AFGHANISTAN COLLAPSE

Behind corporate media debate
By John Catalinotto

Aug. 16 — Insurgent Afghan forces, under Taliban leadership, have taken the capital city Kabul. After its initial withdrawal, Washington has sent back 4,000 troops to defend its diplomatic retreat. U.S. imperialism’s 43-year war against the poorest of Central Asian countries and the Pentagon’s 20-year occupation is crashing to an end, as the puppet regime collapses like a house of cards in a hurricane.

Right now U.S. politicians from both big capitalist parties are debating in the corporate media over who deserves the blame for the U.S. defeat and its precipitous withdrawal. Both these parties ordered and endorsed the U.S. intervention, as did the Pentagon and the intelligence services, starting in 1978. Both Trump and Biden agreed to leave.

No working person, no oppressed people in the United States, no person sympathetic with colonized people or with women should be fooled into thinking that this ruling-class debate has any relation with guaranteeing the rights or livelihood of any Afghans, including women.

The debate is over what strategy and tactics protect the pillage and profits of the U.S.-based banks, industrial and mining monopolies. These businesses grab the natural resources and exploit the labor of the entire Central and Western Asian region near Afghanistan. Led by the U.S. military-industrial complex, these capitalist exploiters have milked the federal treasury of trillions of U.S. dollars.

An epic failure of U.S. aggression
By Sara Flounders

Aug. 17 — Wrenching images at the Kabul airport grip the world as U.S. officials had soldiers cast off those who had cooperated with US occupation like excess baggage. The painful corporate media coverage diverts attention from Washington’s strategists who launched the criminal war for conquest and the politicians who authorized 20 years of looting of Afghanistan.

The U.S. war in Afghanistan was never a war for democracy or for the liberation of women. Hidden behind empty rhetoric was a war that generated fabulous, unscrutinized profits for military, oil and contracting corporations. Corruption at every level was an essential ingredient of the war.

The epic failure of U.S. imperialism in Afghanistan raises the immediate question of what this means for U.S. global corporate power. Especially, what will this howling defeat mean for the entire vast region where U.S. wars have created a vast wreckage?

From Afghanistan through Iran, across Iraq, and into Syria and Lebanon, U.S. domination is being confronted with new confidence. The U.S. grip, from Central to Western Asia, is increasingly challenged.

The collapse of the government in Afghanistan has overwhelmed the news coverage of rockets fired and drone attacks on the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, Iraq, as well as Iran’s increasingly hard line on any revival of talks involving the international nuclear accord the U.S. had walked away from.

Iraqi officials have demanded an end to all U.S. troops and bases in their country. Syria is reasserting its sovereignty, despite continued U.S. bombing. Hezbollah stands undefeated in Lebanon. Gaza still remains steadfast and determined.

The one U.S. ally in the area, Israel, faces growing isolation.

A vast swath of peoples, cultures and diverse political movements have all reached a similar conclusion: U.S. power brings only corruption and enslavement. Resistance is the only way forward.

Collapse on the morning news
The complete collapse of Afghanistan’s puppet government in Kabul coincided with the Sunday morning news. The speed of this deterioration took U.S. strategists completely by surprise. It exceeded the chaotic disarray seen in 1975 with the fall of the U.S. puppet regime in Saigon, Vietnam.

Sunday news program reporters continue on page 12
Buffett’s Business Wire censors China book

By Tony Murphy

Billionaire Warren Buffett’s public relations company, Business Wire, has refused to distribute a press release announcing the publication in China of a U.S. book that compares the responses to COVID by capitalist and socialist governments.

The headline of the press release referred to the fact that the book, "Capitalism on a Ventilator"—originally published in the U.S. in July 2020 and now being translated and published in China—was banned by Amazon last fall.

Now Business Wire is censoring the press release. "Business Wire is a commercial service that advertises expensive media access—to what is supposed to be the ‘freedoms’ of the United States," said one of the book’s authors and editors, Lee Siu Hin. "I am their paid customer and have the right to understand which policy our press release has violated—I’ve used the service before with no problem—but they never offered any explanation and just terminated our account."

"If the United States is anti-authoritarian and a bastion of liberties like free speech," Lee continued, "then why has ‘liberal’ Warren Buffett’s PR service Business Wire censored a press release simply announcing the news that ‘Capitalism on a Ventilator’ will be published in China?"

As the Delta variant of COVID spreads like wildfire, the U.S. death toll has soared past 600,000 in this country of 330 million—the highest in the world. By contrast, the number of deaths in China, a country of 1.4 billion, has remained below 5,000.

"The standout response to COVID, which should be studied and emulated," said Lee, "remains that of the Chinese government, which in a matter of months mobilized its entire society to arrest the virus—and continues to do so whenever new outbreaks arise.

"And the standard U.S. media explanation of how China’s Communist Party was able to mobilize so quickly is always summed up in one word—authoritarian. Yet a leading light of the U.S. billionaire class is showing the true face of capitalism’s authoritarian nature, trying to block news from coming out about the publication of a timely and important book."

Billionaires are clearly not open to the message of "Capitalism on a Ventilator." As the press release this mentions, Bezos’ union-busting Amazon tried to ban the book from the company’s all-powerful platform, claiming the book did not "comply with [Amazon’s] guidelines" and falsely listing it as "out-of-print."

While an outcry eventually forced Amazon to carry the title on its megasite, even now it cannot be found on Kindle, the publishing giant’s e-book format."

Order a print copy: tinyurl.com/CapVent-print
E-book from Kobo: tinyurl.com/CapVent-ebook

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

Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, attacks on im/migrants, misogyny, LGBTQ+ oppression and mistreatment of people with disabilities. It means joblessness, increasing homelessness 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 working class—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 abroad. 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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U.N. issues another dire report
Time’s up on climate change

By Teresa Gutierrez

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, a scientific body assembled by the United Nations, released yet another major report on climate change on Aug. 9. Now, a coalition of groups has released a U.N. report to know that the climate has changed, and for the worse. The dire consequences are happening in real time. The continued burning of coal and other fossil fuels by the multinational capitalist corporations as well as the military, with the complicity of their governments, is here for the world to see.

The day after the report, the New York Times summed up five takeaways from the IPCC report: ‘human influence has unequivocally warmed the planet; climate science is getting better and more precise; climate changes are happening rapidly; we are locked into 30 years of worsening climate impacts no matter what the world does; there is still a window in which humans can alter the climate path.”

The U.N. report concluded that “the world cannot avoid some devastating impacts of climate change, but that there is still time to prevent the worst outcomes of the dev-astation from getting even worse.”

Who is to blame?

The report and the news that followed made a big deal about the fact that it is indeed “human influence [that] unequiv-ocally warmed the planet.” Well, what relief it wasn’t Martians.

But this is wrong. It is not humans but the capitalist economic system that has warmed the planet. It is the refusal to stop burning fossil fuels. It is the refusal to stop the oil corporations and the Pentagon from ruining the planet.

The well-known environmental activist Greta Thunberg, who as a teenager helped call for global demonstrations on climate change, responded to the IPCC report on Democracy Now: “We have not once been treating this crisis like an actual crisis. We are not talking about the root cause itself, about not holding people in power accountable. We are not talking about the current, best-available science, what it says, and how the situation looks like now. And we especially are not talking about the gap between what politicians are saying and what they are doing. … This report doesn’t tell us what to do.”

Tomorrow is too late

For decades, the masses who first experienced the consequences of climate change have been demanding change. Demonstrations, conferences and many other events have been carried out throughout the Americas, Asia and Africa to do something on the changing climate.

No one has heeded their call.

Almost as if in response to this, Fidel Castro, the beloved leader of Cuba and architect of the Cuban Revolution, warned about the looming climate change crisis at the 2019 Earth Summit in Brazil: “An import-ant biological species— humankind— is at risk of disappearing due to the rapid and progressive elimination of its natural hab-itat. We are becoming aware of this prob-lem when it is almost too late to prevent it. Tomorrow will be too late to do what we should have done a long time ago.”

Cuba is the most sustainable nation in the world, according to the U.N. itself. It would be wise to heed not only these words but their practices.

Where is the political will?

The New York Times article stated: “Many hope that the report, which covers the latest advances in climate science, will galvanize action at the U.N. climate sum-mit in Glasgow this November.”

Yet this Climate Change Conference, also known as COP26, is the 26th conference the UN has held. Twenty-six conferences, yet the climate crisis only gets worse, and no major government is doing anything to rectify the situation.

Except China. This nation is doing everything in its power to meet the needs of its people, as well as move to a more sustai-nable economy. And it is succeeding.

It is no wonder that young people like Thunberg don’t have much faith in these entities. Or in their governments.

Where is the political will in the major imperialist countries to address this crisis? It is ominously quiet in the ExxonMobile boardrooms.

According to the World Health Organization, climatic change is already estimated to cause over 150,000 deaths annually. Bloomberg News on July 7 wrote that “Climate Change is Linked to 5 Million Deaths A Year” globally, according to a new study. CNN two years ago wrote that “250,000 deaths a year from climate change is a ‘conservative estimate.’” (Jan. 16, 2019)

But it is not the children, families or friends of ExxonMobile or the Pentagon who are saying and what they are doing. … This report doesn’t tell us what to do.

Protest demands ICE free all detainees

Philadelphia — Despite temperatures in the mid-90s, more than 30 community activists rallied here on Aug. 12 to demand Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) cease transferring migrant workers and refugees from a detention center in York, Pa., to others. Recorded voices from people impacted by transfers were heard by the crowd before par-ticipants put their hands on the Moshannon Valley Correctional Facility fence to protest the transfer. 

Community activists, attorneys and organizations have won the release of nearly 100 loved ones from ICE deten-tion at York County Prison, but 200 others formerly detained at York have been transferred to other detention centers out of state, away from their fami-lies, community members and legal representation. These transfers are inhumane. Even though York County’s contract with ICE is over, the hated institution has already taken steps to open a new detention center, reportedly

— Report and photo by Joe Piette

The 26th U.N. Climate Change confer-ence will be held in Glasgow, Scotland, from Oct. 31 to Nov. 12, under the author-ity of Britain. Does this meeting hold any hope for those in Indonesia whose cit-izens will soon be under water? No, it does not. Twenty-six years of conferences has proven to be only dangerous rhetoric.

Yet this gathering must be challenged. The noise must be made that shakes them to their roots. They need to know that the only political will that can seriously address the climate crisis is coming from activists and entities who want the economic system of capitalism abolished.

China and Cuba are two socialist sys-tems that prove that capitalism must be abolished in order to save the planet and its people.

The next global report should come from those who are really addressing climate change, who have created revolutionary change to abolish the Pentagon and shut down the pipelines of every single oil corporation.

Time is up on climate change. But it is not too late for society to obtain the political will to adapt to and at least partly reverse climate change, with the needs of the masses of people, not the corporate flunkies, in mind. 

Where are people supposed to go?

Where are people supposed to go?

Berkeley marches to stop homeless sweeps

By Dave Welsh

Berkeley, Calif.

A crowd of 90 people marched through downtown here on Aug. 12 chanting “House is a human right.” They demanded that the city call a halt to police sweeps of unhoused people and the tearing down of homeless encampments.

“We with the unhoused community reel from an eviction at SealBreeze Encampment, and far too many sweeps” on the benches that people used to sit on?”

Berkeley homeless sweeps now happen “every day. That’s housing for 10,000 people!”

Osha Neumann, an attorney with the East Bay Community Law Center as well as a tenant and muralist, said: “Many of the people living on the streets value their autonomy, their ability to make their own food. Docks, funniness. But the authorities can’t understand that because they don’t know how to stop and talk to people.”

She said the newly rebuilt downtown plaza “is turning into a homeless shelter,” adding, “What happened to the benches that people used to sit on?”

Many of Berkeley has “hated institution has already taken steps to open a new detention center, reportedly

The Moshannon Valley Correctional Facility in Decatur Township near Philipsburg, Pa. (theprogressnews.com, Aug. 6)
**Workers organize a historic battle with Amazon**

By Princess Harmony

The most severe medical problem that injection-drug users face—other than overdose—is infection. Whether a person contracts hepatitis B virus (HBV), hepatitis C virus (HCV), human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), or the standard wound infection due to dirty and used needles, the prevention of these illnesses requires syringe exchanges. Many states and cities oppose them, however. That policy puts public health in danger.

The most recent move to criminalize or end syringe exchanges has taken place in Atlantic City, N.J. As the largest syringe exchange in New Jersey, and the only one in southeast New Jersey, gets eliminated, the odds increase for more outbreaks of disease, but they are able to point people to treatment programs. Legalize harm reduction policies!

**Needle exchange programs save lives**

By Marie Kelly

After two baristas were fired by Starbucks for organizing co-workers against unfair management, they took their grievances to the National Labor Relations Board and won.

The NLRB ruled Starbucks had engaged in union-busting tactics and should reinstate the two employees with back-pay compensation. Starbucks filed an appeal and doesn’t need to take any action until the appeal process, which could take months, is complete. This is a move to frustrate organizing attempts and delay justice for the fired workers.

However, T.J. Bussiere and Echo Nowakowska were not defeated, and the way they won a favorable NLRB ruling can teach organizers how to fight corporate giants like Starbucks. In the Aug. 12 Philadelphia Inquirer, Bussiere and Nowakowska were interviewed by Juliana Feliciano Reyes. The two organizers suggest tactics they hope will aid other grassroots union activists. (tinyurl.com/md3h6js)

Go public: Protests at the store, holding out leaflets describing illegal practices by Starbucks and posting on social media created a case, pushing NLRB lawyers to demand the bathrooms to the hiring of operatives from The Burke Group to walk through the buildings and spread doubt among the workers. (tinyurl.com/350scpew)

Despite Amazon anti-union attempts, ALU has earned the trust of the workers, hosting a number of barbecues, handing out food and cold water along with masks and T-shirts daily.

Amazon refers to acknowledge ALU as a current worker-led entity. Instead, the company sends out false messaging that workers will lose their voices and that ALU will take in millions of dollars in union dues and cause unspecified financial problems.

To combat these scurrilous charges, ALU members have filed several charges against Amazon with the NLRB. This is a remarkable historical moment for Amazon workers all over the U.S. ALU has already broken barriers and will continue to do so. As the workers get closer to filing for their election vote to become an established union, they will need the support of their communities more than ever.

To find out how to support this crucial union drive, follow the Amazon Labor Union at amazonlabourunion.org and @Shut_downAmazon.

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Successful organizing tips from Philly Starbucks baristas

By Princess Harmony

Workers organize a historic battle with Amazon

This article is based on a press release issued by Chris Smalls and the Amazon Labor Union.

Since June, workers at the Amazon warehouse at Staten Island JFK8 and surrounding facilities have been organizing to form the independent worker-led Amazon Labor Union. Other Staten Island facilities currently organizing include Amazon sorting centers LD35 and delivery stations DY16 and DXY2.

The ALU was founded by former Amazon worker Chris Smalls, fired for organizing a March 30, 2020, walkout at the JFK8 facility protesting unsafe working conditions. A leaked memo from Amazon executives revealed the billion-dollar company’s attempt to launch a racist smear campaign against Smalls. (workers.org/2020/04/47545)

ALU goals are to fight for higher wages, job security and safer working conditions. ALU has successfully built a huge workers’ committee and signed up over 1,000 workers. This puts the campaign on target to file for recognition with the National Labor Relations Board in the coming months.

On Aug 11 at JFK8 Staten Island, ALU held its first press conference to announce the historic campaign. Members of the committee voiced their experiences and told why they decided to join ALU. Workers were joined by U.S. Congress members Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Mondaire Jones, there to support the ALU and demand Amazon stop its union busting so workers can use their rights to organize towards collective bargaining without interference.

After the launch of the drive, Amazon wasted no time in starting its union busting. Organizers and workers endured the same anti-union tactics used during the unionization campaign at the Bessemer, Ala., warehouse earlier in the year.

The NLRB ruled in May that Amazon illegally interfered with worker organizing at the Staten Island warehouse. Ploys have ranged from disinformation signs in the bathrooms to the hiring of operatives to protest them.

The Atlantic City Council has the power to determine whether or not the public good is served by the reduction materials. That policy serves as a disincentive to prevent the spread of diseases other than harm reduction policies like Prevention Point, which could take months, is complete. This is a move to frustrate organizing attempts and delay justice for the fired workers.

However, T.J. Bussiere and Echo Nowakowska were not defeated, and the way they won a favorable NLRB ruling can teach organizers how to fight corporate giants like Starbucks. In the Aug. 12 Philadelphia Inquirer, Bussiere and Nowakowska were interviewed by Juliana Feliciano Reyes. The two organizers suggest tactics they hope will aid other grassroots union activists. (tinyurl.com/md3h6js)

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The most severe medical problem that injection-drug users face—other than overdose—is infection. Whether a person contracts hepatitis B virus (HBV), hepatitis C virus (HCV), human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), or the standard wound infection due to dirty and used needles, the prevention of these illnesses requires syringe exchanges. Many states and cities oppose them, however. That policy puts public health in danger.

The most recent move to criminalize or end syringe exchanges has taken place in Atlantic City, N.J. As the largest syringe exchange in New Jersey, and the only one in southeast New Jersey, gets eliminated, the odds increase for more outbreaks of disease, but they are able to point people to treatment programs.

Legalize harm reduction policies!

Legalization of syringe exchanges can lead to the next necessary steps: fentanyl testing, safe consumption sites and providing Narcan. Syringe exchange programs are one small step in changing U.S. drug policies and prohibition.

The National Harm Reduction Coalition’s four principle argues for the nonjudgmental distribution of services and resources to both addicts and neighborhoods. These resources can include access to methadone and buprenorphine (Suboxone, Subutex, Subsibude, Zubsobly) and access to both inpatient and outpatient drug treatment programs. Syringe exchange programs across the country help their communities remain clean and free of dirty needles (byfoundation.org)

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the opioid crisis is leading to increasing infections of HIV, HBV, and HCV. Nothing so far has been able to prevent the growing number of these diseases other than harm reduction organizations like Prevention Point Philadelphia.

All towns and cities need programs like the one in Philadelphia, because of the spread of the opioid epidemic. The CDC states that people using syringe exchange programs are five times more likely to enter drug treatment and three times more likely to stop using drugs.

Another key benefit of having a functional syringe exchange program is that it prevents opioid overdoses. Both clients and workers at syringe exchange programs can be taught how to treat opioid overdoses by using Narcan (naloxone). And people who aren’t addicts or workers can be taught how to save lives with Narcan.

Opponents of syringe exchange programs—and all forms of harm reduction programs—say that they increase crime and drug activity in their neighborhoods. This belief is wrong and stigmatizing. Researchers find that syringe exchange programs do not increase crime in neighborhoods. These false narratives need to be challenged. If they arise, community members should immediately seek the unique voices of addicted people who are also part of their communities—in order to improve relations between residents and addicts.

Without syringe exchange programs, many more people would contract HIV, HBV, HCV and other serious illnesses. They would be unable to seek the help that they desperately need. Worst of all, they could overdose, because they haven’t tested their drugs.

The NLRB ruled that Amazon illegally interfered with worker organizing at the Staten Island warehouse. Ploys have ranged from disinformation signs in the bathrooms to the hiring of operatives from The Burke Group to walk through the buildings and spread doubt among the workers. (tinyurl.com/350scpew)

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To find out how to support this crucial union drive, follow the Amazon Labor Union at amazonlabourunion.org and @Shut_downAmazon.
By Joe Piette and Bryant Arroyo

Incarcerated people depend on their voices being heard outside the walls for their grievances against prison officials to be effective inside. Without public pressure from family, friends and other supporters, the prison guards, supervisors and administrators can literally get away with murder.

Bryant Arroyo has been a voice from inside Pennsylvania prisons for years. Arroyo is serving a life sentence for a crime he did not commit and is still contesting in court. He has dedicated himself to organizing from the inside and mobilizing people to organize on the outside.

The Pennsylvania DOC was granted a 30-minute window to conduct a COVID test on Arroyo after a prison guard stated he would be in court by the next morning. Arroyo was subsequently placed in a 14-day quarantine and denied time to shower, cell-clean, use both kiosk and telephone, and deposit U.S. mail within a 30-minute interval. We are then locked in the cell for the rest of the day. Death row prisoners are allotted more time to conduct these same chores, and they aren’t sick with COVID. The grievance Arroyo filed in late July 2020 states that positive for COVID should be given the same amount of time outside cells that the general population has access to, as in S.C.I. Frackville.

Bryant Arroyo

Bryant Arroyo was in restrictive Administrative Custody at S.C.I. Frackville from April 6 to 15, when he was subjected to a rapid COVID-19 test and told it was negative. Afterward, Insp. Lt. Dennis Newberry stated: “This is the result of your failure to follow appropriate procedures, as a status as a jailhouse lawyer and environmental activist — we are finally getting rid of this.” Arroyo replied: “Just because I’m being transferred to S.C.I. Coal Township doesn’t mean I can’t expose Frackville from wherever they send me.” Upon his arrival on April 16, Arroyo arrived on April 17, told the prison guard that he had a peculiar greeting by staff there: “Welcome to COVID country.”

He was immediately COVID tested again by a nurse and sent to a COVID quarantine block for 14 days. On April 19, an officer arrived at his door with the unexpected news that his COVID test was positive. Arroyo reports: “For the record, I’ve tested positive for COVID twice. It’s not a coincidence. Frackville staff made another attempt on my life.”

Insp. Newberry further retaliated against me by transferring me from Frackville to Coal Township, despite being COVID positive. What proof do I have? In response to my grievance No. 926607, Capt. Thomas S. McGinley stated, on April 19, that the record indicated that you were received from Frackville to Coal Township as a COVID-positive person.

“McGinley incontrovertibly proved that you committed my retaliatory claim under the First Amendment with an additional 8th Amendment violation of ‘cruel and unusual treatment,’ by denying both the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and strict Health Care rules that prohibit the entire PA DOC staff from negligently transferring any prisoners who are COVID positive to another facility.

Both DOC Secretary John E. Wetzel and Pennsylvania Attorney General Robert Shapiro must investigate Newberry’s reprehensible, incompetent, delinquent and negligent acts abusing his fiduciary duties and authority, outside the scope and purview of the PA DOC’s policies and procedures. This is not his first failure. You can read about his first failure here. During his 18-day quarantine, Arroyo filed his grievance 926607 for subjecting him “to a cruel and unusual, severely constrained and limited amount of time to shower, cell-clean, use both kiosk and telephone, and deposit U.S. mail within a 30-minute interval. We are then locked in the cell for the rest of the day. Death row prisoners are allotted more time to conduct these same chores, and they aren’t sick with COVID. The grievance Arroyo filed in late July 2020 states that positive for COVID should be given the same amount of time outside cells that the general population has access to, as in S.C.I. Frackville.

Arbitrary and unfair COVID restrictions

The number of incarcerated workers subjected to severe restrictions at the well known S.C.I. Coal Township and PA DOC officials announced that all incarcerated people who refuse to be vaccinated will be removed from their cells and be taken to J/A Block, where out-of-cell time is limited to 30 minutes daily; contact visits are forbidden; law library access is unconstituted and denied, and meals and miscellaneous items are delivered to their cells.

Their press release claimed: “Inmates identified will be assigned to housing units based on their vaccination status. The goal of these mitigation efforts is to protect the unvaccinated group by reducing contact with others.” Fifty-two prisoners at Coal Township were moved to this isolation status.

Among staff members, 114,211 cases and more than 200 deaths have been reported nationwide. (tinyurl.com/w4x2d7r)

Despite the number of cases and fatalities, more than half of all prison staff across the U.S. refuse to be vaccinated. (Prisonpolicy.org, Apr. 22)

Seventy-eight percent of Pennsylvania prisoners have agreed to receive the vaccine, a higher rate than that of civilians outside prisons.

New, the policies basically punish the minority of incarcerated people who choose not to be vaccinated, while guards and staff — 77.6% are not vaccinated — are allowed to do their appointed rounds without any limits or discipline. (bit.ly/2vKoyf1)

Pennsylvania state officials refuse to make vaccinations mandatory for prison guards and staff, even though they are the ones bringing the COVID virus into prisons, guilty of crimes against humanity. Those atrocities are basically punish the minority of incarcerated people who choose not to be vaccinated, while guards and staff — 77.6% are not vaccinated — are allowed to do their appointed rounds without any limits or discipline. (bit.ly/2vKoyf1)

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Free speech grievance denied

Arroyo’s grievance against the PA DOC for denying him videoconferencing visits for 60 days (April 1 to June 1) was denied June 30 by Chief Hearing Examiner Zachary I. Molnar, who ruled: “Pursuant to DC-ADM § 5 (C.4), appeals shall include a brief statement of the facts relevant to the claim. Your 20-page appeal clearly fails to meet this criterion and will not be accepted for Final Review.”

The unresolved grievance seeks to remove the undeserved infraction from his records.

On July 6, Arroyo filed an appeal “formally objecting to Mr. Mosk’s misrepresented, arbitrary dismissal, due to the fact that my two-page appeal for ‘Final Review,’ attached with 27 pages of documents totaling 29 pages, are relevant and categorically meets the criterion, under the proviso; pursuant to DC-ADM § 5 (C.4), and DC-ADM 801, Inmate Handicap Pg.41 Sec. Final Appeal(O/Hearing Examiner). No.4-5, clearly states I’m responsible for providing a ‘brief statement (two pages) relative to issues and any available paperwork or documentation relevant to the appeal, etc.’”

Arroyo compared the PA DOC’s attack on his right to free speech to the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision for Brandly Levy, in which Justice Stephen Breyer wrote the free exchange of ideas “facilitates an informed public opinion, which, when transmitted to lawmakers, helps produce laws that reflect the people’s will.” (New York Times, June 23)

Just as this high school student has a right to free expression, incarcerated people like Arroyo have the right to expose conditions in prisons that can be harmful to their lives.

Resistance continues vs. solitary and banning

Bryant Arroyo...
Attica revolutionaries ‘chose to revolt and even die’

In September 1971, prisoners at Attica Correctional Facility in New York state staged a revolt that drew international attention to the struggle of incarcerated workers. Prisoners requested that the Prisoners Solidarity Committee of Workers World Party intervene on their behalf during negotiations, and comrade Tom Soto was sent from the PWC, New York City. Rockefeller eventually ordered a massacre that led to the deaths of over 40 people. The following is an excerpt of Soto’s on-the-ground account published in Workers World on August 29, 2020. The excerpt is being reprinted in memory of Tom Soto, who died June 2020 at the age of 77.

By Tom Soto
Attica, 1971

There is one scene I’ll never forget. I was leaving the prison for the last time, late Sunday night. As I entered corridor B looking into the liberated area, there was a brother who I happened to know personally standing on security. His arms were cuffed as he faced 40 machine guns on the administration side. On his shirt were folded as he faced 40 machine guns

Another thing I’ll never forget—a brother whom I rapped with a long time ago was cut down by Laotian women over Laos. I gave it to him, and he considered it to be a very dear show of solidarity between the PSC and the prisoners and the Indochinese people.

As I left, I knew that I might never see these men again. The atmosphere was filled with tension. There were many hugs and kisses, many goodbyes, many messages to families on the outside. Yet there was also an incredible strength and determination among all the prisoners to fight for their just demands or die in the attempt.

The inmates always told me that they had no intention of killing any of the hostages. They see themselves as victims of a racist society that oppresses and exploits their people. They see the Rockefellerels, the Mellons, the big corporations, the banks, the states to rob their labor for profit, as the real criminals.

The ultimate goal of revolutionaries

However, revolutionaries never forget that our ultimate goal is not merely improving the conditions under which workers’ labor is exploited but rather the abolition of exploitation, the abolition of all wage slavery and capitalism.

The strike raises larger issues. For instance, in 1977 the U.S. Supreme Court ruled, in a case brought by a North Carolina prisoners’ union, that the prison officials may not stop us from organizing workers.

The ruling class made their point: “There is a price to pay” if there is rebellion.

But the uprising opened up the question of prisoners’ rights and liberation. From then on, isolated prisoners became a much bigger issue in our movement, as well as the issue of prisoners as workers.

Paris Commune of the Black Liberation struggle

The working class is changing. Now a big section is temporary and unorganized.

L.D. Barkey, martyred Attica prisoner, second from the right, stated, “We are men! We are not beasts and we do not intend to be treated as such or driven as such. The entire prison population—that means each and every one of us here—has set forth to change forever the ruthless exploitation and disregard for the lives of the prisoners here and throughout the United States. What has happened here is but the sound before the fury of those who are oppressed.”

Their demands included: Prisoners should be considered workers. The work day should be eight hours. Prisoners should have the right to form a union. Prisoners should be considered workers. The work day should be eight hours. Prisoners should have the right to form a union. Prisoners should be considered workers. The work day should be eight hours. Prisoners should have the right to form a union. Prisoners should be considered workers. The work day should be eight hours. Prisoners should have the right to form a union. Prisoners should be considered workers. The work day should be eight hours. Prisoners should have the right to form a union. Prisoners should be considered workers. The work day should be eight hours. Prisoners should have the right to form a union. Prisoners should be considered workers. The work day should be eight hours. Prisoners should have the right to form a union. Prisoners should be considered workers. The work day should be eight hours. Prisoners should have the right to form a union. Prisoners should be considered workers. The work day should be eight hours. Prisoners should have the right to form a union. Prisoners should be considered workers. The work day should be eight hours. Prisoners should have the right to form a union. Prisoners should be considered workers. The work day should be eight hours. Prisoners should have the right to form a union. Prisoners should be considered workers. The work day should be eight hours. Prisoners should have the right to form a union. Prisoners should be considered workers. The work day should be eight hours. Prisoners should have the right to form a union.
The following is an edited interview with Che Nieves, a survivor of the 1971 Attica Prison Rebellion and a founding member of the Young Lords Party in Greenhaven and Attica Prisons, conducted July 20 by Monica Moorehead, a Workers World managing editor. More segments of the interview have appeared in WW, and more will appear in future issues. (See workers.org.)

A hunger strike was held at Attica to commemorate Black Freedom Fighter George Jackson, gunned down by San Quentin Prison guards on Aug. 21, 1971. A few days later, the leadership was formed of the Attica Liberation Faction, which sent a Manifesto of Demands to New York Commissioner of Prisoners Russell Oswald.

From Sept. 9-13, 1,289 prisoners, mostly Black and Latino, rose up against the oppression, brutality, and racism at Attica.

Che Nieves: People were fed up and at a boiling point.

Over time, we heard that a brother named George Jackson was murdered. And so at Attica, we started discussing what we could do to commemorate the brother. So we planned a hunger strike, where everybody would go into the mess hall. I said, “Don’t say anything.” There was total silence. Many of us had black armbands. You sat down and waited for us to be called, so that we could leave. That was it. We didn’t eat.

The administration was very apprehensive, they said, “What? They ain’t eatin’?”

The goon squad came and picked two brothers out of their cells and beat them up. The goon squad comes in like the Ku Klux Klan, in groups because they’re scared to come alone. The guards beat us up and took some people to segregation, where I’m sure they got beat up there, too. Everybody was yelling. The next day the brothers’ cells were open for them to go to the mess hall, and they went. When there is too much tension, too much anger, too much pain, too many issues, it comes to a boiling point and explodes.

I heard the siren go off. I was in a metal shop working, and I looked to the door that led to the outside. I saw Sam Melville come in, and he said, “Everybody is free now.” I said, “I’m not totally free yet, but I understand what you’re sayin’.”

We talked about two things to do quickly: Establish a committee to represent all inmates; and organize a security organization to secure everything happening, so there will be no more beatings.

We chose Frank Smith, known as “Big Black,” to run the security.

Youth Against War and Fascism, an ally

We talked about who we wanted to come in. We wanted the Young Lords, [then Congress member] Herman Badillo and William Kunstler. The Black Panthers came in. Bobby Seale and his man, Bobo, were the leaders. We wanted to come alone. The guards beat us up and took some people to the state hospital; there was no other choice.

In that instant, doctors in those hospitals became aware of what was happening in the prison... because of these brothers who went to these hospitals.
By Gloria Rubac

“I think it’s very, very, even suicidal on their part, but at the same time, that’s how Texas prison industries operate. They need their employees to keep the prison businesses up and operating. Profits are first, and the health of prisoners and employees are secondary,” Free Lampkin told Workers World.

After 35 years in Texas Department of Criminal Justice prisons, Lampkin knows firsthand that “prisoners are worked until they can’t work no more.”

Lampkin was responding to an email he saw that was to appear in one of TDCJ businesses, as well as the Texas Correctional Industries supervisors directing employees to come to work even if they have COVID. This email was first sent by Bill Lewis, Deputy Director of TDCJ Manufacturing, Agrgbusiness and Logistics Division, to supervisors of prison industries and at TCI. The email memo stated: “If an employee is fully vaccinated and tests positive on a COVID test, they will be required to wear a mask for 14 days, have their temperature taken twice a day and be non-symptomatic. They will be allowed to work while following the previous stated guidelines.”

In other words, employees with the COVID virus should go to work, so business can continue. TDCJ is deliberately allowing COVID-positive workers to expose other workers to the virus in an effort to keep the incarcerated workers who work under them.

Prisoner activist Nason Williams told Workers World, “TDCJ just doesn’t give a damn about us. This email means my life has no value. Texas prisons already have a high rate of COVID, and they just don’t care if we die.”

This email speaks for itself, and it impacts every prison in Texas. Prisoners who are “duly convicted” of a crime are “fully conscio- nized” of a crime. Because of that exception, incarcerated workers can be paid nothing for their labor. Texas is one of only five states —all in the South— where prisoners are paid a penny for work done without paying the workers a penny. We are still first-class slaves.

Health care workers and medical professionals know that people with COVID should quarantine for 10–14 days to not spread the disease, even if they are asympto- matic. The CDC states, “If you are fully vaccinated and become infected with the Delta variant, you can spread the virus to others.”

Profiting from unpaid labor

TCI manufactures a wide selection of goods that range from furniture and garments to refurbished computers. TCI operates soap and detergent factories, metal fabrication facilities, shoe and shoe manufacturing plants, and produces bedding, janitorial supplies, Texas state flags and license plates. Industry programs include tire repair and retreading, renovating school buses, printing services and Brassic transcription. All of this is done without paying the workers a penny.

While the 13th Amendment outlawed slavery in 1865, the individual states could continue to use labor. Inmates are “fully con- victed” of a crime. Because of that exception, incarcerated workers can be paid nothing for their labor. Texas is one of only five states —all in the South— where work- ers in correctional facilities are not paid.

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Wrong then, wrong now

Last year, the City of Houston was ready to approve a contract for the retrofitting of tires on city vehicles to the lowest bidder — TDCJ. But after objections and discussion, the city selected a different vendor, even though it was a bit more costly.

A Houston Chronicle editorial Dec. 3, 2020, correctly stated, “The move should send a message to Texas offi- cials and to anyone who profits off the work of unpaid incarcerated workers. It’s time to end this practice that carries the shameful tinge of slavery and the remnants of our state’s ugly history of convict leasing.”

“The state is profiting from forced, free labor —just as it did during the convict-leasing era of the 1800s. In convict leasing, in which Black people were locked up, often for violating unjust laws, then leased by the state to compa- nies and made to work without pay in sugarcane fields and on railroads.

“It was wrong then — and it is wrong now. Loss of freedom is already punishment for crime; we should not strip human beings of the dignity that comes from being compensated for work.”

Today, as COVID cases are rapidly spiking and hospi- tal beds are scarce for workers, not only are incarcerated workers treated as enslaved workers, but they face work- ing conditions that could be a death sentence.

Shackling harms hospitalized incarcerated workers

By Marie Kelly and Phebe Eckfeldt

This is Part two of an article on the horrific practice of shackling incarcerated people while hospitalized. The full article can be read at workers.org.

The Nursing Home Reform Act of 1987 set federal guidelines for safe physical and mental care of the elderly on issues such as pressure ulcers, urinary catheters and physical restraints. As a result, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services led an effort to adopt specific reg- ulations to restrict the use of physical restraints. The Joint Commission of Accreditation of Hospitals surveys institutions about following industry and governmental standards.

The use of physical restraints on a patient must be determined by a medical professional after evaluating the patient. Other methods of gaining the patient’s cooperation should be considered when health care institutions edu- cate their staff on the proper care and treatment of incar- cerated hospital patients.

The Journal of Medical Ethics published the work of C. Gastmans and K. Millen, faculty members at The Center for Biomedical Ethics and Law at Catholic University in Leuven, Belgium, in March 2006. The authors describe four values health care professionals must espouse when caring for the elderly. These values listed below can be expanded to include guidance for the ethical treatment of incarcerated hospital patients:

1. Freedom of choice and control: “The ability of human beings to make choices must always be respected in the context of physical restraint. From this derives the ethical norm that caregivers must respect the patient’s right to make choices regarding their own being.”

2. Respect for autonomy: “The fourth ethical value should always be considered when health care institutions edu- cate their staff on the proper care and treatment of incarcer- ated hospital patients. The authors describe a licensed practical nurse.
Tokyo Olympics: athletes resist, forge solidarity

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

Black-gloved fists raised in a Black power salute, heads bowed on the podium, U.S. sprinters Tommie Smith and John Carlos honored the Black freedom struggle at the 1968 Olympics after they received their gold and bronze medals. Suffering a storm of vicious, racist condemnation after that principled act, banished and shunned by the IOC until 2016, they kept their pride. Fifty years later, Carlos firmly said, "I'm proud of what we did." (tinyurl.com/j3hkhaw6)

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) website states that the "Olympic Movement" is "for building a better world through sport, through sport practiced without discrimination of any kind in the Olympic spirit, which requires mutual understanding with a spirit of friendship, solidarity and fair play. (olympics.org)

That's the old, discredited "equal playing field" argument. In sports as well as in politics, history, imperialism and capitalism always play people in profoundly unequal circumstances every day.

Political protests have taken place at the Olympics almost from their 1894 beginning, including in 1968, when Mexican Olympians unfurled a flag with the words "Paz y Colaboración" on the stadium steps and coined the slogan "Summer of Peace." (tinyurl.com/wq457)

"At the Olympics," noted The Guardian (Aug. 7), "a determination to resist exploitation, build solidarity in the snow." (The Guardian, Aug. 7)

"Perhaps the most dramatic Olympic statement was made by Raven Saunders, African American silver medalist in the shot put event. Following the award ceremony, Saunders stood up on the podium, lifted her arms above her head and formed an "X" with her wrists. "I'm one of those athletes that are just died two days after her victory. Saunders identifies out and as an LGBTQ+ person, telling Outsports that she came out to her mother as gay in the third grade. (July 19)

In a parallel to U.S. athletes who have revved up organizing against exploitation of their skills and labor, these acts of resistance by Olympic athletes show a powerful determination to resist exploitation, to build solidarity in oppression and connect across borders imposed by colonialism and imperialism. 

Earthquake intensifies imperialist-fueled turmoil

By G. Dunkel

A new earthquake, whose epicenter was in southwest Haiti, hit the country Aug. 14, as reported by the U.S. Geological Survey. The quake was significantly stronger and shallower than one that devastated Port-au-Prince in 2010. Although the area around its epicenter is less densely populated than Port-au-Prince, the USGS is predicting damage in the billions of dollars in damages and thousands of deaths.

Close hospitals to the epicenter in Les Cayes, a city of 30,000, and Jeremie report they have insufficient supplies to handle all the injured and insufficient first responders or equipment to pull people out of the rubble. Social media videos show rescuers using sledgeshammers and chainsaws to rescue trapped survivors. Thousands were displaced from their homes.

In addition to Haiti, the disaster is a reminder of the 2010 earthquake that killed hundreds of thousands of people there and a warning that the chain of disasters Haiti has experienced for more than a century is far from over.

Political turmoil

Following President Jovenel Moïse’s July 8 assassination, the political turmoil in the country has intensified. Aristide, who is a former prime minister and then-Prime Minister Claude Joseph on July 9, the 1st and only members of Haiti’s parliament still in office, Joseph Lambert, president of the PHTK ruling party, had been elected senator, to become interim president after Moïse’s death.

Moïse had allowed the terms of all other elected officials in Haiti to expire by the simple expedient of not holding elections. Washington backed Moïse in this decision.

The assassination has removed Moïse as a target of assassination in 2010. Although the area around its epicenter is less densely populated than Port-au-Prince, the USGS is predicting damage in the billions of dollars in damages and thousands of deaths. 

Congressional-nominated "translators." The PNH has named no pri-

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Cuomo out

#TimesUp for all you misogynist ruling class creeps!

Finally, after months of denials, dismissals and weak excuses for multiple incidents of sexual harassment, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo has resigned from office. This action came only after New York State Attorney General Letitia James, an African American woman, published a scathing, 168-page report on her four-month investiga-
tion on Aug. 3.

Civil rights attorney and investigator Anne Clark reported that 11 women who gave testimony — many of whom have identified themselves publicly — found the governor’s behavior “deeply humiliating and offen-
sive.” Each of them gave graphic, detailed accounts of uninhibited groping, fondling, kissing and suggestive comments. Most experienced the abuse in a workplace setting, including workers not only of the governor’s office but also of the New York State Senate. Former First Lady of New York Gov. Cuomo appearing to force a kiss on Jill at her home during a tour of flood damage to the home in 2017, IABC News, Aug. 10.

We believe the survivors.

We unequivocally reject Cuomo’s pathetic explanations that his actions were “mistakes” or that he had not “intentionally disrespect[ed] women.” Even more so, we reject his denials of unwanted touching, which attempt to make liars of the courageous women who came for-
ward, many at risk of losing their careers and income. The events leading to the resignation are hardly unusual. Millions of women and gender-oppressed workers are sexually abused by their bosses, as well as co-workers. Workers of color are particularly vulnerable, because of the multiple forms of discrimination they face. As much as the facts of this case, political conflicts within the ruling class contributed to the downfall of the vengeful, abrasive and abusive governor.

Cuomo, one among millions

Public expose usually only happens with high-pro-
file abusers — and they include not just Gov. Cuomo, but President Joe Biden and ex-President Donald Trump, not to mention racist enslaver Thomas Jefferson and the notorious philanderers John F. Kennedy and Bill Clinton. Sexual abusers include Supreme Court Justices Brett Kavanaugh and Clarence Thomas — the latter taken on by Anita Hill 30 years ago.

We believe the survivors.

The U.S. government reacted by providing

U.S. aggression targeted the sovereign nations of Southwest Asia.

The various wars and other reactionary groups fought among themselves and were unable to take Kabul decisively until 1996. By that time the Taliban, a reactionary group of young people centered in Islamic schools, received enormous aid from Pakistan’s secret service and was able to seize power in the country. The first U.S. reaction was to engage with the Taliban, despite this group’s oppressive program regarding women. In the end, Washington was unable to establish a stable alliance or tutelage.

Osama bin Laden’s al-Qaeda organization, one of the groups the CIA armed against the anti-Soviet war, was based in Afghanistan as a guest of the Taliban. Following the 9/11 attacks, the Bush administration seized on al-Qaeda’s presence there as an excuse to invade Afghanistan — and immediately began prepara-
tions to invade oil-rich Iraq.

No Afghans and no Iraqis were involved in the attacks as a pretext for the “War on Terror.”

Washington aimed at world hegemony

What this really meant — and Washington’s strategies made this clear in their papers on U.S. strategy — was that without a Soviet Union in its way, the U.S. planned to dominate the world for the coming century, using its military and economic power. The first steps were aimed at reconquering those countries in the Central and Western Asian region that had won some sover-
ey in the period after World War II.

Instead of the grandiose plans of the so-called “pacific consensus,” the U.S. strategy — the result of the “War on Terror” has been a series of setbacks for U.S. aggression. Unfortunately, even in defeat the Pentagon has inflicted misery on tens of millions of people.

The U.S. interventions brought chaos and

People may ask why the Afghan revolution was able to defend Kabul without Soviet troops present from 1989 to 1992, yet the U.S. puppet government today has fallen apart in weeks. The limited support for the U.S. occupation came from only a narrow range of those who could take advantage of the wealth and arms poured into the country. Of course the most corrupt elements come from the U.S. and West European criminal monopolies, especially the arms industry. The current rapid collapse mirrors the disastrous impact of the Pentagon in the entire region.

Progressive people in the U.S. must fight to make sure the U.S. leaves Afghanistan quickly and to oppose any new military interventions and to end all sanc-
tions, in Afghanistan and in the region.

Many in the corporate media erroneously compare the
events in Kabul with the rapid victory of the liberation forces in Saigon, Vietnam, in 1975. However, besides driving out the U.S., brought a progressive government to power. That contrasts with the current events in Afghanistan.

Nevertheless, getting the U.S. out is a step forward. Any progressive steps in Afghanistan can only be accom-
plished by the people who inhabit the region. There is no way the U.S. imperialist intervention can defend the rights of Afghans.

More Workers World coverage of the background on

Afghanistan

Continued from page 1

The debate within the U.S. ruling class is for its interests and its interests alone.

U.S. war began in 1978

The massive U.S. intervention in Afghanistan began in the late 1970s, following a progressive revolution that deposed the Afghan king and tried to bring land reform to the countryside and socialism to the cities of their country.

That Afghan revolution, led by communists, immediately lifted the position of Afghan women, who served in its forefront as leaders, teachers and soldiers to defend their newly won rights.

But the U.S. government reacted by providing

U.S. and West European criminal monopolies, especially

Libyans and — through its clients in Saudi Arabia and Israel — to millions of Yemenis and Palestinians. Washington’s economic sanctions extended the suffering to Iran and Lebanon.

But U.S. intervention has been marked by U.S. military and diplomatic failure.

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More Workers World coverage of the background on
Evo Morales warns of right-wing maneuvers

Translated by Walter Lippmann for CubaNews and edited by Workers World.

Former president Evo Morales, leader of the Movimiento al Socialismo (MAS) party, denounced, this Aug. 4, the Bolivian political right for promoting destabilizing maneuvers disguised as political activism.

"Once again, the coup plotters announce anti-democratic mobilizations against the legitimate, legal and constitutional government of our brother President Luis Arce (@LachoXOlivio). They defend paramilitaries and call them 'activists.' This time, they will not fall for provocations and will defend democracy," Morales wrote on Twitter.

The indigenous leader referred to the demonstrations crowds, in the streets, couldn't be hidden; they were carried on television screens worldwide. Trucks of Taliban fighters rolled down the streets. Coils of barbed wire were burned.

By nightfall in Kabul – prime news time in Washington, D.C. – Afghan President Ashraf Ghani had fled the country with four cars and a chopper stuffed with cash. According to Reuters, Aug. 16, some money was left lying on the tarmac. On Aug. 10, five days before the collapse, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken expressed worry over the Taliban's meetings in Russia, China and Iran, the very countries where the directions of the ruling party are defined for the next few days.

"The Taliban's reactionary views on the position of women get endless coverage. But the social position of the vast majority of women chained to patriarchal feudal relations did not change under the 20 years of U.S. occupation of Afghanistan. Several thousand women of elevated social position and educational level may have benefited from the U.S. occupation. Unfortunately, they were mere window dressing. Such essential indices may have benefited from the U.S. occupation of Afghanistan, still ranks as one of the poorest countries in the world. U.S. occupation never brought democracy, workers' rights, women's rights or industrial development.

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The observer mission of the Organization of American States has issued a report based on incomplete data on irregularities in the automated counting system and suggested that the objective was to benefit Morales. Thus the conclusion rejected the fraud narrative and validated the thesis that a coup deposed Morales in 2019.

The most recent analysis on the subject, officially commissioned by the government of Bolivia to a group of investigations of the University of Salamanca, Spain, reached the same conclusion; as a result, the Prosecutor's Office closed the case.

However, the right-wing and related organizations insist on continuing with the investigation. To achieve this goal, they announced demonstrations and roadblocks in different parts of the country for the next few days.

This Aug. 4, when speaking at the MAS congress, where the directions of the ruling party are defined for the next few years, Morales insisted on the unity of the militants in the face of threats that come both from the right and the U.S. regime, which "does not want to let the MAS continue.

"Our congress is, fundamentally, about how to strengthen that fight. The best way to strengthen this fight is precisely by uniting ourselves," he stressed.

The congress takes place in La Paz 5, a town in the traditional region of Cochabamba, the main political bastion of the organization in which President Arce is also a member.

Morales highlighted the importance for Bolivia of the MAS, which he described as the most effective political party in the country's history. The MAS returned to government after 11 months of an interim administration that emerged from a coup.

"Brothers and sisters, united we are invincible. Again the right is threatening; now we are better prepared, and here we are going to prepare better, with discipline to continue defeating these mechanisms," he said.

"The strategy of the right in 2019 was to kill the Movement to Socialism ... but we are alive," said Bolivian President Luis Arce, denouncing, for the next few years, Morales insisted on the unity of the MAS, which he described as the most effective political party in the country's history. The MAS returned to government after 11 months of an interim administration that emerged from a coup.

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Women fighting on their own behalf joined pro-communist women organizations, defending the 1978 progressive revolution for a over a decade.

An epic failure of U.S. aggression

Continued from page 1

on the scene described the Taliban's arrival in Kabul as the police and military evaporated before them. Images of welcoming crowds in the streets, couldn't be hidden; they were carried on television screens worldwide. Trucks of Taliban fighters rolled down the streets. Coils of barbed wire were burned.

By nightfall in Kabul – prime news time in Washington, D.C. – Afghan President Ashraf Ghani had fled the country with four cars and a chopper stuffed with cash. According to Reuters, Aug. 16, some money was left lying on the tarmac. On Aug. 10, five days before the collapse, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken expressed worry over the Taliban's meetings in Russia, China and Iran, the very countries where the directions of the ruling party are defined for the next few days.

"The Taliban's reactionary views on the position of women get endless coverage. But the social position of the vast majority of women chained to patriarchal feudal relations did not change under the 20 years of U.S. occupation of Afghanistan. Several thousand women of elevated social position and educational level may have benefited from the U.S. occupation. Unfortunately, they were mere window dressing. Such essential indices may have benefited from the U.S. occupation of Afghanistan, still ranks as one of the poorest countries in the world. U.S. occupation never brought democracy, workers' rights, women's rights or industrial development.

The observer mission of the Organization of American States has issued a report based on incomplete data on irregularities in the automated counting system and suggested that the objective was to benefit Morales. Thus the conclusion rejected the fraud narrative and validated the thesis that a coup deposed Morales in 2019.

The most recent analysis on the subject, officially commissioned by the government of Bolivia to a group of investigations of the University of Salamanca, Spain, reached the same conclusion; as a result, the Prosecutor's Office closed the case.

However, the right-wing and related organizations insist on continuing with the investigation. To achieve this goal, they announced demonstrations and roadblocks in different parts of the country for the next few days.

This Aug. 4, when speaking at the MAS congress, where the directions of the ruling party are defined for the next few years, Morales insisted on the unity of the militants in the face of threats that come both from the right and the U.S. regime, which "does not want to let the MAS continue.

"Our congress is, fundamentally, about how to strengthen that fight. The best way to strengthen this fight is precisely by uniting ourselves," he stressed.

The congress takes place in La Paz 5, a town in the traditional region of Cochabamba, the main political bastion of the organization in which President Arce is also a member.

Morales highlighted the importance for Bolivia of the MAS, which he described as the most effective political party in the country's history. The MAS returned to government after 11 months of an interim administration that emerged from a coup.

"Brothers and sisters, united we are invincible. Again the right is threatening; now we are better prepared, and here we are going to prepare better, with discipline to continue defeating these mechanisms," he said.

"The strategy of the right in 2019 was to kill the Movement to Socialism ... but we are alive," said Bolivian President Luis Arce, denouncing, for the next few years, Morales insisted on the unity of the MAS, which he described as the most effective political party in the country's history. The MAS returned to government after 11 months of an interim administration that emerged from a coup.

Women fighting on their own behalf joined pro-communist women organizations, defending the 1978 progressive revolution for a over a decade.

An epic failure of U.S. aggression
¡Defender a Cuba, defender el socialismo!

Las fuerzas anticomunistas —dirigi-das por el gobierno de Estados Unidos— están montando un ataque sin cuartel contra Cuba. Desde el 1 de enero de 1999, cuando las fuerzas dirigidas por Fidel Castro y Ernesto “Ché” Guevara derrocaron al gobierno del dictador Fulgencio Batista, res-tantes por Estados Unidos le declaró por primera vez la guerra ideológica y econó-mica a Cuba en 1960, al imponer un bru-tal bloqueo económico y social que sigue vigente. Desde entonces, Estados Unidos ha intentado todas las tácticas para aca-bar con la Revolución, desde el poderío militar directo en la invasión de Bahía de Cochinos (Playa Girón) en 1961 hasta la creación de un “Twitter cubano” secreto para injertar el mal y organizar “tur-bas inteligentes” para una “primavera sospechoso”.

La campaña más reciente contra Cuba incluye miles de cuentas de Twitter anti-Cuba vinculadas a un sistema automa-tizado que se nombra “bots”. El experto en desinformación Julián Macías Tovar dijo a Newsweek que el 9 de julio, en menos de 24 horas, se creó un hashtag anti-Cuba, #500.000 al día siguiente, y 1.5 millones el 11 de julio. Tovar añadió: “Si hay cuentas con pocos seguidores que hacen muchos tweets o retweets, cuentas recién creadas con una foto de perfil falsa... eso siempre es sospechoso.”

Restrepo ha afirmado categóricamente que las publicaciones de protestas en Cuba —compartidas por millones— fueron falsamente etiquetadas como protes-tas contra el gobierno cubano. Algunas de las fotos eran en realidad imágenes de una protesta de 2011 en Egipto —y algunas en realidad de una gran multitud reunida en apoyo de la marcha del Primero de Mayo de 2018 en Cuba celebrando su revolución obrera! (tinyurl.com/dbhy7yst).

La desinformación ha incluido la inter-vención cultural, como la promoción de una canción de reg-gae anticomu-nista procedente de la comunidad cubana de Miami, que tiene su origen en los ríos terratenientes blancos que huieron de Cuba cuando triunfó la Revolución. En lo largo de las décadas, muchas operaciones físicas y psicológicas contra Cuba se han originado en Miami. La campaña de des-información se puso en marcha cuando se estaban produciendo algunas protestas den tro de Cuba. El poder se ha visto afectado recientemente por la escasez de alimentos y de suministros médi-cos relacionados con la pandemia, como las jeringuillas, a las que Estados Unidos bloquea el acceso.

La Cuba revolucionaria es celebrada por su atención médica innovadora, integral y gratuita, con equipos médicos y profesionales que viajan en solidaridad a otros países, especialmente durante la pandemia. Una reciente caricatura política estadouni-dense se burló de este logro, mostrando falsamente a un manifestante sangrante arrastrado por una policía sombría que se jactaba de la atención médica gratuita. Sin embargo, la más reciente, Cuba —que todavía clasiﬁcada en la economía mundial como un país “sub-desarrollado”— ha conseguido con su sistema socialista planiﬁcado limitar las muertes por COVID-19 a 214 por millón de habitantes. La sanidad estadouni-dense, orientada al lucro, ha perdido 1.882 personas por millón, ha tenido más de tres veces más casos por millón que Cuba y lidera el mundo en cuanto a muer-tes totales, que ya superan las 625.000. (tinyurl.com/27zyhvyg)

Muchos de los logros de la Revolución han sido consagrados por el pueblo en Estados Unidos —aunque no para el resto del mundo— debido a la campaña estadounidense en curso contra el comu-nismo. En marcha desde el siglo XIX, en el trabajo. (Sara Diamond, “Roads to Dominion: Right-Wing Movements and Political Power in the United States”, Guilford Publications, 1996, pp. 90-92)

Ahora, la última cam-paña anticomunista está en marcha cuando “American Marxism” llega a la cima de la lista de bestsellers del New York Times. Escrito por Mark Levin, una estre-lla de la derecha de Fox News, y un gerente de la Guerra Fría renunciado, el libro utiliza las clásicas tácticas de provocación de los rojos para atacar casi todas las iniciativas progresistas en curso en Estados Unidos.

La gran Mentría con ganas

¡Esta es la Gran Mentría de “La Guerra es la Paz” con ganas! Como socialistas sabemos que el verdadero legado del marxismo —basado en la solidaridad en las luchas contra la injusticia y la des-igualdad— brilló en el faro de la Cuba revolucionaria.

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La propaganda anticomunista está en la orden del día para el gobierno de Estados Unidos, porque Cuba ha tenido tanto éxito en seguir adelante con su visión revolu-cionaria, a pesar de los viles ataques y bloqueos colocados en su camino. Dirigida por su Partido Comunista a lo largo de las décadas, Cuba ha creado cam-pañas de información masiva, con monumen-tales formales para abordar de forma signiﬁcativa las desigualdades materiales y las insensibilidades culturales. Los fun-cionarios del gobierno han admitido con franqueza errores arraigados en el pasado y, con un sistema electoral basado en la plena representación de todos los se-cores del país, han abordado especíﬁca-mente los problemas de las mujeres, las personas LGBTIQ+, los afrodescendientes, los pueblos indígenas y otros con esperanzas especiales.

La actual campaña contra Cuba está vinculada íntimamente a la gue-rra de Estados Unidos contra un futuro socialista. Y no es de extrañar. En una encuesta realizada entre el 4 y el 15 de junio, Axios/ Momentive encontró que el capitalismo está perdiendo rápidamente su popularidad entre los jóvenes de Estados Unidos, y que los jóvenes de 18 a 34 años están divididos sobre qué es lo que hará el capitalismo negativa-mente y lo que le ve positiva-mente. (tinyurl.com/ xydxp)

En una encuesta de Gallup sobre las eleccio-nes de 2020 —una fuente masiva de información— se decía que los estadounidenses indicó que votaría a un socialista para presidente. (tinyurl.com/ xjpy8q)

Sitúan la campaña contra Cuba en el contexto de la larga guerra de EE.UU. contra el comu-nismo, y estamos atentos a cómo este veneno todavía se extiende, si es que no se extingue, en los jóvenes de Estados Unidos. Y que los jóvenes de 18 a 34 años están divididos sobre qué es lo que hará el capitalismo negativa-mente y lo que le ve positiva-mente. (tinyurl.com/ xydxp)

Era la política de los años 50, esta campaña anticomu-nista se vio potenciada durante la época de McCarthy, y la desinformación se puso en marcha con un punto de inflexión. Ese país fue el de un futuro socialista. Y no es de extraordinario. La actual campaña contra Cuba está vinculada íntimamente a la gue-rra de Estados Unidos contra un futuro socialista. Y no es de extraordinario. En una encuesta realizada entre el 4 y el 15 de junio, Axios/ Momentive encontró que el capitalismo está perdiendo rápidamente su popularidad entre los jóvenes de Estados Unidos, y que los jóvenes de 18 a 34 años están divididos sobre qué es lo que hará el capitalismo negativa-mente y lo que le ve positiva-mente. (tinyurl.com/ xydxp)

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