Sorrow & solidarity for Asian communities

By Dianne Mathiowetz
Atlanta

March 21 — In the days since the brutal slaying of eight people at three different Asian-owned massage businesses—one in Acworth in Cherokee County and two others, 40 miles away in Atlanta in Fulton County—there has been a maelstrom of emotions and actions.

There was relief, of course, that the killer was captured before he continued his deadly rampage and that he readily confessed.

Immense grief and sorrow as well as fear and anger have been felt by large numbers of the diverse Asian American and Pacific Islander communities who live in the area. While they come from a great number of different countries and speak a multiplicity of languages, each with a rich cultural heritage of their own, there is a shared experience of experiencing intolerance and being seen as unwelcome outsiders that is shared.

From new immigrants to naturalized citizens to those U.S. born, the awareness of the threat of slurs, unpleasant or hostile interactions and physical harm in public spaces is a common thread in the many public interviews, community Zoom calls and organizational statements that have taken place since the March 16 massacre.

For some Atlantans, the depth of this painful uncertainty whether it is safe to walk on the street or enter a store is a harsh and unfamiliar reality to accept. Yet sympathy abounds even if there is no understood solution. For others, whose skin color or gender or disability places them in a “different” category in a society steeped in white supremacy, misogyny, transphobia and ableism, there is recognition of what that is like.

Vigils have taken place daily, sometimes both day and evening time, at all three sites of the murders. They have become mourning spaces with people steadily coming in the ones and twos and whole families to bring flowers, candles, written messages of condolence and concern for the families and for the community. Some pray; others reach out to strangers to share their thoughts; others stand silently for a moment and then leave.

What has outraged many is the parsing of the words “hate crime” by police authorities, especially the Cherokee County Sheriff’s office, which in its first press conference after questioning the self-admitted killer, explained that Robert Aaron Long had had a “bad day,” citing his “sexual addiction” for deciding to “eliminate the temptation.”

For many, this was again another example of “humanizing” the white perpetrator, while refusing to acknowledge the lives of those killed—who were mothers with children who loved them, people who were admired for their kindness and warm spirit, hard workers who endured for the well-being of their families.

There was a very large rally March 20 against anti-Asian hate that spilled beyond the expansive Liberty Plaza across from the Georgia State Capitol. There the crowd held up their signs and cheered a long list of speakers from various Asian organizations, Asian state elected officials, Senators Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff, Rev. William Barber from the Poor People’s Campaign and many others reflecting the breadth of community support.

Each denounced the animus that motivates hate crimes. Some called for new legislation on gun purchases or criticized the voter suppression measures that would harm future voting accessibility for communities of color in particular.

Dozens of cars decorated with signs continuously circled the area, horns honking nonstop to make sure everyone knew it was time to wake up to racist and sexist violence.

As of this writing, Robert Aaron Long is charged with eight counts of murders and one count of aggravated assault, but neither Cherokee nor Fulton County have added the “hate crime” charge, each saying more investigation is needed.

50+ U.S. actions for Bessmere Amazon workers 6-8

New court filings for Abu-Jamal
Mumia thanks supporters
Free Rodney Reed!

Crisis grips Haiti 9 End 10 year U.S. war on Syria! 9 Why Libya was targeted 9

Trans & women’s liberation 4
Gender solidarity 4
Paris Commune’s courageous women 5

Editorials
The blame game
COVID class war
Biden: Who’s the killer?

More on anti-Asian violence
Chinese workers’ history in U.S. 5
Unions denounce murders 10
Philly Asian communities respond 11

China contra el mundo occidental 12
Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite! workers.org Vol. 63, No. 12 March 25, 2021 $1
Long live international solidarity, dear comrades!

These slightly edited remarks were made by Chris Giakoumelos, representing the World Federation of Trade Unions, during Workers World Party’s March 11 webinar, “Stimulus Bill — Relief or Ripoff?”

I meet you tonight on behalf of the Secretariat of the World Federation of Trade Unions. As you know, our federation represents 105 million workers who live in 133 countries across the world. So tonight I send you a warm internationalist greeting, comrades!

It is with great joy we received your invitation to participate in today’s discussion on the relief bill as announced by your president, Joe Biden. In these eyes of the workers of the world, the promises of the imperialists and their political personnel cannot but seem provocative and empty. Especially since in your country, they have lost more than a million people who have lost their lives due to the pandemic, while the cases of COVID-19 approach 30 million. At the same time, your people are faced with class repercussions of the pandemic on a daily basis, even on the issue of vaccinations. The poorest and most unprotected populations in the Spanish-speaking and African American communities are those that have been hardest hit by the pandemic. It is noticeable that these groups have the lowest percentage of vaccinations.

The inability of the system to face the pandemic, to provide answers and guarantee the fundamental right to life, clearly shows that king capitalism is napped. While on the one hand there is this gloomy outlook, on the other hand there is hope and optimism — the perspective for the abolition of exploitation as expressed through the struggles of the working class in your country. The teacher strikes in the last years, the mass marches from defend our Amazon workers are conducting against union busting and employer persecutions — all give hope!

Many workers — not only in the U.S. but also in Europe — understand the need to change the correlation of forces in the movement and the unions. That is needed to defeat class collaboration, as expressed worldwide by the International Trade Union Confederation and the AFL-CIO.

Many workers understand the need for the emancipation of the organized labour movement from the employers and the class collaborators, as a necessary condition to achieve more victories for our class comrades. A victory of the workers’ movement in any country is at the same time a victory of the world working class.

At the WFTU, we believe that the best form of internationalism is to fight against the bosses in your own country. And, from our side, we commit ourselves to continue to build on the side of the working class of your country.

You, dear comrades, you can always find in the WFTU an ally and friend in the struggle of the people for the elimination of exploitation. Long live international solidarity, dear comrades! (3)

Commemorate Women’s History Month! Build Workers World!

As Marxists, we strive not just to honor history, but to make it a — to promote change that puts workers and oppressed peoples first and to recognize their leadership.

Today, Black women and their co-workers are leading the fight for unionization at Amazon’s warehouse in Bessemer, Ala., which 38% of the workforce is African American. If they win, it would be the first union drive in the South.

Women comprise two-thirds of the 20 million workers who are paid $10.10 per hour or less; half are women of color. The gender pay gap still exists, with African American Latina, Indigenous immigrant women earning the lowest salaries. It’s no wonder that they are leading the “Fight for $15 and a union.”

During the pandemic, nurses and other health care workers, especially women, have organized — even gone on strike — to demand adequate staffing, safe working conditions and protective equipment. Teachers and other essential workers have pressed their demands, too.

To honor women workers, the 1910 International Socialist Women’s Conference in Copenhagen declared March 8 to be International Working Women’s Day. On that date in 1908, 15,000 women immigrant garment workers and socialists marched for better working conditions. Congress proclaimed March as Women’s History Month in 1987. People of all genders mark 1WWD worldwide.

We recognize struggle as the only way to improve women’s lives. As the Black Lives Matter movement, started by women and LGBTQ+ activists, which boldly fights racism and police violence. Like the McDonald’s workers who led a walkout to protest sexual abuse, boosted by the eMeToo Movement.

Workers World expresses solidarity with women who are exploited on the job, those subjected to racism, misogyny, bigotry, xenophobia, homophobia and transphobia. We demand the government release all im/migrant women, especially those who are caring for young children and reunify families.

We support gender-nonconforming and trans people, who constantly risk physical attack. If you appreciate WW’s extensive coverage of the struggles of women and gender-oppressed people, join the WW Supporter Program. During the pandemic, articles are posted daily at workers.org, and one issue a month is printed and mailed.

For donations of $75, $100, $500 — or more, members receive a year’s subscription, a regular letter about timely issues and one, two or three free subscriptions (respectively), for friends. Supporters can receive the “What Road to Socialism?” book upon request. (Or read it at workers.org/books)

Write monthly or annual checks to Workers World, Mail them, with your name and address, to Workers World, 147 W. 24th St., 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10011. (Or contribute at workers.org) We appreciate your help in building Workers World.

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

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. 12 • March 25, 2021
Closing date: March 24, 2021
Editors: John Catalinotto, Martha Grevatt, Deirdre Griswold, Monica Moorehead, Betsey Biette, Minnie Bruce Pratt
Web Editors: Alaric, Harvey Markowitz, Janet Mayes
Prisoners Page Editors: Mirrina Crismans, Ted Kelly
Production & Design Editors: Gary Armsby, Mirinda Crismans, Ted Kelly, Sasha Mazumder, Scott Williams
Copyediting and Proofreading: Paddy Colligan, S. Hedgessoke
Contributing Editors: LeiLani Dowell, G. Dunkel, K. Durkin, Sara Flounders, Teresa Gutierrez, Joshua Hanks, Makasi Motema, Gloria Rubac
Mundo Obrero: Teresa Gutierrez, Carlos Vargas

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

Workers World (ISSN-1070-4259) is published monthly by WW Publishers, 147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl., New York, NY 11001. 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 11011. Back issues and individual articles are available on microfilm and/ or photocopy from NA Publishing, Inc. PO 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.

A searchable archive is available via e-mail subscription. Subscription information is at workers.org.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, N.Y.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Workers World, 147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl., New York, NY 10011.
New court filings for Abu-Jamal's appeal

By Betsey Piette

As his 67th birthday nears, and Pennsylvania political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal faces challenging and potentially fatal health crises, his legal case is still slowly winding its way through the arduous appellate court system.

First filed in August 2016 and heard in a courtroom April 24, 2017, his appeal is based on the 2016 U.S. Supreme Court ruling, William's v. Pennsylvania, which found due process was violated when former Pa. Supreme Court Justice Ronald Castille participated in the consideration of Williams' appeal in a capital post conviction case. As Philadelphia District Attorney, Castille had approved decisions to seek the death penalty. The SCOTUS ruling established that a petitioner is entitled to relief when a reasonable observer could conclude that a judge harbored disqualifying bias against the petitioner.

Judith Ritter and Samuel Spital, attorneys for Abu-Jamal, entered their response March 17 to briefs filed Feb. 3 by Philadelphia District Attorney Larry Krasner regarding Abu-Jamal's current Petition for New Conviction and Appeal. Their arguments once again raised the significance of the discovery of previously hidden evidence in the case, while challenging Krasner's position that Abu-Jamal's appeals were “untimely.”

Automatic bias and due process violation

In his long-delayed response to legal briefs filed on Abu-Jamal’s behalf in September 2019, Krasner is still denying Abu-Jamal’s right to prove his innocence. This supposedly progressive DA is arguing again against new PCRA hearings that could uncover evidence of hidden prosecutor fees kept from the defense during Abu-Jamal’s 1982 trial and subsequent appeal.

In December 2018, Pennsylvania Common Pleas Court Judge Leon Tucker awarded Abu-Jamal the right to reopen his appeal, finding discovery of hidden prosecutorial evidence showing, dear bias from Castille against Abu-Jamal and others charged with murdering police officers.

Castille was the Philadelphia DA during Abu-Jamal’s earliest PCRA hearings. He later refused to recuse himself from reconsidering Abu-Jamal’s appeals when they came before the higher court.

Tucker’s decision was split. He concluded that the U.S. Supreme Court 2016 decision in Williams v. Pennsylvania did not fully apply, since Castille, as Philadelphia district attorney, had not played a significant personal role in Abu-Jamal’s case before later denying his appeals while a judge. However, summarizing the Williams ruling, Tucker wrote: “If a judge served as a prosecutor and then the judge, there is a finding of automatic bias and due process violation.”

Defense lawyer Judith Ritter said Tucker recognized the “need for a new appeal untainted by this bias.” (tinyurl.com/ue6ef7em) His decision was a major break in the long legal struggle to free Abu-Jamal.

Hidden evidence ‘discovered’

Within days of Tucker’s decision, and after both sides had rested their cases, Krasner announced that his staff had “discovered” six evidence boxes pertaining to Abu-Jamal’s case hidden in a remote storage area. Tucker granted Abu-Jamal’s attorneys access to review the contents of these files. When they submitted four PCRA appeals challenging police, judicial and prosecutorial misconduct in Abu-Jamal’s earlier hearings, they also submitted a petition requesting a new Common Pleas Court hearing based on the uncovered evidence.

On Jan. 28, 2019, Krasner claimed Tucker’s “opinion has sweeping and, in our view, problematic implications for a large volume of cases, in addition to its automatic bias and due process violation.”

The brief further notes that the Commonwealth filed a motion to remove him from the case. The court ruled on July 9, 2018, he granted them the right to amend his petition to include Castille’s letter. They raise that “an amendment to a pending and timely PCRA petition is not governed by the timeliness provisions of the PCRA.”

Their brief challenged Krasner’s assertions that the evidence found in the six hidden boxes was not significant. It disclosed Abu-Jamal’s 1982 trial counsel’s ineffectiveness in failing to present evidence that at the time of his testimony, the state’s key witness, taxi driver Robert Chobert was driving with a suspended license, and he was on probation for arson.

Without Chobert’s testimony, the Commonwealth only had the testimony of Cynthia White, whose presence on the scene was questioned by witness Yvette Williams, who claimed police pressured White to lie about Mumia. Abu-Jamal’s attorneys have also filed a motion containing new evidence of constitutional violations, including promises by the prosecutor to pay or give leniency to two witnesses and new evidence of racial discrimination in jury selection.

FOP still trying to kill Mumia

Abu-Jamal’s appeal was delayed for nearly a year starting in February 2020 when the state Supreme Court accepted a rare King’s Bench Petition from Maureen Faulkner, widow of police officer Daniel Faulkner and a proxy for the FOP. It claimed Krasner was biased and sought to remove him from the case. The court ruled against her petition in December 2020.

She submitted a new request March 17 with the Pennsylvania Superior Court to intervene, again seeking Krasner’s removal and asking the court to “quash this appeal as untimely” and “for lack of jurisdiction.”

When Abu-Jamal was released from death row in December 2011, Faulkner, the FOP and then DA Seth Williams called for his death in the general population. Their hit job on Mumia must stop! Release him now!

Amusement from Mumia Abu-Jamal

In late February, political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal tested positive for COVID-19 and suffers from severe dermatitis. His supporters from around the globe flooded the phone lines and emails of Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf, with pressure from officials and Philadelphia District Attorney Larry Krasner demanding he be released. The following is a slightly edited March 19 message from Mumia to his supporters.

Dear sisters, brothers, comrades, and friends and family on a M340. Thank you for your love and work. Thank you, Wadiya. Thank you, Pam Africa.

Your support from Philadelphia to France, from points around the globe, literally around the world, have pulled me from prison cell and placed me in a hospital room to be treated for a condition I didn’t know I had.

In the age of pandemic as of January 2021, over 300,000 prisoners have tested positive for COVID-19. Imagine that in a cell, trying to breathe with a weight pressing on your chest. Imagine an elder man or woman, or even a young person, because we are also in an age of mass incarceration, which day-by-day increases its influence upon the already struggling, unsuccessfully, to breathe, to walk, to be. I thank you all for reaching out and I urge you all, let our mission be abolition. I love you all. Thank you again, from the bottom of my heart.

From imprisoned nation, this is Mumia Abu-Jamal.

On July 9, 2018, he granted them the right to amend his petition to include Castille’s letter. They raise that “an amendment to a pending and timely PCRA petition is not governed by the timeliness provisions of the PCRA.”

Their brief challenged Krasner’s assertions that the evidence found in the six hidden boxes was not significant. It disclosed Abu-Jamal’s 1982 trial counsel’s ineffectiveness in failing to present evidence that at the time of his testimony, the state’s key witness, taxi driver Robert Chobert was driving with a suspended license, and he was on probation for arson.

Without Chobert’s testimony, the Commonwealth only had the testimony of Cynthia White, whose presence on the scene was questioned by witness Yvette Williams, who claimed police pressured White to lie about Mumia.

Abu-Jamal’s attorneys have also filed a motion containing new evidence of constitutional violations, including promises by the prosecutor to pay or give leniency to two witnesses and new evidence of racial discrimination in jury selection.

FOP still trying to kill Mumia

Abu-Jamal’s appeal was delayed for nearly a year starting in February 2020 when the state Supreme Court accepted a rare King’s Bench Petition from Maureen Faulkner, widow of police officer Daniel Faulkner and a proxy for the FOP. It claimed Krasner was biased and sought to remove him from the case. The court ruled against her petition in December 2020.

She submitted a new request March 17 with the Pennsylvania Superior Court to intervene, again seeking Krasner’s removal and asking the court to “quash this appeal as untimely” and “for lack of jurisdiction.”

When Abu-Jamal was released from death row in December 2011, Faulkner, the FOP and then DA Seth Williams called for his death in the general population. Their hit job on Mumia must stop! Release him now!

Free Rodney Reed!

Rodrick Reed stands beside Sandra Reed and Pam Perillo (right) at a rally held March 20 for Rodney Reed, an innocent man on Texas death row. The rally was held to build up support for a May 17 evidentiary hearing which could set Rodney Reed on his path to freedom.

His mother, Sandra Reed, told the crowd: “In my mind, in my spirit, I feel that change is in the air. And change is long overdue. In this courthouse there’s inequality, racism, conspiracies, prejudice against the poor. But we, the Reed family, are staying strong.”

A highlight of the rally was the introduction of Pam Perillo, who had spent 39 years in Texas prisons, 19 of them on death row, and had faced two execution dates. Another speaker gave an update on the historical health of political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal. She got a copy of the new Mumia Journal to learn more information. Rodrick Reed, one of Rodney Reed’s six brothers, ended the rally saying, “All we are asking for is a fair trial. Give Rodney a fair trial and Rodney will free himself.”
Linked struggles: Trans liberation, women’s liberation

By Devin Cole

It’s just two and a half months into 2021, and already over 25 blatantly anti-trans bills have been introduced in legislatures. In total, 91 bills are proposed in those states with a history of setting a shape or form, attack trans people—some directly, some indirectly, but the destructive impact is the same. (tinyurl.com/ydwm9f09)

In other legislation affecting women and gender-nonconforming people, 45 states have enacted 256 laws related to pregnancy and birth between January 2021 and November 2020. Of these laws, 88.3% restrict access to abortion services—from funding constraints and restrictions for pharmaceutical vendors to periods for patients and gestational limits. Some would trigger a complete ban on abortions if Roe v. Wade were overturned. South Carolina’s “heartbeat” abortion ban Feb. 18 was the first restrictive state abortion law passed in 2021. (tinyurl.com/y9yae5xv)

Trans people under attack

In Mississippi, bill SB2366, banning all transgender athletes from participation in sports, had its first vote十个月 in March. Tate Reeves March, becoming the first of the new anti-trans bills to become law. Mississippi LGBTQ+ organizers are working to get the heinous law overturned.

If we follow the history of anti-trans legislation over the last five years—much eventually being overruled in court—we can expect SB2366 to be similarly invalidated. The reactionary politicians know how to push these bills through at alarmingly high rates, most of them targeting trans youth.

It is often assumed that the South is the most openly hostile, anti-transgender place in the U.S. But many of the bills are being pushed in the Midwest and elsewhere. Trans people are suffering everywhere in the U.S., and in the Midwest, anti-trans bills—in addition to anti-trans bills—but on a legislative level, trans people are under attack, now more than ever.

In order to normalize gender equal- ity, it is important for men to look up to women and trans and gender-variant people. It is up to all of us, united, to continue to disrupt the rigid confines of anti-transgender rhetoric and legal weaponry.

What action do we take?

Thanks to the waves of women’s liberation, LGBTQ+ liberation and now trans liberation, trans people are more visible now than ever. With the rise of this visibil- ity, it is important for trans people and all other trans and gender-variant people to feel comfortable and thrive. We create a hospitable environment for women to feel comfortable and thrive.

What do we do? Unite! Fight back!

Devin Cole is a transgender Marxist organizer and writer. They are the pres- ident of Strive (Socialist Trans Initiative), a transgender advocacy organization in northwestern Florida, and a member of the Workers World Party—Central Gulf Coast (Florida, Alabama, and Mississippi) branch.

A revolutionary man on solidarity with women

By Olugbile Adale

As many people reading Workers World know, no core newspaper already know, March is Women’s History Month. In a patriar- chal world and society, it is refreshing to see women finally being centered in this way. In order to guarantee full gender equal- ity in a society that has historically shone a light on women and other people affected by misogyny.

As a man, I often ask myself how can I be a better ally to women? Well, obviously I didn’t figure this out alone. It took the mentorship of amazing women comrades to know how to show up in solidarity and advance women’s rights. Here are several things I’ve learned along the way:

Know when to step back and boost the voices of women

In a male-centric world, it is clear that men have dominated conversations and discussions. A 2013 study conducted by Brigham Young University revealed that men will dominate 75 percent of the conversation during meetings. Even in settings where at least 40 percent of leadership positions are mandated to be held by women, men are still taking up space, physically and interpersonally. (tinyurl.com/yh6b0y3)

Even when women try to assert them- selves, they are met with resistance and virulent hostil- ity at worst. Another study by George Washington University showed that during a three-minute conversation, a man will interrupt a woman on average 2.1 times. (tinyurl.com/yf36gxh, May 11, 2014.) Men will ironically perceive women who are having equal speaking time with them as women dominating the conversation!

With this in mind, it is important for men to realize how much space we are taking up in meetings and in conversa- tion. When a woman is speaking, please don’t cut her off. When you realize you are speaking, make sure to cede the floor to a woman.

The most important, when a woman brings up a great point, make sure to give her the proper credit. Men will often take women’s ideas and work and pass those off as their own without citing women. It is important for us as men to make sure women are acknowledged to feel valued.

Uplift LGBTQ+ rights

An important cog in the patriarchy is cisgendered masculinity, where men are often able to realize at young ages that they are trans and can get the support they need. But with visibility have come wave after wave of violence on cisgendered trans new crop of anti-trans bills are the eight trans people who have been murdered already in 2021. Meanwhile, right-wingers push the ly ing idea that trans youth will somehow harm girls, while denying the fact that trans children and youth are being bul- lied, threatened and harmed because they do not fit masculinist norms.

Trans liberation and women’s liberation

Trans and gender-variant people turn biological determination on its head and drive another nail deeper into the coffin of patriarchy. The notion of biological determinism—a reactionary lie

The notion of biological determinism has been around in Western philosophy and science for centuries. But as people grow up into men and women, it is the unquestioned premise that persists—that the “superiority” of boys. This is the unquestioned premise that persists throughout the lives of boys and girls and as they grow up into men and women.

Biological determinism has been used to justify enslavement of African peoples, with such outragedly racist false sciences as “phrenology,” which claimed that Black people were intellectually inferior. When women mobilized for the right to vote, this false idea was once again used to claim that women were intellectually inferior to men and thus unable to make political deci- sions for themselves.

Marxist dialectical science and history informs us that biological determinism is nonsensical, racist and sexist. But this reac- tionary idea now underlies the anti-trans- gender views of the reactionary camp.

The current anti-trans bills, put forward mainly by Republican legislators, rely on the discredited idea of biological deter- minism. In Florida, to justify anti-trans bills that target trans youth, reactionaries have put forward the “biological science” and that “a boy is a boy and a girl is a girl based on biology.” This argument using false science is, of course, coming from a movement that denies both climate change and the science used to contain the current COVID pandemic.

Meanwhile, right-wingers push the lying idea that trans youth will somehow harm girls, while denying the fact that trans children and youth are being boul- lied, threatened and harmed because they do not fit masculinist norms.

What action do we take?

Thanks to the waves of women’s liberation, LGBTQ+ liberation and now trans liberation, trans and gender-variant people are under attack, now more than ever. The notion of biological determinism is used across the board to oppress. With the rise of trans visibility have come waves after waves of violence on trans people, oppression to crush class patriarchy and capitalism-imperialism once and for all.

What do we do? Unite! Fight back!

Devin Cole is a transgender Marxist organizer and writer. They are the pres- ident of Strive (Socialist Trans Initiative), a transgender advocacy organization in northwestern Florida, and a member of the Workers World Party—Central Gulf Coast (Florida, Alabama, and Mississippi) branch.

Continued on page 5
**Courageous women of the Paris Commune**

By Martha Grewatt

This month marks the 150th anniversary of the fall of the Paris Commune.

The Commune was established during a bloody intercapitalist conflict called the Franco-Prussian War. In 1871, Parisian workers were in revolt against France’s Government of National Defense, seated in Versailles, which planned to surrender part of France and pay a fine to invading Prussian troops.

On March 18, 1871, women seized cannons belonging to the popular militia known as the National Guard. The Guard refused to fire on the women and rebuffed attempts by Versailles troops to drag away its cannons.

With the National Guard in control of Paris, plans were made to elect a new, workers’ government — the first of its kind. But the population was preoccupied with the military defense of the city.

From day one, women took on a range of tasks, some traditional such as childcare, and others entirely new. They sewed bandages — and some women helped pile them on the barricades. Women tended to the wounded as ambulance nurses. Many nurses spoke “Lemel” — a language invented to avoid the Versailles government’s troops.

There were multiple women’s organizations, such as the Women’s Vigilance Committees and the Union of Women for the Defense of Paris. The latter was affiliated with the First International, led by Karl Marx in London. There were numerous social clubs where political discussion took place. Many were held in churches that had been taken over. Some clubs were specifically for women.

Public education was restructured, independent of the Catholic Church. Women could vote and serve on school boards for both girls and boys.

Workshops were set up by the women’s organization, producing munitions for women making products needed on the battlefield, including cartridges and sandbags. Women attendants staffed the military cantonments, keeping the Commune’s soldiers fed.

Women helped enforce the Commune’s requirement that all men aged 16 to 40 enlist in the National Guard — they hunted down and exposed “draf dodgers.” They publicly denounced police officers and their spouses as agents of Versailles.

In 1871, women continued fighting and advancing a vision of a whole new society. Their dream was put down in a campaign of terror that ended May 28 with some 20,000 Communards killed, some 10,000 had graves, and over 43,000 arrested. Passersby and children were among those slaughtered.

**Incendiary women**

The French word “petroleuse” was coined by the bourgeoisie to defame women Communards. Not only were they attacked for abandoning their “feminine duties” as wives and mothers, they were accused of setting fires that raged across Paris in the Commune’s last days. While the charges of arson were by and large false, the women leaders who emerged during this 72-day struggle had an incendiary passion for equality and justice.

Continued from page 4

**Chinese workers abused and superexploited in U.S.**

By Jim McMahan

The six Asian spa workers murdered in Atlanta March 16 were low-wage workers. They were not respected by capitalism. Their deaths came on a surge of anti-Asian violence.

Anybody with an honest view of the U.S. cannot believe that Korea and Vietnam is familiar with anti-Asian racism. The U.S. stands guilty before the world in the deaths of four million people, caused by these two imperialist wars against Korea and Vietnam.

U.S. imperialism has a history of domestic terrorism stemming from the exploitation and forced migration of Asian labor starting in the 1840s. Anti-Asian violence “is rooted in a long history of anti-Asian sentiment that recruited Asian labor, but denied them the rights of citizenship, due process, and protection of their lives and policies,” wrote Linh Thy Nguyen, an Asian labor, but denied them the rights to their paid jobs. With both men and women have to undertake in addition to domestic labor, work outside the home and women working inside the home is outpaced, given the current development of technology. Therefore, domestic labor is what women are paid for.

In addition to domestic labor, women are often called upon to provide the brunt of emotional labor. The average man tends to bond with his male friends over emotional matters. Not willing to express their emotions with other men, men will often turn to women for emotional healing. For instance, without an emotional safety net outside of marriage, men are often quicker to remarry after divorcing their women.

In order to lift this sort of responsibility from women, men need to create spaces and cultivate relationships that are conducive to the expression of their emotions. In addition to freeing women of this labor, men will also benefit psychologically and emotionally. There is the possibility of a leashing of violence since men will have a healthy outlet to express their feelings.

The ongoing COVID pandemic has shown an even greater light on the work women have to undertake in addition to their paid jobs. With both men and women working from home, women still find themselves doing the brunt of the labor. In order for women to be able to realize all of their goals and aspirations, changes in gender relations need to start from the home. Men need to shoulder more domestic responsibilities when it comes to household work, childcare and other related activities.

Historical materialism shows that the development of man and women working outside the home is outpaced, given the current development of technology. Therefore, domestic labor is what women are paid for.

In addition to domestic labor, women are often called upon to provide the brunt of emotional labor. The average man tends to bond with his male friends over shared interests, whereas the average woman bonds with other women through emotional matters. Not willing to express their emotions with other men, women will turn to women for emotional healing. For instance, without an emotional safety net outside of marriage, men are often quicker to remarry after divorcing their women.

The first big wave of Chinese immigration to the U.S. took place during the California Gold Rush of the late 1840s. After the violent annexation of Mexico, the bosses often used mob rule in California and throughout the West; they pitted white workers against Asian workers, making them the scapegoats for the failures of labor. In 1871, the small Chinese community was under a murderous race mob. Nineteen Chinese people were lynched — and no one was held accountable.

**For over a century and a half**

Chinese workers abused and superexploited in U.S.

The most famous of many standout leaders was Louise Michel, who was known for shooting a rifle and political oratory. She played many roles as chair of the Women’s Vigilance Committee, including mobilizing women to care for the wounded. She was a leader of the women who belonged to the bumps, sex workers — who lacked regular work or needed to supplement meager wages — to serve as nurses. Some men opposed their presence.

As arrests were rounded up by the thousands, Michel escaped capture, but she turned herself in upon learning that her mother was arrested in her place.

Other women Commune leaders included Beatrix Excoffon, André Léo, Elisabeth Dmitrieff (the 20th president of the Union of the Women), Nathalie Lemel, Elizabeth Jacaud and Sophie Poirier.

Louise Michel, who was on trial and received harsh sentences, including banishment to a fortress, a life sentence of hard labor, years of imprisonment, or exile to various French penal colonies, including the French-colonized Guiana in South America and Konaky, which the French called New Caledonia, in the Pacific.

Many of these exceptional women were unrepentant at trial. Michel famously told the court: “I am yours. Take my life if you want it.” She was banished to a fortress in Konaky. Lemel unapologetically testified that “I drew up a manifesto with four friends. We want it.” She was banished to a fortress, a life sentence of imprisonment in Madagascar and Vietnam.

Louise Michel supported an 1871 revolt of the Paris Women’s Vigilance Committee. Michel wrote. Her solidarity is still remembered in Konaky, where an elementary school is named in her honor. (Nic Micallef)

In 1880 a universal pardon was issued for all those sentenced in connection with the Paris Commune. After returning to Paris, and to the amazement of a conference calling for amnesty for the Algerian rebels. She condemned French imperialist aggression in Madagascar and New Caledonia.

“there was no way that I could have stopped myself from throwing my life to the revolution,” Michel wrote in her memoir.

The spirit of 1871 lives on!"
MARCH '20 SOLIDARITY WITH BAMAazon UNION!

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

The historic union election sought by majority-Black workers at a Bessemer, Ala., Amazon warehouse ends March 29. All indications are that the vote will be close, and the outcome could take weeks to determine.

A victory would not only be one of the biggest labor victories in the U.S. in decades — the BHMs facility would be the first U.S. union organized within Amazon.

Whatever the outcome, the struggle began when the BAmazon workers — as they dubbed themselves — has already changed the trajectory of worker organizing against the behemoth corporation, the U.S. and internationally.

Some Amazon workers in Europe have already unionized. A 24-hour strike was called March 22 of an estimated 30,000-40,000 workers across Italy over brutally increased workloads and work shifts because of the pandemic e-commerce surge. This is the first such strike in Italy to involve the whole Amazon supply chain, including hubs and delivery drivers. (tinyurl.com/vz4ngpq)

Sara Nelson, international president of the 50,000 member Association of Flight Attendants-CWA, said of the Alabama workers: “They have turned the whole world’s eyes to Bessemer, Alabama. They’re kicking off a new era of organizing. Whether they get the vote in this election to win or not, they’ve already won. Because they’ve sown into the consciousness of working people everywhere, who feel like they don’t have any respect where they live and work and aren’t happy where they are, that they don’t have to take it. They actually have a way to fight back!” (tinyurl.com/vz4ngpq) Nelson is also a member of the national AFL-CIO Executive Council.

Amazon’s union busting has been relentless at all its facilities and subsidiaries, including the Whole Foods Markets. Organizing against the Alabama workers, the company is reportedly spending $10,000 a day on anti-union consultants and attorneys with the notorious Morgan Lewis law firm.

According to a 2021 Brookings Institute analysis, Amazon’s profits increased by $84.4 billion since 2019, and Amazon’s founder and CEO Jeff Bezos’ net worth increased by nearly $68 billion. Amazon could have quintupled 2019 profits. (tinyurl.com/hrdm6fdk)

The Bessemer workers are seeking union representation by the Retail, Warehouse and Department Store Union (RWDSU), which has organized poultry plants throughout the South. Workers say the galling conditions in Amazon warehouses are most similar to those faced in meat processing plants: fast repetitive heavy assembly-line work, standing in place for long periods with almost no break, frequent injuries and no respect, especially for workers who are Black, Latinx and women or gender-nonconforming. Almost half of the workers at the Bessemer warehouse are women.

Since voting started Feb. 8, support for the Bessemer workers has accelerated. Their campaign, merging civil rights and workers’ issues, has received a flood of endorsements from groups ranging from the National Football League Players Association, Major League Baseball Players Association, the World Federation of Trade Unions and International Maritime, even to a reluctant President Joe Biden who said people at least should have a fair chance to unionize. (See “Workers are not robots! Racism, high-tech speedup and the Amazon union drive,” March 8, and other Workers World coverage.)

The Southern Workers Assembly called for the first national day of solidarity Feb. 20, which was supported by the Support Alabama Amazon Union campaign. SAAU followed that up with call-in days and tweet-storms targeting Amazon executives and Morgan Lewis union busters, then joined the U.N. Day Against Racism organizers and dozens of labor, progressive and community organizations for a March 20 Day of Solidarity. Over 50 U.S. cities and towns had rallies, pickets and marches in support of the Alabama workers, to say: “Solidarity with BAMAzon Union! No to Amazon union busting and racism!”

In Boston, a hundred-plus young socialists, trade unionists, Amazon workers, antiracist and housing justice activists, students, prison abolitionists, grocery and day-care workers demonstrated inside the Whole Foods Market in the gentrified South End. Workers cheered the protesters and signs saying, “Black Workers Matter! Union, yes!” Speakers included leaders of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 103, the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU), UNITE HERE Local 26, United Steelworkers Local 8751, Teamsters Local 25, the Internationalist Workers Federation and Socialist Alternative.

Hundreds of activists, many from unions, gathered in front of Whole Foods Market in Harlem, N.Y., in solidarity with the Bessemer Amazon workers. The rally was sponsored by the CBU, the December 12 Movement and Workers Assembly Against Racism (WAAR). Bessemer support for the Alabama union drive, people demanded freedom for political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal and an end to anti-Black and anti-Asian violence.

Over 50 people rallied and picketed in front of the downtown Whole Foods in Newark, N.J. Organizations included People’s Organization for Progress, Teaneck Peace Vigil, N.J. Industrial Union Council, Veterans for Peace and the RWDSU organizing with Bessemer workers.

Rallying first in front of Philadelphia’s Morgan Lewis law firm — hired to union-bust Amazon workers — over 125 people marched to an ending rally at Whole Foods. There, a child smashed open a Jeff Bezos piñata, releasing dozens of chocolate gold coins — the wealth produced by workers liberated from the centibillionaire Amazon owner!
Continued from page 6

Atlanta’s solidarity action was designed for visibility—across from a major shopping center on three- and four-lane Camp Creek Road. The Amazon Fulfillment Center only a mile away meant lots of Amazon and Prime delivery trucks came by, many honking support—along with Teamster drivers, bus drivers and people in cars. The multinational crowd of students, longtime activists, nurses, retired workers and current union members made a dynamic video sending Georgia support to the Alabama workers. Black workers from Amalgamated Transit Union, the Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), Communication Workers (CWA) and CBU spoke passionately about the need to “Organize the South!” Working-class people and retired union members from Pensacola, Fla., to Foley, Ala., showed up for a solidarity rally outside the local Amazon warehouse, where some driving by, waved and some blew their horns. Houston activists leafleted shoppers in a huge Whole Foods parking lot, using a bullhorn to educate about supporting the Alabama workers. Police were at the store before protesters even arrived—an indication of Amazon’s union-busting ways. Store security and store management harassed those speaking to shoppers and threatened arrest if their cars weren’t moved off “company property.” Shoppers were supportive, many eagerly taking fliers and agreeing that workers in the South need more unions.

A lively solidarity rally was held at the Amazon Spheres/Amazon International headquarters in Seattle. Mayor Jenny Durkan tried to get the demonstration canceled on the pretext Amazon was holding a COVID-19 vaccination nearby—at a location not even visible from the demonstration. The event went on as planned; Durkan was exposed as hostile to labor, and a wide range of speakers called for steadfast support for the Alabama workers. Representatives were there from the International Longshore Workers Union (ILWU) Local 19, Freedom Socialist Party, Organized Workers for Labor Solidarity, Party for Socialism and Liberation and Workers World Party. Leith Kahl of the ILWU told the rally, “Obviously Jeff Bezos didn’t want us here today—but we’re here, and we’ll be back!”

Workers, unionists and supporters rallied at a Whole Foods Market in Portland, Ore., chanting “Amazon and Whole Food workers need a union now!” After Jeff Bezos acquired the food chain in 2018, rest breaks were cut and lunch breaks no longer paid for. Adam Nee, a 13-year worker at Whole Foods, spoke on his efforts to unionize there. Brian Denning, fired by Amazon for union organizing, told of dehumanizing conditions he faced at a Portland Amazon Fulfillment Center. Andy Terhune and Emmanuel Martinez of Workers World helped organize the event as part of the Support Amazon Workers coalition.

There were two morning pickets in the San Francisco Bay Area, one in Brisbane at the Amazon Fresh plant and another at a recently purchased site (originally zoned for housing) for a future Amazon distribution center. Then an afternoon car caravan of over 60 cars and 20 bicyclers in Oakland brought together both sides of the Bay Area. The caravan blocked a three-lane street in front of Whole Foods for 10 minutes with a loud solidarity rally and ended at Snow Park with over 100 people attending that rally. Sponsored by Support Alabama Amazon Workers-Bay Area, the three events were organized by a coalition including People’s Strike-Bay Area, East Bay Democratic Socialists of America, IBEW, many rank-and-file union members, teachers’ unions, the United Front Committee for a Mass Labor Party and Workers World Party.

For more information, please visit supportamazonworkers.org.

Contributing to this article were Devin Cole, Judy Greenspan, Michael Kramer, Ryan Lockwood, Jim McManus, Diane Mathiowetz, Monica Moorehead, Lyn Neeley, Joe Piette, Gloria Rubac, Susan Schneir and Maureen Skehan.
Bessemer workers fighting ‘capitalist ron of their happiness and health’

The following remarks were given at a March 20 Harlem, N.Y., rally in solidarity with Amazon workers who are organizing a union in Bessemer, Ala.

My name is Clarissa Hernandez and I’m with the Workers Assembly Against Racism — WAAH!

Everyone should know that we owe most major progress we have made in this country to Black revolutionaries.

This continues to be true today, as we can see in Bessemer, Alabama, in one of the largest Amazon warehouses in the U.S., which is primarily staffed by Black workers (a large percentage of them women).

The United States went ahead and as the movement grew, they fought and won victories in month back in 1987 and here we see centers all over the country because capitalism sees us as the capital and this mode of oppression is happy to sacrifice people for the sake of upholding itself.

The workers in Bessemer, Alabama, are fighting against the capitalist ron of their happiness and health and paving the way for other workers to fight back against this injustice because we all deserve to be happy and healthy.

Amazon would rather pay a union-busting law firm $10,000 a day than pay workers what they deserve. Isn’t it sick?

They have the money, they’re just choos ing to spend it on themselves and their honors system. Humans are not capital, we’re not — we are so much more than our labor contri butions. Under this sick capitalist system, however, we can use our labor to make demands.

We can take note of the work the women in Bessemer are doing, as a case of missing power, $10,000 a day unless you’re terrified — and trust me, Bosses, CEOs, the gatekeepers of wealth and security should be terrified because this labor movement is so powerful and this is only the beginning.

For over a century and a half
Chinese workers abused and superexploited in U.S.

Continued from page 5

Chinese labor.” And Chinese workers went on to build other railroads throughout the West.

Chinese built the railroads

About two-thirds of the workers who built the Western railroads, the Northern Pacific railroad, running from Lake Superior to Tacoma, Wash., were Chinese. And there were Chinese people working as miners and in other difficult occupations.

In the winter of 1885-86, 350 Chinese were expelled from the town of Butte, Mont. It wasn’t until 2005 that this event was given recognition, and a memorial was placed on a five-acre site, renamed the Chinese Massacre Cove. The victims were honored on a plaque in three languages: Chinese, English and Nez Perce.

In 1969, on the centennial of completion of the first U.S. transcontinental railroad in Utah, the Chinese delegation was snubbed, ignored and upstaged by John Wayne.

But in 2019, on the 150th anniversary of the event at Promontory Summit, thousands of descendants of the Chinese workers came; they had been organizing for years to set the record straight. The Chinese workers were finally incorporated into the honor of the “golden spike” ceremony.

The event marked the culmination of a lifelong effort to recover the history of their families and communities. Uniting the country, the building of the transcontinental railway had been one of the greatest feats of human labor in the modern capitalist era.

Chinese railroad workers in 1869.

Essential workers demand compensation and safety

Continued from page 5

Out of the 5,000 union members of Service Employees Union (SEIU) Local 87 who are employed as janitors in San Francisco office buildings, 3,000 have been laid off since the pandemic, and at least 36 have died from COVID.

The remaining workers continue to distinguish offices and scrub bathrooms in buildings where major companies like Google and Amazon have space. Most of the janitors are employed by maintenance contracting companies like ABM, ABD, Cleanama and Genesis.

Union organizers say workers are not provided protective equipment. One worker describes receiving a new mask every 1-2 weeks. Workers describe having their hours cut, making it difficult to provide for their families.

Union demands include rehiring laid-off employees without a loss of seniority, a wage increase to compen rate for working in a hazardous environment and an increase in paid sick days. Janitors want the cleaning companies to follow the example of San Francisco drug stores and grocery stores. Workers there, including janitorial staff, are represented by Food and Commercial Workers Union (UFCW) and won a $3 per hour wage hike increasing to $4.

Nurses at St. Vincent’s, a for-profit hospital in Worcester, Mass., owned by the Tenet corporation, voted to strike following two years of stalled contract negotiations. The 800 nurses are represented by the Massachusetts Nurses Association. Their main grievance revolves around nurse-to-patient staffing ratios, Wash. in what were known as the anti-Chinese riots. The Knights of Labor were successful in a race against capital’s racism — against the interests of labor.

Chinese communities were harassed, attacked or expelled in 34 towns in California.

The worst anti-Chinese repression of all was almost completely covered up.

In May 1887, 34 Chinese miners were massacred in Hella Canyon, along the Snake River running between Oregon and Idaho. These gold miners were shot by a gang of racist thieves, who then mutilated their bodies and threw them in the Snake River. The gang stole all the miners’ gold. While a few of the racist gang were captured, their prosecution wasn’t pursued. Most of them escaped to Canada.

In the winter of 1885-86, 350 Chinese were expelled from the town of Butte, Mont.

Chinese workers abused and superexploited in U.S.

Two recent documentaries chronicle how women struggled and won against misogyny and patriarchal employers.

“9 to 5: A Story of Movement” tells the story of women office workers in the 1970s who drastically changed how the business world functions. The organization “9to5” inspired Jane Fonda to make the Hollywood movie that bears its name. (9to5.org/about-9to5/)

In 1972, there were limited work opportunities for women. Secretaries were regarded as subordinates to male bosses and undervalued for the work they did. A group of women office workers in Boston, led by a woman who now runs a campaign to legislate safe nurse-to-patient ratios at the national level.

Women’s labor history in two documentary films

Two recent documentaries chronicle how women struggled and won against misogyny and patriarchal employers. $15 to Fight.

If NFL cheerleaders conjure thoughts of vapid women in silly costumes on the sidelines of football stadiums each autumn Sunday afternoon, the documentary: “A Woman’s Work: The NFL’s Cheerleader Problem,” will be an eye opener. The film focuses on two former NFL cheerleaders who took their class action lawsuits for pay equity.

María Pinzone was a cheerleader for the Buffalo Bills. Working 20 hours a week, her yearly salary was only $10,500. She describes an atmosphere where grueling practice sessions included supervisors’ body shaming tactics. Pinzone and four other Bills cheerleaders filed a class action suit in 2014 claiming wage theft and unsafe work conditions.

Lacy Thibodeaux-Fields became a cheerleader for the Los Angeles Raiders and describes the mandatory team promotional events, where cheerleaders were considered “volunteers” and weren’t even reimbursed for travel or hotel. Her class action suit won a victory, increasing wages to $8 an hour, triple the previous rate.

Filmmaker Yu Gu is an Asian immigrant woman who moved to California from China and became fascinated with the college football game, the document “A Woman’s Work: The NFL’s Cheerleader Problem,” a window into a not too distant past, minus the glamor and star power of the multibillion dollar NFL patriarchy. Her documentary focuses on two former NFL cheerleaders who took their class action lawsuits for pay equity.

María Pinzone was a cheerleader for the Buffalo Bills. Working 20 hours a week, her yearly salary was only $10,500. She describes an atmosphere where grueling practice sessions included supervisors’ body shaming tactics. Pinzone and four other Bills cheerleaders filed a class action suit in 2014 claiming wage theft and unsafe work conditions.

Lacy Thibodeaux-Fields became a cheerleader for the Los Angeles Raiders and describes the mandatory team promotional events, where cheerleaders were considered “volunteers” and weren’t even reimbursed for travel or hotel. Her class action suit won a victory, increasing wages to $8 an hour, triple the previous rate.

Filmmaker Yu Gu is an Asian immigrant woman who moved to California from China and became fascinated with the college football game, the document “A Woman’s Work: The NFL’s Cheerleader Problem,” a window into a not too distant past, minus the glamor and star power of the multibillion dollar NFL patriarchy. Her documentary focuses on two former NFL cheerleaders who took their class action lawsuits for pay equity.

María Pinzone was a cheerleader for the Buffalo Bills. Working 20 hours a week, her yearly salary was only $10,500. She describes an atmosphere where grueling practice sessions included supervisors’ body shaming tactics. Pinzone and four other Bills cheerleaders filed a class action suit in 2014 claiming wage theft and unsafe work conditions.

Lacy Thibodeaux-Fields became a cheerleader for the Los Angeles Raiders and describes the mandatory team promotional events, where cheerleaders were considered “volunteers” and weren’t even reimbursed for travel or hotel. Her class action suit won a victory, increasing wages to $8 an hour, triple the previous rate.

Filmmaker Yu Gu is an Asian immigrant woman who moved to California from China and became fascinated with the college football game, the document “A Woman’s Work: The NFL’s Cheerleader Problem,” a window into a not too distant past, minus the glamor and star power of the multibillion dollar NFL patriarchy. Her documentary focuses on two former NFL cheerleaders who took their class action lawsuits for pay equity.

María Pinzone was a cheerleader for the Buffalo Bills. Working 20 hours a week, her yearly salary was only $10,500. She describes an atmosphere where grueling practice sessions included supervisors’ body shaming tactics. Pinzone and four other Bills cheerleaders filed a class action suit in 2014 claiming wage theft and unsafe work conditions.

Lacy Thibodeaux-Fields became a cheerleader for the Los Angeles Raiders and describes the mandatory team promotional events, where cheerleaders were considered “volunteers” and weren’t even reimbursed for travel or hotel. Her class action suit won a victory, increasing wages to $8 an hour, triple the previous rate.

Filmmaker Yu Gu is an Asian immigrant woman who moved to California from China and became fascinated with the college football game, the document “A Woman’s Work: The NFL’s Cheerleader Problem,” a window into a not too distant past, minus the glamor and star power of the multibillion dollar NFL patriarchy. Her documentary focuses on two former NFL cheerleaders who took their class action lawsuits for pay equity.

María Pinzone was a cheerleader for the Buffalo Bills. Working 20 hours a week, her yearly salary was only $10,500. She describes an atmosphere where grueling practice sessions included supervisors’ body shaming tactics. Pinzone and four other Bills cheerleaders filed a class action suit in 2014 claiming wage theft and unsafe work conditions.

Lacy Thibodeaux-Fields became a cheerleader for the Los Angeles Raiders and describes the mandatory team promotional events, where cheerleaders were considered “volunteers” and weren’t even reimbursed for travel or hotel. Her class action suit won a victory, increasing wages to $8 an hour, triple the previous rate.

Filmmaker Yu Gu is an Asian immigrant woman who moved to California from China and became fascinated with the college football game, the document “A Woman’s Work: The NFL’s Cheerleader Problem,” a window into a not too distant past, minus the glamor and star power of the multibillion dollar NFL patriarchy. Her documentary focuses on two former NFL cheerleaders who took their class action lawsuits for pay equity.
Country in crisis

U.S. props up unpopular Haitian regime

By G. Dunkel

March 21 — In the past week, one group of Haitian cops attacked at least two precincts, released prisoners who they said were being held illegally, set fires, sacked a car dealership and demanded the gov- ernment retrieve the bodies of cops who died in a March 12 ambush.

In the past year, Haitians have experi- enced a six-hour gun battle between the reconstituted Haitian army and some police protesters and armed conflicts between gangs from different neighbor- hoods and self-defense militias. Concurrent with these small-scale armed conflicts have been extremely violent gang wars and even more drawn hundreds of thousands of people to the streets throughout Haiti, demanding that President Jovenel Moïse step down.

While imperialist politicians and media often blame Haiti’s poverty and turmoil on Haitians, many Haitian progressives point to the U.S. and NATO involvement in Haiti and suppressing the world’s only coun- try founded by a successful slave revolt, which was victorious in 1804. At the time, the rulers of the slave owners’ rule.

For over two centuries, as the March 17 issue of Haiti-Liberté pointed out, the U.S. has engaged in “embargoes, sabo- tage, bullying, aggression, destabilization campaigns, coups d’état, military occupa- tions and theft of territory and treasure” against Haiti. It is illuminating to think of this cen- turies-old U.S. policy as an underhanded, implicit imperialist war against Haiti, the world’s first Black republic, for its peo- ple’s “original sin” of smashing the French slave owners’ rule.

The March 12 ambush occurred when a cop patrol in two armored personnel carriers entered the poor Village de Dieu (Village of God) neighborhood in Port-au-Prince, Haiti’s capital. The cops planned to raid the headquarters of the Five Second Party. After a gunfight the patrol entered a trap, ambush- ers destroyed one APC and seized the other along with body armor, radios and weap- ons. Five cops were killed, eight injured. The cop raid was a response to the Five Second Party shooting up the headquar- ters of Haiti’s biggest and strongest gang, the Liberation Militia, in downtown Port-au-Prince a few days earlier.

Gangs, including some the government has allowed to flourish because they dis- courage political activity, have blossomed in Haiti’s poorest neighborhoods. Some gang members admitted to the crime of kidnap- ping, doubling the number of kidnappings in 2020. Some Haitian banks have been involved in these kidnapping projects. The gangs themselves grew out of self-defense militias set up in the 1980s after the fall of Duvalier father-son dictatorship, which ruled Haiti from 1957 to 1986. The militias protected the bour- bony from remnants of the Tonton Macoute, the Duvaliers’ paramilitary force. Washington backed the Duvaliers and their mercenaries to try to fly the son, Jean-Claude Duvalier, safely to exile in France.

Poverty pervasive

Poverty in Haiti is pervasive. Haiti’s minimum wage for the highest paid textile workers is about $8.50 for an 8-hour day. While exact figures are hard to come by, most Haitians — 50% to 80% — survive on less than $3 a day. Unemployment overall is estimated at 14%, but many “officially employed” workers’ jobs are far from steady.

Family members abroad in the U.S. and other countries transmit $3 billion a year in remittances back to Haiti through a finan- cial system the U.S. government completely controls. If the U.S. government considered it necessary, it could shut down this flow of money in a few hours.

For the past four decades, Haitian pres- idents have been either picked, endorsed or deposed by the U.S. secretary of state. Hundreds of thousands of Haitians have taken to the streets this year to demand that President Moïse or deposed. His constitutional term of office has expired.

Moïse refuses.

Washington’s reaction was to do noth- ing more than urge Moïse to hold parlia- mentary elections, which is tacit support for Moïse.

The Haitian bourgeoisie — the urban middle class — appears to be split on how to respond to this crisis, between a faction that wants to smash the gangs and one that would like to see Moïse leave.

It is going to be hard to smash the gangs, since ultimately their existence reflects the vast economic inequality in Haiti between the wealthy and the poor. Moïse is not going to leave before the U.S. tells him to.

One thing is certain: Chaos in Haiti is going to grow.

10 years ago

Why U.S./NATO forces demolished Libya

By Manilo Dinucci

Ten years ago, on March 19, 2011, U.S./NATO forces began the air and sea bombardment of Libya. The war was directed by the United States, first through its Africa Command, then through NATO under U.S. command.

In seven months, the U.S./NATO air force carried out 30,000 sorties, 10,000 of which were bombing attacks, unleashing over 40,000 bombs and missiles. In July, a minority of the Parliament (its Democratic Party in the lead), participated in the war using seven air bases (Trapani, Gioia del Colle, Sigonella, Decimomannu, Aviano, Amendola and Pantelleria), with the Italian Parliament also has responsibility for this.

The Libyan state, which possessed the largest oil reserves in Africa plus other natural gas, had limited profit margins for foreign companies. Thanks to energy exports, the Libyan balance of trade showed a positive margin of $27 billion per year. With these resources, the Libyan state had invested around $30 billion abroad.

Libyan investments were crucial

Libyan investments in Africa were crucial to the coalition’s UN plan’s to create three financial bodies: the African Monetary Fund, with headquarters in Yaoundé, Cameroon; the African Central Bank, with headquarters in Abjoa, Nigeria; and the African Investment Bank, with headquarters in Tripoli, Libya. These bodies would have served to create a common market and a single African currency. That was the NATO’s coincidence that the NATO war to demolish the Libyan state began less than two months after the African Union summit of Jan. 31, 2011. This summit gave the go-ahead for the creation of the African Monetary Fund by the end of 2011.

This is proven by emails of the Obama administration’s Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, later brought to light by WikiLeaks. The United States and France wanted to elim- inate [Libyan leader Muammar] Gaddafi before he could use Libya’s gold reserves to create a pan-African currency as an alternative to the dollar and the CFA franc (the cur- rency imposed by former colonial powers). On Feb. 26, 2011, WikiLeaks published cables from the U.S. ambassador to Libya.

The proof: Before the bombers went into action in 2011, the banks went into action and seized the $150 billion invested abroad by the Libyan government, most of which disappeared. Goldman Sachs, the most power- ful U.S. investment bank, of which Mario Draghi has been vice-president, was prominent in the great robbery.

Today in Libya power groups and the transnational corporations hoard the revenues from energy exports, in a chaotic situation with regular armed clashes. The standard of living of the majority of the population has plummeted.

African immigrants, whom the armed bodies running Libya charged with being “Gaddafi’s mercenaries,” have even been imprisoned in zoo cages, tortured and mur- dered. Libya remains in the hands of bandits.

It has become the main route into a chaotic immi- gration flow towards Europe that has caused many more victims than the war of 2011.

The city of Misurata, near the city of Misurata, Libya, the NATO-backed reactionary Islamic militias of Misurata (those who murdered Gaddafi in October 2011) have carried out a real ethnic cleansing, forcing almost 50,000 Libyan citizens to flee and refusing to allow them to return.

The Italian Parliament also has responsibility for this. On March 28, 2011, it committed the government to “take any initiative” (i.e., Libya’s entry into war against Libya) to “ensure the protection of the people of the region.”

Dinucci’s article was first published in the Italian web daily newspaper Il Manifesto on March 16. Translation into English by John Catalinotto.

Statement on the 10th anniversary of the U.S. war on Syria

The following slightly edited statement was released on March 12, 2021 by the Syria Solidarity Movement — including the International Action Center — on the 10th anniversary of the continuing U.S. war on Syria. Workers World Party has published the Syria Solidarity delegations to Syria during this 10-year period. Contact information: syriasolidaritymovement.org; facebook.com/SyriaSolidarityMovementIntl and solidarity@syriasolidaritymovement.org.

Since March 2011, Washington has led a coalition of NATO countries, Arab monarchies and Israel, in a proxy regime-change war, using terrorist mercenaries as foot soldiers. Today, U.S. troops illegally occupy nearly a third of Syria, containing much of Syria’s oil and gas and some of its best farmland.

In addition, the U.S. maintains a proxy army of Kurdish fighters in Syria’s north that seeks to dismember the country by carving out a Kurdish state where the popula- tion was overwhelmingly Arab prior to U.S. intervention.

The February 25, 2021, U.S. bombing of Syria signaled the Biden government’s intention to continue the U.S. war of attrition on Syria.

Syria has defiantly resisted for ten years, in the face of illegal U.S. attempts to dismember their sovereign state. These included false flag gas attacks by terrorists to blame the Syrian government — and hence with the help of OPCW (Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons U.N.), attempts by the International Criminal Court to
The blame game
Of the two big-business political parties in the United States, the Democrats for more than half a century have been seen as the more “liberal,” the Republicans as more reactionary. But when it comes to their attitude toward people threatened by armed violence, the two are the same.

The Biden administration is extending what Trump did to whip up anti-China sentiment, not with vile hate speech but with an anti-China foreign policy. Biden has now imposed sanctions on 24 Chinese officials, accusing them of “coercion and aggression” in relation to Hong Kong, which Washington seems to regard as part of its own territory.

This anti-China foreign policy— $721.5 billion— was the largest portion of the discretionary U.S. federal budget. In 2019, the U.S. spent $344 million on nuclear weapons. Over the next three decades, nuclear weapons modernization plans could cost up to $2 trillion.

According to the U.S. Department of Defense, the Pentagon, the State Department, the CIA and other government agencies, in the 21st century the United States means to be the chief executive officer of world imperialism.

They are the targets of not only hateful individual acts but systematic racism embedded in the fabric of society. It is time to stop using words that cover up the facts, such as “national security.”

Biden’s $1.9 billion American Rescue Plan, signed March 11, was described by House Minority Leader Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) as “too costly, too corrupt and too liberal.” He called it “a laundry list of left-wing priorities that predate the pandemic and do not meet the needs of American families” during a floor speech March 10. He is partially right—the needs of U.S. families have been ignored for decades, and the provisions of the Biden bill do not go far enough in addressing them.

Workers’ needs vs. capitalist greed
Politicians who voted against the bill claimed they were motivated by concerns about increasing the national debt. Flashback to March 2020, when Trump signed the $2.2 trillion CARES Act surrounded by top GOP leaders. Or travel back to 2017, when Trump signed the Tax Cut and Jobs Act that cut corporate taxes by $1.5 trillion, resulting in deficit spending reaching $894 billion and causing federal borrowing to skyrocket.

The CARES Act and three smaller measures passed in 2020, with support from both sides of the aisle, were designed to make up for the huge corporate tax cuts that corporations and the country’s wealthiest individuals. While the CARES Act gave $1,200 stimulus payments to around 159 million people, this was small change compared to the billions in additional tax breaks handed out to the 1% for multiple years or to the total costs of wars.

The Congressional Joint Committee on Taxation found that five tax provisions specifically aimed at the wealthiest families, including the Trumps, would cost nearly as much as all the stimulus checks combined. These measures gave immensely bigger benefits to corporations and a handful of the ultrarich.

Throughout the coronavirus pandemic, the major concern of most U.S. corporations has not been the rising death toll but their falling bottom lines. Capitalists can gamble on the stock market and will benefit from tax breaks handed to them by lackey politicians. But without workers on the job, producing more wealth for the bosses than the bosses pay them in wages, their profit system starts to crumble.

Under capitalism, labor is the source of all wealth. The push to get workers back on the job is what motivated pro-capitalist politicians to throw COVID caution to the wind and pass only minimal economic relief measures.

Workers need the guarantee of a livable monthly income, protection against evictions and adequate access to food and health care, so that they cannot be forced to work in unsafe conditions during the COVID-19 pandemic to survive. This is what workers have in socialist countries.

The cost of the COVID class war
By Feb. 22, COVID-19 related deaths in the U.S. surpassed 500,000. Since then, another 55,000 people have died from the virus, and numbers are trending up. More U.S. lives have been lost to COVID-19 than to the attacks of the U.S. military-industrial complex.

In the fall of 2002, Biden was chair of the Senate’s Foreign Relations Committee. He voted and spoke in support of the invasion of Iraq. Thousands of Iraqis were killed.

In 2009, as vice president, Biden supported the over $787 billion American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which unleashed a neoliberal plunder of that Central American country. In 2009, the U.S. spent $344 million on nuclear weapons.

In the 10th anniversary of the U.S. war on Syria Solidarity Movement seeks to end the criminal war on Syria, and we call upon others to join this effort. In particular, we ask you to put pressure on your elected federal officials to stop the war against Syria; Resume diplomatic relations with Damascus; End the coercive economic measures against Syria and Syrians; and Support the reconstruction of Syria.
Vacunas: China contra el imperialismo occidental

continuación de la página 12

otro lado del cercano muro del apartheid, la pugna no recibe vacunas que salvaran vidas.

Racismo en la distribución comunitaria de vacunas en los EE.UU.

A mediados de febrero, EE.UU. ha estado administrado aproximadamente 1,5 millones de dosis de vacunas al día, sin embargo, la desigualdad en la distribución de vacunas es muy evidente en las comunidades pobres de color del centro de la ciudad. Se debe al racismo y la opresión económica. En el condado de Los Ángeles, a mediados de febrero, por ejemplo, según los datos de la Organización de la Salud Mundial (OMS), la tasa de vacunación entre los residentes blancos es significativamente más alta que la de los residentes negros/afroamericanos y latinos/latinas.

- Los afroamericanos son el 9 por ciento de la población del condado de 16 años o más, pero hasta la fecha solo han recibido el 5,2 por ciento de las vacunas.

- Los residentes latinos son el 46 por ciento de la población del condado de 16 años o más, pero solo recibieron el 23 por ciento de las vacunadas.

La razón principal de esta desigualdad es que las comunidades pobres continúan careciendo de un acceso conveniente a las instalaciones de vacunación, lo que no es el caso de las comunidades blancas acomodadas.

Es la misma situación espontánea en Chicago. Los habitantes de Chicago que no son blancos, que constituyen la mayoría de los casos de COVID-19, han enfrentado enormes dificultades para inscribirse en las citas de vacunas debido a las barreras tecnológicas y los “desiertos de farmacia”. Según el diario The Guardian:

“A pesar de que los negros solo represe-
tan el 36% de la población de Chicago, los negros negros recibieron el 66% de todos los casos de COVID-19. Y la falta de hospitales, la prominencia de los desiertos de farmacia en la ciudad, y el 70 por ciento de los afroamericanos que han convertido a COVID-19 en una crisis de salud aún más letal para estas comu-
nidades. Pero incluso durante la Fase I de vacunación, cuando solo los trabajadores de la salud y los residentes y el personal de las instalaciones de atención a largo plazo eran elegibles para la vacunación, la mayoría de los vacunados provenían de áreas más ricas y de la zona norte de la ciudad. Además, el experimento de Tuskegee, un ejemplo notable de desigualdad económica y médica histórica, tiene un significado para aquellos que afroamericanos siguen luchando sobre la nueva vacuna COVID-19.

Según un informe de octubre de 2020 publicado por la Asociación de Protección Pública de California (PPIC), solo el 29 por ciento de los afroamericanos en el estado dijeron que “definitivamente” o “probablemente” recibirían la vacuna del COVID-19. La baja confianza entre este grupo racial contrasta con el 54 por ciento de los latinos, el 60 por ciento de los asiáticos y el 70 por ciento de los asiáticos californianos que dijeron que definitivamente o probablemente recibirían la vacuna.

El racismo, el imperialismo y la mala gestión de las vacunas es muy evidente en las comunidades de América Latina.

Los afroamericanos son el 9 por ciento de la población del condado de 16 años o más, pero hasta la fecha solo han recibido el 5,2 por ciento de las vacunas. Los residentes latinos son el 46 por ciento de la población del condado de 16 años o más, pero solo recibieron el 23 por ciento de las vacunadas. La baja confianza entre este grupo racial contrasta con el 54 por ciento de los latinos, el 60 por ciento de los asiáticos californianos que dijeron que definitivamente o probablemente recibirían la vacuna.

El racismo, el imperialismo y la mala gestión de las vacunas en los EE.UU. son cada vez más críticos con las empresas farmacéuticas occidentales y los países occidentales por participar en el racismo e imperialismo de las vacunas, las comunidades de color de estas naciones y países pobres de todo el mundo.

Many are raising a campaña de justicia de vacunas en base amplia para recuperar a las naciones occiden-
tales ricas y sus compañías farmacéuticas multinationales y para invitar a las comu-
nidades, los países del Sur Global y China a participar activamente en la búsqueda de una solución. ¿DÓNDE AMOS? Juntos construi-
mos la solidaridad global para una distri-
bución más rápida, más asequible y más equitativa de vacunas en todas las comuni-
dades y en todo el mundo.

Lee Sia Hün es un coordinador nacio-
nal de la Red Nacional de Solidaridad com-
unitaria de inmigrantes, China-EE.UU. Red de Solidaridad (CUNN); y e-Medical Alliance, una red de académicos y activ-
istas comunitarios de ambos países com-
prometida con el bienestar y la salud de los trabajadores de la salud en todo el mundo. Tampoco los medios informan análisis críticos. Al 12 de febrero, con

de las vacunas.

Los residentes latinos son el 46 por ciento de la población del condado de 16 años o más, pero hasta la fecha solo han recibido el 5,2 por ciento de las vacunas. Los residentes latinos son el 46 por ciento de la población del condado de 16 años o más, pero solo recibieron el 23 por ciento de las vacunadas.

La razón principal de esta desigualdad es que las comunidades pobres continúan careciendo de un acceso conveniente a las instalaciones de vacunación, lo que no es el caso de las comunidades blancas acomodadas.

Es la misma situación espontánea en Chicago. Los habitantes de Chicago que no son blancos, que constituyen la mayoría de los casos de COVID-19, han enfrentado enormes dificultades para inscribirse en las citas de vacunas debido a las barreras tecnológicas y los “desiertos de farmacia”. Según el diario The Guardian:

“A pesar de que los negros solo represe-
tan el 36% de la población de Chicago, los negros negros recibieron el 66% de todos los casos de COVID-19. Y la falta de hospitales, la prominencia de los desiertos de farmacia en la ciudad, y el 70 por ciento de los afroamericanos que han convertido a COVID-19 en una crisis de salud aún más letal para estas comu-
nidades. Pero incluso durante la Fase I de vacunación, cuando solo los trabajadores de la salud y los residentes y el personal de las instalaciones de atención a largo plazo eran elegibles para la vacunación, la mayoría de los vacunados provenían de áreas más ricas y de la zona norte de la ciudad. Además, el experimento de Tuskegee, un ejemplo notable de desigualdad económica y médica histórica, tiene un significado para aquellos que afroamericanos siguen luchando sobre la nueva vacuna COVID-19.

Según un informe de octubre de 2020 publicado por la Asociación de Protección Pública de California (PPIC), solo el 29 por ciento de los afroamericanos en el estado dijeron que “definitivamente” o “probablemente” recibirían la vacuna del COVID-19. La baja confianza entre este grupo racial contrasta con el 54 por ciento de los latinos, el 60 por ciento de los asiáticos californianos que dijeron que definitivamente o probablemente recibirían la vacuna.

El racismo, el imperialismo y la mala gestión de las vacunas es muy evidente en las comunidades de América Latina.

Los afroamericanos son el 9 por ciento de la población del condado de 16 años o más, pero hasta la fecha solo han recibido el 5,2 por ciento de las vacunas. Los residentes latinos son el 46 por ciento de la población del condado de 16 años o más, pero solo recibieron el 23 por ciento de las vacunadas. La baja confianza entre este grupo racial contrasta con el 54 por ciento de los latinos, el 60 por ciento de los asiáticos californianos que dijeron que definitivamente o probablemente recibirían la vacuna.

El racismo, el imperialismo y la mala gestión de las vacunas en los EE.UU. son cada vez más críticos con las empresas farmacéuticas occidentales y los países occidentales por participar en el racismo e imperialismo de las vacunas, las comunidades de color de estas naciones y países pobres de todo el mundo.

Many are raising a campaña de justicia de vacunas en base amplia para recuperar a las naciones occiden-
tales ricas y sus compañías farmacéuticas multinationales y para invitar a las comu-
nidades, los países del Sur Global y China a participar activamente en la búsqueda de una solución. ¿DÓNDE AMOS? Juntos construi-
mos la solidaridad global para una distri-
bución más rápida, más asequible y más equitativa de vacunas en todas las comuni-
dades y en todo el mundo.

Lee Sia Hün es un coordinador nacio-
nal de la Red Nacional de Solidaridad com-
unitaria de inmigrantes, China-EE.UU. Red de Solidaridad (CUNN); y e-Medical Alliance, una red de académicos y activ-
istas comunitarios de ambos países com-
prometida con el bienestar y la salud de los trabajadores de la salud en todo el mundo. Tampoco los medios informan análisis críticos. Al 12 de febrero, con

Philadelphia Asian community speaks

In response to the brutal murders in Atlanta March 16, this statement was issued March 17 by members of the Philadelphia’s Asian community including Viet Center, VietLead, Asian Americans United, API PA, City Council President Helen Gym, Mayor Kenney & Co., Councilwoman Cindy Bass, Harry T. Chen, Andrew Chou, Dr. Dan Bui, Binh Al Khasawneh, January Than, President of Greater Philadelphia, Pojuang, CAIR Philadelphia, APALA Philadelphia, Red Umbrella Alliance, Asian Arts Initiative, and PCIDC.

Our hearts are heavy today after the murders of eight people, six of whom were Asian women, in Atlanta last night, making six more people and their loved ones victims of the anti-Asian violence that has terrorized our communities in the U.S. since its genesis.

The recent surge in anti-Asian violence, while horrific, is only part of the longer and larger history of systemic violence in the U.S. Anti-Asian violence, and gender-based violence against Asian and Pacific Islander women in particular, isn’t new. It is the product of interlocking systems of power that oppress marginalized communities—that strip our communities of resources that we need to live, deport our loved ones, murder our Black community members, make women and elders scared to walk alone at night, force students and teachers to go to school in toxic buildings, gentrify our immigrant neighborhoods, perpetuate unsafe working conditions, and more.

Workers.org

March 25, 2021
Page 11
Por Lee Siu Hin

Vacunas: China contra el imperialismo occidental

Racidismo de las vacunas: cómo las naciones ricas almacenan vacunas que salvan vidas, mientras que los países pobres y la gente pobre dentro de estos países son ignorados. Cómo los países occidentales critican a China, a pesar del éxito de China en contener el virus y proporcionar vacunas al mundo.

A mediados de febrero, diez vacunas COVID-19 habían sido aprobadas para autorización de uso de emergencia en todo el mundo, y China estaba en el camino, con cuatro de ellas (Sinopharm / Beijing, Sinopharm / Wuhan, CanSino y Sinovac). Estados Unidos tiene uno (Moderna), Estados Unidos-Alemania tiene uno (Pfizer / BioNTech), Reino Unido-Suecia tiene uno (Oxford / AstraZeneca), Rusia tiene dos (Sputnik V, EpiVacCorona) e India tiene uno (Covaxin).

Según Our World in Data, para el 21 de febrero, aproximadamente 88 países / regiones estaban solicitando las vacunas. La inmensa mayoría (aproximadamente 85 países / regiones) están en la búsqueda de fabricación occidental (Oxford / AstraZeneca, Pfizer / BioNTech, Moderna, Johnson & Johnson). Aproximadamente 16 países pedían vacunas chinas (Sinopharm/Beijing, Sinopharm/Wuhan, Sinovac) mientras que nueve países solicitaban vacunas rusas (Sputnik V). Sin embargo, “comprado” no significa que hayan recibido las vacunas, o incluso que las recibirán pronto. En la reunión de las Naciones Unidas del 19 de febrero sobre las vacunas COVID-19, el secretario general de la ONU, António Guterres, criticó duramente la distribución “tremendamente desigual” de las vacunas COVID, en la que sólo diez países del mundo, en particular los EE.UU., Canadá y ocho países occidentales, han recibido el 65% de todas las dosis de vacunas, mientras que otros 130 países no han recibido ni una sola dosis.

Imperialismo y aparteched las vacunas

Las naciones ricas acaparan la mayoría de las vacunas y se niegan a las naciones pobres. Es Estados Unidos / Reino Unido contra Europa, gente rica contra gente pobre, blancos contra gente de color – una pirámide de vacunas racistas donde los blancos occidentales ricos están en la cima de la cadena alimentaria y los pobres no blancos, los países en desarrollo están en el fondo. Hasta ahora, se han entregado muy pocas vacunas de fabricación occidental al Sur Global.

Los términos “imperialismo de las vacunas” y “racismo en la distribución” se basan en que los países ricos compran la mayoría de las vacunas fabricadas en Occidente, muchas más de las que necesitan, dejando muy pocas para los países en desarrollo.

Para una distribución global justa de vacunas, la Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS), junto con la Alianza Global de Vacunas (GAVI) y la Coalición para Innovaciones de Preparación para Epidemias (CEPI), crearon COVAX. Espera entregar más de dos mil millones de dosis de vacunas a personas en 90 países en menos de un año. En particular, quiere garantizar que 92 países más pobres reciban acceso a las vacunas al mismo tiempo que 98 países más ricos. COVAX ha recaudado 86 mil millones, con una necesidad adicional de $2 mil millones para 2022. Entonces, ¿quién está financiando COVAX y qué países podrían beneficiarse más del acuerdo? Desde el nacimiento de COVAX, ha estado trabajando en estrecha colaboración con el Reino Unido, que los países occidentales consideran la principal competidora (en este caso, vacunas chinas) de los países occidentales y sus compañías farmacéuticas, ayudándoles a dominar rápidamente el mercado mundial de vacunas.

El Reino Unido (873 mil millones) y los Estados Unidos (84 mil millones) son algunos de los mayores donantes de COVAX. Estos países obtuvieron la aprobación de sus vacunas desde el principio, y a través de COVAX / COVID / AstraZeneca del Reino Unido, que los ayudó a convertirse en los mayores proveedores de vacunas del mundo. Pero los pedidos gigantescos no significan que puedan cumplir con los pedidos rápido- mente. Al igual que el caso de un vendedor de autos usado, solo proporcionan con fuerza para obtener más pedidos, eliminando a la competencia (en este caso, vacunas chinas y rusas) para controlar el mercado, pero no les preocupa cómo entregar sus productos o la calidad de estos. Con mil millones de dosis ordenadas, el primer lote de vacunas occidentales solo está garantizado para el mundo occidental. El resto del mundo, ¡lo siento! Tendrán que esperar meses, incluso año, antes de recibir sus productos.

Además de las guerras de vacunas en curso entre el Reino Unido y la UE por los suministros de Oxford/AstraZeneca, casi no se han enviado vacunas a otros países. Según una investigación del Centro de Innovación en Salud Global de la Universidad de Duke, hasta el 19 de enero, los países de altos ingresos habían pedido cerca de 4.200 millones de dosis, mientras que los países de ingresos bajos y medianos bajos, habían pedido menos de 700 millones. Se puede argumentar que un país debería priorizar minimizar el riesgo por cada inmunidad adicional. Pero una vez más, dejando muy pocas para las vacunas de los países pobres cuando los países ricos están pedidos en exceso.

Por qué los países occidentales compran en exceso las vacunas? Algunos activistas sugieren que están ejecutando un juego de poder, donde controlan el mercado, por lo que controlan el precio. Al igual que el poder de los países occidentales para decidir de quién venden sus vacunas "excedentes" a los países pobres a cambio de un rescate político o un precio más alto.

Además del nacionalismo de las vacu- nas, también existe el bloqueo de los países, donde las economías occiden- tales impiden que los países sin dólares estadounidenses o sin poder de transfer- encia bancaria compren vacunas. Esta se ha convertido en la nueva arma imperi- alista contra otros países.

Los países de la UE contra los iraníes han impidido que los iraníes compren PPE, equipos médicos y ahora vacunas que salvan vidas, porque no tienen acceso a dólares estadounidenses (la moneda común para el comercio internacional) o al servicio de transferencia bancaria internacional. Básicamente, la transferencia bancaria internacional necesita un código SWIFT, que está controlado por EE.UU. Israel ha publicitado mucho que vacunó completamente a sus ciudadanos en muy poco tiempo, pero en Palestina, al

Continúa en la página 11

Las primeras prioridades de vacu- natione, después de los trabajadores médicos, son los trabajadores que se enfrentan al público o manipulan bienes importados. Estos incluyen trabajadores de logística, conductores de autos, trabajadores de la hostelería, etc. Las personas mayores en China tienen menos probabilidad de infectarse con el virus, porque la vacuna se prioriza para vacunar a sus ciudadanos a un ritmo cómodo y poder asignar suficientes vacu- nas para enviar al resto del mundo, y la estrategia se está cumpliendo.

En cuanto a la solidaridad con las vacunas, China se ha convertido en el país exportador de vacunas más grande del mundo, especialmente de vacunas destinadas a los países en desarrollo del Sur Global. Debe señalarse que, si bien los Estados Unidos y los países europeos