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Unlike centi-billionaire Gates

China shares vaccine technology with world

By Sara Flounders

In a stunning announcement Aug. 5, China’s President Xi Jinping informed the First International Forum on COVID-19 Vaccine Cooperation of the country’s donation of 2 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines to developing and poor countries within the next four months. This urgent step builds solidarity and makes vaccines accessible in the developing world.

Most significant was China’s message that, through cooperation and sharing of resources, skills and technology, many

countries could develop overseas production of China-developed vaccines. Increasing local production capacity will save time, lives and costs of international transportation.

The decision to share technology and help countries produce their own vaccines puts China on a collision course with the World Health Organization. WHO is dominated and significantly funded by one of the world’s wealthiest individuals through the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Gates is committed to protecting patents, even in lifesaving

essential medicines. Developing global production capacity is deeply threatening to U.S. corporations.

Teaching to fish

CGTN, a Chinese media source, explained the significance of the Forum transferring technology to developing countries and helping these countries establish domestic production lines. It is the difference between giving a supply of fish and teaching countries to fish. This is the best protection now and in the future, as other possible pandemics develop.

Meeting the challenge is much more complicated than delivering palettes of vaccines on the tarmac. Complex logistical problems of storage, transport and need for skilled medical technicians and administrative personnel must be quickly solved. Raw materials and industrial technology are essential. Beginning concrete planning was the purpose of the Aug. 5 international forum, hosted by China’s State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi, and attended via videoconference by 30 countries.

The U.S. corporate media, only capable of viewing the world from a capitalist

perspective of competition, immediately took aim at China’s announcement of 2 billion vaccine doses and questioned its motives. They did not, however, question the capacity of China to accomplish these goals.

U.S. news reports claimed that China’s announcement on global cooperation at the international forum was upstaging President Joe Biden’s announcement of U.S. donations. Biden had announced Aug. 3 that the U.S. had delivered 110 million COVID-19 vaccine doses around the world.

That is a mere 5% of the 2 billion doses from China. Nevertheless, the Aug. 3 White House press release bragged that the donation “cements the United States as the global leader in COVID-19 vaccine donations,” and that this amount is “more than the donations of all other countries combined and reflects the generosity of the American spirit.”

Biden’s announcement was uncritically reported by U.S. corporate media, without bothering to fact-check this wildly exaggerated declaration on the significance of 110 million doses to 65 countries. China

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SHUT DOWN ATTICA. SHUT THEM ALL DOWN!

50 YEARS LATER... THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES!

SEPTEMBER 9

5PM AT THE MONUMENT IN MLK PARK – BUFFALO

50 years after the Attica Uprising of 1971, prisoners across the United States are still facing the same cruel, dehumanizing conditions. We are gathering this September 9th to commemorate the revolutionaries who put their lives on the line to fight the Prison Industrial Complex, and to raise our voices about the ongoing struggle in every prison and ICE detention center.

ATTICA IS ALL OF US! ABOLISH PRISONS NOW!

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Incarceration & disability

Prison profiteers

Transgender in prison:
'The price you pay'

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50 YEARS OF RESISTANCE

BLACK AUGUST & ATTICA

hosted by the prisoners solidarity committee of workers world party

featuring
jorge che nieves
surviving rebel of the Attica uprising
and
mumia abu-jamal

SEPTEMBER 2 @ 8PM ET 5PM PT

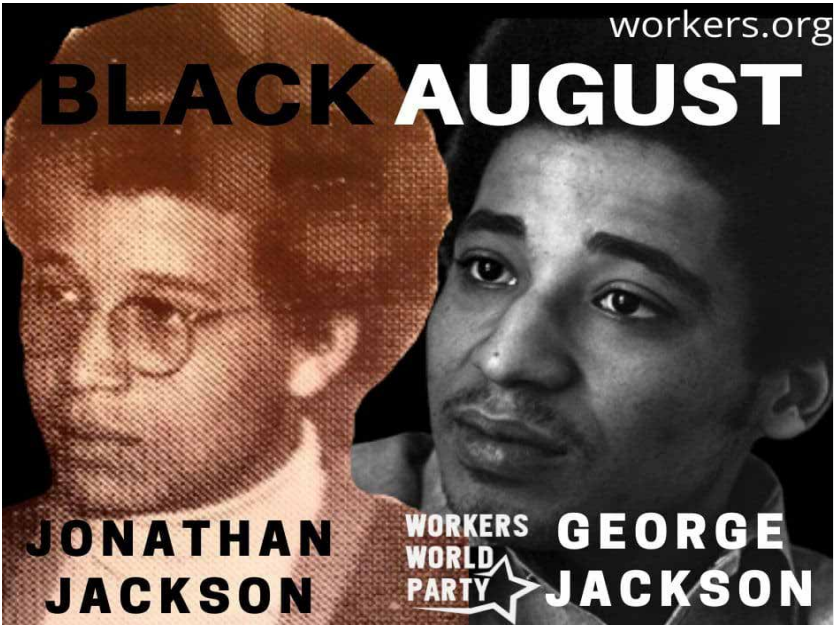
Upcoming live broadcast/webinar. Details to follow at workers.org

Honor Black August! Support Workers World!

Did you know the month of August holds special meaning for the Black Liberation struggle? This August marks the 402nd anniversary of the arrival of the first ship of Africans brought in chains to the shores of the British colony of Virginia in 1619. That means 244 years of slavery — with its countless injustices, brutality and institutionalized crimes against humanity. These atrocities continue, in this white-supremacist, capitalist society, to this day.

But August is also a time to commemorate the Black Resistance Struggle from the Haitian Revolution of 1791-1804 to the Nat Turner Rebellion in 1831, from the Underground Railroad of 1800-1865 to the Fugitive Slave Law Convention in 1850, from the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters in 1925 to the March on Washington in 1963, the Watts Uprising in 1965 and the National Prison Strike from Aug. 21-Sept. 9 in 2018.

A number of freedom fighters were born in August,



WW honors Black August martyrs, Jonathan and George Jackson.



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

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

including Marcus Garvey, Fred Hampton and Russell Maroon Shoatz, while a number died: W.E.B du Bois, Huey P. Newton and Jonathan Jackson. Jackson was killed Aug. 7, 1970, while attempting to free the imprisoned Soledad Brothers, who included his brother, Black Panther leader George Jackson. One year and two weeks later, on Aug. 21, 1971, George was executed by prison guards. His assassination was an important spark leading to the heroic Attica Prison Rebellion in September 1971.

Your donations matter!

Workers World depends on your help. The WW Supporter Program was founded 44 years ago to help build this revolutionary socialist paper. Since the early 1990s, the fund has supported the website workers.org., where articles from the newspaper are posted daily and where the PDF file of the weekly paper is posted. The paper is now being printed and mailed out once a month.

For a donation of \$75 to \$100 to \$300 a year, members receive a year's subscription, letters about timely issues and one, two or three free subscriptions, respectively, to give to friends. Supporters can receive a copy of the book, "What road to socialism?" (Notify us.) Or read it for free at workers.org/books.

Write checks, either monthly or once a year, to Workers World and mail them with your name and address to 147 W. 24th St., 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10011. Or sign up to donate online at workers.org.

We're grateful for your help in building Workers World!

Join us in the fight for socialism!

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

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

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

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

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

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Vol. 63, No. 32 • August 12, 2021

Closing date: August 11, 2021

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Copyright © 2021 Workers World. Verbatim copying and distribution of articles is permitted in any medium without royalty provided this notice is preserved.

Workers World (ISSN-1070-4205) is published monthly by WW Publishers, 147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl., New York, NY 10011. Phone: 212.627.2994.

Subscriptions: One year: \$36; institutions: \$50.

Letters to the editor may be condensed and edited.

Articles can be freely reprinted, with credit to Workers World, 147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl., New York, NY 10011.

Back issues and individual articles are available on microfilm and/or photocopy from NA Publishing, Inc, P.O. Box 998, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-0998.

A searchable archive is available on the Web at www.workers.org.

A headline digest is available via e-mail subscription. Subscription information is at workers.org.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, N.Y.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to

Workers World, 147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl.

New York, N.Y. 10011.



Alabama coal miners rally

“No contract, No coal!”

By Dianne Mathiowetz
Brookwood, Ala.

Aug. 4 — While traveling on the winding, two-lane road leading into Brookwood, one gets a sense of what a community battle the Warrior Met Coal strike represents. Signs declaring “We Are One” or “No contract, No coal” and displaying the United Mine Workers of America logo are planted in yards of homes or attached to poles and fences.

Closer to the ballpark where the rally is about to be held, there is the Warrior Met Coal office, surrounded by barricades and a line of buses used to take the scabs back and forth to work. The picket line-crossers’ cars are parked in the building’s lot, partially obscured by a tarp enclosure.

This writer, along with union and community members—many of them, like myself, United Auto Workers (UAW) retirees—came to Brookwood from Atlanta on two buses and a 15-passenger van.

The park’s green grass was occupied by hundreds upon hundreds of miners and their families, seated in lawn chairs, some under tents and pavilions, others right in front of the stage. Nearly 40 buses brought these miners from Pennsylvania, Ohio, New York, Indiana, Illinois, West Virginia, Virginia and Kentucky. Some traveled as long as 13 hours to show their solidarity with the Warrior Met Coal strikers, now in their fifth month of 24-hour-a-day picketing.

Unity with the strikers, who have faced the often dangerous conditions of the mining industry and won hard-fought victories against the bosses, is palpable. Most of the striking workers and auxiliary members are wearing a camouflage UMWA T-shirt, signifying the “war” miners have fought for over 100 years and are fighting now—for the rights to decent pay, health benefits, safety on the job and their union.



Rally for Warrior Met Coal strikers, Brookwood, Ala., August 3.

WW PHOTOS: DIANNE MATHIOWETZ

For three hours, union delegations came to the microphone, one after another, to offer their support, many bringing financial contributions of hundreds and thousands of dollars to help sustain the strikers’ families. International presidents of unions, leaders of state labor councils and representatives of union locals all called for active solidarity, denounced the aggressive and greedy tactics of Warrior Met and praised the determination of the Brookwood strikers.

Here is just a short list illustrating the impressive display of union solidarity that could be seen: American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), American Federation of Teachers (AFT), Communications Workers of America (CWA), International Longshoremen’s Association (ILA) and UAW. Flight attendants, steelworkers, transportation workers and so many more voiced anger at the treatment of the workers and confidence in their victory. “One day longer, one day stronger” was chanted repeatedly.

Showing the degree of local community support, a card on bright green paper was brought to the stage. It was turned in at the “How to Support the Strike” table

and was signed by several dozen workers at the local Walmart who had donated money to the strikers.

Labor reporter Kim Kelly tweeted on Aug. 5: “At yesterday’s UMWA rally, one of the most pointed messages came from @ILAUnion, who hinted at the idea of blocking Warrior Met coal exports. If you control the docks, you control everything—and dockworkers’ unions have a long history of flexing their power for righteous causes.” International Longshoremen’s Association Local 1410 is the dockworkers’ union at the Alabama port of Mobile, where Warrior Met coal is shipped out to global customers.

BlackRock blasted

A particular target of many of the speakers was Warrior Met’s largest stockholder and the world’s largest asset manager, BlackRock. Warrior Met was formed by Wall Street financiers who grabbed up the longtime Brookwood mining company, Jim Walters Energy, when it faced bankruptcy in 2015. With the assistance of a bankruptcy judge, Warrior Met forced a concessionary contract on the unionized Mine Workers, under threat of losing their jobs as well as their union.

At the time, Warrior Met promised that with the return to profitability, the concessions would be rescinded in the 2021 contract and the miners’ wages and benefits restored. Well, as speakers repeatedly said, “they lied.”

Before the strike, Warrior Met CEO Walt Scheller stated the company was doing well: “Despite the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on [steel-producing] met coal demand and pricing worldwide, we were pleased to be cash-flow positive again in the fourth quarter and nearly break-even for the year.” (businesswire.com)

After an insulting contract was turned down overwhelmingly by the Mine Workers just two weeks into the strike, Warrior Met has stonewalled negotiations, brought in scabs and used state and local police to threaten and arrest strikers and their supporters. The strike has had an impact; the company admits that it had \$7 million in strike-related losses, and coal production fell by over 40% in the second quarter of 2021. (tinyurl.com/3v6xx2m8)

The Brookwood mines produce a highly sought after type of coal used in steel production. It is exported around the world and is financing Warrior Met executives’ multimillion-dollar salaries and substantial profits to its stockholders.

The Alabama shafts are some of the deepest in the U.S., a mile down where only the light from the miner’s helmet breaks the darkness. They work 10- to 12-hour days, six and seven days a week. Miners complain bitterly about the company’s refusal to give them federal holidays off, like Memorial Day or the 4th of July, much less vacation time to spend with their families.

There are multiple ways to offer material support to help the Brookwood Mine Workers win this strike. See the UMWA website (umwa.org) and Facebook page for more information.

Big developments in Amazon union struggle

By Martha Grevatt

The boss of Amazon is probably one of the most unpopular capitalists of all time. As Jeff Bezos prepared to zoom off into outer space, some 200,000 people signed an online petition insisting he not return. People hate Bezos for the way workers are mistreated at Amazon.

But public opinion is never enough for labor to win justice from capital. It takes a massive struggle to beat a massive corporation.

Struggles have their ups and downs, and April 9—the day the National Labor Relations Board announced the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union lost a representation election in Bessemer, Ala., by a wide margin—was a major down. But after listening to testimony from dozens of courageous union supporters about Amazon’s vicious union-busting tactics, the NLRB’s hearing officer recommended Aug. 2 that the election results be thrown out and a new election ordered.

The testimony, documenting numerous illegal unfair labor practices, was damning. The company asked the U.S. Postal Service to erect a mailbox right outside the warehouse, where there could be surveillance of workers mailing their ballots. There was unfair discipline of pro-union workers. Misinformation propaganda was widespread.

The hearing officer’s recommendation

will go to the Labor Board’s Region 10 Director in Atlanta, who has the power to force another election. It is not known when that ruling will be issued or what will happen if Amazon appeals an order for a new election.

With large unions such as the Teamsters, Service Employees Union and United Food and Commercial Workers all preparing to launch organizing drives among Amazon workers, now the NLRB is feeling pressure from the working class to rule in its favor.

Bessemer union busting the rule, not the exception

Meanwhile, an NLRB investigation found there was illegal interference with union organizing at Amazon’s JFK8 warehouse in Staten Island, N.Y. A young union organizer for the Amazon Labor Union—which is not affiliated with any major union—was prohibited from distributing pro-union leaflets in a break area. A security guard confiscated Connor Spence’s leaflets.

Yet Staten Island workers are not intimidated. On Aug. 11 the Amazon Labor Union will hold a press conference outside the warehouse to announce that 1,000 workers have signed cards saying they want the union to represent them. This is a big step forward in a short time to winning the 5,000 JFK8 workers to the need for unionization.

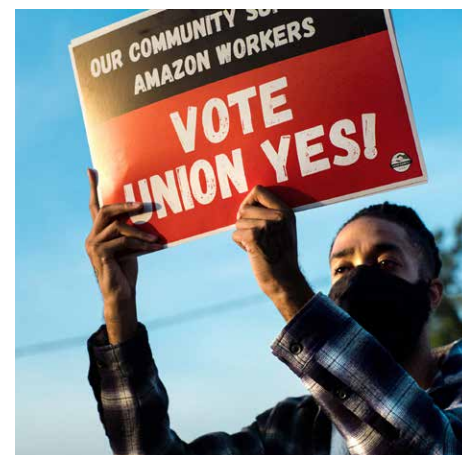
Chris Smalls, who was fired last year for organizing a walkout at JFK8 over

lack of COVID protections, is a leader in that union campaign.

These combined developments underscore what some Bessemer organizers were saying right after the setback April 9: This is just the beginning of a protracted struggle to organize Amazon.

Now is the time for RWDSU to reinforce and broaden its base of support in Bessemer and push back against Amazon’s lies and intimidation. All the unions that want to represent Amazon workers should seize the moment and take the offensive.

A range of tactics beyond an electoral strategy must be considered. At their 2021 Convention, the Teamsters raised the option of bypassing the NLRB election process and striking for union recognition. This is a more militant tactic sometimes employed when a majority of potential members have signed union representation authorization cards. The union demands recognition; if the company



A union supporter during the organizing campaign at Amazon in Bessemer, Ala.

refuses recognition, workers strike.

When dealing with Amazon, a monstrous and highly exploitative corporation with a hard line against unions, the strike weapon needs to be in every union activist’s tool kit. □



Every struggle is a woman’s struggle

This compilation of articles on the breadth and depth of women’s oppression and struggle which appeared in Workers World from late 2016 through Women’s History Month 2018.

Available as a FREE download at workers.org/books

Incarcerated and disabled

Keeping the struggle alive

‘behind the wall’

The following was excerpted from a July 29 webinar held by the Disability Justice and Rights Caucus of Workers World Party that emphasized the inter-connections between the struggles of disabled people and incarcerated people. Caucus members participating were comrades Betsey Piette, Brian Shea and mYia X. The entire webinar can be viewed on YouTube at Workers World Party (youtube.com/user/wwpvideo)

Betsey: Capitalism creates a hostile environment for people with disabilities. Everyday language reinforces the idea that disabilities are negative, emphasizing the lack of health care, while at the same time labeling the cost to make daily life accessible to all as “prohibitive.” Disabled people are stereotyped as a drain on the economy, on other people and on life in general.

But when multibillionaires like Jeff Bezos spend untold sums of money to go to space for 10 minutes, that’s not seen as a “drain” on anybody. Except we know it means less food and health care, fewer homes and jobs for the rest of us, especially for the Amazon workers whose labor he profits from.

People with disabilities know that every day they survive under capitalism is an amazing day, a day full of challenges of all kinds, but another day of being with friends, families, comrades and co-workers.

Given this hostility, the effort by disabled people that got the Americans with Disabilities Act passed, 31 years ago, was an incredible victory. From a 54-day San Francisco sit-in to the famous Capitol Crawl in Washington, D.C., people with disabilities came out in numbers to demonstrate physically how difficult daily life is for disabled people.

Despite the historic concession from the ruling class in passing the ADA, enforcement remains elusive. Implementation

of accessibility requirements is underwhelming in so many areas.

Brian: The world can be accommodated. Meaning every part of the built society — which is every part of everything that humans have made — can be made to accommodate every part of the society. That’s what Marx meant when he wrote about the communist stage of society, which at this time is still aspirational but is what we in Workers World Party as a Marxist organization are reaching for.

And how we are reaching for it is by organizing — organizing amongst the most oppressed, marginalized workers, poor people, incarcerated people. In this capitalist society, everything — including health care and housing, everything needed to provide for yourself and your family — is commodified and limited. Even if, as with many disabled people, they haven’t figured out how to exploit our labor yet, they com-



PHOTO: RICH PEDRONCELLI

At the California Department of Corrections prison in Vacaville, April 9, 1998.

modify us in other ways.

But as people with disabilities, we would be in the full range of human beings, people’s bodies and people’s minds and consciousness. We workers and oppressed people need to own the society; we need to own the wealth that our labor creates. We need to own the resources; we need to be able to share the resources.

The struggle won the Americans with Disabilities Act; and some of the ADA

is fine and good, but it’s ineffectual in a lot of ways precisely because it’s implemented within a capitalist economy and a capitalist society.

What’s more important was the struggle to win the ADA, which was waged relentlessly by people with disabilities.

Legislation: a snapshot in the class struggle

Brian: You can look at legislation as a snapshot in the class struggle. When the legislation is reactionary, it means we’re in a time when the struggle is getting pushed back. If the legislation is progressive, it was won by our class, by women, people of color. Even the recognition that people with disabilities have bourgeois rights was won by a titanic struggle that is still going on.

The heat of that struggle was in 1988 and in 1990, when there was the Greyhound bus drivers strike, when the Greyhound company was trying to bust its union, the Amalgamated Transit Union. The situation was driving the rank and file to put pressure on the union to take action, and they took a strike vote. Greyhound management was busting the union, and they were simultaneously signing on to the reactionary effort to stop the ADA, to stop them having to make their buses wheelchair accessible.

So some of us in the movement, in the party, were invited to speak on the ground to the local unions, to get them on record to endorse the proposals of the Americans with Disabilities Act. And to tell Greyhound management to back off. That was what was going on just before they took a strike vote and the bus drivers went out.

Then we blocked a lot of buses [driven by strikebreakers]. There were a lot of folks in wheelchairs blocking a lot of ground forces of the company.

mYia: When we talk about the elite

and their access to health care, one of the prime examples is members of the U.S. Congress and how they get their health care for the rest of their lives. And we, the people, fund that. Yet every day at that Capitol, they debate and cut services that people need in order to live a better life.

In the United States, it is estimated that there are approximately 2.4 million incarcerated people, and out of that 2.4 million there are approximately 750,000 waged incarcerated workers. We see the inter-connections, when we look and see who are the incarcerated — and oftentimes it is the oppressed: people of color, people with disabilities — behind the wall.

Disabled and incarcerated

mYia: This is a system that spends almost \$80 billion a year to prop up mass incarceration and all its apparatus. What happens when we are disabled and behind the wall is that there is huge neglect; there is misdiagnosis; there is punishment, when you require treatment.

What happens behind the wall, and what happens out here? U.S. capitalism fails to provide care for the incarcerated and the disabled. According to statistics from the Department of Justice, people who are living with cognitive, intellectual and developmental disabilities are very prevalent behind the wall.

And immediately after arrest, you know what the system does — it literally strips people of their rights.

Through the ADA and a fight that continues to this day, we have seen a little glimpse of progression and access. But there’s nothing good to report about how the United States imperial system treats disabled or incarcerated people. We’re seeing how that is true right now with what we’ve endured in the pandemic of COVID-19, which has exposed all the disparities in health care.

We have to keep the struggle alive, to make sure that we don’t forget that we are one class, and that’s the working class and the class of our family members who are behind the wall, who literally don’t get any level of care. □



The price you pay as a trans woman in prison

By Miley Fletcher

Miley Fletcher is a trans woman incarcerated at S.C.I. Forest in Pennsylvania, where 214 transgender prisoners are incarcerated according to their sex assigned at birth.

When a lot of us who are incarcerated receive a fictional or false misconduct accusation, you have to look at the circumstances surrounding you. I am a trans woman. I worked in the culinary department (kitchen), where, being who I am, a lot of kitchen staff did not want me there.

However, some inmates and a few kitchen staff did not mind. I am the only trans woman in this institution to work outside my block or unit. I was praised by some kitchen staff for how well I worked. Then one day, after months had passed, several kitchen staff patted me down, but not around my breast areas.

A few months later, a male kitchen staff member and his girlfriend, a staff

member who I’d stayed away from because I could sense her hatred, transphobia and bigotry, grabbed my breasts, patted down my sides and then one leg at a time in a rough manner, throwing hands up my legs like a torpedo.

I told her that I had asked for a transgender pat down. She replied: “You’re in a male institution. F**k your tranny pat down. I pat you down the way I want to.” I told the kitchen supervisor about what happened, and later that day the woman apologized. But the guy was pissed about my complaint about his girlfriend.

About two weeks later, mid-July, when I was working in the kitchen, count was called to go to the dining hall. We stood in line, took count and went back to our stations. A few hours later I was handcuffed and taken to medical. When I asked what was going on, they asked if I was assaulted or attacked, to which I replied no.

I was then placed in the Restricted Housing Unit (the hole) on a misconduct charge for “engaging in a sexual act” reported by the male kitchen staff

member, who claimed that another inmate was feeling my buttocks and that I was grabbing his genitals. I requested a video review, which was not given. Both I and the other inmate pleaded not guilty at the hearing.

Five other kitchen staff were present, but none filed a complaint. This was retaliation against me, because I had complained about his girlfriend’s mistreatment of me. But I still received 30 days in the RHU, and I was removed from the Special Needs Unit (SNU), where I’ve been housed for two years and felt safe.

This is the price I pay for who I am. These are the circumstances which are placed on incarcerated people everywhere. A lot of people do not want transgender people to succeed or progress,

But do not give up; do not let those around you pull you down. What doesn’t kill you only makes you stronger. Be true to yourself. □



ART BY MICAH BAZANT

WW interviews Attica survivor, Jorge ‘Che’ Nieves – Part 1

‘The Black Panthers, Five Percenters educated me’

The following edited interview with Jorge “Che” Nieves, a survivor of the 1971 Attica Prison Rebellion and a founding member of the Young Lords Party in Greenhaven and Attica prisons, was conducted July 20 by Monica Moorehead, a Workers World managing editor. More segments of the interview will appear in future WW issues.

Workers World: I am Monica Moorehead, a member of the Prisoners Solidarity Committee of Workers World Party. I’m honored to interview Jorge “Che” Nieves, who was at Attica in 1971 during the heroic uprising.

Jorge Che Nieves: My gratitude to the Workers World Party for inviting me to talk about Attica, because Attica will always live. The legacy will continue, because as long as there are people struggling, Attica means “Fight back!”

WW: You said that you had been in prison for 14 years. Or since the time you were 14. Can you tell us about that a little bit?

‘I had to fight for self-respect’

JCN: It was self-defense. I was a gang member. Somebody attempted to hurt me, and I hurt them back in the process. Unfortunately, they died. And so I was charged with a crime. I took a plea, because initially it was not manslaughter but murder in the first degree. I think they did that only because I was Puerto Rican or because I was a young man who was always in the streets.

I grew up in the streets. My mother was Jamaican, and her family came from Jamaica in the early 1900s to Puerto



Jorge ‘Che’ Nieves

Rico. They came to the island, and they established themselves. They learned the language, the culture, the music. They became integrated into Puerto Rican history, culture and the island.

In 1919 my mother decided to come to New York and start our lives. She came with her four brothers, who later became merchant marines, and she began working. But by the time I was born, she was unemployed. I never met my father. I grew up with my mother, and she always taught me a few things: first, to respect people, but also to demand respect. She also told me that there were going to be a lot of people who were going to say you’re not Black. She said, “Honey, you are Black. Never forget that, And you are one of my boys. I love them so much.” But she passed away.

When she passed away, my stepfather took my three-year-old sister who was born from that relationship with my mom to Puerto Rico. I remained in New York with some of my relatives who didn’t care at all about me. I don’t know why, but they didn’t care. And so I took to the

streets. And that’s how I grew up; I grew up in the streets.

History taught me a lot. Unfortunately, I became a gang member in the process. This whole situation happened, and I wound up in jail. They wanted to give me the electric chair, and I was 14. That was history. It went way back to 50 years ago, when somewhere in the South, someone who was 14 years old was executed in the chair.

WW: That was George Stinney in Georgia in 1944.

JCN: Yes. This is nothing new. So they wanted to give me the electric chair. Negotiations went on between the attorney, and they were able to give me a plea of 7 to 15 years in prison. That was my plea. I went straight to do my time. I had to fight on many occasions for self-respect. I was able to get respect from a lot of ignorant people.

‘Autobiography of Malcolm X’

JCN: After that, I started playing handball in a prison and became really good at it. So the Five Percenters [Nation of Islam members] used to watch me play. One of the brothers came over when I went to my recreation period. He said, “There is a book I want you to know.” I looked at it and asked what it was about. He said it was the “Autobiography of Malcolm X.” I didn’t know about Malcolm X at the time.

I said, “I’ll read it. What is it about?” He said, “It’s about you.” I asked, “About me?” He said, “Yeah, just read it, and then we’ll talk about it.” So I went back to my cell, and I started reading. Malcolm X opened up my eyes. I started looking at the situation, life and prisons in a much

different context.

So I started hanging out and socializing with the Five Percenters. We grew in numbers. The administration took many of us out, and I went to Auburn [New York] Prison. It was June in the early 1970s. There were riots going on, not riots but rebellions, uprisings going on for human rights and freedom and protesting bad conditions in the jails. That has always existed.

Here I am in Auburn; and I met some of these brothers from the city jails, and they began educating me on my history. I had no concept of myself, of my oppression and of racism.

The Black Panthers educated me on that. They started to open up my eyes. And so I became a Panther. It became apparent that the information they were giving me was something that was beyond description. I just never knew that there was such a philosophy. I just grew up in the streets, and we don’t teach that in the streets. We teach about survival. The Panthers really woke me up, and I became a follower. We started organizing in Auburn Prison, and so some of us were transferred to Attica.

WW: When did you learn about George Jackson?

JCN: I learned about George Jackson when I was in Attica. The Panthers did talk about George Jackson. I also learned that my island, Puerto Rico, was a colony of the United States and became a colony as a result of the invasion that occurred in 1898, and the people were considered as second-class citizens.

Part 2: Organizing and surviving in Attica.

Protesting prison profiteers

By Philadelphia Workers World bureau

Gathered outside the world headquarters of the Aramark corporation in Philadelphia Aug. 7, around 20 demonstrators denounced that company and several others that profit heavily from the prison-industrial complex.

The action was called to show how all aspects of an incarcerated worker’s existence are privatized under the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections. Aramark is a \$15 billion Fortune 500 global corporation that currently holds the contract to provide food to prisons in the PA DOC system.

Opening the rally, Food Not Bombs Solidarity activist Cindy Miller thanked co-sponsoring organizations Philadelphia Jericho, Workers World Party, the Human Rights Coalition, Abolitionist Law Center and Mobilization4Mumia.

Miller read a statement from Jerome Coffey, an incarcerated activist at S.C.I. Pine Grove and a member of two of the sponsoring groups.

Coffey wrote: “In August 2018, PA DOC Secretary John Wetzel signed a no-bid [\$15.8 million] contract with [Florida-based] Smart Communications to process prisoners’ personal mail [claiming contraband drugs were introduced through direct U.S. Postal Service mail]. ... The last three years with Smart Communications have been a complete failure for delivering prisoners’ personal mail. The company is also storing prisoners’ personal information in a database.

“We need to stop Secretary Wetzel, who is retiring in October, from negotiating a new contract with Smart Communications. It’s all about profit.”

Miller quoted Dr. Amos Wilson, who said, “If you want to understand any problem in America, you need to focus on who profits from that problem, not who suffers from that problem.” (tinyurl.com/utdbphu6) She went on to describe how the “food” provided under Aramark’s contract with the PA DOC, budgeted at 99 cents per meal, consists mostly of high-calorie bread, pasta, cake and sweetened drinks, with few fresh fruits or vegetables.

Follow the money

Miller called out other corporations that profit from the prisons: “Global Link Technologies gets 50% of its business providing 15 minute calls to incarcerated people, records the calls and stores the data.” Corizon, now known as Wellpath, profits from medical video conference visits, previously charging \$5 a call to incarcerated people earning 19 cents an hour. The company temporarily suspended this cost, but still charges \$5 for doses of “medication” — usually a few Tylenol capsules. Other predatory companies mentioned include Securus Technologies, Polycom, JPay and Keefe Group.

Miller noted that the PA DOC gets a kickback from commissions with most of these corporations.

Representing the Human Rights Coalition, the Abolitionist Law Center



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Protesters against prison profiteers gather outside Aramark’s corporate office, Philadelphia, Aug. 7.

and Philadelphia Jericho, Saudia Durrant described numerous letters her groups have received from incarcerated people in Pennsylvania prisons, describing horrific and torturous conditions: “If they want phone privileges, they are forced to fight with each other to entertain the guards. People on suicide watch are pepper sprayed. The prison officials and guards are modern-day plantation owners and overseers. They take people and disappear them into prison warehouses, where they can exploit them.”

Solidarity

Durrant said: “Prisoners in a long-term solitary unit went on a hunger strike recently to denounce these conditions. How horrific is it that people who are being ‘punished’ are subjugated to cruelties and torture by state authorities,

who by law are supposed to be ‘rehabilitating’ them. We need to tear down every last brick in these prison walls until every prisoner is free.”

Betsey Piette, with Workers World Party, described how CoreCivic and Geo Group profit from selling prison beds to state and federal agencies, including the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Asantewaa Nkrumah-Ture, with Black Alliance for Peace, denounced Aramark, with almost \$13 billion in 2020 revenue, for underpaying its workers.

YahNé Ndgo, also with BAP, reminded rally participants that Aug. 7 marked the anniversary of the assassination of 17-year-old Jonathan Jackson for trying to liberate his brother George Jackson and other freedom fighters in 1970. “Black August is a time to remember our martyrs and revolutionaries.” □

Stop playing political games with COVID

Florida’s Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis’ role with regard to COVID-19 deserves a closer look, as it affects the overall approach to the pandemic. DeSantis is poised to run for reelection in 2022. Reports in the media say he’s aiming for the presidency in 2024.

His statements in the first week of August indicate that DeSantis is playing politics with the pandemic in the hope that his posture of empty bravura promotes his climb. It’s another example of reactionary ideology trumping science and reason.

DeSantis’ difficulty is that the pandemic’s fourth surge is setting daily records in Florida, the state with the most children hospitalized from the disease. His boastful show of “courage” threatens Florida’s children, especially those younger than 12 years old, for whom vaccines have not yet been approved.

DeSantis is far from the only capitalist politician holding an executive position who has made decisions threatening the population who elected them. All capitalist politicians are caught in a contradiction; they serve the bankers and the billionaire ruling class, who demand the economy be up and running as before and damn the casualties. Plus they’re all happy to accept

government subsidies for big capital and deny them to the workers.

This contradiction upends any approach that gives priority to saving lives and serving the population and leads to ignoring public health measures.

Whether Democrat or Republican, nearly all governors have pushed to reopen business, as soon as there was any slowing of the pandemic spread. And so far, each rush to reopen business has been followed by another surge of COVID-19, the latest one driven by the more transmissible Delta variant of the virus.

DeSantis, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott and some others, perhaps inspired by the excesses of the last president, have mishandled the pandemic with such anti-worker and racist prejudice that they make the Democrats look reasonable, if only by comparison.

DeSantis currently leads a crusade that identifies the choice to go unmasked as a fundamental human right. Not only does DeSantis oppose requiring masks, he pushed through a law in Florida making it illegal for local school districts or local governments to demand people wear masks indoors.

Perhaps DeSantis will next revoke the traffic signs controlling speed in school

zones as interfering with the “god-given right” to drive automobiles at 120 mph.

When President Joe Biden called out DeSantis for his anti-scientific policies, the Florida governor retaliated in racist Trumpite fashion. He attacked migrants from south of the border. He attacked Biden for opening the border and promoting the pandemic.

Fact: The U.S. pandemic surge is far from those borders and has nothing to do with migrants from Mexico. Besides, Biden’s policies are as restrictive and anti-migrant as Trump’s were, just with less racist rhetoric.

Since Florida leads the country in the hospitalizations of children for COVID-19, DeSantis’ political posturing has pushed him into the national spotlight. Teachers, teachers’ unions, organizations of parents of children with disabilities have all spoken publicly and said that mandating masks for all pupils can make the schools a safer place for all. Public health officials agree.

Phony heroics in defense of phony individual freedom do nothing to counter the virus. The blatant rants of DeSantis and the other Trump clones must be cleared away to expose the failure of the capitalist system — and all its representatives — in

dealing with the larger crises humanity faces. These crises can only be resolved by establishing a system driven not by profit, but by satisfying human needs. □



About 50 people gathered outside the Duval County School Board building Aug. 3 in Jacksonville, Fla., to support having mandatory masking for teachers and students.

WW COMMENTARY

Rhode Island acts to reduce opioid harm

By Princess Harmony

The movement to create safe injection and consumption sites for drug addicts is marching ever forward! Despite setbacks like one in Philadelphia, where NIMBYs temporarily defeated the nonprofit Safehouse, harm reduction organizations and individuals are struggling for this most necessary item in the toolbox against overdoses.

Gov. Dan McKee of Rhode Island signed into law a bill that would create safe injection and consumption sites. Although the program will run only two years during its pilot phase, it is a good first step in turning the country around when it comes to harm reduction and drug use. Part of the program is an advisory committee working with the state’s Department of Health to make sites most effective in preventing overdoses and needle sharing.

R.I. State Rep. John Edwards — sponsor of the bill — is one of the few politicians to acknowledge how important safe injection and consumption sites are. He said, “Not only do harm reduction centers severely mitigate the chance of overdose, they are a gateway to treatment and rehabilitation of people with substance abuse disorder.” This is true: addicts will eventually become tired of the drug life and will need a place to turn to get clean. Because of the inadequacy of 12-Step based

rehabilitation centers, a higher standard of opioid addiction treatment is necessary.

What is this higher standard? Methadone (Methadose, Diskets) and buprenorphine (Suboxone, Subutex, Sublocade, Zubsolv). The safe injection and consumption sites planned for Rhode Island and Philadelphia would make accessing these key medications easier. Ordinary methadone and buprenorphine clinics can be intimidating to the addict seeking medication-assisted treatment.

Additionally, some clinics require both a hot urinalysis (in other words they need to test “dirty”) and a history of medical identification of addiction to get patients onto Medication-Assisted Treatment. In a safe injection and consumption site, all that would be needed would be to be an active user of drugs, without a requirement for a history of medical non-MAT interventions. They would be inducted on methadone or buprenorphine on the spot.

How can the opioid epidemic be halted?

To stop the drug-overdose epidemic, we need to acknowledge two things: one, that addiction is a mental illness; and two, use of drugs should not be a crime. The “war on drugs,” which fueled mass incarceration, was a complete and total failure since its beginning. Safe injection and consumption sites are a step in the direction of declaring an end to the so-called “war.”

What exactly does a safe injection and consumption site do? Firstly and most prominently, it can prevent most overdoses and save the user from almost certain fentanyl-related death. When addicts go to these sites, they come with their own drugs, and those drugs can be tested before the addict uses them. Whether that keeps them from using it is their own choice, but they would still be savable if something goes wrong and they overdose.

Next, a safe injection and consumption site can lessen the transmission of disease and infection. The use of needles often comes with the need to share them, because there aren’t enough clean needles available. This causes the spread of HIV, hepatitis B and C. Cleaning needles becomes difficult as well; if they are not cleaned properly, the person ends up with abscesses and other forms of infection. With a safe injection and consumption site, needles would be freely distributed, and the rate of infections and disease would drop in drug-user communities.



Rhode Island is the leader when it comes to the creation and establishment of safe injection and consumption sites. Other states and cities are attempting to follow suit, including Philadelphia, which has yet to establish safe injection sites. The model Rhode Island follows could be used in other states that wish to combat their opioid problem.

People will use safe sites

As for whether the safe injection and consumption sites will be used by people who are addicted, a study showed that 77% of addicts would use a safe injection and consumption site if given the opportunity. This flies in the face of some critics who say that addicts wouldn’t even show up to these facilities.

Thousands of people in the United States and Canada have died due to overdoses caused by fentanyl and fentanyl analogues (acetylfentanyl, butyrfentanyl, ohmefentanyl, carfentanil). There is a need for more medical research into the success and importance of safe injection sites to silence critics and show them that this is the only way out of the opioid and overdose epidemics.

Fortunately a study has been done: “Evaluation of an Unsanctioned Safe Consumption Site in the United States,” published by the New England Journal of Medicine in August 2020. This study found that out of around 10,000 injections of heroin and other drugs in an unsanctioned and anonymous safe consumption site, there were only 33 nonfatal opioid overdoses at the facility, all reversed with Narcan (naloxone).

Finally, a study on the evidence of whether or not a safe consumption site would work, centered in part on Philadelphia, showed there was and would be a drop in financial costs of addiction, including hospitalizations due to infection of wounds and infection with HIV and hepatitis B and C. (tinyurl.com/phn8ydyk)

The capitalists are responsible for the opioid and overdose epidemics, and the money Big Pharma has been forced to pay for its role — a punishment that does not go far enough — could be used to fund these safe consumption and injection sites.

Look towards the Rhode Island example and beyond. Look towards the potential for the epidemics to end, if we become more people-oriented and not capitalist-oriented or police/prison-oriented. □

Capitalism on a Ventilator

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

Soon available in Chinese translation!

Published in 2020, penned by dozens of alternative writers from the U.S. and around the world — will be translated, distributed in China, and available for sale by late September.

Available in English at tinyurl.com/CapVent-print and tinyurl.com/CapVent-ebook

China shares vaccines, technology with world

Continued from page 1

has already distributed 750 million doses to 104 countries and has publicized this widely. The 2 billion doses announced Aug. 5 is in addition to the huge amount already delivered. (Global Times, Aug. 5)

The White House statement, misleading and fraudulent, reflects the U.S. ruling class's determined refusal to acknowledge China's accomplishments in battling COVID within China and in helping the world deal with the pandemic.

It is seldom mentioned in the U.S. media that the U.S. still has the largest number of COVID deaths of any country — 631,000 at this writing. A comparison to China's 4,638 deaths is not included. Now the same numbers game is being played around sharing vaccines with the world.

Protecting patents at all costs

The corporate media distorts and hides facts and figures, because enormous pharmaceutical profits are at stake.

Washington is feeling the global pressure to share resources and vaccines and suspend "intellectual property" (IP) rights on COVID vaccine patents. But the pharmaceutical companies remain determined to protect private patents, a fabulous source of guaranteed profits far into the future. They are threatened by even a temporary interruption of IP protections.

A capitalist government exists to protect the "rights" of corporations to maximum profits. This is considered more sacred than the human right to live. Pfizer and Moderna raised the cost of their vaccines — Pfizer by more than 25%.

With the U.S. government buying tens of millions of doses, there are vast profits

to be made. Pfizer spent \$3 billion on vaccine research but stands to make \$26 billion in vaccine sales in 2021. Pfizer's research investment was more than covered by \$12 billion in government subsidies. (Reuters, May 4)

Big Pharma has used its enormous power to block countries in the Global South from developing alternative vaccines. In October 2020, as the full impact of the global pandemic was being felt, India and South Africa put forth a radical proposal to the World Trade Organization: Everyone should be allowed to manufacture the vaccine without penalty.

The proposal for a patent waiver was rejected at the WTO by Bill Gates and all the wealthier capitalist countries including the United States, the European Union, Britain and Switzerland, countries that are home to major pharmaceutical companies. All these countries enjoyed early access to the vaccine.

Vaccine apartheid

Pharmaceutical companies in the U.S. and in other imperialist countries have made billions in profits during the AIDS scourge, which takes an especially heavy toll in Africa. The Gates and other foundations established by multibillionaires are used to defend monopoly medicine while masquerading as saviors.

Because Gates' own fortune is built on IP, specifically copyrights and patents associated with Microsoft products, Gates has used a portion of his vast corporate wealth to ensure protection of all patents.

The Gates Foundation is the second largest donor, after the U.S., to the World Health Organization. Gates' views have an outsized influence. Of course, the



Vaccines donated by China arrive at Abeid Amani Karume International Airport in Tanzania.

PHOTO: XINHUA

U.S., Britain, Germany and the other largest funders are all committed to keeping medical technology in private corporate hands.

They prioritize capitalist ownership first and health care in the formerly colonized world a distant second. Less than 2% of Africa's 1.3 billion people are fully vaccinated.

This is the dual role of all corporate foundations. Foundations such as Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation keep prices high by purchasing medications and donating them, while protecting patents or IP, along with their reputation. With a great deal of publicity and hype, the Gates Foundation claims to combat polio, malaria and AIDS in Africa, but their handouts do not develop essential health infrastructure.

Increasingly health advocates are focusing on the role of Bill Gates and Big Pharma in entrenching deadly vaccine apartheid. "Gates pushed through a plan that would permit companies to hold

exclusive rights to lifesaving medicines. ... Given the enormous influence Gates has in the global public health world, his vision ultimately won out in the COVAX program — which enshrines monopoly patent rights and relies on the charitable whims of rich countries and pharmaceutical giants to provide vaccines to most of the world." COVAX deceptively describes its goal as "working for global equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines." (Wired, May 19)

The early hopes of a cooperative collaboration and information sharing in a united effort against the virus crashed against the capitalist rocks of IP rights and proprietary science.

China's determination to share vaccine technology is a fundamental challenge to corporate domination of technology.

The differences between two global choices are sharpening. Cooperation and sharing scientific information and technology are the only way forward. □

Is the U.S. economy really improving?

By G. Dunkel

"Figures don't lie, but liars do figure" is a quip attributed to Mark Twain. Case in point: the figures in the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics jobs report for July. These state an unemployment rate of 5.4% plus 943,000 new jobs — and yet do not accurately reflect what is happening to U.S. workers. These are the figures that the mass media is relying on to argue that the U.S. economy has rebounded from COVID-19.

Only a few stories in the torrent of upbeat news reports mention the fact that — even with an average of more than 830,000 new job hires over the past few months — the U.S. economy still has a shocking 5.8 million fewer jobs than in February 2020.

Most of the data the BLS collected for its July report came from the first half of July, before the surge in COVID-19 cases from the Delta variant.

Different angles in statistics

The mass media is widely reporting the optimistic 5.4% unemployment rate. But the BLS report has a broader figure for unemployment that includes discouraged workers and workers who can't find full-time jobs, even though they want those jobs. Currently this rate is 9.2%.

Besides the information the BLS gathers on the whole economy, it produces reports on particular components of the economy — on women, the Black, Latinx, Asian American, Indigenous communities, as well as youths. This BLS information reflects that economic stress falls with discriminatory impact on workers who belong to historically oppressed groups.



People wait in a food bank line, New York City, May 15, 2020.

When the pandemic hit, the labor participation rate in the Black and Latinx communities declined by 5.2% and 5.9% points ... "due at least in part to higher rates of COVID infections among these groups, school closings leaving students at home ... as well as these groups being less able to telecommute." (New York Federal Reserve, May) Many studies have confirmed the far more serious illness and mortality rates of COVID-19 in communities of color.

The new Delta variant surge will intensify pressure keeping Black and Latinx women outside the labor force. In general women are the wage earners who stay home to care for children displaced from in-school attendance. Since February 2020, 2.3 million women have left the labor force, cutting female participation in jobs to a 1988 level. (cnbc.org, Feb. 8)

Unemployment rates for Asian men and

for Asian, Black, Latinx and white women have not recovered to their pre-pandemic levels, though unemployment rates for Black, Latinx and white men are close to their pre-pandemic levels. (BLS, Current Population Survey)

But there are substantial differences between these rates in different communities, due to racism. For example, the unemployment rate for Black men is 8.4%, while for white men it is 4.9%.

Reality underneath statistics

Businesses and investors in the U.S. economy need accurate, timely and detailed information from the BLS about how and what workers are producing in various sectors. That information is the bedrock on which capitalists build plans on how to exploit the workers who create their profits.

And what piece of BLS statistics get trumpeted in Big Business media is part of spinning the news toward capitalist profit.

Unions and organizations representing women, as well as the Black, Latinx and Asian communities, LGBTQ+ people and people with disabilities want and need detailed statistics, in order to understand what is happening in the economy that will affect them.

What is not revealed in the BLS figures selected by the corporate media is the dreadful impact of a year of COVID job loss and discriminatory damage to workers and communities of oppressed people.

For instance, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture: "Very low and low food sufficiency during the COVID-19 pandemic affected certain segments of the U.S. population more than others. From January 6 to March 29, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander households (27.3%) and American Indian and Alaskan Native households (20.3%) had the highest rates of food insufficiency. Nearly 20% of Black and Hispanic households experienced food insufficiency during this period." Families with children were particularly affected by COVID-19 induced hunger.

Food insufficiency means people don't have enough food. In other words, they are going hungry.

To publish a glowing report that the BLS says the unemployment rate is 5.4% is statistically true. But to say nothing more is to ignore the truth that for Black people overall, the unemployment rate is 8.2%.

The statistics are not a lie — but they are not the whole truth either. To build a different future, the whole truth must be known and told. □



'Vidas negras importan' en San Juan, Puerto Rico, 2 de junio de 2020.

Mineros de Alabama en huelga llevan la lucha a Wall Street

Por Minnie Bruce Pratt

Quinientos mineros del carbón de Alabama en huelga—a los que se unieron cientos de otros miembros del sindicato y simpatizantes—se manifestaron el 28 de julio en Nueva York en Wall Street. Protestaron frente a la firma de inversiones BlackRock, el mayor accionista de la empresa de los mineros, Warrior Met Coal.

Los mineros de Brookwood (Alabama) están en huelga desde el 1 de abril para exigir mejores condiciones de trabajo, salarios y prestaciones. Estos miembros de los sindicatos 2245, 2368 y 2397 de United Mine Workers (UMWA) dicen que los grandes fondos de cobertura que proporcionan apoyo financiero a Warrior Met están bloqueando el progreso hacia un contrato justo.

La empresa de carbón es “el principal productor y exportador estadounidense de carbón metalúrgico de alta calidad para la industria siderúrgica mundial”. (Business Wire, 24 de febrero)

Los mineros de Alabama llevaron su lucha a la ciudad de Nueva York y fueron recibidos con una tumultuosa solidaridad por otros trabajadores y líderes sindicales en la concentración, incluyendo algunos presentes de Dakota del Sur, Pensilvania, Ohio y Virginia Occidental, así como del área metropolitana de Nueva York.

Los manifestantes acabaron ocupando toda la calle frente a BlackRock.

Kooper Caraway, presidente de la Federación de Trabajadores de Dakota del Sur, subrayó: “Les diré esto: los trabajadores jóvenes... Los de Dakota del Sur, los californianos, los trabajadores de todo el mundo van a estar con ustedes y los van a apoyar; y no hay nada que BlackRock o cualquier otro gilipollas



Mineros del carbón de Alabama y simpatizantes se manifiestan en Wall Street, el 28 de julio, y dicen: ‘Somos uno’.

rico pueda hacer al respecto”.

Caraway, que a los 27 años fue la persona más joven elegida presidente del Consejo Central del Trabajo de Estados Unidos, empezó a organizarse de adolescente en Texas contra las redadas del Servicio de Inmigración y Control de Aduanas (ICE).

Stuart Appelbaum, presidente del Sindicato de Minoristas, Mayoristas y Grandes Almacenes, gritó desde el escenario: “¡De Alabama a Nueva York, de los trabajadores minoristas a los mineros, esta es la lucha de todos!” A principios de 2021, el RWDSU llevó a cabo una feroz lucha para organizar a casi 6.000 trabajadores predominantemente negros en un almacén de Amazon en Bessemer, Alabama.

La actriz y activista ganadora de un Oscar, Susan Sarandon, golpeando su puño en el aire desde el podio de la manifestación, afirmó el lema de la huelga de los mineros: “Un día más, un día más fuerte”; y de inmediato se le unieron cientos de voces repitiendo la promesa.

Numerosos sindicatos locales estuvieron presentes en la concentración, y sus miembros agitaron pancartas y tuitearon promesas de apoyo. El Local 338 de RWDSU envió un mensaje: “El Local 338 apoya incondicionalmente a los trabajadores mineros del

UMWA en su lucha por un contrato justo. Sin contrato, no hay carbón”.

Los sindicatos que apoyaron la huelga fueron CWA Administrative Employees Local 1180, International Union of Electrical, Radio, and Machine Workers Local 463, United Auto Workers Local 2110, International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, PSC-CUNY Professional Staff Congress y otros.

Mineros y sus familias luchan ‘sin importar el costo’

El minero de Alabama Braxton W tuiteó desde la manifestación: “Somos uno es el mensaje que enviamos a BlackRock hoy en Nueva York. Como #sindicatos, como trabajadores, nos pondremos de pie y lucharemos por nosotros mismos y por todos nuestros hermanos y hermanas sin importar la distancia, sin importar la industria, sin importar el costo. Estaremos aquí #undíamás #1u #Solidaridad”.

En un vídeo de la manifestación, Left Voice preguntó al minero de Alabama Josh Krim por qué luchaba. Él respondió: “Para poder pasar tiempo con nuestras familias. Desde que me contrataron, he tenido, literalmente, dos días libres. Eso es todo.”

“Estamos en un periodo de prueba de 800 horas. Siendo nuevo, como yo, tienes suerte de tener un día libre. Literalmente no vi a mi hijo durante dos meses. Y eso... es duro. Mientras estamos aquí tratando de conseguir un contrato, esos directores de operaciones y directores generales, esas grandes personas que dirigen Warrior Met, están en la playa, descansando. No les importa. Estamos luchando por sobrevivir para poder volver al trabajo. Estamos aquí hasta que se acabe. No nos vamos a rendir”. (Twitter, 28 de julio)

Los mineros de Alabama trabajan en

uno de los lugares de trabajo más peligrosos del mundo. Las minas de Brookwood se encuentran a una profundidad de entre 1.400 y 2.100 pies bajo tierra, y son unas de las minas de carbón de pozo vertical más profundas de Norteamérica. En 2001, las explosiones de gas metano y un derrumbe en una de las minas mataron a 13 trabajadores, entre ellos un antiguo compañero de instituto de este redactor.

Krim dijo sobre las condiciones de trabajo: “Polvo, mucho polvo. La mayoría de los días estamos allí un mínimo de 12 horas. No hay más luz que la del casco. A oscuras prácticamente todo el día”.

Los mineros de Alabama, que siguen en el piquete las 24 horas del día, los siete días de la semana, vieron el mitin en una pantalla gigante mientras defendían la línea. Una de las mujeres del auxiliar local del UMWA sobrevivió recientemente a un ataque con un vehículo en la línea. La auxiliar ha trabajado horas extras para mantener a sus familias alimentadas, vestidas y cuidadas.

El 31 de julio la reportera laboral Kim Kelly tuiteó que estaba “recibiendo informes de otro ataque vehicular en la línea de piquete de #WarriorMetStrike ... apenas unos días después de que cientos de huelguistas viajaran a NYC para protestar frente al inversor de Warrior Met, BlackRock”.

Se ha convocado una concentración de apoyo el 4 de agosto en Alabama. Está previsto que acudan líderes sindicales y miembros de todo el país.

Para apoyar materialmente la huelga, consulte en Twitter @UMWAStrikePantry. Para apoyar las concentraciones y protestas, dirígete a @LaborReporters, Valley Labor Report, el único programa de radio sindical de Alabama. □

Evo Morales advierte sobre maniobras de la derecha

Por Cuba Debate

El exmandatario Evo Morales, presidente del partido Movimiento al Socialismo (MAS), denunció este miércoles (4 de agosto) que la derecha política boliviana promueve maniobras desestabilizadoras disfrazadas de activismo político.

“Nuevamente, los golpistas anuncian movilizaciones antidemocráticas contra el Gobierno legítimo, legal y constitucional de nuestro hermano presidente @LuchoXBolivia. Defienden a paramilitares y los llaman 'activistas'. El pueblo no caerá en provocaciones y defenderá la democracia”, escribió Morales en Twitter.

El líder indígena hizo referencia a las manifestaciones que para los próximos días promueven partidos y otras organizaciones de derecha como medida de presión para obligar al Gobierno a reabrir la investigación judicial conocida como caso Fraude electoral.

El referido proceso investigó el supuesto fraude en el conteo de votos de las elecciones generales de 2019, en las que Morales fue reelegido en primera vuelta.

La misión de observadores de la Organización de Estados Americanos (OEA) emitió un informe a partir de datos

incompletos sobre irregularidades en el sistema automatizado de conteo, y sugirió que el objetivo era beneficiar a Morales. El documento sirvió de excusa a la derecha para echar a andar el golpe de Estado que concluyó con la dimisión de Morales y la instauración de un Gobierno inconstitucional presidido por Jeanine Áñez.

Estudios posteriores concluyeron que, si bien hubo irregularidades en el proceso, estas no tenían el peso suficiente como para cambiar la tendencia del voto, que en todo momento favoreció a Morales, desechando así la narrativa del fraude y validando la tesis del golpe de Estado.

El más reciente análisis sobre el tema, encargado de manera oficial por el Gobierno de Bolivia a un grupo de investigaciones de la Universidad de Salamanca, España, llegó a igual conclusión, por lo que la Fiscalía dio por cerrado el caso.

Sin embargo, la derecha y organizaciones afines insisten en continuar con la investigación y para lograrlo anunciaron manifestaciones y bloqueos de carreteras en diferentes puntos del país para los próximos días.

Este miércoles, al intervenir en el congreso del MAS, donde se definen los rumbos del partido gobernante para



Luis Arce, ahora presidente de Bolivia, y ex-presidente Evo Morales en 2020 en Argentina.

los próximos años, Morales insistió en la unidad de los militantes frente a las amenazas que provienen de la derecha y de Estados Unidos, que “no quiere que siga el MAS”.

“Nuestro congreso es, fundamentalmente, sobre cómo fortalecer esa lucha. La mejor forma de fortalecer esa lucha es justamente uniéndonos”, subrayó.

El congreso se desarrolla en Lauca Ñ, población en la región tropical del departamento de Cochabamba, principal bastión político de la organización en la que también milita Arce.

Morales destacó la importancia que tiene para Bolivia el MAS, al que consideró

el mayor partido político en la historia del país, que retornó al Gobierno después de once meses de una Administración interina salida de un golpe de Estado.

“Hermanos y hermanas, unidos somos invencibles. Nuevamente la derecha está amenazando, ahora estamos preparados mejor y aquí vamos a prepararnos mejor, con disciplina para seguir derrotando a la derecha”, dijo.

“La estrategia de la derecha en 2019 era matar al Movimiento al Socialismo (...) pero estamos vivos”, afirmó por su parte el presidente boliviano, Luis Arce, quien antecedió a Morales ante un auditorio de cientos de representantes de organizaciones sociales de obreros, campesinos e indígenas. □



El capitalismo en un callejón sin salida

Fred Goldstein utiliza las leyes de la acumulación capitalista de Marx, y la tasa decreciente de ganancia, para demostrar por qué el capitalismo global ha llegado finalmente a un punto de inflexión.

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