Another fascist acquitted

Rittenhouse verdict sparks outrage

By Monica Moorehead

Workers World expressed outrage—along with the rest of the country and the world—over the devastating Nov. 19 acquittal of 18-year-old white vigilante Kyle Rittenhouse for the murder of two anti-racists, 36-year-old Joseph Rosenbaum and 26-year-old Anthony Huber, and the wounding of a third, Gaige Grosskreutz. These killings occurred during an Aug. 25, 2020, protest against the police shooting two days earlier of a 27-year-old Black man, Jacob Blake, in Kenosha, Wisconsin. Blake had been shot seven times in the back and remains paralyzed from the waist down. None of the police officers involved has been charged in the shooting.

On Aug. 26, 2020, reacting to the shooting of Blake and the murders by Rittenhouse, along with all the protests ignited by the public lynching of George Floyd in Minneapolis in May, six teams in the National Basketball Association playoffs carried out an unprecedented and historic wildcat strike. It caught the NBA hierarchy and Association playoffs completely off guard.

The sham trial was tainted from the very beginning. This strike began when the Milwaukee Bucks refused to come onto the court for a scheduled game against their billionaire bosses completely off guard. It caught the NBA hierarchy and their billionaire bosses completely off guard.

This strike began when the Milwaukee Bucks refused to come onto the court for a scheduled game against the Orlando Magic. Besides the Magic, other teams—along with others eligible for the 2020 playoffs, had been playing in a contained environment—a bubble—separated from their families in Orlando, Florida, aimed at preventing the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Six Women’s NBA teams refused to play their regular season games on Aug. 26, with many of the players wearing Jacob Blake warm-up shirts with seven bullet holes drawn on the back, symbolizing how many times he had been shot.

When the Rittenhouse verdict was announced Nov. 20, NBA and National Football League players expressed anger, disappointment and dismay on Twitter. Karl-Anthony Towns said that the “system is broken.”

The all-white jury deliberated for over three days on whether Rittenhouse exercised the right to self-defense. During his testimony, Rittenhouse cried crocodile tears saying that he was armed as his civic duty to defend life and property against the protesters. Rittenhouse, like Dylann Roof who slaughtered nine Black churchgoers in Charleston, South Carolina, in 2015, was not a lone terrorist. Just like the Ku Klux Klan and neo-Nazis, Rittenhouse and his ilk are an extralegal arm of the repressive state, i.e. the cops and prisons, inherent within the capitalist system.

Justice for Ahmaud Arbery!

Cops kill child, teens framed
Black radicals and the carceral state

Justice for Julius Jones

Continued on page 3
Amazon unleashes cops on union organizers

This Nov. 18 press release from Movement Media has been slightly edited.

The militant mood of workers, whose increasing strikes and union drives are making headlines, erupted Nov. 11 during a union-busting, captive-audience meeting called by Amazon bosses at the company’s Staten Island facilities. After workers dramatically challenged bosses at the meeting, Amazon responded by ramping up its anti-union tactics. Amazon managers’ attempts to smear union organizing was decisively repelled by workers at the bombshell Nov. 11 meeting, which was secretly taped and shared with Labor Notes reporter Lauren Hurst Gutley. (tinyurl.com/jkajt26)

Workers are tired of accepting daily lies and abuse from bosses, and that was caught on tape. One worker, referring to the Amazon workforce’s 150% turnover rate, can be heard telling the bosses, “You have to start treating people better instead of turning them over at a rate that’s just insane.”

In addition to the punishing rate-based pace of work, workers brought up work-induced injuries, workers not being told about COVID exposures and a number of other pro-union challenges, before the managers abruptly ended the meeting.

The fightback mood might explain why New York Police Department cops arrested two Amazon Labor Union members on trumped-up charges Nov. 15, harassing them for using a small fire pit to keep warm as frigid November temperatures dive. ALU president Chris Smalls called on Twitter, “After 7 months of campaigning Amazon with over 15 barbecues and weeks of having a fire pit for the cold nights, Smalls and its landowner lied to the NYPD to have me arrested.”

Online video shows ALU member Brett Daniels, an Amazon employee, cuffed by police. Daniels’ Twitter feed read, “Just got released from NYPD precinct 121, where cops wouldn’t ‘tell me why I was being arrested.’”

The arrests show why the ongoing dynamic union campaign, like those at Amazon or Starbucks, need solidarity and support. Workers forming unions at six Starbucks stores in Buffalo, N.Y., are also facing every dirty union-busting tactic known.

“The workers are strong and fighting mad, but they can’t do it alone,” said activist Jay Zacarias, a member of WAAR (Workers Organized Against Racism).

“That’s why we’re having our next workers’ assembly at Jeff Bezos’ luxury penthouse on Black Friday.”

The protest will be Nov. 26, 6 p.m., at Jeff Bezos’ luxury Manhattan residence, 212 Fifth Ave., New York City. The protest is called “The arrests show why the Amazon and its landlord lied to the NYPD to have me arrested.”


Mundo Obrero: Teresa Gutierrez, Carlos Vargas

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Join us in the fight for socialism!

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

Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world and the planet itself in the never-ending quest for ever-greater profits. Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, attacks on immigrants, misogyny, LGBTQ2S+ oppression and mistreatment of people with disabilities. It means joblessness, increasing homelessness and imprisonment and lack of hope for the future. No social problems can be solved under capitalism.

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

The ruthless ruling class 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, multigendered and multigenerational working class. It is time to point the blame at—and challenge—the capitalist system.

WWF fights for socialism because the working class produces all wealth in society, and this wealth should remain in their hands, not be stolen in the form of capital 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 oppressed here and worldwide. If you’re interested in Marxism, socialism and fighting for a socialist future, please contact a WWP branch near you.
The people's verdict: GUILTY!

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

After a trial thoroughly tainted by racism, on Nov. 19 a jury acquitted white supremacist Kyle Rittenhouse on all counts in the murder of two people and shooting of a third at a Black Lives Matter protest in Kenosha, Wisconsin, Aug. 25, 2020. That rally was protesting the shooting of Jacob Blake, a young Black man, by Kenosha cops.

After the verdict was announced, Jacob Blake's uncle, Justin Blake, standing outside the county courthouse, said: "What we saw here was a terrible, tragic injustice. These young men were trying to support my nephew, shot seven times in the street in the back, in front of his children. The mayor, the police chief, the people who were running the Army, they all have blood on their hands today." (Kenosha News, Nov. 19)

Across the U.S., activists quickly organized rallies on the day of the verdict and continuing the week-end of Nov. 20-21. They asserted fierce and brave determination to oppose white supremacy and defend Black Lives Matter. Participants rallied to emphasize no backing down in the face of vigilante or state intimidation.

Dozens of rallies were reported, including the following.

In Kenosha, Wisconsin, Nov. 19, people took to the streets to trace Rittenhouse’s route the night he attacked. Demonstrators carried signs that read: “Reject racist vigilante terror” and “The whole system is guilty!” Protesters chanted “No justice, no peace” and “Anthony and Jo Jo,” referring to Anthony Huber and Joseph Rosenbaum, the two white anti-racists shot and killed by Rittenhouse.

In Milwaukee — 40 miles from Kenosha — people marched Nov. 20 from Red Arrow Park to the federal courthouse to voice their outrage. Protester Mariah Smith said, “Understand — in the world there is a public enemy number one, and it is Black folks; and if you stand with the public enemy, you are a public enemy as well. For them [Huber and Rosenbaum] to come out and to stand with us, and they lost their lives, speaks volumes.” (Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Nov. 20)

In New York City Nov. 19, hundreds of marchers shut down the Brooklyn Bridge as they advanced into Manhattan in an evening protest.

In Raleigh, North Carolina, a crowd of protest-ers gathered outside the county courthouse demanding the acquittal of Rittenhouse. In fact, Huber’s mother, Karen Bloom, called her son a hero, and millions more agree with this sentiment.

This trial and its outcome was not about one individual vigilante; it was an indictment of the entire rotten (in)justice system. It is a blatant attack on the Black Lives Matter struggle versus white supremacy, in the forms of domestic terrorism, the police, the courts and the judges. This acquittal is an effort to instill fear and intimidate those who have brought millions into the streets to demand an end to systemic racism, especially in the aftermath of the publicized lynching of George Floyd.

The acquittal of Rittenhouse is a stark reminder of the racist and fascistic war on Black and other oppressed peoples and their allies.

President Joe Biden apologized for the acquittal of Rittenhouse in a statement released Nov. 19.

In Paris, France, for anti-racist demon-strator Anthony Huber, killed by white-supremacist Rittenhouse in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

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to carry out murder of those supporting Black lives. This is why the Black Panther Party was targeted for extermination by the FBI’s COINTELPRO and local police — because they clearly defended their right to bear arms against racist state repression. This is why the survivor of the Kenosha shooting, Gaige Grosskreutz, stated in his lawsuit that he had the right to carry a gun to protect himself from right-wing thugs like Rittenhouse.

The truth is that Rosenbaum and Huber gave their lives in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter protest. In fact, Huber’s mother, Karen Bloom, called her son a hero, and millions more agree with this sentiment.

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President Joe Biden apologized for the acquittal of Rittenhouse, insisting that “the jury system works, and the verdict had to be abided by.” (cnn.com, Nov. 19) Colin Kaepernick said it all Nov. 19 on Twitter: “We just witnessed a system built on white supremacy validate the terroristic acts of a white supremacist. This only further validates the need to abolish our current system. White supremacy cannot be reformed.”

The only answer to the atrocities that took place against Jacob Blake, George Floyd, Ahmad Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Anthony Huber, Joseph Rosenbaum and Gaige Grosskreutz, and countless other victims and survivors, is to stay and grow in the streets. Our demands must be to not only abolish the police, the courts and white supremacy but to abolish their breeding ground — the entire rotten capitalist system. ☐
From Alabama to Australia
Solidarity for striking mine workers

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

Global solidarity for striking Alabama coal miners ramped up with a Nov. 18 worldwide Day of Action. This kicked off early Nov. 16 when the Tonight Show featured a tribute to striking workers with Tom Morello of the leg- endary band Rage Against the Machine and Canadian-American singer-songwriter Grandpa Bob. The segment is titled “Hold the Line,” the musicians flipped through placards boasting the UMWA strike, as well as recent actions by steelworkers, dairy workers, teachers and nurses: “Nobody says it happens overnight, but if you’re looking for a sign, remember everybody that stood up before you. And, oh! Hold the line!”

On strike since April 1, the Brookwood, Alabama, United Mine Workers members have been in their fight against Warrior Met Coal, which is backed by global hedge fund BlackRock. As Haeden Wright of the UMWA Local 1595, says, “Warrior Met’s decision to replace the UMW union contract prohibit us from engaging in a sympathy strike. Here are some key points: 

- Multiple Unions have called a day of solidarity with striking Alabama miners. The Allegheny-Fayette Central Labor Council (ALCFLC) of Pennsylvania, the Communications Workers of America, the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union and the Allied Trade Union have endorsed the UMWA strikers. They have called on their members to demonstrate in solidarity outside Xcoal company headquarters. The Allegheny-Fayette Central Labor Council has also issued a fact sheet on “sympathy striking at Xcoal.”

- Kaiser refuses to bar employees from participating in sympathy strikes. The court of appeals has ruled that a general no strike clause does not prohibit sympathy strikes. If you strike against the interest of your employer, you will not lose your job.

Now miners have used the global connection to take their fight from rural Alabama to the rest of the U.S. and to countries worldwide.

In Newport, California, two dozen people demonstrated outside the BlackRock corporate office. Ralliers wore UMWA camo outfits to their “Class War” and held signs with the Alabama miners’ slogan, “We Are One.” The Orange County Labor Federation had called a day of solidarity with striking Alabama miners. In Montgomery, On the other side of the world in Queensland, Australia, the global solidarity has been demonstrated in solidarity outside Xcoal company headquarters.

Now miners have used the global connection to take their fight from rural Alabama to the rest of the U.S. and to countries worldwide.

At John Deere, strike weapon works

By Martha Grevatt

After a month-long strike, workers at 14 John Deere plants and warehouses are returning to work. Their new contract, ratified with 61% support, is a big improvement over the first two contracts a majority of the workers had rejected. The contract for 10,100 Deere workers in Iowa, Illinois, Colorado, Kansas and Georgia.

In a virtual meeting of rank-and-file Deere and UAW Locals 122 and 869, a delegate of striking workers said, “We didn’t lose anything.” John Deere, which has profited from an unequal and divisive two-tier pay structure since 1997, was not able to impose a third lower tier for future workers. In the new contract, Deere workers’ pay will increase by 20% over the life of the six-year contract. This is a huge amount by any contract standard; even though at the current exorbitant rate of inflation, wages will at best keep pace with prices.

- The new contract addresses worker concerns and modifies the grievance procedure to make it easier to challenge management on the issues.

- Workers were infuriated by Deere’s decision to not increase the production quota, the workers receive a quarterly bonus, but if they fall short, the

workers essentially take a pay cut.

The company has been regularly using profits to purchase back shares of stock, while workers have been toiling at long hours, seven days a week, while their bosses grow richer.

Moral was boosted tremendously by widespread community and labor support. The GoFundMe campaign, initiated by the rank-and-file UAW caucus Unite All Workers for Democracy, provided grocery vouchers and bulk food items to help workers and their families during the strike. Significant, members of the International Association of Machinists, who are under a separate contract, had walked out along with the UMWA members.

About 40% of Deere strikers voted to even reject the third contract. Perhaps they wanted to use their leverage to get rid of the two-tier wage structure altogether. In any case, the strike is seen as a victory: “When we fight, we win!”

Martha Grevatt is a retired Fiat Chrysler Automotive worker and served on the executive board of UAW Locals 122 and 869.

Sympathy strikes at Kaisser hospital

By Dave Welch

Oakland, Calif.

Crowds of “sympathy striking” union workers jammed the sidewalks at Kaiser hospital in Oakland Nov. 18 and 19, according to a choir of honking horns and rousing chants. The all-day event here was to support Stationary Engineers Local 39, on strike for nearly two months at Kaiser. California Nurses Association and National Nurses United—the nation’s largest union of registered nurses with over 175,000 R.N. members—as well as SEIU United Healthcare Workers West had called 24-hour sympathy strikes at medical centers in northern California.

Short staffing is a major issue affecting all hospital workers and their patients. Local 39 says it is sympathy striking because Kaiser refuses to bargain in good faith over wages that are below what engineers make at other area hospitals.

UHWW issued a fact sheet on “sympathy striking at Kaiser.” Here are some key points:

- “Don’t use the ‘No Strike’ clause in our contract prohibit us from engaging in a sympathy strike? No. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled that...”

- “Can we permanently replaced for sympathy striking with Local 39? No. Local 39’s strike is an Unfair Labor Practices strike, so by extension our sympathy strike is a protected concerted union activity. ... It is legal to permanently replace unfair labor practice strikers.”

- “Can Kaiser legally fire or discipline me for sympathy striking? No. Since our sympathy strike is a protected, concerted union activity, it is illegal for Kaiser to even threaten an employee with discipline.”

Kaiser nurses striking in sympathy with engineers on strike for two months, Oakland, California.

PHOTO: UNITED MINE WORKERS
Black pastors protest racism, gather to support Arbery family

By Dianne Mathiowetz

Atlanta

In the town of Brunswick, Georgia, Gregory McMichael, his son Travis McMichael and their neighbor, William “Roddie” Bryan, are on trial for the racist murder of unarmed 25-year-old Ahmaud Arbery on Feb. 23, 2020. Arbery was chased and gunned down as he jogged past their Satilla Shores homes.

Defense attorney Kevin Gough represents Bryant, who was not carrying a gun, unlike the McMichaels, but who videotaped their pursuit and murder of Arbery. Although Bryant’s role is not as central to the multiple charges all three men face, his attorney has been the most aggressive and calculating in escalating racial animos.

Gough has repeatedly argued for a mistrial, alleging that the presence of well-known civil rights pastors, including the Rev. Al Sharpton and the Rev. Raphael Warnock, was “intimidating” to the majority-white jury. The ministers are sitting quietly next to Arbery’s parents in the courtroom to give them support.

Gough painstakingly asked, “How many pastors does the Arbery family have?” His own response, “We don’t want any more Black pastors coming in here,” brought a flood of religious leaders from multiple faiths to Brunswick on Nov. 18. An estimated 750 people—a mix of ministers, imams, rabbis, community members and out-of-town supporters—formed a “Wall of Prayer for justice for Ahmaud” around the courthouse.

Throughout the trial, a crowd of justice-loving people has consistently been outside the courthouse on the tree-shaded lawn, often breaking out in prayer or song.

After the prosecution gave closing remarks Nov. 22, the jury, composed of 11 white members and one Black juror, began their deliberations.

The recall campaign has filed three motions for families of students and school staff members. Sawant is a leader in the fight for rent control, a policy that is very popular among tenants in a city where rents are overpriced and out of the reach of workers.

In relation to policing, Sawant has promoted the passage of a first-in-nation ban on the use of teargas, rubber bullets and other so-called “crowd-control” weapons by the Seattle Police Department.

‘Big Business, Big Guns, Economic Violence’

The recall campaign has filed three charges against Sawant, which are racist and have to do with her being a working-class activist and not a typical bureaucrat or “pro-boss” politician. The first charge against her is that she led a march to Mayor Durkan’s house, whose address is protected. Other forces led it; she did not.

The second charge is that Sawant threatened public safety by opening the City Hall to Black Lives Matter protesters during a pandemic. However, the rally was very COVID-safe. And the final charge is that Sawant allegedly misused public funds to support a ballot initiative named “Tax Amazon.” In fact, this was a small sum, which was spent months before the initiative was even proposed.

Members of the ruling class are falling all over themselves to get Sawant out of office. The Recall Sawant campaign has raised nearly $1 million, and more money is coming in. These corporate heads, big real estate developers, Trump donors and other right-wingers were able to get out the recall vote set for Dec. 7, a time when there is usually a very low turnout of working-class voters.

But Sawant has allies. She is backed by 21 labor unions; Socialist Alternative, of which she is a member; the Rev. Robert"}

By Jim McInahan
Seattle

The ruling class from Seattle and beyond is trying to get rid of socialist City Council member Kshama Sawant in a recall election Dec. 7. They charge she supports the Black Lives Matter movement and opposes policies of big business and big real estate.

Sawant is an immigrant from India and was formerly a community college economics teacher. She was voted into office during a wave of working-class support for raising the minimum wage to $15 per hour in 2013, and she has been recognized for being instrumental in winning that fight.

Sawant has built a coalition of working-class supporters, who oppose Mayor Jenny Durkan’s policies, and has pushed the City Council to reluctantly support many of her progressive initiatives. Significantly, she spearheaded the successful campaign to impose a $250-million-a-year “Amazon Tax,” to be used to fund affordable housing, homeless programs and a Green New Deal.

The pro-tenant Council member has helped win renters’ rights, including a law to limit residential move-in fees, and bans on eviction and school-year evictions for families of students and school staff members. She is a leader in the fight for rent control, a policy that is very popular among tenants in a city where rents are overpriced and out of the reach of workers.

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Oppose the racist recall of Kshama Sawant!

By Jefferey Sr., of New Hope Baptist Church; Rebecca Saldana, Washington state senator; Noam Chomsky, author and activist; and Nikkiya Oliver, community leader and City Council candidate. Sawant also has the support of over 1,500 workers and students, who have volunteered for the Kshama Solidarity Campaign. They all say “Vote NO” to the recall on Dec. 7.

Honor Day of Mourning

Workers World honors Indigenous peoples on their commemoration of the 324th National Day of Mourning on Nov. 25, on so-called “Thanksgiving.” On that special day, Native people pay homage to their original inhabitants of this country, while the racist “holiday” called “Thanksgiving” celebrates the devastation and oppression of Indigenous people. Our newspaper hails courageous Native water, land and forest protectors who lead these movements, often putting their lives on the line to confront rapacious corporations, which, in their reckless drive for profits, harm the planet.

We especially honor those who have lost their lives in these struggles, including Indigenous organizer and Lenca leader, Berta Cáceres, of Honduras.

The following remarks were presented at the Nov. 19 Trans Day of Remembrance event held by SAGE—Services & Advocacy for LGBT Elders—at their New York City headquarters.

My dearest comrades in struggle, As you all know, we have made significant progress in many ways. However, what has become a danger to our community is the increasing prospective anti-trans legislation on the agenda in 17 states, much of it fueled by the bigotry of so-called “pro-life” politicians and the comments of some so-called “comedians” in the form of anti-trans slurs on media on Netflix and others.

Oh, sure, we hear them whining about First Amendment rights.

Historically, we know, first are the jokes which lead to a climate of violence, which has caused the murder of countless trans people, especially trans people of color. We must protect our trans comrades from these racist, transphobic attacks.

Which leads me to this question, does the free speech of fascist elements have priority over the right of any oppressed community or people’s right to exist? We must respond to these attacks on our community with a variety of options. Whether it be writing letters, rallies, demonstrations or even the possibility of civil disobedience, we must do all that is in our power to protect our freedom.

By Renée Imperato

*For more history and information, read “National Day of Mourning: The truth about the Pilgrims’ invasion and 400+ years of genocide that followed” in the Nov. 28, 2020 issue of WW newspaper at workers.org.

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“*For more history and information, read “National Day of Mourning: The truth about the Pilgrims’ invasion and 400+ years of genocide that followed” in the Nov. 28, 2020 issue of WW newspaper at workers.org.”
What’s in your water?

By Betsy Piette

What’s in your water? Can you trust that paper wrapped around your take-out sandwich—or the plastic clamshell—not to contaminate your food? Just what makes your carpet stain-resistant? Should you finally toss out that old Teflon pan?

While seemingly unrelated, these questions stem from recent revelations that “forever chemicals” — used to coat that paper wrap, plastic packaging, nonstick cookware, and in most thin- and water-resistant products, and in flame retardants, cosmetics and even dental floss — contain high levels of carcinogenic chemicals.

These PFAS (perfluoroalkyl substances) are a class of over 9,000 known and suspected chemicals, which are released as byproducts during the manufacturing processes of thousands of chemicals. They are measured in parts per trillion (ppt) — the equivalent of one drop of water in 20 Olympic size swimming pools.

Contaminant levels in drinking water are measured as parts per million (ppm) and parts per billion (ppb). PFAS are measured in parts per trillion (ppt) — the equivalent of one drop of water in 20 Olympic size swimming pools. Independent research has found contamination levels higher than one part per trillion of these chemicals can cause harm.

As chemicals seeped into the ground, they leach into food and water, they cause cancer, liver disease, kidney problems, decreased immunity, birth defects and other health problems. DuPont, 3M and other chemical companies which manufacture these products have known this for decades.

Manhattan Project connection

DuPont’s Teflon was first developed for use during World War II in the Manhattan Project, which created warheads, liquid-fuel tanks and the atomic bombs that devastated Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Ever on the lookout for more profit, DuPont used Teflon in the soil, in the water we drink and even the air we breathe.

Numerous studies show that when these chemicals leach into food and water, they cause cancer, liver disease, kidney problems, decreased immunity, birth defects and other health problems. DuPont, 3M and other chemical companies which manufacture these products have known this for decades.

Deadly contamination

Researchers say there are over 9,000 known PFAS compounds, with 600 used in the U.S. The Central Intelligence and Disease Prevention found PFAS in the blood of most people they tested, raising concerns over the widespread public exposure.

In January 2021, Scientific American magazine reported on a study by the Environmental Working Group that found the drinking water of over 1,217 people in the U.S. likely contains forever chemicals. Widely used, released and carelessly disposed of over decades, PFAS are found virtually everywhere in the soil, in the water we drink and even the air we breathe.

In the 1950s, DuPont scientists contained PFOA levels three times higher. In 1991 DuPont scientists suggested an internal safety limit for PFOA in drinking water of one part per billion. Water tested outside the plant contained PFAS levels three times higher. All of this came to light during a class-action lawsuit, filed against DuPont by attorney Rob Bilott in 1999, over the corporation’s extensive contamination around Parkersburg. During prolonged litigation stretching over a decade, what the soil and groundwater exposed them toraise their self-imposed PFAS levels to 70 ppb. Corporate profits vs. people’s health

A major problem in limiting chemical contaminants has been corporate manipulation of environmental regulations.

When publicity around Bilott’s lawsuit pressured West Virginia to increase PFAS oversight, DuPont scientists appointed to the state’s Department of Environmental Projection, which then increased the allowable contamination threshold to 150 ppb.

In 2004, DuPont settled Bilott’s class-action suit, covering 80,000 plaintiffs in six states, for $370 million. An EPA lawsuit against DuPont for the company’s failure to disclose health risks from PFOA was settled in 2015 for $165 million, and DuPont agreed to phase out PFOA production. But these fines were less than 2% of DuPont’s profits from PFOA production! Products using PFOA were not routed to DuPont’s profits, worth $1 billion annually at that time.

Bilott’s book “Exposure” (2019) details how DuPont hid its in-house occupational health and toxicity studies and the plant’s illegal dumping of hazardous waste. The lawsuit charges the companies have known since the 1960s that the chemicals are toxic, which DuPont denies. Forever chemicals used in firefighting foam at the Willow Grove military facility in nearby Bucks County, Pennsylvania, have left residents unable to use local drinking water since 2016.

According to the Berghahn Journals, over 2,330 known PFAS drinking or groundwater contamination sites in the U.S. have been identified as of March 2021. The tap water of nearly 110 million people in the U.S. is tainted with PFAS. (tinyurl.com/fpwp82b)

TD Bank: STOP LINE 3!

By Joe Piette

Philadephia

Activists held a rally outside TD Bank Nov. 19 in Philadelphia to demand TD stop bankrolling destruction of Native lands. Protesters chanted, handed out flyers to passersby, performed a “Follow the Money” skit and listened as speakers condemned TD's environmental and Indigenous communities.

TD is the largest financial backer, with $8.59 billion invested, of Enbridge’s Line 3 Pipeline, a steel tube that will transport 760,000 barrels of oil per day, 1,100 miles from the tar sands of Alberta, Canada to a storage facility in Wisconsin. It will cross more than 200 water bodies, including the Mississippi River twice, as well as sensitive wetlands, ecosystems and pristine northern Minnesota landscapes. Despite significant grassroots and legal resistance, construction continues in Anishinaabek territory. If built, Line 3 would contribute as much damage to the climate as 50 new coal-fired power plants and would endanger more than 800 wetland communities.

Philadelphia Water Protectors organized the event.
The Cuban people have the right to defend themselves

By Yisell Rodríguez Milán

This article was published in Granma Nov. 18 and republished in CubaNews after translation. The protest actions that U.S.-backed counterrevolutionaries have been attempting to organize in Cuba Nov. 15 flopped.

The anti-revolutionary Cuban playwright, Yunior García, who is a major figure in the U.S. counterrevolution, published his position in the U.S. Cuban exile and satirical website, workers.org/2021/11/60147/

The left-opposition groups did not believe that Sankara’s call for all African nations to repudiate this debt and unite in an all-African front against colonialism earned him the admiration of millions of nation-ally oppressed and working-class people and the ire of neo-colonialists and the capitalist class.

A people who are convinced,

In one of his final speeches, on the fourth and final anniversary of socialist Burkina Faso, Sankara spoke to the 8 million people of the country on the urgent need for all Burkinabe to unite together and defend the Marxist-Leninist revolution and ideology.

During the last year of his government, left-opposition groups formed against Sankara, many of them Maoist in origin. These groups opposed Sankara’s plans to halt certain projects in order to redude the people to the task of political education and organization.

Sankara opposed all Western imperialism and colonialism and believed that not only should the foreign debt be canceled altogether. He advanced planning for all African nations to work cooperatively for a liberated future free of capitalism and colonialism.

Thomas Sankara opposed all Western imperialism and colonialism and believed that not only should the foreign debt be canceled altogether. He advanced planning for all African nations to work cooperatively for a liberated future free of capitalism and colonialism.
Victory for farmers in India!
By Tania Siddiqi

On Nov. 19, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, leader of the fascist Bharatiya Janata Party, declared that he would concede to protecting farmers’ demands to repeal three pro-capitalist farm laws. For over a year, farmers have engaged in coordinated acts of resistance across India.

As reported in Workers World, farmers led the historic Jan. 26 protest on India’s Republic Day, called multiple “rally roko” actions on Feb. 11 and without destruction of interstate and national capital cities. There will be a march to Parliament via tractor trolleys Nov. 29.

The farmers’ struggle continues, but they are not alone. Workers around the world are in deep solidarity with the protesting farmers, and the South Asian diaspora will continue to lend support. Black Panther Party Chair Fred Hampton, on Oct. 9, 1969, said: “Dare to struggle, you dare to win. Dare not to struggle, then you don’t deserve to win. We have to struggle properly.”

The farmers in India have shown that organized struggle against capitalism leads to victory — workers will win.

Precious Workers World coverage of the farmers’ struggles in India is posted at workers.org/tag/india/.

Haiti: Desperation and resistance
By G. Dunkel

Nov. 21 — Nearly 4.4 million Haitians need immediate food assistance, and 1.2 million suffer from extreme hunger. Washington has recognized that conditions for the masses in Haiti are so dire that the U.S. government extended protection against deportation for Haitians already living in the U.S. by 18 months.

That decision omitted Haitians who attempted to enter the U.S. during September and October; people deported from the United States by ICE were predominantly Haitian.

Tens of thousands of Haitians who lived and worked in Latin America, mainly in Chile and Brazil, have lost their jobs because of a recent economic downturn. They see the United States as a haven to survive in but presently out of reach. The number of Haitians trying to cross the border in November fell precipitously, when Haitians realized the Biden administration was hostile to Haitian refugees.

Some Haitians have applied for asylum in Mexico. Others are congregating in northern Colombia and Panama. According to the U.N.’s International Organization for Migration (IOM), the U.S. exported 800 children to Haiti between Sept. 19 and Nov. 4.

The Haitian community, while avoiding labor shortages in Dominican industries, Dominican immigration authorities are deporting pregnant Haitians and those who have recently given birth.

Forty-five women were deported Nov. 4. From Nov. 9-10, another 53 pregnant women were deported by bus to a small, isolated town in central Haiti called Belladère. One gave birth on the bus. Another had a cesarean section.

Numerous organizations, from the IOM to popular organizations in Haiti and the Dominican Republic, denounced these expulsions as inhumane. Dominican immigration authorities have been following the U.S.-anti-immigrant example.

About a month ago, 16 U.S. citizens and one Canadian from the Christian Aid Ministries (CAM) were kidnapped by a local paramilitary force called 400 Mawozo. The CAM website announced Nov. 21 that two of their kidnapped members had been released and were in “excellent spirits.”

No details — such as names, pictures or home towns — were provided. CAM has released no additional information about either of the people just released or those still being held. This is an unusual policy and leads to speculation.

Jen Psaki, Biden’s press secretary, said that the White House and the State Department would have no comment on the story. She did acknowledge the day after the kidnapping that the FBI and other agencies — most likely the CIA — had significant assets in Haiti. According to the Miami Herald, the two released were suffering from medical problems, and no ransom was paid.

According to Christianity Today’s November issue, many of the missionary- ers — who provide education and medical services that the Haitian state doesn’t have been leaving. Their decision is not just because of the kidnapping, but because of the multiple physical attacks on pastors and stern warnings from the State Department to leave.

On their way out, these religious leaders are using the opportunity to call for the United States to boost its support for the Haitian police and army.

What the Haitian people need from workers and progressives in the United States is solidarity and understanding of the tremendous oppression they face, oppression that U.S. intervention caused 200 years after 1804.

Haiti: A Slave Revolution
Published in 2004, “Haiti: A Slave Revolution,” uses art, poetry, photos and essays to document the victory of an enslaved people liberating themselves, and their centuries of continued resistance to embargoes, occupation, dictatorship, U.S. intervention and global capital.

Available as a FREE download at iacenter.org.
Civil War to the carceral state

The role of Black radicals

By Dr. Johanna Fernandez

The following slightly edited testimony was presented by Dr. Johanna Fernandez, an associate professor of history at Baruch College of the City University of New York. She is also the author of the book, “The Young Lords: A People’s History.” Dr. Fernandez spoke at the Oct. 23-25, 2021 “Spirit of Mandela” International Tribunal held in New York City. Read more about the tribunal at workers.org/2021/11/59858/ and workers.org/2021/11/best/g.

The origins of hyperincarceration today can be found in the 1960s with political imprisonment. Among a gun is fired and strikes not the intended victim but an innocent bystander.

In a legal-gymnastics move that has outraged many, the officers were put on trial. The law and order became to bring Black people resisting racist apartheid to heel. Politicians concocted, at the same time, a moral panic around crime that linked Black resistance to crime. In the North, the Democratic Party, supposedly the friend of Black people, embraced the same language of the criminalization of Black protests after the rebellions of 1964, 1965 and especially 1967 in the North. The Black Panther Party argued that the real problem in American society was racial apartheid undergirded by an economic system, and therefore there were going to have to be deeper economic and political changes if Black people and other people in this country were going to see freedom.

They pointed out that deindustrialization was tearing apart Black America, that Black people had been excluded from the unions and well-paid jobs. That Black people of all classes had been trapped in the Black ghetto as a result of de facto racial segregation that kept them out of decent housing now and that they were being displaced now by urban renewal, which was that era’s gentrification project. And they argued that Black people were subjected to the savage inequalities of neighborhood schools and hospitals and summarily lynched in the streets by the police. They were saying all of this and saying that there was going to have to be a restructuring of America, if Black freedom was to be achieved. And they were saying this at the time of the Vietnam War, when the

SNNC workers, Fannie Lou Hamer and others.

Repression breeds resistance

In the aftermath of World War II, a war allegedly fought against Nazi Germany, the slavocracy essentially had to have to be deeper economic and political changes if Black people of all classes had been displaced now by urban renewal, which was that era’s gentrification project. And they argued that Black people were subjected to the savage inequalities of neighborhhood schools and hospitals and summarily lynched in the streets by the police. They were saying all of this and saying that there was going to have to be a restructuring of America, if Black freedom was to be achieved. And they were saying this at the time of the Vietnam War, when the

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Delaware County, Pennsylvania

Cops kill 8-year-old girl, teens framed

By Marie Kelly Philadelphia

Police gunfire outside a high school football game in Sharon Hill, a Philadelphia suburb, killed 8-year-old Fanta Bility August 27 and wounded four others, including her older sister. Delaware County District Attorney Jack Stollsteimer admits the three officers’ culpability; however, he chose to file first degree murder charges against two Black teenagers, even though they were not directly involved.

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The three officers who actually shot and killed Bility are not named and not charged. Their reckless action, in response to a disturbance outside the game, was to fire 20 rounds at a passing car while in a crowd of families exiting the stadium. Police bullets killed Bility and left her family and community angry and questioning why the officers were put on administrative leave with no charges brought against them.

Sharon Hill is a predominately Black community in Delaware County, and Stollsteimer’s handling of the murder smacks of the same racist judicial system displayed at the Kyle Rittenhouse trial.

Speaking for the Bility family, lawyer Bruce Castor Jr. said the family wants the focus to be on the Delaware County police. Castor states, “From the point of view of the family, these officers killed Fanta and they need to be held accountable, and that’s the responsible supervision and training need to be held accountable for that.” (Philly.com, Nov. 22)

Emmanuel Kapelosohn, an expert in police use of force, explained that it is extremely difficult to be accurate when targeting a moving vehicle, and the risk of causing the driver to lose control and crashing prompts many police departments, including Philadelphia, to have policies against such reckless tactics. Community outrage over the handling of this case by Stollsteimer is building. Over 3,000 people have signed a petition by local activist group Delco Resists to hold the Sharon Hill Police Department accountable for their actions.

In a statement, Delco Resists calls for the immediate firing of the three officers. “These officers not only have poor judgment and lack of qualifications, they pose a public safety risk to this community.” A community meeting is planned for Dec. 4 at the Academy Park High School in Sharon Hill. ©

GRAPHIC BY KAITLYNN RADLOFF FOR JUSTSEEDS.ORG

“Spirit of Mandela” International Tribunal held in New York City. Read more about the tribunal at workers.org/2021/11/59858/ and workers.org/2021/11/best/g.

Fanta Bility, 8, fatally shot by police Aug. 27.
It is a well-known fact that the U.S. has the highest number of incarcerated people in the developed world at over 2 million. Of that number, there are more than 2,500 people on death row. (independent.co.uk, Oct. 28) The Associated Press reported the percentage of Black people on death row was 42% compared to the overall U.S. Black population of 13%. (Sept. 15, 2020)

These shocking numbers alone speak volumes as to the systemic racism that has disproportionately impacted the Black population, starting with the days of the trade in enslaved Africans. The vast majority of those on death row are made faceless and isolated behind the walls on purpose, under a heartless system that views them as less than human. The prisons are concentration camps for Black, Brown and Indigenous peoples. The victory was a bitter-sweet concession, since Stitt’s clemency overturned the Pardon and Parole Board’s original recommendation on Nov. 1 to commute Jones’ sentence to life in prison with the possibility of parole. As of now, Stitt says that Jones has to spend the rest of his life in prison without any possibility of parole—a slow, tortured death. Jones has maintained his innocence for over 20 years, while his co-defendant, Christopher Jordan, offered to committ the murder during a carjacking in 1999. Jones’ case was highlighted in a 2018 ABC Documentary, “The Last Defense,” on Oklahoma’s high-profile death penalty and its inhumane use of lethal injections in 2014 and 2015.

In 2019, the Julius Jones Coalition, organized by his family, friends and community activists, gained supporters such as Baker Mayfield—the Cleveland Browns quarterback and a former Heisman Trophy-winner with the Oklahoma Sooners—and Stephen Curry, Draymond Green and Steve Kerr from the National Basketball Association’s Golden State Warriors. Other NBA players such as Russell Westbrook, Blake Griffin, Trae Young, Buddy Hield and other famous athletes who, like Julius Jones, have played sports in Oklahoma, demanded clemency. This Coalition was instrumental in organizing Black Lives Matter-related demonstrations to stop the execution of Jones, including at the State Capitol and the State Penitentiary. Students at the University of Oklahoma marched on their campus to demand clemency.

For Julius Jones to serve a life sentence with no hope of parole is not justice. Jones deserves to not die by lethal weapon. More than that, he deserves to not die in prison—just like the 2,500 plus people on death row deserve a better life outside prison.

The death penalty is no deterrent from crime, including acts of violence rooted in economic, emotional and mental hardships. It is a racist, anti-worker and anti-people weapon, wielded by a repressive state in a futile attempt to mask poverty and all forms of inequality perpetuated by a capitalist system that puts profits before human needs. Abolish the death penalty! Abolish capitalism! Free them all! ☐

Supporters of Julius Jones marched to the parole board offices in Oklahoma City on Feb. 25, where they presented a petition with over 6.2 million signatures calling for Jones’ sentence to be commuted.

\[A\] bittersweet concession

\[\text{Civil War to the carceral state}\]

The role of Black radicals

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Vietnamese people were defeating U.S. empire in Vietnam.

This challenge to the United States was too deep for the U.S. to withstand, and so the United States in the 1960s crashed up its apparatus of repression, killing dozens of Black Panthers extrajudicially, including Fred Hampton and Bob Clark, through the counterintelligence program of the FBI. Its politicians passed a series of carceral laws, including the crime bill of 1968, which made it possible to wiretap without a court order, legalize stop and frisk for the first time in American history and expand the power of the police to keep Black people in their place and to bring rebellious Black people to heel.

They passed the H. Rap Brown Law in 1968, which made it illegal to cross state lines to give a speech. If you look closely, the decade of the 1960s ended with the arrest and criminalization of Black radicals. The movement turned from a movement for jobs, against discrimination and police violence, toward a movement to free our activists, our leaders, people who were fighting to defend themselves against the homicidal campaign that the state launched against them; and their people were essentially imprisoned.

Contrast this to the white supremacists who took over Congress on Jan. 6, who have mostly gotten fines. So after the state unleashed a campaign of repression against Black radicals in the 1960s, after they convinced Americans that this was good law and good policy, in the 1980s and ’90s, they generalized these policies against the majority of Black and Latinx people, who were now extra bodies in the context of deindustrialization. These people now needed to be warehoused.

The objective of my remarks has been to illustrate the ways in which what we know today as the largest carceral nation in the world emerges, not randomly in the 1980s and ’90s; it emerges out of a campaign unleashed against the freedom fighters of this country, who civilized American society in that period, Black radicals. ☐
A Sandinista’s view on autonomy

‘Unity, diversity, interculturality’

The following is part three of a presentation given by Johnny Hudson, Sandinista National Liberation Front’s Political Secretary for the Autonomous Regions of South Caribbean (ASS) on Oct. 6 in Managua, Nicaragua, to a U.S. delegation comprised of Coleen Littlejohn, Sara Flanders, Monica Montes, Maria Jose, and Sten Smith. The transcript is slightly edited. Read parts one and two at tinyurl.com/z4a0fz8k and tinyurl.com/gkpxmeez, respectively.

In 1934, Dr. Hudson from the Caribbean coast represents us in the National Congress. When he got a chance to talk in the Congress, he questioned: “Why is it that in the rest of the country, they have roads; they have a seaport; they have electrical energy; they have water. Why is it that we don’t have these things on the Caribbean coast?” This was 87 years ago. He could tell them that he could rest in peace now, because those things that he was speaking out for, we are doing today.

In my region — the South Caribbean coast of Nicaragua — we have 12 municipalities, and in 2007 three of these municipalities had roads and paved roads. And today 10 of the municipalities have roads. Nine of these highways are paved, and one is just going to be paved. Two municipalities don’t have any roads.

Twenty-five percent of the people had access to electrical energy. And now 25%, most of them are very, very close to electrical energy on the Caribbean coast. But we’re not going to stop there; we are aiming at everybody. The type of development that we’re talking about is a development where no one stays behind. We can’t say we are developing; we’re happier; we have well-being, if the Rama people don’t have the possibility of producing their food and having access to water and to electrical energy, et cetera. So that is the key thing. Desarrollo donde nadie se quede atrás. (Development where no one stays behind.) And that’s why the model is Christian Socialism.

Atención Primaria de Salud (primary health care) is what we got. This includes health care for suffering from some disease or finding a person that’s pregnant, helping them to see how the evolution of their pregnancy is going, providing gynecology care. It includes health centers, health posts, maternal homes, brigades. It includes blood banks. It includes milk banks in the Caribbean coast, and we have three milk banks all over Nicaragua and on the Caribbean coast.

Development under the Sandinista government

So it’s a huge network of human resources that is dedicated to help, and that’s why we were so effective also in dealing with COVID-19, they say. The health care network is this. This is the amount of hospitals than in Costa Rica. They also go hand in hand with the number of doctors that are dedicated to the community, to help them in gynecology. So these things are part of an enormous democratic effort to make sure that, as Dr. Hudson was saying, that nobody should be left behind in this development process, in this stage of the revolution.

In explaining the electoral process, in 2007 when we made this development strategy, it was a great thing. This electoral strategy formulated a proposal and was submitted to consultation in different groups of people, different sectors.

And the problem in the Caribbean coast — even though Daniel Ortega was in government here in the Pacific — in the country and the Caribbean coast, the neoliberal policies were still in government, the people from the Caribbean coast voted for the Sandinista government in 2014, mainly to help.

To give you an idea, we have a regional council made up of 45 members. That’s our regional parliament. In the voting of these 45 members, the Sandinistas got 30 members in the 45 seats. Then after the troubles [in 2018], we had elections in 2019, and the Sandinistas passed from 30 seats in the Congress to 32. So we grew. And then we go into election next month [Nov. 7] in Nicaragua, and definitely the things that we’re talking about are not just things that the people see.

And I tell you, our parents always dreamed that someday we would have a road. And all kinds of governments pass, and we never get that road. You know what they used to tell us? That it is impossible to build a road to Bluefields, where I come from.

Our parents tried to build that road on their own, trying to do sales and things to have a road, and the government said, “No, I am not going to help you build that road, because it’s impossible.” And all our parents tried to do it. You actually come to Bluefields.

Our people always aspired to have electrical energy. This is a fight. I mean, that’s a thing that when our people had the opportunity to mention or to talk out or to denounce, they say, “Why is it that we can’t have the right to enjoy electrical energy?” Today, more than 75% of the people living on the Caribbean coast have electrical energy. And the other 25%, most of them are very, very close to getting it. They see the work being done. And access to water — I mean, 4% of the people had access to water, and 10 times that amount of people have access to water today.

So people see these things, and people are willing to fight for these things, material things, but also for what I was telling you about convivencia comunitaria [community cohesion]. People appreciate that a lot, and the Sandinistas are trying to implement what we need so much, unity and diversity, this interculturality — we have it in us. But it’s so nice to have a government promoting that, pushing for that, striving for this interculturality.

You can even see this as an obstacle. The government said, “We will not be able to advance or develop, if we’re talking different languages.” You know, the problem was that the Sandinistas really tried to respect the people appreciate this, and the surveys say that the people from the Caribbean coast of Nicaragua are going to support the Sandinistas in these elections.

Now the other element of that is communication. So one thing in is the hospital. We used to have a hospital only like across the Río Grande who needed to get to a hospital five years ago, 10 years ago, they would have to take a boat for about three hours, or they would take a slow boat, or if they go fast, it’s a fast boat like nine, 10 hours to get to a hospital. So it’s not just the hospital, but it’s the roads.

Now I hear that to go from La Cruz to El Tortuguero is four hours by road. So those are elements when you talk about development and progress, etc. These are key elements to rights and well-being. People ask, “Why are you fighting so much for the road on the coast?” And I just like to tell this story.

A gentleman had a heart event in La Cornelia Island at three o’clock in the afternoon. They rushed him to a clinic. And the doctor said, “You have to get to the hospital on a plane.” By the time they stabilized him and tried to get him on a plane, the plane left. So now he’s stuck in La Cornelia overnight. He has to wait now at least 15 hours for the plane to come back again. So he survives through the night. The plane comes at 8:00 in the morning. They try to get him on. Finally, they get him on the plane, and he comes to Managua. So why the argument about why a hospital in La Cornelia?

La Cornelia has 10,000 people, and you have a hospital that costs something like $8 million. So when you go to the demographic decision making, it didn’t make sense to invest $8, $10 million in a hospital for 10,000 people.

When you have any municipality in Managua or any municipality close to Managua-Chichigalpa, for example — you didn’t have a hospital. And it’s like 300,000 people that live in that municipality.

So 10,000 people vis-à-vis $10 million to 200,000 people. Any bureaucracy sitting around the table would decide for the 200,000. And if it’s a bureaucracy with a political ledger, he said, “This is 200,000 votes.” That is why we need to be around the table where the decision making is taking place, in order to influence decision making in policy.

So finally, the hospital was built in La Cornelia. That gentleman was my father, who survived, by the way.

And to show you that the farthest municipality from Managua off of the course is Ocotal, that’s on the border with Honduras. It takes you four hours to get from Ocotal to any hospital in Managua. From Cornelia, it takes you a lifetime. That is what I think would be described here by decision policy. (•)

Bluefields-Nueva Guinea Highway opens on Caribbean coast in Nicaragua

Continua de la página 12

indio americano; y denunciar la hipótesis de un sistema que glorifica esa represión. Cumples ese propósito y conseguimos un espíritu de unidad que se extendió por todo el país.” (Russell Means Recounts NDOM, 1971).

Luto, acusación y protesta por la represión de los pueblos nativos

Todos los años, desde la primera protesta en 1970, los manifestantes se han reunido en Cole’s Hill el 23 de noviembre de este año y seguirán haciéndolo en el futuro. Como dijo Moorman James, hizo de Wamsutta Frank James y el difunto colíder de UAINE, a la multitud en el Día Nacional de Luto.

“Seguiremos reuníndonos en esta colina hasta que las corporaciones y el ejército estadounidense dejen de contaminar la Tierra. Hasta que desmantelemos el brutal aparato de encarcelamiento masivo. No nos detendremos hasta que la opresión de nuestros hermanos de dos espíritus sea cosa del pasado. Cuando los pales- tinos reclamen la patria y la autonomía que Israel les ha negado hasta los últi- mos 70 años. Cuando ninguna persona pase hambre o se deje morir por tener poco o ningún acceso a una atención sanitaria de calidad. Cuando la insulina sea gratuita. Cuando la represión sim- bólico sea cosa del pasado. Hasta entonces, la lucha continuará.” (•)

El Día Nacional del Duelo

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La lucha desde 1970 hasta ahora
El Día Nacional del Duelo

Por K. James

¿Cuáles son los mitos fundacionales de Estados Unidos? ¿Quién los creó, y a quiénes borraron y perjudicaron? Durante los últimos 51 años, United American Indians of New England (UAINE) y sus partidarios se han reunido en el emblemático Día de Acción de Gracias en Plymouth, Massachusetts, para plantear estas preguntas, confrontar las mitologías de los colonos y conmemorar un Día Nacional de Luto por los pueblos indígenas asesinados por el colonialismo e imperialismo de los colones en todo el mundo.

La protesta del Día Nacional de Luto fue fundada por Wamsutta Frank James, miembro de la tribu Wampanoag de Aquinnah. En 1970, Wamsutta había sido invitado por la Commonwealth de Massachusetts a dar un discurso en un banquete que conmemorara el 350 aniversario de la llegada de los peregrinos. Los organizadores del banquete imaginaron que Wamsutta pronunciaría un discurso elegante y de reconocimiento, cantando las celebraciones del proyecto colonial y la devastación causada por los pueblos indígenas.

Sin embargo, el discurso que escribió Wamsutta se basaba en hechos históricos en lugar de la ficción hueca representada en el mito de Acción de Gracias, estaba muy lejos de serlo. En sus discursos, Wamsutta no sólo nombró las atrocidades cometidas por los peregrinos, sino que también reflexionó sobre el destino de los wampanoag y otros pueblos indígenas, y cómo la miseria por la deuda y brutal represión ha sido una constante para los pueblos indígenas de América desde la fundación del país.

En 1970, se fundó la Ocupación de Alcatraz, una serie de movimientos de los medios de comunicación capitalistas escritos por los cubanos y sus siete en falsos grupos de "defensa" como Human Rights Watch. Desde la fundación del partido Workers World Party/Partido Mundo Obrero en 1959, el mismo año del triunfo de la Revolución Cubana, hemos defendido este brillante ejemplo socialista de los sufrimientos imperialistas, la guerra económica y las mentiras devastadoras.

Hoy nos unimos a otros para denunciar las manifestaciones de la dura lucha de los nativos americanos, al igual que los africanos y otros pueblos oprimidos, estaban diciendo “no más”.

Intento de supresión del discurso desafiante

Afirmaron a la mitología del Día de Acción de Gracias, los funcionarios estatales le dijeron a Wamsutta que escribieran un discurso más “apropiado” para el banquete, pero él se negó a que le pusieran palabras en la boca. Su discurso suprimido se publicó en los periódicos de todo el país, y Wamsutta decidió que había que hacer algo para que la verdad sobre los pueblos indígenas siguiera siendo escuchada. Él y otros activistas nati-

La Ocupación de Alcatraz fue la primera protesta intertribal que obtuvo la atención nacional, y había infundido temor en los corazones de la clase dirigente, porque estaba quedando claro que los nativos americanos, al igual que los africanos y otros pueblos oprimidos, estaban diciendo “no más”.

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Afirmaron a la mitología del Día de Acción de Gracias, los funcionarios estatales le dijeron a Wamsutta que escribieran un discurso más “apropiado” para el banquete, pero él se negó a que le pusieran palabras en la boca. Su discurso suprimido se publicó en los periódicos de todo el país, y Wamsutta decidió que había que hacer algo para que la verdad sobre los pueblos indígenas siguiera siendo escuchada. Él y otros activistas nati-

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