



Follow us!

@WorkersWorld

/WorkersWorldParty

workers.org

## Another police murder in North Carolina

# Justice for Andrew Brown Jr.

By Peter Gilbert  
Elizabeth City, N.C.

May 1 — Seven deputies from the Pasquotank County Sheriff's Department killed unarmed Andrew Brown Jr. in his car next to his home here April 21. The deputies jumped out of a pickup truck with weapons drawn and rushed forward. Fearing for his life, Brown tried to drive forward out of his driveway and away. Deputy sheriffs fired into his car from behind, killing him.

An autopsy commissioned by Brown's family confirms he was killed by a bullet to the back of the head. At least three of the deputies fired their weapons; none of them have been charged. Four have been returned to active duty.

Protests have continued each night for ten nights since the police execution of Andrew Brown Jr., as the community mourns. His funeral is scheduled for May 3.

Family members remember Andrew as

a kind man who provided for his family despite the lack of jobs or opportunities in Elizabeth City. He lived in a quiet neighborhood south of downtown, across the Charles Creek where he had been raised by his grandparents and aunts after the death of his parents. As one close friend Jamaul Riddick told WW, "He's never

been a violent person in his life. He's never had a gun, never carried a gun, and he's just not violent."

### Enslavement, forced labor, militarism

Elizabeth City is a majority Black town of fewer than 20,000 people. It was the most important trading hub of the region starting

declined in prosperity.

The swamp was once a haven for enslaved people who had liberated themselves from surrounding plantations. The swamp played an important role as cover for those traveling toward freedom on the Underground Railroad, including some led by General Harriet Tubman.

Recent archaeological studies show that the area was home to a permanent settlement of escaped enslaved Africans, as "the security provided by the swamp's isolation allowed them to create self-organized communities that spanned generations." (tinyurl.com/2tskar7b)

More recently the Great Dismal Swamp area has been flipped from a haven from enslavement to a base for global oppression. The area is now home to a 7,000 acre "United States Training Center" — the Blackwater/Xe/Academi headquarters

Continued on page 3



Protests against police violence continue night and day in Elizabeth City, May 2.



WW PHOTOS: PETER GILBERT



Philadelphia

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

'Unbroken, indomitable spirits'

8-9

TEAR DOWN THE WALLS

Mumia Abu-Jamal

Albert Woodfox

Life sentences for children

Global & local days for Mumia

Free our families!

No education austerity!	2
Vaccine apartheid	3
Colonialism in space	3
Bash U.S., not China	4
'Scientific' racism	5
Protest for MOVE children	5
Lucy Parsons, anti-capitalist	7
Editorial	
Biden's military maneuvers	10



# New York union protests racist austerity

By G. Dunkel  
New York City

A New York State budget that underfunds education was denounced as racist austerity by union members and allies at an April 27 rally and march in Manhattan.

Attending were over 150 members of the Professional Staff Congress of City University of New York, members of DC37 working at CUNY and members of NYC for Change. DC37, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), is New York City’s largest public employee union.

The PSC of CUNY is American Federation of Teachers Local 2334 and represents 25,000 teachers, both full and adjunct, along with professional staff like CUNY librarians. CUNY’s budget is mainly supported by New York State.

In the opinion of Barbara Bowen, president of the PSC — as well as the people who attended this protest — the 2021-2022 austerity budget developed by Governor Cuomo and fully endorsed by CUNY’s administration is out-and-out racism, since 70% of CUNY students are Black or Latinx.

PSC members and their allies fought in the state legislature for a budget that rejected all cuts proposed by Cuomo and increased funding for CUNY colleges through reforms to close the TAP (Tuition Assistance Program) Gap and expand opportunity programs.

They won! The CUNY budget has been stabilized. The CUNY administration has no more excuses for maintaining the austerity measures forced on teachers and staff in 2020.



The Professional Staff Congress-CUNY rallies, with president Barbara Bowman on the bullhorn, New York City, April 27.

CUNY colleges have been allocated \$1.5 billion in federal stimulus funds, \$891 million of which is available for institutional use. Another \$634 million has been allocated to CUNY for direct student aid. Yet while CUNY has distributed \$118 million in student aid, the three recent quarterly reports on the CUNY Budget and Finance website disclose a total of only \$51 million of stimulus funds spent so far on institutional expenses.

It’s past time to #FreeTheFunds and use the stimulus money as intended to protect the quality of a CUNY education and the livelihood and safety of CUNY workers.

PSC members are demanding CUNY use the federal money now: Speed up payment of the 2% raise for teachers and staff; rehire all adjuncts laid off in 2020; unfreeze job searches; restore limits to class size; and invest in protecting the health and safety of the CUNY community on campus. □

## MUNDO OBRERO WORKERS WORLD

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

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

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

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

## Join us in the fight for socialism!

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

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

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

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

## MUNDO OBRERO WORKERS WORLD

### this week

#### In the U.S.

Justice for Andrew Brown Jr. ....	1
Union protests racist austerity .....	2
Tell Biden, Gates: End vaccine apartheid. ....	3
Capitalist exploitation in outer space .....	3
Black Workers for Justice — for Anthony Brown ...	4
U.S. commits crimes against humanity .....	4
MOVE children deserve to rest in peace. ....	5
Black scientists denounce academic racism. ....	5
May Day: International Workers Day. ....	6
Lucy Parsons, anti-capitalist. ....	7
SCOTUS rules for child prison for life. ....	8
Bay Area marches for Mumia Abu-Jamal .....	8
Woodfox and Mumia, incarcerated, indomitable ..	9
Families protest Philadelphia jails. ....	9

#### Around the world

Global movement demands freedom for Mumia ...	9
Neo-colonialism, resistance in Chad. ....	10
Why did Ecuador elect a neoliberal banker? .....	11

#### Editorial

No to NATO and Quad. ....	10
---------------------------	----

#### Noticias en Español

Espíritu del Primero de Mayo: ¡Lucha!. ....	11
---	----

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. 18 • May 6, 2021  
Closing date: May 5, 2021

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

Web Editors: ABear, Harvey Markowitz, Janet Mayes

Prisoners Page Editors: Mirinda Crissman, Ted Kelly

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

Copyediting and Proofreading: Paddy Colligan, S. Hedgecoke

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

Mundo Obrero: Teresa Gutierrez, Carlos Vargas

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Austin**  
austin@workers.org

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

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

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

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

**Cleveland**  
cleveland@workers.org

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

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

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

**Portland, Ore.**  
portland@workers.org

**Salt Lake City**  
801.750.0248  
slc@workers.org

**San Antonio**  
sanantonio@workers.org

**West Virginia**  
WestVirginia@workers.org





# Tell Biden and Bill Gates End vaccine apartheid!

By Jim McMahan  
Seattle

Nearly 100 demonstrators rallied here April 30 in front of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation — the world’s richest “philanthropic” foundation — to demand “End vaccine apartheid!”

Gates, co-founder of the Microsoft corporation, is one of the multibillionaires opposed to allowing intellectual property (IP) waivers so all countries could produce vaccines. Gates is allied with Big Pharma in a big way. He made his fortune relying on IP protections on Microsoft products.

The solidarity protest came after a resolution passed by the Seattle City Council, which joined 400 plus organizations around the world in urging President Joe Biden to immediately waive intellectual property restrictions on U.S.-owned vaccines. This would assist all countries in the production of less-expensive generic COVID-19 vaccines — and would save human lives.

The Seattle action was led by Councilperson Kshama Sawant and the Seattle Coalition of Indian Americans (SCIA). Sawant said Biden’s recent lifting of the ban on exporting vaccine materials to India dealt with only a tiny part of the problem.

Hassan Khan of the SCIA pointed out the terrible mounting deaths caused by the refusal of Big Pharma in the West to share the vaccine with India. He said, “What is happening to India will come back to the West.” This is a reference to the fact that continuing pandemic infections anywhere on earth open the way to multiple virus variants that current vaccines may not be able to resist.

While over 240 million doses against COVID have been administered in the U.S., billions of people around the world do not have access to lifesaving vaccines. The World Health Organization reported April 9 that over 87% of the vaccines have gone to high-income or upper- and middle-income countries, while low-income countries have just received 0.2%.



Protests to free vaccines from corporate ‘intellectual property’ are spreading, here at Moderna headquarters in Cambridge, Mass., April 28.

(tinyurl.com/3syb2pxh) WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus emphasized: “On average in high-income countries, almost one in four people has received a vaccine. In low-income countries, it’s one in more than 500. Let me repeat that: one in four versus one in 500.”

As protestors at the rally chanted, “Whose vaccine? People’s vaccine!” Hillary Hayden of the Washington Free Trade Coalition said that “113 countries have yet to receive a single dose of the vaccine” due to Big Pharma’s genocidal priorities. Hayden noted that waivers of intellectual property resolutions have been passed by hundreds of organizations, such as Doctors Without Borders, and emphasized more of this needs to happen. She said people were demonstrating for the vaccine waiver in Atlanta at a recent speech by Biden.

Preston, a member of the 6,000-strong United Auto Workers Local 4121 at the University of Washington, spoke on how he and his co-workers — who were teachers, health care workers and researchers — had helped create COVID vaccines. He stressed the vaccines had been funded by the public, but big pharmaceutical companies were now making obscene profits off those public funds while denying vaccines to people from the Global South.

Both Preston and Sawant demanded free health care for all. The action was also supported by the Community Alliance for Global Justice/AGRA Watch and Socialist Alternative. □

# Amazon workers fight for a union, Bezos sends exploitation to outer space

By Janet Mayes

Jeff Bezos of Amazon may be “stepping down” from his position as CEO, intending to “stay engaged” behind the scenes, but he has set his sights on grabbing infinitely more billions for himself in space.

Lest we forget, Bezos is the founder of Blue Origin, whose stated goal is to build reusable rockets for transporting people and payloads into space — ultimately for colonizing the solar system (tinyurl.com/87yf8cp7). In the meantime, his company invites the very well-heeled to reserve a window seat for an



Bezos standing next to a Blue Origin space vehicle.

11-minute “unparalleled view of the earth from space.”

As discussed in the Workers World article “Astronomical imperialism!” (workers.org/2019/10/43849/), capitalist ventures are aiming to mine space for precious metals, including iron, nickel, gold, cobalt and platinum, plus a potential hugely profitable source of energy from the moon: helium-3, valued at an estimated \$5 billion a ton. Bezos intends to market his space vehicles for these ventures.

In competition with other multi-billionaires, including Tesla’s Elon Musk, Bezos with his Blue Origin is perfecting reusable space transport vehicles launched from U.S. military locations, such as Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. His Project Kiper is sending into low orbit around Earth thousands of satellites, which he claims are designed to bring low-cost broadband internet capability to the poor and those in remote areas of the planet.

However, this project is really aimed at bringing more business to his online Amazon monolith. Moreover, the satellite clusters prevent telescopes from peering into an unencumbered sky, to the dismay

# Justice for Andrew Brown Jr.

Continued from page 1

for training soldiers and police in repression tactics.

Originally founded in 1997 as Blackwater by Erik Prince — right-wing billionaire and brother to Betsy Devos, Secretary of Education under President Donald Trump — the company was later rebranded Xe Services, and then Academi when acquired by a group of private investors.

Named for the peat bogs of the swamp, the Blackwater center continues to be used to train mercenaries like those so notorious for their deadly cruelty during the U.S. occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan. And the center is where police are trained to use military tactics and equipment against the civilian population of the U.S., especially focusing on violent suppression and occupation of Black communities.

## Police murder and resistance

Since the beginning of the protests, Brown’s family and local activists have connected his murder to the conditions in Elizabeth City, as well as to racism and police murders across the U.S. and in the Tidewater Region of Virginia and North Carolina.

Joe McCullen, Brown’s uncle, remembers having a cross burned in his yard by the Klan. Brown’s aunt, Joyceanne Ingram, speaks of her experiences suffering racist harassment on the street, despite her status as a veteran of the large nearby Coast Guard base. They both spoke to WW about the lack of jobs in town as exacerbating oppression: “If you and your white friend walk in to get a job, your white friend may walk out with a job.”

Demonstrations are continuing through May Day weekend with no projected end to the nightly marches. Solidarity actions are planned for Durham, N.C., for May 1, and the community in Elizabeth City hopes for continued support from across the country.

Activists from Virginia Beach, Va., who have been organizing around the police killings there in April of Donovan Lynch and Deshayla Harris, have been present and visible in Elizabeth City. Lynch was a cousin of singer-songwriter and music producer Pharrell Williams.

The main demand in Elizabeth City at the moment concerns the release of the



WW PHOTO: PETER GILBERT

In Elizabeth City, N.C., friends and family paint Andrew Brown Jr.’s portrait on his house, beside the driveway where he was killed by state violence.

tapes documenting the killing of Brown. This includes any body cameras or dash cameras from the seven deputies or more present at the shooting. So far Pasquotank County authorities have refused to make any of the footage public.

Two family members — Brown’s eldest son and his mother — and their attorneys were shown only about 20 seconds of edited video from one camera. That footage clearly showed Andrew Brown sitting in his car, with his hands completely visible on the steering wheel, as he was killed from behind with an “uncountable” number of shots.

Pasquotank County has declared a state of emergency despite the peaceful character of the relatively small demonstrations. Police in full riot gear — beating their clubs in unison like gladiators to produce an intimidating thunder — have arrested activists, lawyers and journalists for alleged curfew violations.

In response to continued pressure from the movement against police killing, the curfew was changed from 8:00 p.m. to midnight. But police have been brought in from across North Carolina in preparation for barricading all roads in and out of town and in an attempt to silence all rebellion against this most recent state-sanctioned murder. □

youngsters with well-developed educational programs for K-12 schools, providing tantalizing projects to stimulate and motivate them to visualize romantic adventures in outer space exploration and colonization. (clubforfuture.org/curriculum) Its website links to NASA’s Project Ianos, whose mission is “to engage and educate students with the wonders of space and to inspire them to become explorers of it.” (www.projectianos.org) This is the next generation of exploited and endangered workers.

As Amazon workers struggle to unionize here on Earth, we must not forget that capitalist Bezos and other multi-billionaires never have enough. Not satisfied with having built the biggest monolith on earth, Bezos aims to expand his avaricious reach, as Star Trek’s captains boast, “to boldly go where no one has gone before.”

Janet Mayes, an amateur astronomer, authored a science fiction novel about U.S. hegemony in space, “Beyond the Horse’s Eye, a Fantasy Out of Time,” under the pen name Janet Rose. A review can be found at tinyurl.com/y6fzefun.



WW COMMENTARY

# Bashing China, U.S. commits crimes against humanity

By Monica Moorehead

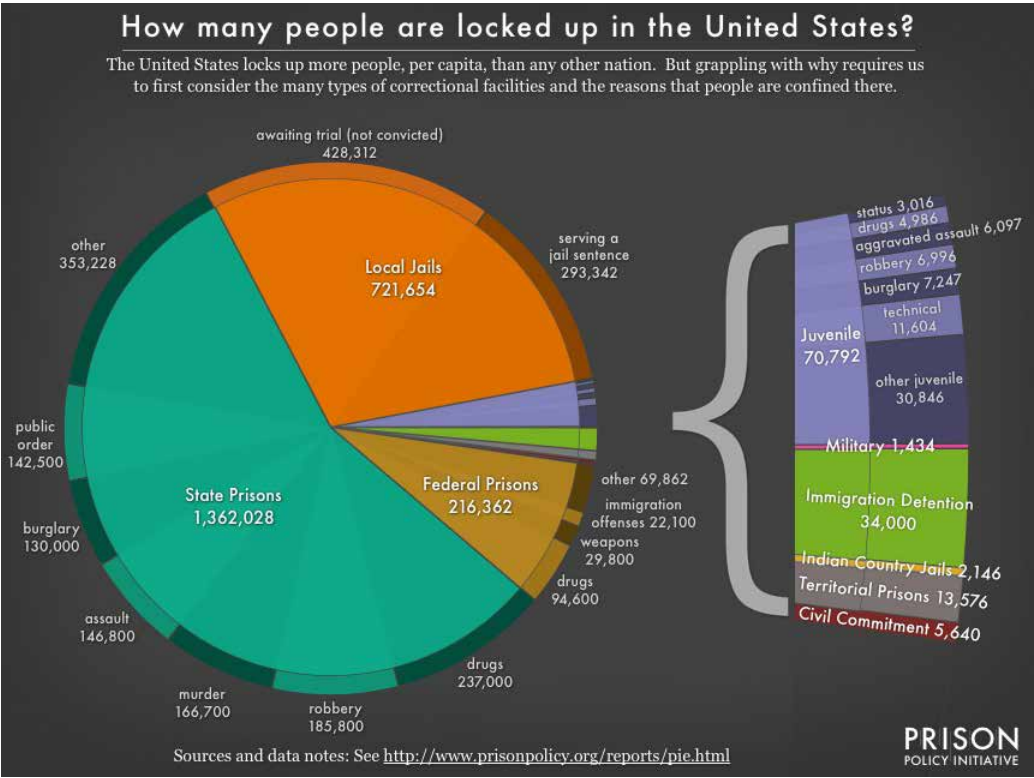
It was announced April 7 that the Biden administration is being pressured by right-wing Republicans to either fully or partially boycott the 2022 Winter Olympic Games in Beijing, China, which will take place for two weeks that February. As part of the ongoing anti-China tirade that accelerated with the COVID-19 pandemic during the Trump administration, these politicians are accusing China of human rights violations, specifically in the areas of the Hong Kong protests and the “forced labor” on Uyghur Muslims in cotton production.

As of now, Biden officials have stated that a boycott is not conceivable by U.S. athletes, mainly due to multibillion-dollar corporate sponsorship involved in broadcasting the Games, especially by Comcast. Another consideration is the potential medal-winning Chinese athletes who have migrated to the U.S. A boycott would not allow them to showcase their talents—or be exploited by U.S. for-profit athletic teams and corporations.

Zhao Lijian, a Foreign Ministry spokesperson from China, rejected the accusations of abuses, saying, “The politicization of sports will damage the spirit of the Olympic Charter and the interests of athletes from all countries. The international community including the U.S. Olympics Committee will not accept it.” (ESPN, April 7)

The largest imperialist countries like the U.S., Germany, France and Britain continue to seek bragging rights when it comes to winning as many gold medals as possible, compared to countries like China, People’s Korea (DPRK), Russia or other countries that once belonged to the pro-Soviet Union eastern bloc.

Whether the Biden administration caves into the Republican demand, the boycott or no boycott debate will continue to be publicly argued, commanding worldwide attention. The boycott threat is intensified by the delay in holding the 2021 Summer Olympic Games in Tokyo, postponed last summer due to the pandemic.



### The biggest human rights violator

To be clear, the Biden administration is in complete agreement with the Republicans in their view on China. Their decision on how to proceed on China is based on tactics, not principles. Every U.S. administration, Democrat or Republican-led, has sought to undermine, if not outright overthrow, the People’s Republic of China because of its compromised but still socialist economy.

This is the economic basis upon which the anti-communist political attacks are being spewed by both right-wing and bourgeois liberal mouthpieces, with the right wing being the most aggressive.

The protests in Hong Kong against China are not independently led but are backed by imperialist forces, especially in the U.S. and Great Britain. This is made very obvious with the flying of the pro-colonialist Union Jack and U.S. flags at every protest.

As the statement, “U.S. role in Hong Kong protests,” signed by the International Action Center June 30, 2019, explains in part: “Hong Kong is a center of world finance capital. It is deeply hostile to the social measures that have lifted hundreds of millions of people in mainland China

out of extreme poverty and provided high standards of health care, education and modern infrastructure.

“The forces of finance capital in Hong Kong and their allies in the U.S. and Europe want to pull Hong Kong away from China, so it can function as an economic and political outpost in the region.

“This means limiting legal and political integration with China as much as possible. To this end the U.S. has provided extensive political, financial and media support for the protests.” (workers.org/2019/06/42820)

Compare these pro-imperialist protests with the protests in the U.S. that are demanding justice and social change—and which are confronted with militarized police repression and brutal mass arrests.

How could any progressive person—or anyone with any knowledge of U.S. history, both past and present—take seriously the claims of human rights violations in any country when the U.S. is truly the biggest human rights violator in the world?

### U.S. society riddled with class violence

Ever since the 9/11 attacks almost 20 years ago, Muslims have been legally persecuted by the U.S. government and racially targeted, including mass murders

in their places of worship and even on the job. Only recently, on April 15 four Sikh workers were killed by a 19-year-old white, former worker at a FedEx facility in Indianapolis, Ind. When have the powers-that-be in the U.S. ever cared about the rights of non-Christian religions unless it suits their interests, like now with China bashing?

Asian Americans, especially if they are women, have been targeted in the U.S. by misogynistic white male supremacists. For instance, on March 16, six Asian women working in spas near Atlanta, Ga., were fatally shot. Is this not a human rights violation?

And what about “forced labor”? The U.S. has the largest incarcerated population in the world, with 2.3 million people, according to the Prison Policy Initiative. (March 24, 2020) Many of these workers are modern-day slaves, whose labor is superexploited for pennies an hour, or no wages at all, to make profits for state-run or private-run corporations.

The deaths in these concentration camps, where poor people and people of color are incarcerated in disproportionate numbers, have increased dramatically, as prison guards are not required to get the COVID-19 vaccine or to wear masks or socially distance in these overcrowded facilities with poor ventilation. Is this not a human rights violation?

And then there is the ongoing racist war of police terror against Black and Brown people. According to the 2020 Police Violence Report, out of the 1,100 plus people killed by the police, Black people were 27% of all police killings, 35% of unarmed killings, and 36% of those killed who were unarmed and not alleged to be threatening. These deaths are clear racist human rights violations, based on the fact that Black people are only 13% of the U.S. population.

In addition, 58% of all killings by police in the U.S. were traffic stops, police responses to mental health crises or situations where the person was reportedly not threatening anyone with a gun. More human rights violations! (policeviolencereport.org)

No society is a utopia but with these examples alone, the U.S. occupies the top spot in the world for human rights violations, hands down. □

# Black Workers for Justice on the police murder of Andrew Brown

The following statement was issued on April 30 by Black Workers for Justice, an organization of Black workers founded in 1981 to build the African American workers’ movement as a central force in the struggle for Black Liberation and Worker’s Power. For more, go to [Blackworkersforjustice.com](http://Blackworkersforjustice.com), [Bwffj@earthlink.net](mailto:Bwffj@earthlink.net) or write to BWFJ, P.O. Box 1863, Rocky Mount, N.C. 27802.

On April 20, Elizabeth City, N.C., became yet another site of a fatal police shooting of an unarmed Black person. The murder of Andrew Brown has prompted the justified outrage of the community leading to more than 10 days of protests with crowds reaching as many as 400.

The demands from the community have been on target: 1) Release of the body cam footage; 2) Immediate arrest

of the three officers; and 3) An end of the curfew.

Police have been brought in from cities across the state of North Carolina as an act of intimidation in the form of a military assault on the peaceful protests.

Rooftop snipers, nightly arrests and pressuring of Elizabeth City State University to force students to vacate the dormitories to accommodate law enforcement officials from outside of the county are part of the repression.

These students have historically, and recently, been subject to police brutality on campus like their brothers and sisters in the community.

The added demand now is for a removal of police from the campus, the removal of outside law enforcement, who are here under the pretense of riots and violence, and an end to the curfew.

Staying in the streets, with more and more involvement and leadership from all sectors of the community, is extremely important.

But equally important is building an organization to deal with the immediate response and the long hard fight ahead to achieve justice for Andrew Brown and to challenge and dismantle the system of policing that killed him and hundreds of our people across the South and the rest of the U.S.

Grassroots leadership, a set of principles to keep folks accountable to each other and strategy to win the demands are the building blocks needed to make change and shift the power.

Communities across the country are fighting for Community Control and Review Boards to deal with police



behavior. They are calling for resources to be shifted to building up the community, instead of building up the resources of the police. Elizabeth City can do this too.

The Black Workers for Justice supports you in your fight for justice and building power for the people. We are willing to help.

Continue to stand up, and others will stand with you. You are the leaders you have been waiting for! □



# Philadelphia rally demands MOVE children deserve to rest in peace

By **Betsey Piette**  
Philadelphia

YahNé Ndgo opened the rally outside the Penn Museum in Philadelphia April 28 by denouncing the University of Pennsylvania's sadistic desecration of the remains of two young Black MOVE family members. Ndgo, representing Black Lives Matter Philadelphia, stated: "We can never forget the humanity of Black people, and we should never have to remind people of the value of our lives. Black and Brown bodies are not subjects for you to study. We are human beings, and our lives matter!"

Nearly 400 people attended the rally, including UPenn students and faculty. It followed a press conference with the MOVE family April 26, after news surfaced that anthropology professors at the school and Princeton University had kept the remains of Tree Africa, 14, and Delisha Africa, 12, who were killed May 13, 1985, when the police dropped an incendiary bomb on MOVE's house.

City officials let the resulting fire burn as police fired tens of thousands of bullets at the burning house, preventing anyone from leaving it. The resulting conflagration killed 11 people, including five children, and destroyed 61 homes in a residential Black neighborhood.

## Murder and then more inhumanity

At the rally, Mike Africa Jr., son of MOVE 9 members Debbie Africa and Mike Africa, recalled having played with the children killed in the fire. He said: "The medical examiner was paid to find out how our people died. They took the bodies to a lab, left them unrefrigerated and let the bodies decompose. This was so egregious they were fired. The people from Penn Museum who took over were supposed to be ethical, but they are the monsters we are talking about today."

Africa read from a quote located below the graphic of a helicopter dropping a bomb from MOVE's popular orange-on-black "Welcome to Philadelphia" T-shirt. The quote reads: "This was not an accident.

This was deliberate murder. The circumstances surrounding it were horrible, and even more horrible to me was the fact that the perpetrators basically were never in any way punished." That was said by the forensic anthropologist Dr. Alan Mann, who was hired by the Philadelphia Medical Examiner's Office to analyze the remains of those killed in the fire.

Africa said: "Alan Mann is the same monster who has done these horrible things to my sisters. The other monster, Janet Monge, is on a video describing how my sister suffered a bone fracture 'because something heavy probably landed on her.'"

Mann worked at the Penn Museum where he reportedly subjected the bones to detailed analysis, but later used the children's remains as science specimens in anthropology classes. The bones were kept in cardboard boxes in non-climate-controlled storage. When Mann transferred to Princeton in 2001, he took the remains with him.

The children's remains were purportedly bounced back and forth between

the two Ivy League institutions over the decades. Their parents, still alive, were never informed.

In 2019, the remains were held at Penn Museum where Monge, Mann's former student, used them in instructional online videos offered by Princeton and UPenn. Once again, this was done without consent of the children's relatives.

Monge's course was titled: "Real Bones: Adventures in Forensic Anthropology" — and MOVE is referred to as a "case study!" The videos, which were available for viewing in classes that began the week of April 19, have been taken down due to protests.

While UPenn officials have issued two apologies which have been published by news outlets, they have yet to apologize to MOVE family members in person. They also claim they do not have the remains, nor do they know where they are.

## Museum's 134-year racist history

Abdul Aliy Muhammad broke the news about the children's remains in a Philadelphia Inquirer opinion piece

published April 21. He stated at the rally: "Two years ago we found out that Penn Museum had the remains of 53 people thought to have been enslaved on plantations in Cuba. When we demanded reparations, Penn started a committee to 'consider the issue.' A year later we learned that they also had 14 craniums of Black people dug up from graves where Franklin [athletic] Field is today."

Muhammad told the crowd, "This is disgusting, this is gross. This is not okay."

News of the MOVE children's remains came just days after Penn Museum officials made a commitment to repatriate Black and Indigenous remains held for over a century in their Samuel Morton Collection of Human Crania. Morton had used the collection of 1,000 skulls of enslaved African and captured Indigenous people in a racist study aimed to perpetrate a false theory of white supremacy.

Morton's "experiments" were used to justify removal of Indigenous people in the 1830s and later were part of a pattern of nonconsensual experimentation on Black people for medical purposes. One was the infamous 40-year Tuskegee Institute "experiment," — led by U.S. health agencies — where hundreds of Black men were deliberately left untreated for syphilis, even after penicillin was found to be a cure in 1947.

Rally speakers called for Monge to be fired and for restitution and accountability from UPenn, emphasizing that Tree Africa and Delisha Africa deserve to rest in peace. Pam Africa, Minister of Confrontation for the MOVE family, said, "The bomb they dropped on our family is exploding 36 years later and exposing the intent of the cops to kill John Africa and all of our family."

The rally was followed by a march to the campus home of UPenn President Amy Gutmann, where demonstrators blocked traffic on Walnut Street for over an hour. Speakers announced that the 36th anniversary observation of the MOVE bombing will be held in Philadelphia May 15. □



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Banner honoring Tree and Delisha Africa leads march in Philadelphia, April 28.

# Black scientists denounce racism at Penn Museum

*The following excerpts are from an April 28 statement regarding the unethical, possession and callous racist use of the remains of the children of MOVE who died in the 1985 state bombing of their home in Philadelphia.*

The Association of Black Anthropologists, the Society of Black Archaeologists and the Black in Bioanthropology Collective are painfully aware of the barbaric history of anthropology, especially when it comes to populations of peoples of African descent.

We know that our discipline has been mobilized to rationalize eugenics and white supremacy and to justify slavery and colonialism. ... Ethnographic museums, like Penn's Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology (which houses the collection of the notorious racist Samuel Morton), have supported the academic rationale for the institutionalization of racism in anthropology textbooks, courses and curricula. ... ([tinyurl.com/2tbb33td](https://tinyurl.com/2tbb33td))

It is because of this history of racism in anthropology, and because of the missions of ABA, SBA and BiBA to counter it, that we as organizations condemn in the strongest possible language the University

of Pennsylvania, Princeton University, Coursera, along with Professors Alan Mann and Janet Monge, for their horrific treatment of the remains of Tree and Delisha Africa, and for the unfathomable heartlessness and disrespect shown towards the Africa family.

We are outraged by the stunning ethical indifference shown by all parties involved ... but also by the fact that these entities effectively monetized the remains of Black children murdered in a state terrorist attack — a fact made all the more painful given the heightened public awareness of brutal murders of Black children and youth by the police over the past few years.

This revelation represents a painful reminder of anthropology's history with the Black dead — of which the Penn Museum, as the physical manifestation of Morton's legacy, provides a potent symbol. Even as UPenn earlier this year has tried to grapple with the legacy of Morton, we are faced with yet another affront to Black life and dignity.

Black anthropologists should not be alone in expressing this outrage and bearing this heavy ethical burden. All anthropologists should be enraged. All

anthropologists need to condemn this barbaric and savage act by its own practitioners. And white anthropologists, in particular, should not only hold themselves accountable to the ways that they continue to uphold normalized forms of anti-Blackness and harm through their research and theorizing, but should also actively work to undo the centuries of violence and trauma done to nonwhite communities.

We realize that Penn and Princeton are not the only universities trafficking in the human remains of nonwhite peoples. And while both the Penn Museum and Princeton Anthropology have issued statements of contrition, we believe that they must do more. The Association of Black Anthropologists, Society of Black Archaeologists and the Black in Bioanthropology Collective therefore demand:

First, that the Penn Museum self-report this egregious Institutional Review Board violation. [An IRB is a formally designated

group that monitors biomedical research involving human subjects for abuse.]

Second, that the American Anthropological Association (AAA) work in haste to help facilitate the repatriation of the remains of the Africa family children, as well as other remains held in the many anthropology museums and departments throughout the country. These include, but are not limited to, the numerous remains of peoples of African descent.

Finally, toward this end we also call for a national audit of all human remains in museum and university collections. We believe it is imperative that this information become public record, allowing descended communities to reclaim sovereignty of the remains of their ancestors.

We also support the demands of Mike Africa Jr. — a MOVE family member who was six years old at the time when the Philadelphia police dropped the bomb on MOVE — currently circulated in this online petition: [tinyurl.com/36hhev6j](https://tinyurl.com/36hhev6j).

*For the full statement and demands of the groups visit: [aba.americananthro.org](https://aba.americananthro.org).*



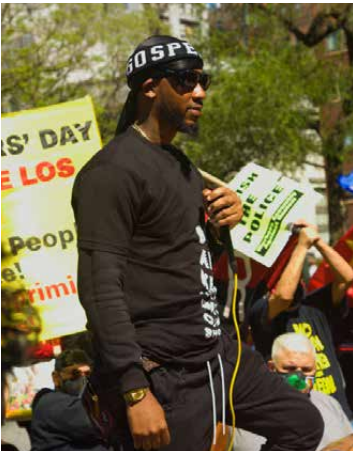


# Celebrating May Day 2021!

By Martha Grevatt

May Day began in the U.S. in 1884 after labor federations called for worker strikes and protests for the eight-hour day. Some 400,000 workers answered the call countrywide on May 1, 1886. That year eight worker organizers, some immigrants, were arrested and framed for the May 4 bombing of a Haymarket Square rally in Chicago. Five were sentenced to death; four were executed and a fifth died in his cell. An 1889 international socialist conference declared May 1 International Workers Day, in part to honor the Haymarket Martyrs. The day was revitalized in the U.S. in 2005 by the Black-led Million Worker March, and in 2006 by the Latinx immigrant workers’ mass strike. In 2021 the day was commemorated around the world; Workers World Party helped organize a number of actions across the U.S.

May Day in **New York City** returned to Union Square after a three-year absence from that historic location of worker struggle. More than 40 organizations of working and oppressed people rallied before marching to the home of centibillionaire Jeff Bezos. The march was led by current and former Amazon workers from Amazon’s JFK8 fulfillment center in Staten Island, including Chris Smalls, fired last year after organizing a walkout there over lack of COVID pro-



WW PHOTO: G. DUNKEL  
**Chris Smalls, Congress of Essential Workers, New York City.**



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE  
**Jimi Alade, Workers World Party, Philadelphia.**

in **New York’s Chinese community** to support the laundry workers of Wash Supply, fired after voting to form an independent union. Protesters marched to the home of the owner — found to have committed wage theft by paying below minimum wage — and held a rally, then continued to the Union Square events. The Laundry Workers Center coordinated the action.

A spirited May Day march through Center City **Philadelphia** targeted the Comcast Center, the health care-for-profit industry at Independence Blue Cross and Wells Fargo Bank, where protesters stopped to demand public banking. Chants included calls to end Israeli apartheid in Palestine and to abolish Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and end detention of immigrant workers. Before returning to City Hall, where demonstrators called for defunding the police and funding community services, they stopped at Philadelphia District Attorney Larry Krasner’s office to demand release of political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal. The march was followed by a community speak-out with entertainers and tabling. A broad coalition of community and activist groups organized the event.

Initiated by the Northeast Ohio Workers Center, **Cleveland’s** “May Day Workers Assembly and March” was jointly organized by a coalition of local political, worker-based and community organizations. The gathering heard from a range of speakers — education workers and grocery workers on the need for unions, a supporter of library janitors on union busting, an undocumented student on deportation and detention, a medical student on the health-care crisis, a sex worker on the

need for decriminalization, an environmentalist on the Green New Deal, a local activist on the history of May Day and a housing rights organizer on the crisis of evictions.

Other speakers included Yvonna Hall, executive director of the Northeast Ohio Black Health Coalition and Cleveland AFL-CIO Executive Secretary Dan O’Malley. Chairing the workers assembly were Chrissy Stonebraker-Martinez, co-director of the InterReligious Task Force on Central America and Colombia, and Aisia Jones, Black Lives Matter Cleveland organizer and candidate for Cleveland City Council.

After the rally, marchers chanted: “Hey, hey, ho, ho, this union busting has got to go.” Other “has to go” subjects were the bosses, capitalism, Walmart, Amazon, Cleveland police, detention centers and white supremacy.

On a particularly hot day — almost 90 degrees — socialists and freedom fighters found a shady spot in a downtown **Pensacola, Fla.**, park to celebrate May Day. The Central Gulf Coast branch of Workers World Party — encompassing parts of Alabama, Florida and Mississippi — called the action and was joined in organizing by the Pensacola Community Action Committee and Black



WW PHOTO: DEVIN COLE  
**Pensacola, Fla.**

Day demonstrators faced intimidation by police and Department of Homeland Security officers at the Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention center, where they convened following a May Day march and car caravan. With sirens blasting and lights flashing, 22 Portland police and DHS vehicles sped toward demonstrators. Riot gear-clad police, brandishing rifles and tear-gas launchers, advanced at the crowd yelling: “Get back, move off!”

A May Day rally began at the Eastbank Esplanade, where people delivered impassioned speeches. “International Workers’ Day is our people’s holiday,” said Adrian,



WW PHOTO: SARA FLOUNDERS  
**March for laundry workers in Chinese community, New York City.**

tection. Workers at JFK8 have begun a union drive, which Smalls’ Congress of Essential Workers is involved with.

“We are workers, and we have power!” said Clarissa, representing Workers Assembly Against Racism. “And each and every one of us carries a spark that can burn this whole racist, sexist, exploitative, capitalist system down!”

Earlier in the day, 300 people gathered



WW PHOTO: SUSAN SCHNUR  
**Cleveland**

Voters Matter. Multiple speakers spoke on topics including the need for worker-led unionization, the attacks on the Black Liberation Struggle through the passing of HB1, the #BAmazon union struggle and the ongoing local women’s clinic defense. A powerful history of May Day and the need for revolutionary optimism, written by a WWP candidate, was read, which ended by proclaiming: “May Day is all of us, together!”

After the rally, a long car caravan drove through Brownsville, a working-class, low-income neighborhood in downtown Pensacola, with signs such as “Stop Evictions Now!” “From Afghanistan to Minneapolis, End U.S. Occupation Everywhere!” and “Smash Police Violence and White Supremacy!”

In **Portland, Ore.**, a crowd of 200 mostly Black and Brown May

an organizer with International Migrants Alliance. “We cannot talk about [migrant] workers without talking about the conditions that have led to forced migration,” said a Somali student representing the Hurriyyah Collective, an anti-imperialist Muslim group.

Workers World Party gave a salute to the Amazon workers in Bessemer: “They

*Continued on page 7*



WW PHOTO: G. DUNKEL  
**Union Square, New York City.**



**Bayan and Migrante, Portland, Ore.**



# May Day hero

## Lucy Parsons: union organizer, anti-capitalist fighter

By Monica Moorehead

Lucy Gonzalez Parsons, an original founder when May Day launched in 1886, was born into slavery in the early 1850s on a Virginia plantation. She, her mother and others were able to escape and move to Texas. There she met her future spouse, Albert Parsons, a former Confederate soldier who helped register newly freed people to vote during Reconstruction. This action made him a target of the KKK who threatened to lynch him.

Lucy and Albert were forced to leave Texas due to the miscegenation laws that legally outlawed mixed race marriages. They eventually moved to Chicago in 1873 where great labor struggles were taking place in the factories to demand an eight-hour day. Without union protection, the industrial workers, many of them poor immigrants from Europe, were forced to toil 10- to 16-hour days under horrendous working conditions.

Both Lucy and Albert became not only union organizers but also developed radical anarchist and anti-capitalist ideas. After Albert lost his printing job due to his political beliefs, Lucy opened a dress shop in her home to support him and their two children and hosted meetings for the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union (ILGWU).

On May 4, 1886, following a workers' rally in Haymarket Square in Chicago, the police threw a bomb in the crowd, killing eight people and one of their own. Albert and seven other union organizers were targeted and framed for killing the officer. Four of them, including Albert, were hanged in the Square in 1887, forever becoming known as the Haymarket Martyrs. May Day was officially declared as International Workers Day in 1889 at an international socialist conference.



Brenda Stokely, union and women's activist, speaks at May Day rally, Union Square, New York City.

Lucy Parsons championed political rights as well as workers' rights. For instance, she joined the worldwide campaign to stop the executions of two Italian immigrant union organizers, Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti, who were framed for murder in 1920. They were executed in 1927.

Lucy fought for the freedom of the Scottsboro Brothers, nine young Black men falsely accused of raping two white women in 1930 in Alabama. A worldwide campaign led by socialists and communists eventually exonerated them.

Lucy was a fighter until her death at the age of 91 on March 7, 1942, in a fire in her home. Suspected of setting the blaze, the Chicago police confiscated her precious books and writings that never saw the light of day again. Parsons was proud of being declared by the Chicago police as "more dangerous than a thousand rioters."

Lucy Parsons was a militant and defiant anti-capitalist anarchist and a socialist, who wanted to empower the workers through revolution.

Lucy and Mary Harris "Mother" Jones, a coal miner organizer, were the first two women to join the Industrial Workers of the World. The union welcomed all workers, regardless of nationality, religion, gender or skill, into its ranks. Lucy organized campaigns against hunger and for unemployed councils on behalf of the IWW.

Some of Lucy's most notable quotes from speeches include:

- "Never be deceived that the rich will permit you to vote away their wealth."
- "Let us sink such differences as nationality, religion, politics, and set our eyes eternally and forever toward the rising star of the industrial republic of labor."
- "So many able writers have shown that the unjust institutions which work so much misery and suffering to the masses have their root in governments, and owe their whole existence to the power derived from government, that we cannot help but believe that were every law, every title deed, every court and every police officer or soldier abolished tomorrow with one sweep, we would be better off than now."

The spirit of Lucy Parsons continues to live in every revolutionary who abhors all forms of exploitation, oppression and inequality, who fights to abolish every ugly feature of capitalism and who fights for a socialist future for the liberation of all humanity. Lucy Parsons, ipresente! □

## Celebrating May Day 2021!

Continued from page 6

lost the vote for a union; but by heroically facing up to the Amazon Goliath, they won the war. They sent ripples throughout the working class here and around the world." The event was organized by a coalition of immigrant and worker's rights groups such as Migrante, Anakbayan and the International League of Peoples' Struggle, who voiced their outrage over the exploitation and mistreatment of migrant workers in the U.S. and internationally.

Two May Day demonstrations — a union-led march in the morning in **San Francisco** and a rank-and-file worker and community based car caravan in the afternoon in **Oakland** — raised important issues and upheld workers often overlooked at traditional labor gatherings.

In **San Francisco**, International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) Local 10 led the march with their historic banner reading: "Stop the execution of Mumia Abu-Jamal." Organized labor in the Bay Area has celebrated May Day every year since 2006, when immigrant workers reclaimed the day for the working class. This year, most of the Bay Area's five county labor councils joined together to call a march dedicated to the 1934 San Francisco General Strike. Known also as the "West Coast Longshoremen's Strike,"

this pivotal event in labor history began May 9, 1934, and lasted 83 days, leading to unionization of all West Coast ports.

This year's ILWU-led labor march was also dedicated to Mumia Abu-Jamal, a U.S. political prisoner locked up for the past 40 years for his writings and activism against the racist Philadelphia police. In 1999, the ILWU shut down all West Coast ports to support the campaign to get Mumia off death row.

The San Francisco march also focused on support for the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act, strengthening unorganized workers in the fight for unions. Other themes were Black Lives Matter, support for undocumented immigrant workers and an end to anti-Asian violence. Several hundred unionists and community members marched from the Embarcadero, in downtown San Francisco by the Bay, to Civic Center Plaza. Speakers included ILWU Local 10 President Trent Willis and Dr. Angela Davis, well-known scholar and abolitionist activist, invited by Local 10 to help lead the march.

Later that afternoon, an extraordinary coalition of activists, community organizations and revolutionary groups caravanned throughout **Oakland**, beginning in Chinatown where speakers gave solidarity messages to the community in Mandarin and Cantonese. At the first stop — a Whole

Foods Market where demonstrations were held recently to support the Bessemer, Ala., Amazon union drive — over 80 cars stopped traffic for 15 minutes, while a recorded message from a former Amazon worker was played. Hashid Kasama of Rideshare Drivers United talked about efforts to organize Uber and Lyft drivers.

A second stop at the Lake Merritt Amphitheater brought solidarity greetings to the families of Mario Gonzalez and Steven Taylor, both recent victims of police murder in the Bay Area. Family members and anti-police terror activists have been organizing around both cases to win justice for the families and the community.

All along the way there were talks and chants about supporting the most oppressed members of the working class: incarcerated workers, sex workers, trans youth and the undocumented.

The last caravan stop was in West Oakland at a one-day housing reclamation by House the Bay, where housing rights and unhoused activists had taken

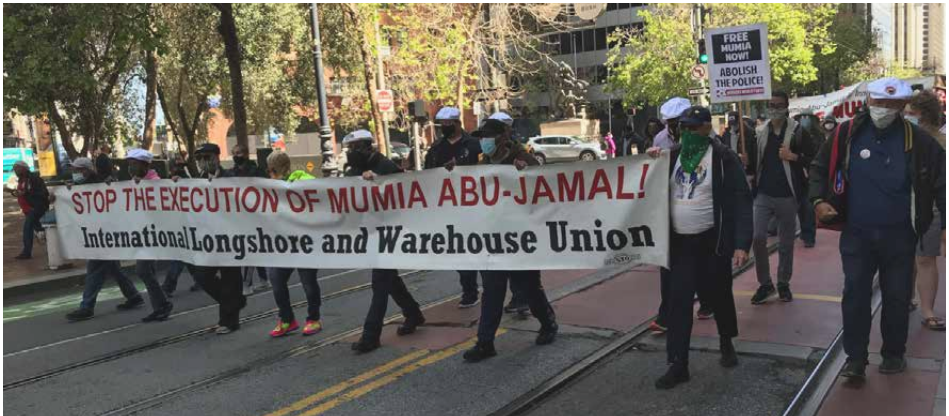


Car caravan of Rideshare Drivers United and many others, Oakland, Calif.

over an abandoned house. The caravanners were treated to a community barbecue dinner and joined a rally where speakers were Indigenous activists, formerly incarcerated people, the mother of a young Black man who died at Santa Rita Jail in Alameda County and sex workers.

From the spirited commemoration of the historic 1934 San Francisco General Strike to the community housing takeover in West Oakland, May Day has again proven to be vibrant and alive in the Bay Area.

Contributing to this report were Devin Cole, Greg Dunkel, Judy Greenspan, Martha Grevatt, Betsey Piette and Carlos Splitstoser.



Trent Willis, president of ILWU Local 10, leads a solidarity rally, San Francisco.



Mobilization to Free Mumia, San Francisco.



# Supreme Court rules kids can be thrown away

By Gloria Rubac

The Supreme Court of the United States ruled April 22 that children under 18 years of age — the vast majority of whom are poor and of color — can be incarcerated in prison for the rest of their lives with no possibility of release from behind the razor wire.

Since 2005, when SCOTUS ruled in *Roper v. Simmons* that juveniles could not be sentenced to death, the highest court has been limiting harsher penalties for juveniles. Their rulings accepted that, because children’s minds are still developing, they are less culpable and deserve special consideration when they are sentenced for serious crimes, including murder. The court issued a string of decisions based on the science of adolescent brain development.

In 2012, the high court ruled in *Miller v. Alabama* and *Jackson v. Hobbs* that judges must consider the unique circumstances of each juvenile offender, banning sentences of life without parole for nearly all juveniles — the only exception being those determined to be “permanently incorrigible.” In 2016 this decision was made retroactive for those sentenced prior to 2012.

But that streak of rulings, which juvenile justice advocates cheered as shielding minors from the harshest punishments, ended April 22, when Justice Brett Kavanaugh wrote for a 6-3 majority that “a separate factual finding of permanent incorrigibility is not required” to sentence a juvenile offender to life in prison without parole.

About 70% of children sentenced to life without parole are Black and Brown youth. Life without parole sentences for juveniles are banned in 25 states and the District of Columbia. In the remaining states, life without parole for juveniles is still allowed; when 2020 began, 1,465 people were serving those terms for crimes committed as minors.

The case *Jones v. Mississippi* involves Brett Jones, who was 15 years old when he killed his grandfather in self-defense.

At a resentencing hearing in 2014, Jones told the court, “I’m not the same person I was when I was 15. ... I’ve become a pretty decent person in life. And I’ve pretty much taken every avenue that I could possibly take in prison to rehabilitate myself.

“Minors do have the ability to change,” he reflected. He noted in closing, “If you decide to send me back without the possibility of parole, I will still do exactly what I’ve been doing for 10 years. But all I can do is ask you ... please give me just one chance to show the world, man, like, I can be somebody. I’ve done everything I could over the past 10 years to be somebody. ... I can’t change what was already done. I can just try to show ... I’ve become a grown man.”

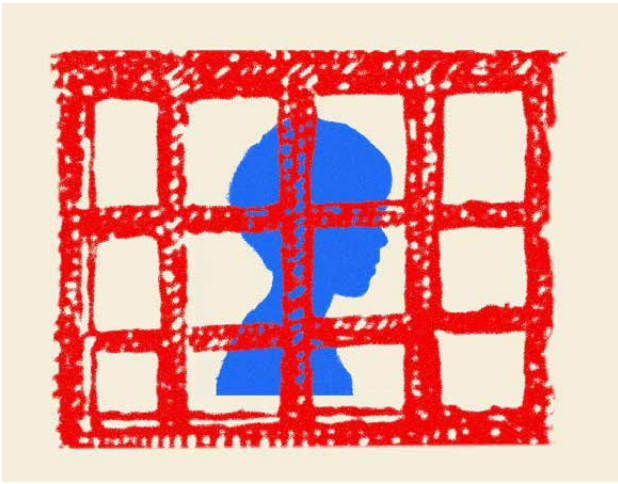


IMAGE: ANNIE OTZEN

Today, Jones is 31. He has spent more years in prison than out of it.

**A ‘very significant rollback’**

Brooklyn Law School professor and former juvenile defender Cynthia Godsoe said of the Jones ruling: “It’s a very significant rollback of what had been a very promising line of jurisprudence.”

*Judge Kavanaugh, credibly accused of illegal behavior in his confirmation hearings for the Supreme Court, argued that his childhood “indiscretions” of sexual assaults, disgusting yearbook statements and wild drinking parties shouldn’t be considered because he was young. Yet this Brett has ruled that the other Brett, Brett Jones, should spend the rest of his life in prison — for a crime he was convicted of at age 15.*

Judge Kavanaugh, credibly accused of illegal behavior in his confirmation hearings for the Supreme Court, argued that his childhood “indiscretions” of sexual assaults, disgusting yearbook statements and wild drinking parties shouldn’t be considered because he was young. Yet this Brett has ruled that the other Brett, Brett Jones, should spend the rest of his life in prison — for a crime he was convicted of at age 15.

Justice Sonia Sotomayor, joined by Justices Stephen



Breyer and Elena Kagan, criticized the new justices’ change of course in her dissent.

Sotomayor recounted the story of the defendant in this case, Brett Jones, to show how “many aspects of Jones’ crime seem to epitomize unfortunate yet transient immaturity. Jones was the victim of violence and neglect that he was too young to escape. His biological father was an alcoholic, who physically abused his mother, who had severe mental health problems. His stepfather abused him, too, using belts, switches and a paddle. He openly expressed his hatred for Jones.”

When Jones moved to Mississippi to live with his grandparents, he abruptly lost access to medication he took for mental health issues, including hallucinations and self-harm. His grandfather beat him. One day in 2004 when Jones’ grandfather tried to hit him, Jones stabbed him repeatedly, killing him. He had turned 15 just 23 days earlier. Jones tried to save his grandfather with CPR but failed. After making minimal efforts to conceal the crime, he confessed to police.

Nanon Williams, a Texas prison activist sent to death row at age 17, spoke to Workers World from prison in Rosharon, Texas: “If you say a kid can’t change, then who can? Even a kid convicted of a bad crime can change. If you’re not going to give a child a second chance, then you are ignoring the truth. Rich kids’ parents can buy justice. But for the rest of us, we are victims of a system that doesn’t value us.”

Williams said that psychologists and criminologists studied juveniles, and the science told them how brains develop much later than age 18, that kids are more susceptible to peer pressure and that teens are impulsive and do not consider long-term consequences of their actions.

“In Texas they studied me, Napoleon Beazley and Shaka Sankofa. But when Shaka used these findings to stop his execution in 2000, it failed — and he was executed. Napoleon was executed in 2002, and his crime involved extreme peer pressure. We were three Black men, two of us innocent. Then a white kid named Roper files a case about juveniles on death row, and they rule in his favor. I only survived because of the 2005 *Roper* decision. I’m still trying to prove my innocence, but now I’m off death row.”

Consider these facts: 2,363 children are arrested each day in the U.S. — one every 37 seconds. About 76,000 children are placed in the adult criminal justice system each year.

The criminal injustice system in the U.S. favors the rich and powerful and destroys working-class and oppressed people ensnared in its clutches. It cannot be reformed. The whole system must be overthrown for the majority to receive justice. We must create a society where children are treated as precious, with all the love and dignity they deserve. □

# Unite to free Mumia!

By Judy Greenspan  
Oakland, Calif.

Mumia Abu-Jamal’s 67th birthday was commemorated with three well-attended actions in San Francisco and the East Bay from April 20-24.

On April 20, more than 50 people picketed in front of KQED public television studios in San Francisco’s Financial District to protest the airing of Independent Lens’ “Philly DA” about the career of District Attorney Larry Krasner. Although he campaigned as a “progressive” who would rectify decades of white-supremacist rulings against Black defendants, Krasner has since refused to order a new trial for Mumia — or open possibilities for overturning his conviction.

Mumia, a world-renowned revolutionary, writer and political prisoner, has served over 40 years for a crime he did not commit. Krasner has fallen into lockstep with the Fraternal Order of Police which has stood in the way of Mumia’s release.

A broad coalition of activists and organizations is demanding Independent Lens grant them equal time to present Mumia’s case. The coalition organizing the KQED protest included the Labor Action Committee to Free Mumia, No Justice Under Capitalism, Free Mumia SF and the Prisoners’ Solidarity Committee of Workers World Party.

A day of international solidarity with Mumia on his birthday began April 24 in Fruitvale with a rally at Oscar Grant Plaza — renamed by the community after Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) police assassinated Grant, a young Black man, in 2009. More than 100 people marched from there to rally outside the Oakland Police Department. Speakers from the Oakland Education Association, the SF Bay View National Black Newspaper and the Black Panther Party Cubs demanded Mumia be set free immediately.

The demonstrators stayed in the streets and marched to the Alameda County Courthouse. District Attorney Nancy O’Malley has consistently refused to charge and prosecute Oakland police and sheriffs for killing Black and Brown people. A broad array of people spoke, including young activists on how Mumia’s writings had politicized their generation. A taped recording in support of Mumia from Kevin Cooper, a prisoner on death row in California, was played. Pam Africa, Minister of Confrontation of the MOVE organization and head of International Concerned Friends and Family of Mumia, called in from Philadelphia, as did Mumia’s grandson, Jamal Jr., to thank everyone for their solidarity and organizing.

Later in West Oakland, a ceremony was held for Mumia on the street where Huey P. Newton, a leader of the Oakland Black Panther Party, was shot and killed



PHOTO: LEON KUNSTENAR/PROBONOPHOTO

**Gerald Smith of the Labor Action Committee to Free Mumia speaks at the Alameda County Courthouse, April 24.**

August 22, 1989. Participants gathered in front of a home with a mural dedicated to the women of the Black Panther Party. Black activists — including Fredrika Newton, his widow and president of the Dr. Huey P. Newton Foundation — led a procession to 10th and Center Streets where Newton was killed.

The message of these events was simple: Unite to Free Mumia! According to supporters and prisoners’ rights activists in the Bay Area, the campaign will continue until Mumia is returned home to his family. □



# Albert Woodfox & Mumia Abu-Jamal

## ‘Indomitable spirit that refuses to be broken’

*The following exchange between political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal, wrongly incarcerated since Dec. 9, 1981, and Albert Woodfox, of the Angola Three, released in February 2016 after nearly 45 years of incarceration, most in solitary confinement, was recorded by Prison Radio. It aired as part of an evening of solidarity with Abu-Jamal April 23.*

**Mumia Abu-Jamal:** You, and the other Angola Three, did an ungodly bid in the hole. How did the state justify locking you cats up for so long?

**Albert Woodfox:** Given the unchecked and unchallenged power of the prison system in Louisiana, their justification was the fact that myself, Herman and Robert were fighting for humanity, the fact that we were fighting to maintain our big identity, pride, self-respect and a sense of self worth. They felt it was a threat to what they considered to be the only function of a prison. That was the ‘justification’ here. The warden made a statement in a deposition that I was the most dangerous man in America. And since I’ve been out, I would like to think that my attitude has proven him to be right.

**MAJ:** How did y’all endure 40 years in the hole?

**AW:** That’s a more difficult question to ask. I guess having political consciousness that was inspired by being members of the Black Panther Party. They say knowledge is power. We had a sense of what solitary confinement was designed for, so over the decades I would guess strength, determination, values or principles. We stayed active, and we looked to society for inspiration. The men and women, in some cases children,

fighting inside to be heard, to change conditions, rather than turn inward and allow prison culture to set examples of how we should live our lives.

**MAJ:** What gave y’all hope?

**AW:** I had a wonderful family, wonderful comrades who made up the International Coalition to Free the Angola Three, a wonderful legal team. But more than anything, what gave me hope was the guys I lived around. The social struggle that was being waged, sacrifices that were being made, the indomitable spirit that refused to be broken.

Now, those are some of the things that inspire me. One thing in particular was the development of Black Lives Matter,

which I think is a tremendous movement. And I was so proud to see all the young men and women involved in that movement come forth. As a matter of fact, before the pandemic when Robert and I were traveling together and speaking, we always asked the host to arrange it so that we could meet with some of the young leaders in the movement.

Those are the things that gave me hope, you know, a love of humanity, the indomitable spirit of the people and the continual struggle that was going on in society. Mumia, my brother, given the preponderance of evidence exonerating you and lack of evidence against you, how does it feel to still be in prison?

**MAJ:** Brother Albert, and in the spirit of all the Angola Three, I salute you. You know, I think of early days, even before trial began. There was a pretrial hearing. I had read a law book showing cases from the U.S. Supreme Court. So

it was based on the Constitution, right? I went to the law library, read those actual cases, and then drew up motions that I made in court. Judge Sabo promptly denied the motions. I couldn’t believe it.

But it made me understand that the legal system most people meet when they first go into court, wasn’t bound by a Constitution or Supreme Court rulings. They do whatever they want to do, because it really ain’t about the law. It’s about power.

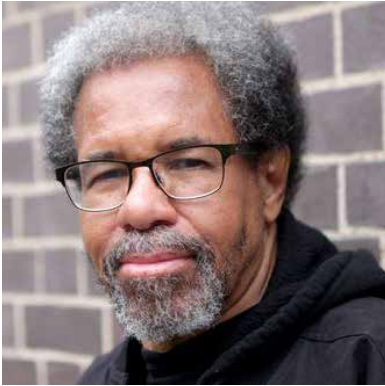
The same judge, Sabo, would later say in open court, 15 years later, in my appeal case, “Justice is just an emotional feeling.” To quote Malcolm X, “Don’t be shocked when I say I was in prison. Long as you’re south of the Canadian border, you’re still in prison.” So, all power to the people.

**AW:** My brother, what is your most painful personal loss?

**MAJ:** My mother and daughter, Edith and Samia. I had dreams of walking with both of them in freedom. And, of course, other family members, brothers, sisters, cousins, brothers-in-law. They live in our memory and in our hearts.

**AW:** Again, my brother, what is your number one priority when freedom finally comes?

**MAJ:** The same, as it’s always better to serve the people. To work on their behalf, to work for a world where true Black liberation is a reality, not just words. As for us, to say freedom is a must. Thank you, Brother Woodfox. □



Albert Woodfox



Mumia Abu-Jamal

## Global movement demands freedom for Mumia

By Joe Piette

Mumia Abu-Jamal has fought for international solidarity since he wrote for The Black Panther newspaper as a 14-year-old in 1968. Today, from State Correctional Institute Mahanoy, he continues to encourage all revolutionaries to support each other’s struggles regardless of where in the world they may be.

Solidarity is a reciprocal thing. People around the world have signed petitions, written letters and called Pennsylvania officials demanding Mumia’s release from prison, because he is a political prisoner, because he’s innocent and because ailing and elderly people should not be incarcerated.

On April 24, Abu-Jamal’s 67th birthday, activists around the world came out into the streets — dans les rues, a las calles, and auf die Straße — to demand Mumia’s freedom.

### Libérons aka Free Mumia

In Paris, where the Mumia Abu-Jamal Collective has demonstrated every first Wednesday for 20 years at the U.S. Consulate, over 200 people attended a rally April 24.

The next day almost 400 people from the Black Diaspora gathered in Paris. The Anti-Negrophobia Collective, the “Trop Violans” Collective from French Guiana, and others from Africa, Martinique, Mayotte, Guadeloupe, Kanaky (New Caledonia), Polynesia, and Guiana spoke against French imperialism and for Mumia’s freedom. (Video with English subtitles: [youtu.be/rpviXeodqCI](https://youtu.be/rpviXeodqCI))

Madly Etile, the mother of Keziah who was tortured by Paris police as he protested French policies in Martinique in July 2020, spoke. ([tinyurl.com/eydmpaw8](https://tinyurl.com/eydmpaw8)) Mumia had recorded a message called “Environments of Racism” for Keziah on March 26. ([tinyurl.com/49ezzak3](https://tinyurl.com/49ezzak3))

Abu-Jamal supporters gathered at the U.S. Consulate in Amsterdam April 19, calling for Mumia’s release. Several bands played live music from a trailer truck. During the rally, the Vice Consul came out to accept a letter of demands.

### Gerechtigkeit für aka Justice for Mumia Abu Jamal!

In Germany, where a movement to free Mumia has existed for years, several protests occurred, including April 8 in Hamburg by the Black Community Coalition for Justice & Self-defense in front of the U.S. Consulate. Another protest happened April 17 in Frankfurt am

Main outside the U.S. Consulate led by supporters of Leonard Peltier, Abu-Jamal and members of the Cuban Solidarity Network.

In Berlin, 200 people protested April 24 to free Mumia and other prisoners, organized by Death in Custody, Migrantifa and Network for political prisoners, Gemeinschaftlicher Widerstand, Criminals For Freedom, Sabot, no129 and the Red Aid.

VVN/BdA, an anti-fascist organisation founded by survivors of the Nazi death camps explained why Mumia is an honorary member of their organization. Turgay, Müllsch, Yok, Mila Morgenstern and Elses Alptraum contributed live music.

In Vienna, Austria, the Network to Free All Political Prisoners held a rally April 24 to support Mumia as well as political prisoner Ali Osman Köse in Turkey, who also suffers serious health problems after 37 years in prison.

### ¡Libera a Mumia!

Three actions for Mumia took place in Mexico April 23-25. In Tepic Nayarit, community organizers took flyers about Mumia to a park to talk to young skateboarders, getting positive feedback. In Oaxaca, organizers played cumbias and urged listeners to support Mumia’s struggle.



PHOTO CREDIT: JACKY HORTAUT

In front of the U.S. Embassy, Paris, April 24.

In Mexico City, another music-centered rally took place which can be watched at: [tinyurl.com/n2p7hc6m](https://tinyurl.com/n2p7hc6m).

The people, united, will free Mumia!

Thanks to Julia Wright and Jacky Hortaut in France, Michael Shiffmann and Gregor in Germany and Carolina Saldaña in Mexico for their reports.

## Protest for incarcerated loved ones



Our incarcerated loved ones are being treated inhumanely, and their voices are not being heard. Over 4,700 people are locked in Philadelphia’s jails, more than when COVID-19 began. The majority of people incarcerated

are waiting for a trial — some for over a year — in unsafe, unsanitary conditions during the COVID pandemic.

On April 30, over two dozen friends and community activists stood with families of folks imprisoned at the Curran-Fromhold Correctional Institute (CFCF) to demand action to deal with the abysmal conditions at the prisons.

Relatives of incarcerated people, as well as those recently released, described people having to endure imprisonment with no toilet paper, no edible food, mice, few chances to take showers and other outrageous conditions at CFCF and the city’s six other jail facilities.

The Coalition to Abolish Death by Incarceration, #No215Jail Coalition, Philly Black Mamas of the Philadelphia Community Bail Fund and others organized the hour-long demonstration at CFCF’s main entrance.

— Report and photo by Joe Piette



No to NATO and Quad

The Joe Biden administration’s first 100 days has gotten the most publicity for its \$2 trillion for COVID-19 relief and another proposed \$2 trillion for infrastructure. The infrastructure bill — supposedly financed by taxing the 1% — has yet to be passed. Some call it the most extensive social program since Lyndon Baines Johnson’s Great Society.

LBJ, we recall here, wrote his history less with his Great Society than with his escalation of the U.S. war on Vietnam. This escalation created misery in Indochina, led to Johnson’s early retirement and eventually to an ignominious defeat for U.S. imperialism.

Biden, too, proposes infrastructure but provokes conflict around the world. Right now — spring 2021 — major military maneuvers are targeting Russia and China.

Washington’s European imperialist allies welcomed the Biden regime. The

new U.S. president seemed more likely to give these NATO allies — Britain, France, Germany, Italy, etc. — a more reasonable share of the wealth looted from the rest of the world. And less smarmy criticism. In public, anyway.

Now NATO’s “Defender Europe” exercises has 28,000 troops from the U.S. and 25 NATO allies and partners under Pentagon leadership spreading COVID-19 through Europe as they menace Russia. (See WW article, [tinyurl.com/ysytf84](https://tinyurl.com/ysytf84))

On the other side of the globe, the U.S. Navy will ply the waters of the South and East China Sea starting May 11 in alliance with its fellow exploiters in Australia, Japan and India — joined this year for the first time by the French Navy.

Because it has four members, they called this alliance “the Quad,” as in quadrilateral. Adding France, they now call it the Quad+1 — apparently French membership is still conditional.

The Quad directs its energy and its warships against China, under the direction of U.S. imperialism. They all have extensive economic relations with China. While the Quad has not yet reached the level of an Asian NATO, French imperialism’s participation shows its potential.

French colonialism laid claim to Indochina for a century until the French rulers’ ignominious defeat in 1954 in the battle at Dien Bien Phu in Vietnam. One has to wonder if the current French regime dreams of a return, this time subordinate to Washington. It’s a dream that can quickly become a nightmare. The strategists of Japanese imperialism, which once occupied China, Korea, and for a shorter period the Philippines and other Indo-Pacific countries, should remember that too.

A corporate media deluge demonizing China accompanies the warships’ show of force near Taiwan and the Spratly

Islands, adding to the danger of a new Cold War — or even a hot one. They fault China for controlling its COVID-19 crisis and resuming economic growth. The media also charges China with autocratic rule, human rights violations, etc.

The same media could easily expose the Quad — India’s pandemic disaster and its treatment of Muslims, other minorities and “lower castes,” Australia’s treatment of its Aboriginal population, U.S. police murders and mass incarceration, for example — for many more crimes, and these with a strong basis in reality.

These war exercises may look only like distant warnings of danger. But they more likely are the symptoms of a capitalist, imperialist system in decline — but still capable of great damage. However mild Biden may appear at home, the working class and progressive movement here had better keep its guard up against a new imperialist war. □

Chad
Resistance to the coup, opposition to France

By G. Dunkel

May 2 — U.S. and French imperialism have competing interests in how an ongoing crisis in Chad is resolved. They also share common interests in keeping imperialism dominant. The crisis flows from the death of Chad’s president Idriss Déby in combat April 20 against the armed opposition front FACT.

Right now it appears that French imperialism has the advantage, while the U.S. government is taking steps to ensure its interests are protected.

FACT, the Front pour l’Alternance et la Concorde au Tchad, is an armed group, based in southern Libya, whose main political demand is eliminating Déby’s regime. It appears to be well supplied with heavy weapons. From where is unclear.

The headquarters of Operation Barkhane, France’s military intervention in the Sahel — the band of countries stretching across Africa on the edge of the Sahara desert — is in N’Djamena, the capital of Chad. AFRICOM, the U.S. Command for Africa, also has a base in N’Djamena.



Students protest in Chad.

Chad’s main value to French and U.S. imperialism appears to be strategic. It is in the center of Africa and has borders with Nigeria, around Lake Chad, Niger, Libya, the Sudan, the Central Africa Republic and Cameroon. It has a well-trained, well-equipped and well-led army that has been very useful in operations against Boko

Haram in northern Nigeria and resisting Islamic groups in the triangle formed by Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger.

Mahamat Idriss Déby, one of Idriss Déby’s sons, an army general, quickly set up a military council, dissolved the government and parliament, and promised transparent, free and fair elections in

18 months. While Idriss Déby’s election to another term as president was due to be announced the day he was killed, this action of Mahamat Déby was still an illegal coup.

Protests were organized in N’Djamena and also Moundou, the second largest city in Chad in the south, where farming is the main occupation.

The protests were quickly broken up by cops using tear gas and live rounds. According to Baldal Oyamta, the Chadian coordinator for human rights, at least nine people were killed and 50 people were seriously injured. Scores were arrested. ([tinyurl.com/ykmpyd4d](https://tinyurl.com/ykmpyd4d))

Gounong Vaïma is general secretary of the Union of Chadian Trade Unions (UST). He gave an interview to Tchadinfo, an Internet site covering news and events in Chad, on the eve of May Day. Vaïma said “At the current time, we are asking workers to not go in, because we don’t know what could happen. We don’t want to expose folks.” He went on to say “The aim of the UST is radical change.” ([tinyurl.com/yvjxk2eb](https://tinyurl.com/yvjxk2eb)). □

May Day: Hail the workers of the world! Support Workers World!

May Day. Workers. Resistance. Solidarity.

May 1 is International Workers’ Day, officially commemorated in over 80 countries, but not in the U.S., where it originated in 1886 in Chicago as part of the struggle for the eight-hour workday. Its militant legacy is marked by strong protests by the global working class. It’s a day of solidarity. The class struggle is alive, as shown by worker actions against corporate giants and governments, with many focused on the current pandemic crisis.

Workers World newspaper is partisan. Our coverage lauds struggles by the global working class against capitalist exploiters. Our newspaper sides with the multinational, multigender, multigenerational working class, organized and unorganized, those fighting for a livable wage, benefits and unionization.

WW lauds the courageous workers and organizers who took on Amazon, the corporate behemoth, in Bessemer, Ala.



May Day, New York City, 2017. WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

We support all those employed by avaricious profiteers. WW honors and thanks health care and other essential workers who risked their health to keep society running during the pandemic.

Our pages express solidarity with the millions of workers, especially Black, Latinx, Indigenous, immigrants, women and other gender oppressed people, disabled, all who were impacted by the pandemic downturn, and those still jobless, without health care, childcare, sufficient food and housing. Our Tear Down the

Walls section shows our heartfelt support of incarcerated workers.

Socialists and communists fought successfully for International Workers’ Day to be an official holiday worldwide to honor workers’ struggles. But the U.S. ruling class tried to erase this workers’ holiday and bury its origins in the militant strikes of the late 1800s. Washington instead established Labor Day, which is devoid of the workers’ struggle history embodied in May Day.

May Day was reignited in the U.S. in 2006. Millions of immigrants, the majority from Latin America, organized a countrywide general strike to protest racist, anti-immigrant legislation, repression and deportations.

On this May Day, WW says it is imperative to call for jobs and government programs to provide life’s necessities to all workers and their families, and to demand an end to all forms of bigotry, inequality and police terror.

WW promotes the message of May Day’s socialist and communist founders:

End capitalism! Fight for socialism!

The 44-year-long WW Supporter Program was created so readers could support publication of working-class truth needed for revolutionary change. Members receive a year’s subscription to WW, a regular letter about timely issues and one, two or three (respectively) free subscriptions for friends for a donation of \$75, \$100, \$300 — or more. Members can receive the book: “What Road to Socialism?” upon request. (Or read it at [workers.org/books/](https://workers.org/books/).)

WW articles are posted daily at [workers.org](https://workers.org). During the pandemic, printed copies are being mailed monthly. Issues will be printed and sent out more frequently when the crisis lifts.

Write monthly or annual checks to Workers World. Mail them to Workers World, with your name and address, to 147 W. 24th St., 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10011. Or contribute at [workers.org/donate/](https://workers.org/donate/).

We are grateful for your help in building Workers World! □



# Ecuador election

## Analysts debate why neoliberal banker won

By Michael Otto  
Ibarra, Ecuador

April 30 — In the wake of the April 11 second round of the presidential election won by right-wing banker Guillermo Lasso, Ecuador has been torn by cleavages and violence from organized crime, whose roots are in the extreme poverty, rampant inequalities and elimination of the social welfare programs introduced by the 2007-17 government of Rafael Correa.

The COVID-19 pandemic is a continuing nightmare, with hundreds of people on wait lists for a hospital bed. Here in the northern Andean city of Ibarra, more and more people are begging in the streets.

Although progressive young economist Andrés Arauz of United for Hope (UNES) — the party associated with former president Rafael Correa — led in the first round of the election and was leading in polls, Lasso won the second round with a 5% margin or approximately 420,000 votes. There were many more null votes — 1.75 million — than usual.

But Arauz won hardly any of the 1.8 million votes that went in the first round to the third-place candidate, Yaku Pérez of the Pachakutik party (PK). Pachakutik is the political arm of the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of Ecuador (CONAIE). A regional analysis of the vote revealed Arauz won a large percentage of Afro-Ecuadorian votes.

Lasso’s electoral victory increases U.S. hegemony in Latin America and legitimizes Lasso’s four-year unofficial co-governance with the unpopular President Lenín Moreno. This leaves the Ecuadorian working class, the Indigenous movement, and the “authentic left” or “other” left (to the left of Arauz and Correa), weakened and divided. CONAIE, the PK and the “other left” advised a null vote April 11.

### South American rightists praise Lasso’s win

The first to congratulate Lasso included rightist Colombian President Iván Duque and his fascist predecessor Álvaro Uribe, rightist President Sebastian Piñera of Chile and the nefarious U.S. agent Juan Guaidó in Venezuela. U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken discussed his plans to restore Venezuelan “democracy” with Lasso April 23.



Andrés Arauz, United for Hope Alliance candidate for Ecuador's presidency, at March 27 rally.

Lasso’s CREO party and the Social Christian Party suffered huge losses in the first round. They only control 30 seats (22%) in the National Assembly, compared to 49 (36%) for Arauz’ party. Only 2 out of 10 voters chose Lasso in the first round.

Lasso’s election increases the misery for the working class, whose precarious downward slide during the last three years is well documented. The index that measures precarity rose at an unprecedented rate of 15% in 2020, the year of the pandemic. This rise reflects layoffs of hundreds of thousands of public sector workers, the continuing loss of private-sector jobs and International Monetary Fund-imposed austerity.

The Moreno regime consciously failed to enforce existing labor protections during the pandemic, and his new legislation allowed bosses to easily discharge workers.

Official data shows pauperization dramatically increasing since the Correa government — which had lifted 1.14 million out of poverty in ten years. Moreno drove 1.87 million people back into poverty in less than four years. And 1.17 million people are now in extreme poverty.



Ecuador general strike, 2019.

Nonetheless, Moreno’s government survived the Great Uprising of October 2019. The worst president in Ecuador’s history, rejected by 90% of the population, repressed the rebellion and imposed even harsher austerity during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Beginning on May 24, with the inauguration of Guillermo Lasso as president of the Republic, the new government of Ecuador will be directly in the hands of the elite class of big businessmen, bankers and the corporate media, aligned with imperialism and the Latin American political right. Lasso will deepen the neoliberal business model.

Lasso’s right-wing CREO party and the Social Christian Party led the cabal that has now privatized the Central Bank following April’s election. Lasso aims to privatize Social Security next. Both steps violate the 2008 Constitution on the way to dismantling the social program of Correa’s Citizen’s Revolution.

Even the Public Defender of Ecuador condemned the Moreno regime’s repression of the plurinational October 2019 rebellion as a crime against humanity. The next year, during the terrible days of the pandemic, the class struggle evaporated. Moreno won and Lasso won.

The October 2019 uprising was never discussed in the general election by any of the 16 parties. Yaku Pérez, the Indigenous candidate for PK, even supported the regime’s indictments against the leaders of the rebellion. But it was that October 2019 uprising that catapulted the PK into the National Assembly as a force, with 27 deputies.

### Corporate media lies

The dominant discourse promoted by the media painted Arauz as a puppet of Correa. And yet the Lasso-Moreno tight connection during Moreno’s rule was successfully hidden by a slick campaign supported by the corporate press, with millions of dollars spent on social media.

Years of media lies have convinced many voters that Moreno’s right-wing regime was a continuation of Correism. The corporate mass media began viciously attacking Correism for waste and corruption during the latter half of Correa’s second term with great success. This tactic effectively covered up the violent neoliberal attack on the people.

Indigenous communities in numerous provinces voted for Lasso. Many social organizations, including feminists and environmentalists, abstained or voted for Lasso in protest. No one has measured the depoliticizing effect of NGOs operating in the country. There isn’t a simple

way to explain why hardworking, poor Ecuadorians chose the neoliberal class enemy over Andrés Arauz.

The burning issue of access to abortion was barely mentioned in the general election, with the exception of Xavier Hervas, whose Democratic Left (ID) party won 16% of the first-round votes, attributed to his slick TikTok appeal to youth.

The Constitutional Court waited until after the Lasso’s victory to declare the law prohibiting abortions in the case of rape unconstitutional.

### Debate among Ecuador’s political analysts

Various Ecuadorian analysts are examining the lessons of the election from the viewpoints of the sectors of society they represent. We present some of them here.

Marxist thinker Alejandro Moreano in an interview with Línea de Fuego said, “Moreno ... will turn out to be more intelligent than all of us, because he survived the fiercest criticism.” Dr. Moreano observed that the day after the election, Moreno rubbed Lasso’s victory in the faces of the masses by raising the price of gasoline, which was a bitter reminder of the issues that triggered the October 2019 social explosion.

Moreano called the election “an abominable thing. ... Many Indigenous sectors voted for Lasso. How to explain that? After carrying out the gigantic strike that shocked all of Latin America? How do we explain that an Ecuadorian voted for neoliberalism after striking in October?”

Moreano said, “All the Ecuadorian people opposed neoliberalism. Then Moreno responded using anti-Correism ... It’s not about Correa. No, no, no, no. It is a triumph of the Latin American extreme right.”

In an April 16 Zoom forum, economist Gabriela Montalvo said, “There is a significant vote of women in favor of Lasso.” She faulted Correism’s lack of appeal to women, saying “the urgent questions concerning feminism [must] be taken into account as a political priority. ...

“It is not just violence or abortion. There is the economy. Economic programs always aim at correcting unemployment by promoting construction.” She urged special attention to finding the jobs women want: “We have to start looking at their demands.”

At the same April 16 forum, Franklin Ramírez identified three key aspects underlying the election outcome: (1) the neoliberal advance was catalyzed by violent “necro-politics,” the death-dealing politics of the pandemic that prevented any opposition from forming in the Indigenous movement; (2) the polarized Indigenous movement is torn apart by tendencies of the left, right and the center; and (3) the defeat of the Citizen Revolution by Lasso should have been anticipated.

Ramírez said, “We knew that a unified right wing was coming, supported by the official apparatus and by the big media. The popular camp is fragmented.”

Leonidas Iza, president of the Movement of Indigenous and Campesinos

of Cotopaxi, which supports his bid to be president of the powerful CONAIE, made the controversial claim that the “authentic left” didn’t lose.

On April 5, Iza had criticized Arauz for not distinguishing himself from Correa, “who separated our organizations from their leaders, deepened the mining in Indigenous territories, persecuted and criminalized our leaders, struck down the intercultural bilingual education and did not respect the [Constitutionally protected] right to free, prior and informed consultation.”

Iza tweeted: “Correism lost but not the left. We continue to fight! It is time for unity of all popular sectors, we will make the streets and territories our field of resistance.”

Pedro de la Cruz, an Indigenous leader in Cotacachi, Imbabura Province, tweeted a reply to Iza: “Mashi Leonidas, you are wrong. The Correism that you are talking about has more than 4,232,000 brave citizens, who are not cowards, in the face of so much defamation and persecution, and who will be confronting the fascist right wing.”

Ecuadorian historian Juan Paz y Miño is critical but optimistic. He writes: “Finally, it would be too naïve and unscientific to conclude that Lasso’s triumph is the ‘fault’ of any of the leftist sectors. ... But the fact that Lasso’s triumph is the direct work of all the powerful forces that

supported him has been underestimated.” Paz y Miño notes that Alejandro Moreano severely criticizes the actions of Yaku Pérez, and the alliance of Pachakutik with the Lasso forces, and credits Moreano for recognizing that, in spite of everything, conditions have been created for a “great anti-neoliberal front,” which regroups the left, a matter which, however, Moreano sees as difficult.

Paz y Miño says that Moreano’s “approach is timely and true. Therefore, the political groupings that lead and guide the broad spectrum of the Ecuadorian left — the ones responsible for this task — will face the urgent challenge of achieving the unity and convergence that for decades has remained unconsolidated.”

### Political struggle inside CONAIE

In the first week of May, a new president of CONAIE will be chosen. CONAIE will debate its relationship with its political arm PK. If Iza is chosen president over Yaku Pérez during the CONAIE Congress, the Indigenous movement will have a leader with a class analysis.

Iza says he will seek to consolidate the unity of the 180 social movements that constitute the Parliament of the People, which was instituted by CONAIE after the October uprising. That Parliament excluded Correistas at the time.

Now the divide between the two powerful forces that oppose Lasso is even greater, as reflected in the twitter exchange between Iza and Pedro de la Cruz. Both the CONAIE and Correism are facing hard times. The future is uncertain. □

**Beginning May 24, with the inauguration of Guillermo Lasso as president of the Republic, the new government of Ecuador will be directly in the hands of the elite class of big businessmen, bankers and the corporate media, aligned with imperialism and the Latin American political right. Lasso will deepen the neoliberal business model.**



## Espíritu del Primero de Mayo: ¡Lucha! Aplastar la violencia policial y la supremacía blanca

Por Monica Moorehead

*BOLETÍN: Chauvin declarado culpable. ¡Condenar a todos los policías asesinos! ¡Abolir la policía! Más en workers.org*

El Primero de Mayo, Día Internacional de los Trabajadores, nació en Estados Unidos a partir de la lucha por la jornada de ocho horas en 1886.

Los trabajadores, muchos de ellos socialistas y anarquistas que emigraron de otros países, arriesgaron sus vidas. Algunos — incluidos los cinco mártires de Haymarket ejecutados por el estado de Illinois el 11 de noviembre de 1887 — sacrificaron sus vidas para que todos los trabajadores del mundo pudieran ser tratados con dignidad, ganando mejores condiciones de trabajo, un salario digno y beneficios decentes.

El Primero de Mayo es visto por millones de personas en todo el mundo como una conmemoración socialista, honrada con marchas, concentraciones y huelgas donde no es un día festivo pagado. A lo largo de muchas décadas, los trabajadores han aprovechado el Primero de Mayo no sólo para luchar contra los codiciosos empresarios ávidos de beneficios por sus derechos económicos, sino para plantear importantes reivindicaciones políticas.

Hace quince años, el 1 de mayo de 2006, unos dos millones de trabajadores inmigrantes, la mayoría de ellos procedentes de América Central y del Sur, salieron a la calle en ciudades estadounidenses, grandes y pequeñas, provocados por la racista y reaccionaria legislación Sensenbrenner, que negaba documentos legales para permitir a los inmigrantes vivir y trabajar en Estados Unidos. El principal sentimiento del que se hizo eco fue: “Sí, se puede”.

Al igual que el Día Internacional de la Mujer Trabajadora, de inspiración socialista, el Primero de Mayo es un recordatorio constante de que todo problema social es un problema de los trabajadores. El Primero de Mayo de 2021 continúa esta tradición.

El valiente pero fallido primer intento de los trabajadores de Amazon, de mayoría afroamericana, en Bessemer, Alabama, de organizar un sindicato en el segundo mayor empleador privado de Estados Unidos, tiene una importante lección: la solidaridad de toda la clase es decisiva para impulsar la lucha contra la explotación capitalista. Mientras la propiedad privada domine la producción mundial, ningún centro de trabajo, grande o pequeño, ya sea una fábrica o un restaurante, puede enfrentarse al capitalista por sí solo sin la solidaridad del resto de su clase.

### La violencia policial es una cuestión obrera

La frase “todo problema es un problema de los trabajadores” es cierta en la lucha actual contra el terror policial. En este momento, hay tres incidentes actuales de violencia sancionada por el Estado que han tomado el centro del escenario.

El primero es el juicio del policía asesino Derek Chauvin, acusado de asesinato en tercer grado, asesinato intencional en segundo grado y cargos de homicidio en segundo grado por linchar a un hombre negro de 46 años, George Floyd, el 25 de mayo de 2020, en Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Chauvin, quien es blanco, presionó con su rodilla y puso todo el peso de su cuerpo sobre el cuello de Floyd durante nueve minutos y veintinueve segundos, mientras que a Floyd se le pudo escuchar en múltiples ocasiones decir “no puedo respirar” y llamar a su madre fallecida hasta que perdió completamente el conocimiento. Este atroz crimen fue grabado en vídeo para que todo el mundo lo viera. Se espera un veredicto en algún momento de la próxima semana.

En respuesta al asesinato, estallaron en las calles de todo el país rebeliones, incluido el incendio de una comisaría de Minneapolis, que duraron todo el verano. Ni los toques de queda, ni la policía local y estatal militarizada, ni la Guardia Nacional pudieron detener la airada resistencia de las multitudes lideradas por los activistas de Black Lives Matter. Estas rebeliones sostenidas lanzaron un llamamiento en todo el país tanto para “desfinanciar la policía” como para “abolir la policía”.

Estas protestas se relacionaron con otros asesinatos policiales, como el de Breonna Taylor, la trabajadora negra de EMT de 26 años que recibió múltiples disparos el 13 de marzo de 2020 mientras estaba en su cama en Louisville, Ky. El policía que la mató fue exonerado por un gran jurado secreto en septiembre.

En segundo lugar, volvieron a estallar las protestas en Brooklyn Center (Minnesota), a escasos 16 kilómetros del juicio de Chauvin, cuando el 11 de abril la agente de policía blanca Kim Potter disparó mortalmente a Daunte Wright, padre de familia negro de 20 años, durante un pequeño control de tráfico. Potter afirmó que pensó “por error” que estaba utilizando su pistola eléctrica (Taser) cuando disparó mortalmente a Wright.

Potter fue detenida y acusada de homicidio en segundo grado, tras lo cual dimitió. Las protestas continúan en las calles a pesar de los toques de queda diarios, las detenciones masivas y las agresiones a activistas por parte de la policía. En todo el país se están llevando a cabo acciones de solidaridad para pedir justicia para Daunte Wright.

Y en tercer lugar, está el tiroteo mortal de Adam Toledo, de 13 años y de ascendencia mexicana, el 29 de marzo en Chicago. Las imágenes de las cámaras corporales de la policía del asesinato se hicieron finalmente públicas el 15 de abril. Toledo recibió un disparo en el pecho por parte del agente Eric Stillman en una fracción de segundo, cuando levantaba las manos vacías.

Hasta el 18 de abril, Stillman no había



*El Primero de Mayo es un recordatorio constante de que todo problema social es un problema de los trabajadores ... El valiente pero fallido primer intento de los trabajadores de Amazon, de mayoría afroamericana, en Bessemer, Alabama, de organizar un sindicato en el segundo mayor empleador privado de Estados Unidos, tiene una importante lección: la solidaridad de toda la clase es decisiva para impulsar la lucha contra la explotación capitalista. Mientras la propiedad privada domine la producción mundial, ningún centro de trabajo, grande o pequeño, ya sea una fábrica o un restaurante, puede enfrentarse al capitalista por sí solo sin la solidaridad del resto de su clase. ... La frase ‘todo problema es un problema de los trabajadores’ es cierta en la lucha actual contra el terror policial.*

sido detenido ni acusado del asesinato de Toledo. Este es otro recordatorio de cómo la policía no sólo criminaliza a los jóvenes negros, sino también a los morenos.

Nos acercamos al 29º aniversario de la histórica rebelión de una semana de duración en Los Ángeles, que comenzó el 29 de abril de 1992, incitada por la absolución de cuatro policías blancos por la salvaje paliza al automovilista negro Rodney King, grabada en vídeo. Un elemento importante ha cambiado desde entonces: el uso habitual de los teléfonos con cámara para crear vídeos que se hacen virales, sirviendo como claras acusaciones de los crímenes policiales en las redes sociales.

### La supremacía blanca y la policía están estrechamente relacionadas

La violencia policial no existiría sin la existencia de la supremacía blanca, que impregna todos los sectores de la sociedad de clases. La policía surgió de las “patrullas de esclavos” para capturar a los pueblos africanos esclavizados que se atrevían a resistir escapando de su vida encadenada.

La supremacía blanca es una ideología en la que se basan los patrones para mantener intacto su sistema de lucro dividiendo a la clase trabajadora multinacional — principalmente por nacionalidad — que también cruza otras opresiones — misoginia, opresión LGBTQ2S+, xenofobia, capacitismo y más. Históricamente, el Ku Klux Klan, los neonazis y los Consejos de Ciudadanos Blancos dieron lugar a los actuales Oath Keepers y Proud Boys.

Hay supremacistas blancos individuales que, conscientemente o no, han atacado a personas de color. Un ejemplo claro es Dylann Roof, un autoproclamado racista, que mató a nueve feligreses negros en Charleston, Carolina del Sur, el 17 de junio de 2015. A diferencia de Floyd, Wright y Toledo, la policía capturó a Roof vivo e incluso se detuvo para ofrecerle una hamburguesa antes de ponerlo bajo custodia.

El mismo trato recibió Kyle Rittenhouse, un vigilante blanco adolescente, que disparó fatalmente a dos activistas antirracistas que protestaban contra el tiroteo de Jacob Blake, de 26 años, herido por la espalda y paralizado por la policía blanca en Kenosha, Wisconsin, el 23 de agosto de 2020. La policía permitió que Rittenhouse pasara por delante de ellos en sus vehículos blindados después del tiroteo antes de detenerlo horas más tarde. Antes de que se produjeran estos disparos, la policía fue grabada dando agua a otros vigilantes fascistas.

Miembros del Ku Klux Klan, padre e hijo, acosaron y asesinaron a Arnaud Aubrey, un corredor negro de 25 años, el 23 de febrero de 2020, en el condado de Glynn, Georgia, en una cinta de vídeo.

La violencia antiasiática va en aumento en Estados Unidos debido al frenesí suscitado por Trump con sus diatribas contra China durante la pandemia. El 16 de marzo, el justiciero Robert Aaron Long masacró a ocho personas, siete de ellas mujeres, incluidas cuatro de ascendencia coreana, en tres spas de masaje en las afueras de Atlanta (Georgia).

Seis fieles sijs murieron a manos de un supremacista blanco en agosto de 2012 en un templo de Oak Creek, Wisconsin. Y hace poco, ocho trabajadores de FedEx, cuatro de ellos sijs, fueron asesinados a tiros en su lugar de trabajo en Indianápolis por un joven blanco de 19 años.

A todos los trabajadores les interesa comprender que la creciente crisis económica capitalista es la causa fundamental de cada vez más tiroteos masivos y ejecuciones policiales. El Primero de Mayo debe convertirse en un grito de guerra, no sólo para organizar a los no organizados y abolir la policía, sino para unir y liberar a nuestra clase de todas las formas de explotación capitalista y luchar por un futuro socialista, libre de la necesidad y la opresión.

¡Organizar a los no organizados en Amazon y en todas partes! ¡Lucha contra el terror policial! □