Two faces of imperialism

G7/NATO: Diplomacy among thieves

To grasp the essence of the meetings in Europe, in which Joe Biden has been talking nicely to Washington’s predatory imperialist allies, we should examine their historical precedent: the 1884-1885 Berlin Conference to divide and plunder the African continent.

Armed with this historical perspective, it is easy to debunk Washington and the corporate media’s whitewash of these mid-June 2021 gatherings—construed to be “summits” of fellow “democracies” that share “common values,” opposed to “autocracies.” What are those common values? The Berlin Conference—with a fledgling U.S. power present—aimed to coordinate European colonialism’s looting of Africa. France and Britain had already seized the lion’s share of the continent, with Portugal, Italy, Germany, Belgium and Spain taking most of the rest. The conference drew boundaries dividing the colonies to mitigate the interimperialist infighting, which slowed down the continent’s conquest and had the potential to unleash a war in Europe. Its other goal was to restrain competition from the emerging empires.

Continued on page 10

Venezuela, Cabo Verde, the case of Alex Saab

By Sara Flounders and Roger D. Harris

Facing the possible extradition to the U.S. of a Venezuelan diplomat on bogus charges, an emergency human rights delegation organized by the International Campaign to Free Alex Saab on June 3 flew to Cabo Verde, where Saab is imprisoned. This island archipelago nation off the west coast of Africa is one of the smallest, poorest and geographically isolated countries in the world.

The international human rights delegation did not gain Alex Saab’s freedom. They were even denied a visit with him. But they made breakthroughs raising the visibility of the case, which involves enormous political, legal and moral issues with long-term political consequences. Saab’s case involves the abduction of a diplomat by the world’s sole superpower, which is locked in an unequal struggle to destroy the formerly prosperous, oil-rich country of Venezuela. The U.S. attack on Venezuela is not motivated by imperfections in Venezuelan society, but on Venezuela’s past successes in fighting poverty, promoting regional integration and acting like a sovereign nation.

Otherwise, the U.S. would be sending Venezuela aid instead of lavishing aid on the apartheid state of Israel, the narco-state of Colombia and the absolute monarchy of Saudi Arabia.

The kidnapping of Alex Saab is a dramatic and far-reaching effort to enforce the illegal U.S.-decreed policy of economic sanctions. Washington is attempting to impose its will on a country by deliberately attacking the civilian population. These illegal sanctions are a conscious policy of imposing economic havoc to “make the economy scream.”

Saab, a Venezuelan diplomat abducted by the U.S. government a year ago, has been held under torturous conditions. The denial of diplomatic immunity by the U.S. is illegal, a violation of international law.

International campaign to Free Alex Saab

The powerful corporate media, by omission, can render a news item invisible. The Saab case is virtually unknown in the U.S., even among progressive political journalists, left organizations and solidarity activists. Washington’s demand for the extradition of Alex Saab is being covered more extensively in African and Latin American publications. In Venezuela, as expected, the case is well known. Among some who are aware of the case, there

Continued on page 3
December 12th Movement applauds reparations victory in New York State Assembly

The Dec. 12th Movement International Secretariat issued the following press statement June 10, 2021.

The December 12th Movement congratulates the New York State Assembly for its passage of the reparations bill authored by Assemblyman Charles Barron. This “Reparations Remedy” bill, different from any others being considered around the United States, provides for a commission with majority representation of community members who have a demonstrated expertise in and commitment to the demand for reparations. It also sets a timetable for rapid implementation of a process which is long overdue. It is now up to the New York State Senate to act TODAY to complete this stage of the campaign. Any further delay is inexcusable.

We, the December 12th Movement, who for over thirty years have been waging the fight for reparations, locally, nationally and internationally, in the streets, in the class-rooms and in the courts, are honored to be one of the three community-representative organizations (along with NCOBRA and the Institute of the Black World) designated to the Commission.

The Reparations bill complements our campaign to demand an executive order from President Biden providing for a $50 billion down payment on reparations to be directed to the reform of health care delivery systems in Black communities.

On this day, in this period between the commemorations of the George Floyd lynching, the Tulsa Race Massacre and Juneteenth, we celebrate this victory. It is not a time for complacency; it must inspire all of us to push forward with greater commitment, passion, resolve and consistency.

As we said at the 2001 United Nations World Conference Against Racism in Durban, South Africa: They stole us! They sold us! They owe us! Reparations Now! ☐

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 mult-inalienation, multigender and multigenerational 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 immigrants and marginalized 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. Workers work longer and harder, 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 the 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 be socially owned and distributed to satisfy and guarantee basic human needs.

Since 1959, Workers World Party has been out in the streets fighting for a socialist future, please contact a WWP branch near you.

Mundo Obrero
Workers World

This Week

- In the U.S.
  - Reparations victory in N.Y. State Assembly
  - Harvard dining hall workers resist layoffs
  - Trans resistance!
  - Life without parole!
  - Mumia Abu-Jamal on Ramsey Clark
  - Solidarity with Palestine — Seattle
  - Palestinian Youth Movement rallies
  - Vigil at Tacoma migrant prison

- Around the world
  - Venenzuela, Cabo Verde, the case of Alex Saab
  - International solidarity to Ramsey Clark
  - Western colonizers imposed anti-LGBTQ+ laws
  - Palestinian youth defiant
  - U.S. Empire deploys troops
  - Indian farmers take action
  - Workers battle austerity in Greece
  - Author of Berta Cáceres’ assassination on trial
  - ‘LUMA out of Puerto Rico’!
  - Protests against racism sweep France
  - ‘African Lion’ hunts for new prey
  - Political earthquake in Peru

Editorial

G7/NATO: Diplomacy among thieves
No work, no eat

Noticias en Español

Naoomi Osawa, tespolidada?
La resistencia palestina

Join us in the fight for socialism!

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. 23 • June 17, 2021
Closing date: June 16, 2021

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

Web Editors: Alber, Harreay Markowitz, Janet Mayes

Prisoners Page Editors: Mirinda Crissman, Ted Kelly

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

Mundo Obrero: Teresa Gutierrez, Carlos Vargas

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

Workers World (ISSN 1070-4205) is published monthly by WW Publishers, 147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl., New York, NY 10011. Phone: 212.627.2994. Subscriptions: One year: $36; institutions: $50. Letters to the editor may be condensed and edited. Articles can be freely reprinted, with credit to Workers World, 147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl., New York, NY 10011. Back issues and individual articles are available on microfilm and/or photography 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.

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

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

Workers World

National Office
147 W. 24th St., 2nd Floor
New York, NY 10011
212.627.2994

www.workers.org

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

Austin
PO Box 42294
Oakland, CA 94609
510.394.2207
bayarea@workers.org

Buffalo, N.Y.
335 Richmond Ave.
Buffalo, NY 14222
716.883.2334
buffalo@workers.org

Central Gulf Coast
(Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, centralgulfcoast@workers.org)

Cleveland
ckland@workers.org

Durham, N.C.
804 Old Fayetteville St.
Durham, NC 27701
919.322.970
durham@workers.org

Houston
PO Box 3454
Houston, TX 77233-3454
713.651.2633
houston@workers.org

Philadelphia
PO Box 14249
Philadelphia, PA 19101
610.931.2615
philadelphia@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

www.workers.org
Harvard dining hall workers resist layoffs

By Myia X and Phebe Eckfeldt
Cambridge, Mass.

June 3 — Members of UNITE HERE Local 26, which represents Harvard dining hall workers, picketed the Harvard Law School cafeteria today to demand no layoffs. The university is threatening to lay off 15 workers when classes resume in the fall.

Harvard wants to take advantage of COVID conditions at the school and summer period—with most students not on campus. The bosses likely think this timing will limit participation in the struggle by union members and student supporters.

Nonetheless, 50 workers and their supporters turned out. These included maintenance workers and guards who are members of 32BJ Service Employees, Local 26 union staff, Harvard Union of Clerical and Technical Workers, and members of Workers World Party.

“We feed the students. We feed the faculty. And, with this job, we feed our families,” said Local 26 Shop Steward Willie Moore, as he addressed the workers.

Negotiations are currently at a standstill. Local 26 members strongly oppose layoffs and are fighting to prevent Harvard from dividing workers between those at jobs which were subcontracted and those on Harvard’s payroll. All have, word for word, the same contract except for different benefits.

The majority of Local 26 workers who came out today are veterans of the 2016 strike, which won nationwide recognition for backing Harvard down and retaining workers’ health insurance, plus winning a wage increase. They fought for and won more protection from discrimination for trans workers and immigrant workers. They proudly won recognition of Indigenous Peoples Day to replace the backward Columbus Day.

Local 26 Chief Shop Steward LaQUiesha Rainey told the crowd that during the 2016 strike, all workers, even those working for subcontractors, fought together as one. The Law School workers shut the dining hall down. Rainey assured them that Local 26 would fight alongside them in their struggle against layoffs.

The doors to the Law School were closed and locked, but undeterred Chief Steward Gene Van Buren pulled out his cell phone and called Dean John Manning, telling him in no uncertain terms that layoffs were unacceptable, and Local 26 would fight them all the way. In the background 50 workers chanted, “We’ll be back!”

“Harvard has hired people who have a reputation of union busting as negotiators for the university, including the chief press person and Dean of Law School. The workers are sticking together and organizing for a struggle against the terrible conditions of this period of pandemic,” Ed Childs, retired Local 26 chief steward told Workers World.

Trans resistance!

The Second Annual Boston Trans Resistance March, Vigil and Pride Fest—uplifting the global Black Trans Lives Matter struggle and radical roots of LGBTQ+ Pride—gathered in Nubian Square, Roxbury, on June 12. The rally was led by Athena Vaughn and Chastity Jamaria Bowick of Trans Resistance and the Transgender Emergency Fund on the Dorchester Arts Project sound truck, with chants and music pumping from the Dorchester Arts Project sound truck, march organizers led a crowd of thousands into the streets for a militant, unified march through the community.

The march ended at Franklin Park, Dorchester, for a festive celebration of LGBTQ+ resistance in the ongoing struggle for full rights and legal protections for trans people, including an end to racism, misogyny, anti-trans violence and discrimination.

Organizers pledged to keep fighting for the right to good-paying jobs and benefits, safe affordable housing and inclusive health care for trans, nonbinary and gender-nonconforming people.

For more information on the case of Alex Saab:
AGLA.org/Free-Alex-Saab
Alex Saab petition: bit.ly/FreeAlexSaabVZ
Twitter: @FreedomForAlexSaab

Venezuela, Cabo Verde, the case of Alex Saab

Continued from page 4

is however an inordinate concentration on Saab the individual, obscuring the larger issues of sovereignty and human rights.

Gathering information on what was involved was no easy task. The U.S. charge of “money laundering” by a private businessman in a country wracked by extreme shortages was meant to negate sympathy for Mr. Saab. It was only as the extreme shortages was meant to negate the larger charge of “money laundering” by a private individual, obscuring the larger issue of criticizing the victim. U.S. sabotage, imposed shortages, mercenary attacks and fueling national antagonisms are intended to create and intensify internal divisions.

Shortages are intended to increase corruption, side deals, privilege and resentment. The targeted country may, thus, be wrongly blamed for the unfolding crisis created by the U.S. actions.

Simply put, many progressive goals are thwarted under conditions of illegal sanctions—because that is the purpose of the sanctions. Self-defense by the victimized country is an obligation in the face of destabilization and constant sabotage.

At each step, keeping the focus on the criminal U.S. actions provides the groundwork for progressive solidarity. This is true not only in defending attempts at revolutionary change, such as in Cuba or Venezuela. Even in Cabo Verde, the focus on the role of the U.S. was important. It was hardly a decision by the government of Cabo Verde to pull Alex Saab from his plane or to order him held.

Cabo Verde’s isolation and strategic position simply made that country a convenient location for the long arm of U.S. extraterritorial judicial overreach.

This case must become a global challenge to arrogant U.S. lawlessness.

Sara Flounders of the International Action Center and Roger D. Harris of the Trans Action visited Cabo Verde the week of June 3-10 as part of an emergency human rights delegation organized by the International Campaign to Free Alex Saab.

For more information on the case of Alex Saab: 
AGLA.org/Free-Alex-Saab
Alex Saab petition: bit.ly/FreeAlexSaabVZ
Twitter: @FreedomForAlexSaab
Monica Moorehead, moderators for June 13 memorial

Ramsey Clark, human rights fighter and former U.S. Attorney General, who died April 9 at age 93, was memo-
ralized by hundreds of people, from the U.S. and world-
wide, who attended an international webinar June 13.

The program included 36 prerecorded tributes, 14 written messages, at least 100 photos and recordings of Clark speaking at meetings and during humanitar-
ian trips.

Clark, founder of the U.S.-based International Action Center in 1992, was remembered for unapologetically opposing the government that he once represented as the top lawyer from 1967-69, a most powerful imperialist.

Representatives, both prerecorded and in print, spoke about how Clark used his high-ranking position in the

Johnson administration to later vehemently denounce U.S. imperialist policies, both at home and abroad, starting with his opposition to the U.S. bombing Hanoi, North Vietnam, in 1972.

IAC co-director Sara Flounders, co-moderator of the webinar, said in her opening remarks that Ramsey inspired the political activists who used [the] U.S. courts to defend liberation struggles, oppose U.S. wars of aggression and defend political prisoners. Ramsey never made any of the work about himself. He seemed untroubled by personal attacks.

“He was most engaged in focused, collective action and reminded us we were up against the greatest purveyor of violence on earth, the U.S. He had a deep respect for common people and a passionate interest in the cultures, history and accomplishments of other peoples.

“Ramsey reminded the whole movement constantly that every U.S. media demonization campaign, [while] targeting one individual leader, was always the excuse for a devastating war against a whole people.”

Ramsey Clark’s younger sister, Mimi Gronlund, pro-
vided personal insights on how her older brother influ-
enced her. Her anecdotes helped explain how he became so principled in his convictions.

Co-moderator Monica Moorehead, a founder of Millions for Mumia of the IAC and a Workers World managing editor, said, “It was the beloved hero of the Cuban Revolution, Ché Guevara, who stated: ‘the true revolutionary is guided by a great feeling of love.’

“Ramsey Clark was a perfect example of what Ché meant.

“The world’s oppressed peoples loved, admired and respected this extraordinary antifascist humanitarian. And the reason for this love by the people is because of Ramsey’s abiding love and admiration for people fighting for their liberation everywhere from the brutal yoke of an inhumane government that he used to believe in and represent.

“There will never be another Ramsey Clark, but we can only hope that future revolutionaries will be as defiant, as unflappable and as principled as he was.”

Clark was beloved worldwide

The prerecorded messages had a common theme, no matter what struggle they represented: Ramsey Clark’s selflessness—even putting himself into life-threaten-
ing situations to be an important voice against racism, war and occupation—was an inspiration to millions of people.

Spokespersons included Pulitzer Prize-winning writer Alice Walker; actor and activist Danny Glover; Palestinian human rights lawyer and activist Lamis Deek; Millennium Worker March founder Clarence Thomas; William Camacaro, Bolivarian Circle; Veterans for Peace members Gerry Condon and Frank Dorrel; Dianne Mathiowetz, IAC Atlanta chapter; Larry Holmes,


With three mothers of once imprisoned Cuban Five.

Ramsey Clark receives the Solidarity medal in Cuba.

Workers World Party; Jose Maria Sison, International League of Peoples Struggles; Gabrielle Gemma, Workers Voice, Socialist Movement, New Orleans; Comrade Khaled Elguzenni, Socialist Party of Bangladesh; Gloria Rubue, Texas Death Penalty Abolition Movement; Steve Kirschbaum, UAW Local 675, Boston School Bus Drivers; and many more.

Written statements were read from the presidents of Cuba, Venezuela and Nicaragua: Miguel Diaz-Canel, Nicolas Maduro and Daniel Ortega Saavedra, respectively; Dr. Riyad Mansour, Minister, Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations; political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal; Rev. John Dear and Martha Hennessey, Plowshears movement; and Peter Woods, Asia Pacific Regional Committee for the Peaceful

Reunification of Korea.

Those who viewed the webinar thanked the IAC for organizing the tribute to, as one admirer put in the chat, “a remarkable and very good man.” Video of memorial available at iacenter.org/ramseyclarktribute. To submit a tribute, please email ramseyclarktribute@gmail.com.

Support a Marxist voice for LGBTQ2S+ rights

For over half a century, Workers World newspaper has covered the global strug-
gle to end all forms of discrimination, persecution and violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and gender nonconforming communities.

WW has consistently backed up our activist coverage with analysis. In the early 1970s, RW ran a series of arti-
nal text and a new preface and afterword. (Read it at workers.org/books.)

In 2004, RW managing editor and globally recognized transgender leader Leslie Feinberg began the “Lavender & Red” series, which ran until 2008 in WW.

A group of 25 articles from that series was later published as the book, “Rainbow Solidarity in Defense of Cuba.” In 2012

Feinberg performed civil disobedience and wrote articles defending Black trans woman CeCe McDonald, who was charged with manslaughter after defending herself from a racist, bigoted attack.

WW helps to build mass struggles, like what’s been going on in the streets from coast to coast. This righteous outpouring of rage and protest over the racist cop murder of George Floyd came as the COVID-19 pandemic disproportionately impacted Black, Latinx and Indigenous peoples and immigrants.

Please help us get out the word. Join the Workers World Supporter Program.

For a donation of at least $75 a year— or $300 or $500 or more if you can receive a year’s subscription to WW; a regular letter about timely issues; and one, two or three subscriptions, respectively, to give to friends. Members can receive a copy of the book: “What Road to Socialism?” upon request. (Or read it at workers.org/books)

New articles are posted daily at workers.org. Currently, one issue a month is being printed and mailed to subscribers. As soon as it’s possible, the newspaper will resume more frequent printing and mailing.

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

We’re grateful for your help in building Workers World!
Western, colonizing rulers imposed anti-LGBTQ+ laws

By Leslie Feinberg

This lightly edited article was originally published in 2007 as Part 112 in Workers World Party Comrade Leslie Feinberg’s “Lavender & Red” series on LGBTQ+ issues and communism. Feinberg’s analysis continues to be relevant today. For instance, a law passed in 2019 in former British protectorate Brunei, “homosexual sex” could still be punishable with death by stoning. While in India in 2018, a broad coalition of women, trans people, LGBTQ+ people, Muslims, Dalit people, union members and other workers overturned Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code. This was a British colonial-era law that banned same-sex acts, which the colonizers considered “against the order of nature.” The entire “Lavender & Red” series is available free at workers.org/books.

Wherever class-divided societies overturned matri- lineal communal groupings, laws began to punish sex- ualities, gender expressions and bodies that did not fit the new patriarchal family models. The status of women, who had played a pivotal role in pre-class societies where the bloodline was traced through females, not males, was degraded with the ascendency of patriarchal class rule.

The ruling class mandated adherence to a father-domi- nated family unit, rather than the androgynous mother-right gen, because it guaranteed the transmis- sion of wealth to male heirs. As ruling classes grew stronger and expanded their territories by overthrowing neighboring communal soci- eties by force of arms, they violently enforced their legal codes and social order on mili- tarily conquered peoples.

European colonizers also exported and enforced laws against same-sex love all over the world as they established their colonial empires. European colonialism used Inquisition terror to enforce these laws against both same-sex love and sex/gender variance everywhere. This violent legal restructuring of Indigenous societies—which affected consensual sexual relations, kinship, family/community organization, sexualities, gender and sex roles; served enslavement, oppression, exploitation and profit.

Indigenous societies under siege were diverse. For instance, the Guyan American Indians History Project, first published in the germinal 1988 book “Living the Spirit,” lists 133 Indigenous peoples on the North American continent who tinned to make room for many more sex/gender roles than the European nations did.

Midnight Sun, Anishnabe, provides a historical materialist view of sex/gender systems in these varied Indigenous societies in one of the book’s essays. Entitled “Sex/Gender Systems in Native North America,” it explains: “Social, and specifically sexual, life is embed- ded in the economic organization of society — an organ- ization that gives rise to a variety of cultural forms. The cultural construction of gender and sexuality must be seen in terms of the sexual division of labor, subsistence patterns, social relations and male/female relations. Without society, ideology is not an arbitrary, dis- crete force — rather, it serves to reproduce and perpetu- ate social forms, behaviors and individuals suitable to a particular mode of production.

The roots of Abu-Ghiala

European colonialism exported its domestic, coun- tries’ political situation around the world, starting with Portuguese expansionism around 1500 C.E. The early epoch of direct colonial rule reached its zenith more than a century later with British domination of India in 1876.

Queer Heritage reports that in 1551: “Portuguese missionary Father Pedro Correia, writing from Brazil, asserts that same-sex eroticism among Indigenous women was common, in fact as widespread as in Africa, where he was previously stationed. Native Brazilian women, he observes, carry weapons and even form same-sex marriages.”

In 1646, Portuguese colonial overlords expanded their laws against same-sexuality to include females, as well as males. The sentence was being burned alive at the stake. Max Mejía [a founding member of the Grupo Lambda in Mexico City in 1978] wrote that with the arrival of the Spanish conquistadors in the Western Hemisphere, “An absolutist discourse envelop- ing the ‘Lavender & Red’ was able to impose the practices of ‘infamous sin,’ corruption of the soul and alliance with the devil. They punished the practice without dis- tinctions, among both lay people and clerics. “Furthermore,” Mejía writes, “the Spanish conquistadors treated ‘sodom’ as a special Indian sin and hunted it down and punished it as such on a grand scale. They orches- trated crusades like the Holy Inquisition, which began burning ‘sodomites’ at the alter later replaced by drafts based on the Nigerian criminal code. Sudan used the Indian Penal Code. In 1960, Northern Nigeria enacted a separate criminal code based on the Sudan code.”

Similar laws were forced on “British” Honduras (today Belize), Jamaica, Anguilla, the “British” Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Montserrat, Bahamas, Tobago, Turks and Caicos and St. Lucia. The British also imposed anti-“sodomy” legislation on Canada in 1892, New Zealand a year later, and Australia in 1878 and again in 1899.

Capital offense in colonized North America

Civil liberties historian Tom Head explained: “As Spain, French, Dutch and English colonists began to settle North America during the 17th century, they brought with them a catalog of highly specific laws pro-scribing various sexual acts. The purpose of all these laws was to enforce monogamy, same-sex marriage and heterosexual marriage as a mandatory institution and to punish any and all sexual activity outside of that institution.”

The earliest anti-“sodomy” legislation was passed in the Virginia Colony on May 24, 1608, and soon spread to all the colonies and later to all U.S. states. Historian John D’Emilio wrote: “In every colony, sod- omy was a capital offense. At least five men were exe- cuted during this era — and other homosexual acts, from ‘sodomitical practices’ to lewdness between women, were punished with whippings and fines.”

By the American Revolution, although the states reformed their criminal codes in the spirit of Enlightenment philosophy, revision of the sodomy laws and the “Lavender & Red” against nature’ laws came very slowly; North Carolina did not eliminate capital punishment for sodomy until 1869. “Thomas-Jefferson proposed that death be replaced by castration. Moreover, time went on, legislatures and courts broadened the statutes to include a wider range of acts, such as oral sex between men and sexual activity between women,” D’Emilio concluded.

In the U.S., anti-homosexual and anti-miscegena- tion laws were also laws of state repression against African and Indigenous peoples, who became internal colonialists. In U.S., imperialists also bravely ruled these laws in countries they subjugated militarily.

After seizing Puerto Rico as a colony in 1868, the U.S. imposed a law against same-sex love on the island that was a carbon copy of the California state legal language. And in 1938, in a Cuba under U.S. domination, an [anti- gay] “Public Ostentation Law” was enacted.

Rainbow Solidarity in DEFENSE OF CUBA

By Leslie Feinberg, author of Stone Butch Blues

This book is an edited compilation of chapters 86 to 110 from the Lavender & Red series in Workers World newspaper that began June 3, 2004.

It is available online at: www.workers.org/books

12-year-old Palestinian activists in Muna and Muhammed al-Kurd were father, said, “Israel will not be satisfied of the al-Kurd family house where he’s Israeli occupation in the Palestinian Palestine since childhood. have documented Zionist aggression in Muhammed al-Kurd. Now 23, they have for juries—who have become reluctant to a death sentence as the goal. It is easier life without parole has been used as the minimum life terms. (tinyurl.com/354m6y4) for juries— who have become reluctant to a death sentence as the goal. It is easier life without parole has been used as the minimum life terms. (tinyurl.com/354m6y4)

LWFOP sentences a person to spend a death penalty organizations have fought for LWOP as a way to decrease capital punishment. Life sentences without parole are “virtually unheard of elsewhere in the world,” said Ashley Nellig in her February 2021 study for the Sentencing Project, a nonprofit advocating for shorter prison terms. (tinyurl.com/5948x9x) Nellig found that “improvement beyond 20 years is a predominantly American phenomenon.” LWOP sentences are steadily replacing the death penalty across the U.S. Almost 56,000 people are serving LWOP sentences that will keep them locked up until they die, an increase of 66% since 2003. Worldwide, 83% of those serving life sentences without parole are in U.S. prisons. Alaska is the only U.S. state that bars life without parole. Since 2007, only 9 states have abolished the death penalty, but those all issue sentences of life without parole. LWOP sentences are dis- placement capital punishment, the legal defense is weak for those facing such a sentence. Only 11 states have minimum qualifications for lawyers who represent working-class and poor people facing the 1967 War, referred to as Al-Naksa (the Setback). Though carrying a pass from the Israeli Press Office and wearing a flak jacket clearly marked “Press,” Budeiri was detained for hours without being charged. She later appeared on television with visi- ble injuries, including her arm in a sling.

Inadequate legal defense The Death Penalty Information Center reports: “Around 2,500 prisoners cur- rently face execution in the United States. The national death row population has declined for 18 consecutive years, as sen- tence reversals, executions and deaths by other causes are outpacing new death sentences.” (tinyurl.com/354m6y4)

Though LWOP sentences are dis- placement capital punishment, the legal defense is weak for those facing such a sentence. Only 11 states have minimum qualifications for lawyers who represent working-class and poor people facing the 1967 War, referred to as Al-Naksa (the Setback). Though carrying a pass from the Israeli Press Office and wearing a flak jacket clearly marked “Press,” Budeiri was detained for hours without being charged. She later appeared on television with visi- ble injuries, including her arm in a sling.

Inadequate legal defense The Death Penalty Information Center reports: “Around 2,500 prisoners cur- rently face execution in the United States. The national death row population has declined for 18 consecutive years, as sen- tence reversals, executions and deaths by other causes are outpacing new death sentences.” (tinyurl.com/354m6y4)

Though LWOP sentences are dis- placement capital punishment, the legal defense is weak for those facing such a sentence. Only 11 states have minimum qualifications for lawyers who represent working-class and poor people facing the 1967 War, referred to as Al-Naksa (the Setback). Though carrying a pass from the Israeli Press Office and wearing a flak jacket clearly marked “Press,” Budeiri was detained for hours without being charged. She later appeared on television with visi- ble injuries, including her arm in a sling.

Inadequate legal defense The Death Penalty Information Center reports: “Around 2,500 prisoners cur- rently face execution in the United States. The national death row population has declined for 18 consecutive years, as sen- tence reversals, executions and deaths by other causes are outpacing new death sentences.” (tinyurl.com/354m6y4)

Though LWOP sentences are dis- placement capital punishment, the legal defense is weak for those facing such a sentence. Only 11 states have minimum qualifications for lawyers who represent working-class and poor people facing the 1967 War, referred to as Al-Naksa (the Setback). Though carrying a pass from the Israeli Press Office and wearing a flak jacket clearly marked “Press,” Budeiri was detained for hours without being charged. She later appeared on television with visi- ble injuries, including her arm in a sling.

Long-term struggle “There are a lot of long-term issues,” said Hamas spokesperson Basem Naim, “the occupation, siege on Gaza, the Al-Aqua compound, the forceful eviction of people in Sheikh Jarrah.” “If all these long-term issues are not tackled and fixed by the international community, and if the international community is not able to oblige Israel to accept and respect its obligations as an occupying power, it is a matter of time to go down the path of the occupation,” Naim said.

Israel military forces have rounded up hundreds of young activists, many seized without any charges. The activists remain defiant.

Mass arrests Mass rescission Israeli occupation forces have rounded up hundreds of young activists, many seized without any charges. The activists remain defiant.

Mass arrests Mass rescission Israeli occupation forces have rounded up hundreds of young activists, many seized without any charges. The activists remain defiant.

Mass arrests Mass rescission Israeli occupation forces have rounded up hundreds of young activists, many seized without any charges. The activists remain defiant.

By Teddy Kelty

Hundreds of Palestinians have been arrested in retaliation for the May 2021 uprising across Palestine, includ- ing prominent twin activists Muna and Muhammed al-Kurd. Now 23, they have documented Zionist aggression in Palestine since childhood.

The two activists again showed the world the true face of the occupation with their viral videos of the struggle against Israeli occupation in the Palestinian neighborhood of Sheikh Jarrah. The video caught Jacob Fuci – a Long Island, N.Y., resident and Trump supporter – saying of the al-Kurd family house where he’s been squatting since 2009, “If I don’t take it, somebody else will.”

Nabil al-Kurd, the twins’ 77-year-old father, said Israeli occupation forces would not be able to evict him until it kicks me out of the house I’ve lived in almost my entire life.”

Palestinian mass protest

After the mid-May settler incursions into Sheikh Jarrah and mob attacks on Muslim worshippers at Al-Aqua Mosque in Al-Quds (Jerusalem), Palestinians have engaged in mass protests that have included stoppages and armed resistance. They are using every method at their disposal to fight the occupation and its Israeli occupiers. Palestinian fighters, unlike the Israeli military and armed settler death squads, honored the subsequent May 21 ceasefire. But since the “ceasefire” was announced, white mobs have attacked Muslims at Al-Aqua, while Israeli police have shot and killed a number of Palestinians.

Mass arrests, mass resistance

Israeli occupation forces have rounded up hundreds of young activists, many seized without any charges. The activists remain defiant.

Across social media, many videos can be seen of young Palestinians rolling their eyes as handcuffs are slammed over their wrists. Children righteously smile in the angrily contorted faces of their oppressors. Activists flash the two-fingered “victory” sign as they are dragged off into custody.

At-Jazeera journalist Givara Budeiri was violently arrested by Israeli soldiers during Al-Aqua, while Israeli police shot and killed a number of Palestinians.

The following June 3 statement was read at the June 13 webinar honoring the life and legacy of the late Ramsey Clark. It was organized by the International Action Center. Prison Radio transcribed the audio message.

The life of Ramsey Clark took turns and crossings that most people never see, let alone experience. A tall, raw-boned fig- ure, his height an asset in an attorney on both sides of the fence, working first as the nation’s former prosecutor ultimately to shift in his private life into an anti-impe- rialist activist, who represented figures like Libya’s Muammar Gadhafi to Iraq’s

Palestinian youth defiant despite retaliation, mass arrests

By Gloria Rubac

Slow death row. A silent execution. These are some of the names given a relatively new sentence option in the U.S. criminal legal system — life without parole.

LWOP sentences a person to spend the rest of their life incarcerated with absolutely no possibility of ever being released. The person will never live parole alive.

LWOP is now being used in record numbers in the U.S. This type of sentence began in the 1980s, when the “war on drugs” was a popular ploy of racist politi- cians. The punitive sentence had no rela- tionship to deterring crime or drug use.

As the use of the death penalty dra- matically decreased in recent decades, life without parole has been used as the main alternative to sentencing people to death. LWOP is cheaper than a trial with a death sentence as the goal. It is easier for juries—who have become reluctant to send people to death row—to approve a sentence of life without parole.

Unfortunately, many liberal anti- death penalty organizations have fought for LWOP as a way to decrease capital punishment.

Life sentences without parole are “virtually unheard of elsewhere in the world,” said Ashley Nellig in her February 2021 study for the Sentencing Project, a nonprofit advocating for shorter prison terms. (tinyurl.com/5948x9x) Nellig found that “improvement beyond 20 years is a predominantly American phenomenon.” LWOP sentences are steadily replacing the death penalty across the U.S. Almost 56,000 people are serving LWOP sentences that will keep them locked up until they die, an increase of 66% since 2003.

Worldwide, 83% of those serving life sentences without parole are in U.S. prisons. Alaska is the only U.S. state that bars life without parole. Since 2007, only 9 states have abolished the death penalty, but those all issue sentences of life without parole. LWOP sentences are dis- placement capital punishment, the legal defense is weak for those facing such a sentence. Only 11 states have minimum qualifications for lawyers who represent working-class and poor people facing the 1967 War, referred to as Al-Naksa (the Setback). Though carrying a pass from the Israeli Press Office and wearing a flak jacket clearly marked “Press,” Budeiri was detained for hours without being charged. She later appeared on television with visi- ble injuries, including her arm in a sling.

Mass arrests, mass resistance

Israeli occupation forces have rounded up hundreds of young activists, many seized without any charges. The activists remain defiant.

Across social media, many videos can be seen of young Palestinians rolling their eyes as handcuffs are slamed over their wrists. Children righteously smile in the angrily contorted faces of their oppressors. Activists flash the two-fingered “victory” sign as they are dragged off into custody.

At-Jazeera journalist Givara Budeiri was violently arrested by Israeli soldiers during Al-Aqua, while Israeli police shot and killed a number of Palestinians.

The following June 3 statement was read at the June 13 webinar honoring the life and legacy of the late Ramsey Clark. It was organized by the International Action Center. Prison Radio transcribed the audio message.

The life of Ramsey Clark took turns and crossings that most people never see, let alone experience. A tall, raw-boned fig- figure, his height an asset in an attorney on both sides of the fence, working first as the nation’s former prosecutor ultimately to shift in his private life into an anti-impe- rialist activist, who represented figures like Libya’s Muammar Gadhafi to Iraq’s former head, Saddam Hussein. Put another way, he served the State as attorney general (which sometimes has made him nuestro of Justice Tom Clark, to step down for fear of a conflict of interest), and [he] then used his status to expose the the legal excesses of the Empire—litiga- tions, exposures and protests through the International Action Center.

The life of Ramsey Clark spanned all of his years, who stood on behalf of the world’s oppressed for most of his days. From imprisoned nation, Mumba Abu- Jamal (3)
The U.S. Empire deploys its troops for battle

By Manlio Dinucci

Printed first in Notonato.org, June 15, excerpted here. Dinucci is a renounced Italian anti-militarist, expert on NATO. The NATO Summit took place yesterday at NATO headquarters in Brussels, at the highest level of state and government leaders. It was officially chaired by Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg, de facto by U.S. President Joseph Biden, who came to Europe to call to arms his allies in the global conflict against Russia and China.

The NATO Summit was preceded and prepared by two political initiatives that saw Biden as the protagonist—the signing of the New Atlantic Charter and the G7—and they followed the full Biden's meeting with the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin June 16 in Geneva. The final meeting's outcome is heralded by Biden's refusal to hold the usual final press conference with Putin.

The New Atlantic Charter was signed June 10 in London by Biden and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson. It is a significant political document to which our media have given little importance. The historic Atlantic Charter—signed by U.S. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill in August 1941, two months after Nazi Germany had invaded the Soviet Union—enumerated the values on which the future world order would be based, guaranteed by the “Great democracies”: above all the renunciation of the use of force, the self-determination of peoples and their equal rights in access to resources. Later history has shown how little these values have been applied. Now the “revitalized” Atlantic Charter reaffirms its commitment to “defend our democratic values against those who try to undermine them.” To this end, the U.S. and Britain assure their Allies that they will always be able to count on “our nuclear deterrents” and that “NATO will remain a nuclear alliance.”

By Dianne Mathiowetz

Solidarity with Palestine at Port of Seattle

By Jim McMahan

Seattle

In response to the U.S.-backed Israeli bombing of Gaza and the ongoing dispossession of people in Jerusalem's Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood and across Palestine, Palestinian unions have called for global labor solidarity to disrupt apartheid Israel's trade. Global uproar against the Israeli regime's war, occupation and acts of terror and exploitation is growing.

A ship belonging to Israeli shipping company ZIM has been anchored in the Port of Seattle for 11 days—June 2 to June 13. Facing community pickets from the pro-Palestine Block the Boat movement, it hasn’t had any cargo loaded or unloaded.

On June 12, 250 Block the Boat activists shut down Pier 18 after the ZIM ship made a move and came into the SSA Marine Terminal. They had the cooperation and solidarity of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union. Block the Boat held a rally June 13 next to the port to demonstrate its continued vigilance, and still no move was made to load or unload the ship. But ZIM refuses to leave Seattle, even after losing millions of dollars in trade.

“We want the Israeli ZIM ship out of Seattle, because we don’t want companies that profit from human rights violations,” said Aisha Mansour of Palestinian, a Palestinian feminist organization coordinating local actions. Other leading organizations include Anakabayn, Seattle, International League for Peoples Struggle and End the Deadly Exchange.

The struggle continues, as the Block the Boat solidarity activists have shown resilience.

Palestinian Youth Movement rallies

By Dianne Mathiowetz

Atlanta

June 12 – The Atlanta chapter of the Palestinian Youth Movement, along with other members of the Demilitarize Atlanta 2 Palestine Coalition, held a spirited rally on the steps of City Hall to present a series of demands. The demand to end the city’s participation in the Georgia International Law Enforcement Exchange program, which sends police to Israel for “counterterrorism training,” was highlighted by all the speakers.

GILEE was founded in 1992 by Georgia State University Professor Robert Friedman in preparation for the 1996 Summer Olympics held in Atlanta. Friedman is a staunch defender of Zionism, who readily shares his Islamophobic and anti-Palestinian views. However, at Georgia State University, GILEE is largely funded by corporate and private donors.

Hundreds of law officers, particularly high-ranking management, from throughout Georgia’s state, county, city, university and college police forces, have traveled to Israel to learn crowd control, high-tech surveillance and counterinsurgency methods. The history of U.S. policing certainly reveals no lack of racist, illegal and deadly practices. Nevertheless, the city government’s collusion with the repressive and brutal policies of the militarized Israeli occupation forces has drawn strong opposition from Atlanta social justice groups for many years.

When Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms was campaigning, she promised to look into ending the relationship between Atlanta and GILEE. With that promise broken, this revitalized campaign led by Palestinian youth is pushing to sever ties with GILEE — in the city promoted as the cradle of the Civil Rights Movement.
Farmers continue coordinated militant actions

By Tania Siddiqui

June 14 marks 200 days of the Farmers’ Protest at the Delhi border of India. Farmers remain steadfast in their goal to have the state repeal three oppressive farm bills. Since Workers World Last reported on the protests in February, there have been important movement taking work place throughout India.

Farmer unions called for a 12-hour nationwide shutdown of India’s railways March 26 to commemorate four months of protest against the farm bills. Demonstrators in Haryana and Punjab successfully blocked railways at 32 locations and caused the cancellation of at least four passenger trains. (Alarabiya News, March 26)

The farmers’ crucial organizing strategies extend beyond direct-action measures and are evident in their capacity to maintain protest camps while tending to their harvests elsewhere. Amreek Singh, an organizer based at the Singhu border, informed Reuters that farmers are keeping rosters to “ensure that every time a group of farmers goes to harvest the wheat crop, a group of similar size joins the protests.” Singh mentioned that similar efforts are taking place in Punjab and Uttar Pradesh. (Reuters, Apr. 29)

Protest and COVID-19

While farmers continue to put pressure on the state to repeal the farm bills, the state persists in trying to squash the farmers’ movement. Under the guise of concern for the people’s health, Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Narendra Singh Tomar requested that the farmers end their protests to diminish the threat of COVID-19 outbreaks.

The farmers refused and remained determined to continue their campaign until the state gives in to their demands. Additionally, protests have taken COVID-19 precautions by providing masks to demonstrators, disinfecting protest sites and establishing handwashing stations.

In May, after India’s government received severe backlash for how it is handling the COVID-19 crisis, India’s leading political party, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), issued a misleading statement claiming the farmers’ protests were responsible for the pandemic’s second wave.

BJP stated that the “[t] latest data actually suggest that Punjab, the epicenter of ‘farmer protest’ was the origin of the second wave.” (BJP Twitter, May 13). The state’s governmental apparatus is not the only sector attempting to diminish and weaken the farmers’ movement.

Farmers organized a protest May 16 against Chief Minister Manohar Lal Kattar, a member of BJP, while Kattar was in Hisar to inaugurate a new COVID-19 hospital. As demonstrations made their way to Hisar, police set up barricades and attempted to prevent demonstrators from protesting. Police attacked farmers with batons and tear gas.

The farmers were able to breach the barricades and throw stones at the police in self-defense. (Scroll.in, May 17)

Farmers militancy continues

On June 11, Samyukta Kisan Morcha, an umbrella body of over 40 farmer unions, announced they will organize sit-ins at Raj Bhavans, official residences of the governors of India, across the country on June 26. This day commemorates the farmers’ seven months of continued and committed acts of resistance against the state.

The farmers’ movement in India remains strong and has kept momentum, due to the incredible organizational strategies and tactics led by those who dare to resist state terror. Moreover, the farmers’ movement in India provides a blueprint of possibility, steps by which to work towards revolution on a massive scale. Solidarity with the farmers in India! Build a workers’ world!

Austerity measures threaten the 8-hour day

By G. Dunkel

The 8-hour day is a bedrock gain of the world’s working class; the 8-hour day was won through intense battles during the later part of the 19th century and the first half of the 20th. Like any advance fought for and achieved by workers’ struggles, it has been under constant attack.

In Greece, where austerity programs imposed by the big imperialist banks have devastated the working class, and wages and pensions have been cut and cut again, the New Democracy government of Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis has announced it will “modernize anti-quated laws” regulating hours of work. But Mitsotakis actually plans to massively regress working conditions.

The regulations Mitsotakis is proposing would let bosses impose a 50-hour week for 40-hour pay. They would make going on strike more difficult and abolish the right of unions to bargain a contract. In response, the struggle of Greek workers to maintain the 8-hour day is intensifying. On June 10, tens of thousands of workers came out in an enormous demonstration in Athens. Similarly large demonstrations and marches were held in Thessaloniki and Patras, Greece’s second and third largest cities, along with Piraeus, the port of Athens, Heraklion and other major cities.

About the only part of the Greek economy functioning on June 10 was the hospitals. The ferries, which are essential in Greece’s transportation system, were shut down completely.

The final vote on the labor bill is set for June 16, and the unions intend to shut the country down then. General Secretary of the Greek Communist Party Dimitris Koutsoubas spoke in Athens June 10. He said: “No matter what the government does, this bill is condemned in the workers’ consciousness. The working men and women, the young people have now the last say. If they understand and realize their power, they can cancel this bill and consign it where it belongs, to the dustbin. They must not be living like slaves in the 21st century.” (tinyurl.com/yynjmg4u)

Monthly vigil: Demand human rights at Tacoma immigration prison!

By Jim McMahan

Since the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma, Wash., opened in 2004, detainees and their families, civil rights activists and the community have protested the inhumane conditions from the use of solitary confinement to tainted meals. The monthly demonstration and vigil will be held there at 1623 E. J St., Sunday, June 13, from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.

The Department of Homeland Security manages the largest immigration detention system in the world with 200 immigration detention centers in the U.S. And the privately run NWDC Northwest Detention Center is the third largest detention center of 200 in the U.S.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement detainees there have been unnecessarily exposed to COVID-19. GEO Group operates the detention center, which is slated to be shut down by 2025 under recently passed state legislation banning for-profit prisons.

Demands include: End the transfer of ICE prisoners released from Washington and Oregon state prisons to the Northwest Detention Center!

Stop sending prisoners to the Center from the border and throughout the country!

Shut down the NWDC before its contract expires in 2025!

No to a failed immigration regime! Open up visitation rights to prisoners’ families and supporters!

For more information, contact Seattle International Action Center at (206) 248-4417.
Author of Berta Cáceres’ assassination on trial

By Martha Grewatt

Berta Cáceres, beloved leader of the Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras (COPINH), was assassinated March 3, 2016. COPINH was engaged in a battle with the DESA company, whose plans to construct a hydroelectric dam threatened the livelihood of the Lenca Indigenous community.

While seven participants in the killing were convicted and sentenced in 2018, it is only now, five years later, that a key author of that tragic event is on trial. In 32 days of testimony, overwhelming evidence has come to light implicating Roberto David Castillo Mejía, former General Manager of DESA and a former military intelligence officer. This includes eyewitness accounts, documents and communications among Castillo, his co-conspirators and the hit men who carried out the murder.

Castillo’s attorneys are now presenting their side, and the trial is expected to conclude in June. Despite the preponderance of evidence against him, COPINH and other human rights defenders are concerned that Castillo will be found “not guilty” by the panel of three judges hearing the case. As Cáceres’ daughter Bertha “Berta” Zúñiga Cáceres explained on a recent web meeting, there is “a lot of impunity” in Honduras.

Since the U.S.-backed coup June 28, 2009, that overthrew progressive President Mel Zelaya, hundreds of Indigenous, Afro-descendant, labor union, LGBT, environmental and human rights activists have been assassinated in Honduras. “Victims and their allies of the perpetrators are extremely rare.”

Berta Cáceres was one of over 120 environmentalists murdered in Honduras, the most dangerous country in the world for water and land protectors.

Solidarity activists hear from COPINH

On the call with Zúñiga Cáceres, Camilo Bermúdez, a member of COPINH who is assisting in preparing evidence against Castillo, explained the existence of a network that “set up the logistics” for the assassination. He called it “a great advance” that Castillo is even on trial, but pointed to many others who colluded with him as still at large. These include members of the Atala Zablah family, Honduran oligarchs who control DESA and the Agua Zarca hydroelectric project.

For those seeking to bring additional culprits to justice, a not guilty verdict “would put us back to zero,” said Bermúdez. The Honduran media is “trying to circumvent the conversation” by smearing Berta Cáceres as a “narco-trafficker.” In an atmosphere of corruption, threats and intimidation and a “sold out” media, the judges may ignore the mountain of evidence against Castillo and acquit him.

There is widespread concern in Honduras about the trial’s outcome. As COPINH states: “Victims and their allies of the deadly Honduran extractive model took to the streets of the country’s capital [May 17] to demand an immediate halt to the energy, mining, tourism and forestry projects that private companies are implementing with the full support of the State through acts of violence and corruption, and without the free, prior and informed consent of the affected Indigenous and rural communities.” (copinh.org)

A feminist encampment erected May 4 in the capital, Tegucigalpa, under the theme “Berta viva” (Berta lives), will be up until the trial concludes. Solidarity activists outside Honduras plan to have actions and send letters to demand Castillo not be acquitted for the brutal murder of a heroic fighter. Visit Honduras Solidarity Network on Facebook or honduras solidarity.org. To send a letter go to fil.b/bertha.
Workers World
editorials

Continued from page 1

of Umar bin Khattab, the military commander, sides with the Jews in their conflict with their fellow Muslims. This is a historical event, as the Muslims were greatly outnumbered in strength and resources but were able to defeat their enemies through a combination of military strategy and religious devotion.

In 883, Umar bin Khattab’s armies advanced towards Egypt, meeting and defeating the Byzantine forces at the Battle of Zama. This victory was significant as it marked the end of Byzantine influence in the region.

The Muslims continued their march towards Syria, and in 890, Umar bin Khattab conquered the city of Damascus. This victory was crucial as Damascus was the capital of the Umayyad Caliphate and had been a significant center of power and culture.

Umar bin Khattab’s conquests continued, and by the time of his death in 875, the Muslim Empire had expanded to include most of the territories of the Abbasid Caliphate.

The legacy of Umar bin Khattab is one of military prowess and religious devotion. His military campaigns were marked by strategic planning and a willingness to adapt his tactics to fit the conditions of each battle.

In addition to his military achievements, Umar bin Khattab is remembered for his commitment to the spread of Islam. He was a devout believer and a strong advocate for the Muslim faith. He is credited with authoring several important works on Islamic law and theology.

Umar bin Khattab’s contributions to the Muslim Empire were significant, and his legacy continues to be remembered and studied today. His military campaigns and religious devotion have left a lasting impact on the development of Islamic history and culture. Let us remember Umar bin Khattab as a man who made a difference in the world and whose legacy continues to inspire us today.
Peru presidential election

Castillo's vote unleashes political earthquake

By Jorge Martín

Excerpts from an article published in rebolion.org, June 10. Translation by Michael Otto.

The victory of Pedro Castillo in the Peruvian presidential elections unleashed a political earthquake; reflecting the enormous social and political polarization in the Andean country. The masses have influenced the outcome of the ruling class, thanks to the militant teachers' union leader at the head of Peru Libre, a party that describes itself as Marxist, Leninist and Mariáteguiist.

José Carlos Mariátegui (1894-1930) was the founder of the Peruvian labor and communist movements and among the most renowned Latin American Marxists of the first half of the last century.

The recount was a slow and painful process, and the definitive result was not clear(219,200),(972,226) until the end of the two days following the killings on June 6. By June 9, with 99.8% of the votes counted, Pedro Castillo had 4,054,490 votes (50.2%), giving him a small but irreversible lead over his rival, right-wing populist Keiko Fujimori, who got 3,886,684 votes (49.8%) (almost 75% of votes cast).

Official results have not yet been proclaimed. Fujimori's team alleges fraud and is preparing dozens of appeals. The masses are ready to defend the vote in the streets. There are reports that 20,000 ronderos (members, as Castillo, of the peasant army formed to defend the country from the civil war in the 1990s) are traveling to the capital to defend the will of the people. Today, June 9, a massive demonstration has been called in Lima, where people have gathered for three nights in a row in front of Castillo's electoral headquarters.

Castillo advanced to the final election with only 19% of the vote in the first round, due to the extreme fragmentation of parties. However, his electoral success is no accident. It is an expression of the deep crisis of the Peruvian regime. Decades of anti-working class privatization and liberalization policies in a country extremely dependent on mineral exports, have left a legacy of extreme wealth disparity and widespread corruption robbing its bourgeois democracy.

Two main political parties are in jail or accused of corruption. All the institutions of bourgeois democracy are extremely weak and nearly empty. The mass demonstrations this November 2020 were an expression of the deep anger accumulated in Peruvian society.

To this must be added the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the crisis of capitalism. The country suffered one of the worst economic contractions in Latin America with an 11% drop in Gross Domestic Product. Peru has recorded the worst percentage of excess deaths and the worst mortality rate worldwide, while the wealthy and government politicians were vaccinated before anyone else.

A vote for radical change

The masses of workers and peasants want radical change, and that is precisely what Pedro Castillo represents in their eyes. His campaign had two main political pillars: the renegotiation of the terms of the contracts with the mining multinationals (and if they refuse, they would be nationalized); and the convening of a Constituent Assembly to do away with the 1993 constitution drafted during the dictatorship of Alberto Fujimori (the father of candidate Keiko Fujimori).

His main electoral slogans: “no more poverty” and “no more săicas” (the “word of the teacher” resonated with the oppressed, the workers, the poor, the peasants, the droughts, the Quechua and Aymara Indians, particularly in the working-class and poor areas far from Lima’s light-skinned high-class circles.

Castillo’s authority comes from having defended the union bureaucracy to lead the masses of workers and peasants who have lived off the people’s difference. His program, despite references to capitalism, is system by guaranteeing the best possible conditions for the realization of capitalist profits.

The problem is that these so-called responsible “national productive” capitalists do not exist. The Peruvian ruling class, the bankers, landowners and capitalists are closely linked to the interests of the transnational corporations and imperialism. They are not interested in any “national development,” but only in their own enrichment.

Castillo will now face a dilemma. On the one hand, he can govern in favor of the masses of workers and peasants who have elected him, which would mean a radical break with the capitalists and the transnational corporations. That can only be accomplished through carrying out a mass mobilization outside the electoral area. Or Castillo can give in, soften his program and adapt to the interests of the ruling class, which means he will be discredited among those who voted for him, paving the way for his own downfall. If he tries to serve two masters (the workers and the capitalists) at the same time, he will please neither.

Castillo himself declared: “I have just had conversations with the national business community, and I have asked them— and I have asked them—to support me. We need to create a government that is committed to the people. We will create a government respectful of democracy, of the current Constitution. We will have a government with financial and economic stability.”

All experience shows that what the ruling class describes as “financial and economic stability,” in reality means making the workers and the poor pay for the crisis of their system by guaranteeing the best possible conditions for the realization of capitalist profits.

The payment of the debt is in direct contradiction with implementing a policy of social spending. Castillo should abandon this concession and act in support of the general interests of the workers and peasants. There is no middle road.

For now, the Peruvian masses celebrate and remain on guard to defend their victory. The struggle has just begun.

U.S.-led ‘African Lion 21’

Continued from page 10

and economic ties between the two continents means that regional security issues, left unchecked, quickly spread from one area to another. This is the case with financial and economic stability.” All this gives an idea of what Castillo means when he talks about a government, “to benefit all the people. Voters elected a government to the people. We will create a government to the people. We will create a government to the people.”

Castillo’s program, despite references to Marx, Lenin and Mariátegui in Peru Libre documents, is one of capitalist national development. He proposes to use the country’s mineral wealth for social programs (mainly education) and to work with “productive national entrepreneurs” to “develop the economy.” His models are the oil areas of Ecuador and Evo Morales of Bolivia.

Contrary to what Pedro Castillo and Fujimori represent, the Peruvian ruling class do not exist. The Peruvian ruling class are bankers, landowners and capitalists who are showing their support for Fujimori. From the point of view of the bourgeoisie, the Peruvian ruling class is a tool that can be used to control the workers and the poor.

Castillo’s program, despite references to Marx, Lenin and Mariátegui in Peru Libre documents, is one of capitalist national development. He proposes to use the country’s mineral wealth for social programs (mainly education) and to work with “productive national entrepreneurs” to “develop the economy.” His models are the oil areas of Ecuador and Evo Morales of Bolivia.

The payment of the debt is in direct contradiction with implementing a policy of social spending. Castillo should abandon this concession and act in support of the general interests of the workers and peasants. There is no middle road.

For now, the Peruvian masses celebrate and remain on guard to defend their victory. The struggle has just begun.

Opposition coup were in Lima to support Fujimori before the elections, and that is no accident. They will use Congress and the other bourgeois institutions, the media, the state apparatus (up to and including the army) and economic sabotage, to limit Castillo’s ability to implement his policies.

Defend victory: Prepare for battle

Castillo’s program, despite references to Marx, Lenin and Mariátegui in Peru Libre documents, is one of capitalist national development. He proposes to use the country’s mineral wealth for social programs (mainly education) and to work with “productive national entrepreneurs” to “develop the economy.” His models are the oil areas of Ecuador and Evo Morales of Bolivia.

The payment of the debt is in direct contradiction with implementing a policy of social spending. Castillo should abandon this concession and act in support of the general interests of the workers and peasants. There is no middle road.

For now, the Peruvian masses celebrate and remain on guard to defend their victory. The struggle has just begun. □
En el Manifiesto Comunista, Karl Marx y Friedrich Engels describen el carácter degradante del trabajo en el capitalismo, según el cual los trabajadores “son una mercancía” y el trabajador “se convierte en un apéndice de la máquina”.

Este se escribió en 1848, pero la deshumanización sigue existiendo. Un trabajador se convierte en un apéndice de su trabajo, ya sea un hotel, un restaurante de comida rápida o un almacén de Amazon. Los capitalistas sólo ven valen en lo que un trabajador puede producir, no lo valen como persona humana completa.

En consecuencia, los jefes del campo depredan esta frase para justificar que los explotadores como loario el de un pueblo de apéndice del pobre.

Canal. Vinculado con el manifiesto, de un trabajador la degradación de la cual las represalias de los explotadores contra los explotados.

Esta fue subrayado recientemente por el trato de la superestrella del tenis Naomi Osaka.

Desde su victoria en el Abierto de Estados Unidos en 2018, un alivio insensible y peor —por decir que los de los tratados han agravado sus luchas contra la depresión y la ansiedad—. Osaka —quien es japonesa y su padre es haitiano— ha sido cuestionado sobre todo, desde su raza, nacionalidad, edad y desafíos de salud mental hasta su desempeño en la cancha contra Serena Williams y su solidaridad de principios con Black Lives Matter.

Osaka fue multada con $15.000 dólares tras negarse a participar en las entrevistas con los medios de comunicación después de su shock perdida en el Abierto de Francia. Esta pone de manifiesto, por enésima vez, la mercantilización de los atletas profesionales, incluso los mejores pagados y los más capacitados. Se les reprende y castiga cuando priorizan su bienestar personal sobre el negocio de la competencia deportiva.

Este es el caso más notable de la mercantilización de los atletas profesionales. Los equipos adoptaron normas y crearon mascotas desagradables para los pueblos y la cultura indígenas. Estos nombres el aparentemente están empezando a abandonarse, mientras que algunos equipos, específicamente el de los equipos de fútbol de América del Sur, se defienden firmemente a sus nombres ofensivos.

Los valientes atletas que “rompieron la línea del color” —como Wataru Misaka (1947, NBA), Earl Lloyd (1950, NBA), Jackie Robinson (1947, MLB) y Marion Motley y Bill Willis (AB-Football Conference, más tarde NFL)— son sobretodo figuras de libertad; y los deportistas del antiguo en el fútbol profesional de los países de segunda clase. No solo se les insulta, se les desestima, se les marginan y se les tratan, sino que las paga muy poén cepa la selección femenina de fútbol de Estados Unidos, encabeza una demanda colectiva por discriminación sexual en relación con las injusticias de género y la discriminación racial.

La lucha contra los explotadores es un paso importante para construir una sociedad justa. Ese hecho es de capitalista, por el que se estableceran en Palestina, para el concretar. Este es un ejemplo de cómo las luchas contra los explotadores pueden llevar a la superación de la explotación capitalista.

El pueblo palestino no ha tenido más remedio que luchar contra sus opresores, utilizando todo lo que tiene a su disposición, desde hondas hasta colmenas, contra la Fuerza de Defensa israelí, que están entrenadas y armadas con el arma- miento más sofisticado suministrado por los países del Trípode. La lucha de los palestinos ha contribuido a aislar aún más al Estado sionista sobre Gaza y el fin de toda, especialmente desde la primera Intifada o levantamiento que comenzó en 1987, seguida de la segunda Intifada en 2000. Por eso es fundamental que los movimientos exijan el fin inmediato de los bombardeos sobre Gaza y la de la ayuda a Isabel y el rey Juan Carlos.

Ser antisionista NO es lo mismo que ser antisemita. El apoyo del gobierno estadounidense a Israel no se basa en un apoyo genuino al pueblo judío. De hecho, los ataques antisemitas son cotidianas en Estados Unidos e incluyen el cierre de sus oficinas y la racista polémica en España.

Igual, el cierre de sus oficinas y la racista polémica en España.

La lucha de los palestinos ha contribuido a aislar aún más al Estado sionista sobre Gaza y el fin de toda, especialmente desde la primera Intifada o levantamiento que comenzó en 1987, seguida de la segunda Intifada en 2000. Por eso es fundamental que los movimientos exijan el fin inmediato de los bombardeos sobre Gaza y la de la ayuda a Isabel y el rey Juan Carlos.

Ser antisionista NO es lo mismo que ser antisemita. El apoyo del gobierno estadounidense a Israel no se basa en un apoyo genuino al pueblo judío. De hecho, los ataques antisemitas son cotidianas en Estados Unidos e incluyen el cierre de sus oficinas y la racista polémica en España.

Ser antisionista NO es lo mismo que ser antisemita. El apoyo del gobierno estadounidense a Israel no se basa en un apoyo genuino al pueblo judío. De hecho, los ataques antisemitas son cotidianas en Estados Unidos e incluyen el cierre de sus oficinas y la racista polémica en España.

Ser antisionista NO es lo mismo que ser antisemita. El apoyo del gobierno estadounidense a Israel no se basa en un apoyo genuino al pueblo judío. De hecho, los ataques antisemitas son cotidianas en Estados Unidos e incluyen el cierre de sus oficinas y la racista polémica en España.

Ser antisionista NO es lo mismo que ser antisemita. El apoyo del gobierno estadounidense a Israel no se basa en un apoyo genuino al pueblo judío. De hecho, los ataques antisemitas son cotidianas en Estados Unidos e incluyen el cierre de sus oficinas y la racista polémica en España.

Ser antisionista NO es lo mismo que ser antisemita. El apoyo del gobierno estadounidense a Israel no se basa en un apoyo genuino al pueblo judío. De hecho, los ataques antisemitas son cotidianas en Estados Unidos e incluyen el cierre de sus oficinas y la racista polémica en España.

Ser antisionista NO es lo mismo que ser antisemita. El apoyo del gobierno estadounidense a Israel no se basa en un apoyo genuino al pueblo judío. De hecho, los ataques antisemitas son cotidianas en Estados Unidos e incluyen el cierre de sus oficinas y la racista polémica en España.

Ser antisionista NO es lo mismo que ser antisemita. El apoyo del gobierno estadounidense a Israel no se basa en un apoyo genuino al pueblo judío. De hecho, los ataques antisemitas son cotidianas en Estados Unidos e incluyen el cierre de sus oficinas y la racista polémica en España.