Whistleblower exposes:

ICE abuses detainees

As we go to press, a Sept. 21 press release from Georgia Detention Watch announced that Cipriano Chavez-Alvarez, 65, is the third detainee at the Stewart Detention Center in Lumpkin, Ga., to die of COVID-19. Stewart Detention Center located in Ocilla, Ga., has been an explosion of medical neglect issues, particularly a lack of COVID-19 precautions, and an abnor-
mal number of hysterectomies and other procedures performed by an outside doc-
tor on women detainees. She said her out-
spoken attempts to rectify the conditions caused her to be demoted to an “on call” status, creating a financial hardship for the mother of five children. Nevertheless, she stated emphatically that she had no regrets for “doing the right thing.”

A Sept. 15 press conference, hosted by Georgia Detention Watch (GDW) in front of the Atlanta ICE Field Office, came a day after the filing of a 27-page federal com-
plaint with the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General. Every major news media in the U.S. and many around the world reported on the many media exposés, Congressional action and repre-
sative hearings to investigate all the charges. This is a significant victory.

The writer is founder of Georgia Detention Watch and a steering committee member representing the National Detention Watch. There is a call for Congressional hear-
ings to investigate all the charges. This would be an opportunity for immigrant detainees and Dawn Wooten to tell their stories before a national audience. Heroic whistleblower Dawn Wooten and the brave detainees at Irwin County Detention Center have supplied the move-
ment with new ammunition to bring down the for-profit prison corporations and repressive government agencies like ICE.

The writer is founder of Georgia Detention Watch and a steering com-
mittee member representing the International Action Center.

Migrant caravan for residency
Defend BLM activist lawyers
Trump, Biden and U.S. decline
‘Free Palestine’ webinar
U.S. Cold War vs TikTok
Is Marxism still relevant?

Editorial

Ginsburg & SCOTUS

Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite! workers.org

Vol. 62, No. 39 Sept. 24, 2020 $1

Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite! workers.org

Vol. 62, No. 39 Sept. 24, 2020 $1
Anti-fascists say: ‘Proud Boys, out of Philly!’

The fascist Proud Boys group posted notices on social media "calling all patriots" to Philadelphia’s Clark Park at 1:00 pm Sept. 19. By 2:00 pm, none of them were visible. Over 500 progressive activists did show up, who would have told the missing brownshirts in no uncertain terms that they were not welcome in Philly.

Photo and caption by Joe Piette
Permanent residency for TPS holders won’t come from the courts

By G. Lechat

Coordinated, coast-to-coast press conferences were staged by Temporary Protected Status activists on Sept. 15 after the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld Trump’s 2018 termination of TPS. In several cities, imm/migrants and their allies gathered for legal residency and U.S.-born children reacted to the disappointing decision on their 2018 lawsuit, Ramos v. Nielsen.

This ruling came just as TPS recipients, who in January are set to lose their legal work authorization, drivers’ licenses (in most states) and protection from deportation, were preparing a second cross-country public tour. Boston SEIU 32-BJ member Julio Perez will drive “La Libertad,” the brightly decorated National TPS Alliance bus, across the country from Sept. 21 until mid-November, when it will depart Los Angeles for San Francisco. The Court of Appeals decision diverged from the Supreme Court’s June finding that Trump acted unconstitutionally when he terminated Deferred Action for Children for the first time. It was hoped that the SCOTUS DAPA ruling would lead to a positive decision for TPS-holders in the lower court. The death of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg on Friday heaped additional uncertainty on recipients.

Ginsburg’s replacement is likely to be even less friendly to im/migrants, although her own record was also mixed. Days after the DARA ruling she joined right-wingers to “hand out TPS cards” for the indefinite future so that the enabling of rejected asylum applicants without a hearing (NPR June 25). Residency will be won in the streets!

Actions hit reactionary ruling

In San Francisco, where the Ninth Circuit is located, a press conference and rally organized by local supporters of the National TPS Alliance were held outside the old federal building on Sept. 15th. “Ramos” plaintiffs and their supporters spoke out in support of the TPS program. Cristina, a plaintiff and TPS holder who arrived from El Salvador in 2001, stated on behalf of the 400,000 TPS holders in this country: “Yes, it was very heartful yesterday. I will continue to fight, my family will continue to fight and all the TPS families will continue to fight.” Cristina’s two children, who are also plaintiffs, made brief statements.

TPS Committee East Bay activist Rosa Carranza said, “We need to fight [for] all the undocumented workers who are working right now without any protection — they are human beings as well. The fight is not just for the TPS workers, the fight is for the minorities who are under attack under this racist administration.” She reminded everyone that “We are not giving up the fight, we are going to fight to the end ... and we are going to build a common front with any cause that has been attacked by this administration.”

In Las Vegas activists are having fundraising yard sales ahead of a Lustig lawsuit’s arrival on Sept. 27. Now, with 4,000 Nevadans at risk of deportation, TPS Committee and Arriba Las Vegas Workers Center activists are not giving up. Faced with a final decision on the committee’s Facebook page that “we are and always have been essential, and we will continue to fight for our right to stay here permanently,” more supporters are needed to prevail against legal setbacks, especially in the COVID-19 era.

In Houston, the Central American Resource Center (CRECEN) held a vigil Sept. 17 in solidarity with TPS recipients in light of the Ninth Circuit ruling. More than 100 people, including many families, were out on that balmy evening to demand that TPS be saved from the Trump administration’s attack and there be permanent residency and legal recognition for all. How can this government call anyone “illegal,” especially those with Indigenous heritage, when the land was stolen in the first place?

More than half of the 50,000 TPS holders in Texas reside in the Houston area. (Houston Public Media, Feb. 13, 2019) Those with TPS are not the only ones affected by this decision. According to a Center for American Progress report on TPS holders in Texas, some 53,800 U.S.-born children in Texas have parents from El Salvador, Honduras, and Haiti who have TPS.

Houstonians are highly affected by the recent court ruling, and they will continue to fight for their neighbors. “La Libertad” will arrive in Dallas on Oct. 10, then spend the 11th and 12th in Houston before departing for New Orleans.

Eastern states also mobilize

The Georgia im/migrant community was hit with news this week that women held by ICE in the Irwin County Detention Center in Ocilla, Ga., have been subjected to medical abuse and forced sterilization. Teodina Martinez answers the Georgia TPS Committee phone six to seven times a week when reporters call, because he was the first TPS holder in the state to organize and has built an activist core in one year.

Continued on page 4

Buffalo Detention Center

Im/migrants work under slave labor conditions

By Tom Allia

Incarcerated im/migrants are suffering a variety of abuses at the Buffalo Detention Center in Batavia, N.Y., where they are being detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) of the Department of Homeland Security. In early April, BDC made national headlines with one of the highest rates of COVID-19 infections ever reported in a single facility. The center operated without social distancing, masks or new cleaning procedures until mid-April.

A lawsuit filed in March against BDC and the state of New York has progressed. A federal judge has ordered the center and state courts to reverse the burden of proof when he terminated Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals. It was hoped that the lawsuit would lead to a positive decision for TPS-holders in the lower court. The death of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg on Friday heaped additional uncertainty on recipients.

Ginsburg’s replacement is likely to be even less friendly to im/migrants, although her own record was also mixed. Days after the DARA ruling she joined right-wingers to “hand out TPS cards” for the indefinite future so that the enabling of rejected asylum applicants without a hearing (NPR June 25). Residency will be won in the streets!

A second development is a new lawsuit filed by Dailla Yeend and Bouman Phimason, both former detainees at the Buffalo Detention Center. They are joined by former Ada County Justice Center in New York (WJCN). The suit contests Akima Global Services, the owners of BDC, over labor violations and low pay.

Most detainees — 90% of them — are civilly detained, meaning there is no conviction against most of them. One of the plaintiffs of the suit, Yeend, was detained for not having a driver’s license on her person. She has legal residency in the U.S. when she was detained, she was held for 2½ months.

The Buffalo Detention Center pays all workers $12.69 per hour, regardless of hours worked, which can be as long as 12 hours. BDC does not offer hazard pay, and many of the workers are responsible for wards of people infected with COVID-19. (thethavstian.com, Sept. 4)

The main focus of this lawsuit is not the unreasonable conditions of Yeend’s initial arrest and time spent in detention, however, but BDC violations of labor law. WJCN Legal Director Rob McCreanor states, “This is a private company that is contracting with the federal government and is making a lot of money off that contract. That is in part due to the free labor they are able to take advantage of in the civil detention [who] aren’t prisoners serving terms for crimes — they are immigrants who are detained waiting a resolution for a civil immigration matter. It is a gross violation of their rights.” (wjecn.org, Sept. 4)

Work at BDC is coerced in a parallel to forced slave labor. Detainees who do not work are frequently placed in solitary confinement, or partial solitary, meaning less than 24 hours alone. And they are not paid in solitary without reading material or any other means to occupy themselves. Work is double coercive because BDC allocates detainees the bare minimum of needed items including hygiene products and vitamins, while their needs are more pressing during the pandemic. Detainees are restricted to an expensive private commissary to meet their basic needs. A small shampoo at the commissary is $3.50, while produce from the vending machines can be $3-$10. Deodorant is $10.

Phone calls start at $3 and increase per minute. The phone is of critical importance, because detainees need to be able to communicate with lawyers for court cases and with their families if they are offered release. If they cannot communicate due to lack of funds, their case or release may be seriously delayed.

Detainees who are released from BDC are taken to a Chipotle station at the New York State Troop Thruway exit for Batavia. Then they are a bus stop for Greyhound Bus Lines, but released detainees are not usually given any cash to buy tickets. While detainees are legally owed the means to transport themselves home, for someone to admit they do not have means for transport often results in a longer stay.

Detainees are typically dropped off late in the morning, after the two morning buses have passed, so they have to wait almost all day for the next bus. But people waiting for their buses are not permitted to wait inside the gas station, and there is no bus shelter. This becomes a very dangerous situation during inclement weather, especially in the brutally cold upstate New York winters.

Local activist groups including Justice for Migrant Families and local churches try to meet detainees at the bus stop. They offer backdrops with basic supplies and sanitary products, as well as rides to where released people need to go. But the groups do not have the resources to maintain a constant presence at the bus stop.

When the Investigative Post, a Buffalo based nonprofit, wrote an April exposé on the practice of abandoning former detainees, ICE denied everything in the article — but did not provide any evidence to refute the dire facts. 

Workers.org

Sept. 24, 2020
Illinois

Striking health workers say: ‘We want R-E-S-P-E-C-T and a contract!’

By Kathy Durkin

Solidarity was on display when striking nurses and service workers rallied together outside the Thompson Center in Chicago on Sept. 18 to demand labor rights. “There were also mobilizations in New York, Washington, D.C., and Atlanta on Oct. 18-19, activities that will target Republican Senators Kelly Loeffler and David Perdue. Among them was a caravan including the Honduran and oppressed people, rather than with capital interests. NNU has been on the front lines against the COVID-19 pandemic from the outset.

The solidarity of this victory as the largest Southern union win since 1975 is related to events in North Carolina in 1975. In the 1970s, the Communist Worker Party were organizing textile mills in Greensboro. On Nov. 3, that year, the Ku Klux Klan killed CWP organizers and allies Dr. James Waller and Dr. Michael Nathan—two medical doctors, William Evan Sampson, Cesar Cauce and Sandra Neely Smith, a nurse and former student body president of Bennett College, which is one of only two historically Black colleges for women. Involved in the murders were members of the American Nazi Party and various federal and local law enforcement agencies. The impact of these murders was and still is, incalculable in North Carolina. Every day of struggle for Black liberation and worker power in the state since then has taken place in the context of the horrific attack. The successful union drive in Asheville was years in the making and stilts the historical fight for the power of solidarity and to the hard conditions for workers in North Carolina and throughout the South.

A victory against systemic white supremacy

White supremacy pervades every aspect of life in the U.S., and rarely is it more obvious than in corporate medicine, where racial disparities in outcomes are often worse than in the nation’s most “health and race” systems. The so-called justice system. Throughout North Carolina, Black, Indigenous and/or Latinx people have lower life expectancy and get sicker. We’ve seen this in the COVID-19 infection rates and death rates, and higher rates of poverty as a result of medical expenses compared to workers who are not nationally oppressed. HCA Healthcare, the largest U.S. for-profit hospital chain, owns Mission Hospital in Asheville and waged a vicious anti-union campaign against NNU. But HCA’s program of white supremacist health care was defeated. Its stock prices have been falling since the results of the union vote were announced.

Asheville is a concrete win especially for Black working class patients served by Mission Health. Unionized health care provides better outcomes for all patients, especially reduce racial disparities, which are often larger in the South.

A union is the most powerful tool available to empower all workers of nationalities to recognize their shared interests with the communities they serve and oppose white supremacy advanced by bosses and sharecroppers.

Expanding health care access

The Southern Workers Medicare for All Campaign, launched by NNU and sibling radical unions UE (United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers) and AFSCME, launched its longest-term expansion effort at a virtual State Convention in August. La Libertad is due in October from TPS holders from El Salvador, Honduras, Haiti and replace it with Medicare for All. View the webinar at tpscoalition.com/ugafpractic

Health care workers win for all workers

by calvin deutchbein

National Nurses United called it the “largest hospital union victory in the South since 1975.” On Sept. 16, in a National Labor Relations Board election, RNs voted by more than 70% to unionize Mission Hospital in Asheville, N.C. — one of the most anti-union places in the U.S. NNU is a militantly anti-racist union engaged in working class struggle around the U.S., but especially in the South, including in the Carolina Blue, Florida and Texas. NNU fights to orient health care workers in the quantitatively most productive sector of the U.S. economy toward aligning with working class and oppressed people, rather than with capital interests. NNU has been on the front lines against the COVID-19 pandemic from the outset.

“Throughout the entire campaign, we’ve been acutely aware that this fight isn’t just for us and our working conditions — this is about the health and well-being of our community,” said Kelly Graham, palliative care RN, in an NNU press release. On Sept. 14, the UIC and the NNU won for their community.

Southern unionism

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Permanent residency for TPS holders won’t come from the courts

Continued from page 3

“Organizing in Georgia is very hard. It is considered a ‘war zone’ to organize,” said Reina-Landaverde, a national TPS activist.

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PHOTO: NATIONAL NURSES ORGANIZING COMMITTEE/NATIONAL NURSES UNITED

PHOTO: SEIU LOCAL 73 FACEBOOK

#Strike for our Lives demonstration in Chicago on Sept. 18 by nurses and other hospital workers.

Permanent residency for TPS holders won’t come from the courts

Continued from page 3

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**Michigan prisoners rebel!**

By Ted Kelly

Prisoners in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan rose up and took control of their housing unit for over five hours last Monday, Sept. 14, in a rare display of commendable organization and militancy, over 40 incarcerated workers rebelled after a guard at the Chippewa Correctional Facility used a Taser weapon on their fellow prisoner, causing them to lose consciousness.

While the injured prisoner was being taken away, prisoners seized on the opportunity to force staff out of the housing block. Guards were forced to abandon the unit. The facility’s administration even had to admit that the prisoners’ seizure of power was so swift that no guards were even injured in the takeover.

The Chippewa facility has a capacity of over 2,000 prisoners. Like so many weapons of genocide and detriocation in the U.S. empire, this concentration camp is named after the Indigenous people of this continent. “Chippewa” is an anglicization of Ojibwe, the name of one of the bands of Anishinaabe people, who are native to Michigan’s Upper Peninsula.

Anishinaabe, Dakota and Menominee peoples all called the Upper Peninsula home long before Europeans arrived in North America. (tinyurl.com/yxxgwgw3)

COVID cases, deaths double in prisons

By Miranda Crissman

Since Workers World last reported on COVID behind bars in June, case numbers and deaths have more than doubled.

Current numbers show at least 125,730 cases of COVID-19 have been reported among prisoners in the U.S. The data suggest that these numbers are most likely underreported.

Texas prisons lead in numbers of cases with 21,262, followed by Florida with 15,625, California with 12,125, 6,112, 5,834 and 5,423 cases, respectively.

And a total of 1,066 prisoner deaths from the virus have been reported, with Texas leading with 155 deaths. The federal BOP follows with the death of 129 prisoners. Among prison staff, 37,652 cases and 77 deaths have been reported. (The Marshall Project, Sept. 15)

Prisons have functioned as concentration camps for the poor and oppressed since their inception, and COVID is only speeding this process up.

Prison Policy Initiative gave examples of 14 large-scale mass releases of prisoners throughout the 20th century and has demonstrated that decarceration efforts led to a decrease in crime. (Prison Policy Initiative, April 9)

Workers World Party joins many abolitionists in our call for mass releases now. Tear down the walls, and free them all for public health! (Project South)

Stop forced sterilizations! Shut down all detention centers!

The Prisons Solidarity Committee of Workers World Party commands the heroic action of Dawn Wooten, a licensed practical nurse, for exposing forced sterilizations at the Irwin County, Georgia ICE (Immigration & Customs Enforcement) Detention Center operated by LaSalle Corrections, a private for-profit prison.

Project South, one of the advocacy groups involved in gathering the facts, states that there was an “inordinate violations the U.S. government continues to maintain on the continent. “Chippewa” is an anglicization of Ojibwe, the name of one of the bands of Anishinaabe people, who are native to Michigan’s Upper Peninsula. (Prison Policy Initiative)

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. There is no better time than now to demand an immediate moratorium on all new incarceration across the U.S. are in prisons. Prisoners are incarcerated workers and members of the working class. These transitional demands are a response to the mass death of incarcerated workers from the COVID-19 pandemic. They are demands for abolition. They are demands to save lives.
Defend BLM activist lawyers!

By Noor Jehan Bano

A surveillance camera outside this city’s 88th Precinct in New York captured footage on May 30 of a Molotov cocktail setting an abandoned, badly damaged, and heavily spray-painted police car on fire. That same night, police kidnapped and imprisoned Colinford Mattis and Colinford Mattis, charging them with taking part in the incident.

The charges that punishment bureau- crats attached to Mattis and Rahman for their purported role in setting an aban- doned cop car on fire carry an incred- ible mandatory minimum sentence of 45 years to a maximum of life in prison. (Buzzfeed, Sept. 16)

At the bail hearing for Rahman and Mattis, these bureaucrats relentlessly tried to keep them confined to cages until their trial. However, after being held cap- tive for weeks, both were released and placed under house arrest.

Along with the state, some South Asian community members have also engaged in acts of violence against these political prisoners by guilting and shaming them for their alleged involvement in harming state property.

On a South Asian-centered online forum, one person wrote that because Mattis and Rahman are “educated people but they committed a serious crime. . . it’s important that the court makes an exam- ple out of them and gives them a long sentence.” This person added that they “don’t have much sympathy for people who seek to wreak havoc.” Another wrote that “the most surprising part [about this story] is that they’re both lawyers and children of immigrants. They should’ve 100% known better.”

This illustrates the major dilemma for some South Asian communities when dis- cussing profound acts of protest: We con- tinue to rely on our proximity to power for security, rather than engaging in deep solidarity with those whose actions mold our path towards liberation.

Instead of vilifying Mattis and Rahman, it is crucial that we actively assess how their actions have challenged respectability politics, loosened the racial wedge separating South Asian and Black communities, and contributed to building class consciousness.

Mattis is of Jamaican descent, while Rahman and her family migrated from Pakistan to the United States. Both were raised in immigrant communities, attended law school, and practiced as attorneys prior to the May 30 incident. Since the arrests of Rahman and Mattis, news outlets have paid exceptionally close attention to their occupation, publishing headlines with phrases like “two promis- ing lawyers” (CNN, June 18), “Molotov- tossing attorney” (weekly Blitz, Aug. 21), and “bomb-throwing lawyers” (New York Post, June 23).

In the United States, lawyers are often the gatekeepers protecting the ruling class’s authority, which, in turn, puts them in a position of power. Moreover, news outlets deliberately report on acts that reflect a principle central to migrant commu- nities: “Do not bite the hand that feeds you.” The Trump act against this principle demonstrates that the worth of an oppressed community member is solely based on their commit- ment to serve the oppressor.

The value attached to a person from a minority community is also reflected in how communities of color are pit- ting against one another. South Asians are considered “model minorities,” hard-working, intellectual, and law-abid- ing people. In turn, those who are not modeled minorities are stigmatized to posses- sion opposite attributes.

This toxic dichotomy has perpetuated and created barriers to South Asian com- munities and created barriers for communities of color. The courts demonstrated, however, that one’s “model minority” status does not ensure protection against state harm, thus weakening these di- visions and strengthening our need to build class alliances.

The current uprising has sparked an international call to end white suprem- acist violence against all communities of color. For some of South Asian descent, how do we intend to answer?

As seen from Portugal

Trump vs. Biden: How to halt the decline of imperial power

By Manuel Raposo

A Portuguese Marxist analyst looks at the Trump vs. Biden election, assessing its possible impact on U.S. foreign pol- icy. This article was first published Sept. 1 in Capital and is translated here, which is edited by Raposo. Translation by John Catinatto.

The confrontation between Trump and Biden, regarding the upcoming U.S. presi- dential elections, has been presented in the Portuguese media in an unprec- edent- ed dispute between tyranny and democ- racy, between barbarism and civilization, between the threats of war and peace, between the interests of the workers and the interests of capital.

All these and so many other loosely defined opposites arise more from vested interests trying to spin propaganda than from any real political analysis of what is at stake. They therefore distort reality, namely by emphasizing the idea that there is a crucial difference between the U.S. ruling factions that line up behind the Republican or Democratic party.

We know what Trump has done and we can imagine what his plans are for a second term; but we do not know, in this distorted discussion, the real goals of the ruling-class group and its political agents who pro- mote Joe Biden. When you see a chorus of reactionaries and war criminals lining up behind the Democratic candidate (some of them last-minute deserters from the Republican ranks), you have to ask what you can expect if Biden wins on Nov. 3.

Trump’s ignorance and bad manners have made him an easy target for criti- cism, at least for European leaders. Above all, he has become politically undesirable because he has treated the European Union with hostility and has harmed the interests of the Old Continent’s ruling classes. They would, of course, prefer a return to yesterday’s [pre-Trump] under- standings and to the “predictability” of a United States foreign policy negotiated in international organizations and through their own channels. That’s despite the kick in the ass the U.S. gave the European leaders when George W. Bush unilater- ally decided to wage war on Iraq in 2003, against a good section of the interests of European capitalism.

But European ruling class preferences, which derive from their own needs, are far from what is necessary for the European working classes and peoples. Of course, Trump will not be “their” [the workers’] candidate for all that is known of him and his cronies, be they American or Euro- pean. In this circumstance, and espe- cially since they have no influence on the vote, the European workers and peoples should understand as clearly as possible what is at stake and distance themselves from what their dominant classes are selling them as if it were of interest “to everyone” and “to the world.”

We have already highlighted in another text some of the realities that determine the recent political trajectory of the USA, beyond Trump’s idiosyncrasies. One is the evident decline of U.S. hegemony (economic, political, military, moral) which Washington achieved after 1945 and projected after 1990 following the collapse of the Soviet Union. Another is the crisis affecting the entire capitalist world as a result of the decade “advantages-for-all” of globalization having visibly come to an end (Trump) and the emergence of domination by China and Russia— not for- 　mally but because of the economic hege- mony (economic, political, military, moral) which Washington achieved after 1945 and projected after 1990 following the collapse of the Soviet Union. Another is the crisis affecting the entire capitalist world as a result of the decade “advantages-for-all” of globalization having visibly come to an end (Trump) and the emergence of domination by China and Russia— not formally but because of the economic hegemony (economic, political, military, moral) which Washington achieved after 1945 and projected after 1990 following the collapse of the Soviet Union.

In other words, the divisions that now reflect a principle central to migrant com- munities, and created barriers for communities of color. The courts demonstrated, however, that one’s “model minority” status does not ensure protection against state harm, thus weakening these di- visions and strengthening our need to build class alliances.

It is impossible to know in advance the moving force or concern in the mind of the U.S. president. It is known that Trump, if re-elected, will feel empowered and free to continue on the path he has taken over the last four years.

But it is also clear that Biden will be unable to return the U.S. to how it was in 2016. If, as he announces, he intends to “unite the Americans,” he will have to accept a good part of the reactionary and nationalistic demands (especially from the middle classes torn apart by the economic crisis) that brought Trump to power, since it is not in the plans of the Democrats to take a left turn — not even as Bernie Sanders announced — to respond to the real needs of the people.

And if Biden wants to rebuild U.S. hegemony in the world, he will have to set in motion, not a path of partnership among equals, but a policy of increased economic, diplomatic and military toughness. This policy will force poten- tial allies, particularly in Europe, to al- one with the U.S. against Washington’s main rivals, i.e., China and Russia — not for- 　mally but because of the economic hege- mony (economic, political, military, moral) which Washington achieved after 1945 and projected after 1990 following the collapse of the Soviet Union. Another is the crisis affecting the entire capitalist world as a result of the decade “advantages-for-all” of globalization having visibly come to an end (Trump) and the emergence of domination by China and Russia— not formally but because of the economic hegemony (economic, political, military, moral) which Washington achieved after 1945 and projected after 1990 following the collapse of the Soviet Union.

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That is the source of fascist nationalism, of economic protectionism, of the breakdown of treaties and alliances that had seemed eternal, in the search for new partners.

It is these facts that will inevitably determine the conduct of the United States, whether Trump or Biden is hold- ing the reins of power.

Colinford Mattis and Urooj Rahman

Netanyahu immediately showed that to about to annex the Jordan Valley. But off the table, while prior to that Israel was Palestinians, that it will take annexation UAE has been saying they’re helping things to be out in the open. This nor – was going to arrive. It didn’t make it any sidelines and understood this moment Arab world by state actors who control Palestinians “sold our country” or “ran grated Palestinians in a lot of ways. It It’s wildly popular.

And Israeli society is going to freak out, they see a lot more Arabs coming to Jerusalem at al-Aqsa, especially if they’re arriving in traditional Arab dress, because Israeli racism is frankly medival. I predict that’s going to be an issue. And likewise whatever busi- ness deal is going to be a siphoning of resources to Israel, because that’s what they do.

So I’ve been talking about what’s going to happen to these newlyweds on their honeymoon. I think it’s going to end in divorce, frankly.

Solidarity is the key

As far as the Palestinians are concerned, it’s deﬁ- nitely a dark time for us. But it’s also replete with hope and inspiration and ideas of a new generation and this growing inter-national solidarity. I do believe that ultimately the kind of internationalism that is occurring among like-minded struggles for social justice, climate justice, economic justice, political justice -- this arena is what occupies the minds and the passions of the masses.

Israel has no standing in this arena. I do believe that we will prevail. No mat- ter how dark it looks for us, history has shown us time and time again how quickly the powerful can fall, the swift- ness of it. People and regimes we think are immensely powerful have crumbled numerous times overnight. So I am not despairing.

I am counting on the kind of solidarity that we can foster among the masses by educating people. By pushing for social- ism, pushing anti-colonial ideas, pushing for justice. Because on the international arena the question of Palestine is at the heart of every social justice movement. Because if we fall, other people will fall. Palestine is the test of how we can suc- ceed and how we can push forward.

Surviving a pandemic under siege

By Betsey Piette

During a Sept. 18 “Free Palestine” webinar, Palestinian writers and activists Susan Abulhawa and Khaled Barakat were asked to comment on the spread of COVID-19 in occupied Palestine, and what it means to have access to health care under foreign occupation. The following is an edited version of their replies.

Susan Abulhawa began by rais- ing Israel’s destruction of at least three Palestinian COVID-19 testing centers. “They came in and demolished them. The Palestinian health care sector was stretched thin, especially in Gaza by the ongoing siege, the restrictions on fuel and electric- ity, the persistent bombing and destruction of infrastructure, including hospitals. “In Gaza the authorities actually had done a really good job so far of contain- ing things, but there are some signs now of infections beyond the isolation zone. It is a bit scary because Gaza is the most densely populated spot on the earth. “On average, Gazans get six hours of electricity a day. It comes on or goes off with no schedule. The lack of suffi- cient medical infrastructure, and a bro- ken-down sanitation infrastructure, compound this threat. Water in Gaza is undrinkable now.

"Israel does not allow Palestinians to leave, even for medical care. People are in desperate need of medical attention out- side of Gaza, whether for certain kinds of surgery that is not available, cancer treat- ment, etc. Very cynically Israel tries to coerce these people into becoming infor- mants, to sabotage the resistance. “No matter how battered Gaza is, there is still resistance. Palestinians are not going to give up. Our resistance is some- thing that Israel and the world can count on. We are not going to go away. Whether we are inside Palestine, exiled outside or in refugee camps, we have a one-track mind — and it is to Palestine.

This may seem off the topic of COVID, but not really. Palestinian society has mech- anisms to care for one another that devel- oped over decades of occupation. They were honored during the height of uprisings where people had to depend on each other, to educate each other’s children, make sure everyone was fed, and to just show up for people. Those kinds of social networks and infrastructure are in place to help us get through whatever we need to do.”

Khaled Barakat concluded: “When the epidemic started there were many popu- lar jokes by our people in Gaza that ‘We’re lucky to be under siege and no COVID-19 will come near us.’ Now Gaza is absolutely facing a greater challenge, especially in the last two months. There have been a lot of efforts by people to combat COVID-19 while living under total siege.

“In the Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon and Syria, people already were suffering from lack of medical services before COVID-19, so you can imagine how the situation is now. When the Palestinian Authority counts the Palestinians who are affected by this, they count the people in the West Bank, but leave the rest of the Palestinians not counted, as if they are not Palestinians, or not important. This is not just political — it is real and connected very much to the health and well-being of our people.

“Israel has released all the Israeli crimi- nals who are in jail, saying they need to be sent home because of the pandemic, but they also assure the Israeli public that no Palestinian prisoner will be released due to COVID-19.”

Note: Early in the pandemic, Johns Hopkins University’s tracking sys- tem for COVID-19 failed to list data for Palestinians, instead merging it with cases from Israel. Coming under ﬁre, Johns Hopkins eventually posted data from the West Bank and Gaza as “occupied Palestinian territories.” (Ali Abunimah Rights and Accountability, March 27, 2020).
Rebellion on the farm

Washington’s Latin American cronies complain

By Sergio Rodríguez Gelfenstein

The web magazine lampuma.net published this article by its author, a Venezuelan analyst, on Sept. 3. The article refers to George Orwell’s novel, “Animal Farm,” which pro-imperialist intellectuals have used for rea- tionary purposes. In this case the author highlights the role of Latin American bourgeois leaders who have served Washington while in office and now continue to serve it, in their capacity as regional representatives. He also denounces the IMF’s attempts to subjugate its own cronies, who during their time in office upheld their reputation or defending Paulo Abrão in particular, but also made a name for themselves. Their current rulers have preferred to opt for their loyalty to the imperial master to the detriment of territory, forces, threats and extortion. Of course, in Latin America and the Caribbean this approach has succeeded because the right-wing elite, which rules everything, seeks to extrapolate and to accepting force regardless of their national interests and sovereignty — if this submission is necessary to defend their own narrow interests.

Now the new imperial lust for domination goes much deeper. It has shifted to subjugating its own cronies, who emit weak whines of complaint that only serve to express the collapse of the Pan American and imperialistic sys- tem. The imperial master’s own actions have achieved this as soon as it verified the uselessness of structures it set up originally to sustain its neocolonial rule, by making observable the incapacity of the IACHR to act.

These structures no longer serve Washington’s goals. They have been unable to bring Cuba to its knees; they have been unable to overthrow the governments of Venezuela and Uruguay; they have failed to build majorities to support U.S. domination. So, Washington has understood that such structures have become obsolete and it has decided to intervene directly, despite the protests of some who were previously its agents.

Inter-American Development Bank

A scenario portraying these agents’ rebellion is develop- ing in the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). Trump decided to violate a verbal agreement by which the former president recognized the IACHR as the body responsible for settling this institution “without options” and in a situation “that seems to be one of no return.”

The IACHR is another expression of the cri- sis facing the region and the bitter struggle against the Monroe Doctrine [that declares the U.S. is the decid- ing country in the Western Hemisphere]. Almagro’s decision has demonstrated this situation beyond the anti-communist influence of the years of U.S.-USRR bipolarity after World War II. The former ministers of state, who during their time in office upheld their reputation or defending Paulo Abrão in particular, but also made a name for themselves. Their current rulers have preferred to opt for their loyalty to the imperial master to the detriment of the independence and autonomy of the IACHR.

For his part, in an interview with University of Chile Radio, the Mexican commissioner of the IACHR, Joel Hernández, said that Almagro’s decision signifies this institution “without options” and in a situation “that seems to be one of no return.”

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According to the award-winning Colombian journalist Gonzalo Guátil, in an article published in the newspa- per “La Nueva Prensa” of Bogotá last Aug. 31, Almagro’s performance is based on his corrupt character that led him to pay an “unseemly price” to obtain all the votes he needed to be re-elected as secretary general of the OAS.

The journalist Guátil writes that in addition to the personal benefits and political positions, Almagro needs to hold on to it because it is politically dead in his country, Uruguay, since the left considers him a traitor and the right sees no difference in the candidate.

It is in this context that — according to Guátil’s rea- soning — Almagro received the support of some coun- tries which in return asked for Abián’s head. Guátil also asserts that one of those countries is Colombia “through its questioned ambassador to the OAS, the obscure for- mer prosecutor Alejandro Ordóñez (who is a neo-Nari- — misogynist, racist, corrupt, and homophobic).”

An unruly rebellion

Recalling George Orwell’s novel which gives the title to this article, Almagro’s measures implemented by Trump in his “backyard” have gone so far that they have generated a “rebeltion on the farm” in which ani- mals fight to obtain what they believe is a better govern- ment that is not very different from the one that exists. As in the novel, groups and factions deep into corrup- tion, petty interests, and the pursuit of profit compete for the construction of a new form of power and domination that could be worse than the one before it.

As in Orwell’s novel, one could say that “Napoleon” is unleashing his dogs at all the Latin American countries. The measures implemented by Trump in his “backyard” have gone so far that they have generated a “rebeltion on the farm” in which ani- mals fight to obtain what they believe is a better govern- ment that is not very different from the one that exists. As in the novel, groups and factions deep into corrup- tion, petty interests, and the pursuit of profit compete for the construction of a new form of power and domination that could be worse than the one before it.

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What is Socialism?

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:
• COVID-19 and the deepening crisis of capitalism
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• Socialism or death: socialist solutions to the problems that torture
• What is socialism?
A day after the Commerce Department announced it would ban the downloading of TikTok, a quick reversal happened. Trump announced a potential new deal in the works that “will have nothing to do with China” and would transfer TikTok to Oracle. Global Times reported on Sept. 20 that Oracle will have access to TikTok’s source code and updates to ensure no back doors exist in the app. However, “the new deal reported by the U.S. media is still one based on TikTok forcefully without international law or general business rules as the basis.”

The involvement of the Chinese government may have been a key factor in shaping the current deal. If the ban had gone through, China would retaliate by revising its “unreliable entity list” to include U.S. tech companies, thereby opening the legal mechanisms for Beijing to target the U.S. just as the U.S. government continues to curb Chinese companies’ ability to compete on a global scale.

The case of TikTok shows that U.S. hegemony is not inevitable and can be undermined. While U.S. imperialism desires total control of the world order, it does not always get its way. TikTok's hard approach shows how vulnerabilities still exist and TikTok will not fold under the maximum pressure campaign by the U.S.

In his 1956 piece “U.S. Imperialism Is A Paper Tiger,” the Chinese revolutionary leader Mao Zedong wrote: “Only when imperialism is eliminated can peace prevail. The day will come when the paper tigers will be wiped out. But they won't become extinct of their own accord, they need to be battered by the wind and the rain. The wind and the rain that bathe the tiger when looked at in a broader perspective, as a whole and from a long-term viewpoint, it has no popular support, its policies are disliked by the people, because it oppresses and exploits them. For this reason, the tiger is doomed.”

WW Movie Review

‘Crip Camp: A Disability Revolution’

By Jean Bowdish

This year the award-winning movie "Crip Camp: A Disability Revolution" was released and can not be viewed on Netflix’s streaming service. The movie follows Jimmy LeBrecht, a camper, who co-wrote and co-directed the movie, and Judy Heumann, a camp counselor who went on to co-founded Disabled in Action.

Crip Camp was the campers’ name for Camp Jened, which opened in the 1960s. In 1970, LeBrecht went to camp Jened, a camp designed for people with disabilities. At the time, a local government geared entirely to people with disabilities. Because everyone needed some kind of assistance, no one’s personal needs stood out as “different.” LeBrecht said, “When we were there, there was no outside world.” The movie underscores the impact of what it means to be part of a community.

LeBrecht and Heumann ended up in Berkeley, Calif., where they connected with the activism surrounding the Center for Independent Living. For people with disabilities, independent living means having control over one’s environment, making decisions, providing the best possible care, and playing a role in advocating for policy at the local, state, and national levels. For disabled people, the right to live in a community is a fundamental human right.

Before Crip Camp, we have seen much less representation of a Crip Camp, which is a type of residential camp for people with disabilities. The purpose of Crip Camp is to provide a safe and supportive environment where participants can experience independence, develop skills, and connect with others who share similar experiences.

The movie captures the spirit of Crip Camp and the activism that emerged from it. It highlights the importance of disabled communities coming together to support each other and push for change. The focus is on the lived experiences of individuals with disabilities and the challenges they face in advocating for their rights.

History made in San Francisco

Five hundred people rallied outside the San Francisco Federal Building, and Heumann led 150 activists into the building. The protest was a part of the Westside Oakland Black Panther Party — which provided hot meals every day. The Black Panther newspaper became the source of information about the movement.

Bradley Lomax, who coordinated a Black Panther Party program with the Center for Independent Living, participated in the sit-in, along with his care assistant Church Johnson. Lomax describes the experience as exhilarating.

Kitty Cone, a lesbian organizer in the Center for Independent Living Community Affairs Department, brought awareness to disability issues. She explains that the Center for Independent Living is a program designed to help people with disabilities live independently.

Bradley Lomax with other demonstrators inside the San Francisco Federal Building in April 1977.

By Joseph Hanks

TikTok, the wildly popular social media app owned by the Chinese company Bytedance, has become one of the primary battlefields in the U.S.-China cold war against China.

Huawei, ZTE, and other Chinese tech companies have also been targets of sanctions and punitive measures meted out by the U.S. in the past. Recently, the U.S. has tightened screws in its maximum pressure campaign against China.

The Commerce Department announced suddenly on Sept. 18 that TikTok’s operations in the U.S. would face more severe restrictions, beginning the following Sunday. TikTok would be removed from app stores so that no new users could download it, and any new updates would be blocked for existing users. The intent of the U.S. is to completely transfer ownership of the app from its Chinese owner to U.S.-based companies such as Microsoft or Oracle.

Although the U.S. is still a big power, this must be done because the app is a “threat to national security,” a charge thrown out perennially to justify such disastrous, unjust measures as the Iraq War, torture, border militarization and the Patriot Act.

In the post-9/11 world, “defending national security” has become an all-encompassing project of the state, which marshals vast resources and people in its efforts to secure the domestic and global dominance of the U.S. ruling class.

So what possible threats could a social media app filled with creative, entertaining short videos present?

Most downloaded app

With pandemic lockdowns driving people indoors across the world, more people have found needed distraction and a welcome laugh in the app’s endless stream of videos, produced by big-name celebrities, friends, and random users alike.

TikTok registered a 58% increase in downloads in the first quarter of 2020 over the previous quarter — the largest-ever increase for any app in a single quarter. It doubled its number of downloads in a little over a year. For five consecutive quarters it was the Apple store’s No. 1 (2011)

PHOTO: GLENN LOMAX

Bowdish is a member of the Disability Rights Caucus men who patrolled city streets on the lookout for gay violence,” who smuggled walkie-talkies into the occupied building; Glide Church; local and national labor organizations; members of Dolores Huerta’s labor and grassroots rehab program for substance abusers and former felons, who brought breakfast into the building each day; the Chicano group Mission Rebels, who also provided food...” (Disability Studies Quarterly, Vol. 31, No. 1 (2011))

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504 sit-ins proved activism brings changes

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Many people are mourning the death of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, some with expressions of fear that the loss of her vote on SCOTUS will affect Black voter rights, immigrant rights for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals recipients and Action for Childhood Arrivals recipients, and women under the law. Within the impact of Ginsburg’s loss, it’s necessary to note out that SCOTUS was established as a capitalist “democracy” in the 19th century, and big capitalists are the owners of SCOTUS. SCOTUS is composed of multi-millionaires. The Senate confirmed by SCOTUS their lifetime appointees chosen by a Senate composition of white male senators. Decisions are made by SCOTUS in order to maintain the stability of the U.S. capitalist system over time, during the ups and downs of presidents and stock markets, as a result of his decisions in favor of enslavers in the 19th century, and big capitalists and bankers in the 20th and 21st. But mass movements of the people can sometimes hold the power structure to account using legal struggles through SCOTUS, and the people have managed to shake SCOTUS decisions out of the black-robed justices. The 1973 Roe v. Wade decision grant- ing women the right to abortion — made lower-class whites they exploited. Race and class remain intertwined as People of Color have become the largest bulk of the workforce in the U.S. Supreme Court. The court reflects the contradictions of her participation with the class struggle. Imperialism imposes both a class and a racial struggle, as U.S. hegemony is pillaging global south countries of their resources and stymying their collective growth. While patriotically predicates capital- ism, there is growing evidence of its contradictions as a contradictory society. Anthropologists studying hunt- er-gatherer societies, such as the Kung, observe that a high degree of egalitarianism not present in historical class-based societies. The ancient civilizations which were highly patriarchal, such as Ancient Greece and Rome, had class societies. Many of the most prominent feminists in more recent history such as Sojourner Truth, Alexandra Kollontai and Emma Goldman were simulta- neously waging war against the bourgeoisie, demonstrating that gender equality always intersected with the class struggle. Even today, the class struggle is as rel- evant as ever to the feminist cause with women and marginalized genders making up a substantial part of the working class. In a similar vein, LGBTQ+ oppression stemmed from a class conflict between a poor and working class family — designed to reinforce class oppres- sion; it became a means for the upper class to maintain its wealth and resources. Both reactionary actors like the Catholic Church and 2020 Democrats alike have painted Marxist adherents as “crazed dogmatists.” What they fail to realize is that Marxism isn’t a political ideology; it’s a scientific approach to understanding the world. It is a scientific method of analysis aimed at the material conditions of a particular time or region, and Marx meant its usage not to align with or be aligned with any political party. Marxism — a method, not a dogma. Labeling Marxism as Eurocentric stems from the fact that Karl Marx was operat- ing from a Eurocentric point of view in the 19th century, when most capitalist industry and a severely oppressed proletariat were emerging in Europe. Marxists from all walks of life have critiqued and expanded upon Marx and Engels’ origi- nal findings. Vladimir Lenin took Marx’s analysis of capitalism and updated it for the age of imperialism, providing the groundwork for anti-imperialist efforts that continue today. It was through Lenin’s contributions, in addition to his concept of building a party of committed revolutionary leaders, that the first socialist revolution occurred in Russia, a semifeudal state with a developing capitalist economy. Lenin contradicted Marx’s predictions, which had described industrialized countries such as Britain and Germany as countries with the ideal conditions for a revolution, because capi- talism was much further advanced. Mao Zedong adjusted Marx’s analysis and Lenin’s theories even further and proved that the peasantry can create a revolution as well. Many things have been written about the personal bigotries of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels. Marx and Engels have at various times been labeled racist, homophobic and anti-Semitic. While we as revolutionaries should be critical of these egregious views, it is important to remember that Marx and Engels were factors in a struggle for justice that is seriously misunderstood and the process by which action toward liberation is accomplished. Laws put in place by the U.S. owning class are changed only as the result of powerful mass movements — and that includes at the level of the Supreme Court, no matter who has been appointed to the court and by which president. A bitter battle is now being launched over filling the SCOTUS vacancy left by Ginsburg’s death. But no matter the outcome of that battle, the determin- ing fact in the defense of rights already won will be staunch solidarity between mass movements of the people, the workers and oppressed people — are the hope in the struggle. We have always been, we will always be. 


is Marxism still relevant?

By Olijimi Alade

With the dire economic circumstances brought on by COVID-19— including police brutality provoking civil unrest unseen since the 1960s, the Millennial Generation’s all-black ZIP code protest beginning to see the pitfalls of both neo- liberalism and U.S. conservatism. The Republicans in office are taking notice of this criticism pillaging in order to stymie any potential movement. They’re taking their usual criticisms of Karl Marx and muddling them in a way that makes it hard for interpellated and pushed them away from Marxism. Donald Trump and his cabinet are attacking the masses of China’s all-human rights violations to Marxism, in a vapid attempt at inter- sectional anti-communism. The irony in the GOP’s attacks against Marxism is that a party dominated by rich old white men is demonizing Marx as a “dead old white man” who is completely irrelevant. Even though Karl Marx himself had shortcomings — especially in anticipat- ing where in the world the revolutionary movement would develop first — Marxist methods of analysis have led to numerous revolutions and anti-imperialist revolts in the 20th century, and Marxism remains a powerful tool in comprehending the var- ious axes of oppression. Marxism has gained an unfair reputa- tion in recent decades as a dogmatic, even nihilistic ideology. Twentieth century concepts such as intersectionality are considered more holistic methods of studying vari- ous identities and discriminations. While no true revolutionary should neglect soci- etal issues such as racism, patriarchy and anti-LGBTQ+ bigotry, it’s important to realize all these ideas originated from and are reified, made more solid, by the ruling class’ struggle to stay in control. The concept of race was created by the ruling class, and the concept of a “white” person, for instance, between European indentured servants and African slaves with the Bacon Rebellion of 1676. While this was not a progressive rebellion, since it demanded and led to increased theft of Indigenous lands by white settlers in the 21st century, it was a way to maintain the stability of the U.S. capitalist system over time, during the ups and downs of presidents and stock markets, as a result of his decisions in favor of enslavers in the 19th century, and big capitalists and bankers in the 20th and 21st. But mass movements of the people can sometimes hold the power structure to account using legal struggles through SCOTUS, and the people have managed to shake SCOTUS decisions out of the black-robed justices. The 1973 Roe v. Wade decision grant- ing women the right to abortion — made lower-class whites they exploited. Race and class remain intertwined as People of Color have become the largest bulk of the workforce in the U.S. Supreme Court. The court reflects the contradictions of her participation with the class struggle. Imperialism imposes both a class and a racial struggle, as U.S. hegemony is pillaging global south countries of their resources and stymying their collective growth. While patriotically predicates capital- ism, there is growing evidence of its contradictions as a contradictory society. Anthropologists studying hunt- er-gatherer societies, such as the Kung, observe that a high degree of egalitarianism not present in historical class-based societies. The ancient civilizations which were highly patriarchal, such as Ancient Greece and Rome, had class societies. Many of the most prominent feminists in more recent history such as Sojourner Truth, Alexandra Kollontai and Emma Goldman were simulta- neously waging war against the bourgeoisie, demonstrating that gender equality always intersected with the class struggle. Even today, the class struggle is as rel- evant as ever to the feminist cause with women and marginalized genders making up a substantial part of the working class. In a similar vein, LGBTQ+ oppression stemmed from a class conflict between a poor and working class family — designed to reinforce class oppres- sion; it became a means for the upper class to maintain its wealth and resources. Both reactionary actors like the Catholic Church and 2020 Democrats alike have painted Marxist adherents as “crazed dogmatists.” What they fail to realize is that Marxism isn’t a political ideology; it’s a scientific approach to understanding the world. It is a scientific method of analysis aimed at the material conditions of a particular time or region, and Marx meant its usage not to align with or be aligned with any political party. Marxism — a method, not a dogma. Labeling Marxism as Eurocentric stems from the fact that Karl Marx was operat- ing from a Eurocentric point of view in the 19th century, when most capitalist China, 1966, products of their time, and they were not immune to the bigots of the era. At a time when homosexuality was con- sidered a mental illness, and the supposed inferiority of Black people was backed by contemporary science, it would be absurd for modern Marxists to hold Marx and Engels to current standards of morality. Instead, the people — the workers and oppressed people — are the hope in the struggle. We have always been, we will always be. 


The ‘populism of pandemics’

By Numia Abu-Jamal

Taken from an Sept. 9 audio column from prisonradio.org.

For months now, the nation has been battered by the ravages of COVID-19 — the coronavirus. With millions of people infected and over 190,000 people now dead, it now turns out that from the very start, the U.S. president knew a great deal about COVID-19. How? China’s leader, Xi Jinping, told him everything in February in 2020. For months now, President Trump called the emerging pandemic democ- racy a “hoax” and heart- ily blamed China and its leader — for not inform- ing Americans about the disease. He called it “Kung Flu” — remember?

In spread, it burned across the country like wildfire, leaving sickness and death in its wake.

Not since the influenza epidemic of 1918 has the nation seen such loss of life. And it’s not over; COVID-19 contin- ues to stalk the land, causing death and destruction all over the world. Sad to say, it ain’t over by a long shot.
By Otis Grotewohl

Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko is running for re-election for a fourth term, after the first round of voting showed him leading by a wide margin against his only opponent, opposition leader Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya. Lukashenko took 80.1% in the vote, with Tsikhanouskaya only 19.9%. Oppositionists have condemned the vote as fraudulent and have organized protests across the country. President Lukashenko has responded to the protests by deploying military forces and using violence against protesters, leading to widespread international condemnation.

The situation in Belarus has raised concerns about the country's human rights record, freedom of speech, and democratic freedoms. The European Union and other international bodies have imposed sanctions on Belarusian officials and called for a peaceful resolution to the crisis. The United States and other nations have condemned the crackdown and called for free and fair elections in the country.

The situation in Belarus highlights the ongoing challenges faced by authoritarian regimes in the post-Soviet space, as well as the importance of supporting democratic movements and defending human rights around the world. The International Crisis Group, a Brussels-based think tank, has called for a diplomatic effort to resolve the crisis in Belarus, and has urged the international community to support opposition candidates and civil society organizations in the country.

The situation in Belarus also raises questions about the role of the United States and other Western powers in the region. The U.S. has criticized the Belarusian government for its human rights record and has called for free and fair elections. However, some observers have raised concerns about the potential for Western intervention in Belarus, and the risk of further destabilizing the region.

By G. Dunkel

On September 20, the International media gave much more than its usual attention to the announcement by Bolivian interim president Jeanine Añez that she was withdrawing as a candidate in that country’s upcoming October 18 election. Añez entered the contest in the middle of the “interim president” last fall after the army and police backed fascist gangs and repressed peaceful protests against the Independent government, to resign. Morales, who leads the Movement for Socialism (MAS), has been president since 2006 and has been a consistent supporter of the anti-imperialist position.

The U.S. government and the U.S.-puppet Organization of American States (OAS) are the prime promoters of coup, charging irregularities in the presidential election that Morales had won.

At that time, Añez was senator from the northeastern department of Bení in the Amazonian lowlands, known for her right-wing positions and her connection with the pro-US fascist ex-president of Colombia, Álvaro Uribe. (See workers.org/2019/11/44451)

In her televised address to the nation late last night, Añez said that she was withdrawing from the vote, as that would let “MAS win the election. It means that because of the people’s vote, the indigenous population, the workers, the students, the workers, the people are paying the price for the vote.”

Morales party’s success uproots Bolivia’s election

By G. Dunkel

On September 20, 2020, the International media gave much more than its usual attention to the announcement by Bolivian interim president Jeanine Añez that she was withdrawing as a candidate in that country’s upcoming October 18 election. Añez entered the contest in the middle of the anti-imperialist position and the struggle against the coup government that overthrew the socialist Morales government.

Añez is an independent politician and her connection with the right-wing faction of the Movimiento para el Socialismo (MAS) that has been leading the Bolivian resistance against the coup. Morales resigned in November 2019 to avoid the possibility of being impeached and instead became the country’s vice president.

Election polls

Twice, the interim government postponed the elections earlier this year. This time when they tried to call off the election, popular protests and labor strikes were so intense that it now appears the October 18 date may hold.

What’s giving the Bolivian rightists pause are the results of a popular opinion poll conducted by the respected weekly newspaper “Fundación Júbilo.” The poll found the MAS candidate, Luis Arce, got 40.3 percent. Carlos Mesa, the former president, got 26.2 percent. The socialist Luis Camacho of “Creemos” came in third with 14.4 percent. Añez was a distant fourth.

In Bolivia, if in the first round a candidate wins at least 40 percent of the vote, with a second-round runoff necessary if no candidate gets a majority, the winner is declared. If no one wins a majority, the second round is held. Arce would win the election if the vote goes to a runoff.

The United States broke diplomatic relations with Bolivia in 1994 as part of its campaign against Evo Morales. The United States has also administered contrary to those of the MAS government. The U.S. foreign policy still aims to keep the MAS and Morales from challenging the reactionaries in Bolivia.

Lucha contra los derechistas con la acción unida de los trabajadores

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By Otis Grotewohl

Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko is running for re-election for a fourth term, after the first round of voting showed him leading by a wide margin against his only opponent, opposition leader Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya. Lukashenko took 80.1% in the vote, with Tsikhanouskaya only 19.9%. Oppositionists have condemned the vote as fraudulent and have organized protests across the country. President Lukashenko has responded to the protests by deploying military forces and using violence against protesters, leading to widespread international condemnation.

The situation in Belarus has raised concerns about the country's human rights record, freedom of speech, and democratic freedoms. The European Union and other international bodies have imposed sanctions on Belarusian officials and called for a peaceful resolution to the crisis. The United States and other nations have condemned the crackdown and called for free and fair elections in the country.

The situation in Belarus highlights the ongoing challenges faced by authoritarian regimes in the post-Soviet space, as well as the importance of supporting democratic movements and defending human rights around the world. The International Crisis Group, a Brussels-based think tank, has called for a diplomatic effort to resolve the crisis in Belarus, and has urged the international community to support opposition candidates and civil society organizations in the country.

The situation in Belarus also raises questions about the role of the United States and other Western powers in the region. The U.S. has criticized the Belarusian government for its human rights record and has called for free and fair elections. However, some observers have raised concerns about the potential for Western intervention in Belarus, and the risk of further destabilizing the region.

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Continúa de página 22
El 12 de agosto de 2017, un nacionalista blanco enojado que participaba en un mitin de la nación blanca, quiso arrebatarle un arma a un manifestante que vendría en el futuro. Es lo que necesitamos para nuestras familias. No se trata de salvar, se trata de luchar.

Historias de violencia

Los residentes de EE. UU. son elegibles para TPS, si su país de origen se vuelve inseguro debido a un desastre o violencia. Al igual que la acción Diferida para los Llegados en la Infancia (DACA), pro- loge temporalmente a los destinatarios de la expulsión. El TPS no es un camino hacia la ciudadanía, aunque muchos beneficiarios tienen más de 20 años de exten- sión de meses. Los beneficiarios de TPS tienen 300.000 niños nacidos en EE. UU.

La cancelación de TPS por parte de Trump para los diez países actualmente designados: El Salvador, Haití, Nepal, Nicaragua, Somalía, Sudán del Sur, Sudán, Siria y Yemen, es racista. Es notorio que etiquetó a estas naciones como “países mierda”, culpando a las personas y necesidades de los países de las condiciones que creó el imperialismo estadounidense. TPS fue una concesión a los activistas salvadoreños de la década de 1980 que huyeron de la dictadura de la mayor parte de la población, pero que continúa en la página 11