

# Viral capitalism Racist, sexist bosses kill jobs

By Kathy Durkin

Another 1.3 million people filed for unemployment benefits during the week of Sept. 28, adding to the ranks of the 12 million workers still jobless due to the pandemic. They and their families have lost health insurance, not provided by this ruthless capitalist government. Evictions and homelessness are on the rise. Food lines are everywhere.

Yet no pandemic rescue plan is in sight. Despite the suffering of millions of workers and their families, the Democrats and Republicans cannot come to an agreement. Especially hard hit are Black, Latinx, Indigenous, immigrant and low-income workers. Undocumented workers deserve assistance, but this racist government denies them any aid, even medical care or food stamps.

October 5 marked the tenth week since laid-off workers receiving unemployment benefits failed to get the extra \$600 weekly federal benefits that expired at the end of July. Right-wing politicians refused to agree to it. Even more workers have lost jobs since the White House halted stimulus talks on Oct. 6. That trend will continue if the pandemic spikes again and businesses close. (Economic Policy Institute, Oct. 8)

## What recovery?

Job growth slowed in September, with many furloughs becoming permanent and the “recovery” losing steam. While some companies are hiring, others are laying off.



In one of 1,000 job actions since the pandemic hit, thousands of California nurses strike Oct. 7-12. Above, at Alameda Hospital.



On Oct. 7, health care workers and other activists rallied in New York City in solidarity with California nurses and to build a Workers Assembly Against Racism. See p. 2.

EPI says there are 6.6 million more unemployed people than job openings and warns that without further aid to state and local economies, millions more jobs will be lost.

This denial of funding comes at a time when half of those laid off during the pandemic are still jobless, while 60% of those still working who took a pay cut have not regained their former salaries. The labor market “recovery” has bypassed Black, Latinx, low-income and young workers, who were disproportionately laid off or paid reduced wages. Some 56% of laid-off low-wage workers are still unemployed. (Pew Research Center, Sept. 24)

The jobless rate declined to 7% in September for white workers, but 12.1% of Black workers, 10.3% of Latinx

workers and 15.9% of young workers are still unemployed. (Bureau of Labor Statistics, Oct. 2) White workers are being rehired twice as quickly as Black workers due to entrenched racism. Many laid-off Black workers have joined the ranks of the 3.8 million who permanently lost their jobs as of last month.

Denying further rescue funds will severely harm Black, Latinx and Indigenous communities, who already suffer lower incomes and assets due to systemic racism. It means no more federal funds for housing, health care, protective equipment for health workers, COVID testing and treatment, or the Postal Service.

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# Answer to fascist threat? Working class struggle!

The following are lightly edited remarks from Workers World Party's Oct. 8 webinar on the recent election debates, with WWP's First Secretary Larry Holmes in New York City, leading comrade Teresa Gutierrez in San Antonio, and comrade moderator Ted Kelly in Philadelphia. Tune in Thursdays at 8 p.m. ET/ 5 p.m. PT for revolutionary analysis from WWP members and our allies. WWP videos are available at [youtube.com/wwpvvideo](https://youtube.com/wwpvvideo). For more information, see [workers.org](https://workers.org).

**Ted Kelly:** We've talked about the fascist plot in Michigan [where neo-fascist militias planned to kidnap and kill Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer]. We've talked about the increasing danger against our trans brothers, sisters and siblings, against the tens of thousands of im/migrants in U.S. concentration camps who are suffering everything from death in the pandemic to forced sterilizations. So — Is Trump fascist? And if he's fascist, should we not be uniting with the Democrats to stop Trump? What do we do if Trump doesn't concede? Or worse yet, what do we do if Trump wins? These are



Teresa Gutierrez



Larry Holmes

questions that I think are on the mind of the working class right now.

**Teresa Gutierrez:** I think Trump is a fascist. If it walks like a duck and talks like a duck, it's a duck. But we're not living under a fascist system. That's the difference. If we were living under fascism, we would not be able to have this meeting. Fascist actions are happening — that's for sure. But we're not living under fascism yet. I do think that there is an element of the ruling class that is getting ready for fascism. We don't know, we're not in the boardrooms where we can hear these things. But we have to be prepared for anything.

That's one of the reasons why it's so important to be revolutionary

internationalists. There are many activists who don't see the fact that many of our problems could be solved by taking money away from the Pentagon. The money that's going to “defense” and U.S. war could be used for COVID relief, for health care, for education and so forth.

But you can't vote away imperialism; you can't vote away fascism. You have to uproot it, and that's an intense struggle. I have had the privilege of traveling and meeting many activists and revolutionaries from around the world, specifically in Latin America. We have sisters and brothers and family there who have experienced fascism, like our Chilean comrades under President Augusto Pinochet, who was a fascist. Hundreds of thousands of workers were massacred in Chile.

We learn from these comrades what it takes to stay in the struggle day after day, night after night. This is why we have to be internationalist — because our comrades and sisters and brothers and family


from around the world have experienced the naked arm of capitalism. They have so much to teach us, and there is so much we can learn from them.

This is why we have to always raise that there are no borders in the working-class struggle. We're not just caring about the working class in the United States. We care about every single worker. Especially because U.S. imperialism has created the conditions that have forced people to leave their homelands.

Internationalism has to be part of our program in the coming days. It is a tenet of the Party's work, and it has to be a tenet of the movement.

**Larry Holmes:** From a Marxist perspective, fascism is viewed differently depending on who you are in society. To us, what's a fascist? A fascist is someone who is violently racist, violently homophobic, violently anti-working class, wants to crush unions, wants to smash the oppressed, smash migrant workers, carry out wars both beyond the borders of the U.S. and inside the border.

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# WORKERS ASSEMBLY

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# AGAINST RACISM

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The outrageous Breonna Taylor verdict. ICE anti-woman atrocities against migrant detainees. Anti-Asian attacks. Constant racist police killings. Armed neo-fascist forces mobilizing to support Trump. A great crisis looms with the Nov. 3 elections.

The working class can't be silent! Act by mobilizing to shut down racism on Oct. 18! ([shutdownracism.org](http://shutdownracism.org))

It doesn't matter whether you're in a union or if you have a job: 99% of us are part of the working class. And more than 60 local, regional and national labor unions have declared the labor movement must organize work stoppages and general strikes against racism and police terror. ([laborforblacklives.org](http://laborforblacklives.org))

Fighting racism is a working class issue. Support for a General Strike/Shut Down Against Racism movement must be built inside the labor movement — and, just as importantly, among those of us not in a union.

Most of the millions of people who recently marched in the streets against white supremacy, racism and police brutality are workers — many with gig jobs, and many now unemployed because of the pandemic. And workers who have held work stoppages in recent months to protest unsafe conditions are in the forefront of the movement to bring back the general strike.

The threat of a teachers' strike forced the NYC mayor to close down the schools at the start of the pandemic. Workers in hospitals and at Amazon, Instacart, McDonald's and on farms walked out, stopped working and shut down business as usual. They gained PPE and led society in confronting the COVID pandemic. They showed what workers' power could do!

The time has come to act to demand more — in solidarity with Black lives, the targets of police shootings and systematic oppression; with the migrant community, put into concentration camps by ICE or designated "excluded workers" denied income support during the pandemic; with Indigenous and Latinx communities hit disproportionately hard by COVID; with descendants of enslaved Africans and Indigenous people who demand reparations!

Especially now, when there is Depression-level unemployment and the prospect of mass evictions around the corner, the general strike/shutdown must become a weapon in the struggle to defend all workers.

A Workers Assembly Against Racism has the potential to bring leaders from workers struggles together in one place. Contact [shutdownracism.org](http://shutdownracism.org) and help make the general strike/shutdown more than an idea. Make it a reality! □



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for socialism!*

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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, LGBTQ2S+ oppression and mistreatment of people with disabilities. It means joblessness, increasing homelessness and impoverishment and lack of hope for the future. No social problems can be solved under capitalism.

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

and trans people are gunned down by cops and bigots on a regular basis.

The ruthless ruling class today seeks to wipe out decades of gains and benefits won by hard-fought struggles by people's movements. The super-rich and their political representatives have intensified their attacks on the multinational, multigender and multigenerational working class. It is time to point the blame at — and challenge — the capitalist system.

WWP fights for socialism because the working class produces all wealth in society, and this wealth should remain in their hands, not be stolen in the form of capitalist profits. The wealth workers create should be socially owned and its distribution planned to satisfy and guarantee basic human needs.

Since 1959, Workers World Party has been out in the streets defending the workers and oppressed here and worldwide. If you're interested in Marxism, socialism and fighting for a socialist future, please contact a WWP branch near you. □

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# #SinkColumbus

# Indigenous Peoples’ Day now!

By Workers World Boston bureau

United American Indians of New England and North American Indian Center of Boston marched through Boston, several hundred strong, on Oct. 10, in honor of Indigenous Peoples’ Day.

The colonizers’ “Columbus Day” is still scheduled by Boston and the state of Massachusetts for Oct. 12. Indigenous Peoples’ Day is celebrated instead on the second Monday in October in Washington, D.C., 12 states, and hundreds of cities, towns and school communities across the U.S.

The time and space claimed by the #SinkingColumbus action was a force of decolonization and cultural resistance, centering Indigenous people and Black and Brown allies. NAICOB leader Jean-Luc Pierite welcomed Palestinian activists to share the platform. A representative from Italian Americans for Indigenous Peoples’ Day spoke to combat the false narrative that removing Columbus is anti-Italian.

All speakers acknowledged a new holiday is just the beginning. As NAICOB leader Mea Johnson put it in a press statement, “The bare minimum action required is to change Columbus Day to



On Oct. 10, hundreds march in Boston for Indigenous Peoples’ Day.

WW PHOTO: G. LECHAT

Indigenous Peoples’ Day and remove all symbols of white supremacy from our neighborhoods, streets and parks.”

UAINE leader Moonanum James welcomed the crowd with an acknowledgment of the stolen unceded territory that the settler “state” is built on: “Your presence liberates [this land] from those who make monuments to butchers and rapists.”

“We’re here; we’re not going anywhere, and [Boston Mayor Marty Walsh] needs to listen to us,” Mahtowin Munro, leader of Indigenous Peoples Day MA and UAINE, asserted in front of so-called Faneuil Hall — named for an enslaver. Kevin Peterson from the New Democracy Coalition — a group leading a boycott of the racist site — also spoke. Both criticized Walsh for his attitude toward

communities of color. As Munro said, “He’s like, ‘I agree with your point here, and I don’t agree with your point there’ ... [but] it is not up to these white people to decide what is offensive to us and what is important to us!”

“Columbus is not a day, but a symbol of genocide, gender violence, colonization, slavery and white supremacy,” Chali’Naru Dones, representing the United Confederation of Taíno Peoples, told the crowd. Dones’ children joined her in mounting the empty pedestal, once used to support a statue of Columbus, which was finally removed after its second beheading in June.

One of the children sounded a conch shell horn to thunderous applause. The child who towered from the pedestal and summoned the crowd’s attention was an especially pointed upending of the colonialist narrative.

This powerful image of resistance affirmed that living Indigenous people are reclaiming space from dead white oppressors — amid increased mass awareness about the toxic founding myths of the U.S. and increasing Black Lives Matter-inspired direct action against ongoing racist injustice. □

## Viral capitalism

# Racist, sexist bosses kill jobs

Continued from page 1

Jerome Powell, chairperson of the Federal Reserve Board, reacting to President Trump’s order to stop rescue plan talks, warned that if the virus spreads, more businesses will close and the economy will tank. His concern is not about workers suffering but about companies losing profits as the economy contracts. At the core, he and the capitalist class fear growing mass anger by the multinational working class and political instability.

### \$10.2 trillion bonanza — to the wealthy

One group has fared quite well during this pandemic — the 2,189 billionaires whose combined wealth soared 27.5% between April and July to a record \$10.2 trillion. UBS bank reported Oct. 7 that the rate of growth soared during the coronavirus crisis in the technology, health and industrial sectors. (UBS.com, “Riding the Storm”) Health industry tycoons raked in the most, spurred on by various innovations and COVID-19 treatments and equipment.

While much of this wealth was obtained through betting on the global stock market

recovery after the virus peaked, it helped that the U.S. ruling class has one of their own in the White House, who cut their taxes and connived to undermine workers’ rights and labor unions. President Trump not only didn’t “drain the swamp” of corporate lobbyists and magnates, he “reinvented it.” (New York Times, Oct. 11)

This obscene wealth is an insult to the millions worldwide infected by the coronavirus. Over 8 million have been sickened in the U.S., and 220,000 have died — disproportionately Black, Latinx and Indigenous people, plus disabled individuals and seniors. It’s a slam at “essential workers” and courageous medical workers who jeopardize their lives to save others. Over 1,700 health workers have died from COVID-19. (National Nurses United, Sept. 28)

### In richest country, widespread poverty

There’s a crying need for another rescue plan. Some 78 million adults are having difficulty paying for basic necessities due to long-standing inequities, “often stemming from structural racism,” in employment, housing and health care. This has intensified with the pandemic. Nearly half of Black and Latinx families are having trouble

paying basic bills, compared to one-fourth of white households. (Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Oct. 7) They are twice as likely to fall behind on housing payments and lack emergency funds.

The COVID crisis created a hunger crisis as parents lost incomes. Food lines extend for blocks. An estimated 54 million people, including 18 million children, many no longer receiving healthy school meals, aren’t getting enough to eat. One in eight households lacks adequate food, with Black and Latinx families twice as likely as white households to go without. (New York Times, Sept. 2)

More pain is projected for the multinational working class, which has recouped only half of the 24 million jobs lost in the spring. Corporations say that due to the pandemic crisis and the lack of more federal stimulus money, they must implement massive job cuts. Omitted from the financial news is that businesses are also shrinking their workforce in reaction to the global capitalist economic crisis.

Business Insider’s list of implemented or projected corporate layoffs adds up to a stunning tens of thousands of jobs lost. Disney is cutting 28,000 jobs. United and American airlines furloughed 32,000 workers on Oct. 1. Numerous other companies are eliminating workers. (tinyurl.com/y54at7yg)

Sara Nelson, president of the Association of Flight Attendants-CWA, represents 50,000 workers, 75% of them women. She told MSNBC on Oct. 10 that furloughed workers are desperate; some are homeless. They are waiting for a government rescue plan, as the union had an agreement with the airlines that jobs and employee health insurance would be retained if a deal came through.

### Pandemic’s impact on women workers

Women, many Black, Latinx and immigrants, make up the majority of “essential” workers on the front lines at medical

facilities, providing childcare, staffing big box stores and volunteering at food pantries.

The viral disaster has exposed gender inequities and widespread racism in the system, acutely impacting women workers of color. The pandemic eliminated many of women’s jobs in health care, education and transportation. By April, 16.2% of women were out of work, compared to 13.5% of men. (NBC News, June 8)

Due to “occupational segregation,” many Black and Latinx women toil in the hospitality, food service and retail industries with low pay and little to no job security. Many struggled to make ends meet even pre-pandemic. These sectors were the first hit by COVID-19. Shutdowns, layoffs, even collapses followed. By May, 20% of Latinx and 16% of Black women workers were unemployed.

With many schools and daycare centers now closed, women have more parenting responsibilities. Some are reducing work hours to help their children with remote learning. Single mothers must do it all. The economic and parental burden is staggering, but no government help is on the horizon.

From August through September, of the 1.1 million individuals who dropped out of the labor force, 865,000 were women, including 324,000 Latinx and 58,000 Black women. (National Women’s Law Center) Their reasons: unavailability or insecurity of jobs, the gender wage gap — especially severe for women of color — and childcare. The unemployment rate for Black and Latinx women workers is now at 11% and rising.

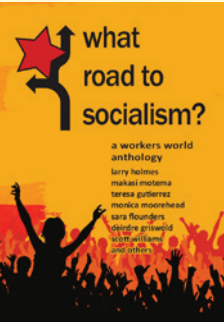
Kristin Rowe-Finkbeiner, co-founder of Moms Rising, stressed: “The big numbers we’re seeing in the news are not showing the actual tragedy below that: intense wage discrimination, compounded by structural racism that moms of color are experiencing right now.” (Boston Globe, Oct. 2). □

## What Road to Socialism?

A new Workers World anthology, confronting the burning questions and key contradictions during this deadly pandemic and global capitalist meltdown.

### Topics include:

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- Socialism or death: Socialist countries lead the way to the future
- What is socialism?



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# Vietnam refugee leader arrested for protesting ICE crimes

By Joe Piette  
Philadelphia

Nancy Nguyen, Executive Director of VietLead, a Philadelphia-based Vietnamese refugee organization, was handcuffed and arrested Oct. 8 as she was changing her one-year-old baby’s diaper in her Philadelphia home. Her arrest involved the cooperation of several federal and local agencies, including the Philadelphia Police Department — in a city that claims sanctuary status.

Her so-called crime? Not murder, not kidnapping, nothing to do with drugs, no violence was involved, not even property damage. Her actions weren’t even a felony. The “crimes” that set several law enforcement agencies in motion were — littering and trespassing — 250 miles away in Richmond, Va., a month earlier.

### Arrested for organizing for migrants, refugees

On Sept. 8, migrant and refugee activists in cities from Little Saigon, Calif., to Miami to Washington, D.C., denounced newly-installed Immigration and Customs Enforcement director Tony Pham. Two dozen organizations signed a statement condemning Trump’s appointment as a racist maneuver. They demanded Pham “bring human rights home” by addressing ICE’s many abuses: “We raise our voices as refugees and the descendants of refugees — from Viet Nam, Haiti, El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala ... as witnesses of the wretched treatment of our refugee sisters and brothers from around the world by the Trump administration, by U.S. Customs and Border Protection and by ICE.” (tinyurl.com/y3pf96lp)

A few activists descended on Pham’s home near Richmond, Va., to plant tombstones and signs on his lawn exposing ICE’s incarceration of migrant children. The head of ICE, which is guilty of imprisoning children and subjecting incarcerated migrant women to forced sterilization, responded with crocodile tears that protesters could “target a mom and target children” at his home. (WRIC.com/news, Sept. 15)

In line with President Trump’s many Twitter calls for protesters to be punished, Pham and other government officials at several levels conspired to arrest Nguyen, threatening to extradite her to a Virginia jail.

In response, VietLead, Juntos and other migrant and refugee organizations and their supporters

mobilized and pulled together jail support outside police headquarters, where Nguyen was being held in one of dozens of cold and crowded basement jail cells. The Philadelphia Police Department repeatedly gave the public misleading and false information to deter efforts to free her. A nationally organized media campaign #FreeNancy resulted in hundreds of phone calls to city and police officials. She was finally released 21 hours after her arrest.

### ICE under Pham, same old ICE

Tony Pham, of Vietnamese descent, was named head of ICE on Aug. 25. At a protest of his appointment, Cat Bao Le, executive director of SEAC Village — a South East Asian American community in North Carolina — said that the strategy of using “people that appear like they come from the community” was a well-known tactic of police, ICE and other agencies.

“We know that Tony Pham is being used as a puppet of this white supremacist regime. ... Tony Pham is not our family, and he does not represent us.” Directing her comments to Pham, Cat Bao Le continued, “We will not let this administration use Vietnamese refugees as a wedge to further divide us from our siblings.” (tinyurl.com/yy2cdjqv)

Pham, his mother and two sisters were put on a plane to the U.S. 11 days before the fall of Saigon in 1975. His father, a military general in the U.S.-supported puppet regime of South Vietnam, fled to the U.S. soon after.

Tin Nguyen, board member of SEAC Village, said, “Let’s be clear, if Tony Pham tried to come to the United States today, he would be rejected by the same Trump administration he works for.” (tinyurl.com/yycshyyc)

The attack on the leader of VietLead is a threat leveled at all activist organizations, a warning that federal government officials are raising the level of repression.

Nguyen’s arrest and incarceration reveals that, from ICE on down to local city police, the state is threatening working class, Black, Brown and migrant leaders who resist the inhumanity of the current administration in Washington.

The misdemeanor charges against Nguyen are an attack on the constitutional right to assembly and free speech — the people’s right to protest. The charges must be dropped now! □

## The impact of COVID-19 in China & the U.S

## ‘Capitalism on a Ventilator’ — A WWP book review

By Ted Kelly

“Capitalism on a Ventilator,” which chronicles the terminal decline of capitalism, is itself an example of cooperation by progressive working class organizations.

This collaborative anthology includes contributions from Ajamu Baraka of Black Alliance for Peace, Margaret Flowers and the late Kevin Zeese from Popular Resistance, the Greyzone’s Max Blumenthal, historian and journalist Vijay Prashad, and Workers World Party leaders Monica Moorehead and Deirdre Griswold. The brilliant political prisoner and jailhouse professor, Mumia Abu-Jamal, contributes an essay. Firsthand accounts and analysis come from Lee Siu Hin of the China-U.S. Solidarity Network, who also co-edited the book with Sara Flounders of the International Action Center.

The book demonstrates the successes and true potential of socialism and exposes the cruelty and injustice of capitalism.

Some of you may have lost a loved one to the novel coronavirus, or even contracted COVID-19 yourself. The virus does not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, nationality, or even class, as has become clear since the White House “super spreader” event in early October.

But capitalism does discriminate. “Capitalism intentionally breaks down social cohesion,” writes Flounders in the book’s introduction.

### Capitalist COVID’s toll on workers

Millions of workers in the U.S. joined the ranks of the unemployed as of October. As their jobs vanished, so did their health insurance. Those who kept their jobs faced exposure to a deadly virus. Grocery store and food distribution workers relied on pitiful wages without any guaranteed hazard pay. Even hospitals faced mass shortages of personal protective equipment (PPE), as nurses and other health care workers had to reuse disposable face-masks and fashion smocks out of trashbags and tarps.

One of the fastest growing job sectors in the U.S. is warehouse work where salaries average about \$13 an hour. But none of these massive distribution networks were mobilized by the government to allocate PPE. Many of the 1.5 million warehouse workers are asking themselves if distributing cheap consumer goods during a pandemic is really “essential.”

### Socialism pushes back COVID

But it doesn’t have to be this way. Socialist states have shown us that a different world is possible.

“The success of China’s struggle against the virus and the U.S. failure demonstrates the success of China’s socialist system, and the failure and dysfunction of the U.S. capitalist system,” writes Lee Siu Hin. “It also shows that the arrogance of the U.S. — due to the ceaseless anti-communist cold war against China --meant that the U.S. could not put aside differences and learn from China’s successful experience.”

Lee Siu Hin, who has appeared on Workers World Party’s weekly live broadcasts (every Thursday at 8 p.m. ET), was in China in January 2020, and on his return to the U.S. followed closely the mass mobilization of worker power to contain the spread of the virus.

According to the World Health Organization: “In the face of a previously unknown virus, China has rolled out perhaps the most ambitious, agile and aggressive disease containment effort in history.” (“Truth and Propaganda about Coronavirus,” Vijay Prashad, Weiyan Zhu, and Du Xiaojun)

The working class of China, Cuba, Vietnam, and other socialist countries has provided us with an example. Every day those of us living under capitalism confront unemployment, racism, ecological destruction, sexism and transphobia, poverty and homelessness and terror. Capitalism tells us that’s “just the way the world works.”

But socialism shows that they are obstacles that can be overcome through the power of a united and uncompromising working class. □



Prisoners Solidarity Committee  
of Workers World Party

@pscwwp

1

**RELEASE THEM ALL!**  
The Prisoners Solidarity Committee of Workers World Party calls for immediate and mass releases of prisoners due to the inability to social distance. This must include the release of those workers sentenced to life in prison and life without parole (LWOP). We emphasize the immediate release of elder and immunocompromised prisoners. Those released should be assigned to a job or guaranteed income, housing, medical care and healthy food.

2

**FREE ACCESS TO PHONE CALLS, MAIL AND DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS**  
Prisoners, family and community have the right to communicate with each other. The state has used the pandemic to isolate incarcerated workers from their communities and their class.

3

**END PRE-TRIAL DETENTION**  
We call for the immediate release of the thousands of workers currently being held in prisons, jails and detention centers across the country without having been convicted of a crime. We demand a complete moratorium of any prisoner transfers, especially without a conviction.

4

**FREE NON-COERCIVE COVID TESTING, ACCESS TO CDC APPROVED HAND SANITIZER, PPE, AND HYGIENE ITEMS**

5

**ALL PRISONERS WHO TEST POSITIVE FOR COVID MUST BE IMMEDIATELY TRANSFERRED TO NON-PRISON HOSPITALS**  
No punishment for those who test positive. No more de facto executions by COVID-19!

6

**STOP ALL PRISON TRANSFERS, CELL EXTRACTIONS AND SOLITARY CONFINEMENT**  
Transfers spread COVID19. Cell extractions and solitary confinement are tools of retaliation against prisoner organizers. Solitary confinement is torture.

7

**HUMANE AND LIVABLE CONDITION FOR ALL**  
Including consistent showers and air conditioning in every cell and facility. A shocking number of prison facilities across the United States have no air conditioning in any spaces where prisoners are confined. Permanent lockdown in prisons has meant prisoners must choose between shower, exercise, fresh air, and speaking to their families.

8

**HEALTHY AND FREE MEALS FOR ALL**  
The shocking decline of quality and portions of food in prisons is causing an entirely new public health crisis in prisons. Prisoners are being forced to eat expired, rotten, and otherwise unhealthy food in order for contractors to cut corners and collect more profits.

9

**WORK FURLOUGH WITH FULL PAY**  
No prisoners should be forced to work for slave wages, especially during a pandemic. All prisoners should receive full wages during this requisite work stoppage and have access to commissary supplies free of charge. Prisoners should be paid the same minimum wage as workers on the other side of the walls.

10

**ALLOW THE FORMATION OF PRISONER UNIONS**  
Incarcerated workers must have the right to organize unions and political organizations without fear of reprisals to address the threats unique to their facilities. For these demands to be effective in transitioning to full abolition, prisoners must be able to organize, politically and for self-defense. Organize for abolition!



# Amid claims of racism, another federal execution set



By Gloria Rubac

The federal government has just set its eighth execution for 2020. U.S. Attorney General William Barr directed the Federal Bureau of Prisons to schedule the execution of Orlando Cordia Hall for Nov. 19 in Terre Haute, Ind. If carried out, this would place federal executions ahead of those by the states for the first time ever.

Hall, an African American man, was sentenced to death by an all-white jury.

Immediately after the Sept. 30 announcement of the upcoming execution date, Marcia A. Widder and Robert C. Owen, Hall's attorneys, issued a statement to the media which charged: "The proceedings that led to Mr. Hall's death sentence were marked by racial bias and incompetent lawyering. During jury selection, the prosecution team enlisted the help of a former state prosecutor known for keeping Black citizens from serving on criminal juries. With his help, an all-white jury was seated to decide Mr. Hall's fate."

"In the years since Mr. Hall's trial, the U.S. Supreme Court has expressly found that this very prosecutor discriminated against Black potential jurors on account of their race and then lied under oath in an attempt to conceal his racist conduct. In this way, Mr. Hall's case also reflects the significant and troubling racial disparities in the operation of the federal death penalty, in which 60% of those currently on federal death row are people of color, including 45% who are Black." (fd.org, Oct. 1)

Hall never denied his role in the crime that sent him to death row. But because his trial attorneys did no proper investigation, the jurors never learned that Hall suffered severe trauma from growing up in poverty and that he and his siblings were victims of daily violence from their parents.

After his parents abandoned him, he was left alone to raise his younger brothers. This led him to begin selling drugs to care for them. Once, Hall saw his three-year-old nephew drowning in a swimming pool, and heroically jumped from a second-floor balcony to save the child's life.



WWW PHOTO: GLORIA RUBAC

The Texas Abolition Movement demonstrates on April 24, 2019, against the death penalty at the Texas State Penitentiary at Huntsville, where executions are carried out by the state.

In a statement giving background on the case, Widder and Owen concluded: "Had they known these facts about Mr. Hall, there is every reason to believe the jury would have spared his life,

especially given that jurors deliberated Mr. Hall's fate over the span of two days before finally returning a death verdict." (tinyurl.com/y45ctdzn)

## Abolish the death penalty in all states!

Only five states carried out executions during the first nine months of 2020. Tennessee is the only state where an execution is still scheduled. If carried out, it would total eight state executions this year. According to the Death Penalty Information Center, the last time there were fewer than 11 executions in a calendar year was in 1983, when five states put a total of five prisoners to death.

to abolish the death penalty. Currently, half of U.S. states have either abolished the death penalty or imposed moratoria on executions.

The DPIC reports: "Two-thirds of the 50 states either no longer authorize capital punishment or have not executed anyone in more than a decade. New death sentences are down nearly 90% since the mid-1990s and executions have declined by 75% since the turn of the century. And more than 80% of U.S. counties have no one on death row and have not executed anyone in the past half century."

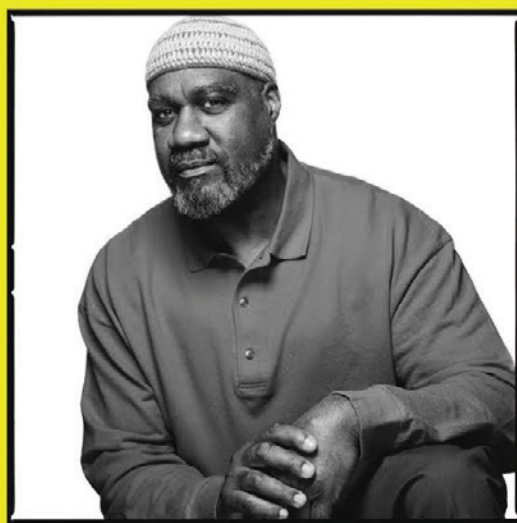
There is not a single reason for maintaining this legal lynching. It is racist and is used only against poor and working class people. Innocent people have been executed. Its costs are in the millions of dollars, with several states having spent over \$1 billion on executions.

The task that activists have taken up is to totally abolish the death penalty. Texas organizations held their 21st Annual March and Rally to Abolish the Death Penalty on Oct. 10 of this year. Unfortunately, it will be a virtual event. Information is at [MarchforAbolition.org](http://MarchforAbolition.org).

The World Day Against the Death Penalty began in Rome in 2003. It is held every year on Oct. 10 to strengthen the fight to abolish capital punishment world-wide. The specific theme this year is "Access to Counsel — A Matter of Life or Death."

Because access to counsel was denied to Orlando Hall, he may pay with his life on Nov. 19 at the federal death house in Terre Haute, Ind. □

## JALIL MUNTAQIM IS HOME!



We are thrilled to announce that former Black Panther and respected and beloved elder, Jalil Muntaqim (Anthony Bottom), was released on October 7th after serving nearly 50 years in prison. During his decades in prison, Jalil led education and mentorship programs for other people in prison, as well as earning numerous educational degrees and mentoring many younger incarcerated men.

Jalil is now home with his family and community and asks for everyone to respect his privacy at this time as he reconnects with his loved ones in freedom, and continues to heal from COVID 19, which he contracted in prison last May. Jalil is deeply humbled and grateful for the broad expressions of support he has received from his family and community throughout the years and looks forward to this next chapter. He will not be making any public statements at this time.

Workers World Party believes that prisons are concentration camps for the poor and the oppressed. The U.S. mass incarceration apparatus inflicts daily cruelties and humiliations on millions of members of our class, a disproportionate number of them Black, Brown, and Indigenous. Anything less than the complete dismantling of the prison industrial complex is unacceptable. Abolition is our demand and our goal. The major pandemic hotspots across the U.S. are in prisons. There is no better time than now to loudly demand — Free Them All! Prisoners are incarcerated workers and members of our class, the working class. These transitional demands (on page 4) are an immediate response to the mass death of incarcerated workers from the COVID-19 pandemic. They are demands on our way to abolition. They are demands to save lives.

## Free Kao Saelee now!

By Ted Kelly

"What is the point of sending somebody back to a country where they don't have no family?" asks Kao Saelee. "I would be frightened out of my mind."

Like many migrants kidnapped by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement since its creation in 2003, Kao Saelee is imprisoned at a concentration camp in Louisiana, 2,000 miles from his home. Despite the fact Kao that the 41-year-old has lived in California for over 33 years, he now faces deportation to Laos. His family fled the country after the devastating imperialist wars waged on the region by the U.S. from the 1950s to the present day. He has not been there since he was two years old.

August 6 was the day Saelee was supposed to walk out a free man, after 22 years in a California prison. Instead he was shackled, turned over by California state prison guards to a private mercenary and delivered to ICE for deportation. Even as he was "transferred" between prisons, his family was waiting on the other side of the prison walls to bring him home.

The practice of handing prisoners over to ICE for deportation is increasingly common in the "blue" state of California, where Democrat Gavin Newsom is

governor. Like his California colleague Sen. Kamala Harris, Newsom's persona has been crafted by public relations experts to put a progressive face on reactionary carceral policies.

Saelee was also one of thousands of imprisoned workers who have been dispatched to fight wildfires in California. But the capitalist state, indifferent to the heroic work he performed in 2017 and 2018, moved to deport him anyway.

Kao Saelee is just one of hundreds of millions of workers who, by sentence or by happenstance, calls this prison nation his home. Workers World Party and the



Kao Saelee

Prisoners Solidarity Committee call for the immediate release of Kao Saelee and for the release of all imprisoned workers in the United States.

Sign the petition to demand Gov. Newsom stop ICE transfers at [tinyurl.com/yyanpkoy](http://tinyurl.com/yyanpkoy) □



# Rich get richer, poor get poorer — and sicker

“The rich get richer and the poor get poorer.” The old cliché is still true — obscenely true.

In six months, March to September — when the working class was clobbered by COVID, mass unemployment and a rise in white supremacy — the rich got richer.

Specifically, the collective wealth of this country’s 643 billionaires expanded by \$845 billion. That’s a 29% raise. Not bad considering we’re in the midst of an unprecedented economic contraction. (americansfortaxfairness.org)

And there’s more.

Almost half of that wealth growth — \$401 billion — went to the 15 richest billionaires. More than half of that sum went to the notorious top five — Bezos, Gates, Zuckerberg, Musk and Buffett. The highest percentage increase went to the “poor man” of the bunch. Number 15, Dan Gilbert, real estate and finance capitalist and owner of the Cleveland Cavaliers, saw his net worth grow 672.1% from \$6.5 to \$50.2 billion. (americansfortaxfairness.org)

Not everybody has fared so well.

Not the 30 million people in the U.S. who have gone hungry nor the same number who have had to depend on unemployment benefits. Not the 12 million who lost their health insurance when they lost their jobs. And not the 8 million on record as

having COVID — or the 220,000 of those who have died.

The harshest impact fell on the most oppressed — workers of color, women and gender-nonconforming workers, LGBTQ2S+ workers, young workers, workers with disabilities and others.

“In sickness and in health,” to borrow another cliché, the rich do get richer and the poor do get poorer. And sicker.

## Billionaire Bezos twists the numbers

On Oct. 1, under pressure from unions to release the numbers, Amazon made public that 19,816 of its 1.37 million U.S. frontline workers have had COVID. At least eight workers have died. Yet the company — owned by the world’s richest billionaire, Jeff Bezos — is trying to put a positive spin on these numbers.

“Amazon said the rate of infection among employees was 42% lower than expected, compared with the ‘general population rate’ in the U.S.,” CNBC reported. “If Amazon’s infection rates were in line with the community, the total number of cases would have reached 33,952, the company said.”

If Amazon’s figures are accurate, the company’s infection rate is 1,449 per 100,000 workers. That’s close to Michigan’s statewide rate of 1,467 per 100,000. Only 12 states have rates below

Michigan. And about 20% of Amazon’s warehouses are in Michigan and the 12 states with the lowest infection numbers.

So Amazon claims its safety measures are limiting infection rates. But how safe are the working conditions in communities where rates are fairly low?

Not very, according to Amazon workers in Shakopee, Minn. By June 30, 45 had tested positive, and the infection rate at the warehouse was 17 times that of Scott County.

If Bezos sacrificed only the increase in his personal wealth and invested in the maximum protections for Amazon workers, fewer workers would be sick. Vulnerable older and immunocompromised workers could be paid to stay home.

In fact, it took worker walkouts at Amazon warehouses and Amazon-owned Whole Foods to get any workplace protections or hazard pay — which was later cut.

This is the sickness that Amazon and Bezos — who fought releasing the infection figures for months — now think they can obscure.

## Only class struggle keeps workers safe

A massive transfer to the wealthy of more wealth — all produced by labor — has taken place amidst a tragic pandemic. This injustice is not just the result of personal greed, although there’s no shortage

of that. Capitalism itself, defined by the exploitation of labor by capital, is why one class keeps getting filthy richer while the vast majority suffer.

Workers, organized and unorganized, are fighting to keep themselves safe on their jobs. A group of unions and environmental organizations has sued the federal government to force application of the Defense Production Act — to produce more personal protective equipment needed by frontline workers, especially in health care.

“People are dying, and more people are going to die because the Trump administration has totally failed to protect Americans who have been on the job throughout the pandemic, keeping our country running,” said Communication Workers President Chris Shelton.

This is a progressive lawsuit, but safer conditions won’t be won in the courts alone. It took strikes and sit-downs decades ago to win basic safety protections in factories, where loss of limb and even life was a daily risk. Now rank-and-file workers, in health care, transportation, sanitation, food processing, warehouses and retail, are showing the way by withholding their labor.

Justice can best be won at the point of production. □

## After 55 years of repression

# Indonesian workers, youth take to streets

By Deirdre Griswold

Thousands of workers and students marched and rallied in Indonesia on Oct. 7 to protest a new antilabor law.

“Labor rights activists, workers and students are protesting Indonesia’s new labor law they say will undermine pay and benefits, as well as the environment. The law is part of the president’s efforts to court foreign investors in a bid to drive economic growth,” reported the Christian Science Monitor on Oct. 7.

As the demonstrations spread from Jakarta, the capital, to other cities, thousands of participants, many of them high school students, were arrested.

Police blocked the streets in the capital leading to the Parliament building and the presidential palace, after thousands of university students and workers announced plans to hold mass rallies there.

“Similar rallies were also held in Bandung, the capital of West Java province, where clashes between rock-throwing students and riot police broke out since Tuesday, when police tried to disperse the protesters by firing tear gas and water cannons,” the Associated Press reported.

Another AP report noted: “Thousands of workers from factories in Karawang, in West Java, and Serang, in Banten province, also protested outside their factories.”

## Fascist coup of 1965

Before Oct. 1, 1965, the left movement in Indonesia was one of the strongest in the capitalist world. But on that day, a military coup opened the door to a fascist bloodbath that decimated the progressive forces.

In just a few months, up to a million Indonesians were slaughtered by soldiers,



Workers protest in Bekasi, Indonesia, on Oct. 7.

police and right-wing vigilantes. The Indonesian Communist Party, which had 3 million members, was totally destroyed, along with all the mass organizations on the left.

This slaughter established the bloody regime of General Suharto, who ruled until a series of mass demonstrations in 1998 finally forced his replacement. The Indonesian working class and students are now again intervening openly in their own interests.

## Protests in the U.S.

In the United States, one of the few groups to protest this 1965 slaughter was Youth Against War and Fascism, an affiliate of Workers World Party. It carried out demonstrations and rallies and published several pamphlets alerting people to the terrible crimes that were being committed against the Indonesian people — and the

role of the U.S. government in abetting mass murder.

One of the pamphlets published by YAWF was “The Silent Slaughter,” a record of speeches given at a Public Inquest on the Indonesian Massacre, which was held at Columbia University on June 2, 1966.

In an introduction to the pamphlet, British philosopher Bertrand Russell wrote:

“During October 1965 two representatives of the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation, close associates of mine, were in Djakarta [Indonesia] attending a conference [where] few had any doubt about what was taking place around them. The United States Seventh Fleet was in Javanese waters. The largest base in the area, feverishly constructed by the United States but a few months earlier on the southernmost point of the southernmost

island of the Philippines, was ordered ‘on alert.’ [Indonesian] General Nasution had a mission in Washington. The United States was directly involved in the day-to-day events.”

In 1965, Time magazine reported that the elimination of communism in Indonesia was “the West’s best news for years in Asia.” (Shimrit Lee, “Memories of Massacre,” Jacobin magazine, June 19, 2015)

Since then, U.S. businesses have become the biggest foreign investors in Indonesia. The superrich in the U.S. are growing even richer from an estimated \$36 billion invested in Indonesia from 2013 to 2017, mostly in extractive industries like oil and gas, according to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

There can be no doubt that, with so much in profits at stake, the policy makers for U.S. imperialism are already plotting to stifle any resurgence of Indonesia’s progressive movements. The movement here must be alerted to the need for solidarity with our Indonesian brothers and sisters. □



Deirdre Griswold’s “The Silent Slaughter” and “Indonesia 1965: The Second Greatest Crime of the Century” are available in free download at [workers.org/books](http://workers.org/books).



Greece

Trial finds fascists ‘Guilty!’

By G. Dunkel

A blow to neo-Nazi organizations — particularly in Europe, but also throughout the world — was dealt in Athens, Greece, on Oct. 7. After 400 court sessions, over 100 witnesses and five years of prosecution, the fascist Golden Dawn political party was convicted of being run as a “criminal enterprise.”

The parliamentary leadership of Golden Dawn was convicted of directing a criminal conspiracy, and its cadre were convicted of “being members of a gang.” Golden Dawn was founded in 1985 by Nikos Michaloliakos, a former Greek commando with neo-Nazi sympathies.

The public prosecutor supervising the case recommended acquittals for many key party members, citing a lack of evidence. (Guardian, Oct. 7) But the three judges hearing the case disagreed — 68 of its members were convicted, and massive marches throughout Greece showed popular support for these convictions.

Trade unions, particularly PAME (the All-Workers Militant Front founded by Communist Party of Greece trade unionists), progressive political parties and student groups brought out more than 20,000 people to cheer the verdict in front of the Palace of Justice in Athens. They then marched to parliament, where they held a moment of silence for victims of Golden Dawn and demanded “exemplary punishments” and maximum sentences for members of this fascist party. (Greek



A massive anti-fascist crowd demonstrates in Athens, Greece, on Oct. 7, day of the verdict against the Golden Dawn party.

Communist Party Statement, Oct. 8)

Marches against Golden Dawn were held in Thessaloniki, Agrinio, Arta, Volos, Ioannina, Zakynthos, Igoumenitsa, Heraklion, Ikaria, Katerini, Kozani, Cephalonia, Kardista, Larissa, Patras, Pyrgos, Samos, Santorini, Syros, Trikala, Tripoli and Chania. Videos of the marches showed careful attention to pandemic hygiene.

Golden Dawn engaged in street violence from the beginning, but the 2010 financial crisis, when the European bourgeoisie imposed harsh austerity, gave it a big electoral boost. It presented itself as an opponent of austerity and portrayed its racist xenophobic attacks on Greek workers as opposition to foreign inference. The organization built ties to other right-wing, fascist parties in Europe and the U.S.

Golden Dawn aimed attacks at LGBTQ+ people, members of PAME and immigrants. Group members were found guilty of killing a Pakistani fruit worker, Ssazad Lukman, in Athens in 2013. Abouzid Embarak, an Egyptian fisher working in Athens in a joint Egypt-Greece project to improve fishery technology, was left for dead after a Golden Dawn attack on his boat, but he survived to testify at the organization’s trial.

Pavlos Fyssas, one of the first people killed by Golden Dawn, was a political rapper whose lyrics skewered the group’s claim to respectability. Fyssas was a metal worker like his father and active in his union, which was affiliated with PAME. He was a member

of the anti-capitalist political party Antarsya. His mother attended almost all the court hearings and cried out as the verdict was read: “My son has won!”

For a while, Golden Dawn was Greece’s third largest party with 21 seats in parliament. But as its fascist practices were exposed, it lost influence, and in the 2019 general elections did not get enough votes to gain any seats. By the time of the trial, even the Greek president, Katerina Sakellaropoulou, whose role is mainly ceremonial, supported the judgment.

Now a number of other groups in Greece are competing for the mantle of fascism.

But all of them will have to confront the masses of anti-fascist Greek workers, who are organized and in the streets. □

Answer to fascist threat? Working class struggle!

Continued from page 1

From the point of view of the bourgeoisie, they’ll say a fascist is someone who wants to negate bourgeois democracy and be a tyrant, be an authoritarian leader, dismiss Congress and issue edicts, and so forth.

What Marxists understand is that fascism does not come from some ideology. It’s not born in the heads of people, neither the ultrareactionary nor the police state part of it.

Fascism is a desperate, extreme response to a huge crisis in the capitalist system. And the bourgeoisie argues among itself: “How are we going to save our system?” Some will say, “Well, this is so bad that the only way we can save the system is to mobilize some social base — the petty bourgeoisie, small business owners — and try to infect some of the working class with racism and homophobia and sexism. Go back to the past when the oppressed couldn’t even lift their head. And do whatever is necessary to smash the unions and smash the working class and divide it.”

Fascism for the bourgeoisie is an extreme, painful solution to what they believe to be a terrifying existential crisis for their system — as in, if they don’t do something extreme, they might lose their system!

I believe that the whole bourgeoisie is like Trump. It’s just that Trump lets it all hang out. But the bourgeoisie say the same things. All of the sexist, abominable s-h-i-t that he says — they say it amongst themselves. Trump realizes there’s a sector that he can reach, that he can mobilize on that basis, by being “honest” and calling for attacks on the oppressed.

The question is how deep is his support in the ruling class? And he has some support in the ruling class. And what is the strength of his social base? I think that these things will be in deep play in the coming weeks, early November and beyond.

You want to fight these fascists? The Democrats will lead you to destruction. If it’s up to the Democrats, the fascists will win. One has to worry if, in fact, Biden wins and his victory is accepted — which is questionable — what will this fascist movement do in response to him? Do you think they’re going to be quiet? Do you think they’re just going to say “We lost?” Do you think that’s what 2021 is going to be about?

We need the real strategy for defeating fascism — which is organizing on a working-class basis for mass class struggle — the workers and the oppressed against the capitalist system! First in small ways, in uneven ways, based on where you are, but as time passes, in bigger, more coordinated ways. This is the lesson that comrades and leaders in the communist movement learned during the 1930s in Italy, in Germany, in Spain, and in different ways, in Chile and in Greece, not just now but fifty years ago. The big historical examples are Hitler and Mussolini, but they are by no means the only examples.

This is a turning point for those who view themselves as radical socialists, communists, anti-capitalists, who orient toward the working class. This is about the importance of

the class struggle and the necessity to do what we must do to organize our class. That’s a lot of work. But who said that anything important would not be a big challenge and a lot of work?

That understanding and a commitment to do that work is what makes you a revolutionary. Not just some good rhetoric or a nice speech. In a crisis, are you ready to get down? Are you ready to do what you have to do? Are you ready to put in the time, make the sacrifices?

**Teresa Gutierrez:** On fascism, people should take note of this: Comrade Fidel Castro always said that fascism would not come to the United States. And I believe him. It has to do with the people of this country. We hate this government. We hate this system. But we love our working class. And our working class is not going to allow fascism in this country. Fidel believed that, and I agree with him.

Young people know that there is no hope under capitalism, and that’s why a sector of them were for Bernie Sanders, who was an open “socialist.” If the Democratic Party wanted a symbol of change, they would have selected him. (Yes, he’s an old white man; they can’t seem to get away from that!) But he was for Medicare for All, and choosing him would have been a nod to the base of the party that was organizing and angry with capitalism.

But the Democrats didn’t do that, and they couldn’t do that because they are too beholden to Wall Street. The Democratic Party may look different — it may look more Black, more Brown, more union, but it is, just like the Republican Party, beholden to Wall Street. Workers World Party understands that there are immigrant rights activists and union activists who have a little bit of hope that if they vote for Biden, this fascist, sexist, white supremacist president will be defeated. And he should be defeated. We’re not at odds with those sentiments among people who are fighting for their community. We’re not at odds with them.

If the Republican Party and Trump have called for police and right-wing militias to go out to terrorize voters at the poll, I think we should be out there to defend Black and Brown people who may be voting. Imagine! Republicans calling for the very police who killed Breonna Taylor to go “monitor” the voting sites — many of which have already been closed by the Republicans. We defend the right of Black and Brown and working class people to vote. I’m proud of our Party for taking that position.

But Nov. 3 to Jan. 20 could be a sh-tstorm in this country. We know Trump’s hubris. We know the Democrats are not capable of fighting him. And we know that the only transfer of power we must be concerned with is the transfer of power to the people.

So on Nov. 4, the day after the election, we have to be hitting the streets to organize for COVID relief, to stop police terror and for all the other demands for liberation of workers and the oppressed. That’s our program. That’s what we’re fighting for. We’re asking everyone to join us in this fight. □

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Huelga de uva Delano, 1965-1970, por la Asociación Nacional de Trabajadores Agrícolas.

# Obreras negras y latinx lideran huelga hacia la victoria

Por Kathy Durkin

¡Ganaron!

La histórica huelga de 10 días de trabajadores en instalaciones médicas en tres ciudades de Illinois resultó en una victoria total, con todas las demandas satisfechas. Las trabajadoras negras y latinx desempeñaron un papel decisivo en la organización de la huelga y en su exitosa conclusión.



Trabajadoras de la salud de Chicago en la ‘Huelga por nuestras vidas.’

Más de 4,000 miembros del Local 73 de Empleados de Servicio (SEIU) lanzaron una huelga por prácticas laborales injustas el 14 de septiembre en las instalaciones médicas de la Universidad de Illinois en Chicago, Peoria y Rockford. Después de trabajar sin contrato durante más de un año, los trabajadores estaban hartos! Además, como amenaza, los patrones trajeron rompuhuelgas de otros estados antes de la huelga.

Esta acción laboral demostró la determinación y unidad de los trabajadores del centro médico: trabajadorxs de mantenimiento, conserjes, técnicos y administrativos, terapeutas ocupacionales y otros profesionales. Presionó a los jefes de UI-Chicago para que se rindieran.

Los contratos negociados, tentativos y de varios años garantizan aumentos salariales para todos los trabajadores, incluido un salario mínimo de \$15 en Chicago para aquellos en la escala de salario más bajo, medidas de seguridad para lidiar con COVID-19, personal adecuado y protección contra la subcontratación de la dirección del sindicato empleos, informó el comité de negociación del sindicato el 24 de septiembre.

El presidente de SEIU Local 73, Dian Palmer, dijo que el acuerdo “es una victoria para todos los trabajadoras de Illinois y muestra lo que es posible cuando los trabajadores se unen y exigen que los empleadores nos respeten, nos protejan y nos paguen. Estoy muy orgullosa de las mujeres negras y morenas que lideraron esta huelga, quienes convencieron a sus compañeros de huelga de que valía la pena correr el riesgo.

“Nunca se rindieron”, enfatizó Palmer. “Estaban todos los días al amanecer exigiendo justicia para los trabajadores esenciales. UIC los llamó héroes, pero su salario y beneficios no reflejaban eso, pero UIC ahora entiende lo que significa ser ‘esencial’”(seiu.org, 24 de septiembre).

## ¡Somos ruidosas y orgullosas!

Alicia Uwumarogie, fisioterapeuta y representante del comité de negociación de SEIU, dijo: “¡Dejamos victoriosos los piquetes en tantas áreas! Hemos ganado la confianza y la fuerza para asumir la gestión. Hemos demostrado nuestro poder colectivo mediante la ejecución de esta huelga. Nuestros miembros estarán orgullosos de esta victoria y de lo que hicimos en las últimas semanas”. Los trabajadores “seguirán luchando hasta que la justicia, la equidad y el respeto se conviertan en la norma en UIC”.

Las enfermeras en huelga del Hospital UIC se unieron a los trabajadores del Local 73 de SEIU en las líneas de piquete y en una manifestación del 18 de septiembre en el centro de Chicago. Hicieron huelga durante siete días a partir del 12 de septiembre, con demandas que incluían la prohibición de subcontratar los trabajos de las enfermeras sindicales a enfermeras no sindicalizadas y con una formación inadecuada. Aunque la dirección del hospital obtuvo una orden judicial para prohibir que las enfermeras hicieran huelga, 800 enfermeras de la UIC desafiaron a los jefes y protestaron.

La Asociación de Enfermeras de Illinois informa que se ha llegado a un acuerdo tentativo, otorgando pago por riesgo de pandemia, contratando más enfermeras y proporcionando más PPE. La unidad de negociación de 1.400 personas votará el 28 de septiembre si aprueba el contrato, el mismo día que se vota el contrato del Local 73. (Chicago Sun-Times, 24 de septiembre)

Los sindicatos Teamsters and Electrical Workers (IBEW) honraron las líneas de piquete de SEIU Local 73 y se unieron a los huelguistas en solidaridad, al igual que los miembros individuales del sindicato. Estos valientes trabajadores demostraron que incluso en la era anti-laborista de Trump, una fuerza de huelga unida y fuerte puede ganar.

## ¡Las mujeres se organizan!

Muchas campañas de organización sindical y acciones laborales han sido lideradas por mujeres este año en desafío a la administración Trump, que está en contra del trabajo y a favor de las empresas. Las personas designadas por Trump para el llamado Departamento de Trabajo y la Junta Nacional de Relaciones Laborales, así como la Corte Suprema, han atacado y debilitado los derechos de los sindicatos y los trabajadores.

En julio, en una votación histórica y aplastante, los proveedores de cuidado infantil en California votaron a favor

de sindicalizarse, una victoria sorprendente para el movimiento laboral estadounidense. Votaron para establecer y ser representados por Child Care Providers United, una colaboración entre United Domestic Workers of America/ American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 3930 y SEIU Locals 99 y 521.

Esta fuerza laboral está compuesta principalmente por mujeres: negras, latinx e inmigrantes, lo que hace que esta victoria sea aún más significativa como parte de la lucha general por la justicia racial, de género y económica.

Las enfermeras del Mission Hospital en Asheville, N.C., votaron a favor de sindicalizarse en una elección de la NLRB el 16 de septiembre, en lo que National Nurses United denominó la “mayor victoria sindical de hospitales en el sur desde 1975”.

Y las enfermeras registradas en el Hospital Alameda, el Hospital San Leandro y Hospital San Joaquin en California planean una huelga de cinco días para el 7 de octubre para exigir que la administración proteja la seguridad de los pacientes y proporcione suficiente personal y PPE durante la pandemia, informa el sitio web de la NNU. La Asociación de Enfermeras de California dijo el 26 de septiembre que la gerencia ha negociado de mala fe y ha tomado medidas punitivas. □

# Una Asamblea de Trabajadores PARA CONSTRUIR UN MOVIMIENTO PARA UNA HUELGA GENERAL Contra el racismo

ASAMBLEA • ¡USE UNA MASCARA!  
Domingo • 18 de octubre • 2:00 PM  
Union Square, Nueva York

[www.ShutDownRacism.org](http://www.ShutDownRacism.org)

[www.facebook.com/events/3370245423060349/](https://www.facebook.com/events/3370245423060349/)

El veredicto indignante de Breonna Taylor es otro recordatorio claro y atroz que este país no valora las vidas de los negros ni las considera merecedoras de protección. Esto, además ataques anti-asiáticos, constantes asesinatos policiales racistas y fuerzas armadas neofascistas que se movilizan por todo el país para apoyar a Trump si se niega a irse. Estamos ante una gran crisis en el horizonte de las elecciones del 3 de noviembre.

La clase obrera no puede callar.  
¿Cómo nos movilizamos para acabar con el racismo?

Si están en contra del racismo, ven a la Asamblea de Trabajadores del 18 de octubre, afuera y con distancia social, para ayudarnos a construir un movimiento para una huelga general contra el racismo. ¡Las Vidas Negras No Pueden Esperar!

No importa si está en un sindicato o si tiene un trabajo: el 99% de nosotrxs estamos en la clase trabajadora.

Algo importante está sucediendo en el movimiento sindical. Muchos han llegado a la conclusión de que no es suficiente para los sindicatos simplemente emitir declaraciones denunciando asesinatos policiales. Más de 36 sindicatos locales, regionales y nacionales, han declarado que el movimiento sindical debe organizar paros laborales y huelgas generales contra el racismo y el terror policial. ([laborforblacklives.org](https://laborforblacklives.org))

Ha llegado el momento de una huelga/ cierre general en solidaridad con las vidas negras, los blancos de tiroteos policiales y opresión sistémica; con la comunidad de im/migrantes, puestos en campos de concentración por ICE o designados como trabajadores excluidos, a los que se les puede negar el apoyo a los ingresos durante la pandemia; y con comunidades indígenas y latinx, que se ven más afectados por COVID-19.

Es tiempo de una huelga general en contra del racismo y para exigir reparaciones por la descendencia de africanos esclavos e indígenas!

La lucha contra el racismo es un problema de la clase trabajadora. El apoyo para un nuevo

movimiento de Huelga General/ El Cierre contra el Racismo debe construirse dentro del movimiento labor, pero lo que es más importante, entre aquellos de nosotros que no estamos en un sindicato.

El hecho es que la mayoría de los millones de personas que han marchado en las calles contra el racismo son los trabajadores muchos adentro los últimos meses para protestar por las condiciones inseguras están al frente del movimiento para traer de vuelta la huelga general. Especialmente ahora, cuando hay un desempleo a nivel de depresión y la perspectiva de desalojos masivos a la vuelta de la esquina, el paro/ huelga general debe convertirse en un arma en la lucha por defender a todxs los trabajadores.

El mundo se dio cuenta cuando los atletas pararon de trabajar después del tiroteo policial de Jacob Blake. Nos recordaron que el 90% de nosotros somos trabajadores y que podemos mover a la sociedad con el poder que tenemos para retener nuestro trabajo.

Fue principalmente la amenaza de una huelga de maestros en marzo que obligó al alcalde de Nueva York a cerrar las escuelas al comienzo de la pandemia. Cuando el gobierno no proporcionó equipo de protección personal (PPE, por sus siglas en inglés) ni siquiera a las enfermeras de primera línea, fueron los trabajadores de los hospitales y de Amazon, instacart, McDonalds y las granjas quienes abandonaron el trabajo, quienes dejaron de trabajar y cerraron los negocios habituales, y dirigieron a la sociedad para enfrentar la pandemia COVID-19.

Fueron miles de trabajadores los que salieron a las calles para protestar por la supremacía blanca y la racista brutalidad policial. Esto es por eso debemos organizarnos y no detenemos hasta que todos los negros sean libres.

Una Asamblea de Trabajadores contra el Racismo tiene el potencial de reunir a todos los líderes de las luchas de los trabajadores en un solo lugar. Ven a la Asamblea de Trabajadores del 18 de octubre y ayuda a que la huelga / cierre general sea más que una idea, sino una realidad. ([shutdownracism.org](https://shutdownracism.org)) □