Trump, COVID and poetic justice

By Nathaniel Chase

Donald Trump, who sat by while so many died, undercut health professionals’ recommendations for fighting the COVID-19 pandemic, mocked wearing a mask, placed capitalist profits over the lives of thousands and put forward no serious plan to address the pandemic, is now sick himself. The chickens have come home to roost.

Unlike the millions of workers who have lost their jobs and health insurance because of the pandemic, or never had coverage in the first place, Trump is receiving top-of-the-line health care, including experimental treatments not yet available to the public. While he is receiving medical care immediately after his diagnosis, most people, especially people of color, must wait until they develop serious symptoms to be treated.

No resource will be spared to save the man who has allowed more than 214,000 deaths, disproportionately Black, Brown and Indigenous, to die from the pandemic. The U.S. response under his watch is the opposite of the one that healthy people coils the First Lady to water potatoes. The entire power structure is complicit in this, from the Trump administration on down to the state’s Democratic officials, who refuse to enforce basic health, safety and labor regulations.

Workers have gained considerable support from at least five local elected officials. This can be seen in the fact that 43% of Washington state residents who have COVID-19 are Latinx, while Latinx people comprise only 13% of the population.

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The essential question is: What is to be done?

Black trans lives

Second chance

Troy Davis remembered

Incarcerated women & trans people

Calls to release Jamil Al-Amin

Workers’ democracy – not capitalist charity

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Denver Area Labor Federation condemns fascism in Colorado

On Sept. 24, the Denver Area Labor Federation delegate body, representing 90,000 union members, unanimously passed the following resolution condemning the actions of Denver District Attorneys Dave Young and George Brauchler following a July 17 protest. They had arrested six protest leaders, held them for over a week without arraignment, and charged them with “kidnapping” because demonstrators encircled a police building. It is posted at Denver Area Labor Federation Facebook.

Whereas, the Denver Area Labor Federation delegates reaffirmed our oath in 2016 to stand against fascism and to speak out when we saw [it] occur in our government.

Whereas, six peaceful protestors face felony charges, including kidnapping, for their involvement in protests on July 17, 2020, in Aurora, Colorado. These arrests and ridiculous charges against organizers are a clear example of fascism. The government is cracking down on the right to organize, protest, and dissent. We must live up to our oath and defend our democratic rights in this time of growing fascism.

Whereas, charging the organizers with “kidnapping” for holding a protest outside the only way forward is a dangerous precedent. This opens the pathway for employers to call the cops and arrest union members on picket lines for similar charges of “kidnapping.”

Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, attacks on im/migrants, misogyny, LGBTQ+ and attacks on basic human needs.

Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, attacks on im/migrants, misogyny, LGBTQ+ and attacks on basic human needs.

Whereas, we must draw a hard line now. We know that if we do not stand against these attacks just arrest now, we do a disservice to the memory of those who built our labor movement.

Whereas, we must draw a hard line now. We know that if we do not stand up to these attacks against organizing and protesting, union organizers will be targeted next.

Whereas, the organizers arrested have been held without a bond hearing for over five days. This is clearly a violation of due process rights and an effort to intimidate and retaliate.

Whereas, we shall never forget that recently deceased Congressman John Lewis was also arrested and beaten by the police when he and 600 civil rights activists marched on the highway in Selma, Ala. Upholding civil rights and the right to live with dignity and respect requires civil disobedience.

Therefore, it be resolved that the Denver Area Labor Federation calls on District Attorneys Dave Young and George Brauchler to drop the charges against the recently arrested anti-racist organizers; that the Denver Area Labor Federation demands that the actions of District Attorneys Young and Brauchler for using their offices to overcharge protest leaders in a clear effort to intimidate protestors; that we urge our affiliates and partner organizations to adopt a similar resolution, that this resolution be made public for any and all to see.

Join us in the fight for socialism!

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

Workers World Party is a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist party inside the belly of the imperialist beast. We are a multiracial, multigenerational and multigendered organization that not only aims to abolish capitalism, but to build a socialist society because the only way forward is socialism.

Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world and the planet itself in the never-ending quest for ever-greater profits.

Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, attacks on im/migrants, misogyny, LGBTQ++ oppression and mistreatment of people with disabilities. It means joblessness, increasing homelessness and impoverishment and lack of hope for the future. No social problems can be solved under capitalism.

The U.S. is the richest country in the world, yet no one has a guaranteed right to shelter, food, water, health care, education or anything else — unless they can pay for it. Wages are lower than ever, and youth are saddled with seemingly insurmountable student debt, if they even make it to college. Black, Brown and Indigenous youth and trans people are gunned down by cops and bigots on a regular basis.

The ruthless ruling class today seeks to wipe out decades of gains and benefits won by hard-fought struggle 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 working class should create socially owned and its distribution planned to satisfy and guarantee basic human needs.

Since 1934, Workers World Party has been out in the streets defending the workers and oppressed here and worldwide. If you’re interested in Marxism, socialism and fighting for a socialist future, please contact a WWP branch near you.

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New evidence in Breonna Taylor’s murder

By RJ Red

When Kentucky Attorney General Daniel Cameron announced Sept. 23 that a grand jury was not charging a single police officer in the cop murder of Breonna Taylor on March 13 in Louisville, Ky., mass demonstrations erupted there, in New York City and in many other cities. On Sept. 25, Taylor’s family demanded the grand jury “open the books” and reveal the evidence used to reach its decision.

New evidence has now been released. Recordings from the grand jury proceed- ings and body cam footage from some police officers at the scene have raised many doubts about the legitimacy of the investigation and the handling of the crime scene by the Louisville Metro Police Department (LMPD).

Cameron’s case for the LMPD officers hinges on their claim that they announced themselves before breaking into the apartment where Taylor lay sleeping beside her partner, Kenneth Walker. Cameron’s key witness testified to confirm this.

But Vicet News obtained audio recordings of the original interview with this witness, who can be heard plainly saying, “No, nobody identified themselves.” Only after this initial interview did the witness change their story. Cameron presented no information from the first interview, but only testimony from the later interview that confirmed the cop narrative. (tinyurl.com/y24l86dz)

This is a huge indication of bias in the case presented to the grand jury, since this was the only witness claiming to hear the police identify themselves. None of the dozens of other neighbors inter- viewed by Vice said they heard the police announce themselves.

Inconsistencies, lies in official narrative

Another inconsistency in the official narrative stems from the claim by the city and the LMPD that none of the offi- cers who broke in were wearing body cameras. According to police, the officers were wearing plain clothes and were not required to wear body cameras.

But recently released photos from the scene show Officer Tony James wearing a body cam, which he did not turn on, in violation of department rules. The cam footage would have provided crucial evi- dence of the shooting. Without that, the case comes down to the word of the cops against that of Kenneth Walker, who fired a gun at unknown men breaking into the apartment. (tinyurl.com/yxt5pwj)

Many hours of video footage are now available which show officers after the shooting, the scene during investigation and the arrest of Walker. One body cam recording shows one officer who fired a weapon, Brett Hankinson, walking back into the crime scene and being asked to leave by investigators. Hankinson lingers and asks questions. Another involved officer, Mike Campbell, is seen walk- ing around, interviewing neighbors. (tinyurl.com/y3byu86g)

When Taylor’s family accused the LMPD of a cover-up, after it came to light that investigators interviewing Officer Matthias asked leading questions to coach him into a story that would clear him of wrongdoing. This behavior indicates that from the get-go, the investigators had every intention of sweeping the murder of Taylor out of sight. (tinyurl.com/y3g6ewj)

The state’s investigation has utterly failed to pursue justice for the killing of Breonna Taylor. Unrelenting protesters continue to push for the only real justice that can be had—the defunding and abo- lition of the police.

Philthy protesters demand ‘Stop racist police murders!’

Hundreds of activists gathered at the “Rocky Steps” in Philadelphia on Oct. 3 to hear speakers from Black Lives Matter Philly, Black Philly Radical Collective, Black Alliance for Peace and Mobilization4Mumia condemn the racist police murders of Breonna Taylor; George Floyd, Mya Hall and countless others.

March leaders used the event to teach participants about organizing strategies. They led the crowd down the Ben Franklin Parkway to 20th Street, where Black activists gave short, on-the-street classes on jail support, state surveillance and counterintelligence and showing solidarity with political prisoners.

The march resumed, ending in the wide streets around Logan Square, where par- ticipants took part in three workshops—Organizing 101, Street Media Care and First Aid and Self-Defense.

By Mumia Abu-Jamal

Breonna’s deathbed

By Mumia Abu-Jamal

Taken from a Sept. 23 audio column on prisonradio.org.

Her name, Breonna Taylor, has become a chant and shouted call in protests, along with those of many other Black people killed by the state with absolute impunity.

In a recent decision, a grand jury* in the state of Kentucky did not issue a single indictment of murder against the police officers who broke into her apart- ment, shooting more than a dozen times.

At least six shots hit Breonna as she lay in her bed. The policemen were ostensibly carrying out a raid against drug traffick- ing, but, note that they did not find any drugs.

Only one cop, who had been fired before, now faces charges. He is accused of endangering neighbors by shooting at their apartments.

Philosophers sometimes conduct thought experiments to see all sides of a contro- versy. Imagine, if you can, that a 26-year-old white woman named Breonna Brezinsky, who worked as a technician in medi- cal emergencies, is killed, shot in her bed by half a dozen police officers in a misguided raid.

What do you think would happen to those police officers?

The case of the Black woman, Breonna, reminds me of Black Panther Party leader Fred Hampton, a 21-year-old Black man, shot in his bed after being drugged in the early morning hours of Dec. 4, 1969, in Chicago. Fifty years later, and the lives of Black people still matter.

From the imprisoned nation, I am Mumia Abu-Jamal.

*A grand jury does not determine a person’s innocence or guilt as a jury in a criminal case, but investigates a possible crime, accuses one or more persons and establishes the charges against them.
Janetta Johnson: Fierce advocate for Black trans people in prison

By Janetta Louise Johnson

The following is an edited version of a talk given by Janetta Louise Johnson during the Sept. 24 webi-
nar Women & Gender Oppressed Prisoners; Survival & Resistance. Johnson, a formerly incarcerated Black transgender woman, is the Executive Director at Transgender, Gender- Variant, and Intersex Justice Project. She has been an activist and advocate in the trans- gender community since 1997, when she moved to San Francisco from Tampa, Fla. She survived three and a half years in federal prison and, while inside, fiercely and tirelessly advocated for her rights as an incarcerated trans- gender person.

Johnson believes that currently and formerly incarcerated trans people without a voice will be peo- ple without hope. She will continue to struggle to instill hope and belief in a better future for every trans- gender person that she can reach.

I constantly am reminded of the trauma, the abuse, and atroci- ties that trans people are currently experiencing inside of custody. We (Transgender, Gender-Variant, and Intersex, Justice Project) have a program where we correspond with trans people every Tuesday, which has not exactly been up since COVID-19. We have a staff to address a lot of the correspondence we received.

We just hired a formerly incarcerated trans woman who is transmasculine. She has been out for about five months. She is one of the legal assistants to our legal director, Alex Binsfeld. And we’ve just been receiving a lot of information from vari- ous people on the inside, about the abuse and the trauma and atrocities that the trans people are experiencing.

We especially think about trans people being the most vulnerable population inside the criminal justice sys- tems generally, and when there’s a national pandemic. For many years, since I’ve lived in San Francisco in the Bay Area, I’ve always been concerned that if there was ever a national pandemic, how will Black trans people be served.

I’m a firm believer that things [have] only gotten worse, because any type of disease or stigma is always more attached to trans people, and those are my con- cerns about the safety for trans people.

We’ve received a lot of correspondence through vari- ous institutions that we’re very close to. One of them is Mule Creek [State Prison]. We are very connected to them. We’ve received information from the inside that there’s a lot of things going on in Kern Valley [State Prison], and that a lot of needs of the people in prison are not being met.

So we’ve been doing a lot of legal correspondence with people, teaching them how to advocate for them- selves to ensure that they are strengthened enough to use their own voice and their own penmanship in order to get their needs met. We’re working on various bills and policy to get people to cut down to 65% of the prison industrial complex, to meet that goal.

We are trying to make sure that trans people are a large part of that population that would be cut and released. We work with the city, county courts, and pro- bation officers to ensure that no trans people will be booked inside the system – that they will come to our organization which is doing things to support trans peo- ple inside, and getting them into safer opportunities as they’re being released.

It’s been a lot of work. There’s been a lot of lack of resources or fundings and various things. We have been doing our best, really showing up and creating opportu- nities and trying to get trans people in more permanent, stable housing situations. There are so many co-factors that put trans people at higher risk.

Reentry must come with a paycheck

At TGLIP, I firmly believe that Black trans women will welcome anybody here. We’re just doing everything we can to create safe opportunities for people coming directly out of prison. Since COVID-19, we’ve brought on four trans people who have spent long terms in prison, as reentry staff currently working with us.

Reentry must come with a paycheck. There’s no other way to do reentry, because people don’t have the abil- ity to access reentry opportunities that do not come with a paycheck. Especially with all the different things that were experienced, and movement for Black lives, as many Black trans people are being murdered, if it’s really difficult. You’re trying to create safety for people on the inside plus create safety for people on the outside.

One last thing that I wanted to raise. I’m a formerly incarcerated Black trans woman, I hate it when people refer to people in prison as prisoners. I really have been talking to our legal director and saying that, I think you need to contact every organization that has “for prison- ers” as their name or on the website. We should use a name that don’t forget that we are people in prison. I was a person that was in prison and served many, many stints of time. I’ve met so many amazing people in prison. This was the one time in my life that I felt empowered enough not to allow myself to be labeled as a prisoner because I had to look at my value of my worth and my wealth that I have on the inside. I’m not a prisoner. I’m a person who was a prisoner.

There’s a lot of reasons why I was a person in prison based on the inequities and injustices that happens to Black trans people that are part of the criminal injustice system. So I really wish and would like to ask if we could please [stop] calling people that are in prison “pris- oners.” There are so many amazing people that are in prison. Give them the opportunity and the proper access.

As we talk about defunding the police and investing more in communities, that’s more and more people that we could bring in and out of the criminal justice system, and provide them with opportunities that’s needed. And I just always will encourage people that re-entry must come with a paycheck.

A second chance for Kushal

By Kushal K. Shah

As a child, I was a loner. I was not pop- ular with my peers and I was the black sheep of my family. I had a speech issue and because of that I was picked on and made fun of.

When it came to family outings, I was not invited. My family felt like I would be an embarrassment to them, so my sib- lings were invited and I was not. In school I proved to be better than other students in sports but was not selected to play due to my speech issues, and the very fact that I was not a popular kid.

As a result, my childhood was very lonely. Later on during my childhood, things got really rough in my home. I started to suffer abuse, and I put forth every effort to hide it from school officials so they would not report it. One day I showed up at school and my teacher noticed the bruises all over me, so the state police were called. I was removed from my home and placed in a group home.

From that point on, my juvenile years would be plagued by juvenile detention and group homes. At the age of 18 years and 20 days old, I was with an individual whom I considered to be a friend. And things went far out of whack, a crime took place, and I was charged with a shoot- ing. Throughout the court proceedings, I was represented by a public defender and court-appointed counsel who did next to nothing for me. I wrote to the court complaining about my so-called counsel; however, my cries fell on deaf ears.

Powerless to resist, I would plead guilty in order to avoid the death sentence. Without the help of a competent counsel, I knew that I did not stand a chance against the state’s prosecutor. I was sentenced to life in prison, and was initially placed in the Maximum Security Housing Unit. This is basically an isolation unit where there is no human contact. I became very depressed, lacking support, and I began suicide attempts. I felt hopeless and drained.

At this point I started to fight my case on my own. I would spend hours reading legal cases and legal books. I became knowledgeable of the law and I started to find hope. I would write to random attor- neys and ask them for their old law books.

I made praying my daily routine. I knew without divine intervention I would spend the rest of my life staring at brick walls. I have sought forgiveness from the Almighty and I continue to do so. I know and understand that my fel- low man will always pass unfair judge- ment, which is why I constantly seek the assistance of God.

At this time I am litigating cases for other prisoners. I am often called upon for legal advice and assistance. I am cur- rently fighting against Gilead Sciences for another prisoner. This company is selling toxic medication… I am single-handedly fighting this corporation from a prison cell.

I have received praise from attorneys for my work. My goal is to obtain a resen- tencing hearing, get out of prison and become an attorney. When I get released I can help other individuals better their positions. I would like to take a special interest in juvenile cases, because being passed around in the system at that age is traumatizing for a child. I understand their pain because I have experienced it myself. I want to use my mistakes and misfortunes to bet- ter other people’s lives.

There is currently a U.S. Supreme Court case which criticizes sentenc- ing young people to life in prison. I fall into that category.

You can write me at: Kushal K. Shah
James T. Vaughn Correctional Center
1181 Paddock Road
Smyrna, DE 19977
Troy Davis ¡Presente!

By Mirinda Crissman
Houston

Oct. 9 marks what would have been Troy Anthony Davis’ 128th birthday. He was legally lynched by a Georgia grand jury on Sept. 21, 2011. Davis was an innocent man, wrongfully convicted of killing an off-duty police officer in 1989. He should have never been executed, let alone held in a cage for so long. Before his death, Davis told members of his family that he wished prominently to voice the fact that he is the named victim of Georgia’s only cop who has been executed.

The lynching system in Georgia and across the U.S. gets things devastatingly wrong so often because it was designed to serve a select few people accumulating property on stolen land.

Federal executions have surged in 2020 from just three people in the last 56 years to more than 20 executions this summer alone. Support and actual use of the death penalty in individual states has dramatically declined over the last decade. The places where it persists are in the U.S. South, largely in states where Reconstruction efforts were beaten back by racist counterrevolutionaries. Texas leads with 570 executions, followed by Virginia, Oklahoma, Florida, and Missouri, Georgia with 133, 112, 99, 90, 76 and 67 executions, respectively.

The death penalties of migrant wages are spoken in the rope to the chair to the needle. It has evolved directly from the conditions of Indigenous genocide and enslavement of African people on this stolen land. The death penalty persists despite it not being a deterrent to crime, despite the legal system getting things wrong so often. And the state does not have the moral authority to kill anyone!

In 2009, a new landmark study concluded that 88% of the nation’s leading criminologists do not believe the death penalty is an effective deterrent to crime. In June 2009, Amnesty International wrote: “Scientists agree, by an overwhelming majority, that the death penalty has no deterrent effect . . . States without the death penalty continue to have significantly lower murder rates than those that retain capital punishment.”

As of 2019, there have been 172 exonerations from death row across the U.S. (Deathpenaltyinfo.org) — a pretty high margin of error when we’re talking about people’s lives.

There are countless more oppressed people currently being held in cages simply for trying to survive. Folks who end up on death row are a small population compared to the nearly 2.5 million incarcerated in the U.S. But with near COVID-19 ravaging prisons, jails and detention centers, more incarcerated people are facing possible death by state neglect.

Whether people committed some “crime” or even some sort of act of violence does not mean that people should be subject to death. How many are incarcerated workers, jailed because they were deemed the enemy of a white-suprema- centric-patriarchal, ableist, imperial- ist empire? The real criminals, the people who finance endless war and misery, hold the keys to these cages. Donald Trump, who publicly called for the death penalty against innocent Black people like the now-exonerated Central Park Five, are part of a larger system of settlers with serious entitlement issues.

The Supreme Court of the United States holds final say on state executions and was granted this power by the same people who actively killed Indigenous people and enslaved Africans. SCOTUS wields the power of the state to continually exploiting in the name of the mighty dollar. They have no moral authority to say who gets to live or die. We will not get just- ice on their watch.

Justice in the case of Troy Davis would mean that he would be alive and would have never seen the inside of a prison cell in the first place. Since we can’t see that justice be done, we must work to undo all the damage placed him in the vulnerable position that ended his life. As Troy Davis’ birthday approaches, let us sit with his needless loss and abolish not only the death penalty but the racist system that enabled his execution. Not one more lynch! 

On Jamil Al-Amin’s birthday

Atlanta calls for his release

By Dianne Mathiowitz
Atlanta

Oct. 4—Supporters of a new trial for Imam Jamil Al-Amin (the former H. Rap Brown) gathered in the West End Park today to mark his 77th birthday and to declare this will be the last birthday he spends unjustly held behind prison bars.

Through the initiative of the Islamic Council of North America and Students for Imam Jamil, the rally was held in Atlanta as well as in other cities on Al-Amin’s Oct. 4 birth date.

On stage in front of a mural of Imam Jamil, a well-attended rally focused on his decades of work. A number of speakers acknowledged his support for his freedom, including rappers T.I. and Killer Mike, who both live in Atlanta, and Linda Sarsour, outspoken activist for Palestine and for justice for Breonna Taylor.

Kairi Al-Amin, Jamil’s son, is a lawyer like his mother, Karina Al-Amin. He emceed and delivered an account of the frame-up charge that the imam had killed a deputy sheriff and wounded a second officer on March 16, 2000, as well as the government misconduct charges in the 2002 trial. Dr. Yusef Salaam, one of the exonerated Central Park Five, also spoke in support of a new trial for Jamil.

The invigorated effort to win a new trial springs from the creation of a Conviction Integrity Unit in the Fulton County District Attorney’s office to review past trials where government misconduct charges in the 2002 trial. Dr. Yusef Salaam, one of the exonerated Central Park Five, also spoke in support of a new trial for Jamil.

The invigorated effort to win a new trial springs from the creation of a Conviction Integrity Unit in the Fulton County District Attorney’s office to review past trials where there is evidence of injustice. A glaring example of injustice in Al-Amin’s case is the admission by Otis Jackson that he himself was in fact the shooter.

A fighter for justice and self-determination

Whether identified as H. Rap Brown or Imam Jamil Al-Amin, this Black liberation fighter has been consistent in his efforts to bring justice and self-determination to oppressed and exploited people. As a young leader of SNCC (Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee) in the mid-1960s, he was a well-known and courageous and effective organizing in rural areas of Alabama and Mississippi to gain voting rights for Black people, despite life-threatening intimidation by the KKK and other segregationist forces.

Following his conversion to Islam, Al-Amin moved to Atlanta and established a masjid — across the street from where the rally was being held — in a community that was besieged by drugs and violence. He is widely credited with establishing programs that brought peace and security to the neighborhood and transformed the lives of many young people.

A petition for a new trial and more information about his decades of work can be found at whathappendzramp.com and ImamJamilActionNetwork.org.

Challenging incarceration of women and trans people

By Mirinda Crissman

The following are slightly edited opening remarks given during the Sept. 24 webinar Women & Gender Oppressed Prisoners, Survival & Resistance.

In our global struggle for liberation from capitalism, imperialism, white supremacy and patriarchy, we cannot waver in our determination to ‘Tear Down the Walls’ of human cages.

Since the inception of these United States, prisons, jails, mass detention centers, and psychiatric prisons have been targeted specifically as cells for genocide.

Racist, sexist, homophobic, and anti-poorest practices have been codified into law by lawmakers and perpetuators of Indigenous genocide. They have been upheld through courts, police and prisons. However, facing physical violence has not always been a given, nor does it have to be. The 4% of the ruling class denies us the right to fight back against a system that seeks to eradic us. Who are they to deny us the right to fight back?

An existential threat to anyone’s life produces a right of the oppressed to self-defense against racist and anti-LGBTQI+ assault.

We not only ask for life, we demand it. We cannot look for change to the system responsible for our present condition. At every turn it has been codified into law, and perpetuated violence against women and gender-non-conforming people worldwide. But we can look to each other and militantly fight what we’re all facing.

An injury to one is an injury to all. And we know justice comes from the people. People are powerful. We’ve seen before the might of our movements’ wins for freedom for friends, family, neighbors, and our class in cages. Struggles and fightbacks in support of the New Workers’ Party support the right of the oppressed to self-defense against racist and anti-LGBTQI+ assault.

The Supreme Court of the United States holds final say on state executions and was granted this power by the same people who actively killed Indigenous people and enslaved Africans. SCOTUS wields the power of the state to continually exploiting in the name of the mighty dollar. They have no moral authority to say who gets to live or die. We will not get justice on their watch.

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PHOTO: JOANNE LITTLE

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PHOTO: RONNIE GOODMAN
**Presidential debate**

**Trump and Biden bicker as COVID rage on**

By Nathaniel Chae

The Sept. 30 presidential debate featured two white men throwing mud at each other in performances a fifth-grade debate team would have found embarrassing.

This debate will be remembered for its continuous, cable-news-style bickering and interrupting, which prevented either candidate, and in particular Biden, from expressing themselves at length. It is an open question whether either would have been capable of doing so, had they been given the opportunity.

Neither candidate put forward any proposals to address the multitude of crises facing working and oppressed people in the U.S.—from COVID-19, unemployment, housing and health care to racism, police brutality, militant deportations, environmental catastrophe and imperialist war.

The debate, if one can even call it that, began with an argument over Trump’s right to nominate a justice to the Supreme Court before the election. Little of substance was said, and as expected there was no mention of the Supreme Court as an anti-democratic institution through which the death of a single judge can throw the hard-fought democratic rights of millions into question.

Trump accused Biden and the Democratic Party of wanting “socialist medicine and socialist health care.” Biden emphatically rejected this—he had previously made clear he does not support Medicare for All—and proudly stated he had beaten Bernie Sanders. By saying “I am the Democratic Party,” Biden was actually messaging that the Democratic Party will never be a vehicle for progressive change outside of ruling class control.

Both candidates claimed they would provide better health care at lower prices, but neither put forward Medicare for All as an obvious solution when the pandemic leaves millions of unemployed workers without employer-based health insurance.

On the pandemic, Biden attacked Trump for allowing more than 200,000 people in the U.S. to die with no end in sight. He pointed out, correctly, that Trump has no plan for the pandemic. But Biden never described his own plan. Incapable of defending his complete failure to address the pandemic, Trump bizarrely claimed it would have been even worse—a 2 million death figure for Biden.

Both candidates competed to appear the most aggressive towards China, while pandering to the far right accommodating. Both argued their opponent was in Russia’s pocket. Trump used racist, anti-China language to refer to the COVID-19 pandemic. Both candidates showed no desire to do build anti-China and anti-Russian sentiment in preparation for a new U.S. imperialist war.

**Only the organization and struggle of working and oppressed people can defend and expand democratic rights, defeat the move towards fascism, smash racism and lead the way to a revolutionary socialist future, with a society organized to meet the needs of all, instead of the profits of a few.**

**Voter rights**

**Pushing back fascists in North Carolina**

By calvin deutschein

Chapel Hill, N.C.

During this election season, the struggle for “Defend the Vote” protection is especially sharp in the South, where ballot access has historically been a powerful organizing tool in the Black freedom struggle, including the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. In 2013 in North Carolina—one of the states still under limited federal oversight by the Voting Rights Act—the state legislature, by a number of voting-related laws which were slated to be struck down as unconstitutionally racist under the VRA. Then Trump and his right-wing enforcers in the U.S. Supreme Court gutted the VRA and opened up years of vicious attacks on access to the vote by poor and oppressed people.

The struggle to access the vote has showed up dramatically and locally at polling sites such as those in Chatham County in rural North Carolina during the 2020 primary. There, members of various white-supremacist militias staged a “flagging” demonstration, flying equal numbers of Trump, Confederate, U.S. and white-supremacist militia flags at the Chatham County Agriculture and Conference Center on Feb. 15. They arrived to intimidate during the first Saturday of early primary voting—and at the same time as major efforts from local Black community organizers to turn out the vote.

The militias present included the League of South—a national group that gained infamous for numerous violent attacks at the Unite the Right fascist demonstration in Charlottesville, Va., in 2017—and a number of local groups, such as the Sons of Confederate Veterans, a white-supremacist militia. These militias took over the parking lot and demonstrated at the only entrances to the polling site, even inside the legally mandated buffer zone. Within that zone, suppos edly no electioneering is allowed, and voter harassment is barred. The militias demonstrated there with impunity, under the direct protection of the Chatham County Sheriff’s department.

For the general election this November, local anti-racist formation Chatham Stands Up and Democracy N.C., the state organization of the Election Protector Program, were able to respond to the neo-fascist threat and win major changes to election law that offered slightly better protection for voters across the state.

One approach by Democracy N.C. relies on municipal election protectors to find and report voter intimidation and suppression efforts to civil rights attorneys. These are then able to gain new public sites and increased hours and investigate irregularities in reported vote totals.

The president Trump’s recent message to the Proud Boys militia to “stand back by” for intimidation during the coming election, the need has accelerated for strong local “Defend the Vote” actions to stop these racist, fascist groups.
Thousands raise up Black Lives outside presidential debate

By Martha Grevatt

Cleveland

While presidential candidates Joe Biden and Donald Trump were debating in what many have labeled a “sh*t-show,” thousands of Greater Clevelanders came out for a “Protest for Black Lives and Climate Justice.” A broad coalition spread the word about the action on social media. Sponsors included Black Lives Matter Cleveland, Black Spring Cleveland, Coalition to Stop the Inhumanity at the Cuyahoga County Jail, Inter-Religious Task Force on Central America and Columbia, and Cleveland Sunrise Movement.

Latonya Goldsby, cousin of 12-year-old Tamir Rice, came in a shirt that said “Cleveland police murder Black people.” Goldsby, president of Black Lives Matter Cleveland, spoke at the rally about the many Tamir Rice incidents in Cleveland impacted by police killings. “Not one of the officers in those murders has been charged or convicted,” she said. “Yet, we see these candidates come in and out of our cities pleading for Black lives, making promises that they never intend to keep.”

Rice was killed in 2014 while playing with a BB gun and another child in a CTA parking lot. The police who killed him are not charged. Latonya Goldsby, cousin of 12-year-old Tamir Rice, came in a shirt that said “Cleveland police murder Black people.”

Rice was killed in 2014 while playing with a BB gun and another child in a CTA parking lot. The police who killed him are not charged.

By Teresa Gutierrez

Preparing for ‘the Interregnum’—the election mess

In researching this article, a cool-sounding word came up: “pettifoggery.” It means “a disregard for quibbling over trifles.”

The word was used in an article by Barton Gellman in the November Atlantic magazine, “The Election That Could Break America.”

Gellman laid out that it is a waste of time to quibble over whether the 45th president of the United States will leave office on Inauguration Day—Jan. 20, 2021. He made the conventionally sound case that, no matter what happens on Election Day—Nov. 3, 2020—Donald Trump will not concede his position.

Gellman writes that “two men could show up on the 20th to be sworn in. One of them would arrive with all the tools and power of the presidency already in hand.”

No one has a crystal ball, but let’s face it, Gellman is probably right.

Donald Trump’s hubris as well as his pathology absolutely will not allow him to leave easily or quietly. Every tweet, statement, decree—all action of Trump since the 2016 election—has demonstrated his fierce hunger for staying in power, in the lineitem and reaping the bounty for him and his family that comes with the presidency.

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The coalition outlawed the state, however, escorting groups of people from parking areas and mass transit stops to and from the site. A support system included medics, marshals, food, and healing space.

The diverse groups that came together for the Sept. 29 action hope to build on that success and create a united front to fight for justice—regardless of the outcome on Nov. 3.

Democrats in Congress would shut down Washington until the police were punished or COVID money released. But they do not. And they will not.

If Wall Street controls the elections, Congress and the White House, what can those who live on Martin Luther King Street, Cesar Chavez or Main Street possibly do to influence the elections? Everything.

‘The transfer of power to the people’

Whatever happens in November, whoever wins the election, workers and oppressed people must organize and fight back. If ever there was a time for a movement for Workers’ Assemblies, this is it.

CNN and Fox News may have all the cameras aimed at the White House in November, but if the pitchforked masses are in the streets striking for what we need, all those cameras will turn toward the people.

To those scholars concerned about the defense of the Constitution, the capitalists, bosses, and the rich must ask where was the concern for the Constitution when George Floyd or Breonna Taylor lay dead?

What about the constitutional, human and civil rights of the migrant women who have been forcibly sterilized? And what about all the essential workers who cannot work from home, those forced to risk exposure to COVID because neither the capitalist system nor the two capitalist parties represent them?

And all the hungry, houseless, incarcerated, impoverished masses—who is fighting for their constitutional rights?

Clearly, only the people can fight for themselves. That is the lesson of November.

The only transfer of power the masses must be concerned with is the transfer of power to the people: humanity depends on it.
Trump, Get your hands off Somali refugees!

By Teresa Gutierrez

Before being admitted to the hospital for coronavirus infection, Donald Trump spent the last two weeks on yet another vile anti-immigrant tirade.

Both in a policy statement to Congress and on a campaign stop in Minnesota, Trump veered to his campaign cornerstones to send yet another message to his racist base that immigrants are not welcome in this country. But it is not surprising that he would do so.

Trump went after Rep. Ilhan Omar in her very own home state and screamed to the crowd, “She tells us how to run our country, can you believe it? How the hell did Minnesota elect her? What the hell is wrong with you people?”(NYTimes, Oct 7, 2020)

Rep. Omar’s background is Somali. She is the first Somali American, the first naturalized citizen of African birth and the first woman of color to represent Minnesota in Congress. Indeed, for her, quite an accomplishment in such a racist society.

Many of the women workers incarcerated at the state’s “gene pool” by selectively sterilized with the purpose of this practice was to enhance the state’s “gene pool” by selectively sterilizing the “abnormal, unintelligent, or mentally disabled,” though it was justified in other ways. (“Dicie Be Damned: 300 Years of Insurrection in the American South,” 2013)

Winning better conditions for us all, instead of offering solutions that could help all of our families.

In the streets and in Congress

While Trump was vilifying Omar, the Trump administration announced to Congress that it would be cutting further refugee admissions into the U.S. According to the NY Times, the number of refugees can be no more than $5,000 people for the next year. This is after the Trump administration has already made a big cut, basically shutting down a humane option for people in desperate need.

In the notice to Congress, the administration proposed that no refugees would be admitted from Somalia, Syria and Yemen. These three nations have been devastated by U.S. imperialism and its allies. They have been bombed, sanctioned and blockaded. The U.S. should be allowing in every person from these countries who wants to enter.

Instead, Washington decides to deprive people any options, a denial that will result in more deaths and devastation.

And racist and white supremacists will undermine the well-being of those refugees already here whose background is not European.

An organizer for FIRE (Fight for Immigrants and Refugees Everywhere), Tania Siddiqi, told Workers World: “As advocates and allies of all im/migrants and refugees in the U.S. and abroad, we stand in solidarity with the Somali community against Trump’s vilification. We denounce anti-Muslim racism under any administration, Democrat or Republican. We stand with all the refugees in, as it is this government that has created the conditions forcing people to leave their homeland.”

Challenging incarceration of women and trans people

Continued from page 3

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Such language against another elected official from Trump is uncouth at best. But from Trump to his white supremacist base, it can be even more perilous, as he is whipping up hostility toward a woman of color, which can result in violence.

In fact, tensions and harassment escalated after Trump’s campaign rally. Members of the Minnesota community held a press conference on Oct. 2 on kare11.com to respond to Trump’s statements.

One of the attendees at the press conference was 2020 Minnesota Teacher of the Year Qorsho Hassa. She reported that during a visit to Duluth, “a group of white men in a pickup truck circled around her and chanted ‘white power’ and ‘four more years.’”

In addition, the Executive Director of the Minneapolis-based Islamic Association of North America said, “Every election year, there is a playbook used by some politicians … to use Muslims, Somaliis, refugees and immigrants as scapegoats … in order to divide people by what they look like, or where they came from — instead of offering solutions that could help all of our families.”

Ren Zhiqiang was not arrested for ‘anti-communism’

By Raymond Tyler

When influential, former property executive Ren Zhiqiang was given an 18-year sentence in China, the Western media were quick to label his imprisonment as due to alleged “anti-communist” activity. The Washington Post, CNN, the Guardian, and the New York Times parroted the same message: that Zhiqiang was imprisoned for being an “outspoken” critic of the Chinese Communist Party (CPC).

Their claim is that Zhiqiang was detained for publishing a critique of China’s response to COVID. This accusation is unfounded by the evidence generally available.

The logic of the Western media’s accusation can be summarized as follows: “If Ren Zhiqiang critiqued the CPC and was later sentenced, he must have been imprisoned for the critique of the CPC.”

There’s a problem with this narrative. The charges brought against him were not a political prisoner.”

The information that the public currently has about this case does not suggest corruption. What we do know is that the Western media have not let up on political attacks against China. If they give China any credit for successfully containing the outbreak of COVID-19, the credit is met with a disclaimer of other “draconian lockdowns” and “dictatorship.”

In the U.S. bourgeois media’s eyes every country with different systems and values is a “dictatorship,” even if those countries democratically elect their leaders. By contrast, the U.S. and its allies can air their police on Black communities and protesters and not be considered authoritarian.

The standard for being labeled an authoritarian dictatorship is arbitrary and self-justifying. Any state that is labeled as a dictatorship is subject to endless attacks, sanctions and criminal charges against citizens in one of those “dictatorships,” which must, because of corruption and repression, therefore be “legitimate.” Journalists may or may not be conscious of their xenophobic bias towards other nations with different systems. Yet in most cases their editors are. The fact is that countries building socialism have done far better handling COVID-19. China was hit first and somehow managed to come out of this with under 5,000 deaths. The U.S. government, which was expressly worried about this virus and had time to prepare, has racked up over 242,000. (Worldometer)

The Western media, with their anti-communist bias, cannot fathom how the richest country in the world — the United States — could do so poorly while socialist countries, labeled as “dictatorships,” have done so well.

Ren Zhiqiang is the chosen martyr of truth. According to media narrative, he had the spine to speak out about COVID-19 in China. This attack and false narrative against the CPC serves one purpose: to delegitimize, ostracize and attack a nation that is wrongfully feared in this country.

Rainbow Solidarity in Defense of Cuba

By Leslie Finberg, author of Stone Butch Blues

“Rainbow Solidarity in Defense of Cuba” is a compilation of 25 articles about same-sex love and sex/gender variance in Cuba’s pre- and post-revolutionary history. These articles make up parts 86 to 110 of the Lavender & Red series, which has run as a feature in Workers World weekly newspaper since the first article appeared in the June 3, 2004, issue.

It is available online at: workers.org/books

High Tech, Low Pay

A Marxist Analysis of the Changing Character of the Working Class

By Sam Marcry with an updated introduction by Fred Goldstein, author of Low Wage Capitalism.

Available at major online booksellers.

Or read it at workers.org/marcy/cd/samtech/index.htm
No stopping the student BDS movement

By Michael Kramer

Oct. 4 – The worldwide Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement has become such a thorn in the side of the Zionist occupiers of Palestine that in 2013 the Israeli settler-state declared it a “strategic threat” and has since spent tens of millions of dollars to combat it. Some of these funds have been used to set up cyber-based employment lists aimed at extortion, like the Canary Mission. The website targets students and teaching staff who are active in the Palestinian solidarity movement.

But there was no stopping the students of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, a Midwestern mega-campus with over 90,000 students and over 2,500 teaching staff members. On Sept. 28, the Illini Student Government backed a resolution which called for UI-UC to
divest from companies that support fossil fuels, the prison-industrial complex, Israel’s military and local police departments. (The Daily Illini, Sept. 28)

On Oct. 1, students at Columbia University in New York City voted to support a BDS referendum, with a final vote count of Yes—1,181, No—485. Abstain—203. The referendum asked: “Should Columbia University divest its funds from companies that profit from or engage in the State of Israel’s actions towards Palestinians, that according to Columbia University Anarchist Divestment (CUAD), fall under the United Nations International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid?” (tinyurl.com/y4ckefof)

Olivia Kathi Smith, the North American coordinator for the BDS Movement observed, “These campus victories are indicative of the rapidly changing tide we’re seeing across the United States. Despite the escalating campaigns of repression on campuses and in the halls of government, it is becoming impossible to be ‘progressive except Palestine,’ because it is becoming impossible to silence our movement.

“The Palestinian struggle for freedom, justice and equality so clearly intersects with all other struggles of oppressed peoples everywhere.” (mondoweiss.net, Sept. 30).

Government coverup as white supremacists infiltrate police

By Betsey Pliette

Philadelphia

According to The Intercept, the FBI is now so “concerned about the infiltration of law enforcement by white supremacist groups and its impact on police abuse and tolerance of racism” that on Sept. 28 it released an unredacted version of agency surveillance about the infiltration, which supposedly started in 2006.

It is difficult to credit the FBI with “concern” when none of its reports on this racist activity were previously made public in full. Coverup may be more appropriate.

Redacted versions of the report had previously been published, yet the FBI has not once sounded an alarm to prevent the numerous police murders of Black and Brown people, which have gone on for too long. Perhaps local communities alerted in such a way might have acted sooner to stop racist abuses of authority and saved Black and Brown lives.

As early as 2006, the FBI raised “concerns” that individuals already within law enforcement were volunteering professional resources to white supremacist groups with whom they sympathized. The FBI’s redacted report raises serious questions—including just how deeply white supremacist groups have also infiltrated the FBI itself.

Now, with cracks opening in the ruling class about the outcome of the imminent presidential election, The Intercept reports that the FBI is concerned by federal officials about the “historical interest of white supremacists infiltrating law enforcement communities or recruiting law enforcement personnel.”

The Atlantic has also written extensively about FBI reports on the escalating pre-election danger of specific far-right groups, whose members include trained professional police and soldiers who are Trump supporters. (November 2020)

That racism is deeply embedded in most U.S. police departments should come as no surprise to anyone familiar with the historic origins of police in this country—linked to the slave patrols sent after enslaved Africans who were seeking freedom from bondage.

Racist state strategy

In the Sept. 29 debate with Joe Biden, Donald Trump was challenged by moderator Chris Wallace to denounce white supremacists. Trump not only refused to do so, he rallied his supporters in white supremacist groups like the Proud Boys by using a military command term, “Stand back and stand by.”

In other words, Trump as Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. armed forces was saying to vigilante white supremacists: “Be ready to act on my future orders.” Days before the debate, the top two Department of Homeland Security officials, testifying in congressional hearings, acknowledged that white supremacists pose the most lethal threat to the U.S. (Reuters, Sept. 29)

Trump called on his far-right supporters to turn up on Election Day and beyond to ensure his continued rule, regardless of the voter’s choice. Even before commanding the Proud Boys during the debate, Trump had been championing his support from law enforcement groups, including the Fraternal Order of Police in Philadelphia.

Despite the widespread murders of people of color by police, Trump and those in his administration have made it clear that violent white supremacists are a valued part of Trump’s base, especially those within the police.

For instance, in Philadelphia in mid-July, members of the Proud Boys showed up for a party at FOP headquarters after a speech by Vice President Mike Pence during a “Back the Blue” event. Philadelphia police have come under heavy scrutiny for social media posts supporting racism. In June, while supremacist demonstrations in the city against Black Lives Matter protesters were openly defended by police.

Trump’s recruitment of police support is a direct response to the widespread outrage against police brutality in the aftermath of police murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and other African American people.

Trump made his support for police violence clear on June 1 in Washington, D.C., when he used federal police forces to brutally clear peaceful demonstrators in Lafayette Square so he could stage a Bible-thumping public relations event. This was quickly followed by his unleashing of federal and unidentified police forces to kidnap anti-racist protesters in Portland, Ore.

It remains a question whether Trump can count on military support if he attempts to carry out a coup after the election, especially since many enlisted people come from Black and Brown communities. However, he can count on the overwhelmingly white police and paramilitary militia groups.

Throwback to McCarthyism

Historically, U.S. capitalists have relied on white supremacist groups to bolster their hold on power during times of social upheaval.

One case in point: In the mid-1920s, funding for the Ku Klux Klan reached an all-time high of $4 million, even when membership was dropping. The Klan was used then to terrorize all immigrant communities demanding inclusion during the limited period of U.S. economic prosperity following World War I, before the collapse at the end of the decade which led to the Great Depression.

Now, Trump is blatantly trying to galvanize his white supremacist base against anti-racist, anti-fascist and left protesters.

Trump has especially been targeting the loose movement against fascism known as anti-fascists. His campaign ads state that “antifa mobs will terrorize U.S. [white] suburbs.” It is widely known that “antifa” is a philosophy, not an affiliated group.

Then, on Oct. 2, Homeland Security’s U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services issued a “Policy Guidance Regarding Inadmissibility Based on Membership in a Totalitarian Party.” This states that “membership in or affirmative with the Communist Party or any other totalitarian party” is grounds for denying citizenship.

On the surface, this may appear like another anti-immigrant attack, but it is far more serious. While Trump has frequently attempted to link Democratic Party presidential candidate Joe Biden with left-leaning elements, including Democratic Socialists of America who supported Bernie Sanders, obviously Biden is no socialist. Clearly Trump is taking aim at the political left far left.

Fascism in the service of capitalism targets oppressed groups to split and divide opposition, particularly from the working class. Historically, these serious fighters against fascism have been anarchists (antifa), socialists and especially communists.

Now, more than ever, a united fight-back by all these groups is what is needed, not just to oppose Trump, but to end the increasing misery from capitalist oppression and exploitation once and for all.

The people of Portland, Ore., march against racism and fascism on the city’s 100th continuous day of protest, Sept. 5.

The Klan & the Government: Foes or Allies?

By Sam Marcy

Examines the special relationship with the state that has allowed the Ku Klux Klan to exist for over a century despite its criminal history of lynchings, murders, and intimidation.

Published in 1983.

Read it free at www.workers.org/marcy/klan/
Voting rights

‘Capitalist charity’ vs workers’ democracy

During this U.S. election season, many people are still fighting to get access to the universal bourgeois right to vote, supposedly a cornerstone of capitalist “democracy.”

It’s been an uphill struggle since 1776 when only proprietors white men who were Protestants could legally vote. Everyone else was denied — Catholics, Quakers, Jews, members of Native nations, Asians, Black people, whether enslaved or free, women, married or not, and poor white men.

There have been historic wins over the centuries — and setbacks. In the 1860s and 1870s, many states began to deny the vote to people convicted of felonies, a move tied to denying this right to Black people who were newly freed from enslavement.

But in 2018 in Florida, more than one million people with felony records, disproportionately Black and Brown individuals, had their right to vote restored after 64% of the electorate voted. But who was disenfranchised? The White Terror of the 1870s Reconstruction era, people are organizing to defend the polls and access to the right to vote. A coalition of progressive organizations has mobilized over 6,000 “election defenders.” (See box on this page for more information.)

What a contrast Cuba’s socialist workers’ democracy provides to the almost 250 million people with felony records, disenfranchised under the capitalist system! In Cuba’s parliamentary elections in 2018, 85% of the electorate voted.

That is what voting rights look like in a workers’ democracy, in a revolutionary grassroots democracy.

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Trump, COVID and poetic justice

Continued from page 1

those who wish to exploit and kill you — you are worth more than that. To feel anger, rage, even hatred toward them is not narrow-mindedness; it is a state of self-love, a demand for dignity, for yourself and working and oppressed people as a whole.

The liberal approach values respectability and decorum over the righteous rage of the oppressed. It is for peace, with or without justice (most often without). In this sense, it is very much an obstacle to superior responses to the pandemic. The solution to the crises before us lies not in the removal or coincidental death of a single individual, but in the revolutionary overthrow of the entire capitalist system in which working and oppressed people take over the means of production, which they have built with their sweat and blood, and reorganize society to address the needs of all.

It’s not a coincidence that countries building socialism — like Vietnam, Cuba and China — have had uniformly superior responses to the pandemic. The solution to the crises before us lies not in the removal or coincidental death of a single individual, but in the revolutionary overthrow of the entire capitalist system through the organized struggle of working and oppressed people.

But getting back to Trump himself and whether he and his class are deserving of compassion, it’s worth remembering the jacket that Melania Trump, who is sick now along with others in his entourage, wore when visiting migrant children separated from their parents. On the back it read: “I really don’t care. Do U?”

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Election Defenders Call to Action

With the stakes being as high as they are, voter suppression already more rampant than ever, and the nationalistic right emboldened by conspiracy theorists and the president himself, we can’t depend on anyone else ensuring people are able to vote freely and safely.

Election Defenders will be working to provide safe supports for voting (such as Personal Protection Equipment and water), and election and voter defense, de-escalating right-wing intimidation tactics and signaling to a network of groups and lawyers if and where trouble breaks out.

These trainings will cover different areas each week, so we are asking everyone to attend all four trainings or email to request a video of training. (See tinyurl.com/yj317e18)

• Poll Monitoring
• Bystander Training
• De-escalation
• Direct Action 101
• Combating Disinformation

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Trump holds mask but would not wear one.
Pakistan
Say ‘No’ to Bahria Town!

By Tania Siddiqui

Bahria Town, one of the largest private real estate development companies in Asia, is known for its overly opulent master-planned communities constructed for Pakistan’s rising class—and for its intimidation tactics that target Indigenous and Aboriginal peoples.

Like all corporations, greed and resource exploitation fuel decision-making. Bahria Town’s “sweeping of Indigenous folks’ ancestral land, and its structural violence against Pakistan’s most oppressed groups. Indeed, Bahria Town’s acts of horror are extensive.

To accommodate its 45,000-acre luxury housing development endeavor in Karachi, Bahria Town has used state-endorsed violence to remove Indigenous farmers from their homes. On March 19, 2016, police invaded the small village of Juma Morio Goth, and demolished many homes to clear the way for a Bahria Town Road. An interviewee in Dawn magazine stated: “The job was quickly completed and the rubble hauled away while helpless villagers looked on in a daze, knowing full well there will be no justice for them.” (April 18, 2016)

Bahria Town has not just destroyed homes, it has also desecrated graves. The Guardian reports that after the company’s devastation in 2019, “The graveyard in Usman Allah Raki Goth remains partially destroyed.”

While a few graves are somewhat visible among the destruction, it’s clear that Bahria Town’s fountains and sculptures now occupy sacred space where graves used to be.

This development company’s involvement in structural violence takes even more insidious forms. Many villages live in District Malir, an area where Bahria Town— Usa’s terror and violence are fighting the same battle.

Prior to Mitchell’s execution, the Navajo Nation expressed its solidarity with Mitchell and openly condemned the federal government’s actions against a member of their community. Those dedicated to the struggle are aware of forces acting against them, as they simultaneously focus on their acts of resistance and solidarity.

The late Chacha Faiz Muhammad Gabol, an Indigenous activist, refused to sell his land to Bahria Town and explained, “I told Malik Riaz [the founder of Bahria Town] that the ground is our mother. Would anyone sell their mother? Darihi, land, is our mother. This soil is precious to me.” (“Say No to Bahria Town — The Land Built with Perfect Corruption,” telefeeds.com, July 27)

Aisha Ashraf, a people’s lawyer in Pakistan, provided insight on the strategies Bahria Town is using to further disenfranchise Indigenous communities, at Chacha Faiz Muhammad Gabol’s Remembrance Day event on Feb. 25. Aisha stressed that the tactics parallel those used by British imperialists to create divisions among the masses.

Deep solidarity with Indigenous peoples means solidarity with all who continue to disrupt and expose efforts by the ruling class to seize, desecrate and demolish Indigenous peoples and land. Liberation is inherently tied to those who are committed to working against state-sanctioned violence, who are fighting the same fight against neo-colonial and imperialist forces.

Say “NO” to Bahria Town!

Greece workers tell Pompeo: ‘Go home’!

By G. Dunkel

Students and teachers at over 700 schools and universities throughout Greece walked out for the first week of October. Thousands of workers marched in Thessaloniki, both at the beginning and at the end of September. Workers and other progressives had sharp confrontations with the police.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo was one special target of the protests. Pompeo’s visit to Greece at the end of September was designed to let Turkey, which disputes Greece’s claim on oil and gas in the eastern Mediterranean, know the United States is leaning toward supporting Greece.

Pompeo’s visit started in the second largest city in Greece, Thessaloniki, a manufacturing and transportation hub for the Balkans. Thousands of workers were called out into the streets by the All Workers Major Unions Front (PAME) and the Committee for International Detente and Peace, as well as student groups, to protest Pompeo’s visit. Protests marched behind a banner which read “No water, no land to the people’s killer.”

They also carried banners in English that read “pompeo go home.”

During the last decade, U.S. and European banks forced an austerity on Greece that cost it over 25% of its economy and led over 500,000 people mostly young and educated—to leave their homeland.

After visiting Thessaloniki, Pompeo flew to the home of Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis, himself the son of a former prime minister and a graduate of Stanford University and Harvard Business School. Speaking the next day at a joint U.S.-Greece military base, Pompeo hailed Greece as a “pillar for stability and prosperity.” He said the country had become a U.S. military partner. (Washington Post, Sept. 29)

The Greek Communist Party (KKE) held a march on the U.S. Embassy in Athens that sharply confronted the police. Police complained that red paint was thrown on the nearby statue of Harry Truman, who was U.S. president during Greece’s civil war of 1949–49 and intervened against the workers’ side.

The KKE says the Pompeo visit was designed to further the “co-operation plan between the bourgeois classes of Greece and Turkey” and to promote “U.S. geo-political (economic and military) interests.” Greece has been turned into a vast military base for the U.S. and NATO. Its economy has been closely aligned with U.S. business interests. (tinyurl.com/5y9ahe7v)

Earlier in September, Prime Minister Mitsotakis came to Thessaloniki to give a speech before a trade fair to propose a new austerity plan to Greece’s creditors. PAME, along with the other major trade confederations, held major demonstrations pointing out that the workers had already paid enough and that they were opposed to a third bailout involving more austerity.

They were demanding essential health protection measures in schools. Over 15,000 students in each classroom, new classrooms opened, teachers and cleaning staff appointed. The government’s response was authoritarian repression. Since clean schools that allow for social distancing are a matter of life and death, this struggle is unlikely to dissipate.
La arrogancia de Donald Trump, así como su patología, no le permitirán farse fácilmente ni en silencio. Cada tweet, declaración, decreto, cada acción de Trump desde las elecciones de 2016, ha demostrado su ferocidad hambrienta por permanecer en el poder, en el centro de atención y cosechar la recompensa por él y su familia que viene con la presidencia. Según Gellman, Joe Biden y otros tienen “malinterpretado la naturaleza de la amenaza.” Dicen que si Trump se niega a abandonar su cargo, las autoridades correspondientes lo escoltarán desde la Casa Blanca con gran rapidez. Gnan se sostiene que esta esperanza no es suficiente.

El artículo de Gellman cubre todo tipo de artículos que se han escrito, estudios realizados e incluso conferencias celebradas entre académicos legales y sociales sobre las elecciones de 2020. Los académicos constitucionalistas han examinado especialmente múltiples escenarios que podrían desarrollarse entre el 3 de noviembre y el 20 de enero, un período que Gellman llama “el interregno”. Este es el término para un período, especialmente entre reinados o regímenes sucesivos, cuando se suspende el gobierno normal.

¿Un golpe policial?

Gellman argumenta que incluso si aparentemente hay una victoria clara en la noche de las elecciones, la tabulación de los votos por correo, etc., podría ser tan largo que de hecho la elección se ha extendido durante “días o semanas”. Trump ha amenazado con repetir su relato con la policía del país este es terriblemente “malinterpretado la naturaleza de la amenaza ominosa, especialmente para las personas negras y morena. Imagínese la misma agencia que asesina a los negros con impunidad mirando por encima del hombro mientras votan en Georgia o en cualquier otro lugar. “Además, los republicanos, según el grupo de funciónarios ultraconservadores que eventualmente llegaron desde la periferia para convertirse en lo que el New York Times el 13 de agosto llamó una “fuerza perdurable” en el conservadurismo estadounidense. El lecho de muerte de Breonna Taylor, se ha vuelto un experimento del pensamiento para los revolucionarios (Sacramento Bee, 28 de septiembre)".

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Y para preocuparse más, el mismo Partido Republicano que reclutó a 50.000 “observadores electorales” también acaba de respaldar a tres candidatos en California que apoyan las teorías de conspiración de extrema derecha de QAnon. (Sacramento Bee, 28 de septiembre)

El papel de los revolucionarios y socialistas

El 23 de septiembre, en un artículo titulado “En el Pentágono, crecen los temores a los militares a los disturbios electorales”, informó el New York Times: “Los funcionarios del Departamento de Defensa dijeron que los principales generales podrían renunciar si el Sr. Trump da órdenes a las tropas para ir a las calles para sofocar las prouebas”. En comentarios publicados el mes pasado, un general dijo: “Creo profundamente que, en el primer día de un ejército esta- dounidense apolítico”. Sin embargo, es posible que Trump no sepa qué significa el apoyo armado.

¿Un golpe policial?

En una reciente decisión, un gran jurado en el estado de Kentucky no dictó una sola acusación de asesinato contra los policías que irrumpieron en su departamento, disparando más de una docena de veces. Por lo menos seis disparos alcanzaron a Breonna menos mientras yacía en su cama. Los policías ostensiblemente en el suelo, levantaron un cuerpo sin vida a la parte inferior de un hombre que no se enfrentaba a los policías que irrumpieron en su departamento. Sin embargo, en estas latitudes se ha llegado a un momento en que todos saben que no hay nadie que hable por parte de los policías. El caso de la negra Breonna me recuerda el de un líder del Movimiento Negro de 21 años de nombre Fred Hampton, quien trabajaba como una técnico en emergencias médicas, es asesinado a tiros en su cama por media docena de policías en una errónea redada policíaca en búsqueda de droga. ¿Qué creen que pasará a esos policías?

Por Muria Abu-Jamal

Imagínese, si pueden, que una mujer joven de 26 años de nombre Breonna Brezinsky, quien trabajaba como una técnica en emergencias médicas, es asesinada a tiros en su cama por media docena de policías en una errónea redada policíaca en búsqueda de droga. ¿Qué creen que pasará a esos policías?

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Y uno, de las masas que es la transfe-