white supremacy.

justice group organizes a rally which police declare “disorderly,” the state could arrest everyone in the organization under a RICO liability, making all members liable to criminal charges. This is an attempt to crush entire organizations that are in the streets fighting white supremacy.

The Florida bill would also increase the mandatory minimum jail sentence for “striking a law enforcement officer,” mandating anyone convicted of that crime to remain incarcerated for at least six months. Of course, activist video documentation shows that cops are most often violent aggressors at protests — and then later charge protesters who defend themselves with “striking a law enforcement officer.”

In an attack on the “Defund, Disarm, Abolish the Police” movement, the DeSantis bill would prohibit state grants or aid to any local government that slashes the budget for law enforcement services. Masses of people in many communities are now demanding police budgets be cut in order to fund community projects and services. The bill’s far-right message is clear: Community programs must suffer — and communities must suffer under a police state.

Finally, the bill directly attacks jail support for protesters who are arrested. It denies bail or bond until the first appearance in court, if a person is charged with a crime related to “disorderly or violent assembly.” In the last several months, there has been an increase in protesters being thrown in jail and kept in jail indefinitely while they await a hearing. This bill would solidify that approach, with the arrested person forced to remain in jail indefinitely until a hearing is scheduled, days or weeks later — effectively incarcerating people to keep them from rejoining protests.

Activists in Florida are mobilizing more actions against this “Protester Suppression Act” — to say NO to a police state! □



Activists rally against suppression of protest, Pensacola, Fla., Sept. 26.

WW PHOTO: DEVIN C

USPS: den of thieves behind DeJoy

Continued from page 4

reelect this openly racist, misogynist, antilabor, right-wing administration.

DeJoy denies his actions are meant to help Trump’s reelection, claiming Trump “is incorrect” when he repeatedly rails against mail-in voting and falsely claims the postal service will be unable to deliver ballots in a timely manner, and that it will lead to widespread voter fraud.

DeJoy’s comments resemble those of a person fixing a few things and cleaning their car or home — before putting it on the market. Privatization of the postal service has been a goal of its competitors for decades. This may be the most serious and organized assault on its existence ever put together.

Whether Trump and DeJoy are working closely together or not, their actions cause people to lose confidence in the post office’s ability to deliver their letters, medicines, parcels and voter ballots on time.

Postal workers and Black and Brown communities, people with disabilities, veterans, nonprofits, small businesses, seniors and other members of the working class, who depend on the USPS, can stop privatization if we rise up as one strong body and replace DeJoy and the USPS Board of Governors with people who actually believe in a people’s postal service. The future of this vital and historic public service is in our hands.

Joe Piette retired from the USPS after 30 years as a letter carrier and is a member of the NALC. He welcomes responses at jpiette660@hotmail.com.

‘Journey for Justice’ caravan begins on West Coast

By Lyn Neeley and Judy Greenspan

The San Francisco-Oakland Bay Area and Portland, Ore., were the first two stops on the TPS (Temporary Protective Status) workers’ “Journey for Justice” caravan tour, which left Los Angeles on Sept. 21. Traveling in their bus, “La Libertad,” members of the two-month tour will stop in 46 cities to raise awareness and get support for the 300,000 TPS workers who have been stripped of their right to “legally” work in the U.S.

On Sept. 22, TPS workers held a press conference and rally in front of the new San Francisco Federal Building, where House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has an office. They want the federal government to reverse its decision to end TPS for 40,000 immigrant workers, some of whom have been working in the U.S. for nearly 40 years. Most recipients, like Claudia Lainez of Oakland, a national TPS organizer who is on the bus trip with Stephanie, her 20-year-old U.S.-born daughter, are long-term residents with deep ties in their communities.

In Portland, a TPS press conference and rally were held Sept. 23 in front of the boarded-up building of Immigration and Customs

Enforcement (ICE), and then moved to the VOZ Worker Education Project center. The windows of the ICE facility have remained boarded up for more than a year, following Occupy ICE demonstrations that lasted from June 17 to Aug. 1, 2019.

Portland is the first U.S. city where Occupy ICE protests were held against Trump’s “Zero Tolerance Policy,” which has led to the arrests of thousands of im/migrants from Mexico while crossing into the U.S. and separated more than 2,300 children from their undocumented parents. During the protests, windows were smashed with rocks and dumpsters were set on fire. □



WW PHOTO: LYN NEELEY

Release the evidence and Arrest killers of Breonna Taylor!

Continued from page 1

passed. She was recently arrested. The fact that not one cop was charged with murder, not even manslaughter, for taking the life of this young Black woman, is but another tragic but important reason why the Black Lives Matter struggle deserves broad classwide solidarity.

It took the public lynching of George Floyd in Minneapolis on May 25 to help bring national and international awareness to Taylor’s murder, which had happened more than two months earlier.

Civil rights attorney Benjamin Crump commented following the ruling: “This is outrageous and offensive! If Brett Hankison’s behavior was wanton endangerment to people in neighboring apartments, then it should have been wanton endangerment in Breonna Taylor’s apartment, too. In fact, it should have been ruled wanton murder.” (Washington Post, Sept. 23)

Family demands ‘open the books’

The family of Breonna Taylor, including her mother, Tamika Palmer, and Walker were present at a Sept. 25 press conference in Louisville, along with family attorneys Crump and Lonita Baker. The lawyers and family are demanding that the secretive grand jury reveal the entire transcript to the world that led to their shocking ruling. They are also calling for a special prosecutor to be appointed to present evidence on behalf of Taylor before a grand jury.

Crump commented, “What did Kentucky Attorney General Daniel Cameron present to the grand jury? Did he present any evidence on Breonna Taylor’s behalf? Or did he make a unilateral decision to put his thumb on the scales of justice to help try to exonerate and justify the killing of Breonna Taylor by these police officers? And in doing so, make sure that Breonna Taylor’s family never got their day in court.

“Release the transcript so we can have transparency. And if you did everything you could do on Breonna’s behalf, you shouldn’t have any problems whatsoever, Daniel Cameron, to release the transcript to see you fought for all of Kentucky’s citizens.” (ABC News, Sept. 25)

In a written statement read by Taylor’s aunt, Bianca Austin, Tamika Palmer stated that Cameron “had the power to do the right thing. He had the power to start



Louisville protest, Sept. 23.



Philadelphia protest, Sept. 23.

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

the healing of this city. [He] helped me realize ... it will always be us against them. That we are never safe when it comes to them.” She went on to say that she has “no faith in the legal system, in the police, in the laws that are not made to protect us Black and Brown people.”

Palmer said Cameron “alone didn’t fail her,” and that her daughter was also failed by “the judge who signed the search warrant ... the terrorist who broke down her door ... [and] the system as a whole.”

One of the grand jurors has filed a motion on Sept. 28. The motion demands that the recordings of the grand jury proceedings be released to the public. It states that the jurors were not given proper instructions to include the option of indicting Sgt. Jon Mattingly and Detective Myles Cosgrove for firing the bullets that killed Taylor. The juror also asks to speak publicly on this matter.

Police and capitalism are intertwined

Palmer’s statement rings so true, not only with the individuals responsible for her daughter’s senseless

death but the whole rigged, bigoted system of oppression. Abuses by the police, the courts, the prisons and the laws targeting Black and Brown people like George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Sandra Bland and countless others are not isolated instances. These institutions reflect bigoted, irreconcilable differences when it comes to race and class.

Under capitalism — a particular form of society that divides people into haves and have nots, the ruling class and the multinational working class — the lives of Black, Brown and Indigenous people are devalued by a repressive state apparatus resting on the centuries-old foundation of white supremacy.

How else can it be explained that a Louisville cop can be held accountable for destroying walls, but not for taking the life of a human being?

Or that a 17-year-old neofascist, Kyle Rittenhouse, can shoot to death two anti-racists in Kenosha, Wis., while the police look the other way — but a 12-year-old Black child, Tamir Rice, can be fatally shot on the spot by police in Cleveland for playing with a BB gun?

The police, the U.S. Border Patrol and other agencies exist to keep social order — that is, to use any repressive means to protect the private property of the bosses stolen from the collective wealth and labor of the global working class.

This order is why it is so difficult to get justice for the victims of police violence. The laws provide immunity for the police, who act as an armed agent of the bosses against the workers.

The clarion call to abolish the police, not just as individuals but as a militarized oppressive force that is diametrically opposed to the interests of the workers and oppressed, will continue to grow louder.

In the end, the only way to abolish the police is to abolish the system that has sustained this force since the days of U.S. slavery. And that system is capitalism — a system that prioritizes profits and private property before meeting the basic human needs of the workers, who need jobs, housing, health care, education and much more. Only a socialist revolution can ultimately win these demands — not an election, that does not change class relations.

Waging a global, classwide struggle to help empower the working class through workers’ assemblies, workers’ defense committees against right-wing fascists and other sustained, organized formations will win real justice for the Breonna Taylors and George Floyds of the world. □

Seattle Justice for Breonna Taylor and Black lives

By Jim McMahan
Seattle

Demonstrators marched here on Sept. 24 to protest the previous day’s decision by a grand jury in Louisville, Ky., not to bring charges against the cops who murdered Breonna Taylor. Hundreds took to the streets for hours, until after midnight, and marched on the Capitol Hill precinct, which is bunkered behind huge cement blocks.



IMAGE: STAT THE ARTIST

In retaliation, the cops used blast balls and pepper spray, and even ran people over with their police bikes. The cop violence tended to anger people even more. Thirteen anti-racists were arrested.

Black Lives Matter protests have now continued in Seattle for at least 117 days straight. There’s a morning march, a day march and a night march. Black people lead the marches, which are held in different neighborhoods all over the city. The anti-racists sometimes disrupt status quo events and are sometimes attacked by the police. They are also holding trainings and educationals.

The Seattle City Council had voted for a budget proposal that would reduce police positions and invest the money saved in community-based programs. It would also cut the “navigation teams” that evict houseless people from their encampments.

Mayor Jenny Durkan vetoed the proposal. But on Sept. 22, feeling the pressure of the oppressed working class, the City Council voted 7-2 to override Mayor Durkan’s veto.

The groups King County Equity Now and Decriminalize Seattle, which represent oppressed communities, said in a statement: “The council’s move marks an urgent break from the decades of votes to expand racist policing.” □

Boston Justice for Breonna Taylor

At least four actions demanding Justice for Breonna Taylor took place in Boston over the Sept. 26-27 weekend, drawing thousands of marchers. Mass Action Against Police Brutality’s Sept. 26 rally demanded Taylor’s Kentucky case be reopened, after none of the three killer cops who murdered her on March 13 were charged with causing her death. For six years, MAAPB has provided essential support to families who have suffered at the hands of Massachusetts police officers. And the group demands the

reopening of nine recent local cases where cops have gotten away with murders officially classified as “justified.” The MAAPB marchers ultimately joined a Party of Socialism and Liberation march on Boston Police headquarters—a force of occupation in the heart of the city’s Black community. The racist system fails to value Black lives from Louisville to Boston: Reopen the Cases Now! Justice for Breonna!

— Workers World Boston bureau



WW PHOTO: G.CARENS

Portland’s people out-organize fascist groups

By Joshua Hanks
Portland, Ore.

People in this city — the scene of many past rallies by violent fascist groups — squared off once more against far-right groups, led by the Proud Boys, on Sept. 26. Pro-fascists organized under the banner of combatting the mass anti-racist movement, which has persisted in this city and across the country since Minneapolis police murdered George Floyd in late May. Anti-racists won today’s confrontation.

The right-wing rally took place just weeks after an anti-fascist activist, in defense of a Black friend under deadly attack, gunned down a far-right aggressor at a similar event downtown. Police and federal forces later summarily executed the anti-racist shooter in a raid south of Seattle, Wash., without even the pretense of a fair trial before a judge.

Only 200 people attended the Sept. 26 fascist gathering, which had been projected to bring thousands of far-right-ists to a historically Black neighborhood in Portland’s north quadrant. Wide sectors condemned the fascist mobilization. Portland’s Mayor Ted Wheeler, who is also police commissioner, released a statement condemning the rally, as did Oregon’s Governor Kate Brown. Brown declared a state of emergency in Portland, positioning herself as an ally of those opposed to racism and fascism.

Yet Brown’s declaration was welcomed by the Proud Boys. A state of emergency allows police to deploy tear gas against protesters, and the police have shown time and again that they will cooperate with far-right groups against leftist



Portland’s anti-fascists outnumber Proud Boys on Sept. 26.

WW PHOTO: LYN NEELEY

demonstrators.

The Trump administration has attacked Brown and Wheeler, both Democrats, calling them too soft on protesters. Nevertheless, after unprecedented amounts of tear gas were used against anti-racist protesters over the summer, Oregon’s state and local leaders faced a barrage of criticism from anti-racists for their complicity in the irresponsible, repeated tear gassing of crowds and neighborhoods in the state’s largest city.

To tamp down the outrage, Oregon’s leaders have issued orders restricting the use of tear gas and other repressive police methods, yet persistent loopholes allow the police to continue on, much as before.

Fascists target Portland

For several years violent fascist demonstrators, who see the city as a leftist stronghold, have targeted Portland. The fascists aim to provoke conflict with

anti-fascists and cause chaos in order to advance their far-right ideology, which they disguise as free speech. These demonstrations have become more frequent and more violent over the years, with the White House now fanning the flames of violent racism.

Portland, along with Seattle and New York, was recently declared an “anarchist jurisdiction” by the Justice Department. Trump has built his re-election campaign on a “law and order” platform that paints a distorted portrait of cities under siege by allegedly violent leftists. The president and federal officials have targeted Portland in particular, as they attempted to quash the anti-fascist movement, without success.

The relatively weak Sept. 26 fascist mobilization drew over a thousand counterprotesters at two separate parks. The event remained mostly calm, and as it concluded, the police directed the

pro-fascist participants onto the freeway and out of the state.

‘Proud boys better hide’

The New York Times spoke with one of the counterprotesters, who was with members of Workers World in a group called Portland Labor for Black Lives Matter: “Doreen McGrath, a 63-year-old activist, said she had driven in with a group of about 25 people from Seattle. Their group stood on the outskirts of the gathering, chanting and waving signs. ‘Hey there, Proud Boys, you better hide,’ they chanted. ‘We can see your fascist side.’” (Sept. 26)

Anti-fascist and anti-racist activists had organized yet another successful show of force against far-right agitators in what has become an all-too-common event in Portland and other cities.

As soon as the Sept. 26 event was called by fascist groups, Portland leftists began coordinating and organizing their response. While many centrist liberals argue that far-right groups should just be ignored, or even accommodated for their “freedom of speech,” time and again the workers, students and oppressed peoples of this city have turned out in massive crowds to stand united against fascism and denounce racism. They know the fascists use their speech to freely mobilize to repress others.

The police protect far-right groups and coordinate with them. Leftists know that the people must keep each other safe and must always fight fascism whenever it arises. The future will surely bring more fascist rallies and violent escalations. With Sept. 26 as an example, the left has shown it will abandon no battlefield to the enemy. □

As poverty deepens Black community fights police terror

By Shelley Ettinger
San Antonio

After summer-long mobilizations against racism, white supremacy, and killer cops, activists in San Antonio continued fighting on several fronts as fall arrived.

Outraged protests have been ongoing since Sept. 15, when officers of the San Antonio Police Department shot and killed Darrell Zemault Sr., a 55-year-old Black man, at his home in southwest San Antonio. The SAPD has repeatedly changed its story, trying to justify the killing. Zemault’s neighbors, who actually witnessed the event, call it outright murder.

According to these witnesses, plainclothes cops arrived in an unmarked van, dragged Zemault from his house, assaulted him, and shot him. Cops refused to allow a neighbor, who is a nurse, to attend to her friend while they huddled for 10 minutes in what witnesses characterized as an obvious effort to get their story straight. Meanwhile, Darrell Zemault bled out. When he was finally taken to a hospital by ambulance, he was pronounced dead on arrival.

Police claim they were trying to serve Zemault with a two-month-old warrant, and that Zemault resisted arrest, initiated a physical struggle, and grabbed a cop’s gun. With eyewitnesses disputing that as a patent lie, Zemault’s family and Black Lives Matter activists charge a coverup and demand that the SAPD release the cops’ bodycam footage.

Backed by Mayor Ron Zirenberg, a liberal, the SAPD has refused to release the video footage.

Celeste Brown, a local BLM leader who told reporters Zemault was “like a second father” to her, challenged every part of the SAPD’s story.

Brown said, “I’m out marching and organizing and fighting for policy change and you never think that it’s going to hit home, and it should never have to hit home.

“Let me make one thing very clear, and I’ve said this already, they messed with the right ones because we don’t play this,” she added. “I’m a community organizer, I do this work by day, and now that they’ve hit my family, if they thought that we were bugging City Council for policy change before, if they thought we were marching too much before, they messed with the right ones because Darrell Zemault was not the man they are already painting him out to be.” (NEWS4SA, Sept. 15)

Vigils, marches and rallies have demanded justice for Darrell Zemault Sr. Hundreds have also contributed to a fund to help his family. On the hot, sunny afternoon of Sept. 26, hundreds of people stood in a long line to buy plates at a barbeque fundraiser.

Cops versus community

Here in San Antonio, a key focus of the upsurge that has swept the country in the wake of the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis last May 25 has been a drive to cut the police budget and weaken statutory police protections. A group called Fix

SAPD is waging a petition drive to show mass public support for its demands.

The demands aim to (1) repeal two chapters of the state government code that basically immunize police from any accountability for their actions; (2) eliminate disciplinary barriers enshrined in the city’s contract with the cop union; and (3) significantly cut the SAPD budget while reallocating the funds to human services.

How has the city government responded? On Sept. 18 the majority-Democratic City Council passed a \$2.9 billion budget for 2021 that not only did not reduce police funding — it increased it. The budget boosted the SAPD by \$8 million.

It was a slap in the face to the Black community and the fight against white supremacy and killer cops — so clearly that arch-reactionary Texas Gov. Greg Abbott tweeted his congratulations to the City Council.

Fix SAPD organizers say they will keep fighting and gathering signatures to demand structural change.

Meanwhile, cops appear to be targeting individual BLM leaders. On Sept. 9, they arrested a young Black woman on felony child-abandonment charges. Claiming they were acting on an anonymous tip, Bexar County sheriff’s deputies arrived at the woman’s house in the early

afternoon and waited there for three hours until she arrived home.

Whatever the truth — or likelier, falsehood, considering the source — of the deputies’ claims about the state of the activist’s household and children, the sheriff’s office focused on identifying her as a BLM organizer and making sure that was highlighted in news reports on the arrest.

All this takes place in the context of steeply rising hunger and homelessness, hitting the Black and Brown communities hardest. The U.S. Census Bureau reported one year ago that San Antonio had the highest poverty rate of any major U.S. city, at 20 percent. No new statistics are in yet, but it’s fair to speculate that this year’s twin crises of pandemic and unemployment have made things much worse. The San Antonio Food Bank reports 125,000 new recipients of its food aid since March of this year. □



Youth pay homage to police victim, Darrell Zemault Sr.

The Left, the election crisis & ‘the elephant in the room’

Continued from page 1

the capitalist class prevailing that was considering the desperate option of turning to fascism.

On the other hand, there was the prospect that if the working class intervened in the political crisis in a correct and strong way, the political crisis could be turned into a revolutionary crisis, meaning that the working class would exploit the differences within the capitalist class, as well as its instability and weakness, to make a socialist revolution.

The expression “the elephant in the room” means that people are talking around the real issue because they don’t know what to do about that issue. Very few revolutionaries are asking what the working class will do about the current election crisis because the question seems irrelevant.

Notwithstanding the amazing work stoppages that many pandemic front-line workers have engaged in to protect their safety, and the many other signs that militants in the working class are pushing back and carrying out more strikes, the working-class movement as a whole in the U.S. is weak organizationally and politically.

Thus, the expectation is that the working class is not going to intervene in defense of its class interests beyond voting for the Democrats, with some even voting for Trump. Militants should be neither angry nor frustrated with workers for voting for Biden. The way that they see it, they don’t have any other choice.

For revolutionaries, the main political battle regarding support for the Democratic Party is with other forces on the left who say that they are socialists and are opposed to capitalism, but will find some rationale, mostly fear, for supporting the Democratic Party. The Democratic Party’s abandonment of the working class to globalization, austerity and pauperization, paved the way for Trumpism. The Democrats will not change, cannot change, and exist these days mostly to co-opt movements and then kill them.

The only way that the working class is going to find a way out of being held hostage to the Democrats is to begin learning how to organize as a class and act like a class that is independent of the capitalist political parties. This is true, not only in relation to the electoral struggle, but even more importantly, to the full rebirth of the class struggle against capitalism. This rebirth is already underway. However, it will not advance to the next level without the intervention of revolutionary class-conscious militants.

There’s no end to the questions surrounding the election crisis. What’s going to happen before the elections? What’s going to happen during and after the elections? How can progressives and revolutionaries respond to any development? From the perspective of a Marxist-Leninist, the biggest question is still: What can be done to insure that the U.S. working class begins to do all that is necessary to intervene in a crisis? Not now when it’s too weak, but soon, and the sooner the better.

Even in countries where the labor movement is close to one of the capitalist political parties, or there is a social democratic party that mostly supports what the capitalists want it to support, if an attempted coup or a fascist attack occurs, the labor movement calls a general strike.

The election crisis should serve as a wake-up call. Yes, the working-class movement is weak. But revolutionaries can no longer afford to use that as an excuse to remove the working class from the discussion. Once we do that, we have surrendered. Whatever ideas or demands revolutionaries put forward, they are of only symbolic and educational value if there is no army capable of fighting and defeating the enemy. That army is the working class, and the battlefield is the class struggle.

It should come as no surprise that many people, especially women, are saddened by the death of Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and are worried about who Trump will choose

to replace her. When the working class is not organized as a class to defend its own class interests, who else can the people turn to in order to defend themselves but politicians and important individuals?

How did this happen to the working class?

Over a long period that began after the U.S. established itself as the dominant imperialist power in the world, generally speaking, the leaders of the labor movement — who were once relatively militant, and some even anti-capitalist — underwent a transformation that rendered them in many cases little more than appendages to the capitalist system.

Explaining how this happened over the course of the past three-quarters of a century is too much to go over here. But make a note: How this happened should be studied and discussed. It’s important for every militant to know what happened.

Also important to know is that appearing to become an appendage to the system and the status quo is neither a natural nor a permanent state for the organized labor movement. It is an aberration that must — and will — be reversed. The conditions that led to the conservatism of the labor movement no longer exist, and as such, their conservatism is going to be replaced with revolutionary class struggle.

It should be noted that by and large, most of the left, including organizations that consider themselves Marxist and even revolutionary, have tended to base themselves on movements and struggles that were incorrectly seen as separate from the working class and the labor unions. The reason for this is that the labor movement seemed dormant.

Organizing and activity that seemed friendly to anti-capitalist views and organizational recruitment existed in the antiwar movement — and to some extent in the anti-racist movement and the women’s and LGBTQ2S+ movements. In truth, all of these movements are different fronts of the working-class movement, although that is not how they are viewed in most cases.

This unfortunate view is a product of the political weakness of the existing working-class movement. It’s time for such narrow and exclusionary views to give way to more inclusive and revolutionary views of who and what make up the working class today.

To some extent, the origins of these narrow and false ideas about what the working class is and who is in the labor movement are products of a tacit (and sometimes not so tacit) agreement that union officials and leftists made after the anti-communist witch hunt — which forced many communists and socialists out of the unions — began to lift somewhat in the early 1960s.

The agreement was this: Radicals must stay out of the labor unions and refrain from trying to influence the working class with their radical ideas. In exchange for agreeing to stay away from the working class, progressives and radicals could organize against the war in Vietnam and around other issues, but apart from obtaining some labor endorsements and having a few labor speakers at a rally, antiwar organizers were to stay away from the workers.

Opening of struggle over need for strikes

The examples of professional athletes protesting racism by refusing to play, and health care workers, Whole Foods and Amazon workers, and other workers walking off the job to protest being forced to work in unsafe conditions, have ignited a new struggle within and outside the organized labor movement over the need to carry out more and bigger work stoppages, and bring back the general strike.

Around Labor Day, a group of about 40 regional labor unions representing millions of workers issued a statement calling for conducting mass, nationwide work stoppages in solidarity with Black Lives Matter. While no concrete plans or dates for these actions have been announced, this development is a clear challenge to the

conservative top leadership of the AFL-CIO and the unions that formed Change To Win.

This is good news, and it’s about time. These developments in the labor movement must be supported, joined, and pushed strongly by everyone who considers themselves progressive. It is nothing less than scandalous — and unacceptable — that the AFL-CIO’s top leadership has done little more than release a statement or two in response to the worldwide uprising sparked by the police murder of George Floyd in May, and the murders of others like Breonna Taylor and Elijah McClain.

How is it possible that millions of people could be marching in the streets day after day on every continent, and yet the leaders of the U.S. labor movement cannot bring themselves to organize a one-hour nationwide work stoppage in support of this uprising?

A strategy to fuse all movements into a new working-class movement

The scope of the election crisis is too big. The scope of the COVID-19 pandemic is too big. The scope of the capitalist crisis is too big. And the scope of the racist attacks, whether by the police, FBI, or fascists, is too big to be addressed without a serious strategy towards the development of a revitalized working-class movement. The attacks on the working class that are already underway — with much more to come — are too big for anti-capitalist radicals not to have such a strategy.

No matter how long it takes, or how many obstacles there may be, it is imperative that a fusion of the mass movement in the streets develop against racism and fascism, and that it include all sectors of the working class that are either not organized or are under-organized: migrant workers, incarcerated workers, workers with disabilities, gig workers, street vendors, sex workers, the unemployed, the homeless, the most oppressed people — and the organized labor movement.

It should be understood that the global uprising against racism this past spring and summer was, at its root, a working-class uprising. The participants may not have been conscious of this — and the uprising was not called in the name of the working class. But that does not change the fact that it was the multinational working class protesting in the streets. Going forward, future uprisings will be more class-conscious, with more of the many sectors of the working class in motion.

This fusion must come from below, and must not be led by the Democratic Party, or any other organization that is tied to the status quo and is an obstacle to real struggle. It is not necessary, and, in fact, it would be a mistake for the movement in the streets, or any other section of the working class that is not in the organized labor movement, to subordinate itself to conservative labor leaders.

The goal of fusion is to expand the working-class movement, to tear down the boundaries and antiquated conceptions that limit and divide the working class, and to push the entire working class in a revolutionary direction.

The formation of Workers Assemblies and a Workers Assembly movement may prove very helpful in this process.

Whatever happens on or after Nov. 3, organizing the working class is the prize we must work for and stay focused on. We should be confident about our victory. □

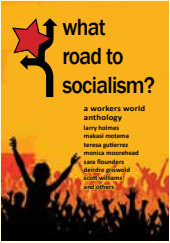
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Direct action wins houseless victory

By **Betsey Piette**
Philadelphia

The Philadelphia Housing Action coalition and the City of Philadelphia reached a tentative agreement on Sept. 25 to give homeless activists 50 vacant, viable homes, and allow 50 homeless mothers and children to remain in 15 additional vacant city-owned homes taken over earlier this year.

The agreement comes after six months of a direct action campaign — including housing takeovers, protest encampments and eviction resistance — to force the city to relinquish the vacant homes to a community land trust. The Philadelphia Housing Action coalition was formed over the winter of 2019-2020 by the Black and Brown Workers Cooperative, Workers Revolutionary Collective and OccupyPHA.

The most visible part of this fight has been two encampments involving hundreds of tents — Camp James Talib Dean (JTD) on 22nd St. and the Ben Franklin Parkway, and Camp Teddy at Ridge Ave. and 21st Street in North Philadelphia, across from the Philadelphia Housing Authority (PHA).

James Talib Dean was an organizer with the Workers Revolutionary Collective who cofounded that encampment. He died during its first week and would have celebrated his 35th birthday on Sept. 25.

Under the agreement, the vacant city-owned houses will be transferred into a community land trust set up by Philadelphia Housing Action — a coalition of housing activists who have all experienced either homelessness or institutionalization. The properties will be designated permanently for use for extremely low-income housing (\$25,000 and below). A press release from Philadelphia Housing Action notes: “A recent Pew report states that 140,000 Philadelphia households earn \$30,000 or less.”

The agreement will also allow 50 mothers and children, who took over 15 city-owned houses, to remain in the properties until the land trust can find other accommodations. Philadelphia Housing Action spokespeople noted that

the houses being transferred are slated for auction or sale and would not be taken from other low-income housing stock or jump people ahead of the PHA’s waiting list.

This tentative and partial victory comes after houseless activists at the two camps for months resisted repeated threats by the city to forcefully evict them from the camps. Camp JTD was a particular focus, as it sits in the middle of one of the wealthiest areas of Philadelphia, surrounded by high-rise buildings with expensive rents.

‘This is only the beginning’

Sterling Johnson, a member of the Black and Brown Workers Cooperative, stated: “It’s a good start but it’s also not enough. There was already a major housing crisis in Philadelphia, and we anticipate a wave of mass evictions on top of that, due to COVID-19. The scale of the housing crisis would require thousands of new units of low-income housing, but we feel that with this agreement we can at least get started moving people off the streets and into homes before winter. This is only the beginning.”

#OccupyPHA organizer Jennifer Bennetch said: “This will be a landmark agreement. Not only has a group of poor and homeless organizers managed through direct action to win an agreement that will set a precedent for the entire country, but we have also forced the city to exercise its power over the Philadelphia Housing Authority



WW PHOTO: JPE PIETTE

Philadelphia activist Sterling Johnson addresses rally at houseless Camp James Talib Dean on July 13.

and finally get them to give up these vacant homes that have been blighting our communities for decades. We will continue to pressure the city to transfer more houses to be designated as permanent low-income housing, stabilize our communities and combat the displacement caused by market-rate development and gentrification.”

No national shortage of vacant homes

There are an estimated 5,700 houseless people in Philadelphia. The Philadelphia Housing Authority currently manages 6,000 housing units. One of the demands of the Philadelphia Housing Action coalition is that the city put a moratorium on the Housing Authority, the Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority and the Philadelphia Housing Development Corporation in order to prevent auctioning or selling off properties to private entities until all PHA waiting lists applicants have been housed.

While activists in Philadelphia have put the spotlight on the crisis, it is by no means just a local problem. The National Alliance to End Homelessness estimates that the number of homeless people in the U.S. is around 552,930. At the same time, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, there were 17 million vacant homes in October 2019.

The problem is clearly not the lack of homes, but who controls them and the lack of affordability.

Following the mortgage crisis of 2008, many of the vacant housing units now on the market were homes that were foreclosed and taken by banks to sell for profit.

Houseless activists and their supporters in Philadelphia have demonstrated that they will take whatever action is needed to obtain housing — whether it be more encampments or families occupying vacant homes. They have also shown the capability to defend themselves against state attacks.

This first agreement marks a battle won for houseless people in Philadelphia, but it will take a much broader war by the working class and oppressed against the capitalist system to fully secure safe and affordable housing for all who need it. □

Illinois

Black and Latinx women health workers lead strike to victory

By **Kathy Durkin**

They won!
The historic 10-day strike by workers at medical facilities in three Illinois cities resulted in an all-out victory, with every demand met. Black and Latinx women workers played a decisive role in organizing the strike and steering it to its successful conclusion.

Over 4,000 members of Service Employees (SEIU) Local 73 launched an unfair labor practice strike on Sept. 14 at University of Illinois medical facilities in Chicago, Peoria and Rockford. After working without a contract for over a year, the workers had enough! Moreover, as a threat, the bosses brought in strikebreakers from out of state in advance of the strike.

This job action demonstrated the determination and unity of medical center workers: maintenance, custodial, technical and clerical workers, occupational therapists and other professionals. It pressured the UI-Chicago bosses to give in.

The negotiated, tentative, multi-year contracts guarantee pay increases for all workers, including a \$15 minimum wage in Chicago for those on the lowest-paid scale, safety measures to deal with COVID-19, adequate staffing and protection against management outsourcing of union jobs,

reported the union’s bargaining committee on Sept. 24. SEIU Local 73 President Dian Palmer said the settlement “is a victory for all working people in Illinois and shows what’s possible when workers unite and demand that employers respect us, protect us and pay us. I am so proud of the Black and Brown women who led this strike, who convinced their co-workers striking was worth the risk.

“They never gave up,” stressed Palmer. “They were out there at dawn every day demanding justice for essential workers. UIC called them heroes, but their pay and benefits didn’t reflect that, but UIC now understands what it means to be ‘essential.’” (seiu.org, Sept. 24)

‘We are loud and proud!’

Alicia Uwumarogie, physical therapist and SEIU bargaining committee representative, said, “We are leaving the picket lines victorious in so many areas! We have gained the confidence and strength to take on management. We have demonstrated our collective power through the execution of this strike. Our members will be loud and proud about this win and what we did in this past few weeks.” The workers will “continue fighting until justice, fairness, equity and respect become the norm at UIC.”

Striking nurses at UIC Hospital joined SEIU Local 73 workers on the picket lines and at a Sept. 18 rally in downtown Chicago. They struck for seven days beginning Sept. 12, with demands including a prohibition on outsourcing of union nurses’ jobs to inadequately trained, nonunion nurses. Although hospital management obtained an injunction to bar nurses from striking, 800 UIC nurses defied the bosses and picketed.

The Illinois Nurses Association reports a tentative agreement has been reached, granting pandemic hazard pay, hiring of more nurses and provision of more PPE. The 1,400-person bargaining unit will vote Sept. 28 on whether to approve the contract, the same day as Local 73’s contract vote. (Chicago Sun-Times, Sept. 24)

Teamsters and Electrical Workers (IBEW) locals honored the SEIU Local 73 picket lines and joined strikers

in solidarity, as did individual union members. These courageous workers showed that even in the anti-labor Trump era, a strong, united strike force can win.

Women organize!

Many union organizing drives and job actions have been led by women this year in defiance of the antilabor, pro-corporate Trump administration. Trump’s appointees to the so-called Department of Labor and National Labor Relations Board, as well as the Supreme Court, have attacked and weakened unions’ and workers’ rights.

In July, in a historic, landslide vote, childcare providers in California voted to unionize — a stunning victory for the U.S. labor movement. They voted to establish and be represented by Child Care Providers United, a collaboration among United Domestic Workers of America/American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 3930 and SEIU Locals 99 and 521.

This workforce is composed primarily of women — Black, Latinx and immigrant — making this victory even more significant as part of the overall fight for racial, gender and economic justice.

Nurses at Mission Hospital in Asheville, N.C., voted to unionize in an NLRB election Sept. 16, in what National Nurses United called the “largest hospital union victory in the South since 1975.”

And registered nurses at Alameda Hospital and San Leandro Hospital in California plan a five-day strike starting on Oct. 7 to demand management protect patients’ safety and provide sufficient staffing and PPE during the pandemic, reports the NNU’s website. The California Nurses Association said Sept. 26 that management has bargained in bad faith and taken punitive actions against nurses.

These righteous struggles show that workers are strong collectively and can fight and win, despite government and corporate hostility to the multinational working class and their organizations. These bold actions boost all workers — organized and unorganized.

Additional sources: AFSCME, National Nurses United



PHOTO: SEIU LOCAL 73

Chicago health workers in the ‘Strike for Our Lives.’

Stop the war against Black and Brown communities!

Following the 2014 police murders of Eric Garner and Michael Brown, activists raised concerns about an “epidemic” of police brutality. Six years later it is clear that Black and Brown communities, living under police occupation, are confronting a very real war.

The numbers do not lie. Documented police killings of people of color since 2014 have averaged three or more per day. Police officers charged for these murders remain in the single digits. Only a handful have been convicted.

This year the video-recorded police murder of George Floyd, who was choked to death under the knee of a Minneapolis police officer, rocked the world. Protests erupted in U.S. cities, coast-to-coast, leading to global protests against police brutality and historic white supremacy. In a serious challenge to systemic racism, people tore down monuments to historic slave traders and Confederate advocates.

Following the outrage over George Floyd’s death, news surfaced about the earlier police killing of emergency medical technician Breonna Taylor in Louisville, Ky. Taylor was murdered when police invaded her home in March on a ‘no-knock’ warrant, firing numerous rounds of bullets at her and surrounding neighbors. This week a grand jury charged one police officer involved in her murder with “endangering [white] neighbors,”

but filed no charges connected to Taylor’s murder.

The resulting community outrage and protests were expected. Taylor’s family has launched an important campaign to demand the release of the grand jury reports, including police video.

Taylor’s case, following Floyd’s, opened the flood gates for reports of long buried cases of police brutality to surface. The Taylor family’s courageous stance against the grand juries’ refusal to bring charges against police is encouraging families of other victims of police brutality to speak up.

Unlike Floyd’s murder, Taylor’s was allegedly not captured on video, a situation all too prevalent for many police brutality victims. But even when there is recorded evidence of police misconduct, it is often buried. News of Daniel Prude’s murder by police in Rochester, N.Y., also in March, surfaced only in September.

Now more cases are being aired.

In February, Boston police shot 31 times in three seconds, killing 41-year-old Juston Root, who was on the ground, unarmed and seriously injured after a car chase. This case is now being reviewed.

The Joliet, Ill., police department faces a wrongful death lawsuit involving Eric Lurry, a 37-year-old Black man who died on Jan. 28 after police shoved a baton

down his throat while he was handcuffed. They repeatedly hit him and pinched his nose for nearly two minutes. Police later claimed Lurry died from “a drug overdose” and buried a video of the incident for months.

An updated list of Black and Brown victims of police brutality can be found at #SayTheirNames.

These reports come in addition to the murders of two Black men — Ahmaud Arbery in Georgia and Michael Williams in Iowa — at the hands of racist white vigilantes.

Increased attempts to suppress the votes from Black and Brown communities must also be seen as part of this war.

Attacks on First Amendment rights

Encouraged by Trump, in recent weeks police have been supported by right-wing forces, including the Proud Boys and individuals like Kyle Rittenhouse, who opened fire on unarmed protesters. Since George Floyd’s murder, there have been 66 reported incidents of white supremacists driving vehicles into protests to intentionally injure or even kill demonstrators. The most recent were in Los Angeles, Buffalo, N.Y., and Albuquerque, N.M. Now Trump wants a bill to protect people who attack protesters.

Trump is not alone. Since 2017, legislatures and governors in nearly 20 states

promoted bills intended to criminalize protesters, in clear violation of the First Amendment.

For all too long, the failure of the judicial system to hold police accountable for brutality against people of color has emboldened them. Coupled with a political system in which police organizations can pressure or prompt judges to rule in their favor, police have been given impunity to murder people of color.

The increased militarization of domestic police forces has exacerbated the problem. Residents of Black and Brown communities are treated much like occupied people in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Palestine. U.S. police departments are increasingly using tanks, bayonets, rubber bullets and grenades — weapons of war.

In the 1960s, Workers World Party popularized the slogan “Stop the war against Black America” in response to assaults on the Black Panther Party, Civil Rights activists, and other Black community leaders. We need to revive this slogan as “Stop the war on Black and Brown communities!” and “Stop the war on Black Lives Matter!” But beyond raising a slogan, workers must organize to elevate class solidarity against this racist war and the corrupt capitalist economic system that profits from it. □

400,000 seafarers around the world stuck on board ships

By G. Dunkel

An unjust hardship faces 800,000 workers worldwide. Some 400,000 seafarers whose work contracts have expired are still stuck on their ships in the COVID-19 pandemic. Another 400,000 workers are stuck on shore, unemployed, waiting to replace the workers on the ships.

Getting off a ship and going home requires more than just disembarking. It usually involves multiple border crossings, flights with at least one connection, certificate after certificate, specialized visas and more. A crew member’s replacement has to go through the same steps.

In response to the COVID pandemic, corporate and government entities have

broken every one of these steps. Airlines have canceled flights; consulates have closed; countries like the Philippines have closed their borders even to their own citizens.

At a conference at the U.N. General Assembly, which the International Transport Workers’ Federation (ITF) helped organize, Captain Hedi Marzougui said his crew “had to work every day, for 12 hours, with no weekends, without seeing your loved ones, and trapped at sea. Now add that you have to do that with no idea of when you will be repatriated.” Marzougui was in command of a vessel between December 2019 and May 2020. (Hellenic Shipping News, September 26)

Earlier the ITF conducted a survey of

conditions on board some of the 60,000 vessels that transport 90% of world trade. The ITF found that some crews shaved their heads, because they couldn’t get off the ship to buy shampoo. On another ship the captain had to pull teeth, even though he had no dental training. Social distancing was generally impossible. Around 70% of the seafarers said their contracts had expired. Almost all said they faced serious mental health issues.

Seafarers whose contracts have expired have the legal right to stop working. Countries have the right to inspect ships to make sure they are properly crewed and the crews have been properly paid. The Australian Maritime Safety Authority has been aggressive in its ship inspections and support of seafarers, ensuring that they are being treated fairly by the shipowners. At least four ships have been detained in Australian waters. (tinyurl.com/yx8kgzkm)

The ITF has said it will support any crew that strikes.

Back in March, Cuba showed how it was possible to move passengers and crew from a cruise ship which had COVID-19-infected people on board. The MS Braemar had been going from port to port, trying to disembark its passengers, and had been repeatedly refused.

Finally, when Cuba made it known it would accept the ship, the MS Braemar docked in Havana. The Cuban authorities, following World Health Organization guidelines, loaded over 1,000 passengers and crew on special buses and took them to Jose Martí airport for chartered flights back to Britain. (tinyurl.com/y62w84jy)

If Cuba can do this, why can’t the big countries of the world, who make so much money from world trade, solve the problems of 800,000 seafaring workers? □

Sue Davis, ¡presente!



WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

We are very sad to announce that Sue Davis, a long-time member of Workers World Party, died on Sept. 26 from complications of a stroke. Sue was the coordinator of the Workers World/Mundo Obrero Supporter Program, a decades-long fundraiser for WW. For many years she wrote “On the picket line,” a column of pro-labor, pro-union news.

Sue also wrote articles on women’s and gender-oppressed issues, especially the fight for reproductive justice. She was a highly-skilled WW copyeditor. Sue will be deeply missed. A full obituary on her remarkable life will appear in WW in the near future.

-Workers World Managing Editors

‘Year of the Rich’

Deirdre Griswold

You hear it over and over again. We live in the “land of opportunity,” where hard work rewards those who apply themselves.

What, you don’t believe that? You’re right, it’s a myth. And the figures prove it.

It’s not hard work that makes you rich — it’s being rich in the first place that makes someone even richer.

North American households led the world last year in growth of financial assets: almost 12 percent. But that’s just an average. Did you get any of that extra money? As it turns out, almost all that growth in wealth went to those already well-heeled. In fact, the U.S. is actually the most unequal of all the developed countries in wealth distribution. (Allianz

Global Wealth Report 2020, “Year of the Rich”)

And this was before the COVID-19 epidemic hit, which has made things even worse for the working class, with massive shutdowns and layoffs.

What the Wealth Report didn’t say, but should be obvious, is that racism is a huge contributing factor to inequality in the U.S., with its horrific history of slavery. The brutal crimes of the state against people of color reinforce inequality, which is deliberately used to keep workers from uniting and fighting more effectively in their own interests.

The moral of this story: The struggle against racism is an indispensable part of the struggle of all workers to take back the mind-boggling wealth that is stolen from us by the bosses every day. □

People strike worldwide for the environment

By G. Dunkel

Over 3,334 protests against the climate crisis — marches, school walkouts, blockaded bridges and roads, swarms of small boats and canoes impeding huge coal haulers — occurred in 150 countries on Sept. 25.

These protests were part of Fridays for the Future, which began with massive turnouts a year ago to the day. Numbers this year were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. In some countries, gatherings are limited to 50 people. In some German cities where COVID-19 is spiking, governments forbid gatherings of any size.

But there were still protests and school walkouts in almost every major European city and many smaller ones. Where schools are totally virtual, school walkouts didn't physically take place, but other social media outlets were used. There was a 24-hour Zoom call, which let activists speak about local issues and their relationship to the climate crisis.

Some groups participating in Fridays for the Future, notably the British group Extinction Rebellion (XR), explicitly linked their struggle to achieve environmental justice to supporting the struggle to make Black Lives Matter. In the U.S., a

broad coalition called StrikeWithUs also explicitly linked environmental justice to the movement for Black lives.

In the Philippines, marchers raised the issue of imperialist exploitation of the country and its mineral wealth. Protests highlighted the way laws against terrorism are used to outlaw protests. Mitzi Jonelle Tan, an activist, told the Guardian (Sept. 25): "We Filipinos are among the most impacted [by climate crisis], ranking second in the latest global climate risk index, yet our contributions to greenhouse gas emissions are so little."

In India, where the poorest workers have to do heavy work outside in the heat of the day, protesters emphasized the possibility of hundreds of thousands of people dying from the heat, if global warming continues to rise at current rates.

In the cities of Nairobi to the east, Cape Town to the south and Lagos to the west, there were big marches highlighting the climate changes which are inundating Africa. All across the Sahel, the southern edge of the Sahara desert, there is currently major flooding in an area generally threatened with drought. Hundreds of thousands of people have lost their homes, and much of the crops awaiting harvest has been destroyed. These floods



Capetown, South Africa, Sept. 25.

are threatening nations from Mauritania to South Sudan with famine.

The world's changing weather is creating greater problems. The inundations in the Sahel, a windstorm in Alaska of hurricane-force strength, a record number of Atlantic hurricanes, forest fires devastating vast areas in the western U.S., heat waves of 100 degrees in Siberia, a record

ice loss in the Arctic ocean — all point to the climate crisis growing ever more deadly.

The youth of the world see their future evaporating. As they say, "There is no planet B." More and more, their signs and banners proclaim the need for a system change to combat climate change. □

How class oppression drives climate crises

By Mirinda Crissman

Climate emergencies and U.S. imperialism have quite a bit of overlap. Both are increasingly displacing the living at home and abroad on an almost unbelievable scale.

These conditions are creating migrants and refugees who have to stay on the move to survive. To stave off climate annihilation induced by capitalist crisis, priority must be given to Indigenous land stewardship, food sovereignty for the masses, and abolishing debts.



Climate change refugees, Bangladesh.

Displaced people, and migrants in general, are falsely blamed for much of the world's scarcity. But there are more than enough resources to go around to take care of everyone. Scarcity exists because a handful of people own, hoard and amass wealth at the expense of the people who created it. While this small ruling class is the source of much suffering, hundreds of years of individualistic social conditioning in capitalist society obscure the fact that more people are closer to poverty than they will ever be to becoming millionaires.

The violence displaced migrants face includes food insecurity, unemployment, homelessness, and lack of adequate health care, water, electricity, and sanitation, among other issues. During the COVID pandemic an estimated 40 million people in the United States — supposedly the richest country in the world — find themselves on the brink of homelessness and facing many of the exact same conditions migrants face globally.

Military, police and climate emergencies

What the U.S. military does abroad, internal law enforcement like police do to people at home. They will forcibly displace people, whether through armed force or eviction notice, so that the ruling

class can perhaps make another dollar.

Also increasingly displacing those living at home and abroad are climate emergencies. Rising global temperatures from capitalist production on stolen land — particularly overproduction and over-reliance on fossil fuels like coal, oil, and natural gas — have led to extreme weather. Wildfires and hurricanes are becoming more and more frequent in displacing the living.

Native people successfully practiced stewardship of these lands for thousands of years with controlled burns and sustainable agriculture. Their forced displacement was also a driving if not the major factor in producing misery in order to profit the few.

Land mismanagement and rising temperatures have led to drier forests and deserts primed for fire and dust storms as well as an increase in heat energy released via hurricanes. Excessive capitalist oil production pollutes and heats up not just the air — which has no borders — but also water and land. Fractured earth, ruined natural springs and aquifers, inland flooding, melting ice and rising sea levels are all "gifts" from colonial land mismanagement.

The U.S. military is one of the world's largest consumers of oil. This armed body is guilty of displacing the living by driving climate crisis in its consumption of fossil fuels — in addition to displacing the living through violent, antagonistic conflict.

A recent report put out by Brown

University's Costs of War project conservatively estimates that U.S. wars since 9/11 have forcibly displaced at least 37 million people in and from Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, Yemen, Somalia, the Philippines, Libya, and Syria. This exceeds those displaced by every earlier war since 1900, with the exception of World War II. Other data suggest that the total number displaced by U.S. post-9/11 wars could be closer to 48 million to 59 million people.

Deaths from imperial intervention, in addition to direct combat, have been calculated to be as high as 3.1 million, with injured and traumatized folks extending into the tens of millions. (tinyurl.com/CostsOfUSWarOnTerror, Sept. 8)

The greed and violence of a few is hurtling us all toward environmental collapse. More and more of us will find our situations resembling the struggle of migrants globally. There are millions, even billions of us whose collective survival depends on our ability to remake the world. What has been built by colonizers can be dismantled.

Capitalists have been stewards of the planet by force only in recent history. Indigenous peoples were stewards of the land, living in harmony, for thousands of years before all of this destruction. And they know how to do it again.

Abolish private property on stolen land! The earth is a collective space that can provide for everyone's basic human needs. Given all that we are facing with the many crises of capitalism, there is much work to be done. As long as work is dictated by what makes bosses and the ruling class money, peoples needs won't be met. And we will see more forced migration and misery.

Engaging in explicitly anti-colonial

projects is the way forward. And we can look to those who had successfully begun to do so, like Thomas Sankara.

Thomas Sankara and agroecology

Dr. Amber Murray explains, "The revolutionary transformation of the West African country Upper Volta to Burkina Faso (what is known as the August revolution of 1983) occurred during a previous neoliberal crisis, that of the 1980s African debt crisis. Sankara vehemently and publicly denounced odious debt and rallied African political leaders to do the same."

"Sankara's politics and political leadership challenged the idea that the global capitalist system cannot be undone. During four years as the president of Burkina Faso, he worked with the people to construct an emancipatory politics informed by human, social, ecological and planetary wellbeing." (Pambuza News, May 5, 2016)

One of the many successful projects spearheaded by Sankara in Burkina Faso included the centering of food sovereignty through a system of agroecology. Agroecology encourages "power-dispersing and power creating" communal food cultivation that enhances "the dignity, knowledge and capacities of all involved" and the regeneration of the environment. (From the documentary "Sur les traces de Thomas Sankara," 2013) Other successful projects included the planting of 10 million trees across the Sahel as a means of beginning to repair colonial suffocation that made the land more arid.

Sankara met an untimely demise, due to his revolutionary ideas and ways to remake the world. His spirit and ideas live on in revolutionary struggle that dares to win a world beyond the confines of capitalist-induced death. □



San Juan, Puerto Rico, 2 de junio.

Entregue la evidencia y Carcel para los policías que mataron a Breonna Taylor

Por Monica Moorehead

27 de septiembre: Las protestas estallaron en todo Estados Unidos el 23 de septiembre cuando se anunció por primera vez que ningún oficial de policía sería acusado por el asesinato de Breonna Taylor. La habían matado a tiros en su cama en Louisville, Ky., el 13 de marzo.

Estas protestas se llevaron a cabo por miles durante varios días tanto en Louisville como en la ciudad de Nueva York.

En Nueva York, se cerraron una interestatal y un puente entre Brooklyn y Manhattan.

En Louisville, los manifestantes desafiaron los toques de queda y se arriesgaron a ser arrestados cuando la policía local y la Guardia Nacional intentaron intimidarlos con gases lacrimógenos y blandiendo porras. Entre los arrestados se encontraba la representante estatal Attica Scott (D), la única legisladora estatal negra en Kentucky, que enfrenta un cargo de delito grave por “disturbios” y dos delitos menores.

Otras protestas tuvieron lugar en ciudades grandes y pequeñas, incluidas Filadelfia, Seattle, St. Louis, Denver, Nashville, Oakland, Boston, Detroit, Eugene, Los Ángeles, Chicago, Washington y otros lugares. Los atletas y entrenadores expresaron enojo y frustración en los playoffs de la Asociación Nacional de Baloncesto y la NBA Femenina. Todos los equipos de la WNBA (NBA Femenina) han dedicado sus playoffs a Breonna Taylor.

El equipo de baloncesto masculino de la Universidad de Louisville encabezó una protesta el 25 de septiembre en Louisville.

Los principales temas políticos de estas manifestaciones, además de “Arrestar a los asesinos de Breonna Taylor”, también fueron “¡Abolir a la policía!” y “¡Eliminen fondos a la policía!”

El asesinato de Taylor ha generado un clamor nacional que exige que la policía rinda cuentas por los asesinatos de mujeres, hombres y niños negros y morenos y en defensa de Black Lives Matter.

Más de seis meses después del atroz asesinato el 13 de marzo de Taylor, una médica de emergencias afroamericana de 26 años, por tres oficiales de policía blancos de Louisville, Ky., un gran jurado secreto el 23 de septiembre acusó a solo uno de esos oficiales con tres cargos de “peligro injustificado”. Y esto fue después de cuatro meses de supuesta investigación.

Que significa exactamente? Significa que el oficial Brett Hankison fue acusado solo de poner en peligro a otros, cuando las balas que disparó en el apartamento de Taylor viajaron a una unidad vecina, amenazando la vida de tres vecinos, que son blancos. No se presentó ni un solo cargo contra los otros dos policías. Hankison ahora está en libertad con una fianza de \$15.000.

El fiscal general de Kentucky, Daniel Cameron (derecha), hizo el anuncio, y explicó que los tres policías estaban justificados en disparar múltiples rondas, seis de las cuales golpearon a Taylor mientras dormía, en “defensa propia”. El compañero de Taylor, Kenneth Walker, disparó a la policía cuando derribaron la puerta de Taylor con un ariete.

Las afirmaciones de Cameron de que Walker hirió a uno de los policías



Cierre de la I-64 en Louisville el 24 de septiembre para protestar contra el fallo del gran jurado de Breonna Taylor.

resultaron ser falsas según un informe de balística reciente. (courier-journal.com, 27 de septiembre)

Estaban llevando a cabo una orden de registro “sin anunciarse” durante una redada de drogas desacertada.

Walker dijo que la policía nunca anunció quiénes eran, ya que trató de defender a Taylor y a sí mismo. El representante Scott propuso una ley estatal para negar la orden de “sin anunciarse”, que se aprobó recientemente. Recientemente fue arrestada.

El hecho de que ningún policía haya sido acusado de asesinato, ni siquiera de homicidio involuntario, por quitarle la vida a esta joven negra, es otra razón trágica pero importante por la que la lucha Black Lives Matter merece una amplia solidaridad de clase.

Como el linchamiento público de George Floyd en Minneapolis el 25 de mayo para ayudar a crear conciencia nacional e internacional sobre el asesinato de Taylor, que había ocurrido más de dos meses antes.

El abogado de derechos civiles Benjamin Crump comentó luego del fallo: “¡Esto es indignante y ofensivo! Si el comportamiento de Brett Hankison fue un peligro injustificado para las personas de los apartamentos vecinos, entonces también debería haber sido un peligro injustificado en el apartamento de Breonna Taylor. De hecho, debería haberse dictaminado un asesinato sin sentido”. (Washington Post, 23 de septiembre)

La familia exige ‘abrir los libros’

La familia de Breonna Taylor, incluida su madre, Tamika Palmer, y Walker estuvieron presentes en una conferencia de prensa el 25 de septiembre en Louisville, junto con los abogados de la familia Crump y Lonita Baker. Los abogados y la familia exigen que el gran jurado secreto revele la transcripción completa al mundo que condujo a su impactante fallo. También están pidiendo que se nombre a un fiscal especial para que presente pruebas en nombre de Taylor ante un gran jurado.

Crump comentó: “¿Qué presentó el fiscal general de Kentucky, Daniel Cameron, al gran jurado? ¿Presentó alguna prueba en nombre de Breonna Taylor? ¿O tomó una decisión unilateral de poner su pulgar en la balanza de la justicia para ayudar a tratar de exonerar y justificar? el asesinato de Breonna Taylor por parte de estos agentes de policía y, al hacerlo, asegúrese

de que la familia de Breonna Taylor nunca llegue a la corte.

“Que se publique la transcripción para que podamos tener transparencia. Y si hiciste todo lo que pudiste en nombre de Breonna, no deberías tener ningún problema, Daniel Cameron, para publicar la transcripción y ver que luchaste por todos los ciudadanos de Kentucky”. (ABC News, 25 de septiembre)

En una declaración escrita leída por la tía de Taylor, Bianca Austin, Tamika Palmer afirmó que Cameron “tenía el poder de hacer lo correcto. Tenía el poder de iniciar la curación de esta ciudad. [Él] me ayudó a darme cuenta ... Seamos siempre nosotros contra ellos. Que nunca estamos seguros cuando se trata de ellos”. Ella continuó diciendo que “no tiene fe en el sistema legal, en la policía, en las leyes que no están hechas para protegernos a los negros y morenos”.

Palmer dijo que Cameron “solo no le falló a ella” y que a su hija también le falló “el juez que firmó la orden de registro ... el terrorista que derribó su puerta ... [y] el sistema en su conjunto”.

Uno de los miembros del gran jurado presentó una moción el 28 de septiembre. La moción exige que las grabaciones de los procedimientos del gran jurado se hagan públicas. Dice que los jurados no recibieron las instrucciones adecuadas para incluir la opción de acusar al sargento Jon Mattingly y al detective Myles Cosgrove por disparar las balas que mataron a Taylor. El miembro del jurado también pide hablar públicamente sobre este asunto.

La policía y el capitalismo están entrelazados

La declaración de Palmer suena tan cierta, no solo para los individuos responsables de la muerte sin sentido de su hija, sino para todo el sistema de opresión manipulado e intolerante.

Los abusos de la policía, los tribunales, las cárceles y las leyes contra personas de raza negra y morena como George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Sandra Bland y muchos

otros no son casos aislados. Estas instituciones reflejan diferencias intolerables e irreconciliables cuando se trata de raza y clase.

Bajo el capitalismo, una forma particular de sociedad que divide a las personas en ricos y pobres, la clase dominante y la clase trabajadora multinacional, las vidas de los negros, morenos e indígenas son devaluadas por un aparato estatal represivo que descansa sobre los cimientos centenarios de la supremacía blanca.

¿De qué otra manera se puede explicar que un policía de Louisville sea responsable por destruir muros, pero no por quitarle la vida a un ser humano?

O que un neofascista de 17 años, Kyle Rittenhouse, pueda matar a tiros a dos antirracistas en Kenosha, Wisconsin, mientras la policía mira para otro lado, pero un niño negro de 12 años, Tamir Rice, puede ser muerto a tiros en el acto por la policía en Cleveland por jugar con una pistola de aire comprimido?

La policía, la Patrulla Fronteriza de los Estados Unidos y otras agencias existen para mantener el orden social, es decir, para usar cualquier medio represivo para proteger la propiedad privada de los patrones robados de la riqueza y el trabajo colectivo de la clase trabajadora global.

Esta orden es la razón por la que es tan difícil hacer justicia para las víctimas de la violencia policial. Las leyes otorgan inmunidad a la policía, que actúa como agente armado de los patrones contra los trabajadores.

La llamada de atención para abolir la policía, no solo como individuos sino como una fuerza opresiva militarizada y diametralmente opuesta a los intereses de los trabajadores y oprimidos, seguirá creciendo.

El hecho de que ningún policía haya sido acusado de asesinato o incluso de

homicidio involuntario por quitarle la vida a esta joven negra no es más que otro ejemplo trágico pero importante de por qué la lucha Black Lives Matter merece una amplia solidaridad de clase.

Al final, la única forma de abolir a la policía es abolir el sistema que ha sostenido a esta fuerza desde los días de la esclavitud estadounidense. Y ese sistema es el capitalismo, un sistema que prioriza las ganancias y la propiedad privada antes de satisfacer las necesidades humanas básicas de los trabajadores, que necesitan empleo, vivienda, atención médica, educación y mucho más. Solo una revolución socialista puede finalmente ganar estas demandas, no una elección, que no cambia las relaciones de clase.

Librar una lucha global y de clase para ayudar a empoderar a la clase trabajadora a través de asambleas de trabajadores, comités de defensa de trabajadores contra fascistas de derecha y otras formaciones organizadas sostenidas ganará justicia real para los Breonna Taylor y George Floyds del mundo. □

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