



Follow us!

@WorkersWorld

/WorkersWorldParty

workers.org

No fascist coup!

Fight back with workers' power

Workers World Party issued this statement about the events of Jan. 6.

The coup attempt on Jan. 6 in Washington, D.C., and the mobilization of a fascist mob numbering in the tens of thousands, must be viewed with the utmost seriousness.

While the attack took the form of an assault on Congress, the U.S. Capitol building and the “institution of democracy” — halting for hours the Constitutionally mandated approval of the presidential election — these white-supremacist forces pose the greatest threat to the working class, especially the most oppressed. Their political aim is to crush with an iron fist every expression, even the most modest, of workers rights, social justice and Black Lives Matter.

Capitalist politicians in both major parties are falling all over each other to disassociate themselves from the would-be coup makers — and from Trump the instigator. But the failure of the state apparatus, especially the police, to prevent an outright invasion — however short-lived — of the citadel of U.S. political power shows that those in power

are unreliable, inept and in no way up to the task of beating back a fascist threat.

To say the Capitol police were outnumbered, overwhelmed or unprepared offers no explanation as to how the mob so readily gained control and engaged in a violent, deadly confrontation for several

hours before being moved out and away from Capitol grounds. No serious examination of what has been called “the insurrection” could conclude that it was a spontaneous outburst by people misled by their leader. There were political forces who were well aware of plans to forcibly

storm the building, with the open support of Trump and his cohorts.

Contrast how easily the white supremacists entered the Capitol with the brutal police suppression of Black Lives Matter protests around the country, including in Washington, D.C.

Independent class response is necessary

We cannot look to the police or the military to defend Black Lives from the lynch mob that has been building the past four years — for whom the Capitol siege was a culmination. It is even possible that the Fraternal Order of Police was in on or had advance knowledge of the conspiracy to invade Congress. White supremacists have been joining police forces around the country in droves, and the FOP endorsed Trump for president.

In any case, the rioters found sympathizers among the Capitol police — despite them losing one of their own — and there were cops, military personnel and even elected officials among the attackers.

We — the workers and oppressed within

Continued on page 10

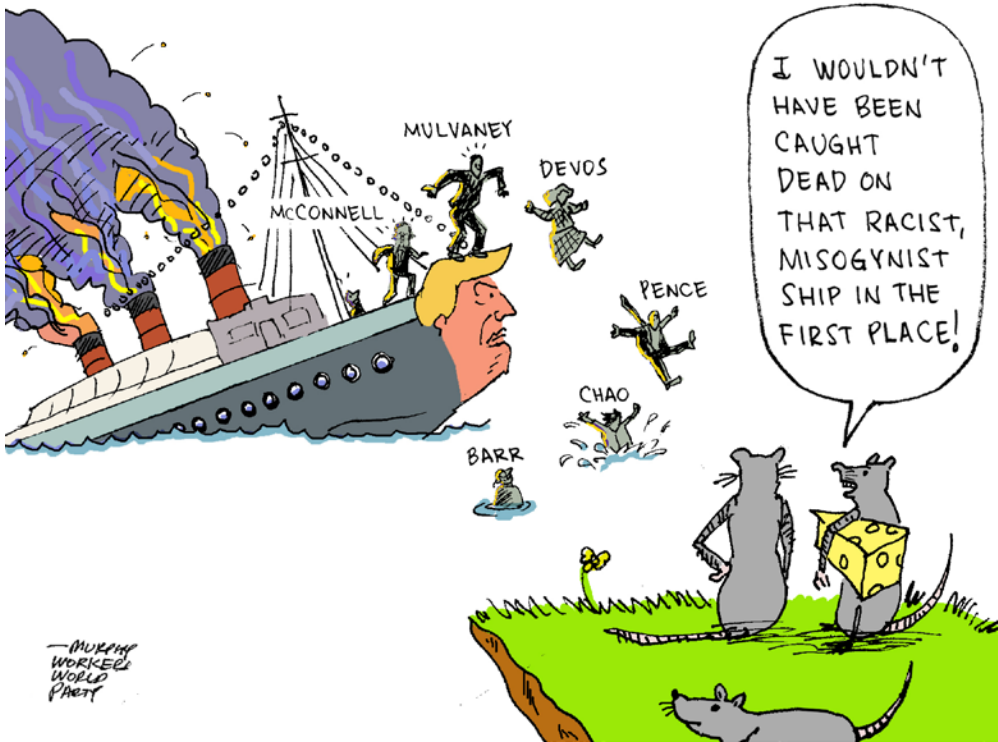


Philadelphia, Jan. 9. For more on resisting the ultra-right, see 6-9.

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

SPECIAL COVERAGE:
RESISTING WHITE SUPREMACY

Georgia grassroots victory	3
Marcy on violence and the state	6
Threat of fascism remains	6
Black Lives Matter and ‘democracy’	7
‘Fraudulent’ elections as imperialist ploy	7
Charlottesville’s how-to lessons	8
Fascists, the FBI — and legislators	8
Capitol cop collaborators	9
Editorial	
Fueling the coup attempt	10



COVID in Calif. women’s prison

Arroyo: Inside the Pa. pandemic

Free Alabama Movement interview

Crimes of Texas prison officials

Free Maroon & all political prisoners!

4-5, 11

Pro-Palestine teenagers defy Israeli military

By Mirinda Crissman

Sixty Israeli teenagers signed an open letter on Jan. 5 explaining their refusal to be conscripted into the Israeli Defense Force. They were rejecting the violent occupation and destruction of Palestinian lives and land by the state of Israel.

Their solidarity comes at a cost many know they will have to pay: “Some of the signatories are expected to appear before the IDF conscientious objectors’ committee and be sent to military prison, while others have found ways to avoid army service.” (+972mag.com, Jan. 6)

The Israeli teens implore their peers to ask themselves who their military “service” would actually protect. Addressing Israeli Defense Minister Benny Gantz, Education Minister Yoav Galant and IDF Chief of Staff Aviv Kochavi, they say:

“The Zionist policy of brutal violence towards and expulsion of Palestinians from their homes and lands began in 1948 and has not stopped since. The occupation is also poisoning Israeli society — it is violent, militaristic, oppressive and chauvinistic. It is our duty to oppose this destructive reality by uniting our struggles and refusing to serve these violent systems — chief among them the military.” (tinyurl.com/yyu7v6h8)

Going to the roots of oppression wielded by the Israeli state, they explain: “We are ordered to put on the blood-stained military uniform and preserve the legacy of the Nakba [violent expulsion of Palestinians] and of occupation. Israeli society has been built upon these rotten roots, and it is apparent in all facets of life: in the racism, the hateful political discourse, the police brutality and more.”

The resisters emphasize the connection between Israel’s neoliberal and military policies: “This military oppression goes hand-in-hand with economic oppression. While the citizens of the Occupied Palestinian Territories



Conscientious objectors to Israeli military duty at an anti-annexation protest in the city of Rosh Ha’ayin in June 2020.

are impoverished, wealthy elites become richer at their expense. Palestinian workers are systematically exploited, and the weapons industry uses the Occupied Palestinian Territories as a testing ground and as a showcase to bolster its sales.”

Those in the imperial core of the United States could learn from the resistance of these class-conscious teens. In the U.S. as well as Israel, militant solidarity and resistance to ongoing brutality must oppose settler-colonial desecration and occupation of Indigenous land, as well as the racist domination inherent in capitalist exploitation.

The ruling class of these criminal states will turn their imperialism inward — inflicting fascist violence on their own people — before giving up the reins of exploitation. Any temporary representational gains for oppressed groups within these empires will be made only on the backs of the most oppressed.

Solidarity forever with those who are on the side of Palestinian resistance. Free Palestine! □



Join us in the fight for socialism!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

National Office

147 W. 24th St., 2nd floor
New York, NY 10011
212.627.2994
wwp@workers.org

Atlanta

PO Box 18123
Atlanta, GA 30316
404.627.0185
atlanta@workers.org

Austin

austin@workers.org

Bay Area

P.O. Box 22947
Oakland, CA 94609
510.394.2207
bayarea@workers.org

Boston

284 Amory St.
Boston, MA 02130
617.522.6626
boston@workers.org

Buffalo, N.Y.

335 Richmond Ave.
Buffalo, NY 14222
716.883.2534
buffalo@workers.org

Central Gulf Coast

(Alabama, Florida, Mississippi)
centralgulfcoast@workers.org

Cleveland

216.738.0320
cleveland@workers.org

Durham, N.C.

804 Old Fayetteville St.
Durham, NC 27701
919.322.9 970
durham@workers.org

Houston

P.O. Box 3454
Houston, TX 77253-3454
713.503.2633
houston@workers.org

Philadelphia

P.O. Box 34249
Philadelphia, PA 19101
610.931.2615
phila@workers.org

Portland, Ore.

portland@workers.org

Salt Lake City

801.750.0248
slc@workers.org

San Antonio

sanantonio@workers.org

West Virginia

WestVirginia@workers.org



♦ In the U.S.

No fascist coup! Fight back with workers’ power . . .	1
Grassroots organizing wins Georgia election	3
On the picket line	3
Pa. prisons during COVID lockdown — Part 1 . . .	4
Calif. women’s prison hit by COVID outbreak . . .	4
Inside-led action takes on prison exploitation . . .	5
Texas prison officials’ crimes mount	5
Fascist violence and the form of the state	6
Threat of fascism still remains	6
Bay Area anti-fascist protest	6
Two faces of ‘U.S. democracy’	7
Trump coup attempt: U.S. war comes home	7
Fighting fascism: Lessons from Charlottesville . .	8
Fascists, the FBI — and legislators	8
Philly denounces coup attempt	8
Capitol Police plan aids fascist assault	9
Buffalo, N.Y. says ‘Fight white supremacy!’	9

♦ Around the world

Pro-Palestine teenagers defy Israeli military	2
Pakistan: Hazara people resist genocide	10
Imperialists meet popular resistance in Haiti . .	11
Canadian autoworkers blockade minivan plant . .	11
Free Maroon! Jan. 18 day of actions	11

♦ Editorial

Racism, recession and Trump’s attempted coup .10
--

♦ Noticias en Español

Las vacunas mundiales de China	12
Declaración sobre el 6 de enero	12

Workers World
147 W. 24th St., 2nd Fl.
New York, NY 10011
Phone: 212.627.2994
E-mail: ww@workers.org
Web: www.workers.org



Vol. 63, No. 2 • Jan. 14, 2021
Closing date: Jan. 13, 2021

Editors: John Catalinotto, Martha Grevatt, Deirdre Griswold, Monica Moorehead, Betsey Piette, Minnie Bruce Pratt

Web Editors: ABear, Harvey Markowitz, Janet Mayes

Prisoners Page Editors: Mirinda Crissman, Ted Kelly

Production & Design Editors: Gery Armsby, Mirinda Crissman, Sasha Mazumder, Scott Williams

Copyediting and Proofreading: Paddy Colligan, S. Hedgecoke

Contributing Editors: LeiLani Dowell, G. Dunkel, K. Durkin, Sara Flounders, Teresa Gutierrez, Joshua Hanks, Makasi Motema, Gloria Rubac

Mundo Obrero: Teresa Gutierrez, Carlos Vargas

Copyright © 2020 Workers World. Verbatim copying and distribution of articles is permitted in any medium without royalty provided this notice is preserved.

Workers World (ISSN-1070-4205) is published monthly by WW Publishers, 147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl., New York, NY 10011. Phone: 212.627.2994. Subscriptions: One year: \$36; institutions: \$50. Letters to the editor may be condensed and edited. Articles can be freely reprinted, with credit to Workers World, 147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl., New York, NY 10011. Back issues and individual articles are available on microfilm and/or photocopy from NA Publishing, Inc, P.O. Box 998, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-0998. A searchable archive is available on the Web at www.workers.org.

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

Periodicals postage paid at New York, N.Y. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Workers World, 147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl. New York, N.Y. 10011.

Georgia

Grassroots voter turnout ousts wealthy GOP senators

By Dianne Mathiowetz
Atlanta

Jan. 6 — Georgia voters made history on Jan. 5 by voting into the U.S. Senate Rev. Raphael Warnock, the first ever Black senator from Georgia. Warnock is senior pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, the famed church of Rev. Martin Luther King's family, esteemed for its long history of Civil Rights activism. Billionaire Kelly Loeffler, appointed by Republican Gov. Brian Kemp last year to the Senate seat, had launched a vicious ad campaign, labeling Warnock a “radical,” a “socialist,” a “hater of America” and a “supporter of a convicted cop killer.” That last charge referred to Warnock's strong advocacy for Troy Davis, a Black man from Savannah, Ga., whose racist trial and death sentence had gained international condemnation from hundreds of thousands of people, including the Pope. Despite evidence Davis was innocent, Georgia executed him on Sept. 21, 2011.

Jon Ossoff was the other winning Democrat running for a Senate seat. He was also red-baited by incumbent Sen. David Perdue, a wealthy businessman and cousin of former Gov. Sonny Perdue, now Trump's Secretary of Agriculture. Ossoff, the head of a documentary film company, was described as being in the pay of the Chinese Communist Party because of royalties paid to his company for a film shown on Chinese television. Perdue ads depicted Ossoff, who is Jewish, with an elongated nose — an anti-Semitic trope. Both Republican candidates had tied themselves securely to Trump's accusation that "rigged" elections were responsible for his defeat in the presidential election in Georgia.

Both Democratic candidates, on the other hand, emphasized control of COVID, financial support for unemployed and impoverished workers and their families, living wages, health care and education. Their television ads showed them at demonstrations and rallies for social justice. However, they denied any support for defunding the police. Back in 2018, Stacey Abrams, an African American, had run for governor on the Democratic Party ticket. She narrowly lost to Republican Brian Kemp, and voter suppression of the Black community was seen by many as the deciding factor. Abrams recognized the importance of going beyond the official Party apparatus. She engaged the many grassroots and community organizations that had mobilized millions against police violence and low wages, and for health care and immigrant rights, to become the ground troops for electoral victory. Sustained outreach to young people, communities of color, women, LGBTQ2S+, gig and other low-wage workers resulted in hundreds of thousands of first-time voters who want systemic change and who used this election to say that.

Both parties serve capitalism

It is reported that some \$833 million was spent on this run-off to bring thousands of Democratic Party workers to Georgia, to pay for the non-stop TV ads, the flyers stuffed in mailboxes, the endless robo calls and texts and more. The oft-repeated explanation for all this is control of the Senate. If Perdue and Loeffler had won, Republicans would have held a 52-48 majority. Now, however, with Warnock and Ossoff in the U.S. Senate, there is a 50-50 split, with Vice President Kamala Harris a potential tie breaker. But let's look at a class truth. Both Democrat and Republican parties are capitalist political parties which support the for-profit system and are united in maintaining U.S. global and political domination. It must be noted that in the midst of the massive unemployment and death from COVID, most Democrats and Republicans in Congress had no problem authorizing the largest military budget ever to ensure the superior armed might of U.S. imperialism. The Senate in particular remains a chamber of huge wealth with few members of color or women. Their ties go deep to the biggest corporations, banks, oil and gas interests, pharmaceutical companies and other elements of the ruling class. Tens of millions voted to get Trump out of office, and unprecedented millions in Georgia voted to get rid of

Sustained outreach to young people, communities of color, women, LGBTQ2S+, gig and other low-wage workers resulted in hundreds of thousands of first-time voters who want systemic change and who used this election to say that.



LaTosha Brown, founder of Black Voters Matter organizes in Georgia before the Jan. 5 senatorial election.



Organizers for early voting in the Jan. 5 run-off election, Savannah, Ga.



Voting caravan in Macon, Ga., during December 2020.

right-wing Perdue and Loeffler, in hopes of gaining some relief from the unrelenting scourge of the pandemic and the economic crisis. And Democrats may feel the pressure to offer a modicum of change to maintain their positions in office. Certainly, the energized grassroots organizations will continue to fight for their demands. The class truth, however, is that the capitalist, for-profit system will never provide the people all they need and what is rightfully theirs. We need system change! Build a workers' world! □

On the picket line

when we fight, we win!

By Marie Kelly

Year of the Nurse

The World Health Organization designated 2020 as the Year of the Nurse and the Midwife. That January hospital administrators surely planned to deliver their standard “angel of mercy” platitudes and pizza parties to commemorate. Then the pandemic happened, and the Year of the Nurse turned into the Year of the Nurse Labor Organizer. Nurses became essential frontline caregivers for the thousands of COVID-19 patients crowding emergency rooms and intensive care units across the country. The inadequacies of a capitalist health care system were all too apparent to them. National Nurses United, the union for registered nurses, held vigils across the country to mourn and honor the hundreds of nurses and thousands of health care workers who lost their lives due to COVID exposure in their workplace. Nurses as workers and union members stepped to the forefront to demand hospital corporations put patient and staff safety over profit. Nurse walkouts, protests and strikes happened in record numbers from Hawaii and California to Pennsylvania and Massachusetts. Nurses won major concessions in their union contracts, including pay raises and safe staffing ratios. Adequate staffing and monetary compensation for this difficult job are essential to ensure nurses can provide quality patient care.

OSHA turns 50

The bill creating the Occupational Safety and Health Administration was signed into law Dec. 29, 1970 — the result of labor unions' political pressure on Congress to respond to the rising rate of workplace injuries in the 1960s. OSHA's budget and political pressures on the agency have never allowed it a comprehensive watchdog role over corporate capitalists. But now, 50 years later, OSHA'S enforcement capacity is especially bleak. OSHA has an inadequate inspection system, with the number of OSHA workplace inspectors shrinking as retiring inspectors are not replaced. And OSHA data on company safety records is not a transparent system, making violations hard to trace. These two factors make it very easy for corporate capitalists to evade their legal responsibilities in relation to workers' health and safety. Amazon is a prime example of a corporation that puts production and profit above worker safety — with an injury rate to prove it. Increased use of robotic technology, at Amazon and in many industries, puts significant strain on workers as they are forced to maintain

punishing productivity levels. (tinyurl.com/y35bug2y) If this weren't enough to expose the fact that the federal government serves the ruling class, consider these facts on OSHA's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic. September 2020 revisions to OSHA criteria for workplace reporting of COVID infections among workers make it easier for businesses to underreport case counts. (Union of Concerned Scientists, Dec. 14, 2020) OSHA has only provided vague guidelines for proper measures to protect workers from infection while on the job. This laissez-faire approach on OSHA's part has put workers at the mercy of bosses — who will cut corners when it comes to safety in order to maximize profit. This is why capitalism is a death sentence for the working class.

\$15 minimum wage . . . Too little, too late?

The Fight for \$15 campaign began in 2012 and continues to win victories for the working class. Black and Brown workers are leading this movement for economic and racial justice. According to the National Employment Law Project, one in three Black workers and 27% of Latinx workers are in low-wage jobs. According to NELP, “these disparities are the result of structural racism . . . and an economic system rooted in chattel slavery and genocide.” NELP published statistics in December 2020 outlining where the Fight for \$15 activists have pushed state and local governments to pass laws requiring a \$15 minimum wage. Of the states, California, Florida, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey and New York have all done so. In 13 cities, including Seattle, Chicago, New York, San Francisco, and Washington, D.C., the minimum wage has already or soon will reach \$15-an-hour. President-elect Biden says he will endorse a \$15 minimum wage law at the federal level. (NY Times, Dec. 31, 2020) These victories can be celebrated, but the struggle continues. Applying the Congressional Budget Office Consumer Price Index updated to 2024, the Economic Policy Institute projects that the cost of living in all but 3 states will require a wage of at least \$15 an hour and as high as \$20-\$25 in many states. This includes Pennsylvania where currently the minimum wage is still \$7.25 an hour. Is it any wonder that Philadelphia has the highest poverty rate of any major city in the country? Isn't it clear why food insecurity is a common problem in the U.S., when food costs have nearly doubled over the past 10 years, but wages remain stagnant and at a poverty level? □

A Pennsylvania incarcerated worker speaks Prisons during COVID lockdown

Part 1

By Joe Piette
Philadelphia

Since Nov. 1, 2020, more than 3,000 incarcerated workers and at least 1,200 guards and staff have tested positive for COVID-19 in the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections (PA DOC). Since last March, at least 72 people behind DOC bars have died from the pandemic, the majority of those deaths since Nov. 1.

On Dec. 21, 2020, Workers World reporter Joe Piette interviewed Bryant Arroyo, imprisoned at State Correctional Institute (SCI) Frackville, on what he's experiencing during this massive COVID-19 outbreak. This is Part One of that interview.

Bryant Arroyo: What I want to say is that this whole department is really in shambles, from the top down. This facility was most likely the last to have any cases of COVID. We didn't have any for the past seven to eight months. And what people need to understand, central office [PA DOC HQ] became aware that this facility was negative for any COVID cases, which you would think would be something that is commendable. But there is a key factor in this, that since they didn't have any cases, they opened up the floodgates to other institutions to fill up this facility with individuals that were positive and transferred from other hotspots in order to get federal funding. The only way that they would get federal funding is if they had positive cases of COVID.

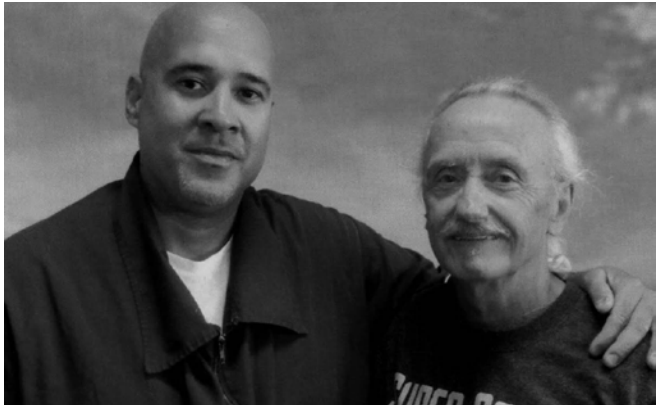
WW: Have you been tested?
BA: On Nov. 17, we both got tested, myself and my cellmate, Christopher Smith. On the 19th, I was informed my test came back negative. On Nov. 24, they had an officer come and escort my cellie downstairs to the closet where COVID tests are done and they informed him his test came back positive, but they were giving him a retest and they told him to refrain from divulging that information to me.

On November 29, RN Krep came directly to our cell and summoned Chris

and said, you got to pack up because you're going to quarantine.

My whole thing is that from the 19th, all the way to the 29th, he should have been immediately expedited to quarantine, not 11 days later. So what you did was put me in danger, in a vulnerable position to contract COVID. The point is that they left him there. And they didn't quarantine him immediately, like they did everybody else.

As a result of that, I put in a request to the superintendent, Kathy Britain, and informed her and I also put in a request to the director of health care services, Ms. Karen Holly, RN, CHCA. I have not received either of the two tests, the antibody or another COVID test, which



Bryant Arroyo and Joe Piette.

I should have been given as a result of Chris testing positive for COVID.

Not only did you endanger my life and welfare, but you also did that to the staff members and their families, because you left him in population. So every day that we got a shower, we used the phone, we used the kiosk, he was out like everybody else for that one hour or half hour.

Britain's response was: "You have to sign up for sick call and let them determine if additional testing is needed. We don't routinely do antibody testing." Holly's response was, "If you had COVID, you would have developed antibodies. No indication for an antibody test to be completed."

I feel it was an assassination attempt on my life. Everyone else testing positive was taken away except for my cellmate,

for 11 days! Now I'm still pending the outcome as to what they are going to do.

A mental health crisis

WW: Half an hour a day out of your cells — how is that affecting everyone?

BA: The other aspect of this is that there's a lot of mental health issues. Just last night there was a fight next door to my cell, and they took both of them out. So now one is in the hole and one is in the hospital. That's an issue of mental health.

As the pressure cooker continues, this is the result, not being able to be out and really exercise and get sunlight, a combination of factors of the monotony of the same routine over and over again, and not enough space.

My other neighbor to the right of me, Luke Edward Miller, Dr. Pantell took his meds without any explanation. Then he was also going off, acting erratic, interacting to the point where the officers had to cover him. And then they gave him a Skype visit with the psychiatrist because there was no psychiatric staff on hand. But the medication that he's on, he's supposed to be weaned off of it; he shouldn't be cut right off, because his body was shaken. He was feeling different emotions. He was explaining that to me through the vents.

I asked him, How did he feel? And he explained to me that he's not feeling good but he's trying to maintain himself so that they don't stick him in the hole for doing something that he's not supposed to do. He also asked me for information with respect to an attorney. So I gave him the name of an attorney who deals with medical negligence and any type of issues dealing with the medical department. A week later, the same doctor re-prescribed the same meds.

Another example is that of Marcelle McLendon and Dennis McClain, who both tested positive. These were individuals



that were immediately expedited when they came back on the list of COVID positives. They were two out of five people that they immediately evacuated out of the wing on Nov. 29. I had informed you that they set up what they call the satellite hospital at the gym. And then they opened up the hospital here, which is the former behavioral modification unit (BMU) and they reopened it because of the COVID situation.

But McLendon and McClain were immediately removed from the wing, and they were placed not in the BMU. They were placed in the RHU, which is the restricted housing unit and they put them in a cell that had no electricity, no hot water. They were deprived and denied access to phone calls. And they were mistreated, like if they had done a disciplinary infraction.

They punish you for having COVID. It's a quagmire and a real conflict of conscience. Because if the person has the symptoms, and the nurses come by and tell them, well, the only thing that they got to give you as far as medication is to drink water. And then instead of the 14-day quarantine, they left them there for seven days, and then they didn't retest them before coming out to general population. They just pushed them right out on Dec. 7.

Doctors and nurses here are violating the Hippocratic Oath to adhere to and obey the principles of the medical profession, to first do no harm and treat the patient. This and punishment! Yeah, it is a total debacle.

On Jan 5, a COVID test confirmed Arroyo was positive. His new cellmate Brian Muffley (QF-1534) was exposed for weeks but officials have refused to test him. Arroyo was sent to RHU, where he is held for 23.5 hours per day in a cell without hot water, TV or electrical outlets. Part 2 of this interview will appear in WW soon. □

Advocates demand action as largest women's prison hit by COVID-19 outbreak

The following press release was issued Jan. 5 by the California Coalition for Women Prisoners.

Chowchilla, Calif. -- There is a life-threatening massive outbreak of COVID-19 at the Central California Women's Facility, California's largest women's prison. In the past two weeks, there have been 500 new COVID-19 cases, representing 25% of the population at CCWF. The prison's ineffective protocols and gross negligence have directly fueled the spread of the virus. Conditions at CCWF continue to rapidly deteriorate, putting hundreds of lives at risk.

Despite having ten months to prepare for a potential outbreak, CCWF administration did not have effective plans or protocols in place to deal with this surge. After receiving positive COVID-19 test results, some cellmates continue to be housed together for hours on end, inevitably spreading the virus in crowded cells that house up to eight people. The units designated for quarantine are filthy, exacerbating breathing problems for those with COVID-19. Quarantine units do not have access to much needed disinfectant and cleaning supplies, although these items are absolutely essential to reduce the spread of the virus.

People with COVID-19 are not being provided consistent access to medical care or daily prescribed

medications. Anxiety and depression are rapidly increasing without the availability of mental health services. People are being denied communication with family and other lifesaving support on the outside, just at the time when it is most needed. Some women who asked for access to the phones and for electricity to use their tablets to email their families were hogtied and placed in cages as punishment.

"Correctional staff have verbally mocked and degraded people who have tested positive," says Kelly Savage of the California Coalition for Women Prisoners. "They are implying that incarcerated people are to blame for their own illness, despite the outbreak being fueled by COVID-19 transmission by staff."

Advocates at the California Coalition for Women Prisoners continue to demand expedited release for all medically high-risk people and swift action by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and CCWF to contain the virus as quickly as possible and

save lives. People in quarantine need immediate access to health and mental health care, access to all means of communication and an end to retaliation for protesting negligent conditions. The full list of demands can be found on CCWP's website. (tinyurl.com/y2avuyo2) □



PHOTO: WE ARE THEIR VOICES

We Are Their Voices rally outside the Central California Women's Facility in Chowchilla in July 2020.

An interview with Bennu Hannibal Ra-Sun

Inside-led action takes on prison exploitation

By Devin Cole

On Jan. 5, Devin Cole spoke with Free Alabama Movement co-founder and freedom fighter Bennu Hannibal Ra Sun about the ongoing 30-day Economic Blackout and Alabama prison strike in January, the growth of social media and prison abolition, and what it will take to build a truly structured prison and slavery abolition organization. The entire interview can be read at workers.org. To support the strike, see freealabamamovement.wordpress.com.



Bennu Hannibal Ra-Sun

Devin Cole: Members of the Free Alabama Movement and other prison abolitionists are saying that Securus Technologies' implementation of video visitation equipment is a front for permanently removing all in-person visitation and replacing it with video visitations only. Can you talk about these concerns and why they want to do away with in-person visitation?

Bennu Hannibal: Certain members of FAM have that interpretation and are expressing it. As for myself, I haven't seen anything specific as to what Securus and ADOC's plan is, but that doesn't mean it's not their overall plan. We do know that video visitation is already happening in other states, because Securus is a national brand. And we can extrapolate from those conversations and things that we are already aware of what the plan is for Alabama. We also know that some county jails are already using video visitation exclusively.

Whatever the decision, we know that

it will be decided by economics and not what is best for the families. Under the current model, aside from the vending machines, the state doesn't make any money on in-person visitation.

On the flip side, they have costs associated with physical visitation, like having security staff to harass and inspect visitors, perform strip searches, etc. These are all costs to the operational budget of a prison that disappear with video visitation kiosks. So, they probably compared the numbers from what they are making off normal visitation, in contrast to what they will make off the contracts with Securus, including the other services that Securus will be charging for us to use their tablets, etc., and decided that if they go to video visitation and make whatever else they will make off these contracts — then that is more profitable and preferable to do.

I don't know if they would switch to a system where in-person is only once a

month, once every 90 days, or you have to earn it or whatever. But people in prison and our families should not have to pay to talk to our loved ones, and we should never be denied the basic need for human beings need.

Securus is an unscrupulous company that has been caught and sued for providing location-tracking information to law enforcement, bounty hunters and bondsmen, which was used to track people and their family members — and that shows that they are willing to be a part of the police state and prison-industrial complex.

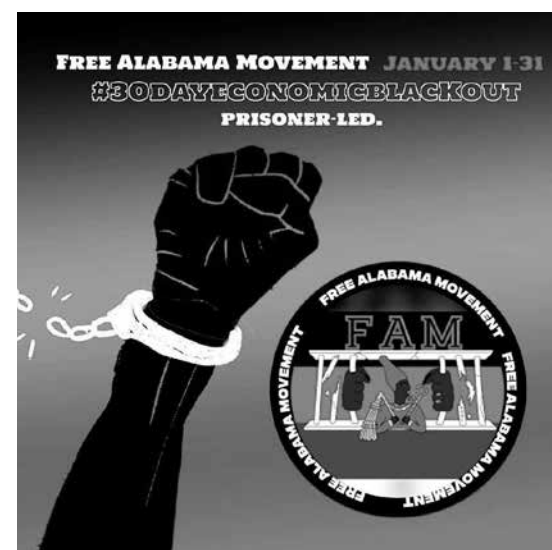
These companies have no incentive to be concerned with what the family members have to say or are going through. It is very clear that they have some perception of the financial exploitation that goes into prison plantation management, and they are not constrained by principles when it comes to human suffering to make their profits.

DC: The other four companies in this Economic Blackout that are being boycotted are JPay, Access Corrections, Union Supply Company and Alabama Correctional Industries. What

are their roles in the slavery system of Alabama prisons?

BH: It's not just about the Alabama prisons. Alabama doesn't have JPay. The reason we added some of these companies is to give people in other states the opportunity to be a part of the Economic Blackout protest as well, because it is affecting all of us.

Even though the original idea of this economic boycott by Kinetik Justice was and has remained for the most part a statewide effort, I thought it would be wise to add other companies that provide similar services in other states to leave room for other states to get involved, to create an opportunity to build unity and to show that we are all in this together — because the actions we are taking in Alabama are related to the actions around the country. □



Texas prison officials' crimes mount at Ramsey Unit

By Gloria Rubac
Houston

"I just can't take it anymore," Michael Beck told other prisoners at the W. F. Ramsey Unit state prison, in Rosharon, Texas, 33 miles south of Houston. Then during the first week of January, he wrapped a fan cord around his neck and tied the other end of it to the railing on Row 2 of his cell block.

Beck leapt up and then fell 20 feet, his head hitting the steel and concrete stairwell below. Two prisoners rushed to him and carried him up the stairs. Fortunately, the cord snapped and somewhat broke his fall. After the guards stopped laughing, they handcuffed him and had him shipped to the nearby Jester IV Unit, a psychiatric prison.

No one called for medical help or provided a stretcher. Over 50 prisoners saw this horrifying event. Prison officials did not take witness statements. No counseling was given to the traumatized men, who were already reeling from the COVID virus and the subsequent lockdowns that have infected almost every person in the prison.

Prison during a pandemic

Regarding protection from the virus, masks given to the prisoners are made by prisoners working in the laundry. They cut up prison bed sheets, which are so thin that this reporter can see her household lights through the fabric of the mask she was given.

No Texas prisoner has received visits since last March. Phone calls are allowed for some, depending on their disciplinary status. The isolation is mentally challenging. The craft shop is not open. Schooling is done via mail.

The Ramsey Unit has three recreation yards and two gymnasiums, yet they were rarely used until dozens of prisoners recently filed grievances regarding the lack of recreation time. Prison activist Nanon Williams reported, "Now they are running recreation all day and night. Before, it was only on their paperwork."

The stress increases every day in all U.S. prisons, jails and detention centers, where it is impossible to socially distance. At the Ramsey Unit, proper masks are not given out until after a prisoner tests positive for the



Nanon Williams with his mother, Lee Bolton, in 2000.

virus. Then that person's entire wing is quarantined. Only after the virus is present do prisoners on that wing get N-95 masks.

But the Ramsey Unit reportedly has 4,000 N-95 masks in storage. Williams said, "These masks are not being used to prevent the spread of the virus, but instead are used only when the virus is already present. Prisoners are being moved around, and it's impossible to socially distance."

No retaliation for exposing conditions!

Prisoners who write grievances or contact their families or the news media with information about conditions that are dangerous, inhumane, illegal or racist should not be retaliated against. Often, prisoners who file grievances or complain about conditions are shipped out to another prison unit, far from family and support. Or they

may lose their jobs working in the kitchen or laundry and be put out in the fields. Or their parole may be denied because they are a "trouble maker."

One particular officer, who was involved in a disciplinary case quota scam a few years ago, is now trying to find out which prisoners corresponded with the media. Lieut. Joe Lopez ordered a quota system at the Ramsey Unit two years ago. It resulted in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice changing the policy to expressly prohibit requiring guards to meet disciplinary quotas.

After the quotas were exposed in Workers World newspaper, the Houston Chronicle and other major media, Lopez was demoted in rank. Last November when an article appeared in Workers World Newspaper that had his name in it, he told prisoners who work around him that he is going to "f--k over" those who specifically communicated with WW.

Prisoners say he can do this by having guards working under his command plant contraband on prisoners or enter the phone numbers of a prisoner's relatives into a cell

phone that is mysteriously found.

Williams has repeatedly told WW that he follows all prison rules, but that he has a right to correspond with media in Texas and the U.S. regarding guards' and officers' abuses and violations. He told this reporter, "I am not in fear of my life. I do not want to get transferred away from my family for reporting the wrongs that I see or writing articles or books or whatever. I am within the rules of the governing policy here and should not be punished for doing so."

No prisoner should be threatened with retaliation for doing what is legal. It is the carceral state that needs to be retaliated against. Prisons torture, maim and murder every day. Not only should prisoners expose and fight against this, but it is the duty of those outside the prisons to support those prisoners.

United in solidarity, we will tear down the walls! □

MASS STRUGGLE DEFEATS FASCISM!

Fascist violence and the form of the state

By Sam Marcy

This is an excerpt from Workers World Party co-founder and Chairperson Sam Marcy's "Fascist violence and the form of the state," written shortly after Ronald Reagan's inauguration as U.S. president in 1981. For more, see Marcy's "The Klan and Government: Foes or Allies?" at workers.org/books.

[T]he spread of fascist organizations takes place in a vastly different, if not wholly new, social, political and economic situation. The entire social environment in which the spread of this evil disease takes place imparts to it a significance which far surpasses the numerical strength of these organizations. It is this which adds a really new dimension to the perilous growth of this virulent disease.

The 'legal' violence of the state

Fascist violence has been endemic to the maintenance of the domination of the ruling class in the U.S. for a number of decades. It is, however, exceptionally important to distinguish between the violence which emanates directly and openly from the capitalist state and the extralegal, extragovernmental violence of fascist organizations.

The capitalist state is itself, of course, the main generator of force and violence. In its role as an instrument of capitalist domination over the working class and the oppressed, it operates as an organ of suppression in order to maintain and secure its rule over the masses.



Sam Marcy and Comrade Fidel Castro, Havana, October 1993

Every capitalist state tolerates and occasionally promotes this sort of extralegal violence. The difference, however, between fascist violence and other forms of illegal violence practiced by the government should be made clear.

Violence practiced upon the working class and the oppressed is therefore a concomitant element of the rule of the oppressing and exploiting bourgeoisie. Notwithstanding the viciousness, ferociousness or magnitude of the violence which the ruling class visits upon the oppressed, it must nevertheless be considered as violence within the framework of the bourgeois legal ("democratic") system.

Such violence must be differentiated from, and not be confused with, the extralegal, extragovernmental violence, which is

the essential characteristic of fascist organizations of the type under discussion. It is, of course, absolutely true that both legal and extralegal violence have coexisted along with the bourgeois state since the very inception of the state itself.

Capitalist state and extralegal violence

In the U.S., legal and extralegal violence have existed side-by-side for longer than a century. Ku Klux Klan violence is a principal example of how extralegal violence visited upon the oppressed masses coexists with the legal forms of the capitalist state and how one promotes the other.

Antilabor violence employed on a huge scale for many decades by individual employers and industries has been of an extralegal character. Most particularly noteworthy are strikebreaking organizations and the employment of underworld mobsters. "Right-to-work" open-shop states are frequently the very same states which have either clandestinely or openly supported the Klan.

The pogroms visited upon oppressed nationalities in Czarist Russia are another example of how extralegal forms of violence are carried out alongside with, and encouraged and promoted by, the legally constituted government. Pogrom violence in old Russia didn't differ much from the massacres carried out by the [racist] Night Riders in the U.S.

Every capitalist state tolerates and occasionally promotes this sort of extralegal violence. The difference, however, between fascist violence and other forms of illegal violence practiced by the

government should be made clear.

For example, police brutality is frequently as vicious and as violent as that carried out by the fascists, and on occasion goes beyond legal limits (usually characterized by the bourgeois press as "excessive"). The two should not be confused, even though the police may, and often do, collaborate with the Klan, neo-Nazis and other fascist and neofascist organizations.

Fascist groups threaten bourgeois democratic state

Fascist organizations in their embryonic form — particularly when they are armed and supported materially by right-wing, disaffected but powerful elements of the ruling capitalist establishment — constitute a threatening parallel form to the legal (bourgeois democratic) capitalist state.

While receiving encouragement and sustenance from the capitalist state, embryonic fascist forms at the same time rival and stand in antagonism to the bourgeois democratic state. If historical conditions favor them, they have the propensity and organic tendency to overpower the bourgeois democratic form of the capitalist state.

Such a situation can only exist in periods of extraordinarily acute social crisis, when the capitalist state is so torn by accumulating inner contradictions and weakened by its inability to overcome its social crisis that it inevitably gives way to extraparlimentary, extralegal forms of rule. □

Threat of fascism still remains

By Larry Holmes

The following excerpt comes from a longer document, "Strengthening our analysis of the capitalist crisis and its relationship to class struggle and revolution," written Dec. 23, 2020, for a Workers World partywide discussion.

Trump has held meetings in the Oval Office where his inner grouping has been reportedly arguing over the possibility of him declaring martial law in several states and seizing election ballots. This is not likely to happen, but we should take note of it. The ruling class has little interest in supporting Trump's attempt at a coup. At the moment, a normal transition of power from one capitalist party to another serves their interest. But later on, some of the ruling class could turn to fascist methods or to the military.

What will be the reaction when it's clear that tens of thousands of businesses are not going to survive the pandemic? What

will happen when a depression multiplies the suffering and fear in all of society and overwhelms and paralyzes the government and the system? What happens if there's a financial market crash? What happens if the most oppressed rise up again?

The most organized forces of the neofascist movement that Trump has emboldened have a plan that mimics their predecessors in Europe in the 1920s. Whether or not they will be able to realize their plan is the question. These elements are planning to use aggressive tactics, including the use of arms, in order to create a governing crisis.

The neofascists understand that when the capitalist state responds to the crisis, it may be obliged to arrest a fascist or two. But this would be done to cover the real targets of state intervention, which are the radical movement, the oppressed sectors of the working class and the working class as a whole.

The best way to safeguard against

such a scenario is for the working class to commence preparing for a classwide uprising and struggle that will neutralize and demoralize any plan to crush the working class, either through fascist forces in the streets or state intervention and repression.

Part of our job, in the meantime, will be pulling away and liberating as much of the left and the masses from the stranglehold of the Democratic Party. When Biden and others in the ruling class talk about rescuing democracy from Trump and Trumpism, they really mean rescuing capitalism, as well as preventing the development of a real class struggle against the system.

There will be working class political and organizational transformation.

In the 1930s, the labor movement went through one of its most important transformations. It embraced the millions of industrial workers. To a greater or

lesser extent, the labor movement has gone through other changes since that time. It has had to organize teachers and health care workers, government workers and millions of service workers, many of them women and workers of color.

Now, the workers' movement must go through another transformation — one that is no less challenging

...the real targets of state intervention, are the radical movement, the oppressed sectors of the working class and the working class as a whole.



WW PHOTO: LIZA GREEN

Larry Holmes

Bay Area anti-fascist protest

Jan. 9 — A rally against fascism organized by the United Front Committee for a Labor Party drew a small but enthusiastic crowd in front of the San Francisco Federal Building. Speakers included members of the United Front Committee, the Alliance for Independent Workers and Freedom Socialist Party. Judy Greenspan of Workers World Party said to the the rally: "Only the power of the workers can push back against this rising racist and fascist movement."

— Report by Judy Greenspan



WW PHOTO: MARCELLO SEVERO

WW COMMENTARY

Jan. 6 riot exposes Two faces of U.S. ‘democracy’

By Monica Moorehead

What occurred on Jan. 6 at the U.S. Capitol was shocking but not surprising.

What was shocking was the sight of thousands in a majority white, neofascist terrorist mob — with no masks and no social distancing — overrunning the supposedly high security sanctuary of the offices of U.S. Congresspeople, claiming that the Nov. 3 election was stolen.

Since losing the election on Nov. 3, Trump had given a clarion call to his mass base to mobilize to come to Washington, D.C., to protest the certification of Joe Biden’s electoral victory and his becoming the next U.S. president on Jan. 20. There were numerous other attempts on Jan. 6 throughout the country where Trumpites laid siege to various statehouses.

These domestic terrorists were captured by social media smashing windows, wearing T-shirts and gear with anti-Black and anti-Semitic slogans, marching in the rotunda with fascistic flags and symbols, trashing offices and defiantly brandishing guns in the faces of Capitol police.

No doubt many of these same forces marched in Charlottesville, Va., in 2017 in retaliation of actions of left, anti-racist activists, who were tearing down Confederate and other reactionary statues especially in the Deep South.

The state, especially the Capitol and local police and other agencies, handled the rioters with kid gloves. Some of the police were caught on camera opening barricades, encouraging the rioters to storm the Capitol buildings. Some of the police even allowed terrorists to take selfies with them. Many observers would describe those actions as a love fest between the police and the rioters. In fact, it has been reported that a number of police officers from around the country were at the Capitol in support of Trump.

This riot took place one day after District Attorney Michael Graveley in Kenosha, Wis., announced no criminal charges would be filed against white police officers responsible for shooting Jacob Blake seven times in the back on Aug. 23. Blake, a 29-year-old Black man and father of six, remains paralyzed from the waist down.

In protest of the shooting of Blake, members of the National Basketball Association — both on the men’s and the women’s teams — went on strike for three days, refusing to play during their playoffs. This led to athletes in other sports to either cancel their games or take a knee during the playing of the U.S. national anthem.

Not a surprise to many

On Jan. 6, what was obvious to millions of people in the U.S. and worldwide was the double standard of treatment displayed by police towards the white supremacists in contrast to how cops treat Black and Brown people in person and any activists defending Black Lives in the streets. This prejudiced, differential treatment is hundreds of years old, but became even more stark in the public eye following the public police lynching of 46-year-old George Floyd in Minnesota on May 25, 2020.

The police attempted to suppress — with

riot gear, tasers, flailing batons, tear gas, rubber bullets and mass arrests — any protest to expose their brutality and injustice. Between May 25 and June 4, an estimated 9,300 people were arrested in direct connection to their protest of Floyd’s murder, according to the Associated Press.

On June 1, in order for Trump to take a photo op of himself holding a Bible, police and the National Guard brutally attacked peaceful Black Lives Matter protesters in Washington, D.C.

But on Jan. 6, the National Guard was placed in a holding pattern for hours and prevented from dealing with the rioting mob, until the Guard finally was called upon to help clear the streets for a 6 p.m. curfew.

Many people—including NBA athletes and coaches—commented on the connection between the Blake decision and the U.S. Capitol riot, that Black and Brown people are treated differently from white supremacists, and that this dichotomy reflects true U.S. “democracy” by the repressive state apparatus under capitalism. Some noted that Black Lives Matter protesters would not have been allowed to come close to the U.S. Capitol, much less to force their way in.



Brutal police attack Black Lives Matter protest in Washington, D.C., June 1, 2020.

A case in point is that in 2015, when the white supremacist Dylann Roof was arrested in Charleston, S.C., hours after murdering nine Black church members, the police had the audacity to stop to get him a hamburger.

In response to these events, all NBA teams who played on Jan. 6 either knelt during the playing of the national anthem or took a knee for seven seconds after the beginning tip-off, to bring attention to the seven shots that Blake took in the back. There were some players, like Los Angeles Clipper Paul George, who did not want to play at all on Jan. 6.

Jaylen Brown, an outspoken Boston Celtics guard, stated, “It reminds me of what Dr. Martin Luther King has said — that there’s two split different Americas. In one America, you get killed by sleeping in your car, selling cigarettes or playing in your backyard. And then, in another America, you get to storm the Capitol and no tear gas, no massive arrests, none of that. So, I think it’s obvious: It’s 2021 — I don’t think anything has changed. We want to still push for the change that we’re looking for. But as of yet, we have not seen it.” (ESPN, Jan. 6)

Golden Warriors’ forward, Draymond Green summed up his feelings this way: “To see the National Guard standing on those same steps, when there was a peaceful protest; to now see a terrorist attack and no National Guard, it just goes to show you where this country is. Nothing’s changed.” (usatoday.com, Jan. 7)

An important lesson is that neofascists are an extralegal arm of the repressive state apparatus, who raise their ugly heads in time of extreme capitalist economic crisis, now spurred on even more by the pandemic. The main scapegoat for any economic crisis are people of color.

But the Black Lives Matter movement is exemplary in showing that the more multinational the struggle against white supremacy becomes, the more firm the foundation for a broader, more militant classwide movement — that will not only organize to abolish the police but to also abolish capitalism. □



Police allow neo-fascist rioters into U.S. Capitol, Jan. 6.

Trump coup attempt U.S. war comes home

By Sara Flounders

A caustic commentary on U.S. policy that circulated on social media worldwide within 24 hours of the Jan. 6 events at the U.S. Capitol was: “Due to travel restrictions this year, the U.S. had to organize the coup at home.”

A domestic coup on the U.S. government was indeed attempted Jan. 6 — using the false claim that the November presidential election had been “stolen” from Republican President Donald Trump. This claim was so far from reality, even in a bourgeois framework, that judges rejected it as a challenge 60 times, including twice in the Supreme Court.

Since he could not win legally, Trump rallied an uprising of extralegal and paramilitary, white-supremacist neo-fascist troops tied into a network of far-right legislators, government officials, police, military veterans and reportedly active military, as well as business owners. These insurrectionists attacked the Capitol building at the moment that the U.S. Congress, sitting in joint session, was beginning to certify Democratic President-elect Joe Biden as winner of the election.

The U.S. has called on similar fascist forces and employed similar tactics to discredit elections before — in other countries worldwide — in order to further U.S. “interests.” Both Republicans and Democrats, including Biden and now Trump, have used this ploy of “regime change” for decades, to overthrow governments and further imperialist capitalist schemes.

Every U.S. regime change operation begins with U.S. officials repeatedly calling a country’s election fraudulent, refusing to accept or acknowledge its legitimacy and then backing or importing far-right and neo-fascist elements to start violent disruptions. The U.S. always calls these fascist forces “democratic forces.”

This was Washington’s tactic of choice in Ukraine, Venezuela, Syria, Libya and Bolivia, just to name a few recent examples.

U.S. coup attempts using ‘election fraud’ charges

In Kiev, Ukraine, in 2014, armed fascist forces marched with Confederate flags and Nazi insignia to seize the parliament, while Biden cheered the overturning of that country’s elected government. The U.S. media called this the “Euromaidan Revolution.”

Washington attempted to do the same in Venezuela, claiming that the 2018 election of President Nicolás Maduro was a “fraud.” Hostile to the continuation of former President Hugo Chávez’s Bolivarian Revolution, the Trump administration immediately recognized right-wing oppositionist Juan Guaidó, nominal head of the National Assembly, as the “interim president” in January 2019. The U.S. showered that farce with billions of



Venezuelans protest aggressive U.S. interference in their country’s democratic institutions in September 2019. The red-capped person under the flag is holding a copy of Venezuela’s Constitution.

dollars in seized Venezuelan assets.

In 2011 in Libya, a small force of monarchists led what the imperialists called a “democratic uprising” — backed by seven killing months of U.S. and NATO bombing and the assassination of the leader Moammar Gadhafi. Libya’s popularly supported government was torn apart, and access to the country’s oil and strategic position were guaranteed to capitalist interests.

In 2014 in Syria, despite hundreds of election observers, the U.S. declared the reelection of President Bashar al-Assad to be a “fraud” and spent billions of dollars to fund military mercenaries to destabilize and occupy the country. When a “government in exile” was established, Washington recognized it at an international conference in Geneva. Syria — which was striving to maintain its political and economic independence from U.S. domination — has been bombed repeatedly by the U.S. Air Force since 2014, allegedly in support of the “democratic resistance.”

In Bolivia, the 2019 reelection of Evo Morales, the country’s first Indigenous president, was declared by the U.S. to be “fraudulent.” Fascist forces seized the government, again with Washington’s full support. Morales was forced to flee. But united resistance by Indigenous peoples, members of labor unions and other progressive forces returned Morales from exile in 2020, after his party, the Movement for Socialism, won the presidential election in a landslide victory.

The U.S. constantly propagandizes about the lack of “democracy” in Hong Kong, and tries every tactic — including Congressional legislation and undercover operatives in mass demonstrations — to destabilize conditions in what is part of the People’s Republic of China. Geng Shuang, a Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs representative, exposed these tactics and denounced “the shocking hypocrisy of some in the U.S. on human rights and democracy, and their malicious intention to undermine Hong Kong’s prosperity and stability [in order] to contain China’s development.” (scmp.com, Oct. 16)

These are only a few of the U.S.-supported regime-change operations that were based on declaring “election fraud” and attempting to overturn other governments through extralegal military and fascist forces.

For the Jan. 6 coup attempt in Washington, D.C., Trump simply consulted a well-established U.S. playbook for how to destabilize and dominate a country’s government using neo-fascist forces.

Eventually, U.S. wars always come home. □

How to fight fascism in 2021

Lessons from Charlottesville

By Nathaniel Chase

The large demonstration of fascist, white-supremacist forces in Washington, D.C., on Jan. 6 brought back memories for this writer of the “Unite the Right” rally in Charlottesville, Va., over three years ago.

Aug. 12, 2017, was filled with the most horrible racism and violence and the murder of anti-racist activist Heather Heyer.

And that day this writer saw the fight-back of working-class and oppressed people overcome the fascists and send their movement into disarray. As far-right forces are increasingly emboldened and organized in the U.S., it’s worth looking back on Charlottesville for lessons we can apply today.

Lesson one: Cops and Klan go hand-in-hand

The police and far right have a long history of collaboration, evident on Jan. 6 and in Charlottesville. In both cases the police stood by and even assisted as far-right violence escalated. Why? Because police and fascists serve similar roles for the ruling class: deploying violence and intimidation against the most oppressed — especially Black, Brown and Indigenous people — in order to keep the whole working class down. Once we understand this relationship, it will be clear we can never rely on the police to counter fascist violence.

Police function inside the structure of the state, and fascist groups outside of it. Their similar roles explain why so many cops are members of fascist organizations and vice versa.

Only rarely will police arrest the occasional white supremacist to cover their real role. Revolutionaries must continue to expose the link between the police and the far right, dispelling the liberal notion that we can count on the cops.

(For a deeper look at the connections between the police and the far right, read

“The Klan & the Government: Foes or Allies?” by Sam Marcy at workers.org/books.)

Lesson two: The working class is not the base of fascism

The common stereotype of a white supremacist is a dirt-poor white worker, often from a rural area. In Charlottesville, it was immediately clear the fascists were coming from a different social strata: The majority had substantial disposable income, enough to buy expensive uniforms, tactical equipment, guns and vehicles and to travel from across the country for the rally.

A similar pattern could be seen Jan. 6, with many of the rioters being business-people and at least one arriving on a private jet! While fascist movements draw in some white workers, their primary base is the petty bourgeoisie: small business owners and self-employed sectors. These elements are anxious on the one hand about the rising power of workers, especially from oppressed nations, and on the other hand with the power of large capitalists, who threaten to grind them down into the working class.

The far right does not speak for the working class. The exploited class is not only white — it is Black, Brown and Indigenous. It is undocumented migrants, Muslims, women and gender-nonconforming people, LGBTQ2S+ people, seniors and individuals with disabilities. It is primarily the most oppressed sectors of society, whose labor is most brutally exploited for profit by the capitalist class. The working class is comprised of the very people most targeted by a fascist movement — those who have historically led the resistance against it.

Lesson three: Workers and oppressed people need to respond independently

No elected politicians or sections of the Democratic Party showed up in Charlottesville to oppose the far right. The opposition consisted of various left political forces (Marxists, Anarchists, Social Democrats), Black activists and unaffiliated workers.

The common liberal response to fascists is to ignore them,



San Francisco, Jan. 9.

WW PHOTO: DAVE WELSH

asserting they will disappear if they don’t draw attention. This dangerous notion allows white-supremacist ideas to flourish unchallenged.

The ruling class deliberately encourages a passive approach, because they know that a large anti-racist, anti-fascist movement will ultimately condemn capitalism as a whole. The ruling class goes along with the violence of the far right because it aligns with their class interests. On the other hand, they denounce the resistance of workers and the oppressed that endangers their rule.

While the Democratic Party may disagree with the right wing on how to keep working-class and oppressed people in line, the two are united in their goal of doing so.

We must build an anti-racist, anti-fascist movement deeply rooted in the working class and independent of the Democrats. We must also overcome the fear, entirely understandable, of directly confronting fascists in the streets.

Lesson four: The fascists are not invincible!

The morning of Aug. 12, 2017, began with left and right forces gathering and the balance of forces still unclear. As far-right violence increased, militant, disciplined resistance pushed them back until the police were forced to intervene, preventing the rightists from holding their rally.

The seemingly all-powerful fascists scattered and fell into bickering and infighting. Those who arrived in Charlottesville to unite the various factions of their

movement left divided and demoralized.

When it seemed that the right might overwhelm the left, revolutionaries played a key role by conveying confidence that we could fight back. Organization, discipline and communication boosted morale, playing a decisive role in turning the tide.

It is the duty of revolutionaries to instill this confidence — in the streets, in meetings and in our propaganda. As Mao Zedong famously put it: “All reactionaries are paper tigers. In appearance, the reactionaries are terrifying; but in reality, they are not so powerful. From a long-term point of view, it is not the reactionaries but the people who are powerful.”

Lesson five: Seize the moment!

Charlottesville provided an opportunity to speak about the prevalence of white supremacy in a country founded on the genocide of Indigenous peoples and the enslavement of Africans. One could show the connections, for example, between open white supremacy and the more veiled white supremacy of a liberal politician rezoning a Black neighborhood for gentrification. Or how little difference is to be found between police lynchings and Klan lynchings.

In periods of crisis, people are more open to new ways of thinking. The opportunity to win people to revolutionary ideas is greater than ever, but revolutionaries must seize it. We must deepen our roots in the working class, encouraging working and oppressed people to defeat the fascist movement and ultimately the capitalist system itself. □



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Philly denounces coup attempt

Chants of “Cops and Klan work hand-in-hand” and “No Trump, no KKK, no fascist USA” filled the air outside Philadelphia City Hall Jan. 9. Dozens of anti-fascist, pro-socialist demonstrators gathered there for a demonstration denouncing white supremacy and the failed Jan. 6 fascist insurrection in Washington, D.C.

Several people passing by, including a houseless trans couple, stayed to join the protest and express interest in further actions.

Speakers from Workers World Party, Black Alliance for Peace, Philadelphia-Camden Boricua Committee, Philly REAL Justice and Working Educators addressed the need for workers’ power and solidarity to fight the emboldened fascist movement. Many speakers raised the open collusion between various state policing entities and the Jan. 6 mob that stormed Congress to keep Trump in office.

— Report by Betsey Piette

The fascists, the FBI — and legislators

By Otis Grotewohl

Following the right-wing fascist coup attempt — Donald Trump’s version of a Nazi “putsch” — one Republican lawmaker was arrested and charged with “entering a restricted area of the U.S. Capitol.” On Jan. 8, the FBI arrested Derrick Evans — recently elected into the West Virginia House of Delegates — at his home.

Evans recorded himself breaking into the Capitol with other Trump cultists. He filmed himself saying, “We’re in, we’re in. Derrick Evans is in the building,” while wearing a helmet and military style clothing. Another right-wing West Virginia state legislator, John Mandt — once forced to resign over homophobic comments, only to be elected again last November — was quick to defend his violent colleague.

According to a Facebook post made by a leader of Black Lives Matter West Virginia, at least three

other West Virginia Republican legislators participated in the pro-Trump riot. The Independent of England reported six Republican state legislators from around the U.S. took part in events related to the storming.

Several other West Virginia state legislators spoke out against Evans, including African American Delegate Danielle Walker of Monongalia County, quoted in the Jan. 7 Charleston Gazette-Mail: “You showed up, and you showed out yesterday. You do not represent me. You do not speak for me, so where is my voice in all of this? Where are the consequences? Where are the arrests? Why did this person have the ability to post on social media that they were safely back on the bus, heading back to our state?” Many people throughout the state are circulating an online petition calling for Evans’ removal from the House.

Prior to being elected into the House of Delegates, Evans had a history of wreaking right-wing terror.

In 2019, Evans had a restraining order filed against him — which he violated — for harassing and threatening the lives of women at the Women’s Health Center, an abortion provider in Charleston, W.Va. (jezebel.com, Jan. 7)

After receiving scathing media attention, Evans resigned as a legislator Jan. 9. In his “resignation letter” Evans made no apologies. The fact that a violent fascist was elected into the West Virginia House of Delegates shows the reactionary character of pro-Trump voters and is an example of the illegitimacy of the capitalist system.

FBI and fascists are friends, not foes

The FBI has released a memo urging people to turn in the names and information of anyone who participated in the pro-Trump riot. It is understandable that people who are disgusted by the actions of the right-wing terrorists would want some

Continued on page 9

Capitol Police plans aided fascist assault

By John Catalinotto

Jan. 10 — The events of Jan. 6 highlight the need to organize anti-fascist working-class defense, independent of the government and its two big pro-capitalist and pro-imperialist political parties.

The white-supremacist Trumpite assault on the U.S. Congress attempted, through an illegal coup, to overturn what for more than 100 years had been a smooth transfer of presidential office. Media and politicians have since revealed that elements of the repressive state apparatus — especially the Capitol Police — took actions that facilitated the assault by fascist gangs.

On the surface, the Jan. 6 assault extended the electoral conflict between the Democratic Party and the Trump-led Republicans. Underneath, however, the coup attempt was a white-supremacist action to disenfranchise African American voters.

The assault threatened Black, Latinx and Indigenous participation in government at every level, such as the vote in Georgia the day before. It smelled of pogrom — of lynching.

Leading the mob were the same racist, fascist and pro-Nazi scum that marauded in Charlottesville, Va., in August 2017. In addition there were adherents of the QAnon cult and other devoted Trumpites.

Their banners included Confederate and U.S. flags, anti-abortion signs, assorted individual flags from the shah's Iran, Batista's Cuba, various Eastern European fascist regimes and anti-China Falun Gong, along with the vilest anti-Semitic slogans, all united behind hundreds of Trump flags and maga hats.

The difference from Charlottesville was that Trump has incited his base with false charges of fraud since November. On Jan. 6, he, Rudy Giuliani and others

agitated the mob to march on the Capitol to stop Congress from certifying the election.

Trump's go-ahead — as he sent the mob to attack his Democratic Party enemies, and threaten every Congressmember of color and even call for the head of Vice President Mike Pence — was a dog whistle implying impunity for those actions.

Spurring on the fascists' arrogant actions was the connivance of the Capitol cops. Every media covering the event, along with the threatened representatives, noted the absence of protection. They contrasted it to the phalanx of guards in full riot gear on the Capitol steps to confront a peaceful Black Lives Matter protest last summer.

Rep. Maxine Waters speaks

African American Rep. Maxine Waters, concerned about the safety of Congress during the certification vote, telephoned Chief of U.S. Capitol Police Steven Sund on Dec. 31 to discuss the danger. In an interview in Los Angeles Magazine on Jan. 6, Waters said:

“The chief of police assured me that they would not even get on the plaza, let alone get in the Capitol. And I must have asked him 30 or 40 questions about how he was going to secure the Capitol, and how would he know which of these organizations would be here.

“I mentioned to him that the Proud Boys were in town, and the Oath Keepers were in town, and white supremacists were in town; and he assured me that not only did they have it under control, they were working in cooperation with the Metropolitan police of D.C. And all of that has turned out to be untrue.”

Following demands from Congress leaders on Jan. 7, Sund, House Sergeant-at-Arms Paul Irving and Senate Sergeant-at-Arms Michael Stenger resigned. It's a



National Guard in place to repress Black Lives Matter at Lincoln Memorial, Washington, D.C., June 2, 2020.

tacit sign of the complicity of the top cops in facilitating the fascist attack.

Some Capitol cops fraternized with the invading fascist mob. A few confronted the invaders, who were openly racist. According to the media, fascists killed one Capitol cop, and a cop killed a person in the mob entering a room holding the representatives.

There are reports that individual police officers from around the country participated in the assault. White police officers are overwhelmingly pro-Trump.

Pentagon delays

Pentagon leaders delayed for hours deploying National Guard troops. House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer pleaded with Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan to send in the National Guard. Hogan, who ordered the mobilization, said Maj. Gen. Timothy Gowen, the adjutant general of the Maryland National Guard, was repeatedly rebuffed by the Pentagon for over three hours. Finally the Department of the

Army OKed sending in the Guard.

Whether those who assaulted the Capitol—a crime under bourgeois law—and those who ordered the assault will be charged, tried and sentenced is part of an unfolding political struggle. Prosecution of the guilty, including Trump and Giuliani, requires that the Democratic Party leadership mobilize masses against a large section of the state apparatus. But Democrats fear that a legitimate mass movement will demand defunding the police, free medical care, guaranteed income, etc.

The next confrontation will come with the preparation for the Jan. 20 inauguration. This is likely to show that the state apparatus — cops, National Guard, Pentagon — is unreliable for protecting workers and oppressed people from a fascist movement.

A major lesson of Jan. 6 is that the U.S. working class and all anti-racists need their own independent defensive organizations. □

The fascists, the FBI—and legislators

Continued from page 8

kind of justice. And many progressive-minded people were thrilled to hear the news of Evans' arrest.

Unfortunately, the FBI is not a friend of the oppressed or the working class and should not be trusted to carry out any kind of justice against fascists.

The FBI was created in 1908 as an outfit to disrupt and destroy movements for liberation of oppressed people and for socialism. While the FBI has a history of putting infiltrators and informants inside both Left and Right movements, the agency most often assisted the Right against the Left.

In one of the most horrific government actions in U.S. history, the FBI worked with the Chicago Police Department to assassinate Black Panther Party heroes Chairman Fred Hampton and Mark Clark, on Dec. 4, 1969. There are many other examples of how the FBI has targeted and attacked revolutionary activists.

The police and state treatment of the fascist Trump supporters differed dramatically from how those who protest racism, war and police brutality are treated. Had anti-fascist or Black Lives Matter protesters dared step onto the Capitol steps, the police would have responded with a murderous vengeance.

Now we've seen images of Trump rioters and police officers hanging out together during the attempted insurrection and taking “selfies,” as other protesters are damaging

federal property in the background. It is clear from photos, footage and reports that some Capitol police coddled and escorted the reactionary mob onto the premises.

Leaders of the bigoted uprising are affiliated with racist, anti-Semitic hate groups such as America First, headed by right-wing internet streamer Nick Fuentes, who infamously participated in the murderous neo-Nazi march in Charlottesville, Va., in 2017. Other groups include the conspiracy-theory oriented QAnon, as well as the white-supremacist and misogynistic Proud Boys.

Prior to the coup attempt, Proud Boys leader Enrique Tarrio ordered his hooligans not to wear their signature black and gold shirts in order to avoid being identified — a code directive to prepare for nefarious action. Tarrio was arrested Jan. 4 for his involvement in tearing down and burning Black Lives Matter banners stolen from two Black churches during a right-wing protest in Washington, D.C., in December 2020.

Nicholas Ochs, leader of the Hawaiian branch of the Proud Boys, who ran as a Republican in the November 2020 elections for Hawaiian House District 22, was inside the Capitol during the riot, according to video footage. Ochs has a personal connection to “dirty tricks” agent and Trump confidante Roger Stone, who promoted his campaign. (Honolulu Star-Advertiser, Jan. 7)

Klan and the government, hand-in-hand

America First, QAnon and the PBs all espouse the same dangerous rhetoric and serve the same purpose as the terrorist Ku Klux Klan. In his book, “The Klan and the Government: Foes or Allies?” Workers World Party founder and Chair Sam Marcy wrote: “The Klan has always been part and parcel, sometimes secretly, sometimes openly, of the capitalist state,

especially in the police and military forces of the U.S.

“The KKK is a prototype of an international phenomenon. In Old Russia, they were known as the Black Hundreds. They go under different names in different countries. But everywhere they are counterrevolutionary organizations which grow up in response to the needs of the capitalist state for supplementary, illegal, extrastate and extragovernmental repression and terror.”

The capitalist state and the FBI cannot be depended upon to reprimand right-wing terrorists, because the capitalist state, along with their police and military apparatus, enable violent fascists.

Only a revolutionary movement of workers and oppressed, guided by Marxist-Leninist principles, can expose, confront and smash these forces of reaction. □



WW PHOTO: ARJAE RED

‘Fight white supremacy with solidarity!’ in Buffalo, N.Y.

On Saturday, Jan. 9, coinciding with the first Buffalo Bills playoff football game at their New York home since 1996, activists of Workers World Party-Buffalo displayed a banner over a major route to the game reading: “Fight white supremacy with solidarity — Crush the fascist coup!”

— Report by Ernie Hamer

The Klan & the Government Foes or Allies?

By Sam Marcy

Examines the special relationship with the state that has allowed the Ku Klux Klan to exist for over a century despite its criminal history of lynchings, murders, and intimidation. Published in 1983.

Read it free at workers.org/marcy/klan/



Racism, recession and Trump’s attempted coup

Capitalism is an inherently unstable economic system, subject to cyclical crises of overproduction. The term “overproduction” has nothing to do with more goods being produced than people need. People may have many, many unmet needs, from food and clothing to shelter and means of transportation. Overproduction refers only to more being produced than can be sold — at a profit.

Because capitalist economic activity is dependent on making profits rather than meeting human needs, it is a well-known fact that production and employment will oscillate up and down as markets rise and fall. When markets and profits fall, it’s called a recession. If they stay down for a long time, it’s a depression.

Since February of 2020, the U.S. has been in what economists are calling the COVID-19 Recession, with official unemployment hitting a peak of 14.8% in April

2020.

This was the highest level of unemployment in this country since 1938 and the Great Depression.

Not even covered in these unemployment figures are exploited workers in what is called the “gig economy.” They have little if any job protections and are not usually counted as unemployed when their jobs dry up.

This recession has affected many in the so-called “middle class” — the petty bourgeoisie — the self-employed or owners of small businesses doomed to be replaced by huge chains, but whose demise has been hastened by the virus.

The current recession, bordering on a depression, must be kept in mind when analyzing the violent right-wing movement that has mushroomed in support of Donald Trump. Such movements have historically looked to demagogues in

periods of economic crisis.

In class terms, their base lies in the petty bourgeoisie, but they look to big-business figures like Trump as their saviors. In the U.S., they are especially prone to racist demagoguery that blames their growing insecurity on the gains made by struggling people of color.

Racism provides them with a scapegoat, in the same way that anti-Semitism served the fascist movement in Germany during the Great Depression. Capitalism was so hated in Europe by that time that the Nazis had to disguise themselves as “national socialists,” while blaming Jewish people for all of capitalism’s crimes.

The camouflage of Hitler’s fake socialism didn’t confuse Germany’s big bourgeoisie, however. The Krupps and other wealthy capitalists made a deal with Hitler and made huge profits from his

war machine.

There has always been a section of the U.S. ruling class that sympathizes with fascism as a weapon against the working class. In the South particularly, but not exclusively, it has taken the form of racism as the bosses’ main weapon to combat class solidarity among the workers.

The upsurge of this incipient fascist movement, as seen in their attack on Congress, and egged on by Trump, is a product of the capitalist economic crisis that has been worsened by the COVID-19 pandemic. It reflects all the worst features of this outmoded capitalist system.

While the incoming Biden administration will try to plaster over the cracks in the system, only a strong multinational, multi-gender workers’ movement can defeat the fascists and the capitalist system that spawns them. □

Pakistan Hazara people resist ongoing genocide

By Tania Siddiqi

Jan. 10 — On Jan. 3, gunmen abducted and executed 11 coal miners, all of whom belonged to Pakistan’s Hazara community.

Responding to yet another targeted attack, the Hazara people in Balochistan arranged the martyrs’ coffins in the middle of a highway in Quetta. They created a list of demands, one being that Prime Minister Imran Khan visit them and witness the effects that repeated intentional killings has on a community. Moreover, the Hazara people stated that if their demands were not met, then they would not bury the dead.

In response to the Hazara community’s actions, Prime Minister Khan rejected their demand that he visit them, saying, “No country’s prime minister can be blackmailed like this . . . [b]ecause then everyone will blackmail the prime minister of the country.” (Al Jazeera, Jan. 8)

The Hazara people refused to compromise, and hundreds remained on the highway for six days — sleeping in freezing temperatures and mourning their unburied loved ones. A group of Hazara people engaged in a hunger strike and explained that they were willing to continue until death if Khan did not apologize for insulting their grieving community. Ultimately, Khan conceded to their demands.

Ongoing persecution of the Hazara people

To understand the significance of the events taking place over the past few days, it is important to contextualize the ongoing persecution of the Hazara people and critically assess the Hazara community’s crucial movement work.

The Hazara people’s place of origin is Hazarajat, a region in Afghanistan. In the late 19th century, the Hazara people launched a series of uprisings against Amir Abdur Rahman Khan, one of the British empire’s pawns, who attempted to bring Hazarajat under his control. Reports indicate that to crush the uprisings, Amir Khan engaged in genocide against the Hazara community, eliminating 60% of their population and enslaving thousands. (tinyurl.com/y3mhzd4n)

In recent years, growing sectarian violence has brought a resurgence in systematic violence and genocide against the Hazara people. Pakistan’s National

Commission for Human Rights states that “the greatest burden of sectarianism is borne by the Shia Hazara community of Balochistan” and reports that since 2004, over 2,000 Hazara people have been targeted and murdered. (NCHR, Feb. 2018)

While the Hazara people are exposed to severe physical violence, they are subjected to incredible structural violence. Balochistan has the highest poverty rate in Pakistan, but is rich in mineral deposits. Moreover, the state’s depletion of Balochistan’s natural resources is extensive.

In 1952, natural gas was discovered in Balochistan. Of the 33 districts in the province, however, 23 do not have access to natural gas. (Eurasia Review Oct. 20, 2020)

Balochistan produces 23% of Pakistan’s entire gas production, but only 6% of the gas produced is used in the province. (Business Standard, Sept. 18, 2017)

Along with mineral exploitation, people are exploited. According to Pakistan Central Mines Labor Federation, coal miners typically “begin work at the age of 13. By the age of 30, they are forced into unemployment due to chronic respiratory illnesses, tuberculosis, loss of eyesight, injuries, etc.” (Peoples Dispatch, Feb. 3, 2020)

Like all workers belonging to oppressed communities, the Hazara people who were mercilessly murdered were largely ignored by the state. Under capitalism, it is easy to disappear those whose labor is deemed inconsequential and unimportant. The state’s motive is maintaining economic control over Balochistan’s natural resources. The Hazara people are merely a vessel used to serve the state’s interests.

Examining Prime Minister Khan’s statements, it’s apparent his remarks were rather unremarkable. His apathetic attitude and callous comments, directed at a community that is both grieving and bleeding, reflect the ruling class notion that workers are replaceable and disposable. However, his response to the Hazara people’s demands is significant because it exposes ruling class fear and the pervasive truth that liberation and self-determination belong to the people.

The Hazara community’s commitment to their struggle and their uncompromising principles sparked actions throughout Pakistan. People collectively mobilized in solidarity with the Hazara community, demanding an end to the



Hazara women protest ongoing genocide against their community and the murders of Hazara workers in Pakistan.

PHOTO: TOOBA SYED VIA TWITTER

persecution of the Hazara people. The All Pakistan Pensioners and Labour Tehreek—an alliance of more than 80 trade unions in Pakistan—put out a powerful statement condemning the government’s actions against the Hazara people. (tinyurl.com/yxshlh7a)

The struggle for liberation continues, and there are incredible lessons to learn from the movement building happening in Pakistan. We are in deep solidarity with the Hazara people and with all who are fighting the oppressor’s power and building the people’s power. □

No fascist coup! Fight back with workers’ power

Continued from page 1

the U.S. — have to be the ones to prevent violent, KKK-like attacks, especially those on workers of color who are and always have been the fascists’ primary targets. When have the Democrats and Republicans ever offered any real protection?

This growing fascist movement — for whom today’s mobilization marked a turning point in the worst way — demands a mass, independent response from the working class.

This situation poses again the question in the old union standard: “Which side are you on?”

The power of working people, both in the streets and at the point of production, must be wielded to push back the continued rise of this fascist movement. General strike calls — which were raised before the November election as a response if Trump refused to step down — must be seriously discussed, starting with but not

limited to the organized labor movement.

As good and as strongly anti-racist as a number of union statements on the Jan. 6 crisis have been, as a response to a fascist coup attempt they are woefully insufficient.

It is time to build worker-community defense guards, to push the fascists back and defend oppressed communities against hate crimes.

We call on all our side’s organizations: the unions, the youth, the Black Lives Matter movement, im/migrants, people with disabilities, LGBTQ2S+ people, women’s and gender-nonconforming people’s movements, and all working people — including unemployed, low wage, health care, transit, public sector, blue collar, gig, education, incarcerated and sex workers — to mobilize to crush the white supremacist fascist forces.

General strike against fascism! Build worker defense teams! SHUT WHITE SUPREMACY DOWN! □

Haiti

Imperialist manipulation meets popular resistance

By G. Dunkel

Haiti is by far the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. Yet it has a glorious history as the first independent Black republic and the first nation in the Western Hemisphere to abolish slavery. Also, the Haitian people militantly resisted U.S. occupation from 1915 to 1934 and carried out a mass uprising which led to Jean-Bertrand Aristide’s election as president in 1990. These are some of the historical factors taken into account by U.S. imperialists—whose goal is to continue to dominate Haiti—in order to repress the people’s strong resistance to exploitation and oppression.

In 2019, there were huge, militant demonstrations against President Jovenel Moïse and his Tèt Kale Party (PHTK). It was widely expected that he and his party’s members would be forced out of power.

Splits in the Haitian bourgeoisie over what they should do became obvious, when the national police battled the newly reconstituted Haitian army in several firefights.

But Moïse managed to hang on until December 2019, a month filled with holidays and parties, when people return home to the provinces. Then Washington began maneuvering, probably passing along money or promises of support. The Haitian Parliament’s term ended in January 2020. Moïse had not organized elections so he could rule by executive decree.

In mid-March, COVID-19 entered the picture. The government imposed restrictions to deal with the pandemic, which made it harder to hold massive weekly demonstrations. The official political opposition split into competing factions, which looked to make a deal with a faction of U.S. imperialism.

‘One-man rule’

From January 2020 when Moïse began his “one-man-rule” until January 2021, he has issued 38 presidential decrees, 44 executive orders and 110 arrêtés, which set



Haitian community protests police brutality, Grand Army Plaza, Brooklyn, N.Y., June 7, 2020.

rules for how certain procedures are carried out.

One recent decree established the domestic National Intelligence Agency (ANI), which is accountable only to the president. The agency is allowed to interrogate, search, confine and arrest any Haitian citizen, subject only to his control. (Haïti Liberté, Dec. 30.)

Another decree, pretending to reinforce public safety, redefines “crimes” like theft, throwing garbage, burning barricades on roadways and destroying public and private property as terrorism, punishable by a hefty fine and 30 years to 50 years imprisonment. Most big protests in Haiti will be confronted with this law as defined by presidential decree.

Some Haitian militants have compared how Moïse is using decrees to how former dictator François Duvalier used decrees in the six months before he proclaimed himself “president for life” in 1964. In the Dec. 21 Miami Herald, Samuel Madistin—a respected academic, civil rights activist and former senator in Haiti’s National

Assembly—is quoted as questioning if the current president is paving the way for a dictatorship. (tinyurl.com/yyo8jhp6)

Moïse used one reading of Haiti’s constitution to say that his term ends in February, but now claims the document permits him to rule until 2022.

Both the U.S. and European Union have pressured Moïse to hold elections this year, but their motives are not altruistic. They keep up the pretext of promoting “democracy,” but the imperialists’ real concern is how best to maintain their grip on the Caribbean country and exploit the people and their resources.

Taking to the streets

While the number of demonstrations in 2020 fell below the frequency and intensity of those held in 2019, some major protests still took place. On Nov. 18, two demonstrations took place in the capital of Port-au-Prince commemorating the anniversary of the Battle of Vertières, in which the Haitian army decisively defeated the French army in 1803.

One demonstration, led by Moïse Jean-Charles’ Dessalines’ Children, a progressive political party, marched on the U.S. Embassy. The other, led by the Popular and Democratic Sector (SDP), proceeded through the city towards the National Palace, Haiti’s equivalent of the White House. But police roughly dispersed and shot at protesters. SDP members asked President-elect Joseph Biden for help, since President Donald Trump supported Moïse. (Journal de Montréal, Nov. 18, 2020)

Haiti’s anti-imperialist left continued protesting through the year. On May Day, International Workers Day, the Coalition of Political, Union and Popular Organizations moved through Port-au-Prince, calling for a \$15.30 daily minimum wage and other progressive demands.

The struggle for justice and an end to poverty continues in Haiti. □

Canadian autoworkers blockade minivan plant

By Martha Grevatt

Since Jan. 5, Unifor Local 444 has blockaded the FCA minivan plant in Windsor, Ontario, Canada. Plant workers normally build 830 Chrysler Pacifica vans per day. The blockade of entry and exit gates will prevent minivans from being driven off the assembly line, when production resumes Jan. 11 after the temporary idling around the holidays.

At issue is FCA’s contract with a third party whose workers drive the assembled vehicles off the line. When its contract with Auto Warehouse Company expired, FCA did not renew it, instead giving the work to another company, Motipark.

Motipark is refusing to honor the successor clause — meaning any new company that takes over the work has to abide by the collective bargaining agreement in place — the Unifor contract. This means that about 60 Local 444 members will lose their jobs. Wages at Motipark are as much as \$5 an hour (Canadian) less than at Auto Warehouse Company. Motipark

refuses to negotiate with Local 444. This is a just fight for job security and decent union wages.

Unifor was founded in 2013, when the Canadian Auto Workers joined forces with the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers unions. Local 444 represents FCA workers at the Windsor assembly plant, as well as third-party workers who perform “auxiliary” work, such as cleaning or driving vans off the line and onto trucks. Unfortunately, the struggle to keep Unifor jobs pits Local 444 against the Teamsters, who currently represent Motipark workers.

Local 444 is in a difficult position now due to previous concessions made, including allowing outsourcing to third-party companies of work previously performed by then-Chrysler workers.

The right to a job: basis for classwide solidarity

The blockade is taking place at a critical time for FCA workers worldwide. The merger of FCA (formed by the merger of Fiat and Chrysler) and PSA (maker of Peugeot and Citroen that acquired Opel and Vauxhall from General Motors in 2017) has just created Stellantis, the world’s fourth largest vehicle company by the volume of vehicles produced. At the top of Stellantis’ agenda will be consolidation of operations and eliminating jobs considered “redundant.”

The merger comes as production is beginning to shift to electric vehicles, which have fewer parts and thus require less labor time to build. This makes it all the more necessary to raise the demand for a shorter work week — with no cut in pay. Otherwise, all the cost savings that will come from reducing the workforce will go to the bosses in the form of even higher profits.

In the 1990s, the Canadian Auto

Workers — which originally broke with the United Auto Workers because the UAW was agreeing to too many concessions — was able to get the Windsor plant workday reduced from 8 to 7.5 hours, with no cut in pay. The plant added a

third shift, which created more jobs.

Now there is an urgent need to raise slogans such as: “Six hour day! No cut in pay!” Worldwide class solidarity is the weapon that can save jobs. □

Free Maroon!

Jan. 18 day of actions

By Betsey Piette

Prison abolitionists in several U.S. cities are organizing “Justice Is Dead” caravans on Martin Luther King Jr. Day to demand an end of “Death by COVID” in prisons. The Jan. 18 actions target governors in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, who have allowed genocidal prison neglect to flourish during the pandemic.

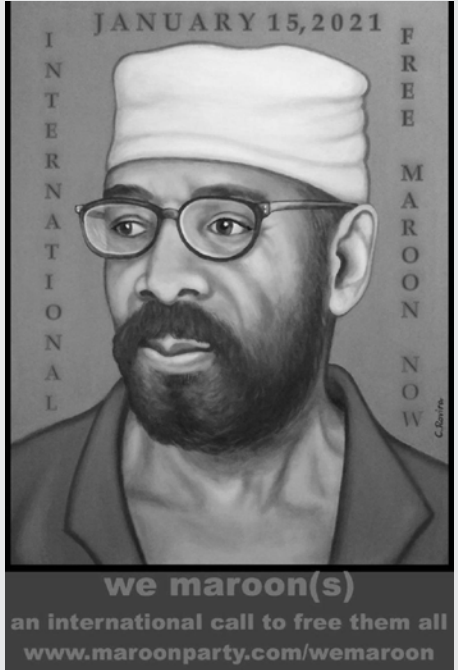
The abolitionist actions urge immediate release of veteran Black Panther political prisoner Russell Maroon Shoatz, who suffered COVID-19 while undergoing stage 4 cancer treatments. Like Shoatz, many U.S. political prisoners are elders increasingly exposed, infected, suffering and dying during the pandemic.

The Free Maroon Now Committee coordinating the actions has called for 2021 to be the year to free all U.S.-held political prisoners. Many, including Shoatz, have spent over 50 years in prison. Many global movements outside the U.S. consider these political prisoners, like Mumia Abu-Jamal, to be heroes of liberation struggles. For more information, see the Free Russell Maroon Shoatz website: tinyurl.com/yysyx8ty. 2021 marks the 50th anniversary of

the historic Attica prison uprising, as well as the murder of imprisoned revolutionary George Jackson. With the recent upsurge by social justice movements against racism and police brutality, many similarities can be seen between revolutionary conditions in 1971 and those today. Now is the time to free all political prisoners and to free Maroon! □



Members of Unifor Local 444, at FCA’s Windsor, Ontario, minivan assembly plant, blockade gates to oppose threats to cut members’ jobs.



Russell Maroon Shoatz



Trabajadores médicos, Ciudad Juárez México, abril 2020.

Las vacunas mundiales de China: un cambio revolucionario

Por Sara Flounders

En Estados Unidos, con menos del 5% de la población mundial, existe poca preocupación por el destino del otro 95% del mundo que se enfrenta a la pandemia.

Cuándo, cómo y bajo qué condiciones se distribuirá una vacuna en los EE. UU. es la mayor preocupación de los EE.UU. Las tasas de muertes por COVID-19 en el país han alcanzado niveles asombrosos y siguen aumentando. Se prevé un saldo de 500.000 muertes para febrero.

La actual administración de Washington ha dejado claro que las vacunas para el resto del mundo no estarán disponibles hasta que se satisfagan las necesidades de Estados Unidos. Esto fue reforzado por el presidente Donald Trump en una reunión del 21 de noviembre del G20, el bloque económico internacional de gobiernos y gobernadores de los bancos centrales.

Mientras tanto, en China el virus COVID-19 está bajo control. Ha habido menos de 5.000 muertes. Su contención de la enfermedad, y su economía de planificación centralizada, han permitido a China convertirse en una fuerza capaz de proporcionar suministros médicos y equipos de protección personal esenciales a escala mundial. (Ver “Planificación socialista de China y COVID-19”, Workers World, 3 de abril)

Ahora China se ha convertido en el único país capaz y dispuesto a proporcionar libremente cientos de millones de dosis de vacunas que salvan vidas en todo el mundo.

Proyecto de salud global de China

Los líderes chinos han prometido a los países en desarrollo de África, Asia y América Latina acceso prioritario a sus exitosas vacunas. La promesa es que las vacunas de China serán un producto de salud pública mundial. Estas no son promesas vacías. China tiene la capacidad técnica para producir en masa millones de dosis y, lo que es más importante, para distribuir las vacunas en todo el mundo.

En un desafío adicional para las compañías farmacéuticas privadas multimillonarias, China se compromete a compartir los conocimientos tecnológicos para fabricar estas vacunas localmente. Al comienzo de la pandemia, los líderes chinos enfatizaron repetidamente que las vacunas de China eran para compartir, especialmente con el mundo en desarrollo. El 18 de mayo, el presidente chino, Xi Jinping, en la apertura de la 73a sesión de la Asamblea Mundial de la Salud, prometió que el desarrollo y despliegue de la vacuna COVID-19 en China se crearía para el bien público mundial. La Asamblea Mundial de la Salud (AMS) es el organismo de toma de decisiones de la Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS) de la ONU.

El 29 de mayo, cuando brotó la pandemia, Trump cortó todos los lazos con la OMS, sin ofertas posteriores de ayuda o cooperación de Estados Unidos en la investigación de la pandemia mundial.

Ahora, la contribución de China garantizará la accesibilidad y asequibilidad de las vacunas en los países en desarrollo. (tinyurl.com/y3d26p25) China también prometió \$2 mil millones a esos países para la infraestructura necesaria para hacer frente a la pandemia. (tinyurl.com/y33wfbtr)

En una cumbre de video de junio con líderes africanos, Xi declaró que “una vez que se complete el desarrollo y despliegue de una vacuna COVID-19 en China, los

países africanos estarán entre los primeros en beneficiarse”. (tinyurl.com/y4d34qoe) Esta promesa fue reiterada por el presidente Xi en la cumbre del G20 del 21 de noviembre a través de un video.

El 8 de octubre, China firmó un acuerdo con GAVI, la Alianza de Vacunas para unirse formalmente a un plan de implementación de vacunas. Esto significa que las vacunas de China serán un producto público mundial y se les dará prioridad en el suministro de vacunas a los países en desarrollo. (tinyurl.com/y2a5zurs)

El imperialismo estadounidense es incapaz de igualar el increíble esfuerzo humanitario de China. Por lo tanto, no es sorprendente que la ayuda global de China sea criticada repetidamente por los medios corporativos estadounidenses y los centros de investigación de Washington.

CNN levantó la alarma capitalista contra la distribución gratuita de cientos de millones de dosis de vacunas al citar a Yanzhong Huang, miembro del Consejo de Relaciones Exteriores con sede en Nueva York: “Las vacunas también pueden ser utilizadas por Beijing como un ‘instrumento de política exterior para promover el poder blando y proyectar la influencia internacional’ [en] la diplomacia de las vacunas”. (tinyurl.com/y4lwv7oy)

Pero incluso al criticar a China por brindar ayuda en todo el mundo, los medios estadounidenses se han visto obligados a admitir que China ha eliminado en gran medida el coronavirus dentro de sus fronteras. Debido a que China esencialmente ha contenido el virus, no hay una necesidad urgente de vacunar a todas las personas de sus 1.400 mil millones de habitantes.

Cinco nuevas vacunas

China tiene actualmente cinco vacunas contra el coronavirus desarrolladas por cuatro empresas. Las cinco vacunas han alcanzado los ensayos clínicos de fase 3 en al menos 16 condados. La fase 3 es la prueba final de una vacuna antes de que se considere segura para su distribución masiva. Las empresas que desarrollan las vacunas chinas son tanto empresas públicas de propiedad estatal como empresas privadas que trabajan en colaboración con empresas de todo el mundo. Su objetivo colectivo es garantizar la producción a

gran escala de vacunas a precios asequibles, junto con tecnología que permita la producción local.

CanSino Biologics, que desarrolló una vacuna contra el coronavirus con una unidad de investigación del ejército chino, entregará 35 millones de dosis de su vacuna a México, uno de los cinco países anfitriones de sus ensayos. La prestigiosa revista médica internacional, “The Lancet”, publicó los datos de los ensayos clínicos de la primera y segunda fases de esa vacuna. (tinyurl.com/yd8uheb3)

Sinovac Biotech Ltd. es otra empresa biofarmacéutica con sede en China que se centra en la investigación, el desarrollo y la fabricación de vacunas.

Sinovac ha firmado acuerdos con PT Bio Farma, una empresa biofarmacéutica líder en Indonesia, para el suministro, producción local y licencia de tecnología para producir al menos 40 millones de dosis de CoronaVac allí antes de marzo de 2021. Sinovac también está proporcionando 46 millones de dosis a Brasil y 50 millones de dosis a Turquía. (tinyurl.com/y5zz3uqk)

China National Biotec Group, una unidad del gigante farmacéutico estatal China National Pharmaceutical Group (Sinopharm), tiene dos vacunas en fase de ensayos 3 en 10 países, principalmente en el Medio Oriente y América del Sur. CNBG es capaz de producir más de mil millones de dosis en 2021.

La estatal Sinopharm anunció el 19 de noviembre que su vacuna contra el coronavirus se había administrado a casi 1 millón de personas sin signos de efectos secundarios adversos. (tinyurl.com/y25pgtecv)

China desafía a las grandes farmacéuticas

Las vacunas COVID-19 fabricadas por compañías farmacéuticas chinas son similares a las vacunas efectivas en muchas otras pandemias, como las vacunas contra la polio y la gripe. Estas vacunas son más fáciles de replicar con la tecnología actualmente implementada a nivel mundial. Las vacunas Pfizer y Moderna se desarrollaron utilizando una nueva tecnología, lo que dificulta la producción en masa de estas vacunas.

Las vacunas chinas tienen otra ventaja crucial: no requieren temperaturas ultracongeladas para su almacenamiento y



LIU RUI/GT

envío. Para seguir siendo viables, las vacunas Pfizer deben almacenarse a -75 ° C (-103 ° F) ultrafrías y las vacunas Moderna a -20 ° C. Las vacunas chinas solo requieren refrigeración estándar de 2 ° C a 8 ° C (36 ° F a 46 ° F).

Pero incluso una temperatura que no sea ultra fría es un desafío para mantener durante el envío y el almacenamiento en gran parte del mundo.

Cainiao, un brazo logístico chino del Grupo Alibaba, dice que ahora cuenta con una infraestructura de clima controlado de extremo a extremo y lista para distribuir las vacunas chinas en todo el mundo. La compañía se ha asociado con Ethiopian Airlines para lanzar operaciones de carga de cadena de frío para el transporte de medicamentos sensibles a la temperatura desde China a través de África y Oriente Medio. Estos nuevos vuelos de carga aérea operarán dos veces por semana desde el Aeropuerto Internacional de Shenzhen a África. (tinyurl.com/y44u3bt7)

Las nuevas vacunas chinas, y el compromiso de compartir la tecnología y la distribución con el mundo, son un desafío fundamental para las corporaciones farmacéuticas estadounidenses. Esas empresas multimillonarias tienen una de las ganancias de rentabilidad más altas de cualquier grupo industrial. (tinyurl.com/y359jurr)

El gobierno de EE.UU. financió la investigación de la vacuna COVID con más de \$10,5 mil millones en subvenciones a compañías farmacéuticas. Pero a diferencia de la polio y las investigaciones anteriores sobre vacunas, estas gigantes corporaciones privadas venderán el producto financiado con fondos públicos a las agencias gubernamentales con una ganancia enorme.

La propiedad privada capitalista es el mayor obstáculo para resolver cualquier problema global que ponga en peligro al bien público. □

Declaración del Workers World Party/Partido Mundo Obrero

Miércoles 6 de enero - El intento de golpe de Estado hoy en Washington, D.C., y la movilización de una turba fascista de decenas de miles, deben ser vistos con la mayor seriedad.

Si bien el ataque tomó la forma de un asalto al edificio del Capitolio de EE. UU., el Congreso y la “institución de la democracia”, deteniendo durante horas la aprobación de la elección presidencial por mandato constitucional, estas fuerzas supremacistas blancas representan la mayor amenaza para la clase trabajadora. especialmente los más oprimidos. Su objetivo político es aplastar con mano de hierro todas las expresiones, incluso las más modestas, de los derechos de los trabajadores, la justicia social y Black Lives Matter.

Los políticos capitalistas de los dos partidos principales se están peleando entre sí para disociarse de los posibles golpistas y de Trump, el instigador. Pero el fracaso del aparato estatal, especialmente de la policía,

para evitar una invasión directa, aunque sea de corta duración, de la ciudadela del poder político estadounidense muestra que quienes están en el poder son poco confiables, ineptos y de ninguna manera están a la altura de la tarea de derrotar a una amenaza fascista.

Compare la facilidad con la que los supremacistas blancos entraron al Capitolio con la brutal represión policial de las protestas de Black Lives Matter en todo el país, incluso en Washington, D.C.

Nosotros, los trabajadores y los oprimidos dentro de los EE. UU., No podemos depender del estado para prevenir ataques violentos similares al KKK, especialmente aquellos contra trabajadores de color que son y siempre han sido los principales objetivos de los fascistas. ¿Cuándo han ofrecido los demócratas y republicanos alguna protección real?

El movimiento fascista dentro de los Estados Unidos, para quien la movilización de hoy marcó un punto de inflexión de la

peor manera, exige una respuesta masiva e independiente de la clase trabajadora.

Este día vuelve a plantear la pregunta en el antiguo estándar sindical: "¿De qué lado estás?"

El poder de los trabajadores, tanto en las calles como en el lugar de producción, debe ejercerse para hacer retroceder el continuo ascenso de este movimiento fascista.

Hacemos un llamado a todas las organizaciones de nuestro lado: los sindicatos, la juventud, el movimiento Black Lives Matter, los migrantes / inmigrantes, las personas con discapacidades, las personas LGBTQ2S +, los movimientos de mujeres y de personas no conformados con el género, y todas las personas trabajadoras, incluidos los desempleados, los salarios bajos, atención médica, tránsito, sector público, obreros, educación, encarcelados y trabajadoras sexuales, para movilizarse y aplastar a las fuerzas fascistas supremacistas blancas.

¡Huelga general ahora! ¡Paro! □