Trump OUT — Time for workers to defeat racism, fascism

By John Catalinotto

An unprecedented 25,000 National Guard troops from 50 states plus thousands of local and Capitol police are expected to occupy the U.S. capital by Jan. 20. This armed force’s announced goal: Prevent a violent attack on the inauguration of the 46th president and allow a transition to the Joe Biden/Kamala Harris administration. Exit Trump.

National Guard troops and state police guarded many state capitol buildings on Jan. 17 in anticipation of ultrarightist demonstrations. Few fascist protesters showed up, indicating their current cautious mood.

Despite its disorganization and defeat after three hours, the Jan. 6 pro-fascist assault on the Capitol sowed terror in Congress and shocked the public. It aimed to stop the certification of the presidential election and keep Trump in office. The attack had his blessing, giving it the earmark of an attempted coup.

The lack of punishment on the spot, the apparent collaboration by elements in the state apparatus with the fascists and the vast publicity the assault drew — all stoked credible fears that an even bigger attack might be launched during the inauguration.

Now, leading up to Jan. 20, two forces confront each other. Both forces are repressive, and both serve the interests of the property-owning imperialist ruling class. Yet they must be distinguished from each other.

One side is the “legal” power of the state apparatus — military, police, courts, prisons. The other is the “extralegal” paramilitary armed force of dozens of militia and fascist organizations, gathered under the banner of Trump and united by their extremist ideology of white supremacy.

On the outside of this internecine confrontation is a third force: the working-class movement, including Black Lives Matter, migrant, union, women’s, LGBTQ2S+, environmental, disabled, youth and all other popular movements. This popular movement can be courageous and bold and win enormous support, as BLM did last summer. At this moment these sectors are mostly unarmed. They have united in their mutual opposition to Trumpism.

Let’s take a closer look at the class forces confronting each other.

The establishment state apparatus

Reports from Washington describe the National Guard and police preparations as setting up a “Green Zone.” U.S. occupation forces in Baghdad used the same name for the area of the Iraqi capital containing the mammoth U.S. Embassy and other official buildings.

In Baghdad’s Green Zone, U.S. troops set up auto crossings, used cement barriers to prevent truck bombings of buildings, carried out continuous surveillance and prepared for battle in an attempt to prevent attacks by the Iraqi resistance.

The Green Zone was part of a war zone; it was a protected area for the military and diplomatic personnel. The U.S. military used it as a base from which to launch attacks on Iraqis and other civilians.

In the United States, the Green Zone has been transformed into a symbol of the occupation of Iraq, and has been used to justify the continued presence of U.S. troops in the country.

The establishment state apparatus has been implicated in numerous human rights abuses, including extrajudicial killings, torture, and the systematic denial of basic human rights to millions of Iraqis.

The Green Zone remains a symbol of the continued occupation of Iraq, and a reminder of the human costs of the war.

Continued on page 8
Justice for Tamir Rice

On Jan. 15 close to 100 activists from Cleveland and around the country gathered at a downtown park to demand “Justice for Tamir Rice.” Tamir, a Black youth, was 12 years old when, on Nov. 22, 2014, Cleveland police officer Timothy Loehmann murdered him while he was playing with a pellet gun. Loehmann, who is white, shot and killed Tamir only seconds after arriving on the scene. Over six years later, no charges have been filed against Loehmann or his partner. The federal Department of Justice recently closed its investigation into Tamir’s case without taking any action.

Tamir’s mother Samaria Rice, above, opened up the rally, which featured a number of community activists. After the rally, people took to the streets and marched, chanting “Say his name! Tamir Rice!”

— Story and photo by Martha Grevatt

The Trump mobs attack America

By Mumia Abu-Jamal

Taken from a Jan. 7 audio column aired on prisonradio.org

It was a sight that will be long remembered – hundreds, then thousands of men scaling the walls of the U.S. Capitol like soldiers on a web.

Then ripping, tearing, shredding all they could touch, all that they hated and all that they feared: the ruling wealthy power – all they could touch, all that they owned and its distribution planned to satisfy and guarantee basic human needs. It means jobless, probably food insecure, and seeing their country fall apart from a failing economy and a deadly virus. That hunger and fury was fed by Trump propaganda, and before long, they were ready. And when they struck, they were all but greeted by Capitol Hill police who took selfies with them and opened gates to them.

For they were brothers, white brothers. And once the way was open, they went to work, ripping the Capitol apart.

After shattering windows and battering down doors, the Trump mob burst through, like a hurricane through Kansas. Members of the U.S. Senate and House were forced to surrender under desks, to hide from these invaders.

Historians of American history know well that mobs have a long reign in national life, first against the rich and property, and later, during the early 20th century, against Blacks newly migrated from the South to the cities. But Trump’s use of mob violence against another branch of government is virtually unique.

It turns a new page in American history and a new low in the Imperial Presidency.

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, multinational 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, LGBTQ26+ 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, multinational and multinational working class. It is time to point the blame at — and challenge — the capitalist system.

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

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

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

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COVID economic crisis

Women bear brunt of unemployment

By Kathy Durkin

The month of December revealed some stunning news affecting the U.S. workforce. The pandemic and the capitalist economic crisis continues. The burden of unemployment has fallen on women, especially Black, Latinx, Arab, Asian, Indigenous, immigrant and low-wage workers. LGBTQ2S+ individuals and people with disabilities are impacted, too.

In December, a net total of 140,000 jobs were lost due to the declining economy. Notably, it was mainly Black and Latinx women who lost those jobs and more, totaling 156,000 jobs. Some 154,000 Black women left the workforce. Women work 1.5 hours more per week than men, as workers, as leisure, retail and hospitality industry bosses cut 438,000 jobs. Women of color—low-paid and lacking benefits—have been disproportionately rendered jobless amid the economic carnage wrought by the pandemic and exacerbated by the capitalist economic crisis.

This is how “essential workers” are treated in a capitalist society! Women’s work is largely undervalued and unappreciated. The common trope is “Women’s work is not work,” but the truth is that women, especially Black, Latinx, Arab, Asian, Indigenous, migrant and low-wage workers, are the backbone of society. A short description of the women in the U.S. workforce is as follows:

Women comprise 55% of the net women left the workforce between February and December. And 5.4 million jobs held by women—or two in five of those jobs lost in the spring—have not been returned. Women comprise 55% of the net job losses since COVID-19 hit the U.S.

Rich get richer, workers struggle

While the rich have gotten richer during the pandemic, the working class has had trouble, facing a myriad of crises for nearly a year. Millions of workers, disproportionately Black and Latinx, have been rendered jobless. Due to systemic racism, workers of color are being rehired at half the rate of white workers. Evictionsloom. Hunger is growing.

The lack of government-provided childcare can cause another crisis for those who have low-wage “essential” service jobs and cannot work from home. With many schools and daycare centers closed, many women have quit their jobs or cut their hours to tend to the children. The economic impact on those women could last for years as they are rightfully worried about the future and whether conditions will improve or worsen.

The Economic Policy Institute says 9.8 million jobs have disappeared since March 2020. The tank think tank stated Jan. 14 that 26.8 million workers are now jobless or have experienced a cut in hours or wages due to the pandemic. (tinyurl.com/y39pgbh)

More pain is on the horizon for the working class. Some 1.2 million unemployment claims were filed in the first week in January, an increase of 1 million from the prior week. This signals that companies are terminating employees due to the surging virus. The twin crises of COVID and the capitalist economy are not going away.

Abortion is a human right

Pensacola fights anti-abortion terror

By Devin Cole

Occupied Muscovy Creek land — Pensacola, Fla.

A group of activists, organizers and those in support of reproductive justice held Dec. 27 and Jan. 2 demonstrations at American Family Planning, a reproductive health clinic in Pensacola, as the community gathered to oppose anti-abortion reactionaries, who have been terrorizing clinic workers, nurses and patients every day.

These right-wingers, calling themselves “Abortion Borders,” are barely off the bat of the clinic, bare-handed, in their property, holding up photostated signs of supposedly aborted fetuses, advertisements for phony “abortion alternatives,” and even anti-Black imagery, to attempt to inflame a racist, xenophobic, enslave people — and scaring them and the entire history of African slavery to aborted fetuses. This ignores the fact that it was forced pregnancy and reproduction by racism in employment, severely impacting women of color.

The clinic allowed the WWP-CGC branch to hang a large banner, “Abortion must be accessible! Long, violent history of anti-abortion terror”

Abortion must be accessible!

As for people getting access to abortion in Florida, besides the reactionary anti-abortion mobs, there remains the fact that, state-by-state over the decades, many of the 1973 Supreme Court decision in Roe vs. Wade have been weakened.

For instance, one person at the clinic to get an abortion stated to Workers World that they had driven to Pensacola from Louisiana, since that state’s reactionary anti-abortion laws may have had to wait for the procedure for some people, having to wait means they would then be beyond the legal limit of a specific point in pregnancy for having an abortion in their state. Additionally, abortions cost at least $500, making them unaffordable for a lot of working-class people.

While the right to abortion has not been absolutely overturned in the U.S., the anti-abortion campaign over the years has made it almost impossible for most low-income people to get accessible, affordable, safe abortions near where they live.

The struggle to make abortion accessible, safe and free must and will continue. Likewise, so will the struggle to keep the patients, nurses, and clinic workers safe from anti-abortion reactionaries.

Devin Cole is a transgender Marxist organizer and writer. They are the president of Strive (Socialist Transwomen’s Network) and a contributor to Workers World.
Developing working-class resistance to fascism

By Dianne Mathiowetz

Excerpts taken from Jan. 14 webinar on “Workers Can Defeat Fascism & Racism” sponsored by Workers World Party. To view the entire panel discussion, go to youtu.be/dg_NDKTow

Like most people, I had been very much aware that this fascist rally was going to take place in Washington [D.C.], on Wednesday, the same day that the Congress was going to declare Biden the winner of the presidential election. I, just by happenstance, turned on the TV at that moment when the storming of the Capitol steps happened. Along with many other activists, I had been at many demonstrations in Washington or at our own capitals or whatever.

And even when we were only going to be a few hundred, if that, the place would be lined with cops. There would be helicopters overhead — there would be all this stuff. So I have to admit, when I saw how easy it was for this group to break windows, break into the Capitol and make it all the way to the Senate and House floors, I was taken aback. I was not surprised by the organization that was evident, because we’ve encountered that here in Georgia, in the past and not too long ago.

I do think that part of the intensity of some of these white supremacists was the fact that Georgia, which had been a very reliable, right-wing red state, had just elected not only the first Black senator but the first Jewish senator. And so that really got them, based on their anti-Semitism and racism. We call things the Civil Rights Movement, the women’s movement or the immigrant rights movement. What we need to say is that every single one of those workers’ movements against an issue. They were not necessarily recognizing their class identity, but that’s who it’s always been. Workers have always taken

A united working class can defeat fascism

By Ted Kelly

Excerpts taken from Jan. 14 webinar on “Workers Can Defeat Fascism & Racism” sponsored by Workers World Party. To view the entire panel discussion, go to youtu.be/dg_NDKTow

“At the moment that the ‘normal’ police and military resources of the bourgeois dictatorship, together with their parliamentary screens, no longer suffice to hold the fascist monster within its parliamentary screens, no longer suffice to hold society in a state of equilibrium—the turn of the fascist bourgeoisie begins. And the fascist agency, by utilizing the petty bourgeoisie as a battering ram and the bands of declassed and demoralized workers—
even the most loyal of them, who had espoused somewhat progressive views and had both participated in Black Lives Matter demonstrations, was not so much the result of the Democratic Party machinery here in Georgia but rather something that would desensitize all of the mass organizations and communities that really just wanted to get rid of Trump and all his minions.

They both worked really hard in getting new registrations among youth, particularly of color, and worked hard with the women’s community and the migrant community. It was really an amazing effort at the grass roots. So I have no doubt that, besides the fact that Trump had lost, that these two other senators from Georgia were one of what made the fascists so angry.

We’ve seen this kind of violence here in the South. I’ve lived in the South for over 20 years. A lot of this is not surprising to see: armed, white, racist men rampaging.

Developing working-class resistance

We’re talking about how we need to develop the working class, to have the working class recognize its class obligation and its possibilities. One of the things I was thinking about, because I was in Buffalo for a number of years, was how we mobilized against the fascist, woman-hating Operation Rescue. We have organized demonstrations all across the country against racist elements, Ku Klux Klan, Nazis and other white supremacists.

We call things the Civil Rights Movement, the women’s movement or the immigrant rights movement. What we need to say is that every single one of those workers’ movements against an issue. They were not necessarily recognizing their class identity, but that’s who it’s always been. Workers have always taken on the obligation, the charge to fight against all forms of oppression and exploitation.

The challenge is how do we meld all those elements of the working class and have them realize that they’re a class that’s fighting together? In Atlanta, the [WWP] branch has been here since the early 1970s. And we’ve had the opportunity to actually chase, I’m talking physically, chase the KKK Klansmen out of the city of Atlanta. I think it was 1989, when the thousands of largely youth literally chased them down the street even though there were over 5,000 police protecting.

And it hasn’t just been here. Oftentimes, our comrades have been asked to go to small towns in Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee or Mississippi to help the residents of those communities who are being confronted by violent white supremacists. We have, in the party, brought thousands of people out in Boston against people who were opposing the right of Black children to go to school.

So we have seen exactly what we need to see on a national scale: That workers can come to a conclusion about how to organize and fight back against even the most violent armed groups — certainly during the history of what’s called the Civil Rights Movement or the Black liberation struggle in the South. We can even talk about the Lambswool people in North Carolina who fought the Klan with guns, and that’s not the only instance of that. I say this because it can be daunting.

This for many people is a new experience, seeing this kind of organized, right-wing assault on anything. But that’s exactly what we can do. We can develop the mass mobilization, and that we as members of a communist party, as members of other organizations, have the capacity to help push forward to victory.

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Covid-19: How weaponizing disease and vaccine wars are failing us


Speakers:

• Vijay Prashad
• Margaret Kimberley
• Lee Sua Hin
• Mabel Sumembe

Moderators:

Sara Fleendt & Margaret Flower

Contributors to Capitalism on a Ventilator: The Impact of COVID-19 in China & the U.S. will provide an update to the book, including China and the U.S. are now in pandemic mode. The impact of management, the United States’ hybrid war on China, and how vaccine wars are hurting the most vulnerable people: Q & A will follow.

Register to watch on zoom: tinyurl.com/j27z62x
Livestream on Facebook: PopularResistanceOrg
Share on Facebook: tinyurl.com/sy7mqw

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

— Danny Hashboug in a review for Black Agenda Report

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

Tweet this today: As terrifying and growing the fascist threat is, the immediate and most organized violence inflicted on our class is inflicted by the bourgeois state — by capitalism — in a city run by the Democratic Party, with a Democrat as Mayor.

Just two years later, over a dozen Philadelphia police and transit cops have been identified for participating in the Jan. 6 storming of the Capitol, including a QAnon conspiracy theorist detector whose job is to do background checks on new cop recruits.

We are gathered here today to talk about the fascist menace in the aftermath of that Jan. 6 fascist coup attempt.

— UP COMING WEBINAR —

COVID-19: How weaponizing disease and vaccine wars are failing us

— Tuesday, Jan. 26, 8 p.m. ET / 5 p.m. PT —
To defeat fascism
‘We’ve got to start organizing’

By Larry Holmes

Excerpts taken from Jan. 14 webinar on “Workers Can Defeat Fascism and Racism” sponsored by Workers World Party. To view the entire panel discussion, go to youtu.be/dy_NDkEYow

When you consider what’s happened since January 6, you see Washington, D.C., pretty much shut down under martial law, occupied by the army, that may be going on in other areas of the country.

As a communist, instead of relying on the cops and the army to protect us from these fascists, from these white-supremacist, fascist attacks are. On the character of fascism — very, very good learned Marxists have studied the origins of fascism in Europe and elsewhere, and they tend to zero in on the same points.

A fascist movement is a symptom of a deeper capitalist economic crisis that the owners of capitalism do not have a solution to. A crisis that is making it harder and harder for the politicians to govern in the normal way. And the crisis holds the potential of awakening the working class and creating the basis for a major working-class upsurge in the struggle against capitalism — an upsurge, ultimately of revolutionary dimensions.

So hence, the purpose of fascism is to stop the working class from fighting against fascism, from making revolution and taking over, by dividing the workers and the exploited from the work-entitling or demoralizing it. And in some instances, smashing physically its organizations and its leaders and its militants.

The bottom line is the growth of fascism, and whether it succeeds or whether it’s defeated is directly related to the readiness of the working class and the oppressed to fight the capitalist system. If the working class, for whatever reason, is not up to it, and there’s a vacuum — and one could argue that describes the situation to some extent that we have in this country — this is the most dangerous situation regarding fascist developments. What is our response?

Every genuine leftist, every militant, every socialist, democrat, even anarchist is oriented toward the working class and the oppressed, we’ve got to work together like never before to rebuild the working-class movement. And not just talk about it, or have it in our literature, which is fine, or waiting for someone else to do.

A fascist movement is a symptom of a deeper capitalist economic crisis that the owners of capitalism do not have a solution to. A crisis that is making it harder and harder for the politicians to govern in the normal way. And the crisis holds the potential of awakening the working class and creating the basis for a major working-class upsurge in the struggle against capitalism — an upsurge, ultimately of revolutionary dimensions.

The Klan & the Government:
Foes or Allies?

By Sam Marcy

This book examines the special relationship with the state that has allowed the Ku Klux Klan to exist for over a century despite its criminal history oflynchings, murders, and intimidation.

What Road to Socialism?

A new Workers World anthology, confronting the burning questions and key contradictions during this deadly pandemic and global capitalist meltdown.

Topics: COVID-19 and the deepening crisis of capitalism • Reform or revolution? • The state and its building for revolution • The centrality of fighting racism • The working class will make history • Fighting all forms of oppression under authoritarianism or not • Socialism or death: Socialist countries lead the way to the future • What is socialism?
The criminal injustice system is a bipartisan effort

By Judy Greenspan

On Jan. 15 at the death row prison in Terre Haute, Ind., with less than a week to go of Donald Trump’s presidency, Democratic lawmakers led by Massachusetts Rep. Ayanna Pressley and others have sponsored a bill to end the death penalty. The real question we should be asking is: Why has it taken so long for Congress to take legislative steps to end the federal death penalty? And who is responsible for the mass incarceration of poor Black, Brown and Indigenous people in the U.S.? Just to ask the question is to mean it. While the criminal injustice system has been a tool of the entire ruling class to oppress, subjugate and murder the working class, especially its most oppressed sectors—no incoming president has done more to fill the prisons than President-elect Joe Biden. A 2015 tweet by Washington Post opinion writer Radley Balko said it all, “The martyr/merciless can not have the same status for his words and actions at the Capitol, supports that the intent of the Capitol rioters was to capture and assassinate elected officials in the United States government.” On Friday, however, Assistant U.S. Attorney Todd Allison told the judge ruled in favor of him being fed a force fed diet while in prison. The Washington Post reported on Jan. 15: “In a court filing late Thursday, federal prosecutors in Phoenix wrote that ‘strong evidence, possibly including Chansley’s own words and actions at the Capitol, supports that the intent of the Capitol rioters was to capture and assassinate elected officials in the United States government.” On Friday, however, Assistant U.S. Attorney Todd Allison told the judge that he would take this into account when making a decision in this case.

In 1991, during a debate over a bill that eventually became the infamous 1994 Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act, Biden presented a plan that was tougher and more punitive than that of then-President George Bush Sr. He bragged that his version of the bill would provide greater opportunities for federal prisoners to be sentenced to death than under President Ronald Reagan. (Vox, July 31, 2019)

This bill led to the exponential growth and expansion of the prison system in California and harsher sentences for prisoners everywhere. Naomi Murakawa, the author of "How Liberals Built Prison America," openly stated that Biden’s efforts have made the so-called criminal justice system much larger and more deadly.

Biden played a large role in supporting the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996, which received bipartisan support and was signed into law by President Bill Clinton. This bill, besides increasing prosecutors’ ability to sentence people to death, limited habeas corpus appeals by prisoners on death row and mandated the immediate deportation of all undeclared foreign prisoners upon the completion of their prison terms.

So here we are again, only days away from Biden’s inauguration. Just this morning the Federal Bureau of Prisons announced it was putting all federal prisons on lockdown, supposedly to prevent any prisoner unrest. The federal prisoners are certainly not responsible for the June 6 fascist coup attempt in D.C., nor is there any evidence of an insurgency inside. This sounds like more racist scapegoating and fearmongering.

The danger to the working class rests with the new presidency and a party which crafted a racist criminal injustice system and then funded, built and filled U.S. prisons with poor people, predominantly Black, Brown and Indigenous. Donald Trump and the Republican Party may have resurrected the federal death penalty and murdered 13 people, but the seeds of the racist, sexist, anti-LGBTQ2S+ criminal injustice system were sown as a bipartisan effort wielded by the Democratic Party. Abolish the racist death penalty—one and for all!

Diet discrimination behind the walls

By Mirinda Crissman

The interlocking systems of prisons, jails and detention centers were built up by descendants of those made rich from colonial conquest of this continent. The carceral state was to crumble the foundation of that society's contradictions permeate this century. This society’s contradictions permeate this continent in the “patrols” of people under armed bodies of the state. These so-called law enforcement systems of prisons, jails and detention centers have been a public health disaster since their inception. They spread disease, kill people slowly in a myriad of ways, isolate individuals and serve the super-rich as concentration camps for the poor and oppressed. This society’s contradictions permeate these capitalist cages. Jails are typically the largest “providers” of mental health “care,” which becomes its opposite when managed by armed bodies of the state. Sheriff’s and police have their origins on the frontlines in organizing around human needs like diversity in tactics, but always with the aim: to crumble the foundation of that society that oppresses us. As abolitionist organizer Mariame Kaba says, “we do this till we free us.” We do our due diligence in organizing before irreconcilable class antagonisms come to the final boiling point, the masses will decide for themselves that they no longer accept their exploitation.

Imam Siddiqi Abduallah Hashan, on death row in Ohio, was falsely convicted of the murder of a guard during the 1993 Lucasville prison rebellion. The rebellion started only days away from Biden’s inauguration. Just this morning the Federal Bureau of Prisons announced it was putting all federal prisons on lockdown, supposedly to prevent any prisoner unrest. The federal prisoners are certainly not responsible for the June 6 fascist coup attempt in D.C., nor is there any evidence of an inversion inside. This sounds like more racist scapegoating and fearmongering.

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The interlocking systems of prisons, jails, and detention centers were built up by descendants of those made rich from colonial conquest of this continent. The prison-industrial complex continues to benefit this very class of people every day by its existence.

The courts continue to protect and benefit this very class of people. They spread disease, kill people slowly in a myriad of ways, isolate individuals and serve the super-rich as concentration camps for the poor and oppressed. This society’s contradictions permeate these capitalist cages. Jails are typically the largest “providers” of mental health “care,” which becomes its opposite when managed by armed bodies of the state. Sheriff’s and police have their origins on the frontlines in organizing around human needs like diversity in tactics, but always with the aim: to crumble the foundation of that society that oppresses us. As abolitionist organizer Mariame Kaba says, “we do this till we free us.” We do our due diligence in organizing before irreconcilable class antagonisms come to the final boiling point, the masses will decide for themselves that they no longer accept their exploitation.
Lisa Montgomery’s execution

‘We cannot let this happen again’

This lightly edited statement was issued by attorney Kelley Henry on the execution of Lisa Montgomery on Jan. 13 at a federal prison in Terre Haute, Ind.

The craven bloodlust of a failed administration was on full display tonight. Everyone who participated in the execution of Lisa Montgomery should feel shame. No one disagrees that Mrs. Montgomery was the victim of unspeakable torture and sex trafficking … and no one can credibly dispute her long-standing debilitating mental disease – diagnosed and treated by her stepfather by the Federal Bureau of Prison’s own doctors. Our Constitution forbids the execution of a person who is unable to rationally understand her execution. The Trump Administration knows this. And they killed Mrs. Montgomery anyway – vio-

tating the Constitution, federal law and its own regulations, and long-standing norms along the way.

The government stood at nothing in its zeal to kill this damaged and delusional woman. After we, her attor-
yees, contracted COVID-19 during our travels to her home in a small Indiana town, where it was scheduled, the government fought tooth and nail against any delay to allow us to recover so we could represent her effectively. Then they violated the law in multiple ways in rescheduling her execution for the final days of the Trump Administration. Though courts agreed Lisa’s case presented important legal issues warranting serious consid-
eration – including whether she was competent to execute – the government hammered onward with appeals.

By insisting on an execution during a pandemic, this administration demonstr-
ated its reckless disregard for the life of innocent citizens. Executions are super-

spreader events. The government knows this. Yet they put the lives of every sin-
gle person who must participate in these “events” in jeopardy – as well as every one of those persons’ friends, families, neighbors, co-workers, and who knows how many other people …

In the midst of all this litigation, Lisa’s request for clemency remained before President Trump. It was supported by thousands of organizations and individu-
als – faith leaders, anti-violence advocates, conservative leaders, international organi-
izations and many more. But the president did nothing. He had not even the decency to formally deny—or even acknowledge – Lisa’s clemency application. It is hard to imagine a case more deserving of executive intervention than this one.

Lisa Montgomery’s execution was far from justice. She should never have faced a death sentence in the first place, as no other woman has faced execution for a similar crime. And Lisa was much more than the tragedy she committed, a crime for which she felt deep remorse — or even acknowledge — Lisa’s clemency application. It is hard to imagine a case more deserving of executive intervention than this one.

Lisa Montgomery was executed by means of lethal injection at a federal prison in Terre Haute, Ind.

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Legal lynchings soar under Trump

By Gloria Rubac

In an unprecedented spree of execu-
tions, Donald Trump has executed 13 people in the last six months of his presi-
dency. As if in a frenzy to kill, Trump had three people put to death at the federal penitentiary in Terre Haute, Ind., just days before he exits the White House.

According to common sense, as well as various courts’ rulings including the U.S. Supreme Court, the last three people should never have been on death row or executed.

The three people executed between Jan. 12 and 15 were Lisa Montgomery, Corey Johnson and Dustin Higgs.

Montgomery’s life was one of horror, as she was sex-trafficked by her mother as a child and raped by her stepfather by friends for years. Montgomery’s mother traded sex with her in exchange for pay-
ing bills or for repair on their house.

Montgomery’s lawyers asked the courts to declare her incompetent in an effort to block her execution, citing serious men-
tal illness, neurological impairment and complex trauma. The Supreme Court had found in 1986 that executing the “insane” was illegal in a case called Ford v. Wainwright. The ruling said people would be entitled to a competency eval-
uation and an evidentiary hearing in court, so it could be determined if they were competent to execute.

Montgomery was denied fairness by the very court that made this ruling when SCOTUS ignored every attempt to go forward. Hers was the first federal execu-
tion of a woman since Bonnie Brown Headsy was put to death in the gas cham-
ber for kidnapping and murder in 1960. (A 2004 ruling said people would be entitled to a competency eval-
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For exposing COVID-19 outbreak
Black newspaper editor faces retaliation

By Judy Greenspan

What happens when a federal prisoner who has just become the editor-in-chief of the San Francisco Bay View National Black Newspaper is paroled to a halfway house? This question is important because the national Black press is one of the largest managers of lock-down units and ICE detention centers in the country.

Editor Malik Washington didn’t have to think twice about what to do. He investigated and discovered that GEO’s Taylor Center, the halfway house where he was paroled up from COVID outbreak — and used his journalism and organizing skills to blow the whistle on the corporation.

On Jan. 11, a memo appeared at the halfway house concerning several cases of COVID there. After seeing a public tweet about this outbreak posted by others, Washington exposed the contents of the memo to his supporters and the local media. Since then, the journalist and activist has been trying to get his parole revoked.

At first, he was placed under house arrest at the Taylor Center, and his phone was confiscated. He was threatened with being returned to federal prison for the duration of his parole, which ends in May.

Public pressure forced GEO Group to allow the Bay View editor to return to the outside world. That is the basis of this writing. Washington still does not have his phone, and the halfway house continues to threaten and then block him from leaving.

GEO’s Adelanto Processing Center — its Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention center in Searles Valley, Inyo County, Calif. — has been continuously investigated for its horrific living conditions and medical neglect. As the COVID pandemic spread in prisons and public housing, the Civil Rights Union filed a lawsuit on behalf of six ICE prisoners for dangerous conditions faced by undocumented incarcerated workers there. (Orange County Register, April 2, 2020)

Supporters of Washington — including California Prison Focus and the ICE abolitionist group, Free Them All — are working hard to expose GEO Group and to put pressure on the Taylor Center halfway house, as well as the federal prison, to stop the retaliation against Washington. They are demanding his release so he can go home. Please sign the online petition to the Director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, Michael Carvaljo, at chng.it/DvR87YjTFp.

Trump OUT

Time for workers to defeat racism, fascism

Continued from page 1

By Judy Greenspan

was part of U.S. imperialism’s occupation of Iraq.

The biggest force on hand in Washington, D.C., is the National Guard. According to extensive media reports, the FBI, Secret Service, Capitol and Metropolitan police forces play a supplemental role. Federal and local police agencies have been investigating and arresting people identified as participants in the attack on the Capitol.

While Congress managed to certify the election at around 3:45 a.m. Jan. 7 — after reconvening following the assault — nevertheless 147 Republicans voted against certifying the results. Since the Army is 40% people of color and the National Guard 25%, the generals fear that exacerbated the situation that a frenzied white-supremacist and misogynist mob was ready to rampage.

Hard-core fascists might be willing to take risks; they are the usual overwhelming might managing this protest, some targets politicians and business leaders, mostly establishment Democrats, accusing them without evidence of those kinds of unspeakable crimes that arouse mass revulsion. But to rely on the state’s repressive forces to stop a fascist and other irrational ideologies among the masses.

This type of pogrom has happened before in U.S. history — and U.S.-backed coups in Yugoslavia in October 2000 depositing Slobodan Milosevic and in Ukraine in February 2014 evicting Victor Yanukovich — both based on unproven claims of election fraud, both occurring with a Democrat in the White House.

Similar fascist assaults intimidating politicians in Georgia, Pennsylvania, Michigan and Arizona could unseat the Democratic Party. The explosion of anti-American and Latinx voters, reversed Biden’s victories in the 2020 election. In a phone call, the outgoing president had tried earlier to push Georgia’s Republican secretary of state to “find the votes” he would need to erase his loss there.

It looks like Trump will have to leave on Jan. 20, and he may face another impeachment trial in the new Senate.

Washington is demanding an accounting of those who incited the assault, like Trump and Rudy Giuliani, who rightfully feared such a threat.

The movement must find ways to directly appeal to the base which included all sectors of people who depend on selling their labor power to survive — leaving them in the streets.

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As long as it is merely the massive presence of National Guard troops will discourage any mass fascist mobilization. However, the fascist movement can still recruit and take action far away from military concentrations.

The crisis in capitalist society that fuels the growth of fascist and other irrational ideologies among the masses shows no signs of abating. COVID-19, the cyclical capitalist crisis after the pandemic has calmed — if that happens — and the climate crisis threaten political stability in the center of world imperialism. The U.S. continues to lose prestige and power worldwide.

To rely on the state’s repressive forces to stop a fascist movement in a growing crisis is to farm the working class — which includes all sectors of people who depend on selling their labor power to survive — leaving it in the streets.

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(Suboxone, Subutex, Sublocade, Zubsolv,
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allow you to use drugs. One saves lives.
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consumption site. It is a supervised facility
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actually die if you don't find a way to be lib
People do not care about you. They would
Struggle for Safehouse will continue
by Princess Harmony

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ACTIVISTS DEMAND JUSTICE FOR FLINT, 2016.

Activists demand justice for Flint, 2016.

By Martha Grevatt

In April 2014 the city of Flint, Mich.,
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On Jan. 21, 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention confirmed the first recognized case of COVID-19 in the U.S. One year later, over 500,000 people in the country are dead from the virus—the equivalent of wiping out the entire population of Cleveland, Ohio, or Tampa, Fla. Out of the 200 million people world-wide who have died due to COVID-19, one-fifth have been within the U.S. alone.

Workers World has written on how countries with centralized planning on a socialist model—like Cuba or China—have dramatically lowered virus death and infection rates. (“Why socialists coun-
tions take lead in fighting COVID-19,” May 21, 2020)

But the U.S., the Republican President Trump—aided and abetted by other far-right bigots—has spread deadly lies about the virus, sabotaging the CDC’s scientific and public health work. While he lies about the virus, sabotaging the CDC’s other far-right bigots—has spread deadly President Trump—aided and abetted by May 21, 2020) tries take lead in fighting COVID-19,” and infection rates. (“Why socialist coun-
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30 years ago
U.S. imperialism provoked war with Iraq

By Manlio Dinucci

Published Jan. 15 in Il Manifesto. Translation: John Catalinotto.

By 2:20 a.m. on Jan. 17, 1991 (Gulf time), the U.S. helicopters penetrated Iraq's territory, destroying two radar stations with Hellfire missiles. Immediately afterwards, Tomahawk cruise missiles and F-117 stealth fighters struck Iraq's air defense centers, blinding the air defenses of the capital. CNN broadcasted to the whole world the images of the Baghdad sky illuminated by antiaircraft tracers firing blindly, a “spectacle” that the reporter commented: “The first day of the Gulf War was a day of annihilation.”

Thus began what the Pentagon described as the most destructive military action ever carried out in such a short time with nonnuclear weapons, a model for future wars. The first day of Operation Desert Storm, Iraq was declared “peace broke out” (according to the slogan of the time). After the collapse of the Berlin Wall in 1989, the Warsaw Pact, and the Soviet Union itself were about to dissolve. “The Cold War is over, we have entered a new era that offers great hope,” President George H.W. Bush announced, but “the Gulf crisis reminds us that there are still hard realities in the big picture”.

In fact, the “turbulence” was triggered by Washington to take full advantage of the fact that, with the breakup of the Soviet bloc, the United States, as it officially declared, remained “the only state with truly global strength, reach and influence in every dimension — political, economic and military: There is no substitute for [U.S.] American leadership.”

After having supported Saddam Hussein’s Iraq in the 1980s in the war against Khomeini’s Iran, the U.S. pushes Kuwait, which has helped Iraq to fight Iran, to demand from Baghdad the immediate repayment of a loan of tens of billions of dollars and to exploit beyond measure, displacing over a million people. She added: “... Moscow should also see that Washington — one that builds on their strengths and puts stress on Putin where he is vulnerable, including among his own citizens.”

“... Moscov should also see that Washington and its allies are taking concrete steps to shore up their security and raise the cost of Russian confrontation and militarization. That includes maintaining robust defense budgets, continuing to modernize U.S. and allied nuclear weapons systems, and deploying new conventional missiles and missile defenses, ... establish permanent bases along NATO’s eastern border and increase the pace and viability of joint training exercises.”

The United States invested $5 billion in shaping Ukrainian politics, including overthrowing a democrat- ically elected president who had refused to join NATO. Then-Assistant Secretary of State Nuland is on video talking about the U.S. investment and on audiotape plan- ning to install Ukraine’s next leader, Arseniy Yatsenyuk, who was subsequently installed. The Maidan protests, at which Nuland handed out cook- ies to protesters, were violently escalated by neo-Nazis and by snipers who opened fire on police. When Poland, Germany and France, and the U.S. and Britain, negotiated a deal for the Maidan demands and an early election, neo-Nazis instead attacked the government and took over. The U.S. State Department officially recognized the coup government, and Arseniy Yatsenyuk was installed as Prime Minister.

Ukraine is simply an irrationally evil and aggressive force that must be countered by yet more military spending, New Zealand, Sierra Leone, Argentina, Honduras, Senegal and Niger also participated with military forces. The United States springs trap on Iraq

By World BEYOND War, January 11, 2021

Petition protests Biden's nomination of necon Nuland

Those who feel relief that 45 appears to be exit- ing from his role as white supremacist in chief must stay aware that U.S. imperialist aggression is bipartisan, supported by both big bourgeois parties. By appointing Victoria Nuland Undersecretary of State, Joe Biden already indicated he has no intention of altering his decades-long support for all U.S. wars. The following Word BEYOND War petition, signed by 25 organizations, outlines Nuland’s history and calls on Biden to withdraw her nomination. Stop U.S. aggression no matter who’s in the White House! (see worldbeyondwar.org/nuland/)

By World BEYOND War, January 11, 2021

Victoria Nuland, former foreign policy adviser to then-Vice President Dick Cheney, should not be nom- inated for Undersecretary of State if and should not be confirmed by the Senate.

Nuland played a key role in facilitating a coup in Ukraine that created a civil war costing 10,000 lives and displacing over a million people. She played a key role in convincing the U.S. government to start a war against Saddam Hussein in 2003. The U.S. military expenditure alone for the second war on Iraq is estimated by the Congressional Budget Office as about $2 trillion.

The Pentagon, which supplied 70% of the 750 thou- sand men of the coalition, deployed to the war 75% of its ground forces (280,000 of 360,000); 37% of its ground forces (280,000 of 760,000); and 46% of its ground forces (800,000 out of 1,850,000). The cost of the Gulf War in terms of military spending, destruction and economic losses amounted to trillions of dollars. The U.S. military expenditure alone for the second war on Iraq is estimated by the Congressional Budget Office as about $2 trillion.

Dinucci contributes regularly to the Italian daily web newspaper, Il Manifesto, writing often on military mat- ters. Workers World met him for the first time at the Iraq War Crimes Tribunal held in New York City in February 1992, presided over by former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark. Dinucci represented the ant- war movement in Italy that participated in the con- demnation of the crimes led by U.S. imperialism and its allies and client states, taking advantage of the col- lapse of the USSR. WWP members played key roles in the tribunal.

Por Monica Moorehead

El segundo paquete de estímulo finalmente se aprobó en ambas cámaras del Congreso el 27 de diciembre, acompañado de mucha controversia. Lamentablemente, no brinda ningún apoyo significativo a los millones de trabajadores y sus familias que se tambalean al borde del desastre económico.

El proyecto de ley retrasó una semana, cuando Trump exigí demagógicamente que los cheques de estímulo se aumentaran de $2.000 a $2.000, sabiendo que sería derribado por el millonario Senado.

Este punto muto hizo que millones de jóvenes se quedaran sin recibir el valor de una semana de beneficios, que la factura aumentó en $300 minúsculos.

Hubo una extensión de la moratoria sobre los desahucios hasta el 31 de enero. Joe Biden tendrá la autoridad para extenderla una vez que tome el juramento de la presidencia a finales del mes de enero. Y hay $245 millones adicionales en asistencia para inquilinos.

El proyecto de ley asigna $20 mil millones para la compra de vacunas contra el coronavirus. Con más de 40 millones de inquilinos para la compra de vacunas contra Desalojos Covid-19 han estimado que $2.000 “caerían en manos de los amigos de McConnell (R-Ky.) Encabezó la acusación de que el proyecto de ley aumentó en $300 minúsculos. El gánster multimillonario de la prisión no puede pagarla. Existe una disposición que proporciona $8 mil millones para la distribución de vacunas, que incluye $20 mil millones para ayudar a los estados con las pruebas de coronavirus.

El proyecto de ley pondrá $284 mil millones a disposición de las pequeñas empresas, con un primer y segundo préstamo condonable del Programa de Protección de Cheques de Pago, elegibilidad ampliada de PPP para organizaciones sin fines de lucro y medios de comunicación y modificaciones al programa para atender a las pequeñas empresas, organizaciones sin fines de lucro y restauranteros independientes. Este dinero equivale a una gota en el balde para las pequeñas empresas, que apenas pueden mantenerse a flote, ni ayudará a reabrir las pequeñas empresas que han cerrado permanentemente.

Por otro lado, el Congreso aprobó un presupuesto militar estadounidense que ascendía a $740 mil millones. Esto representa el 15% del presupuesto federal gene- ral para 2021 y no incluye los $15 mil millones de gasto militar que llenan el vacío dejado por la desaparición de las pequeñas empresas.

El proyecto de ley incluye $19,6 mil millones de empresas estadounidenses que han cerrado desde el 1 de marzo. Esta asombrosa cifra representa un aumento del 23% respecto al 30 de julio pasado, cuando el recuento de cierres superó los 132,000. Ya el 16 de septiembre, unos 32,000 restaurantes habían cerrado desde el inicio de la pandemia, y se esperaba que el 61% de los cierres fueran permanentes. Los clubes nocturnos y bares, un mercado importante para los jóvenes, habían perdido más de 6,400 negocios, más de la mitad de forma permanente, mientras que los minoristas habían visto 30,374 cierres.

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Muchos de los muertos por el virus en 1918, cuando la primera guerra imperia lista mundial estaba llegando a su fin, eran reclutas estadounidenses que vivían en barracas abarrotadas antes de ser enviados a la lucha en el frente. (Un pariente de este escritor fue testigo de esa triste experiencia)...

La llamada epidemia de la Influenza Española de 1918 fue más morta. Ahora se cree que comenzó en Kansas, pero debido a la Primera Guerra Mundial se extendió rápidamente a Europa, a través del hemisferio occidental y luego a todo el mundo. Antes de que terminara, había "infectado a aproximadamente nada menos que 500 millones de personas en todo el mundo, aproximadamente un tercio de la población del planeta, y había matado a entre 20 y 30 millones de víctimas, incluidos unos 657,000 estadou dienseños." (tinyurl.com/ynnx6ex2

La gran pregunta que uno debe hacerse sobre la epidemia de COVID-19, — que hasta el 2 de enero ha matado a más de 1.500,000 personas en todo el mundo, — es, “¿Por qué Estados Unidos no estaba preparado?”

Este es un país rico y altamente desarrollado. Tiene más de 660 millones de dólares, según Forbes. Tiene el ejército más caro y poderoso del planeta, supuestamente para defender su pueblo. Sin embargo, muchas más personas han muerto en los EE.UU. por el coronavirus en 2020, y millones de adultos declararon que no comieron durante al menos un día. El libro de un pariente de este escritor de que había matado a entre 20 y 50 millones de personas en los EE.UU., no ha evitado un resurgimiento de la pandemia, que ahora ha matado a más de 360,000 personas y afectado a unos 20 millones más. Los hospitales se han quedado sin camas y se han creado morgues improvisadas para atender a los muertos. Y esto se suma a los millones de personas que padecen desempleo y hambre.

Por otra parte, el Congreso aprobó un presupuesto militar estadounidense que ascendía a $740 mil millones. Esto representa el 15% del presupuesto federal general para 2021 y no incluye los $15 mil millones de gasto militar que llenan el vacío dejado por la desaparición de las pequeñas empresas. El segundo paquete de estímulo finalmente se aprobó en ambas cámaras del Congreso el 27 de diciembre, acompañado de mucha controversia. Lamentablemente, no brinda ningún apoyo significativo a los millones de trabajadores y sus familias que se tambalean al borde del desastre económico.

Por lo tanto, cuando Trump exigía demagógicamente que los cheques de estímulo se aumentaran de $2.000 a $2.000, sabiendo que sería derribado por el millonario Senado.

Este punto muto hizo que millones de jóvenes se quedaran sin recibir el valor de una semana de beneficios, que la factura aumentó en $300 minúsculos. El líder mayoritario en el Senado, Mitch McConnell, es el estado que alberga 10 de los 25 condados más pobres de los EE.UU. y los trabajadores. (Washington Post, 30 de diciembre) Esta declaración despiadada fue un solo bocado en la cara para todos los trabajadores desempleados.

Kentucky, cuyo representante es McConnell, es el estado que alberga 10 de los 25 condados más pobres de los EE.UU. (Comptroller, 2020). El proyecto de ley contra el desahucio, que incluye el derecho de los inquilinos a pagar la mitad de sus alquileres durante cuatro meses, habría sido un impacto positivo al inicio de la pandemia COVID-19.

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