After Amazon vote: Unionize ALL workers

By Larry Holmes

The following edited remarks were made on an April 9 webinar entitled “The struggle continues – Next Steps for Amazon Union and beyond – Organizers’ Meeting” organized by supportamazonworkers.org. Holmes is Workers World Party’s First Secretary and an organizer with the Workers Assembly Against Racism in New York City.

My heart, my solidarity goes out to the organizers and workers in Bessemer who fought so hard for this vote. The Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union was outmatched and outgunned by this behemoth of a monster global capitalist corporation, Amazon. But still they did what, frankly, bigger unions should have done, who had more resources, infinitely more resources. The union took it on. But as comrade Saladin Muhammad said, this is one battle; this is the beginning.

The vote in Bessemer is not just a problem or crisis or a setback, or however you want to characterize it. It’s not just a problem for the workers in Alabama or for the workers in the South or for Amazon workers; it’s a problem for the whole working class, for the whole labor movement and for the left. Most of us understood that we should not rely on 6,000 workers in Alabama or for the workers in the South or for Amazon workers; it’s a problem for the whole working class, for the whole labor movement and for the left.

How are the unions going to work together? What’s their strategy? What is their plan? Which unions are going to work together and not compete with each other? How are they going to win over the militants in groups like Amazonians United and Whole Worker groups — like my good friend, Chris Smalls, the founder of the Congress of Essential Workers. They have a base in these Amazon and Whole Foods sites, and they feel alienated by the unions.

How are unions not who they run to, and they have good reasons for this; that is, most of us agree on. But the problem is, the reality of the situation means that we must deal with the labor movement on all levels, not just the leadership, not just the Executive Council of the AFL-CIO, but most importantly at the rank-and-file level. That’s why I agree with Saladin Muhammad about going around and having meetings to talk to workers on a rank-and-file basis about this. The questions must be posed: What is labor going to do about this now? What is the response going to be? The only true answer is this: The working class and its organizations — not only the biggest and most important at the moment because of its resources — the organized labor movement must come up with a plan to respond to this, to organize Amazon — not just Bessemer — which has a million workers in this country, not including Whole Foods, which they own.

May Day is viewed by millions around the globe as a socialist commemoration, honored with marches, rallies and strikes where it is not a paid holiday. Over many decades, workers have used May Day not only to fight the greedy, profit-hungry bosses for economic rights, but to raise important political demands. Fifty years ago, on May 1, 2021, an estimated two million migrant workers, the majority from Central and South America, took to the streets in U.S. cities, large and small, sparked by the racist, reactionary Sensenbrenner legislation that would deny legal documents to allow migrants to live and work in the U.S. Joined by migrants from Africa, the Caribbean and allies, it is to date the largest May Day gathering in U.S. history. The main sentiment echoed was: “Si, se puede” or “Yes, we can."

The phrase “every issue is a workers’ issue” is true in the ongoing struggle against police terror. At the present moment, there are three current incidents of state-sanctioned violence that have
Working class activists beat back anti-choice bigots

By Devin Cole

Pensacola, Fla. (Occupied Creek Muscogee land)

For four and a half months, abortion rights advocates have been defending the only abortion clinic in Pensacola, Fla. The defense effort is led by Workers World Party Central Gulf Coast branch, Strive (Socialist Trans Initiative) and Women’s March Pensacola. Every Saturday and most Fridays, working-class people have shown up to hold signs, chant and even set up fences made of tarp around American Family Planning (AFP), Pensacola’s reproductive health clinic.

This is to keep the patients and clinic workers safe and away from anti-choice reactionaries, who often set up horrific, photoshopped signs in front of the clinic and scream at patients and clinic workers. “The ‘harmless’ anti-choice bigots have responded to the ongoing clinic defense by verbally and physically threatening clinic defenders, going even so far as to call the police multiple times on clinic defenders who play music to drown them out.”

Despite this, the clinic defenders have persisted in putting pressure on business owners not to allow the anti-choice bigots on their property. AFP is almost completely surrounded by several businesses that have all previously permitted anywhere on their property.

Additionally, the road the clinic sits on was designated a “No Trespass Zone,” meaning that the anti-choice bigots can no longer stand or park anywhere on the road in front of the clinic. They are now banned from both the front and left side, which is where most of the entrances are and where patients are dropped off and picked up.

One ‘neutral’ holdout

One business has still refused to sign the order, claiming it wants to “remain neutral.” Unfortunately, its property abuts the clinic, allowing anti-choice bigots to walk up to the property line, screaming at people inside the clinic or, even worse, at patients who have had surgery and are waiting to be picked up. So patients who have just had a legal, safe abortion procedure still have to walk where a group of hateful reactionaries can harass and berate them.

Clinic defenders, as part of this writing, are continuing to mount pressure on the business to sign the No Trespass Order and remove the bigots from its property.

The clinic backs up to some woods, which are local government property and subject to its rule. So for this last business to sign the No Trespass Order would effectively ban the bigots from being anywhere near the clinic.

There is a long, violent history of reactionary anti-choice attacks on this clinic. It was bombed twice in the 1980s. In 1993 Dr. David Gunn, the OB/GYN at the clinic, was murdered. The following year, Dr. Gunn’s replacement, Dr. John Britton, was murdered by another anti-choice reactionary, Paul Jennings Hill. The clinic was firebombed in 2012. The clinic defenders are putting their safety and wellbeing on the line, but it is what must be done. And now it is paying off.

Join us in the fight for socialism!

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

Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world and the planet itself in the neverending quest for ever-greater profits.

Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repres- sion, attacks on im/migrants, LGBTQ+ oppression and mistreatment of people with disabili- ties. 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 remained “neutral” to the right-wingers’ presence. Finally, after four and a half months of pressure by clinic defenders, all but one of the businesses have signed a No Trespass Order, meaning that the anti-choice bigots are no longer permitted anywhere on their property.

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Demand Mumia Abu-Jamal’s release now!

‘Mumia is a fighter’

Mumia Abu-Jamal’s release

Ramsey Clark, human rights fighter, 1927-2021

Trans women and police brutality in history

Students protest anti-transgender school staff

Prison punishes Bryant Arroyo for free speech

Racism, worker rights and the FedEx shooting

Haiti at the abyss

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Lavender and Red solidarity with Mumia!

Smash police violence and white supremacy

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San Antonio activists take on phony cop ‘unions’

By Lynn Neeley
Portland, Ore.

Protests erupted in Portland April 12 following the police killing of Daunte Wright in Minnesota. They escalated four days later after police killed a homeless white man with a history of struggling with mental health issues.

Over 100 protesters immediately responded to Wright’s murder. Calling for the abolition of police, they shattered windows and tore down light fixtures at the downtown offices of the Portland Police Bureau and Multnomah County Sheriff. The next night, they set fire to the North Lombard headquarters of the Portland Police Association, chanting: “Every city, every town, burn the precincts to the ground!” and “Say his name! Daunte Wright!”

Three days later, protests grew and intensified after a 46-year-old homeless man, Robert Douglas Delgado, was shot, the first police killing in Portland since 2019.

Zakary DeLong, the cop who shot Delgado, has worked for the Portland Police Department for eight years. Before that he was a sniper in special operations with the U.S. Army Rangers in Afghanistan. DeLong did two tours of 19- and 20-year-old cops who “liked” another officer’s post reading “I am Darren Wilson,” referring to the Ferguson, Mo., cop who killed Michael Brown. (tinyurl.com/5db6eyt4)

Protesters attacked police vehicles and smashed windows of banks and businesses.

Portland on fire again over police killings

Protesters set fire to the North Portland Police Association building in response to the police killing of Daunte Wright.

Smash police violence and white supremacy

Continued from page 1

taken center stage. The first is the trial of killer-cop Derek Chauvin, charged with third-degree murder, second-degree intentional murder and second-degree manslaughter charges for lynching a 46-year-old Black man, George Floyd, on May 25, 2020, in Minneapolis, Minn.

Chauvin, who is white, pressed his knee and full body weight on Floyd’s neck for nine minutes and twenty-nine seconds, while Floyd could be heard multiple times saying, “I can’t breathe” and calling out for his deceased mother until he lost complete consciousness. This heinous crime was captured on videotape for the whole world to see. A verdict is expected some time in the coming week.

In response to the murder, rebel- lions, including the burning down of a Minneapolis police station, broke out in the streets all over the country, lasting throughout the summer. Neither curfews, the militarized local and state police nor the National Guard could stop the angry resistance of multinational crowds led by Black Lives Matter activists. These sustained rebellions launched a countryside call for both “defunding the police” and “abolishing the police.”

Two symbols were connected to other police murders, like Breonna Taylor, the 26-year-old Black EMT worker shot multiple times March 13, 2020, while in her bed in Louisville, Ky. The cop who killed her was exonerated by a secret grand jury in September.

Second, protests broke out again in Brooklyn Center, Minn., a mere 10 miles away from the Chauvin trial, when on April 11 white police officer Kim Potter fatally shot 20-year-old Black father Daunte Wright during a minor traffic stop. Potter claimed she “mistakenly” thought she was using her taser when she fatally shot Wright.

Potter was arrested and charged with second-degree manslaughter after she resigned. Protests are continuing in the streets despite daily curfews, mass arrests and assaults on activists by the police. Solidarity actions calling for justice for Daunte Wright are occurring around the country.

And third, there is the fatal shooting of 13-year-old Adam Toledo, of Mexican descent, on March 29 in Chicago. Police body camera footage of the killing was finally made public April 15. Toledo was shot in the chest by officer Eric Stillman in a split second, as he was putting his empty hands in the air.

As of April 18, Stillman has not been arrested or charged with the murder of Toledo. This is another reminder how the police not only criminalize Black youth but also Brown youth.

We approach the 20th anniversary of the historic, weeklong Los Angeles rebellion that began April 29, 1992 — ignited by the acquittals of four white police officers for the savage beating of Black motorist Rodney King, caught on videotape. One important element has changed since then: The widespread use of camera phones to record videos that go viral, serving as clear indictments of police crimes on social media.

White supremacy and police are closely connected

Police violence would not exist without the existence of white supremacy, which permeates every sector of class society. The police grew out of the “slave patrols” to capture enslaved African peoples who dared to resist by escaping their life in chains.

White supremacy is an ideology that the bosses rely on to keep their profit-system intact by dividing the multinational working class — primarily by nationality which also interferes with other oppressions — misogyny, xenophobia, LGBTQ2S+ oppression, ableism and more. Historically the Ku Klux Klan, neo-Nazis, White Citizens Councils gave birth to today’s Oath Keepers and Proud Boys.

There are individual white supremacists who have, consciously or not, targeted people of color. A prime example is Dylan Roof, a self-proclaimed racist, who killed nine Black parishioners in Charleston, S.C. June 17, 2015. Unlike Floyd, Wright and Toledo, the police captured Roof alive and even stopped to get him a hamburger before taking him into custody.

The same treatment was afforded Kyle Rittenhouse, a teenage white vigilante, who fatally shot two anti-racist activists protesting the shooting of 26-year-old, Jacob Blake, shot in the back and paralyzed by white police in Kenosha, Wis., Aug. 23, 2020. The police allowed Rittenhouse to walk past them in their armored vehicles after the shooting before arresting him hours later. Before these shootings occurred, the police were videotaped giving water to other fascist vigilantes.

Father and son Klan members shot and murdered Armada Abery, a 25-year-old Black woman, on Feb. 17, 2020, in Glynn County, Ga., on videotape.

Anti-Asian violence is on the rise in the U.S. due to the frenzy stirred up by Trump with his anti-China tirades during the pandemic. On March 16, vigilante Robert Aaron Long massacred eight people—seven of them Sikhs, were fatally shot at their workplace, a massage parlor in Atlanta.

Six Sikh worshippers died at the hands of a white supremacist in August 2022 at a temple in Oak Creek, Wis. And just recently eight FedEx workers, four of them Sikhs, were fatally shot at their workplace, a FedEx facility in Indianapolis by a 19-year-old white youth.

It is in the interest of every worker to understand that the deepest cause of the economic crisis is the root cause of more and more mass shootings and police executions. May Day must become a rallying cry, not only for organizing the unorganized and to abolish the police, but to unite and liberate our class from all forms of capitalist exploitation and fight for a socialist future, free from want and oppression.

Organize the organized at Amazon and everywhere! Fight police terror! (tinyurl.com/g3qdmnrk)
In Alabama ‘the fire has started!’

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

April 18 — Miners at Warrior Met Coal in Brookwood, Ala., struck April 1 and are still picketing as of this writing. On April 9 they voted 1,006 to 45 to reject a contract that would have restored only $1.50 of a $6-an-hour pay cut workers took in 2007 to keep the company out of bankruptcy. The rejected contract would have continued brutal disciplinary and firing policies and dangerous working conditions. (See Workers World, “After BAmazon, Alabama mine workers go out on strike,” April 8)

Photos on social media showed miners and their children burning copies of the contract that would have restored only $1.50 of a $6-an-hour pay cut workers took in 2007 to keep the company out of bankruptcy. The rejected contract would have continued brutal disciplinary and firing policies and dangerous working conditions. (See Workers World, “After BAmazon, Alabama mine workers go out on strike,” April 8)

One day said: “The union backs us … if it wasn’t for them, that would be a death house. It is a death house.” (tinyurl.com/bjbnkje)

Solidarity with BAmazon workers

On April 11 a contingent of striking miners traveled to Bessemer, Ala., 25 miles to the east — to attend a “Hold Amazon Accountable” rally. They were there in solidarity with the majority Black, major- ity female Amazon warehouse workers, who had launched a historic organizing drive against the corporate behemoth. (See Workers World, “Bessemer: the whole world is watching,” Feb. 22)

Larry Spencer, president of the Alabama Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, voiced solidarity with the miners and invited workers to join the CFBU. Amazon worker and organizer Jennifer Bates said: “We came out to fight for the rights of working people, and we aren’t going anywhere their fire has started. Burn — let it burn!” (Listen to the rally: tinyurl.com/j5byxsv8x)

The miners’ solidarity was more than symbolic. The longwall machines that grind up their lives are their equivalent of the mechanization and robotization that Amazon uses to squeeze profit from workers’ labor power. (See Workers World, “Workers are not robots,” March 8)

A key demand by BAmazon workers seeking union representation by the Retail, Warehouse and Department Store Union was for more control over backbreaking working con- ditions. Amazon alleges that monitoring workers through the Mojoul SmartBelt has improved “safety,” but research suggests ramped-up robots have actually increased injuries.

In 2019, Amazon recorded 14,000 serious injuries across its “fulfillment centers” — its warehouses — equating to an injury rate of 7.7 serious injuries per 100 employees, nearly double the industry average. Plus it’s possible that Amazon is underreporting worker inju- ries. (tinyurl.com/2zz7w6zh)

Alabama’s militant union tradition

The Walker Met mines in Tuscaloosa County — and other coal mines, past and present in adjoining Walker, Jefferson, Shelby and Bibb counties, like the mines of Belle Elen, Marvel and Piper — are part of the “Birmingham Mineral District.” These mines are in the southernmost extension of the Appalachian Mountain chain in Alabama.

The exploitation of both mineral resources and mine workers has gone on for two centuries. For just as long, that exploitation has been met with resistance. Labor organi- zations, comprised primarily of African American miners, were formed in the 1870s. Alabama miners affiliated with the newly formed UMW in 1890 as District 20. Opposition to the convict lease system sparked the largest strike in the District’s history — the Great Strike of 1894.

During the Great Depression, Alabama UMW locals were organized under the leadership of Walter Jones, an African American organizer from Shelby County. In the 1940s the international union bought Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers orga- nized iron ore workers, who were about 90% African American. (Encyclopedia of Alabama)

The Brookwood strike and the recent Amazon organizing have been led by local Bessemer workers — children, grandchild- dren and great-grandchildren of union heroes. For many of the miners, this is their first strike, but they proudly claim their tradition of labor militancy.

Jeff Fleenor, who has worked at Warrior Met and its predecessor for 16 years, told the Tuscaloosa Thread: “I speci- fically came back [for the vote] to ensure we got a fair contract and that I wasn’t going to lose the whole that the sacrifices that people in the UMW fought for 90 to 100 years ago fade into obscurity. Our sacrifices are in alignment with those at the start of the labor movement and the early years of the UMW. I keep up on my Black history by reading about the history of the Black Miner’s Union, the Pittston Strike, where my dad partici- pated. These were major milestones events that led us to where we are today. I owe it to miners of days gone by, my family and myself to fight for what we deserve.” (tinyurl.com/zspz6becj)

Nearly 250 years after land theft

Madawaska Nation wins settlement in Canada

By Ted Kelly

An agreement negotiated by the Madawaska Maliseet First Nation and the Canadian government April 13 has become the largest compensatory land settlement in the country’s history. The Ministry of Crown-Indigenous Relations has agreed to pay $145 million to the Madawaska Maliseet First Nation after Canada purchased 18,735 acres of land in the 18th century settler land grab was illegal.

Townships of Algonquin-speaking First Nations in 36 separate claims, including potential for gas, machine noise. Longwall mechanisms that cause head injuries and deforming machine noise. The Black and white members of Local 2245, United Mine Workers (UMWA) on strike are enforcing in solidarity.

As it was described, the mine’s location on top of a “No” ballot revealed a missing index finder — lost in a mine accident.

The miners labor in one of the world’s most life-threatening workplaces. The Brookwood mines are sunk 1,400 to 2,100 feet underground — some of the deepest vertical shaft coal mines in North America. In 2001 methane gas explosions and rock bursts in one of the mines killed 13 workers, including a former high school classmate of this writer.

Coal is extracted in the Warrior Met mine with highly mechanized “long- wall” machines. Physical dangers are omnipresent, including potential for gas explosions, machinery failure that shears limbs, dust that permanently damages lungs, longwall mechanisms that cause head injuries and deforming machine noise.

Middle school students in Grants Pass, Ore., protest anti-transgender staff

By Johnnie Lewis

In Grants Pass, Ore., a North Middle School assistant principal and a seventh-grade teacher started a petition calling for “anatomically female” bathrooms. Eighth-grader Stephanie and several of her classmates began protesting April 8.

The petition, which garnered 90 sig- natures, was in opposition to federal and state laws guaranteeing freedom of choice for transgender people in bathrooms. The laws were won through much struggle and protests. The students put up posters inside the school and wrote pro- nouns on their headbands and slogans on their face- masks demanding equity. Stephanie started an online petition to fire the staff member, getting more than 300 signatures. Students are now holding in-person protests in front of the school on Tuesdays and Thursdays demanding the teacher be fired. The teacher and prin- cipal have been suspended.

NO

POSTERS PROTEST ANTI-TRANS SCHOOL STAFF

PHOTO: STEPHANIE

PHOTO: CANDO

PHOTO: FREEDOM COOPERATIVE
Ramsey Clark, human rights fighter, 1927-2021

By Sara Flounders

Ramsey Clark was a founder of the International Action Center. He inspired the political activists who used the IAC’s structure to defend liberation struggles, oppose U.S. wars of aggression and defend political prisoners from the U.S. to U.S.-backed dictatorships worldwide.

IAC militants joined international delegations who defied the blockade of Cuba and sanctions on Iraq, contested the U.S.-NATO war on Yugoslavia or joined demonstrations against U.S. bombing of Latin America. Clark guided the production of hundreds of books and videos, mass meetings, internet campaigns and delegations to the IAC organized.

The IAC has received tributes to Clark from all parts of the world his work touched. Please send your memories to: RamseyClarkTribute@gmail.com. See also tributes around the world at iacenter.org

We salute Ramsey Clark, who died April 9, an outspoken defender of all freedom-loving peoples, a lawyer, a leader always willing to challenge the crimes of U.S. militarism and global arrogance. He remained optimistic that the power of people could determine history. His courageous voice will be missed.

Ramsey Clark will be remembered by people and struggles around the world as a prominent individual who used his name, reputation and legal skills to defend people’s movements and leaders whom the corporate media had thoroughly demonized.

Clark’s early belief in the U.S. role turned, through harsh experience and observation of what he considered to be U.S. war crimes, to a determination to challenge U.S. policy and defend the victims of U.S. aggressions regardless of personal cost. His actions, leadership and writings showed his political development over the past 60 years—above all, his actions.

Born into a prominent Texas family in 1927, his father Supreme Court Justice Tom Clark, Ramsey was raised to believe in the power of U.S. laws. He came of age at the apex of U.S. power at the end of World War II and experienced the U.S. empire’s long decline and decay. He was appointed assistant attorney general in 1961 during the John F. Kennedy administration and attorney general during the Lyndon Johnson administration in 1967.


Unlike nearly every other Cabinet level official, who leveraged their post into a multimillion dollar career after leaving government, Ramsey Clark leveraged his role as former attorney general to act for the impoverished and voiceless.

Vietnam, Iran, Cuba, Venezuela

In 1972 he traveled to North Vietnam during President Richard Nixon’s bomb- ing campaign. He was in Tehran, Iran, in 1979, on days when millions of Iranians braved machine guns of the Savak Police and overturned the brutal U.S.-backed shah and his whole regime. He visited Cuba numerous times to challenge the U.S. blockade and expressed deep admi- ration for the way in which Fidel Castro changed the Cuban Revolution made possible.


Clark stood by the 1979 Sandinista revolution in Nicaragua and the struggle for liberation of the Sandinistas in the 1980s against a U.S.-backed dictatorship. He traveled to Panama after the December 1989 U.S. invasion to document the enor- mous toll in life.

While many embraced the collapse of the Soviet Union as ending the Cold War and ushering in an American and Chinese era of peace, Ramsey Clark held the view that this would lead to endless wars of U.S. expansion and an effort to re-colonize many countries.

Opposed U.S. war on Iraq

At great personal risk, Ramsey Clark traveled to Iraq during the height of the 1990 U.S. bombing. Extending personal courage to political and legal skill, he wrote a 20-page report for the Bush adminis- tration for War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity that resonated around the world.

The indictment became the basis of a Commission of Inquiry that held mass popular hearings in 19 countries and 26 U.S. cities. Ramsey attended every mass hearing. The final tribunal was held in New York City in February 1992 before thousands of people and international delegations. Everyone drew strong media coverage around the world and total censur- ish in the corporate U.S. media.

Following one of the deadly san- tions on Iraq that caused the death of a half-million Iraqi children within four years, Ramsey brought international delegations to Iraq each year to challenge and expose the impact of the sanctions.

These fast-feeding and human rights delegations always included videogra- phers, journalists and photographers to document the impact on defenseless civil- ian populations. He encouraged others to also organize solidarity delegations.

Following the 2003 U.S.-British inva- sion and occupation of Iraq, and under even more dangerous conditions, Clark traveled to Iraq numerous times. He pro- vided legal defense for Saddam Hussein’s Iraqi captured president, whom the U.S. and its Iraqi lacs put on a show trial.

Though the outcome was inevitable, Clark was determined to expose that the real crime was the U.S. destruction of Iraq and was unapologetic for his defense of Saddam Hussein. Three of his Iraqi defense lawyers were assassinated for their role defending him. Saddam Hussein was executed Dec. 30, 2006.

Sudan, Yugoslavia

In 1998 the U.S. bombed a small pharma- ceutical plant producing the only anti-malaria drugs in Sudan, claiming it was a secret VX nerve gas facility. Ramsey immediately organized doctors, pharma- cists and videographers to expose this crime against the civilian population, and led a delegation to travel there.

In the biggest and most dangerous aggression within European borders since 1945, the U.S., determined to expand the NATO military alliance into the Balkans and Eastern Europe, launched the 1999 war to dismember and destroy Yugoslavia during the Bill Clinton administration. Ramsey Clark was in Yugoslavia twice during the 78 days of relentless U.S. bombing, expressing solidarity with people under attack, documenting that the Pentagon consciously targeted civilians.

Clark gave priority to visiting bombed schools, hospitals, marketplaces, water purification plants, grain silos and phar- maceutical plants, as he did in other coun- tries during the U.S. bombed. Following the war, he drew up a public indictment of Clinton and other leaders of NATO countries and inspired a mass People’s Tribunal on U.S. war crimes in Yugoslavia, whose final hearing was in June 2000.

Clark dared to meet with Yugoslav President Slobodan Miloševic in Yugoslavia during the U.S. bombing and later at the Hague after the kidnapped president faced an international kangaroo court the U.S. established to try Yugoslav leaders. Ramsey’s view was that the wrong lead- ers were being charged. According to his indictment for the 2000 tribunal, Clinton should have been in the dock, along with Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and the corresponding leaders of Germany, Britain, France and other NATO powers.

U.S. political prisoners

While much of Ramsey Clark’s work focused on defense of nations under attack by the U.S., he also defended doz- ens if not hundreds of political prisoners of the empire, in and outside the United States. These included Indigenous activ- ist Leonard Peltier; and Imam Jamil Al-Amin (aka H. Rap Brown), who is held in a Super Max prison. He and Lynne Stewart were willing to defend Egyptian Sheikh Omar Abdel Rahman. (For her role, Stewart was charged and imprisoned.) He supported independence for Puerto Rico and freedom for its many political prisoners. He traveled to Peru to defend U.S. citizen Lori Berenson, held by Peru’s dictatorship, and to the Philippines. He defended José Maria Sison against “ter- rorism” charges. Clark publicly supported Dr. Aafia Siddiqui, a Pakistani woman tortured in Afghanistan and serving an 86-year sentence in U.S. federal prison, as well as Mumia Abu-Jamal in Pennsylvania state prison.

He traveled to Nepal, when a revolu- tionary upsurge brought in a new gov- ernment, and to the DPRK (North Korea) to protest against U.S. war crimes and nuclear threats.

Solidarity with Palestine

When Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat was arrested in the West Bank, Ramsey Clark met with him in Lebanon and later traveled to Gaza under total Israeli shut- down and met with Hamas leadership.

Clark’s long years of support of the Palestinian struggle for liberation meant Zionist forces always denounced him.

Clark denounced every aspect of the “U.S. War on Terror” as a War Against Islam with endless military operations, sanctions, drone strikes, regime change operations, assassinations, secret deten- tions and a series of bases throughout Africa to Central Asia and the Gulf States. In 2011, NATO imperialists took advantage of an opening provided by the Arab Spring, and the mass upsurge that overthrew the dictatorships in Tunisia and Egypt, to open a 220-day bomb- ing of Libya and murder Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi. This destroyed the country with the highest standard of liv- ing in Africa.

U.S. imperialism then turned its full efforts into pulling down the government of Syria. Ramsey traveled to Syria several times in an effort to gain focus atten- tion on the impact of U.S. subversion on civilians. Traveling at personal risk, Clark exposed what U.S. sanctions, the arming of tens of thousands of mercenaries and then bombing vital infrastructure was doing to whole countries.

Even as the decades rolled by, Ramsey maintained an intense schedule of list- ening to and involving activists in chal- lenging projects, along with speaking, traveling and consulting with peoples under attack.

Flounders is a co-director of the IAC.
Mumia Abu-Jamal’s life in jeopardy
Demand his release now!

By Betsey Piette
Philadelphia

Family and supporters of Pennsylvania political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal became alarmed when they did not get his routine daily calls after April 10. On April 14 officials at SCI Mahanoy finally responded to inquiries from Abu-Jamal’s medical attorney and test-posted a list of names that he represents a continuity in the Black radical tradition, a revolution, Black national independence and the present. And his voice is essentially Black radical tradition, a continuity in the Black radical tradition, a revolution, Black national independence and the present. And his voice is essentially Black radical tradition, a revolution, Black national independence and the present. And his voice is essentially Black radical tradition, a revolution, Black national independence and the present. And his voice is essentially...
Lavender and Red Solidarity with Mumia!

From the LGBTQ+ Caucus of Workers World Party

We, the LGBTQ+ Caucus of Workers World Party, are outraged, disgusted and alarmed by the continued attempts to silence and kill Mumia Abu-Jamal, a Black revolutionary political prisoner who has been inside the imprisoned nation for almost 40 years—first railroaded into a death sentence and then, because of the movement rising up to defend him, spared an execution but given a life sentence.

The capitalist imperialist state has not given up its attempts to kill Mumia; in fact, they have doubled down. Currently Mumia Abu-Jamal is suffering from severe dermatitis, has tested positive for COVID and has been diagnosed with congestive heart disease. Additionally, he has suffered from cirrhosis of the liver due to untreated hepatitis C. Efforts to get treatment for Mumia have been delayed as a part of a decades-long punishment inflicted on him by the white-supremacist, colonialist state. It was announced April 14 that Mumia had been taken to the hospital after experiencing chest pains and that he would undergo heart surgery. This causus echoed and affirmed the demands of millions of Mumia’s supporters, those being for “observation” for 15 days, because official records reveal that there is no investigation.

Why was he required to be in solitary confinement for this investigation to happen? No one would give him a clear answer to that question.

Arroyo is a well-known advocate for environmental justice who has been out-spoken against the abuse by the PA DOC, especially during the COVID crisis. Mumia Abu-Jamal recognized him as a “jailhouse environmentalist” in a 2013 Prison Radio column. (tinyurl.com/yckq8j)

After many phone calls to SCI Frackville and PA DOC Secretary John Wetzel by friends, family and community activists, Arroyo was finally released from SCI Frackville April 15. He was then transferred to another prison 25 miles away, SCI Coal Township.

Arroyo thanks everyone who made a call on his behalf. Supporters can write to him using the prison mail distribution system.

Prison officials punish Bryant Arroyo for free speech

By Joe Piette

Bryant Arroyo, an incarcerated worker at Pennsylvania SCI Frackville, was placed in isolated custody for several days—in other words, thrown in the hole, the “Restricted Housing Unit”—for suggesting on separate phone calls to this reporter, his daughter and another person that they keep recording their video conference calls with him. He then asked that what he says be shared through social media so the public can learn how bad the Department of Corrections treats incarcerated people.

No one has actually yet shared such a video on social media. But Arroyo was punished just for raising the idea.

The DOC has actually been encouraging incarcerated people to use video conferencing with their loved ones since the shutdown of in-person visiting rooms in March 2020, supposedly due to COVID.

Guards and some prison officials say they would like to do away with prison visiting rooms for “cost savings” and “security.” In fact, video conferencing is another way for corporations to make a profit from mass incarceration. Many imprisoned workers are worried that virtual visits will permanently replace in-person visits with their families and friends, denying them the ability to hug and touch and see each other face to face.

The DOC uses video technology in many other ways, such as conducting court procedures without the accused actually being in court and for virtual medical visits. The DOC has installed hundreds of surveillance cameras throughout state prisons.

While it has taken to using video cameras in many daily operations, the DOC of course reacted to Arroyo’s proposal with alarm. While prison officials are fine with using video technology to enable repression, Arroyo’s proposal to share video visits on social media would shine a spotlight on deplorable prison conditions.

There is actually nothing the prison hierarchy can do technologically to prevent the public from recording and sharing video conference visits with incarcerated people. So they went after Arroyo, though he didn’t violate any rules.

In fact, the U.S. Constitution guarantees Arroyo’s right to free speech—and that of any incarcerated person.

A hearing on whether Arroyo’s spoken words on phone calls somehow violated prison regulations took place April 5. Arroyo was made to wear a bright orange jumpsuit, with hands cuffed and chained behind his back, though he never left SCI for “observation” for 15 days, because official records reveal that there is no investigation.

Why was he required to be in solitary confinement for this investigation to happen? No one would give him a clear answer to that question.

Arroyo was found not guilty on 2 of 3 charges and returned to the general population. Arroyo wasn’t guilty of anything except exercising free speech. Officials punished him anyway, denying him access to video conference calls for 60 days. Friends and supporters of Arroyo have since been contacted by Frackville Superintendent Kathy Brittain and told their visits with him will be restricted indefinitely.

He was returned to the RHU hole April 7 for observation for 15 days, because official records reveal that there is no investigation.

Brick by brick and wall by wall, we will free Mumia Abu-Jamal

By Erica Caines

This lightly edited presentation was given by Erica Caines, with Black Alliance for Peace and Human Rights Education Editor, at an April 15 press conference to demand the immediate release of Mumia Abu-Jamal.

I am a member of the Black Alliance for Peace, and I’m also co-editor of the African revolutionary blog Hood Communists. I’m very honored to speak a bit about Mumia Abu-Jamal and his present influence on this movement era.

Mumia once said that prison is a second-by-second punishment on the soul. A day-to-day degradation of the self, an oppressive steel-and-brick umbrella that transforms seconds into hours and hours into days. In Mumia’s case, the state of Pennsylvania is deeply invested in ensuring there will be no more days for him. Instead of adhering to the “longtime demands of the people to free Mumia, the state, including Philadelphia’s popular progressive prosecutor [Larry Krasner], has refused to do so.

Learning about Mumia’s case, I’ve gotten too many opportunities to publicly advocate on behalf of his freedom. This has especially opened my eyes to the delusions of any justice being found within the U.S. justice system. It has been clear since the three-decades fight to remove Mumia from death row was won, that he is being punished for not dying, both then and now.

However, despite these realities of the prison system and his unjust trial and sentencing, Mumia’s invaluable voice and clear analysis of our material circumstances as Black people within the U.S. could be heard on Prison Radio or read in one of his many books, like “Have Black Lives Ever Mattered?” Or “Murder, Incorporation.” These were all produced from behind the prison walls, encouraging, informing and inspiring countless youth who are marching and organizing around a collective demand that our Black lives do, in fact, matter.

Mumia does not simply serve as a point of inspiration. Mumia and all political prisoners who are aging away and dying—rest in peace to Chip Fitzgerald—behind prison walls serve as a warning to any of us who refuse to normalize this set of prejudices that depicts Blackness as innately criminal and Black people as deserving of injustice.

So brick by brick and wall by wall, we’re going to free Mumia Abu-Jamal. May we all catch one another in the whirlwind. 😡
Cuban unions build socialism

By Stephanie Hedgecock
Member, Communication Workers Local 14156

What are the differences between unions in capitalist countries and socialist countries? What is labor’s role in a socialist country? I first became a supporter of socialist Cuba as a labor activist in the San Francisco Bay Area, and I learned about Cuba’s unions in the course of two trips to Cuba, 27 years apart.

In 1992, I joined a group of 22 members of over a dozen U.S. unions for the U.S.-Cuba Labor Exchange’s second trip. As guests of the Confederation of Cuban Workers (CTC), we visited all manner of workplaces—factories, ports, agricultural projects, hospitals, clinics and schools. We met with many Cuban union members and leaders. And we had most evenings free to explore Havana!

Our visit was during the Special Period, when Cuba lost 85% of its trade as a consequence of the fall of the Soviet Union and Eastern European socialist countries. Cuba had to make do with less than half its usual oil supply.

Many shortages resulted as the U.S. intensified its economic war on Cuba’s ability to sell its nickel ore, sugar cane and other agricultural products. Cubans made up shortfalls for their families with what was available, in order to ensure adequate nutrition. In 1992, Cuba was selling its entire lobster catch to buy milk for first-grade children.

CTC Secretary member Joaquin Bernal Camero told us: “You will never find a Cuban union leader asking for privatization of enterprise. We’re not going to give back the land to the former landowners or corporations. Our unions are independent, but also independent of the capitalists. We don’t take a coin from the government, and all the dues collected go back into the union work.”

Membership is voluntary, yet we found out that 97% of Cuban workers belonged to unions, which are entirely self-financed from dues. Cuban unionists enact their own laws and constitutions. The rank and file directly nominate and elect their own leaders in a regular series of elections far outnumbering those of other countries.

We learned Cuba had free health care and free or affordable daycare, and rents were limited to 10% of income. Women had three months paid leave before giving birth, six months paid leave afterward and the right to return to their jobs. (Parental leave was later extended to fathers.)

The CTC reviews all new laws before they are enacted, and labor law has workers’ rights at its center. In a joint-venture hotel with Spain, the workers voted out a contractor in a row before they got one who complied with Cuban labor law.

But in 1992 what most impressed me—coming from white-supremacist U.S. citizens during the Rodney King Rebellion—was the deep respect the working people displayed toward each other and the kindness we visiting unionists experienced.

Our final workplace visit was to the H. Uppmann tobacco factory. The workers told us they worked six months, then took a month’s vacation. Windows were wide open while they worked with their hands, some singing, others smokin’—I could be happy working there!

Going back to Cuba

In the Special Period, Cuba increased resources and built up its biopharmaceutical and tourism industries. But in 2019 former President Donald Trump invoked Title III of the Helms Burton Act, further increasing the illegal blockage of economic relations, threatening the working people.

I returned in summer 2019 with the 50th Venceremos Brigade, which travels in solidarity with the Revolution to contribute materially to it. The day after we arrived, we toured Las Terrazas in the Sierra del Rosario region, where 968 local villagers created a reforestation plan with support from the revolutionary government.

Within eight years, the rural people in the valley had planted 6 million trees in an area totally denuded during Spanish colonization. Over 80% of the food eaten in the camp library to hear Ismael Drullet Pérez, General Secretary of the National Union of Education, Science and Sports Workers.

Ismael Drullet Pérez, General Secretary of the National Union of Education, Science and Sports Workers.

The increase in blockade by the U.S. has shut down Cuba’s ability to obtain machinery parts from overseas. Pérez said, “Our factories are old; our machinery needs parts and frequently breaks down. We keep them running through the creativity of the workers solving the problems. But we won’t accept the loss of our independence, our social justice and equity. We are not paradigms, and we are not hell.”

Brigadistas asked about the private sector and what role unions have with private owners. As blockade-imposed hardships resulted in some turning to crime, Pérez said the CTC represents those who were arrested for petty crimes of corruption; “insertados” have representation to help them transition to get work.

The CTC still has final say over new laws; workers in joint ventures can still vote out hostile managers. Pérez noted, “The Labor Code of Cuba regulates all joint ventures and private employers. Problems that come from the past we reshape and eliminate. We accept the workers as they are.”

The CTC sometimes intervenes with small employers in the private sector; for example, in one case the union had to enforce labor law against gender discrimination in restaurant work. Pérez emphasized: “We are working on this issue on an inherited legacy of slavery and colonialism—hundreds of years of colonialism vs. 60 years of revolution.”

During the COVID pandemic, tourism has taken an enormous hit. Yet Cuban science workers created their own vaccines. In 1992 Bernal Camero had said that during the Revolution, “Cuban workers occupied the factories.” Cuba’s unions continue to remain key to building socialism in that Caribbean island nation.

Raúl Castro honored

The excerpts below are from the Cuban daily newspaper Granma, April 17.

Let no one doubt that as long as I live, I will be ready, with a foot in the stirrup, to defend the homeland, the Revolution and socialism,” stated Army General Raúl Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee, who, like another Mambi or guerrilla, always ready with his horse saddled and a rifle under his pillow, reported that his task leading the political organization had reached its conclusion.

Ending his presentation of the 8th Party Congress Central Report, on the gathering’s opening day, Raúl expressed the satisfaction of having fulfilled his duty and conveyed his confidence in the future of the homeland, but emphasized his unchanging commitment to participate as a member of the party ranks. “I will continue serving as one more revolutionary fighter, ready to make my modest contribution until the end of my life,” he insisted.

The moving historic moment sealed the reading of a Central Report which, in a clear and objective manner, reviewed what had been done over the last five years, with respect to each of the country’s strategic issues.

The first session of the Congress, which will continue through April 19, was also attended by Political Bureau members Miguel Díaz-Canel Bermúdez, President of the Republic; José Ramón Machado Ventura, second secretary of the Political Bureau; Esteban Lazo Hernández, President of the National Assembly and Council of State; as well as other Party and government leaders.

In his opening remarks, Machado Ventura asserted that the Party constitutes “a guarantee of national unity and a synthesis of the ideals of dignity, social justice and independence of generations of patriots who preceded us and those who have made these ideas their own, over all these years of struggle and victory.”

Raúl Castro Ruz at the 8th Congress of the Cuban Communist Party.

April 16.

Haiti at the abyss

By G. Dunkel

According to the Miami Herald, not a single vaccination against COVID-19 had taken place in Haiti as of April 9. Lack of government action, having state electricity and water crises and other challenges were all given as reasons. (tinyurl.com/Bzj9et57a)

Eighty percent of Haitians live on less than $2 a day. (tinyurl.com/y8k5iipqj) The minimum wage is $6.46 for an eight-hour day. The official unemployment rate is 20%, so there are at least three for every job.

Bus-as-catch-can — loading trucks, digging ditches, pushing carts, selling sugar in the market and so on. It is a well-known practice.

Kidnapping has been both a political and financial tool in Haiti. A special U.S. SEAL force kidnapped Haitian President Bertrand Aristide to exile in the Central African Republic in February 2004. The Haitian bourgeoisie has hired gangs to kidnap political rivals.

At times have grown harder and rivalries sharper, gangs have adopted kidnapping as a fundraising affair that lets them pay for their neighbors’ support, buy weapons and support a more-than-subsistence lifestyle. Their targets have broadened.

Associated Press reported that, in December 2020, a woman in Port-au-Prince — who made her living selling hot dogs in the market and recruiting students for a cosmetics school — was kidnapped from a car that a friend was driving. Her friend’s family raised enough money to get her back, but she is still afraid to go to work. (tinyurl.com/ep7kaamr)

On April 1, Holy Thursday, the Gospel Kreyol Ministry was livestreaming its service from Haiti when a group of turned people burst into the studio and kidnapped the well-known pastor and the organist, leading them away under full view of the cameras. The church put up a GoFundMe page and freed the abducted members. The kidnappers haven’t been caught.

Bus drivers, who generally rent or own their own bus and run their businesses on a cash basis, have been a particular target. Kidnappers take the bus — their transportation out of the situation — along with the driver’s cash, and can rob the passengers. The drivers and their communities have begun fighting back with strikes and road blockades, often made of burning tires. (Miami Herald, April 14)

Drivers have reported at least one instance of cops working to clear an “accident” on National Route 1 that highway traffic to back up so kidnappers could seize the bus drivers and their vehicles.

Accelerating crisis

On April 12, five Catholic priests, one of whom was French, two nuns and three laypeople were seized on their way to an investiture ceremony. The Archdiocese of Port-au-Prince immediately issued a statement requesting their release. The kidnappers were asking for $8.3 million.

On April 15, the Catholic hierarchy asked all Haitians to participate in a work stoppage and also to pray for the kidnapped priests and their families. The 11 Haitian bishops came to the Church of St. Peter in Petionville, Port-au-Prince, and officiated a mass before a packed congregation, with a large crowd gathered outside.

As the bishops’ procession was leaving the church, the mostly young crowd — with fists in the air, in the style of “Nou boute!” (“We’re fed up!”) and over, along with “Aba Jovenel!” (“Down with Jovenel!”) — Jovenel Moïse, the current president of Haiti who has refused to obey the constitution and leave office.)

Cops then fired tear gas into the church; some panicked people ran into the pews; others rushed out. There were no immediate reports of asphyxiation, but it can happen when tear gas is used in a confined area.

History of U.S. interference

The response of the U.S. government has been muted. The State Department has issued its most severe level of warning on the danger of traveling to Haiti and has urged the government there to improve the security situation. But the current U.S. ambassador to Haiti, Michele J. Sison, is not functioning as such, having been nominated to be assistant secretary of state for international organization affairs.

This is a milquetoast response from a U.S. government whose secretary of state, Hillary Clinton, was rampantly in Haiti in 2011 to make Michel Martelly president. Martelly’s party, the Haitian Party of Tet Kale (PHTK) in 2016 picked Jovenel Moïse, a businessman, to be president, with the blessing of U.S. diplomats. The U.S. openly attacks Haiti’s autononmy when that suits U.S. economic and political interests — starting with the U.S. 1804 economic blockade of the country after Haitian liberation fighters under Jean Jacques Dessaline crushed the French slave masters to win independence.

Currently the U.S. appears to be using NGOs like Human Rights Watch to indirectly intervene. It is clear that the U.S. is actually supporting the slide of Haiti into an economic and political abyss, as a warning to poor countries oppressed by imperialism against asserting their own road to development.

Twitter @dunkel_greg.
By Princess Harmony

The “protect and serve” motto emblazoned on police vehicles acts as cover for their aggressive and oppressive activities against people of color and working poor people in general. Among groups most impacted are trans women, who have been oppressed and maligned openly for centuries. Throughout the 20th century, trans women and self-expression were repellent and still is.

Possibly the most blatant example of state-sanctioned violence against trans women was in Nazi Germany. During their rise to power, the Nazis launched attacks on the Institute for Sexual Science that researched the trans phenomenon and helped trans women transition. The Nazi regime treated trans women as homosex-ual men, twisting the knife.

Reichsführer-SS Heinrich Himmler gave speeches targeting gay people, essen-tially saying that sexuality is not a private affair but a key problem in their racist, sexist, and queerphobic ideology. Being queer was harmful to the “Master Race.”

While the main targets of the Holocaust were Jewish, Roma and Slavic people, the Nazis also targeted gay people. In 1933, they overturned the law that theoretically protected trans people. As a result, trans people were arrested and thrown into concentration camps.

In response to both police and community mistreatment, they rebelled!

From Cooper’s Donuts to Stonewall

One of the very first recorded instances of trans and gender nonconforming people rebelling against police and social tyranny was at Cooper’s Donuts in Las Angeles. Little information is kept on this uprising because it was a revolt by trans people. They threw everything that was available including police cars and burned police cars to a crisp. They forced the cops to flee, though they returned with more force and the revolt was defeated.

History is the story of both the Los Angeles Police Department successfully}

The massacre shooting April 15 at a FedEx facility in Indianapolis took the lives of eight workers and injured seven more. Half of those slain were members of the Sikh community, and one was a young African American woman. The murderer, 19-year-old Brandon Hole, killed himself after the shootings took place.

There have been many hate crimes against Sikhs, espe-cially following the Sept. 11, 2001, attack on the World Trade Center. Haters ignorantly linked the turbans worn by Sikh men with Osama Bin-Laden. In 2012 six people were killed and four injured in an attack on a Sikh house of worship—a gurdwara—in Oak Creek, Wis. Immediately following the Indianapolis massacre, the Sikh Coalition explained in a statement: “It was no acci-dent that the shooter targeted this particular FedEx facility where he had worked and knew was overwhelmingly staffed by Sikhs. This was not a crime of convenience or a spur of the moment attack; it was one of methodi-cal planning and selection which echoes the targeting of Asian Americans that occurred around the time of the 9/11 attacks two decades ago. The people that were shot and killed were not ran-dom targets.” (sikhcoalition.org)

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Historically and now, white supremacist groups from the KKK to the Oath Keepers and Proud Boys have never had trouble obtaining the tools they use to terrorize the Black, Latinx, Indigenous, Asian, Arab, Muslim, Jewish, LGBTQ+ and other communities. They can get weap-ons, explosives, lumber and fuel for cross-burnings, propaganda leaflets, media access, rally permits, police protection — and in this era, internet and social media access.

Young white men with white-supremacist views — the profile of many mass shooters — have no trouble gaining access to firearms, including semiautomatic weapons. We are all told the fascists have a First Amendment right to spread hatred. But racist ideology — recklessly fomented during the Trump administration — fuels racist violence.

Like Amazon workers, FedEx workers need a union

The white supremacy driving so many mass shootings is the number one tool that capitalists use to keep the working class divided — and unorganized.

Package handlers and drivers at FedEx earn as much on average $14+15 an hour: drivers at UPS make about $10 “per piece.” But the Fortune 500 list of wealthiest companies is nonunion. Lower wages have helped FedEx earn billions in profits annually, most recently almost $900 million in the quar-ter ending in February 2021.

Safety of the workers who make them rich is not a priority for FedEx bosses. Last November, Leannel “Troy” McClellan filed a wrongful death lawsuit against FedEx over the 2019 death of his son, Detate Young, who was killed on the job when an unlocked door holding piles of packages swung open. Young, who was in the way, was crushed.

Workers at the FedEx World Hub in Memphis, where Young worked, complained about the speed of work and the dangerous conditions. Thousands of the company’s 500,000 workers worldwide have tested positive for COVID.

At the Indianapolis facility, workers are not allowed to have their phones with them while they are working. This meant they could not help for fear of their co-workers were shot. Their relatives, frantically calling to find out if they were among the victims, could not reach them.

This is the 21st century high-tech version of the 1911 Triangle Shirtwaist tragedy in New York City and the Imperial Foods chicken processing plant fire 80 years later in Hamlet, N.C., fires which killed 146 and 25 work-ers respectively. In both cases the workers were locked in by the bosses.

Union, the workers did not have a voice to demand safe working conditions.

Union YES! White supremacy NO!

Racism, worker rights and the FedEx shooting

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Union YES! White supremacy NO!
And today is the disclosure of this vote, involved in Alabama, to get involved in it. Actions helped push the labor move—

fight in Alabama, were important. Those and March 20, in solidarity with the union
tions that we helped to organize Feb. 20

ions, but we have a stake in this; this is
we are in the tens of millions on a global

lions, but we have a stake in this; this is

That's why some of the mass mobilizations
that Amazon is involved in, the multi-
to demand an end to this union busting

The working class has to say that's

hunger is widespread. Lack of sufficient nutritious food;

ons where COVID-19 is rampant.

billion-dollar union busting that they

ers in Alabama, was a kind of left unity.

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and struggles and sol-

And the workers and

It's important for the unions— not to

W. 24th St., 2nd Floor, New

billion since the pandemic began.

Billionaires' wealth increased by $1.3

n action against mass shootings that represent a
dition some strategies going forward which

We're trying to understand why Biden

it radical, making it inclusive and not

which made our days more difficult; we have
groups providing for human needs are

indigenous, im/migrant and poor com-

Based on the struggle of workers in the

Once given an option, the workers

Union cards, and once you have enough of

840 million since the pandemic.

Then should we organize legislation, to organizing the unor-

You have to look at the bigger picture. The whole

It's serious, it's a problem for the

But clearly for any of us who are seri-

a vote to join the union. However, the

*Economic Policy Institute, March 2021.
Después del voto en Amazon: La organización laboral es un derecho

Por Larry Holmes

Los siguientes comentarios editados fueron realizados en un seminario web del 9 de abril titulado “La lucha continua: el Plan de lucha para el sindicato de Básicamente y más allá – Reunión de organizadores” organizado por supportamazonworkers.org. Holmes es miembro del consejo de Whole Foods World Party/Partido Mundo Obrero y organizador de la Asamblea de Trabajadores del comercio en la ciudad de Nueva York. 

Mi corazón, mi solidaridad está con los organizadores y los trabajadores de Bessemer que han luchado tanto por este voto. Los trabajadores de Amazon de Alabama son trabajadores minoritario, minoritaria y de los grandes almacenes se vieron superados por este momento por sus recursos- el movimiento solo la más grande e importante en este momento por sus recursos- el movimiento solo la más grande e importante en este momento por sus recursos- el movimiento solo la más grande e importante en este momento. 

Por eso estoy de acuerdo con Saladin Muhammad en ir de un lado a otro y car una crisis muy necesaria dentro del gremio. Esto tiene que intensificarse. En el capitalismo global del siglo XXI. Es una corporación que prácticamente define la legislación capitalista global, Amazon. De nuevo por lo que nos desafía al sindicalismo y a los sindicatos- no ignorarlos salpicando a Amazon y organizando a Amazon y Whole Foods, pero no pueden hacerlo solos. Es importante para los sindicatos – no ignorarlos y no descartarlos – pero hay que trabajar con ellos y ganarlos. Otra realidad crítica es que el mayor porcentaje de la clase trabajadora no está en el movimiento sindical. Pero hay que decirles que aunque sólo han pagado de compensación, si se lo pueden hacer, en Amazon, son importantes para la lucha. 

Por supuesto, son los trabajadores que trabajan para Amazon y Whole Foods los que son fundamentales para organizar a Amazon y Whole Foods. Pero el resto de los de miles de millones de dólares que hay en el en la Asamblea de Trabajadores del Sur, podemos aprender mucho. Allí donde el derecho a sindicalizar no es suficiente, la Ley PRO. Además, ese proyecto de ley está avanzando en el Senado, lo que facilita que el presidente Biden y otros digan que están al borde del futuro, y en gran parte ahí se inicia. Queremos escuchar lo que la gente piensa, sobre eso de organizar una campaña alrededor de eso para usar esa orden ejecutiva. 

Queremos hablar de la formación de asambleas de trabajadores. Con el ejemplo y el espíritu de lo que ha hecho la Asamblea de Trabajadores del Sur, para organizar la Ley PRO de inmediato, incluyendo el control de tarjetas. Queremos organizar una campaña de salud, quien es el que emite una orden ejecutiva o una serie de órdenes ejecutivas que esencialmente convierten en el derecho a organizar la Ley PRO de inmediato, incluyendo el control de tarjetas. Queremos escuchar lo que la gente piensa, sobre eso de organizar una campaña alrededor de eso para usar esa orden ejecutiva. 

Pero también tenemos que preocuparnos de hacerlo radical, hacerlo inclusivo y no hacerlo nada para menos que muchos. Esto es crucial. Muchos de nosotros nos estamos organizando en torno al gobierno que es la organización conocida como Ley PRO, que es progresista, buena y útil. Pero no incluye el reconocimiento de la recogida de tarjetas como base para que un empresario tenga que reconocer a un sindicato. También tienen que ir por la ruta de la Junta Nacional de Relaciones Laborales, lo que es un gran problema para los trabajadores. Queremos que se comprenda la recogida de tarjetas que organice la recogida de esas tarjetas, y una vez que se tengan suficientes, eso debería ser todo. 

Pero como dijo el camarada Saleh, estamos fuera; somos decenas de miles de miles de millones de dólares que hay en el en la Asamblea de Trabajadores del Sur, podemos aprender mucho. Allí donde el derecho a sindicalizar no es suficiente, la Ley PRO. Además, ese proyecto de ley está avanzando en el Senado, lo que facilita que el presidente Biden y otros digan que están al borde del futuro, y en gran parte ahí se inicia. Queremos escuchar lo que la gente piensa, sobre eso de organizar una campaña alrededor de eso para usar esa orden ejecutiva. 

¿Cómo podemos hacer que el Primero de Mayo, dentro de unas semanas, sea significativo para lo que ocurrió en Alabama, para la legislación del derecho a organizar, para organizar a los no organizados? Se acerca el Primero de Mayo de 2021. ¿Podemos hacer que el Primero de Mayo, dentro de unas semanas, sea significativo para lo que ocurrió en Alabama, para la legislación del derecho a organizar, para organizar a los no organizados? ¿Podríamos hacer un llamado nacional para las acciones del Primero de Mayo o con algunas cuestiones clave que resalten para los activistas de todo el país asuman? 

La unidad de la izquierda es crucial. Quiero hablar de la necesidad de la unidad de la izquierda. En muchos momentos, lo que vimos en los últimos dos meses desde organizar en la Asamblea de Trabajadores de solidaridad con los trabajadores de Amazon, fue una especie de unidad de la izquierda. No estamos organizando no eran grupos que se reunieran y hablaran entre sí. Pero de repente este grupo lo estaba haciendo y ese grupo y estos grupos que no trabajan juntos, a pesar de muchas diferencias en temas grandes y pequeños, sin minimizar eso. 

Pero está claro que para cualquiera de nosotros, para ser un grupo que no podemos hacer ningún movimiento — no podemos hacer nada a menos que haya una unidad seria de la izquierda. Nuestras organizaciones por sí solas son demasiado pequeñas. Si sólo queremos comentar cosas, si queremos criticar, que es necesario, está bien. Pero si queremos hacer algo, si queremos realmente hacer algo que marque la diferencia para transformar nuestra clase, para organizar a los trabajadores, para transformar el movimiento obrero, para cambiar lo que ahora lo que debería ser, tenemos que organizar juntos. Los sindicatos, socialistas y sindicatos trabajaron juntos en los años 30. Lo hicieron desde Minneapolis hasta Flint y en todas partes, lo hicieron. Tenemos que movernos con ese espíritu. Los Socialistas Democráticos de América, que son la mayor agrupación de izquierda y no son un grupo homogéneo, están haciendo y esos grupos que se reunieran y hablaran entre sí. Queremos organizar en torno a la legislación sobre derechos de empleo, ¿Cómo podemos hacer que el Primero de Mayo o con algunas cuestiones clave que resalten para los activistas de todo el país asuman? 

¿Cómo podemos hacer que el Primero de Mayo, dentro de unas semanas, sea significativo para lo que ocurrió en Alabama, para la legislación del derecho a organizar, para organizar a los no organizados? Se acerca el Primero de Mayo de 2021. ¿Podemos hacer que el Primero de Mayo, dentro de unas semanas, sea significativo para lo que ocurrió en Alabama, para la legislación del derecho a organizar, para organizar a los no organizados? ¿Podríamos hacer un llamado nacional para las acciones del Primero de Mayo o con algunas cuestiones clave que resalten para los activistas de todo el país asuman? 

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