Birthday events in Philadelphia say

Let Mumia OUT

By Marie Kelly
Philadelphia

An international coalition of groups supporting Mumia Abu-Jamal held events April 23-25 to commemorate his 67th birthday (April 24) and call for his freedom. Mumia has been unjustly incarcerated for nearly 40 years. His health has deteriorated due to the harsh conditions he has endured under an unjust carceral system. He is currently hospitalized following triple bypass surgery on April 20. (tinyurl.com/ygbcnra9)

The People for Mumia, a virtual event April 23, kicked off the weekend. Activists, musicians, writers and youth shared why Mumia is important to their movement for social and racial justice. Speakers and performers included Mike Africa Jr., Susan Abulhawa, Angela Davis, Marc Lamont Hill, Robin D.G. Kelley, Tom Morello, Albert Woodfox, Erica Caines, Santiago Alvarez, Monica Moorehead and more.

On April 24, over 1,000 people gathered in Philadelphia for a rally and march. “Taking It to the Streets for Mumia” began at City Hall across from where the statue of racist Frank Rizzo was removed in 2020 due to the public outcry against his brutal legacy.

Dr. Johanna Fernandez spoke against the corrupt legal system and explained how the Philadelphia police worked “hand in glove” with the prosecution and racist judge in Mumia’s 1982 trial. Evidence has surfaced indicating the prosecution bribed a key witness.

Pam Africa gave news of Mumia’s health, after having spoken briefly with him earlier in the day. He is still hospitalized, but said he is beginning his recovery by taking some short walks. He confirmed he is shackled while in his bed. Mumia’s medical advisor Dr. Ricardo Alvarez traveled from California to speak at the event.

Mumia’s brother, Keith Cook, traveling from North Carolina, told the gathering that they must continue to fight until his brother is free. YahNé Ndgo, Immortal Technique and Ellect performed, and the crowd sang along to Stevie Wonder’s “Happy Birthday.” Speakers included Chairman Fred Hampton Jr. and Immortal Technique.

Susan Abulhawa connected the struggle for Black liberation with the Free Palestine movement. Her thoughts about Mumia’s character and spirit inspired: “Mumia teaches us what it is to be free in our minds. He was a Black man who was too free, and that is why they locked up his body.”

Dr. Suzanne Ross spoke about the U.N. Human Rights Commission’s support for Mumia. Events calling for Mumia’s release were held in France, Germany, Mexico, French Guiana, Britain, and the U.S. — an average of two people a day.

Continued on page 6

Stay in the streets — Abolish the police!

We — along with anti-racist activists everywhere — applaud the guilty verdicts April 20 against the racist, white, killer cop Derek Chauvin, who wantonly lynched George Floyd May 25, 2020. The racially mixed jury declared Chauvin guilty of second-degree manslaughter, second-degree unintentional murder and third-degree murder (exhibiting a depraved mind).

Three other cops, who stood by as Chauvin knelt on Floyd’s neck and body until he died, should be found guilty on the most stringent charges possible in their upcoming trials. One thing is perfectly clear: This trial and the legal verdict alone cannot halt police terror. From the trial’s opening March 29 to the verdict’s announcement April 21, cops slaughtered at least 64 people in the U.S. — an average of two people a day. (New York Times, April 22)

More than half of those killed were people of color, mostly Black and Latinx — numbers shockingly greater than their

Continued on page 10
For a fiction reader, a non-fiction book can be a bit of a slog. But this book, still unfinished when the author died in 1950 and first published in 1956, was fascinating. Agnes Smedley was exciting to me because it gave me real insight into the Chinese Revolution.

General Zhu De (contemporary spelling) was a close associate of Mao Zedong and the Supreme Commander of the New People’s Army (Red Army). He was a military and political leader in the People’s Republic of China until his death in 1975.

It took an incredible struggle by the Chinese people to overthrow the old feudal order. The book is a timeline of the Chinese struggle against imperialism and profiteers, using the vehicle of General Zhu’s life. And what a life it was!

There is much in the book about the Long March. The revolutionary army, led by the Communist Party, was able to put theory into practice in the liberated territories of China. The book is a timeline of the Chinese Revolution of 1949.

The book is a long read, but stick with it. It’s worth it!

For more information on socialist vs. capitalist countries in response to COVID, see “Vaccines highlight differences between capitalism and socialism” at workers.org.

Is Workers World essential to you? Then support it now!

COVID-19 has exposed everything wrong with capital-ism in the U.S.: ★ No national system provides free health care for all. inadequate access to care, including vaccines, for Black, Latinx, Indigenous, im/migrant and poor communities, results in their high rates of COVID-caused illness and death.
★ No provisions to support workers and their families with childcare, housing or other necessities.
★ No guaranteed jobs or livable income. The pandemic downturn hurt millions of workers; nearly 24 million are still jobless, furloughed or have experienced wage and hour cuts.
★ No mandatory paid sick time or benefits for essential workers.
★ Lack of sufficient nutritious food; hunger is wide-spread.
★ Institutionalized racism, sexism, anti-im/migrant, anti-LGBTQ+ bigotry, ableism. Police brutality continues unabated.
★ Incarcerated people are kept in prisons where COVID-19 is rampant.
★ Class system rigged in favor of the 1%. Billionaires’ wealth increased by $1.3 trillion since the pandemic began.
★ Congress allocated $740 billion for the Pentagon, while government programs providing for human needs are insufficient or nonexistent.

Workers World provides the theoretical and organiza-tional ammunition needed to crush this inhumane system and create one that supports the working class and all oppressed people: socialism. The need for that becomes clearer every day during this devastat-ing pandemic, when everyone has been called upon to show solidarity and form a united front.

Please consider putting your money where it will really help achieve that goal. We established the WW Supporter Program 44 years ago, so readers could promote the working-class truth needed for revolutionary change. Members receive a year’s subscription to WW, a regular letter about timely issues and one, two or three (respectively) free subscriptions for friends of a donation of $75, $100, $300—or more. Members can receive the book “What Road to Socialism?” upon request. (Or read it at workers.org/books/).

WW articles are being posted daily at workers.org. During the pandemic, printed copies are being mailed out once a month. Issues will be printed and mailed out more frequently as soon as the crisis lifts.

Write monthly or annual checks to Workers World. Mail them to Workers World, with your name and address, to 147 W. 24th St., 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10011. Or con-tribute at workers.org/donate/.

We are grateful for your help in building Workers World!

*Economic Policy Institute, March 2021

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BOOK REVIEW

“The Great Road: The Life and Times of Chu Teh” by Susan Schnur (she/her)
HB1: Jim Crow 2.0—an interview with Jamil Davis

By Devin Cole

House Bill 1, a bill criminalizing protest in the state of Florida beyond measures that already exist, passed its final Senate committee April 15. It was signed into law April 30 by fascist Gov. Ron DeSantis, who proposed the bill in September 2020 as a response to the Black Lives Matter uprisings during the summer. This bill makes protesting a felony punishable with up to 15 years in prison, strips away voting rights, protects Confederate statues, denies protesters bail and protects anyone who does not report protesters engaging in illegal activity. HB1 also puts a blanket ban on defunding the police in any way, shape or form across the state.

There is no question that this fascist bill will disproportionately target Black and Brown organizers, who have led the ongoing struggles against capitalism-impe- rialism and white supremacy across Florida and the last several years. One of those leaders is Jamil Davis, lead organizer for the Florida chapter of Black Voters Matter. He is a Hip-Hop artist and producer under the name Jamal Steele.

Workers World interviewed Davis April 19.

Workers World: You and others have referred to this bill continuously as Jim Crow 2.0. Can you elaborate on how this bill not only harkens back to the days of Jim Crow, but how it also ties into the prison-industrial complex of today to create a new system of Jim Crow laws?

Jamil Davis: With the bill being interpreted by the arresting officer, it’s left to their discretion. We are then left with a bill that has language in it that places us in a place where Black people are limited in how we can assemble in public. Getting enough people arrested, charged and convicted under these new penalties will create more felonies under Florida’s criminal justice sys- tem, which not only places more bodies in correctional facilities but eliminates more people from being able to vote. This is a law that will disproportionately affect more Black people because our direct actions and events intimidate the current power structure more, because we use our actions as a tactic to achieve our freedom.

Workers World: You and others, including the co-spon- sors of the bill, have said that this will bill prevent an incident similar to the one at the U.S. Capitol Jan. 6. What is your response to this?

Jamil Davis: The Capitol insurrection was performed by right- wing reactionaries who are either tools used by the current power structure or individuals that control the current power structure. It’s these very people who cre- ate this type of legislation and have the same folk that were side by side with them to enforce it in a way that will favor their tantrum — more than organized displays of civil disobedience used to achieve Black Liberation, because that would equal a shift in their power.

Workers World: The bill has now passed the House and the Senate, largely on party lines. Many organizers and rev- olutionaries are feeling deterred and defeated right now. Where do we go from here?

Jamil Davis: This bill will be tied up in litigation soon, but until then we continue to organize and use public assembly knowing the consequences. We will win. We should not allow intimidation and fear to prevent us from achieving liberation. This is only a setback, not a faita.

Devin Cole is a transgender Marxist activist and writer. They are the president of Strive (Socialist Trans Initiative), a transgender advocacy organization in northwest Florida, and a member of the Workers World Party—Central Gulf Coast (Alabama, Florida, and Mississippi) branch.

U.N. experts: ‘Shackling of aged inmate, Mumia Abu-Jamal, is deplorable’

The following statement was released April 20 from the United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), requesting information about the U.S. programme for the examination of the remains of political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal during his recent and current periods of hospitalisation. Read the state- ment at tingurl.com/ecmdna4.

GENEVA (April 20, 2022) — U.N. human rights experts today expressed deep concern over the welfare and medical care of Mumia Abu-Jamal, an African-American man, who has been in jail for 40 years in Pennsylvania and is reportedly shackled to his hospital bed. Mr. Abu-Jamal had already been shackled to his bed during a four-day hospitalization in late February while being treated for heart failure.

Mr. Abu-Jamal has been denied visits from his fam- ily and access to his lawyers and spiritual advisor after being admitted to an undisclosed hospital around April 10, according to reports. His attorneys are demanding he be free to address the risks posed by unrestricted movement.

The experts to date the medical condition of Mr. Abu-Jamal could be linked to years of medical neglect by the Department of Corrections of the state of Pennsylvania, the experts noted.

The experts are independent from any government authority and are part of the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council.

The experts noted this is the general office of the Special Procedures, the largest body of independent experts in the U.N. Human Rights system, is the general name of the Council’s independent fact-finding and mon- itoring mechanisms that address either specific country situations or thematic issues in all parts of the world. Special Procedures’ experts work on a voluntary basis; they are not U.N. staff and do not receive a salary for their work. They are independent from any government or organization and serve in their individual capacity.

For more information and media requests, please contact Christina Saunders (csaunders@ohchr.org or africaandseasent@ohchr.org).

MOVE denounces museum’s desecration of children’s remains

By Betsey Piette

Philadelphia

At an emotion filled press conference April 26, MOVE members strongly denounced the University of Pennsylvania Museum and Princeton University for holding the remains of family members killed in the 1985 police bombing of their home.

News that Penn Museum was in possession of the remains first aired in an opinion piece by Abdul-Aliy Muhammad in the Philadelphia Inquirer April 21. The bomb was thrown by MOVE leader and Selvaanist anthropologist Alan Mann by the Philadelphia Medical Office for Forensic Science, Mann subsequently transferred to Princeton University, taking the bones with him. The family was unaware of whom the remains of Katricia (Tree) Africa, 14, and Delisha Africa, 12, were bounced back and forth between the two Ivy League institutions over decades. UPenn issued a hasty apology to MOVE just as the press conference was starting.

Janet Africa, whose daughter died in the fire, stated: “They took their bodies, desecrated and defiled them, lied about it, and we were never told that they had the remains. They used the remains in classes called ‘Adventures of Anthropology’ like some affection park ride. You can’t go any lower.”

Janine Africa: “We’ve had our babies beat, preg- nant women beat, men, and they put us in jail for 41 years. In 1985, Police Commissioner Gregore Sambor said the children were as much of a threat as the adults. Police shot at our children, forcing them back into the burning house.”

When we were finally released, the politicians apolo- gized and said they are sorry. We don’t trust them. They can’t give us our children. Our children are gone. We don’t want their apologies — we want our brother Mumia Abu-Jamal released.

Tree Africa’s mother Consuela Africa was in jail during the 1985 bombing. During the press conference, she broke down in tears and had to leave for a moment. But upon returning she stated: “We just want you to see the behavior of these officials, these notable profes- sors — they are not honorable or respectful. We are in pain, but we are not weak. We are strong people — we are revolutionaries!”

U.S. experts: ‘Shackling of aged inmate, Mumia Abu-Jamal, is deplorable’

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Reports from inside the hospital of substandard care by replacement staff are filtering through to the nurses on the picket line. The community wants their nurses back in charge of their care because the St. Vincent nurses are committed to delivering quality care to their community. The first round of talks between the Massachusetts Nurses Union (MNU) and Tenet is set for April 26. (Framingham Source, April 18)

UAW strikes Volvo truck plant

After a frustrating month of contract negotiations, close to 3,500 United Auto Workers Local 2069 members went on strike April 17 at the Volvo Truck Plant in Virginia. Volvo workers complained of three contracts while the company has not presented a substantial offer by the March 16 contract deadline despite a contract extension. Our goal remains to achieve a fair tentative agreement for our members, their families, and the community of Dublin, Virginia.
What's the U.S. role?

Ecuador prisons rot inside

By Mirinda Crissman

"In places where inequality is the deepest, the use of prison and punishment is the greatest." (Ruth Wilson Gilmore) Prisons do not keep people safe from violence; in fact, these institutions perpetuate violence themselves and further entrench poverty. They are tools used by those who hoard massive amounts of wealth to undercut wages and pit workers against one another. Once people are labeled "criminal," they are viewed as a problem rather than a human being. The system is designed to keep them trapped in a cycle of violence and poverty.

On Feb. 23, in four prisons in three of Ecuador's cities, 80 prisoners died as "vio- lence erupted in prisons in Guayaquil and Cotopaxi provinces, which hold about 70% of Ecuador's total prison population." (Reuters, Feb. 24) Officials blamed the violence on rival gangs and criminal enterprises vying for business. The real cul- prit, however, seems to be the material conditions that caused gang forma- tions to arise in the first place, as well as overcrowd- ing and unsanitary condi- tions inside prisons during a deadly pandemic.

Ecuador's prison sys- tem, whose facilities were designed for some 27,000 people, still houses about 38,000 people.

The film shows that it was impossible for Reed to have murdered a young white woman, Stacey Stites, in Bastrop, presenting the many inconsistencies and out- right lies involved in the prosecution of Reed. After the film ended, the crowd agreed Reed had been framed and sent to death row.

"The cops lied, the Texas Rangers lied, the Bastrop police lied and the investigation was improperly done to cover up the killer, who was likely a cop. A time of death given during the original trial was wrong. Evidence was not properly stored or analyzed and, to this date, the murder weapon, a belt used to strangle the woman, has never been tested for DNA," supporter Caleb Granger told Workers World.

On April 22, the Fifth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals threw out a lawsuit filed by Reed's attorney that his attorney had not been allowed to review DNA evidence in his case, which Reed's team argue shows he was innocent. "We as a family appreciate everybody who came out tonight to support my son. You've seen this film, and there are still wrongs still. We have gotten some support for Rodney from all over the world. We are determined to get justice and we won't stop until Rodney is home with us."
‘Black Athletes Lives Matter!’

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

Hundreds of Syracuse University students marched through snow during a Black Athletes Lives Matter (BALM) action against police brutality April 21. The march had been planned for months by student-athlete organizations, but coincidentally took place the day after cop Derek Chauvin’s conviction for the murder of George Floyd.

The multinational and multigendered crowd of students marched by teams from Skytop South Campus to Cayone Field for a rally. Team captains and speakers led conversations with each of the different groups and teams, sharing thoughts and experiences. According to participants, athletes marched for the same reasons the university’s students were marching.

New York Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, in response to Derek Chauvin’s conviction, called for the introduction of legislation to reform the U.S. criminal justice system.

One killer cop in jail does nothing to lower the police population. One verdict, as we’ve seen in the past, makes no promise to the future. Let’s not confuse accountability for justice. Let Mumia OUT.

‘No good cops in a racist system’

By Anneliese Bienko

BUFFALO, N.Y.

Buffalo’s first anti-violence demonstration of the year was held April 16. The action, called by Workers World Party, drew activists from across the left to demand police abolition and stand in solidarity with Minneapolis in the wake of Daunte Wright’s murder. Speakers addressed the police brutality and violence that has wreaked havoc for Black and Brown communities across the U.S.

A strong anti-capitalist message was pushed, highlighting how the police exist to protect property, not people. Protesters discussed how, comparable to many cities across the country, Buffalo police are 69.3% white while policing a 47% white city, and most of these officers reside in neighboring suburbs, not the communities they occupy.

People shouted “abolish the police” and “nothing less than police abolition.”

“no good cops in a racist system,” letting the public know that it is past time for reforms, and the whole system needs to be dismantled.

The group marched down Niagara Street through a predominantly working-class neighborhood with many community mental health centers and substance use services. This is important because those with mental illnesses make up a quarter of the people killed by police since 2015. In Buffalo in September 2020 Willie Henley, a man struggling with mental illness, was shot during a mental health crisis call and was charged with a felony for trying to defend himself with a bat as police surrounded him. These stories are repeated across the country.

Buffalo is planning to hold more demonstrations like this, demanding abolition and fighting against all forms of police violence.

WAAR on Chauvin verdicts

‘We’ll accept nothing less than police abolition’

The following statement was issued on April 20 by the Workers Assembly Against Racism, based in New York City.

One killer cop in jail does nothing to address the violence and trauma that materials like the experience of Black, Brown, and working people at the hands of our bloated, militarized police force.

Derek Chauvin is a tool of white supremacy, along with policing and incarceration as a whole. Although we’re witnessing this tool’s “punishment,” we cannot accept these proceedings as the theatrical interpretation of “justice” that the state so fervently desires.

Chauvin’s conviction for a murder caught on camera in the Minneapolis neighborhood where the justice system works nor is it proof that cops and policing protect us. We know this.

With the most recent police murders of both 13-year-old Adam Toledo in Chicago and 20-year-old Daunte Wright near the same Minneapolis neighborhood where Chauvin ended Floyd’s life — we know this.

One bad man locked away where we can no longer see him will not deliver abundant funding to currently terrorized communities; it will not deliver loving psychological care to children and adults traumatized by these cultural norms. And it certainly won’t exhum the irretrievable loss of life rendered not only by killer cops, but by the justice system they uphold that deliberately criminalizes the effects of poverty and thrives on separating living people from their communities via gratuitous and systemic incarceration.

If this guilty conviction were true justice, Minneapolis would not have deployed thousands of National Guard to protect property and brutalityize people tonight. Even if this guilty conviction were true justice, George Floyd is not here to witness it. Guilty conviction or not, we keep fighting and we’ll accept nothing less than police abolition.

Let Mumia OUT

Performers included Domingue London and the Universal African Dance and Drum Ensemble. Bashiyah Muhammad Bey from the United Negro Improvement Association also spoke.

Traveling from Boston mA.x raised the memory of Winnie Mandela and Shakka Sankofa and borrowed from the words of Ella Baker, saying “We’re not going to believe in freedom, cannot rest until we bring Mumia home.”

Jamal Hart, Mumia’s grandson, called on the younger members in the crowd to take up the fight to free Mumia. Calling for his grandfather to spend his next birthday surrounded by his family and friends, he chanted: “No more birthdays in prison.”

The coalition sponsored events in West Philadelphia April 25 honoring Walter Wallace Jr., murdered by Philadelphia police six months ago, and Russell Maroon Shoatz, imprisoned since 1972 and suffering from cancer. Members of Shoatz’s and Wallace’s families participated in the event that kicked off a community cleanup at the Maroon Garden, followed by a march to Malcolm X Park for a speakout.

Food Not Bombs Solidarity provided free snacks and water for the events on both days.

Visit Mobilization4Mumia.com or LetMumiaOut.com for more information on the resistance to Mumia’s health, endorsers or upcoming events.
Say her name! Ma’Khia Bryant!

By Martha Grevatt

People in Columbus, Ohio have been in the streets nearly every day since the police murder of 16-year-old Ma’Khia Bryant April 22. She was shot four times by Columbus Police Department Officer Nicholas Reardon, who is white, in the same hour when millions awaited the guilty verdict for Derek Chauvin in the lynching of George Floyd.

Protests and vigils erupted in the neighborhood where Ma’Khia was shot and outside City Hall, police headquarters and the State House.

This was the 64th fatal police shooting in the U.S. since Chauvin’s trial began March 29 and the fourth in Columbus since December 23, when CPD killed Black Lives Matter activist Andre Hill.

Police in Ohio’s capital are among the most racist and trigger-happy in the US. Eleven of the 44 people, including several children, since 2013—more than Cleveland, Cincinnati or even Los Angeles.

While African Americans are 29% of the population in Columbus, they are 55% of those victimized by CPD’s “use-of-force.” (Columbus Dispatch, April 22)

The capitalist media has put a “blame the victim” spin on Ma’Khia’s killing based on a police sob story showing her apparently lunging at two other young women with a knife. The message is that downtown Ma’Khia was “legally justifi
d,” because other lives were allegedly in jeopardy. These foregone conclusions were made with zero consideration as to what might have provoked Ma’Khia or if she was acting in self-defense.

Many in the community are raising questions. Why did the cop fire four shots, not one, into Ma’Khia? Why didn’t he shoot to stun, not to kill? Why didn’t he use a Taser, a gun of a fog? Why did the video show her lunging at two young women?

These voices are extensions of deceased Black and Brown communi
ties, who are more marginalized and vulner
able in disproportionate numbers to dehumanization by police occupation.

Ma’Khia Bryant was a CHILD, a minor, a baby girl. She fought for her life against adult women who came to her home to assault her. Even though Ohio is now a Stand Your Ground state, and she was legally within her rights to defend herself without the duty to retreat, law enforcement showed up and murdered her within seconds instead of trying to de-escalate the situation or break up the fight.” (Black Liberation Movement Central Ohio)

Officer Reardon is on paid leave; as of yet, no discipline is being pursued, and no legal charges have been filed.

Renewed calls to action:

Some activists are calling for a federal investigation into the use of deadly force by CPD. “It’s clear that after a decade of disproportionately killing Black and Brown people, that [Columbus] is not going to fix it,” said activist Jasmine Ayres (NPR, April 22)

Ohioans are looking beyond reforming the police and calling for abolition. As Ohio State University law school professor Sean Hill explains: “Both political parties have allotted funds to ‘professionalize’ the police since at least the 1940s, claiming that these allotments would solve racial bias. . . . Instead, voters and politicians, alike, should confront how often police reforms have been pur
sued without success and should familiarize themselves with abolition as an urgent and needed solution.” (Columbus Dispatch, April 22)

“Not only in Columbus but around the state and the country, the murder of Ma’Khia has sparked a renewed determini

tion to fight police violence. Black Lives Matter Cleveland issued a statement right after the news of her death and the Floyd verdict, saying, “Ma’Khia should still be alive, just like George and the thousands of other people murdered by police. There is no rest for the work we do while fight

ging for Black lives.” ☐

In light of more police killings

Black voices must not be silenced

By Monica Moorehead

On April 17, three days before white police officer Derek Chauvin was found guilty of two counts of murder and one count of manslaughter, Rep. Maxine Waters— a longtime California Democrat whose district includes South Central Los Angeles— spoke at a rally in Brooklyn Center, Minn. This is where 20-year-old Black man, Daunte Wright, was fatally shot by another white cop April 11 for a minor traffic violation.

Waters, who is African American, told the crowd: “We’ve got to stay in the streets and demand justice. We’re looking for a guilty verdict, and we’re looking to see if all the talk that took place and has been taking place after they saw what happened to George Floyd. If nothing does not happen, then we know that we got to not only stay in the street, but we have got to fight for justice. We got to stay on the streets. And we’ve got to get more active; we’ve got to get more confrontational. We’ve got to make sure that they know that we mean business,” (CNN, April 19)

Chauvin’s defense lawyer attempted to use Waters’ comments to get Judge Peter Cahill to declare a mistrial; the judge had the audacity to declare Waters’ words were grounds for an appeal of the verdict. Cahill is scheduled to decide Chauvin’s prison sentence sometime in June.

Meanwhile, the most popular player in the National Basketball Association, Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James, issued a tweet to his 49 million followers. The words: “YOU’RE NEXT #ACCOUNTABILITY” were with the photo of Nicholas Reardon, the white cop who fatally shot 16-year-old Black teen-
ger Ma’Khia Bryant, in Columbus, Ohio. Next to Reardon’s headshot was an hour-
gram of LeBron wearing a George Floyd practice T-shirt.

LeBron James wears George Floyd practice T-shirt.

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On April 17, three days before white police officer Derek Chauvin was found guilty of two counts of murder and one count of manslaughter, Rep. Maxine Waters— a longtime California Democrat whose district includes South Central Los Angeles— spoke at a rally in Brooklyn Center, Minn. This is where 20-year-old Black man, Daunte Wright, was fatally shot by another white cop April 11 for a minor traffic violation.

Waters, who is African American, told the crowd: “We’ve got to stay in the streets and demand justice. We’re looking for a guilty verdict, and we’re looking to see if all the talk that took place and has been taking place after they saw what happened to George Floyd. If nothing does not happen, then we know that we got to not only stay in the street, but we have got to fight for justice. We got to stay on the streets. And we’ve got to get more active; we’ve got to get more confrontational. We’ve got to make sure that they know that we mean business,” (CNN, April 19)

Chauvin’s defense lawyer attempted to use Waters’ comments to get Judge Peter Cahill to declare a mistrial; the judge had the audacity to declare Waters’ words were grounds for an appeal of the verdict. Cahill is scheduled to decide Chauvin’s prison sentence sometime in June.

LeBron James wears George Floyd practice T-shirt.
Prolonging pandemic
Imperialist countries create global vaccine apartheid

By Joshua Hans

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic last year, the scale of inequality under capitalism has come to sharply focus.

Long before the pandemic began, inequality, racism and imperialism had threaded their way through all aspects of society, ensuring that the worst effects of COVID-19 would be disproportionately experienced. Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and Hurricane Maria in 2017 showed that when disasters strike in places with majority Black and Latinx populations, the federal government offers little to no relief.

Early on, Black, Indigenous and Latinx communities showed much higher rates of COVID-19 cases and deaths, outpacing whiter and wealthier communities. Centuries of racism and colonialism have left these communities with fewer, less well-equipped hospitals, more uninsured people and more people with underlying health conditions.

Black and Brown workers make up a disproportionate share of low-wage essential workers, exposed to the virus much more than those in white-collar work.

This inequality played out when former President Donald Trump, after becoming infected with the virus due to his own carelessness, and distorting and other basic public health measures, received drugs that only a president could acquire. Pumped full of experimental drugs and cared for by the government’s top doctors, Trump’s recovery only strengthened the right wing’s assertion that the pandemic was a fluke.

With the mass vaccination rollout, inequality has again been laid bare. Along the lines of Trump’s “America First,” President Biden has worked to ensure that the U.S. takes priority over other countries.

Earlier this year he invoked the Harbor Bank to allow massive toxic algae under the Defense Action Plan. DPAS requires manufacturers of certain items to meet DPAS orders first before fulfilling international orders. So although domestic manufacturers are technically allowed to sell to the international market, in effect they have been blocked from doing so.

There are nearly 30 affected items, including reagents, nanofilters, tubing materials and other equipment needed for mass vaccine production (tinyurl.com/u3zamvy).

Joe Biden claims to listen to scientists and even said “science is back” April 22. Yet modeling by Northeastern University found that if the first 2 billion vaccine doses were distributed evenly worldwide, based on population size, global deaths could be reduced by 54%.

In addition to the 74 countries board vaccines, deaths would fall by only 33%.

At a press briefing April 9, World Health Organization Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said that 87% of vaccines have gone to the wealthiest countries, while low-income countries received just 0.2%. Canada alone secured enough doses to vaccinate its entire population five times.

The and of March, none of the 180 million doses produced by the U.S. and Britain were exported. By April 15 they had exported 4 million doses out of 257 million produced, while China exported 166 million doses and kept 196 million for domestic use, according to Axios.

Dire need for vaccines in Global South
India desperately needs critical supplies to produce and administer vaccines. On April 15, it took just more than 100 days for the country to produce and administer 200 million doses. It is rare that they make the news. Case in point, they have been blocked from doing so.

For decades, capitalist industries have produced wastewater by-products without serious consequences to the health of those around them. Their contents are usually toxic, often radioactive and generally hazardous to anyone working in their vicinity. They are stored and to the larger environment should they be released— accidentally or otherwise.

While there are many thousands of such hazardous sites across the U.S., it is rare that they make the news. Case in point is the reservoir on the former 676-acre phosphate mining site near Tampa, Fla. A state of emergency was declared April 3 when the walls of the storage lagoon weakened.

The current owner HRK Holdings bought the plant in 2006. The company, which has since filed for bankruptcy, sought aid from Florida’s Manatee County commissioners to secure permits to inject wastewater into deep wells. Opposition from local environmentalists and farmers, concerned that phosphate injection into the aquifer would cause underground water to rise, forced officials to drop the plan.

Since the latest near-catastrophe, state and local officials have been fighting to let the plant operate, despite financial instability. The company’s parent, Mariner Energy, has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy.

While the company went bankrupt and the plant shut down, waste from over three decades of phosphate mining remained on the site—an environmental ticking time bomb. Spills from the site in 2009 and 2010 produced another large algae bloom in Tampa Bay.

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India, along with the U.S., Australia and Japan, is part of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, or “Quad,” a diplomatic and military arrangement to counter China. Yet India’s imperialist “allies” are not offering aid and solidarity—just more of the same thing they’ve done throughout their own history. But according to the April 24 South China Morning Post, China has offered to help India with its current outbreak, despite two countries still facing a border dispute that turned deadly just last year.

Vaccine inequality is perhaps most stark in occupied Palestine. Israel has fully vaccinated almost 60% of its population, giving it the world’s highest vaccination rate, yet the Palestinian Health Authority reported that less than 3% of Palestinians are immunized due to vaccine shortages. Even before the pandemic, around 1 in 5 Palestinians were unvaccinated. Baby formula were unavailable in Gaza. (tinyurl.com/e769a4cx)

With a population of 2 million, the West Bank produced 12,000 doses cases every day; in the West Bank, over 20% of COVID-19 tests come back positive. (tinyurl.com/27v80n81) In the U.S., many states have had lockdowns with a positivity rate of just 5%.

While the process of turning phosphate into fertilizer started millennia ago, the chemistry of the phosphate rock is a main mineralization component of many artificial fertilizers. The phosphate rock is mined for use in fertilizer production, and the final product contains toxic chemicals like phosphorus and arsenic.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has linked injection into deep wells with increased earthquake activity since 2014. In addition, injection has increased risks of earthquake activity, like that experienced in several states where injection has been used to dispose of wastewater from hydraulic fracturing.

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The limitations of Biden’s climate change plan

By Jason Cohen

While on the campaign trail, Joe Biden reiterated that under his presidency, the U.S. would once again become a leader within the global community. During his few months as president, he announced the U.S. will rejoin the Paris Accord and also rejoined the World Health Organization — two acts lauded by the media but, in reality, symbolic in nature. Many Biden supporters and liberal media commentators hope that his policy changes mean the U.S. will effectively fight to ameliorate the effects of ongoing apocalyptic climate shifts and that rejoining the WHO will enable the U.S. to work more effectively to combat the worldwide spread of COVID-19. Reality has so far shown otherwise.

Biden announced his plan to curb CO2 emissions on Earth Day and set a new target that, if followed, would “achieve a 50% to 52% reduction from 2005 levels in economy-wide net greenhouse-gas pollution in 2030.” At face value, this seems like a bold plan.

Extreme weather and sea level rises have already devastated communities around the world and sparked an increase in the growing number of climate refugees mostly being displaced from their homelands in the Global South. With this in mind, how effective will this plan be in combating rapidly worsening climate change?

The plan relies on carbon-capture technologies and energy sources including nuclear power to enhance the power grid. It should be remembered that the U.S. is already heavily invested in this technology primarily because it wanted to develop nuclear energy to create a sustainable energy source in the face of economic blockades, sanctions, and threats imposed primarily by Washington.

The plan emphasizes the need to update building codes and limit excess energy output from apartment buildings, yet study after study has shown that the true threat to the climate comes not from the family unit but from major transnational corporations.

Biden’s plan calls for building “sustainable public housing,” which may help working-class families. Meanwhile, across the country, public housing projects have been privatized by real estate barons. If affordable housing units are built, they must remain subsidized by the government and be built in communities that need them the most.

Limits of carbon capture

Biden’s plan to deal with transnational corporations that profit from extractive and industrial processes states: “The United States can address carbon pollution from industrial processes by supporting carbon capture as well as new sources of clean and efficient energy, nuclear energy or waste — to power industrial facilities. The government can use its procurement power to support early markets for these very low- and zero-carbon industrial goods.”

Relying on carbon-capturing technology ignores the fact that transnational corporations profit from destroying the environment by extracting oil and natural gas. How are carbon-capture technologies going to deal with this intrinsic contradiction?

In reality, it will allow corporations to call themselves “green” by utilizing “green technology.” This may sound good on paper, but these changes are occurring in a world in which the United States is the hegemonic power of the world capitalist-imperialist order.

As demand for green technology grows in the U.S. and worldwide, there will be a greater need for elements such as lithium. We have already seen the U.S. and the European Union support a coup against the Evo Morales government in Bolivia to steal lithium to build electric vehicles, because Indigenous-led Bolivia nationalized its lithium resources and contracted with China to develop them sustainably. Will the U.S. lead “green” imperialist military interventions to ensure cheap access to elements needed for new technologies? The last facet of the plan has to do with ensuring environmental justice for marginalized communities. This call for environmental justice is interconnected with Biden’s infrastructure plan that focuses on water supply and transportation.

Imperialist countries create global vaccine apartheid

Continued from page 8

U.S. Congress has not sanctioned Israeli officials, and itsiazation of -warm under the Biden administration.

Imperialists block easier access; China shows way forward

In October 2020, India and South Africa jointly petitioned the World Trade Organization to waive patent protections on vaccines, which would allow anyone to produce the existing COVID-19 vaccines — not just Pfizer, Johnson and Johnson, Moderna and AstraZeneca. Despite the support of over 100 countries including China, the WTO decided not to waive patent protection from the U.S., EU, Australia and Japan. Brazil, led by far-right President Jair Bolsonaro, also opposed waiving vaccine patents, stating that the global market needs warm under the Biden administration.

In contrast to the deliberate system of vaccine apartheid of imperialist countries, China, along with Russia and Cuba, has a different approach. China, which contained the spread of the virus within its borders a year ago without the use of vaccines, is now in a prime position to produce and export billions of vaccine doses globally. By the end of this year, it will be producing its own mRNA vaccine. China has developed its own lipid nanoparticles for the vaccine, a critical component that is only made by a handful of Western companies such as Merck. By April 5, the foreign ministry reported China had donated its vaccines to 80 countries and sold them to another 40. Almost half the vaccines it produced have been sent to countries across Latin America and the Caribbean.

China is eager to work with other countries to build modern infrastructure from health care to transportation to energy — without the attached strings and internal interference that accompanies relationships with imperialist countries.

Capitalism on a Ventilator

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

“What one learns from Capitalism on a Ventilator is that the economic and human cost of the pandemic was far from inevitable. An entire section of the book is devoted to China’s solidarity with the rest of the world in the fight against COVID-19. After four months of political and medical struggle, China successfully contained the pandemic and immediately diverted masks, testing kits, medical personnel, ventilators and other forms of assistance to countries across Latin America and Africa. The U.S. received generous donations of medical equipment from China during the first wave of the pandemic. China was also the first country to declare that its COVID-19 vaccine would be a public good.”

– Danny Haiphong in a review for Black Agenda Report

Paperback: tinyurl.com/CapVent-print
E-book: tinyurl.com/CapVent-ebook
In a racist ruling-class backlash to the demonstrations of millions last summer who forced a righteous verdict against killer cop Derek Chauvin, Republicans — at this point almost exclusively white men — have introduced 49 bills in 34 states that suppress the right to protest, supposedly protected by the First Amendment. Rightist Florida Governor Ron DeSantis signed one into law. They are disguised as “anti-riot” bills. No one should be fooled by these lying words. Like the “war on terror” and the “war on drugs,” they are an attack on the oppressed. Their goal is to eliminate the masses’ right to organize, mobilize and demonstrate a strength that has grown throughout a pandemic year.

Police have pointed out that in the capitalist United States, laws defending private property — that is, the property of the capitalists and banks — are already on the books. We know that anyone protesting killer cops, anyone facing mourning foreclosure or eviction, anyone who is hungry, has been sorely pressed — should a bank get its window broken or a police precinct trashed.

Previously, after the heroic struggle to stop the Dakota Access Pipeline, Standing Rock, some 18 states passed laws criminalizing protests disrupting building and operation of oil and gas pipelines. And these new “anti-riot” proposals allow police to arrest and charge anyone present exercising their right to protest should one person throw even a plastic bottle.

Legislatures in Oklahoma and Iowa have passed bills allowing racists — with or without badges — to use their vehicles as weapons to injure and kill demonstrators. This happened in Charlotte, Va., August 2017, when one of the fascist scum promoting the Slaveocracy drove his car into a crowd of fascist demonstrators killing Heather Heyer. We say never again!

Like all repressive and pro-cop legislation, these new proposals target Black and Brown communities. They can be easily used, however, against all workers and poor people who mobilize against capitalist bosses and cops.

This means the rulings class is preparing for battles that are sure to come against evictions, hunger and seizures of homes, against mass movements to unionize workers or to win higher minimum wages or protests to demand action to stop the climate crisis or a new imperialist war.

The entire working class has an interest in stopping these laws — whichever capitalist party proposes them — or fails to stop them from being passed.

Smash the anti-riot laws!

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Stay in the streets — Abolish the police!

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Chad's president's death upsets imperialists

By G. Dunkel

Idris Déby, president of Chad, died April 20 in the Tiemni mountains. He was in hand, as Chadian troops fought an armed convoy of his regime’s opponents from the Front for Change and Concord in Chad, which had entered the country from Libya.

Déby’s loss was a major blow to French and U.S. imperialism, whose strategists regarded Chad as the “last bastion” to their containment.” The Pentagon is unable to destroy them outright. They aim instead to limit the impact of the resistance and prevent growth. One of AFRICOM’s bases is in N’Djamena, Chad’s capital. The major U.S. and French fighting forces in Africa have grown so strong that U.S. strategists judge that the Pentagon is unable to destroy them outright. They aim instead to limit the impact of the resistance and prevent growth.

Stay in the streets — Abolish the police!

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U.S. policy in Africa

U.S. imperialism carries out its military policy in Africa through AFRICOM, the U.S. Africa Command, which oversees 23 U.S. bases on the continent. AFRICOM has emerged from the “degradation” of the Pentagon to “containment.” The Inspector General’s “Inappropriate and Anti-Defensive” — released the report on this change in early 2020.

Is stability in Chad

While one of the poorest countries in the world, Chad is one of the poorest countries in the UN’s Human Development Index, it is a major producer of oil, pumping 130,000 barrels a day. This output puts it in the top 10 African producers. Other than oil, it produces cattle, livestock and gum arabic. Yet, the level of human dignity is one of the highest in the world. A quarter of a third of the world’s people go to bed hungry every night, and starving due to malnutrition is a major problem for its people. Lake Chad, the world’s largest freshwater lake in the world, has lost 90% of its area and volume over the last 45 years, due to global warming and development. It is still a major resource, and hundreds of thousands of refugees from the instability and chaos in the Sahel live in its basin.

French and U.S. imperialism have spent billions of euros and dollars in order to maintain their military domination of Africa. China has instead emphasized investing in infrastructure — including education and public services — in return for being allowed access to Africa’s mineral riches. China’s policy aims to provide wheelbarrows, while the United States and France supply gun barrels.
### Imperialism in the name of ‘water preservation’

**By Jason Cohen**

**City College of New York student**

Vice President Kamala Harris, while appearing with California Governor Gavin Newsom, made a stunning remark that illuminated the perilous future ahead due to climate change. Discussing the need for policies to bolster the crumbling infrastructure that is needed to provide adequate water supply nationwide, Harvard said: “For years, there were wars fought over oil; in a short time, there will be wars fought over water.”

The following is a wake-up call for eco-socialists and the U.S. left over all. The U.S. government, alongside the European Union, may justify future imperialist endeavors in the name of providing water supplies and other natural resources.

The same excuse was used two years ago, when many who call themselves environmentalists supported the right-wing coup in Bolivia against the reelection of Evo Morales. At the time, fires were burning huge swathes of the Amazon forest, affecting many countries—most notably Brazil and Bolivia. But the Western media seemed more focused on demonizing the pro-Indigenous Morales government, which had gained popularity due to his work alongside grassroots movements, most famously preventing privatization of the city of Cochabamba’s water supply.

The right-wing president of Brazil, Jair Bolsonaro, infamously pushed further destruction of the Amazon to make profits for ranching, logging and mining companies. Deforestation accelerates the dispossessing of the many Indigenous nations living throughout the Amazon. This is genocide.

Today we hear the rattling of sabers by the U.S. and the European Union against China, due to the success of its Belt and Road Initiative. Through Chinese investments, many countries in Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia have embarked upon major infrastructure projects, many dealing with the utilization of their natural resources. The BRI also opens a path to a multipolar world that threatens the hegemony of the United States and the European Union. This beneficial development is seen as dangerous by the imperialists.

Central Asia and Africa are now the two main regions where the U.S. can set its imperialist maneuvers in order to collapse the Soviet bloc and the privatization of many state-owned industries, tensions have been growing over the ownership of water resources. As seen in the Ukraine, the U.S. imperialists could sponsor groups to lead “color revolutions” and install leaders more favorable to transnational capital. Progressives must watch out for future aggression against governments in Central Asia who refuse to bow down to the threats made by Washington.

### U.S. military’s real mission in Africa

Sub-Saharan Africa has plentiful freshwater supplies, which often coincide with the distribution of U.S. bases throughout the continent. AFRICOM, the U.S. Africa Command, was originally established under the auspices of “fighting terrorism,” but in reality, it has been used to ensure that U.S.-allied neocolonial governments remain in power. This dangerous military apparatus serves to ensure that Africa’s natural resources will continue to be exploited by transnational corporations.

What happens to African nations which pursue paths of economic development to benefit their people instead of transnational corporations? NATO’s intervention in Libya against Muammar Qaddafi in 2011 led to the dissolution of a nation. And it threatened a project nicknamed the “Great Man-Made River,” built to supply fresh water to Libyans. In NATO’s usual brutal imperialist fashion, along with bombing civilians, it targeted the pipelines that supplied fresh water to all Libyans.

Now Libya is in a continuous crisis over its water supply as different rebel groups attack distribution infrastructure. Meanwhile, corporations in Italy and elsewhere make tremendous profits from the privatization of Libya’s energy sector. (realinstitutoelcano.org)

Tensions have recently flared between the U.S. and Ethiopia over construction projects for the Nile River. The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, supported by the Ethiopian government, claims that “the hydroelectric power produced by the GERD will be vital to meet the energy needs of its 110 million people.” (Al Jazeera, April 1) This grand project has met resistance from Egypt and Sudan.

### Indigenous-led protest in Paris, 2014 against Brazil’s construction of megadams in the Amazon rainforest.

Washington, which wants to be a broker in the development of projects on the Nile, could exert leverage on the governments of Sudan and Egypt in order to sabotage cooperation among the three nations. The U.S. just brokered major agreements which would take Sudan off its terrorism sponsor list, as long as Sudan opens diplomatic relations with Israel. (tunyul.com/bhuygmk) Thus, a lot is at stake in the newfound relationship being built between the Sudanese government and the U.S. History shows Washington will maneuver predictably—in order to hamper Pan-African unity and the sovereignty of nations in the Global South.

In the face of apocalyptic climate change, the hegemonies of world capitalism are planning more wars and imperialist maneuvers in order to profit from the increasing scarcity of freshwater sources. This extremely dangerous and brutal path could ultimately lead to the extinction of humanity if the extractivist and profit-hungry capitalists are not stopped.

Eco-socialists must unite against U.S. and European imperialism. It is our duty to struggle and halt any effort of the U.S. and the European Union to pursue regime change in the Global South. Our struggle must be with the masses of the Global South, not with the bourgeoisie of the empire.

The only way out of this apocalyptic environmental crisis is to dismantle the capitalist and imperialist order that caused it in the first place. There is no way to reform our way out. Capitalists have always treated the natural world as they treat humans: as commodities. The only true way forward is to smash capitalism, smash imperialism and rebuff a society based upon eco-socialist principles. Then we can begin to plan a people-centered response to ameliorate the effects of climate change and ultimately usher in an era of human rebirth and environmental redemption.

### Puerto Rico: ¡Fuerza LUMA!

**Por Lorraine Liriano**

El llamado a la acción sobre Puerto Rico se manifestó el 13 de abril en Union Square de la ciudad de Nueva York para decir ¡Fuerza LUMA! Exigimos la cancelación de este contrato de energía que, proporcione vivienda, salud, trabajo y todo lo que requiere la humanidad. Y miren al resto del mundo. Necesitamos ese modelo”.

Ramsey Clark murió el pasado 9 de abril de 2021 en su casa en la ciudad de Nueva York, a la edad de 93 años. Él fue un idiota, de amor por el poético, de respeto a la vida y pasión por la justicia. Como dijo Curtis Doebbler, quien fue colega y amigo de Ramsey por 30 años: “Habrá algunos que recordarán a Ramsey Clark como un hombre inocundo. Hay muchos más que lo recordarán como amigo de la justicia, los oprimidos, los explotados y el imperio de la ley. Quizás a él mismo le gustaría ser recordado simplesmente como alguien que usó la ley para ayudar a otros”.

William Camacaro es analista del Consejo de Asuntos Helmigros de Washington DC (COHA). Este artículo fue editado por Patricio Zamorano, Director COHA.
Ramsey Clark: el disidente imprescindible en el centro del poder de EE.UU.

Por William Camacaro
Desde Nueva York

"Habría algunos que recordarán a Ramsey Clark como un hombre margina-

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Curtis Doebbler, abogado en derecho internacional

Ramsey Clark fue durante un día de asedio en el con-

glomerado del Golfo Pérsico bajo el Gobierno de George H. Bush, tuvo la oportunidad de conocer a Nueva York, un lugar extraordina-

rio que no se podía comparar con el resto de la ciudad. Ramsey Clark era un hombre que se dedicaba a la lucha por los derechos humanos, una figura que a menudo iba de unos lados a otros, pero siempre con la misma causa. En su vida, Ramsey Clark se dedicó a luchar por la justicia y la igualdad, siempre utilizando la ley como herramienta para defender los derechos de los más vulnerables.

En su escrito, William Camacaro, un activista y periodista conocido por su compromiso con la justicia y la igualdad, recuerda a Ramsey Clark como un hombre extraordinario que se dedicó a la lucha por los derechos humanos. Camacaro recuerda que Ramsey Clark era un hombre que se dedicaba a la lucha por la justicia y la igualdad, siempre utilizando la ley como herramienta para defender los derechos de los más vulnerables.

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