¡Xiomara presidente!

Hondurans reject coup regime

By Martha Grevatt

On January 27, after nearly 13 years under a “narco-dictatorship” responsible for thousands of assassinations, kidnappings and imprisonments, the people of Honduras will witness the inauguration of President-elect Xiomara Castro de Zelaya. She was the candidate of the Libre (Freedom and Refoundation) Party and is the spouse of former President Manuel “Melo” Zelaya— democratically elected but deposed in the U.S.-backed 2009 coup.

Xiomara Castro received close to 54% of the votes in the Nov. 28 election. The candidate of the National Party — the current President Juan Orlando Hernandez, who stole the election in 2013 and again in 2017 by way of terror and fraud — has conceded defeat.

This is an enormous victory for the Honduran resistance and testament to the courage of the people, who adopted the slogan: “They fear us because we have no fear.” The U.S.-trained and funded military police, along with ultraright paramilitaries, have created a living hell for the Honduran people, targeting women and gender-oppressed people, the LGBTI+ community, educators, unionists, environmentalists, human rights advocates and the Indigenous and Afro-descendent communities.

In the lead-up to the 2017 election, close to 30 opposition candidates and campaign workers were assassinated, a pattern repeated in the current election cycle.

In addition to political terror and repression, the Honduran people have one of the highest rates of poverty and income inequality in the Western Hemisphere. The percentage of Hondurans in poverty ranges from 62% to 74%, with 40% in “extreme poverty” by global standards. In a country of 10.1 million people, some 1.3 million are food insecure. Poverty has been compounded recently by COVID and two hurricanes.

Unions have been crushed and labor rights undermined. “There has been a growing deregulation of labor, coupled with the deepening of labor flexibilization [a threat to secure jobs and income] and insecurity. One of the most nefarious laws has undoubtedly been the Hourly Employment Law: Rights have been lost, and permanent jobs have been made precarious,” said Joel Almendares, secretary general of the United Confederation of Honduran Workers.

It’s little wonder that the people would choose a self-described “democratic socialist” over the brutal coup regime supported by wealthy oligarchs such as the Atala Zablah and Facussé family dynasties. The masses are celebrating Castro’s victory in the streets.

Xiomara Castro promises change

Xiomara Castro, who will become the first woman president of Honduras, has promised to reverse the dire fortunes of the Honduran people. Concretely this means establishing the right to health care, food, housing and employment. With

Che Nieves:
‘We’re freedom fighters’

No compassion in California prisons

Free Dr. Mutulu Shakur!

Continued on page 10

Free Mumia Abu-Jamal!

Workers World Party issues this solidarity editorial on the anniversary of the imprisonment of Mumia Abu-Jamal.

December 9 marks 40 years since Black Panther Party member, activist and revolutionary journalist Mumia Abu-Jamal was framed for the murder of a Philadelphia cop. As a result of police, prosecutorial and judicial misconduct in a highly contested trial, Abu-Jamal was given the racist death sentence in July 1982. Since 1981, he has been incarcerated under inhumane and illegal imprisonment — including almost 30 years in solitary confinement on Pennsylvania’s death row.

Despite numerous appeals, in July 1995 then-Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge signed Abu-Jamal’s death warrant to be carried out on Aug. 15 — in the midst of Black August. An international

Int’l Day of People with Disabilities
‘Fight for reproductive justice!’

Rank and file workers rise up

Day of Mourning youth leader: ‘We are not vanishing’

Philadelphia: City recognizes Palestine

WW commentaries

Ethical consumption under capitalism? Peng Shuai & U.S. hypocrisy

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Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite! workers.org Vol. 63, No. 49 December 9, 2021 $1

40 years later, we still say

Free Mumia Abu-Jamal!
On the right to accessibility during COVID—a statement

This statement on the right of accessibility during the COVID pandemic was affirmed by the Disability Rights and Justice Caucus of Workers World Party and delivered by WWP DJRC member Renée Imperato at a New York City action on Dec. 3, International Day of People with Disabilities.

The obstruction of accessibility has reached a new high in major U.S. cities. In New York City for example, the COVID lockdown produced the following violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act, in about this order:

First there was the creation of sidewalk dining, which obstructed or severely limited navigating, especially for people with mobility constraints, such as people who use wheelchairs or crutches or canes. This has forced some disabled people to use the street and face dangerous vehicular traffic.

Then came the existence of “gutter restaurants,” which use the street curb lane to erect what amounts to small buildings. These obstruct access to street crossings and create extremely dangerous blind spots, especially when they are set right up to the crosswalk. Disabled and even able-bodied people can only be seen by motorists in an instant of time. This is incredibly dangerous!

Next — and almost absolutely unbelievable — is that without any prior notification, streets are closed off to traffic for the ridiculous reason that restaurants have to set up tables in the middle of the street — for someone to eat a salad! And all motorized traffic — including public bus routes — must be detoured to other streets.

Imagine a wheelchair user going to the corner where they live to take a bus and they find no bus access, because the street is blocked off. Now we have to move our wheelchairs sometimes as much as a quarter mile or more to take a bus. This is an insurmountable and sometimes impossible task to navigate.

One could understand if there were a fire or gas explosion that would warrant a street closing. But to do this so some individual can eat a plate of pasta is a violation of human rights that is unacceptable.

We might add that even able-bodied workers have been late to work for these completely unacceptable and totally unnecessary obstructions. Note that these private businesses do not pay any rent to the city and are using public spaces paid for by working people.

Let’s organize to stop these human rights violations! They must be stopped.

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

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Workers World newspaper’s articles and editorials analyze major global and U.S. developments, always with an anti-capitalist, anti-imperialist perspective. Our pages report on people’s movements here and abroad, to not only inform our readers but to promote those and show solidarity with them. And, WW aims to advance the struggle for socialism.

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We must fight for justice! For freedom! We send love to the Abortion Freedom Fighters in Mississippi today. We’re here because of their giving for their common man’s right to abortion and other health care. They had their treatment canceled or delayed. They gave speeches emphasizing how the noontime rally was organized by Planned Parenthood Generation Action, Abortion Legal Fund and Philadelphia’s Women Center.

— Photo and report by Joe Piette

This Dec. 1 rally was held near the Jackson Women’s Health Organization, the only remaining clinic in Mississippi that provides abortions and the respondent in the case currently before the U.S. Supreme Court. It is the first time the U.S. Supreme Court has heard arguments in a case involving the constitutionality of abortion bans. Anti-abortion laws are not “pro-life.” I want to snatch that word from these people holding onto “pro-life.” They are not pro-life. They are rooted in white supremacy and are downright unjust. States that implement and uphold inherently unjust laws that disproportionately target Black folks and folks of color are upholding a system that shields white supremacy.

We show what Black-centered leadership and folks-of-color-centered leadership look like. We are focused on winning, on liberation. We will keep taking care of each other, building our collective power, voting, holding our vision for freedom in our hearts, telling our stories and changing the narrative and the culture. That is what it will take to move from a defensive to offensive position. When we get to the offensive position, our opposition better get ready. We are not stopping once we get the ball! When we get that ball, things are going to change. Lives will change. Then liberation is ours. We are standing on the shoulders of giants who did this before us. We are standing together collectively, building the power that will change the very nature of this country. It will take all of us connected to do that. We must keep our joy and love at the center. They cannot take our joy, love or the things that are inherently ours. We have to use them as our power to move us to the position that we want to be in. Are you ready to win? Ready for liberation in our lifetime? Let’s keep doing what we are doing.

Washington, D.C.

‘Fight for reproductive justice!’

By Kathy Durkin

Rallies to support reproductive justice and the right to abortion were held in several cities in the U.S. on Dec. 1. Monica Simpson, Executive Director of SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective, gave a rousing talk at the rally in Washington, D.C. to cheers. Below are excerpts from her talk. (Access video at tinyurl.com/2p95vwch.)

Monica Simpson at Dec. 1 rally, Washington, D.C.

PHOTO: SISTER SONG

The United Nations claims to make efforts to promote the rights and well-being of the people with special needs. However, their situation remains difficult due to lack of strong public health systems to cover all their health needs with proper medical attendance, lack of adequate public special schools and rehabilitation centers for the education and inclusion of people with special needs, lack of adequate medical attendance for the heavily disabled and chronically ill, lack of sufficient health and safety measures at work.

The above could and should be priorities of all States and governments, in order to protect the health and life of the most vulnerable ones.

However, in the prevailing system of exploitation, the above are a cost that does not find a place in the States’ budget. Instead, the idea of individual responsibility of disabled persons and their families to take care of their needs is being systematically promoted so that governments can get rid of their own responsibilities. And in such societies indifference and discriminations against people with special needs keep existing and even flare up.

The World Federation of Trade Unions calls on workers all over the world to strengthen our struggle for the protection and improvement of living conditions of persons with disabilities.

We reiterate our militant demands: prevention of the disabilities; access to free, public and high quality health and rehabilitation services for people with disabilities; their access to education; creation of public and adequate accommodations for the necessary infrastructure for their movement and transportation; employment for all persons with disabilities who are able to work; and assurance of a dignified life.

World Federation of Trade Unions

Solidarity on Day of Persons with Disabilities

By the World Federation of Trade Unions

This statement was issued Dec. 2 by the World Federation of Trade Unions, representing over 105 million workers internationally.

Today more than 1 billion people, or approximately 15% of the world’s population, live with some form of disability, while 80% of them live in developing countries. Nevertheless, they encounter how difficult life for those persons and their families is, since in most cases they cannot find a job, or in heavy cases they cannot even take care of themselves.

In developing countries, 80% to 90% of persons with disabilities of working age are unemployed; whereas in industrialized countries the figure is between 50% and 70%. Also, globally, a large percent-age of those persons are disabled because of an accident, injury or illness at work.

As far as children are concerned, affected by the criminalization of access to abortion and other health care. They staffed tables covered with literature and gave out T-shirts and flyers to the receptive students passing by.

The noontime rally was organized by Planned Parenthood Generation Action, Abortion Legal Fund and Philadelphia’s Women Center.

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Philadelphia rally defends right to abortion

On Dec. 1 as the U.S. Supreme Court was hearing arguments in Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization — one of the two most consequential abortion rights case since the Roe v. Wade decision in 1973 — women, other gender-oppressed people and allies rallied at Temple University in Philadelphia.

They gave speeches emphasizing how working-class communities and Black and Brown people will be the most affected by the criminalization of access to abortion and other health care. They staffed tables covered with literature and gave out T-shirts and flyers to the receptive students passing by.

The noontime rally was organized by Planned Parenthood Generation Action, Abortion Legal Fund and Philadelphia’s Women Center.

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Rank-and-file democracy wins in the UAW

By Martha Grevatt

From Oct. 19 through Nov. 29, working and retired members of the United Auto Workers participated in a referendum vote on how they would elect their union’s International Executive Board officers. The two choices were whether to continue the current delegate voting system, where the IEB is chosen by delegates to a quadrennial Constitutional Convention, or for the rank and file to elect their top officers directly in a system popularly known as “one member, one vote.”

Member-voted results Dec. 2: One member, one vote won by a nearly two-to-one margin. This was a huge victory for progressive reform forces inside the UAW. Activists have been pushing for direct elections not only for the sake of accountable leadership, but also to be thwarted by convention processes manipulated by the Administrative Caucus, which has dominated the UAW for seven decades. The match-up is a battle of two models, with the former followed a federal investigation of union corruption.

Direct elections carried all of the UAW’s eight regions and the vast majority of locals, with support in all sectors, including automotive, agricultural equipment, academic, legal services, the public sector and gaming.

The rank-and-file caucus United All Workers for Democracy built a broad, grassroots campaign to promote voter turnout for direct elections. A team of volunteers helped with phone banking, text banking, leafleting, social media outreach and generating media publicity. It became clear that they had tapped into a widespread sentiment in their union.

“The membership of our great union has made clear that they want to change the direction of the UAW and return to our glory days of fighting for our members. I am so proud of the UAW membership and their willingness to stand up and vote for change,” said Chris Budnick, member of UAW Local 862, Ford Louisville Plant, and Recording Secretary for UAWD (uawd.org).

The vote is a step forward, but the work is far from finished. Good fighting leaders have to be drafted to run for the IEB, and the rank-and-file movement needs a program that is tailored for the convention and beyond. Those discussions have already begun in the UAW’s ranks.

No business unionism as usual

The vote shows that the rank and file favor a more democratic election process, but it was also a vote against what’s often termed “business unionism.” For too long, members have been fed a message that concessions are necessary to keep a company “competitive” or “profitable.” This has meant that wages have fallen behind inflation, and it has led to the expansion of unequal, divisive two-tier and multiskilled pay scales, while jobs are wiped out by plant closings, outsourcing and robotization.

Defeat for the delegate system comes after the month-long UAW strike at John Deere, begun after Deere workers rejected a contract presented to them by the union leadership, which did not adequately address their concerns. They then rejected a second, improved contract, holding out for a contract they were satisfied with. UAW members at Deere voted heavily in favor of direct elections.

The referendum results follow elections in the Teamsters, where the opposition candidate Sean O’Brien won the union presidency, overwhelmingly defeating James Hoffa Jr.’s hand-picked successor.

There’s a new, militant mood brewing in the ranks of organized labor — and the drive to organize among Amazon workers shows the contagion is spreading to those who don’t yet have a union.

To have credibility, unions must end their cozy relationship with the capitalists — and with capitalist politicians, including the Democrats. What the working class needs is a global, classwide movement.

Martha Grevatt is a retired executive board member of UAW Local 869.

Student workers strike at Columbia University

The striking Student Workers of Columbia Union CTU, a branch of UAW Local 2110, declared victory Dec. 1 in New York City. The strike began Nov. 3 and is the second by the student workers in 2021. They are represented by United Auto Workers Local 862, Ford Louisville Plant, and Recording Secretary for UAWD (uawd.org).

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Baseball players union blasts owners for lockout

At midnight Dec. 2, immediately after the contract between Major League Baseball and the Major League Baseball Players Association expired, team owners locked out all members of the MLBPA. The union issued the following statement on Twitter: “Owners locked out all members of the MLBPA. The union issued the following statement on Twitter: 20 minutes after the lockout was imposed. In two days the statement received almost 25,000 likes.

Major League Baseball has announced a lockout of Players, shutting down our industry. This shutdown is a dramatic measure, regardless of the timing. It is not required by law or for any other reason. It was the owners’ choice, plain and simple, specifically calculated to pressure Players into relinquishing rights and benefits and abandoning good, fair-bargaining proposals that will benefit not just Players, but the game and industry as a whole.

These tactics are new. We have been here before, and Players have risen to the occasion time and again — guided by a solidarity that has been forged over generations. We will do so again here.

We remain determined to return to the field under terms of a negotiated collective bargaining agreement that is fair to all parties and provides fans with the best version of the game we all love.

By Oulijmi Alade

There is no ethical consumption under capitalism. That truism has been burned into my mind since the moment I entered the workforce. Being a worker exposed me to the harm to the working class — who carry long shifts through their lives, weak, unable even to hold their children when they come home, let alone prepare a nutritious meal for them. Millions of single mothers work long hours to provide for their children. It is not uncommon for working parents to spend 12- or even 14-hour shifts on the job, with few breaks, and a management that demands more and generating media publicity. It became clear that they had tapped into a widespread sentiment in their union.

“The membership of our great union has made clear that they want to change the direction of the UAW and return to our glory days of fighting for our members. I am so proud of the UAW membership and their willingness to step up and vote for change,” said Chris Budnick, member of UAW Local 862, Ford Louisville Plant, and Recording Secretary for UAWD (uawd.org).

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Martha Grevatt is a retired executive board member of UAW Local 869.
U.S. caravan brings solidarity to Cuba

By Peter Gilbert

Gilbert was a member of the 31st IPFW/Pastors for Peace Caravan which recently traveled in Cuba.

The Pastors for Peace Caravan visited Cuba Nov. 15-26 as witness to the artificial hardships created there by the ongoing, indefensible U.S. blockade of the island. The contingent also witnessed the Cuban peoples’ resiliency and commitment to development challenges.

Members of several socialist organizations, including Workers World Party, traveled with the Caravan, along with representatives of Black Workers for Justice and representatives from the Southern Workers Assembly. We delivered needed medical supplies along with solidarity and witness.

U.S. tries to provoke crisis

The Caravan arrived Nov. 15—the day that a U.S.-backed counterrevolutionary movement called for protests to distract attention from the worldwide struggle by imperialist media that Cuba had “floode[d] the streets with security forces,” the caravanners saw no signs of police repression as we moved freely through Havana.

“We witnessed one small gathering of a few dozen people in a square in the Malecon, the main roadway along Havana Bayfront. These were identified by our taxi driver as a “protest of people who want Cuba to be more like the United States.” But there was no sign of any police there. At least in Cuba, the government of President Miguel Díaz-Canel, who met with the Caravan Nov. 22, offers no signs of police repression. Over 80% have had all three doses. This was on top of 243 increased restrictive economic measures added by the Trump administration to the ongoing, indefensible U.S. blockade of Cuba.”

De Cosio noted, “The current government of the U.S. got on that train, despite Biden’s campaign promises to loosen the blockade, “and again they bet on this provoking Cuba and making this situation impossible to handle by the government by making life difficult for the common Cuban, by depressing the standard of living, by making people desperate—that this would provoke a level of dissatisfaction that would lead to a social explosion and if possible, insurrection.”

Cuba’s response to the crisis

The triple hardships of the increased U.S. coercive measures, the pandemic and the complete loss of tourism have created hardship and scarcity in Cuba not seen since the “Special Period,” following the collapse of the Soviet Union. But this has not weakened the Cuban people’s commitment to their revolutionary process.

Nowhere is this more evident than in their development of their own vaccines for COVID-19 and their ability to quickly vaccinate their entire population. Thanks to the development of these vaccines, Sobrana and Abdala, more than 95% of the population, down to 2 years old, have received at least one dose of a vaccine. Over 80% have had all three doses.

Cuba expects to be able to fully vaccinate its population by the end of the year. (Full statement available at workers.org.)

No miracle It’s socialist planning

The ability of Cuba to develop its own vaccine and to quickly vaccinate its population seems miraculous to someone accustomed only to capitalist healthcare delivery in the United States.

International Day of People with Disabilities

N.Y.C. protest demands full access, equal rights

By Edward Yudelovich

New York City

The worldwide struggle by people with disabilities for equal rights led the United Nations to establish the International Day of People with Disabilities on Dec. 3, 1992. The IDDP website stresses that this holiday in 2021 should be used to recognize that people with disabilities are among the most affected populations amid the COVID pandemic. (idpdwl.org)

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was adopted by the U.N. in 2006. Some 177 countries have ratified it—but not the United States, which has also failed to ratify human rights treaties that recognize the right of people with disabilities to exist in the community and have sufficient support to guarantee such independence.


This protest was held inside Macy’s department store, New York City, on International Day of People with Disabilities, Dec. 3, 2019. (Full statement available at workers.org.)

Attending the rally was Michael Howard, who identifies as an African American male with a mild intellectual development disability and lives independently in Queens under Well Life Network. An active participant in Disabled in Action, the Disability Justice and Rights Caucus of Workers World Party and other groups.

The rally was chaired by PPA leader Terrea Mitchell who told folks that as many as half of people killed by cops have a disability. WWP member Renee Imperato related her testimony given earlier that day at the monthly community meeting of the N.Y.C. Mayor’s Office of People with Disabilities. She said there had received from the WWP-DURC statement: “The right of accessibility during the COVID pandemic.” (Full statement available at workers.org.)

No ethical consumption under capitalism

Continued from page 4

As capitalist propaganda continues to push higher education as the ultimate ticket out of poverty and into a life that supposedly typifies the “American dream,” students across the U.S. and all over the world pile on a plethora of “honors” and advanced placement courses. They subject themselves to a laundry list of extracurricular activities, which they often don’t enjoy, in the hopes of getting even a sniff of the hallowed air of the Ivy League.

A toxic, hypercompetitive environment creates a need for an edge. For many workers and students, this edge is found in the form of caffeine drinks. Energy drinks like Monster and Rockstar claim to provide a boost that Coke, Pepsi or even coffee can’t provide.

When I was in college, I recall the dozens of restless nights studying for exams and typing papers, fueled by cans of energy drinks. For the bold who want an even bigger boost, a market has been developed for caffeine pills. But as it turns out, the cans of Monster and Rockstar only increase your heart rate and can prove hazardous to our health as well. Caffeine consumed in high quantities can lead to an increased chance of having a hemorrhage or a stroke. This information is unfortunately not doing much to stymie the rapid increase in sales of these drinks, which even in 2016 almost hit $3 billion. (tinyurl.com/z2qjhy9)

No ethical consumption under capitalism

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My little run to Rite Aid that evening ended up driving home a necessary point: As late-stage capitalism rages on, the working class faces a war not just against the ruling class but with themselves, as they struggle to live a healthy life while out of ratios which can even in 2016 almost hit $3 billion. (tinyurl.com/z2qjhy9).

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No compassion, no release in California prisons

By Judy Greenspan
Oakland, Calif.

Dec. 5 — The California prison system continues to outdo itself in reckless and inhumane treatment of incarcerated people.

COVID rates are spiking again in California prisons.

Calls for the mass release of incarcerated workers in California state prisons have not created this process or system. It is historical reality that cannot be stopped. We are going to take matters into our own hands.

COVID infections keep increasing despite incarcerated workers in California state prisons having high vaccination rates. Unfortunately, the vaccination rate of prison guards has lagged behind.

There are now COVID outbreaks in several prisons, including the Central California Women’s Facility, where 81% of prisoners are vaccinated compared to only 65% of the guards. Chukwawalla Valley State Prison, the California Medical Facility at Vacaville and the California Correctional Center experienced new outbreaks in mid-November. (The Davis Vanguard, Nov. 21)

In 2014, the state prison system began a medical parole program, which allowed the release of 210 severely incapacitated and disabled prisoners to nursing homes. (Vanguard, Nov. 21)

I am a member of the Black Panther Party at that time — in Attica, we were able to form the first chapter of the Young Lords Party within the United States prison system.

I became a leading member of that party.

We began organizing to make this Young Lords Party chapter a reality.

In the process of time, the system took notice of the situation in the yard and started targeting the leaders. Of course I was one of them.

I was placed in segregation. This is a place where you are totally isolated from the prison population. This is a place where they torture and kill you without a slight hesitation.

They [the guards] go to your cell in numbers, six or seven or more. They put a whipping on you. A hell of a whipping.

And they would continue torturing us. A whipping on you. A hell of a whipping.

We're freedom fighters. We ain't goin' to give up with that.

So as a result, we refused to change. And they would continue torturing us.

Many brothers remain in this place for months and even years. We were also denied — on many occasions, for a few days — food, and we were denied showers. These are basic rights that we should have, regardless of our circumstances. But we don't have those rights, because prisoners are not considered humans. We need to understand that prisoners are not considered humans.

It's worth it. It's worth risking your life, because we love our people. We will give our lives for our people. That's what struggle's about.

But I am sure you will not hesitate to kill us just to prove a point. Killing a human life, just like that, so quickly, just to prove a point. So when you become a freedom fighter in prison, you’re putting your life at risk. And it’s worth it, because we know that in the long run our people are gonna win. We know that in the long run, this people are going to become the vanguard of the struggle.

We believe in our people. We love our people. And we will do anything for our people. ☐
Mutulu Shakur was not sentenced to die in prison, but may very well die in prison. The 71-year-old icon of Black liberation struggle has been incarcerated for over three decades. The rules governing his 1988 sentencing set his presumed release date as 2024, but his physician projects he will be dead before then. His cancer, though, once in remission, has returned. His pain is excruciating, his mobility is limited, and he has been denied a parole hearing in favor of a 2013 guideline. With worsening cancer, Shakur remains behind bars.

By Natasha Lennard

This edited article first appeared in its entirety on The Intercept at tinyurl.com/2p86sh44 on Dec. 2. A petition for President Joe Biden to grant Presidential clemency to Dr. Mutulu Shakur is online at tinyurl.com/pys6sh44. For more on Dr. Shakur’s case, go to mutulu.shakur.com.

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Began to plan a protest. The flyer for this
try, and he and other local Native activists
put into his mouth. His suppressed speech
their settler-colonialist narrative.

When state officials saw an advance
marketable story.

The following is a slightly edited talk
given by Kimimilasha James on Nov. 25
at the 52nd commemoration of the
National Day of Mourning for Indigenous people
three days ago, we lost our loved one,
demonstrators, whether the
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It is also important to remember that the
first official Thanksgiving did not take place
in 1621 when the Pilgrims had a harvesttime
meal provided largely by the Wampanoag. Indeed,
the first Thanksgiving was declared in
1637 by Governor [John] Winthrop of
the Massachusetts Bay Colony
in the framework of the

Continued on page 9

Today, I want to tell you
the story of the National Day
of Mourning, which was founded
by my grandfather,
Wamsutta Frank
James, an Aquinnah
Wampanoag tribal member,
more than
50 years ago in 1970.
He had been invited by
the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
to speak at a banquet
celebrating the 350th anniversary of
the arrival of the Pilgrims.
The Pilgrims and save them from starvation.

When was Thanksgiving organized?

Thanksgiving, they are not only erasing
the people who taught us agriculture.

The truth about the Pilgrims

First, the Pilgrims are glorified and
mythologized, because the circumstances of
the first permanent English colony in
North America in Jamestown were too
too ugly to hold up as an effective
case study. No school seems to want to teach
the kids about settler cannibalism. Pilgrims and
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Second, the Pilgrims came here as part of
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Debunking the Thanksgiving myth

By Kimimilasha James

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Compact was merely a group of white
men, who wanted to ensure they
would get a return on their investment.

When the Pilgrims arrived—on Outer
Capes Cod, not in the hilly region
of the Pilgrims—one of the first things they did was to
rob Wampanoag graves at Corn Hill
and steal as much of their winter provisions of
corn and beans as they were able to carry.

The writings of the colonists themselves
describe these actions taking place.

The next part of the story is true:
Some Wampanoag ancestors did welcome
the Pilgrims and save them from starva-
tion. And what did we get in return for
this kindness? Genocide, the theft of
our lands, slavery, starvation and never-end-
ing repression.

Based on the many stories shared with us, we
know that the first Thanksgiving was a powerful
demonstration of Indigenous unity and
of the unity of all people who speak truth to power.

So why does any of this matter? It is
simple. When people pass away,
and observed the first National Day of
Mourning, Nov. 25.

On so-called “Thanksgiving” Day 1970, Wamsutta and members of at least 25
tribes, as well as a sprinkling of non-Na-
tive allies, gathered here on this hill
and observed the first National Day of
Mourning. That first year, my grandfa-
ther never got a chance to deliver his sup-
pressed speech, although some who don’t
actually know our history say he did.

Up to 200 Native people and their allies
gathered on that day. Indigenous people from this region and members of the Boston
Indian Council organized and were joined
by others, including some famous mem-
bers of the American Indian Movement.
They spoke out about the Pilgrim invasion
and conditions in Indian Country, marched
around Plymouth, boarded the Mayflower II
and threw the English flag overboard.

Today we mourn the loss of Aquinnah
Moonanum James, who joined the
National Day of Mourning, Nov. 25.

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We are not vanishing

is up, but for Native men it is still six years below that of white people. Native women’s death rate has increased 20% over that of white women. In 1970, the aver-
age yearly income for Native people was $4,347. In 2019, 20% of Native people still earned under $5,000. In 1970, our suicide and infant mortality rates were among the highest in the country. This has not changed.

We all know that racism is alive and well. All of us are struggling under the oppression of a capitalist system which forces people to make a bitter choice between heating and eating. We will continue to gather on this hill until corpora-
tions and the U.S. military stop polluting the land and water. And until we dismantle the brutal apparatus of mass incarceration.

The struggle will continue

We will not stop until the oppression of our Two-Spirit siblings is a thing of the past. When the Freedmen are granted equal rights by the so-called “Five Civilized Tribes,” who enslaved our ancestors. When unhoused people have homes. When children are no longer taken from their parents and locked in cages.

When the Palestinians reclaim their homeland and the autonomy Israel has denied them for the past 70 years. When no one goes hungry or is left to die because they have little or no access to quality health care. When insulin is free. When union busting is a thing of the past. Until then, the struggle will continue.

In 1970 we demanded an end to the Bureau of Indian Affairs. It is still a den of thieves and war. Natives should not need federal oversight to govern our- selves or take control of our own lands. As we did in 1970, we mourn the loss of millions of our ancestors and the devast-
atation of the land, water and air.

We condemn all acts of violence and terrorism perpetrated by all governments and organizations against innocent peo-
ples worldwide. Since the invasion of Columbus and the rest of the Europeans, Native people have been virtually non-
stop victims of terrorism. From the colonial period to the 21st century, this has entailed torture, massacres, sympa-
tic military occupations and the forced removals of Indigenous peoples from their ancestral homelands.

Let us not forget that this country was founded on the ideology of white suprem-
acy, the widespread practice of African slavery and a policy of genocide and land theft. Let us not forget that under the pipe-
lines, skyscrapers, mines and the oil rigs lie the interred bones, sacred objects and villages of our Native ancestors.

On our program will be only Indigenous speakers. This is one day when we speak for ourselves, when non-Native people, so-called “experts,” intervene, to inter-
pret and speak for us.

Today on liberated territory, we will correct the history of a coun-
try that continues to glorify butchers such as Christopher Columbus, that makes slave-owning presidents such as Washington and Jefferson into god-like figures and even carves their faces into the sacred Black Hills of the Lakota.

We are as strong as ever

In 1970 very few people would have given any thought to the fact that the Indigenous people of this hemisphere do not look upon the arrival of the European invaders as a reason to give thanks. Today, many thousands stand with us in spirit as we commemorate the 2021 National Day of Mourning.

As my grandfather said in 1970: “We are now being heard; we are now being listened to. The important point is that ... we still have the spirit; we still have the unique culture; we still have the will and, most important of all, the determina-
tion to remain as Indians. We are deter-
mined, and our presence here ... is living testimony that this is only the beginning of the American Indian, particularly the Wampanoag, to regain the position in this country that is rightfully ours.”

In the spirit of Crazy Horse, in the spirit of Metacoom, in the spirit of Geronimo. Above all, to all people who fight and struggle for real justice. We are not van-
ishing. We are not conquered. We are as strong as ever.
Free Mumia Abu-Jamal!

By G. Dunkel

The struggle to free our brother has only grown stronger throughout the last 10 years. In 2016 a door opened in the legal struggle for his case to continue on appeal, based on the U.S. Supreme Court ruling Williams v. Pennsylvania. In December 2018 Philadelphia Common Pleas Court Judge Leon Tucker allowed Mumia’s original appeals to be reheard. The status of the case, seriously disrupted in 2020 when the Pennsylvania Supreme Court agreed to hear a highly questionable FOP legal maneuver, remains in limbo.

What is crystal clear is the pressing need for the movement, determined to win Mumia’s release, to continue to grow—despite every effort by the FOP, the courts and other capitalist state forces to block his liberation.

Workers World Party joins millions of voices around the globe demanding the immediate freedom of Mumia Abu-Jamal, who is 67 and suffering numerous health problems. We continue to speak his name and fight to free him and all of his compañeros. A wide number of our comrades, including Mumia’s lawyer Dr. Mutulu Shakur, Rachelle Magee, Leonard Peltier and so many other incarcerated elders. We say free them all! Tear down the walls!

Demonstrations in solidarity are being held Dec. 9-11, in Philadelphia, Paris, Germany, Mexico and elsewhere. There will be a webinar Dec. 9 to honor Mumia and discuss our struggle to free an incredible revolutionary. Register at bit.ly/3rsz7Jl

Brick by brick, Wall by wall
We’re gonna free Mumia Abu-Jamal!

People of the Sahel oppose imperialism

By G. Dunkel

After two weeks of struggle—burning barricades, smashed windows and mirrors on a military truck, masses of people on the road, attempts to seize the trucks—the logistics convoy that the French army had organized at the port of Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire (Ivory Coast), in the middle of November finally reached Gao, Mali, at the end of November. The 1,100-mile trip took much longer to complete than usual because of an “unexpected” resistance, according to Captain François Xavier, in command of the convoy. (France24 video)

An eight-minute video, filmed in western Niger, shows hundreds of youth smashing windows and mirrors on a military truck, masses of people blocking the road, armored personnel carriers firing a missile at a house, hundreds of protesters scattered across barren fields throwing rocks and some from Niger firing tear gas on the crown. Three protesters died in Niger, and a number were seriously wounded.

According to France 24 news channel, this was the 32nd convoy bound from Abidjan to Gao since the French military Operation Barkhane began in August 2014. This convoy comprised between 60 and 100 vehicles. Some of the vehicles are military; others are heavy trucks, buses and construction equipment.

The intensified hostile reception to the convoy along the way has caused the French army and the French government to question how to maintain the presence of the French army in this area in western Africa, which is part of the region known as the Sahel.

The United States and France, the French imperialism’s power; has formally agreed to let France take the lead in military presence in the western Sahel. (Department of Defense press release, Oct. 21) But the U.S. is spending over a quarter of a billion dollars on a CIA drone base currently being built in central Niger. The U.S. has placed sanctions on some of the major business leaders in Mali. But these actions have not restrained the hostile mood of the masses.

For one week of this trip, the convoy made its way with great difficulty through Burkina Faso, lying between the Côte d’Ivoire and Niger. For years after Blaise Compaoré led a coup against Thomas Sankara, Africa’s Che Guevara, in 1987, Burkina was a reliable puppet “ally” of French imperialism.

The resistance to the passage of the convoy, along with the recent ongoing trial of the army officers who assassinated Sankara, shows that these ties are being dramatically challenged.

The protests in Burkina Faso were organized by militant organizations that the French want to support. The attacks of reactionary Islamist forces in Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso have been a major propaganda point used by France and its U.S. ally to justify their military presence.

A very persistent rumor among those protesting is that the convoys carry arms to some Islamist groups that the French want to support. Though the French have been quick to deny and to discredit these allegations, political analysts who followed the U.S. war in Afghanistan remember well that the U.S. armed some reactionary Islamist groups there in order to attack and destabilize pro-socialist and left-democratic governments.

Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso are among the poorest countries in the world, landlocked, with roads that even if paved are in extremely poor condition, and with the barest minimum of internet communication systems. French and French army military are now used to prop up the imperialist forces in these three countries are currently mounting a militant struggle against imperialism.

Progressive forces worldwide should be alert for ways to send meaningful solidarity.

The case of Peng Shuai and U.S. hypocrisy

By Monica Moorehead

U.S. and Western imperialism are superb-obsessed with finding any angle to demonize and smear the People’s Republic of China, politically, economically and culturally. A main strategy for these imperialists is to attack on China’s human rights abuses. For example, President Joe Biden has gone on record calling for a “diplomatic boycott” of the 2022 XXIV Winter Olympics to be held Feb. 4-20 in three cities in China: Beijing, Yanqing and Zhangjiakou. He cited “human rights violations” as the reason. This boycott would be no. 1. U.S. diplomat would want to attend the opening and closing ceremonies of the games, while U.S. athletes would be allowed to compete.

When the boycott was confirmed at a Dec. 6 White House press conference, the Chinese Embassy in Washington, D.C., tweeted that politicians announc- ing a boycott are “doing so for their own political interests and posturing. In fact, no one would care about these people come or not, and it has no impact whatever on the #Beijing2022 to be successfully held.”

China’s mission to the United Nations called the boycott a “self-directed politi- cal farce. The U.S. just wants to politicize sports, create division and provoke con- frontation.” (Associated Press, Dec. 7)

Now this call by Biden has been upstaged by another development connecting sports with politics.

Peng Shuai is a 35-year-old Chinese tennis player and former world doubles No. 1. She has won two major doubles titles — at Wimbledon in 2013 and the French Open in 2014 — and reached the semifinals at the 2014 U.S. Open in singles. She has earned 25 titles on tour.

In early November, the Associated Press, ESPN and other Western news agencies reported that Ms. Peng had been sexually assaulted by a former Chinese government official, 75-year-old Zhang Gaoli. These same sources then claimed that Ms. Peng had gone missing, could not be found and blamed the Chinese government for her so-called disappearance.

On Nov. 21, Ms. Peng conducted a 30-minute video call with International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach, Athletes’ Commission Chair Emma Terho and member Li Lingwei, a former vice president of the Chinese Tennis Association, to say that she was well, spending time with her family and wanted her privacy to be respected. @CGTN stated on Twitter: “Hello everyone, this is Peng Shuai. Regarding the recent news released on the official...”
U.S. and its Nazi puppets in Ukraine threaten with war

The following slightly edited commentary was first published in November by Workers Voice Socialist Movement of New Orleans.

U.S. war hawks and their mouthpieces in the capitalist media claim that Russia is on the verge of invading Ukraine. This is another lie brought by the same people who falsely claimed that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction, that Syria “gassed its own people” and so on. The U.S. would lie its way into WWIII before admitting that its wars are fought for one reason alone: to make rich men richer. Russia’s vast mineral, oil and gas wealth is what the U.S. is really after.

Is Russia a threat to U.S. workers? Last year Russia’s military budget was $66 billion. The official 2022 U.S. military budget is projected to be $753 billion —12 times the size of Russia’s. NATO’s joint annual military spending tops $1 trillion and is on the rise.

The real threat to workers is that every social benefit we’ve fought for will be sacrificed to feed the war profiteers at the trough of the ever-ballooning war budget.

Here’s the truth: The U.S. has been on a steady march to push troops closer to Russia, despite assurances U.S./NATO forces would not move “one inch eastward,” in the words of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in 1990.

To raid resources, expand markets and exploit more workers, the U.S. and the European Union want Russia under their boot, just like they’ve got Ukraine, Poland and other countries of Eastern Europe. This would not only be a disaster for Russian workers; it would increase the capitalists’ power to crush the living standards of workers everywhere.

The U.S. will “served and protected” by the U.S. military want complete and exclusive access to the land, resources and labor of the world. That’s why they’re so desperate to replace the independence governments of Russia, Belarus, China, Iran, Cuba, Nicaragua and Venezuela — all of which they demonize and all of which have been subjected to harsh U.S. economic sanctions, terrorist attacks and other forms of war.

U.S. installs fascist government in Ukraine

While Big Business media has incessantly beat the drum for war with Russia, they bury the fact that in 2021 alone, the U.S. government pledged more than $400 million in taxpayer dollars to build up the military power of the fascist government of Ukraine — which the Obama/Biden administration installed after a violent coup in 2014. The coup accomplished two main goals for the U.S.: Ukraine was forced to submit to the control of U.S. imperialism and it became a major U.S. weapons, which are now aimed at neighboring Russia.

The U.S.-backed government in Kiev relies on fascist terror to crush resistance to its policies of gutting the capitalists’ power to crush the living standards of workers and corporations. If for that purpose they feel they need to rally their shock troops under the swastika and rule by open terror, that’s what they’ll do.

U.S.-backed Poland and Hungary have already taken this path. U.S.-based fascist militias have been traveling to Ukraine to train with groups like the Azov battalion, which is a unit of the National Guard of Ukraine, funded by U.S. taxpayers. Andyrl Biletzki, commander of the Azov battalion and former member of the Ukrainian parlia-

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No more blood for Wall Street profits!

The hell that Ukrainians are living through is what the U.S. wants for Russia. Above all else, the ultrarich want governments that answer to the profit motives of banks and corporations. If for that purpose they feel they need to rally their shock troops under the swastika and rule by open terror, that’s what they’ll do.

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Quién es Xiomara Castro
Nos vamos a comunicar con Honduras para hablar de lo que ha sido este triunfo que con una mu ejedora diferente obtuvo Xiomara Castro. Xiomara viene trabajando por esta victoria desde hace mucho tiempo y ha sido una de las figuras fundamentales de la Red Solidaria. Desde que derrocaron con un golpe de Estado a su esposo Manuel Zelaya. Ahora ha obtenido una victoria contra un cáncer que tiene, como el actual alcalde de Tegucigalpa, Nayib Bukele. Para hablar de todo esto, vamos a comu nicarles el triunfo de la reflexión del Partido Libre y de ALBA Movimientos. Resumen Latinoamericano: Gilberto, felicitaciones para ti y al pueblo hondureño por este triunfo.

Gilberto Ríos: Muy contento de su victoria, para aquellos que no la conocen, sobre todo es Xiomara quien ha hecho este trabajo. Quien es Xiomara Castro

Xiomara Castro llegó a ser candidata en la historia de Honduras. Muchas mujeres y familias a nivel nacional, de los sectores más pobres, no se hizo propaganda de eso porque era un trabajo honesto, consistente en atender las necesidades del pueblo. Cuando se da el golpe de estado, ella se resguarda una semana en una embajada en el Foro de la Nación de Resistencia Popular. Era el Frente contra golpe de estado, y desde allí acompañó las marchas, trajo gas lacrimógeno como todos nosotros, producto de la represión, y fue humillada por la policía nacional, por el ejército, al no permitirle el tránsito sobre el territorio nacional. A pesar de ello, mantuvo en esa posición de firmeza todo ese tiempo, era una lideresa popular entre las masas que se rebelaban todos los días en las calles.

Fue nuestra primera candidata, cuando creamos, un año y medio después del golpe, el Partido Libre y un año gananzos las elecciones con Xiomara en el cargo, la verdad fue extraordinario el trabajo que se hizo durante esa campaña y la cantidad de apoyo popular que recibimos. Se impuso el fraude electoral en 2017, allí Xiomara también iba a ser candidata pero cedió su candidatura a Salvador Nasralla, para acercar incluso a los sectores de la izquierda, donde había ganado por más de 10 puntos. Xiomara dijo que “si me lanzo probará, encarcelada, periodistas asesinados, por ejemplo la ley del empleo por hora en todos, de los trabajadores de las empresas bananeras, y de ahí salen muchas de las conquistas que hoy tenemos, que tan indiferente era el dictador en el 12 años, como por ejemplo la ley del empleo por hora que simplemente niega toda forma de derecho laboral, la seguridad, los dere chos sociales. Toda esa reflexión que ha habido entre la sindicalización y los sectores organizados no va a frenar al gobierno de Xiomara y eso también va a fortalecer a la sindicalización y gracias a la fuerza del movimiento popular. En Honduras hay una tradición muy importante, con la huelga de 1954 sobre todo, de las huelgas de los trabajadores de las empresas bananeras, y de ahí salen muchas de las conquistas que hoy tenemos, que tan indiferente era el dictador en el 12 años, como por ejemplo la ley del empleo por hora que simplemente niega toda forma de derecho laboral, la seguridad, los dere chos sociales. Toda esa reflexión que ha habido entre la sindicalización y los sectores organizados no va a frenar al gobierno de Xiomara y eso también va a fortalecer a la sindicalización y gracias a la fuerza del movimiento popular.

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