

# Coast to coast Protests demand reproductive justice

By Kathy Durkin

Hundreds of thousands of people were fired up when they turned out in the streets Oct. 2 in over 650 protests, in every state and Washington, D.C., to push back attacks on the legal right to abortion access and to demand reproductive justice. They responded to the Women’s March’s call for action issued by a coalition of 200 diverse organizations to “defend and mobilize for reproductive rights.”

These multinational, multigender and multigenerational demonstrations were spurred on by Texas’ almost complete ban on abortions, the most extreme in the U.S., and by the very real danger of a complete overturn by the U.S. Supreme Court. With its *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization* lawsuit, the state of Mississippi is pushing the Court to nullify its own 1973 precedent-setting decision legalizing the right to abortion in *Roe v. Wade*.

Banners from coast to coast carried the message, “Rally for abortion justice.” Placards read “My body, my choice!” The huge Washington, D.C., demonstration had a crowd and speakers composed of people from many communities and states. Protests denouncing the inhumane law were held in several Texas cities, including Austin, the capital.

These adamant and determined crowds demanded that SCOTUS uphold the right to access safe, legal abortions. They were angered by the high court’s violation of its previous ruling in *Roe* on Sept. 1, when the Court’s conservative majority refused to stop Texas from enforcing Senate Bill 8 banning most abortions, with no exceptions for rape and incest victims. The law’s bounty scheme incentivizes vigilantes to accuse and sue “helpers” of abortion seekers.

Texas’ racist, misogynist law is a direct attack on low-income, young and Black, Latinx and Indigenous women. It impacts people with various gender identities who can become pregnant. It denies individuals the right to make decisions about their medical care — and abortions are health care — and it tramples on their fundamental rights and bodily autonomy.



Austin, Texas

The ban has caused desperate pregnant people to travel hundreds of miles to obtain safe abortions. Their faces reveal the terror they feel, say pro-choice advocates and clinic staff. This is a deliberate move by the state to intimidate them and cause further distress.

The right wing has been scheming since 1973 to weaken and ultimately nullify legalization of abortion, as well as other gains won by people’s movements. The Trump administration deliberately appointed three conservative justices to do exactly that.

Pressure by an unyielding pro-choice mass movement forced a majority of Republican-appointed SCOTUS justices to legalize abortion in 1973. The only way to push back reactionaries in the courts, Congress and state governments — and the forces behind them — is to build an independent grassroots movement, keep the pressure on and continue to fight back.

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Philadelphia

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

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TEAR DOWN  
THE WALLS

End ‘death by incarceration’  
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# Defend reproductive justice

# Support Workers World

Over 650 demonstrations took place Oct. 2 in every state in the U.S. and Washington, D.C., to defend access to legal abortion, now under fierce right-wing attack. Over 200 organizations joined the call to mobilize to defend this basic right before the beginning of the Supreme Court’s term Oct. 4, when it will be challenged. The determined message to the Court and the states was: “We won’t tolerate this attack on our reproductive rights!”

Workers World supports these actions and hails the activists who are waging the struggle to maintain legal abortions, while fighting back against the racism and misogyny inherent in the anti-abortion “movement” and their government allies. This bigotry is illuminated in restrictive laws and state repression directed against people who are low-income, Black, Latinx, Indigenous, im/migrant, young, disabled, transgender and gender-nonconforming.

WW newspaper has covered every aspect of this struggle since the early 1970s. Our volunteer staff members have been active participants and have written firsthand reports and analysis.

A hard-fought struggle countrywide pressured the U.S. Supreme Court to legalize abortion in the landmark Roe v. Wade ruling in 1973. Since then reactionaries have created obstacles for people seeking to end unintended pregnancies. They have made inroads in many states and are bolder than ever. Their ultimate goal: the overturn of Roe and national prohibition of abortions.

On Sept. 1, the state of Texas implemented the most restrictive law since 1973. It denies abortion access to the vast majority of those seeking the procedure. Senate Bill 8 allows abortions only in the earliest stage of pregnancy,

with no exceptions for pregnancies resulting from rape or incest.

That law allows anyone to sue for \$10,000 those who “aid or abet” individuals in obtaining an “illegal abortion.” The state is encouraging “bounty hunters” to pursue the helpers of desperate pregnant people. Its intentions are to intimidate them, terrorize abortion seekers and shut down clinics.



WW PHOTO: JUDY GREENSPAN

A participant in San Francisco’s Oct. 2 march to defend abortion access uses Workers World newspaper’s front page as their protest sign. The headline reads, “Free abortion on demand for ALL genders!”

file of the weekly issue is displayed. The newspaper is currently printed and mailed out once a month.

For annual donations of \$60, \$120 or \$300 or more, members receive a year’s subscription, letters about timely issues and one, two or three free subscriptions, respectively, to give to friends. Supporters can receive the book, “What road to socialism?” (Notify us.) Or read it for free at workers.org/books.

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Thank you for supporting Workers World. □

Five Supreme Court justices, showing their partisanship, allowed Texas to enforce this law, violating the court’s own Roe decision and trampling on individuals’ human rights, personal autonomy and the right to make medical decisions.

### Your donations matter!

Workers World depends on your help. The WW Supporter Program was founded 44 years ago to help build this revolutionary socialist paper. Since the early 1990s, the fund has supported the workers.org website, where WW articles are posted daily and the PDF



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. □



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**Brazil**

# 700,000 in the streets demand 'Bolsonaro out!'

*The following article was published Oct. 2 on the website of Vermelho, news magazine of the Communist Party of Brazil (PCdoB), with sources from the Brasil de Fato news agency. Translation: John Catalinotto*

The sixth round of events of the #ForaBolsonaro (Out with Bolsonaro) National Campaign shook the country Saturday, Oct. 2. There were demonstrations in 304 Brazilian cities and protests in 18 other countries. About 700,000 people participated in the Oct. 2 actions supporting the impeachment of [ultrarightist] President Jair Bolsonaro.

In São Paulo, 100,000 demonstrators marched on Paulista Avenue. Among the political leaders present were Fernando Haddad (Workers Party – PT), Ciro Gomes (Democratic Labor Party – PDT), Guilherme Boulos (Socialism and Liberty Party – PSOL), Luciana Santos (PCdoB), Orlando Silva (PCdoB-São Paulo), Jandira Feghali (PCdoB) and Manuela D’Ávila (PCdoB). Some representatives of the center and the right sent videos.

According to organizers, the demonstration filled 10 blocks of Paulista Avenue. Trade union centrals – such as CUT, Força Sindical, CTB and Nova Central – were present, as well as the

Landless Movement – MST, the Houseless Movement – MTST, Center of People’s Movement – CMP, Acredito (I Believe), Frente Brasil Popular (Brazil People’s Front), Frente Povo Sem Medo (People Without Fear Front), National Union of Students – UNE, Associação Brasileira de Imprensa – ABI, Black Coalition for Rights and Rights Now.

The event in Belo Horizonte (Minas Gerais state) was the largest of this series against Bolsonaro, mobilizing 30,000 people. The assembly took place in Praça da Liberdade [Liberty Square], from where the demonstrators marched to Praça Sete.

In Porto Alegre (Rio Grande do Sul state), around 80,000 demonstrators went to Largo Glênio Peres, in the historic center, to demand Bolsonaro’s impeachment. They marched to Largo Zumbi dos Palmares, in the Lower City.

In Rio de Janeiro, demonstrators filled the Democratic Palco, in front of the Candelaria Church. Representative Jandira Feghali drew applause as she defended the efforts taken against COVID-19 at the protest. “It’s good that the press shows everyone wearing masks; it’s good that it shows that this here is a demonstration that defends life,” said Jandira. A march against Bolsonaro, called Caminhada Pela

Vida (Walk for Life), went through the central region, ending at Cinelândia.

In Recife (Pernambuco state), a demonstrator was run over during the #ForaBolsonaro demonstration. She was on the committee that provided for dialogue between the drivers and the demonstrators. A driver, who wanted to break the blockade, started the disturbance. The driver even pulled out a gun while the victim was asking for calm.

The victim sustained several injuries, including to her head, but was rescued on the spot and taken to the Real Hospital Português. Despite the shock, 50,000 people participated in the demonstration in the capital of Pernambuco.

Abroad, the protests against Bolsonaro took place in countries like Germany, Argentina, Canada, the United States, Spain, France, England, Italy, Puerto Rico, Portugal, Switzerland, Denmark, Belgium, Austria, the Netherlands, Ireland, Mexico and the Czech Republic.

The actions also supported the Parliamentary Inquiry Commission for COVID-19, which is in its final stage in the Senate. João Pedro Stedile, MST coordinator, said that the broad representation from today’s demonstrations will provide support to the report that will be



PHOTO: ANDRE PENNER

**Demonstrators, filling 10 blocks of São Paulo’s main avenue, Oct. 2, march alongside a replica of President Jair Bolsonaro as the ‘Grim Reaper’ of COVID-19.**

presented by Senator Renan Calheiros (Movimento Democrático Brasileiro/ MDB-Alagoas) with the conclusions and directions of the commission.

“All this movement demonstrates that the struggle, the desire, the will for #ForaBolsonaro remains present, increasingly, in broad sectors of society,” the #ForaBolsonaro National Campaign said in a statement. “This October 2 demonstrated that, beyond the struggle for the impeachment of the president now, there is a growing outrage among the Brazilian people regarding unemployment and the increase in hunger and misery.” □

## Alex Saab defense team works to win his release

*Oct. 3: The legal team for kidnapped Venezuelan diplomat Alex Saab released the following statement Sept. 14. The struggle to prevent the illegal extradition of Saab from the island nation of Cabo Verde (Cape Verde) — where he is incarcerated as a result of U.S. pressure — is continuing on several political and legal fronts.*

Saab is ill with cancer and was in treatment when kidnapped. His defense team emphasizes he has been physically and psychologically tortured in imprisonment, and denied his most basic human rights, including access to oncology care — carrying out a well-documented U.S. detention center scenario. An Imperial College-London oncologist gives his opinion of Saab’s treatment at [vimeo.com/618396550](https://vimeo.com/618396550).

The fate of Saab will have an impact on diplomats from all 39 countries currently sanctioned by the U.S., affecting their safety and ability to represent their countries in international forums and in arranging trade and cultural exchanges.

On Oct. 2, the African Bar Association issued a statement demanding “respect for the rule of law in African countries and an end to the violation of court orders in the



**In Caracas, Venezuela, graffiti shows support for that country’s diplomat, Alex Saab, whose imprisonment was instigated by the U.S.**

case of Venezuelan diplomat, Ambassador Alex Saab.” (Orinoco Tribune)

The Campaign to Free Alex Saab is asking for all possible mass support, including circulating its petition ([bit.ly/FreeAlexSaabVZ](https://bit.ly/FreeAlexSaabVZ)), using material on the Alex Saab web page ([AFGJ.org/Free-Alex-Saab](https://AFGJ.org/Free-Alex-Saab)), promoting his freedom on Twitter (@FreedomForAlexSaab, @FreedomAlexSaab), organizing and supporting webinars on his struggle and participating in actions at the Cape Verde Embassy in Washington, D.C., its consulate in the Boston area and at the U.N. Mission in New York City.

The International Defence Team of Venezuelan diplomat Alex Saab wishes to condemn the numerous ill-informed statements that have been made about the status of the legal process underway in Cape Verde.

Femi Falana, SAN [a senior advocate of Nigeria], who heads up Alex Saab’s ECOWAS [Economic Community of West African States] Defence commented: “Contrary to some of the statements which have been made in the media, the legal process is far from over, and His Excellency Alex Saab will not be going to the United States any time soon. The decision of [Cape Verde’s] Constitutional Court on September 7 leaves many legal ambiguities, and my colleague, Dr Jose Manuel Pinto Monteiro, will be seeking clarification from the Court by way of an urgent submission.”

Dr. Rutsel S.J. Martha, former Director of Legal Affairs for INTERPOL [International Criminal Police Organization], highlighted the fact that no arrest warrant was issued at the time of Alex Saab’s arrest on June 12, 2020, which, despite the attempt by the Constitutional Court to brush this aside as an inconvenience, cannot be ignored,

as it is an absolute must, as required by Cape Verde’s obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

Further, the same ICCPR places obligations upon Cape Verde to follow the directives of the U.N. Human Rights Committee (which called on June 8 and 16, 2020, for Alex Saab not to be extradited to the United States). Dr. Martha questioned: “Why has Cape Verde rushed to join dozens of international organizations, if it has no intention of complying with the rules required of members of those bodies?”

Once again, we must raise the issue of Alex Saab’s status as Venezuela’s Special Envoy and the country’s Deputy Ambassador to the African Union, which afford him immunity and inviolability. [International criminal law specialist] professor Vânia Costa Ramos commented: “It is surprising that there is no recognition of his diplomatic immunity.” David Rivkin, lead U.S. attorney for Alex Saab, added: “There is no doubt that Alex Saab is entitled to in transitio [diplomatic] immunity — a concept which has long been recognized by the United States.”

Baltasar Garzón Real, [formerly a judge on Spain’s central criminal court], commented: “There are more than enough elements to demonstrate that there was trickery, and there was cheating [in the decision]. The arguments, with all due respect to the Constitutional Court, that are expressed in its decision of September 7, are not in accordance with either international law or treaties and nor with international human rights law. The detention of a diplomat is a barbarity — pure and simple.”

Finally, the Defence Team wishes to remind all parties that the Constitutional Court is authorizing extradition to a country which is openly politically hostile to Alex Saab and Venezuela, and whose courts are yet to determine if it even has jurisdiction.

We call upon the leadership of Cape Verde to honor their international obligations and do what is legally and morally right rather than submit to political expediency. □

## Save the Postal Service: Dump DeJoy!

**By Lyn Neeley  
Portland, Ore.**

Local politicians, postal union representatives and community leaders spoke at an Oct. 1 rally here — the same day U.S. Postmaster General Louis DeJoy launched his 10-year plan to privatize the U.S. Postal Service.

DeJoy has \$70 million invested in companies that compete with the USPS. His plan aims to delay 40% of first class letters and parcels, raise prices, make cuts to services and close many mail facilities.

Twenty-one states’ attorneys general,

including Oregon’s Ellen Rosenblum, have warned “the proposed changes would have a detrimental impact on residents who rely on the Postal Service to pay bills, receive paychecks and public benefits and vote.” Those changes, they argue, would especially hurt rural and low-income residents with few alternatives from USPS delivery.” ([tinyurl.com/492fjdb8](https://tinyurl.com/492fjdb8))

Ken, who spoke for Veterans for Peace, said he relies on the mail to deliver his prescriptions, which are now taking over



WW PHOTO: LYN NEELEY

**An Oct. 1 rally in Portland says, ‘Save the USPS!’**

a week to arrive. He said veterans have a saying: “Fire DeJoy, save a Vet!”

Sara Kowalesky, representing Jobs with Justice, told the rally, “We will fight to ensure this constitutionally mandated service does not turn into the likes of Amazon.” □



# On the picket line

WHEN WE FIGHT WE WIN!

By Marie Kelly and Jim McMahan

## Amazon workers win NLRB victory

Former Amazon workers fired for their labor activism have won another victory, further exposing Amazon’s anti-labor policies. The National Labor Relations Board ruled Sept. 29 that Maren Costa and Emily Cunningham were illegally fired in 2020 for publicly speaking out against the company’s conspicuously bad climate record and labor policies. Costa and Cunningham had worked as user experience designers at Amazon’s Seattle headquarters for 15 years. Here is the main part of their statement in response to the ruling:

“We are thrilled to announce that we have reached an agreement to settle the charge against Amazon at the National Labor Relations Board alleging that the company illegally fired us for speaking up about warehouse workers’ conditions during COVID. This is a win for protecting workers rights and shows that we were right to stand up for each other, for justice and for our world. Amazon will be required to pay us our lost wages and post a notice to all of its tech and warehouse workers nationwide that Amazon can’t fire workers for organizing and exercising their rights. It’s also not lost on us that we are two women who were targeted for firing. Inequality, racism and sexism are at the heart of both the climate crisis and the pandemic.”

Seattle’s United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 21 filed a complaint in October 2020 alleging Amazon’s firing of Costa and Cunningham violated workers’ protected right to organize within their workplaces. In reaching a settlement, Amazon avoids what could have become a potentially lengthy trial, complete with witnesses and a bigger exposure of its anti-labor practices.

The NLRB ruling also happened because Costa and Cunningham helped found Amazon Employees for Climate Justice, which gained the support of 8,700 employees. They helped organize a 1,700-worker walk-out in 2009 to protest the behemoth’s climate policies, demanding Amazon reduce its carbon footprint. And they spoke out against the company’s treatment of its warehouse workers and helped organize a mass meeting of Amazon’s tech workers and warehouse employees to discuss workplace conditions.

The victory adds to the rise in organizing at Amazon, including the Amazon Labor Union founded by Chris Smalls at a Staten Island, N.Y., Amazon warehouse, and the Amazon warehouse organizing drive in Bessemer, Ala., where the company has been exposed for blatantly interfering with the 2021 Retail Wholesale Department Store Union election.

## Labor leaders livestream

On Sept. 30 labor leaders from across the U.S. participated in a livestream panel, “Signs of Struggle and the Road Ahead,” hosted by the Labor Fraction of Workers World Party. Speakers represented a wide range of worker actions happening around the country. Minnie Bruce Pratt, fraction member and Alabama native, gave an historical context for labor struggles that defied white supremacy in that state, as well as updates on the United Mine Workers coal miners’ strike, now in its seventh month, and on developments in the historic Bessemer Amazon struggle that might bring a re-vote in that RWDSU campaign.

Donna Marks, Portland, Ore., shop steward for Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers Local 364 and a leader in the recent Nabisco strike, celebrated how the union successfully shut down production and gained a huge Sept. 18 win in health care benefits, shift scheduling and overtime wages.

Renee Imperato, a sex worker and facilitator for the TransGenerational Theater Project, provided details about the challenges of organizing this marginalized



PHOTO: UMWA

**Coal miners in Brookwood, Ala., are in the seventh month of a strike against Warrior Met Coal, backed by global hedge fund BlackRock.**

sector of the working class, with concerns related to safety and increasingly repressive legislation.

Chris Smalls, joining by phone from on-the-ground organizing at the Staten Island Amazon warehouse site, spoke about the increasing success in registering workers to petition for an NLRB election for representation by the Amazon Labor Union, which he founded after being fired amid racist attacks by Amazon.

Kate Murphy, president of the Massachusetts Nurses Association, gave a detailed account of the St. Vincent’s nurses’ strike in Worcester, Mass., in protest against the anti-worker actions of corporate giant Tenet. The strike, which began seven months ago, is now the longest nurses’ strike in state history.

Makasi Motema, secretary of Workers World Party’s Executive Committee and a member of Workers Assembly Against Racism-New York, explained that the way to a worker-led society is through workers’ assemblies which will unify workers across all professions with the common goal of defeating the ruling class. Larry Holmes, first secretary of Workers World Party, stressed that the U.S. government is in the clutches of the capitalist ruling class and that the only way forward is through the dismantling of the state and the building of a worker-led society. (Watch the entire program on youtube at [tinyurl.com/3fputdtp](https://tinyurl.com/3fputdtp)) □

# United Electrical Workers National union is first in U.S. to vote 'Defund police'

By Worker World Durham bureau — at the United Electrical Workers’ 77th convention

Hundreds of workers from across the country attended the United Electrical Workers’ 77th national convention, Sept. 20-24, held, virtually, under the theme “Leading Through Tough Times.”

Delegates debated over a dozen political resolutions from “Medicare for All” to “A Just Economy for All,” while supporting LGBTQ+ workers’ rights, fighting women’s oppression and uniting on international solidarity that charts the union’s independent political platform.

This convention also hosted the founding meetings of two new caucuses for Black workers and for women workers.

With its long progressive history, the UE has broken ground ahead of other unions on many political issues, like ending the blockade against Cuba and supporting solidarity with the Palestinian freedom struggle through the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement.

During this convention, the UE continued its tradition by becoming the first national U.S. union to support defunding the police. The resolution on “Fighting Racism” included a clause to urge “locals to work with local municipal workers’ unions and community groups to reallocate funds from bloated police departments to meet the needs of city workers and community wellness.”

“Racism is one of the greatest evils of capitalism but also the greatest illness of our society,” stated Erica Collins, member of UE Local 119 and a paraprofessional in the Winslow, N.J., school district. Collins continued, “The coronavirus pandemic inequities of Black and Brown people and the death of George Floyd, amongst many others, have unveiled America’s greatest sin, white supremacy ... We learned that some of our worst terrorists are domestic.”

## UE Local 150 leads the way

The anti-racist resolution was a direct result of the work of UE Local 150, North Carolina Public Service

Workers Union, which organizes city workers across the state. Local 150 has led recent, successful campaigns, most notably in Durham, N.C., to move money and positions away from police departments to address the needs of other city workers and the Black community.

Joining up earlier in 2021 with the Durham Beyond Policing Coalition, Local 150 played a big role during city budget discussions by advocating for creation of an entirely new Community Safety Department, to be staffed with social workers, mental health workers and emergency responders, rather than armed police.

This new department was approved in the Durham city budget, effectively reallocating 20 positions from the current police department into the new department each year, for the next three years. Now when a Durham resident calls 911, they have a choice between an armed cop or an unarmed specially trained worker responding to the call.

“The police already have a bloated budget. But it is not even about the pay; it is about the weapons they use to enforce the law,” stated Dominic Harris, president of the Charlotte City Workers Union chapter of UE Local 150.

Harris, crew chief in the Water Department, stressed: “A lot of that money could be transferred from the police to other departments. In other departments we are looked down upon and not looked upon as highly qualified public servants. We need respect on our pay scale. By defunding the police, it helps highlight the whole idea that policing in America needs to be changed.”

## Union membership booming

In addition to the crucial discussions and resolutions passed, the UE celebrated the entry of over 3,000 new members into the union since its 2019 convention. UE Director of Organization Gene Elk shared powerful stories of new worker organizing from New Jersey to California to Virginia and everywhere in between.

In Kentucky, over 400 federal contract employees, who process immigration paperwork, organized into the



WW PHOTO: WW DURHAM BRANCH

**Part of the strong UE 150 delegation at the 77th national convention, held virtually Sept. 20-24.**

UE in June 2020, becoming the largest National Labor Relations Board election success during the COVID-19 pandemic at that time. In June 2021, over 250 mostly Latinx immigrant workers at the world’s largest independent bottling company, Refresco, organized to join the union in Wharton, N.J.

“We do the work that makes this company rich. But they only see us as dollar signs, not people. This was our time. It was now or never. With our union we will finally win the better pay and respect that we deserve,” said Cesar Moreira, a batching technician in the blend room at Refresco.

UE has been organizing aggressive campaigns in the majority Black, city worker departments in Virginia Beach and Newport News, Va. The union organizing campaign kicked off after 110 waste management workers mounted a strike demanding hazard pay in August 2020, eventually winning a \$1,500 check for all essential city employees.

A Jim Crow era law in Virginia banning collective bargaining for public workers was partially overturned in 2021. As of May 1, city, town and county government workers could legally bargain for improvements and justice at their jobs.

“I have worked with some people that work so hard, but we are truly underappreciated. I believe collective bargaining would help the staff of Virginia Beach,” stated Christina Wilson-Darien, who has worked as a behavioral assistant for 17 years for the City of Virginia Beach. She emphasized: “We are understaffed. It is a lot of strain on your body working with folks in wheelchairs; it puts a toll on you. But we are coming together to make the changes.”

UE is indeed leading through tough times. Workers left the convention with a renewed sense of purpose and clarity on political direction. □



## Global supply chain crisis

# Workers' health and safety vs. capitalists' profits

By Betsey Piette

At the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic in 2020, panic buying seemed to create a shortage of different necessities, including toilet paper. Midway through the COVID-19 pandemic, housing prices started rising drastically, as demand surpassed supply due to shortages of construction materials.

As students returned to in-person learning, schools found nutritious food for school lunches more difficult to get, and the U.S. relaxed requirements that schools must comply with federal nutrition standards. Visit any grocery store recently and you are likely to find shelves bare of any number of items.

A global shortage of computer chips has created a drastic reduction in the production of cars, computers and appliances. Factories are experiencing shortages of metal parts, plastics and raw materials. Britain faces a fuel shortage, which some blame on COVID-19, while others point to a shortage of truck drivers due to BREXIT. In September, U.S. stores started warning consumers of a potential toy shortage for the holiday season.

This crisis is leading to higher prices on goods and services — if you can secure them at all. Corporate media like the New York Times say: “Get used to it.” (Aug. 31)

### The ‘great supply chain disruption’

The Times refers to the crisis as the “great supply chain disruption,” pointing to hundreds of cargo ships massed outside ports on U.S. coasts, waiting in long lines to unload thousands of giant cargo containers. “For the global economy, shipping is at the center of the explanation for what has gone awry.”

Acknowledging that the COVID-19 pandemic has taken a toll on workers, corporate media point to labor shortages: not enough dock workers to unload the massive numbers of mega shipping containers; not enough drivers to haul goods away from the ports.

Of course, the Times does not miss an opportunity to attack China as responsible — pointing to two occasions when China protected its workforce by shutting down container ports, after some workers tested positive for a coronavirus variant. In another article, the Times implied socialist Vietnam had caused a shortage of sneakers for donation to Haiti — because Vietnam’s shoe production had stopped during a strict lockdown to limit COVID-19. (Sept. 20)

### Systemic problems in capitalist distribution

Supply and demand crises are as old as capitalism — an economic system based not on production for human needs but for profit. Increasingly this system is

interdependent globally, based on the labor of workers on nearly every continent. The current crisis, coming on top of already existing overproduction that began prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, lays bare the systemic problems of capitalism.

The Times article includes two short references to this: “Many companies had slashed their inventories in recent years, embracing lean production to cut costs and boost profits. That left minimal margin for error.” And “The world has gained a painful lesson in how interconnected economies are across vast distances, with delay and shortages in any one place rippling out nearly everywhere.”

Yet pro-corporate pundits stop short of blaming capitalism for the problem, quickly assigning blame to socialist China. (Sept. 23)

### A collective global workforce

Over the last 40 years, the scientific technological revolution has allowed capitalists to reorganize world production, bringing hundreds of millions of low-wage workers into globalized manufacturing and services. From cars to computers, most production today depends on the collective labor of this global workforce.

Every product of labor, from a shirt to a supertanker, is the product of intermingled world labor. For example, the supply chain for just one computer includes hundreds of companies in North America, Europe and especially Asia, with suppliers competing to offer the lowest price to manufacturers. Each parts supplier must keep inventory on hand to keep the manufacturer from going elsewhere — tying capital up in stockpiled supplies. Meanwhile, major producers rely on ordering parts at the last minute, or “just-in-time,” to keep costs down for them.

### Capitalist “just-in-time” backfires

Driven by planning production to maximize profits, capitalists introduced the “just-in-time” strategy in the 1970s. In this system a finished product is produced only after a buyer submits an order, with necessary parts ordered from suppliers just before assembly.

In the past, a stockpile of inventory could meet any variable sales demand and serve as a buffer against production shortages. However, corporations have come to view inventory as tied-up, or “dead,” capital, and a burdensome profit-sapping overhead cost.

While just-in-time may look good for corporate profit margins, any natural disaster such as a climate catastrophe or a supply shock like a global pandemic can pose a serious threat to capitalism’s ability to smoothly and quickly distribute products and services.

If global supply chains are disrupted for

any reason, just-in-time production leaves companies unable to meet demand and can worsen an existing capitalist economic downturn.

Ironically, one of the areas of production where this problem surfaced most recently in the U.S. was the supply of testing equipment for the coronavirus. Despite adequate warnings from China about COVID, Western manufacturers failed to produce adequate amounts of testing supplies and personal protective equipment.

These shortages continue, as does the production shortage of vaccines vital to limiting the spread of the virus worldwide.

### Capitalist COVID economic decline

Over the past 21 months of pandemic, capitalist governments invested trillions of dollars to prop up their economies. Yet they haven’t been able to reverse the economic decline.

In the U.S. workers received a few thousand dollars in stimulus checks — to “stimulate” the economy. But corporate CEOs got millions to offset the capitalist crisis, when their companies could not profit by exploiting the labor of workers who were either unable or unwilling to clock into jobs made unsafe because of the pandemic.

The result has been an ever-widening income inequality gap. Centibillionaires like Jeff Bezos and others have been able to afford multimillion-dollar space trips, while many workers can barely afford to ride the subway.

For the capitalists it’s all about the profits workers make for them by applying their labor power to the means of production — what the bosses own and control — the factories, plants and, yes, the ships. But the core of the supply crisis is not about their ships being unable to dock.

### Collective crisis of transport workers

The supply crisis is about the collective problems of 65 million global transport workers, employed in over 3.5 million road, freight and airline companies and in 80% of the world’s merchant shipping fleet. These workers are unable to continue to do their jobs, because globally capitalists refuse to deal with pandemic risks to worker health and safety.

This crisis was addressed in an open letter to heads of state attending the United Nations General Assembly at the end of September, jointly signed by the International Road Transport Union (IRU), the International Air Transport Association (IATA), the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS) and the International Transport Workers’ Federation (ITF), which together represent the 65 million workers.

The letter, which received some international media attention, states: “Global supply chains are beginning to buckle, as



PHOTO: ITWF

**Hunger-striking seafarers fought to be liberated from a bulk tanker where they were trapped from 2019 to 2021 due to COVID restrictions and corporate legal abandonment at sea. The workers — from India, Bangladesh, Turkey and Azerbaijan — were freed after intervention from the International Transport Workers’ Federation.**

*‘Global supply chains are beginning to buckle, as two years’ worth of strain on transport workers take their toll. All transport sectors are seeing a shortage of workers and expect more to leave, as a result of the poor treatment millions have faced during the pandemic, putting the supply chain under greater threat.’*

two years’ worth of strain on transport workers take their toll. All transport sectors are seeing a shortage of workers and expect more to leave as a result of the poor treatment millions have faced during the pandemic, putting the supply chain under greater threat.”

The letter addressed specific problems faced by 400,000 maritime workers denied shore leave and unable to leave their ships for up to 18 months beyond their initial contracts. Guy Platten, secretary general of the ICS, said: “Worker shortages are likely to worsen toward the end of the year, because seafarers may not want to commit to new contracts and risk not making it home for Christmas, given port shutdowns and constant changes to travel restrictions.” (tinyurl.com/dymcdxuk)

The unions emphasized that transport workers continue to face a myriad of vaccine and testing requirements, often imposed at a moment’s notice. “Drivers have faced hundreds of border issues and blockades through the pandemic,” said Umberto de Pretto, IRU secretary general. “Truck drivers, and the citizens and businesses that depend on the goods they move, pay a heavy price for misguided COVID restrictions that do not exempt transport workers.”

The shipping industry typically recruits its maritime workers from poor countries, where wages are low and health systems inadequate. But 60% of the world’s population who have not received the COVID-19 vaccine live in underdeveloped countries. Access to the vaccine for many transport workers is severely limited because of restrictions placed on vaccine production and distribution by big pharmaceutical companies.

Warning of a potential “system collapse,” the international transport unions called on world leaders to increase global vaccine supplies by removing these restrictions.

“The global supply chain is very fragile and depends as much on a seafarer as it does on a truck driver to deliver goods,” added Stephen Cotton, ITF secretary general. “The time has come for heads of government to respond to these workers’ needs.” □

## Capitalism at a Dead End

Job destruction, overproduction and crisis in the high-tech era

Available at major online booksellers.

For more information on these books and other writings by the author, **Fred Goldstein**, go to **LowWageCapitalism.com**





# Protests demand reproductive justice

Continued from page 1

The Oct. 2 protests show that people are fighting mad about the right-wing attack on their reproductive rights and are ready to defend access to abortion. Here are some highlights of U.S. demonstrations in which Workers World Party members and branches participated.

Some 2,500 people gathered at Franklin Park in **Boston** to demand safe abortion access for women and people of all genders. Demands of the day were “Abortion care is health care” and “Health care is a right!” Speakers raised the need to overturn the Hyde Amendment, which Congress passed in 1976 to block federal Medicaid funding for abortions. The only exceptions are if a pregnant person’s life is endangered or the pregnancy is a result of rape or incest.

Speakers raised up the name of Rosie Jimenez, who died as a result of an illegal, botched abortion Oct. 3, 1977, in Texas. She was a 27-year-old college student about to graduate and had a 5-year-old daughter. The doctor she saw would not perform an abortion, because Medicaid would not pay for the procedure. In desperation, Jimenez went to Mexico for an abortion. A week later, she died from septic shock.

The somber and angry crowd chanted: “Down with the Hyde Amendment!” “We will not go back!”



**Boston**      WW PHOTO: WW BOSTON



**Syracuse, N.Y.**      WW PHOTO: MINNIE BRUCE PRATT

In **Syracuse, N.Y.**, 250 people marched from the local Planned Parenthood to the federal building. The crowd of many genders, generations and nationalities sparkled with anger and wit, with signs like “We are not ovary-acting!” A Planned Parenthood center in Syracuse was the first clinic in New York to provide abortion services after the state legalized abortion in 1970, three years before the Roe decision.

Rally speakers received enthusiastic applause from the mostly younger crowd when they shouted, “Transphobia,

racism and classism have no place in the reproductive justice movement!” A message from Gov. Kathy Hochul affirmed the state government will prepare “New York as a safe haven for anyone from across the country needing safe abortion care.”

SeQuoia Kemp, an African American doula, pointed out that Black women spearheaded the reproductive rights movement to place abortion access in a larger context. Janice, a Black Lives Matter member, stressed the need for abortion, sex education and contraception access, as well as financial support for pregnancies that are desired.

About 500 people marched to Niagara Square in **Buffalo, N.Y.**, to demand free, unrestricted access to abortions everywhere, in solidarity with the people of Texas. Demonstrators raised the importance of taking to the streets, to defend and expand access, and the need to include trans men, nonbinary people

and other gender-nonconforming people in the fight.

The event, co-organized by student activists and organizers from the University at Buffalo, Queen City Feminists, Queen City Workers’ Center and WWP-Buffalo, featured a speech from progressive mayoral candidate India Walton.

WWP has a strong history in Buffalo of defeating right-wing attacks on abortion access. In 1992, WWP joined with LGBTQ+ and other forces to form Buffalo United for Choice. The coalition mounted a successful clinic defense and chased the anti-abortion extremists out of town.

**Cleveland** was the scene of over 2,000 militant people marching for abortion rights. Despite the Democratic Party dominating the pre-march rally, voices lifted in chants overwhelmed the politicians. The vast sea of youthful and older protesters glowed with determined resistance etched in their faces. Many carried colorful, creative signs that collectively expressed the need for a strong, relentless fightback to defeat the reactionary attack on the right to control one’s own body.

Thousands of people marched across the Brooklyn Bridge to join a rally in Foley Square in Manhattan, one of many held in **New York City**’s five boroughs. Youth as well as older people were present in a crowd that included Black, Latinx and Asian protesters, with a large number from the LGBTQ+ community.

Rally speakers denounced racism, misogyny and transphobia, asserting the intersectionality of these issues. Several announced their pronouns, recognizing various gender identities. Some politicians spoke.



**Buffalo, N.Y.**      WW PHOTO: N.D. BOUVART



**Washington, D.C.**



**Media, Pa.**      WW PHOTO: MARIE KELLY

WWP set up a literature table, and members circulated through the crowd, distributing 500 copies of Workers World newspaper. There was much interest in the front-page headline: “Free abortion on demand for ALL genders!” An individual took a WWP placard: “Down with the patriarchy, racism and capitalism!” to proudly pose for a picture. After the rally, a spirited crowd marched to Washington Square Park.

Over 200 reproductive rights supporters gathered at the Delaware County Courthouse in **Media, Pa.** The rally, organized by the Delco Indivisible group, featured pro-choice legislators who are battling laws that attempt to mandate personhood rights to a fetus, such as a so-called “heartbeat law” to ban abortions after six weeks of pregnancy.

Pennsylvania laws already place heavy restrictions on abortion access, including mandatory anti-abortion counseling and denial of abortions to minors without

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**Cleveland**      WW PHOTO: SUSAN SCHNUR



**New York City**      WW PHOTO: G. DUNKEL



# Protests demand reproductive justice

Continued from page 6

parental consent — particularly cruel given the fact of domestic rape. Several speakers stressed that consequences of anti-abortion legislation falls most heavily on Black and Brown people and on poor people, emphasizing the racist nature of the laws. Pa. State Rep. Chris Rabb spoke of his maternal ancestors, raped by their white-supremacist enslavers, and decried today’s patriarchal U.S.

Over 1,000 people marched from the Museum of Art down Benjamin Franklin Parkway to rally at **Philadelphia** City Hall. The crowd ranged from older activists, who had demonstrated for safe abortions before Roe, to younger people who held abortion as their legal right until the recent Texas ban.

Two physicians organized the event to raise awareness that making abortion legal does not make it accessible or affordable. Many marchers, including middle and high school students at their first demonstration, carried handmade signs, including “I wish my uterus shot bullets, so the government wouldn’t regulate it.” The banner of WWP-Philadelphia was well received with its message: “Reproductive Justice Now for People of ALL Genders. Down with Patriarchy, Racism and Capitalism!”



Atlanta      PHOTO: KELLY JORDAN

In **Atlanta**, a rally in “Liberty Plaza” across from the state capitol building started at 11 a.m., when a crowd of thousands filled that space; and people kept coming — LGBTQ+ and gender-nonconforming, diverse in nationality, age and abilities and overwhelmingly young.

After gathering with groups from Planned Parenthood and other pro-choice forces, at 12:30 p.m. the crowd marched and rolled to the Center for Civil and Human Rights. Sister Song, whose purpose is to “strengthen and amplify the collective voices of Indigenous women and women of color to achieve reproductive justice,” was the rally’s main organizer.

The first ever Women’s March was held in **Fort Walton Beach, Fla.**, when 100 people marched, from City Hall to Liza Jackson Park, to encouraging honks from cars passing by, with no counterprotesters along the way. At the park, marchers participated in voter registration, dancing and discussion. Speakers included Fort Walton Beach City Council member Kirby Locklear,



Fort Walton Beach, Fla.      WW PHOTO: BECKS



Philadelphia      WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Sonya Vasquez, Dr. Jennifer Zimmerman and others. The event was a huge success, promising many more in Okaloosa County.

WWP-Central Gulf Coast and the local Women’s March co-sponsored the day’s events in **Pensacola, Fla.** WWP members led 35 cars in three caravans through downtown — honking, waving and sporting signs with pro-choice and abortion rights slogans. Another group visited Graffiti Bridge, where political messages are traditionally painted, adorned the bridge with reproductive rights slogans and dropped a WWP banner.

The caravans rolled into the Bridge to rally with about 125 people — young, older, multinational, multigender. A few anti-choice bigots showed up; months earlier organizers of the Oct. 2 march had put an end to an anti-abortion group’s menacing weekly picket at a Pensacola women’s clinic. The harassers tried to disrupt the rally but were easily drowned out by crowd chants.

Speakers included Jamil Davis of Black Voters Matter, Allison F. of Women’s March-Pensacola and WWP, and Shannon D. of WWP. WWP zines and papers were eagerly sought, and people applauded WWP demands, especially “no forced sterilizations,” “reproductive justice for incarcerated people” and “free childcare.”

Almost 15,000 people took to the streets in **Houston** to thoroughly condemn the Texas ban on abortion and to demand control over their own bodies.

One of the highlights from the podium was television celebrity Padma Lakshmi, currently in town to film “Top Chef,” who asserted that everyone — male, female and gender-nonconforming — should have control of their own bodies. Lakshmi told the wildly cheering crowd, “I was three years old when Roe happened. I can’t believe I’m fighting for the same right, but fight we must!”

The crowd was spectacularly diverse with crowds of women, many with children; LGBTQ+ people; Aztec dancers; a trans contingent; women construction workers in their hard hats; men; and several generations of families marching together. The people in the streets were the heroes of the day, particularly throngs of young people expressing outrage and anger in their signs.

Since the Sept. 1 Texas “ban” law, Gov. Greg Abbott has signed another bill barring doctors from prescribing abortion-inducing drugs to those who are over seven weeks pregnant.



Pensacola, Fla.      WW PHOTO: DEVIN COLE



San Antonio      WW PHOTO: SHELLEY ETTINGER

A **San Antonio** crowd of several thousands expressed its outrage through a “Bans Off Our Bodies” march. The demonstrators were mainly young, mostly Latinx, reflecting the city’s population. They marched past City Hall and the San Antonio Immigration Court, as construction workers on the third story of one build-



Houston      WW PHOTO: GLORIA RUBAC

ing shouted down to them, “We love y’all.” The march was organized by a broad coalition including Planned Parenthood, Texas Organizing Project, Lilith Fund, Southwest Workers Union, Women’s March San Antonio and Women’s March Central Texas.

Some 1,000 multigender, multigenerational and multinational people rallied at the city and county building in **Salt Lake City** to protest the recent Texas law that has intensified white supremacy and gender oppression. After organizations such as Black Lives Matter-Salt Lake City spoke out against this repression from the podium, the march made its way to the state capitol building

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Salt Lake City      WW PHOTO: JOANNA STRAUGHN





Hours after her Sept. 26 release, Khalida Jarrar visits the grave of her daughter, whose funeral she had not been permitted to attend.

# Palestine

## Khalida Jarrar freed, visits daughter’s grave

By Ted Kelly

Khalida Jarrar, a major leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, was released Sept. 26 from Israeli prison after two years incarceration. Jarrar, a left-wing resistance leader and elected representative of the Palestinian Legislative Council, had been jailed since Israeli occupation forces arrested her Oct. 31, 2019, and later found her guilty of membership in the PFLP, a Marxist-Leninist Palestinian organization.

Prior to the 2019 arrest, Jarrar had been arrested and held without charge for 20 months. While Jarrar was in Israeli custody, her

daughter, human rights advocate and environmental scientist Suha Ghassan Jarrar, died at just 31 years old. Khalida Jarrar was not permitted to attend her daughter’s funeral. At Ramallah cemetery, just hours after she was left at a military occupation checkpoint in Jenin, Jarrar was joined by other senior PFLP leaders at Suha’s grave. “They forbade me from participating in the funeral of my beloved daughter and from planting a kiss on my daughter’s forehead. They denied me her farewell. The last time I hugged Suha was the night of my arrest in 2019.” From the river to the sea — Free Palestine and all political prisoners! □

# Protests demand reproductive justice

Continued from page 7

where more protesters joined the outcry. Demands for reproductive rights for all rocked the **Bay Area** during the Oct. 2-3 weekend. On Saturday 10,000 people from the Northern California area marched down **San Francisco** streets from Civic Center Plaza to the Embarcadero. The march was organized and endorsed by a broad array of government and community organizations, such as Planned Parenthood-Northern California, National Center for Lesbian Rights, Transgender District SF and SF Human Rights Commission. Smaller marches were held throughout the South and East Bay areas. On Sunday a smaller but more radical and inclusive rally, the National Mobilization for Reproductive Justice, gathered at the San Francisco Federal Building. The demands included: repeal the Hyde Amendment; stop forced sterilizations; no to caged kids, forced assimilation and child welfare abuses; and defend queer and trans families. Initiated by the Bay Area Freedom Socialist Party, the rally was endorsed by Raging Grannies, WWP-Bay Area, People’s Strike Bay Area and others. Speakers emphasized that the only way to win reproductive rights was to organize a broad mass movement in the streets to demand these rights for all genders. As over 1,000 demonstrators gathered at Revolutionary Hall for **Portland’s** March for Reproductive Rights, a diverse group of Indigenous, Black, Latinx, Asian and nonbinary speakers addressed issues related to abortion access and denounced Texas’ restrictive anti-abortion bill. Dr. Jennifer Lincoln, an obstetrician-gynecologist, spoke on the importance of abortion for the health and wellness of many of her clients. Another speaker reported her history as a “Jane” in the pre-Roe era, when her women’s group learned how



San Francisco/Bay Area

WW PHOTO



Seattle

PHOTO: CHERYL MCARTHUR

to perform abortions when there were no alternatives pre-Roe. People in desperate situations came to the Jane Collective (originally known as the Abortion Counseling Service of the Chicago Women’s Liberation Union) as a last resort for then-illegal abortion services. After the rally, protesters spilled into the streets for an unpermitted march, with signs like “Pro-life is not pro-child; it’s pro-forced birth.” They chanted “Trans, Black, Indigenous rights, lives! They matter here!” A security team on bicycles and motorcycles blocked traffic and prevented attacks by counterdemonstrators.

In **Seattle** about 3,000 demonstrators rallied downtown, while a large group of young demonstrators held a breakaway march through Pike Place Market and were wildly applauded. Contributors to this article were Becks, Devin Cole, Shelley Ettinger, Judy Greenspan, Sue Harris. Marie Kelly, Dianne Mathiowetz, Jim McMahan, Betsey Piette, Minnie Bruce Pratt, Arjae Red, Gloria Rubac, Susan Schnur, Carlos Splitstoser, Joanna Straughn and the WW Boston bureau.



Portland, Ore.

WW PHOTO



# Spirit of Mandela

**SPIRIT OF MANDELA IS A CAMPAIGN TO BRING INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION TO U.S. VIOLATIONS OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF U.S. HELD POLITICAL PRISONERS. REGISTER FOR THE INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS FROM OCTOBER 22-25, 2021 AT [SPIRITOFMANDELA.ORG](https://spiritofmandela.org)**



# Attica: Class exploitation sparks prison rebellion

By Tania Siddiqi

*These remarks were given Sept. 29 during a webinar, “Attica Prison Rebellion: Past to Present,” sponsored by the Dallas Chapter of the Justice Initiative of Southern Methodist University.*

In 1961, George Jackson was sentenced to one year to life in prison for stealing \$70. While caged at San Quentin State Prison, Jackson became involved in revolutionary activity. He studied Marx, Lenin, Trotsky, Mao, Engels and Ho Chi Minh, among others. Jackson, along with W.L. Nolen, founded the Black Guerrilla Family, an organization dedicated to the Black Liberation struggle.

In his rousing book, “Blood in My Eye,” Jackson writes: “Prisoners must be reached and made to understand that they are victims of social injustice. This is my task working from within. The sheer numbers of the prisoner class and the terms of their existence makes them a mighty reservoir of revolutionary potential.”

On Jan. 17, 1970, Jackson, along with Fleeta Drumgo and John Clutchette (collectively known as the Soledad Brothers), were wrongfully charged with the murder of a prison guard. The capital murder offense, if they were convicted, would have resulted in Jackson and the other Brothers being sentenced to death.

On Aug. 7, 1970, Jonathan Jackson, George’s 17-year-old brother who George considered to be his “closest comrade,” led a rebellion at the Marin County Courthouse in San Rafael, Calif., and demanded the immediate release of the Soledad Brothers. During the rebellion, Jonathan freed William Christmas, James McClain and Ruchell Magee, but

his demands were unmet. He, along with Christmas and McClain, were murdered by police. Ruchell Magee survived and is now the oldest political prisoner. Magee, 82, has been caged for 58 years.

### Words from the past, still ringing true

While preparing for this event, we came across a letter that Jonathan wrote to George explaining the social/political conditions developing since George was incarcerated, and we wanted to share a few of those words with you all.

Jonathan Jackson wrote: “The issue of employment is still the same; we do 30% to 40% of the nation’s work for 1% of the returns, and a huge pool of us is always kept unemployed to reduce the value of the labor of those who are, just like 100 years ago, just like 1864-65 when we were thrown on the labor market — hungry, ragged, crowded into clapboards and unhappy. Nothing has changed since you left the street, comrade, not in this respect at least. Perhaps our condition stands out a little more glaringly, that’s all.”

Half a century later, Jonathan’s words still characterize current conditions for oppressed people. Why are these factors rarely discussed in our school classes?

One year after Jonathan’s assassination, George Jackson was murdered Aug. 21, 1971, by prison guards. His death inspired incarcerated people throughout the U.S. to engage in acts of resistance, including those at Attica Correctional Facility in New York state.

Along with the assassination of George and Jonathan Jackson, the circulation of a letter, “An Anatomy of the Laundry,” written by Sam Melville, an incarcerated person at Attica, served as a catalyst for the Attica Rebellion. In the letter, Melville explained the outrageous exploitation of incarcerated workers and their labor.

Melville wrote: “How does the pig exploit the laundry slave? How does the pig profit? Like so: The average wage of a unionized dry laundry worker on the outside is \$3.50 per hour; whereas the average wage of a laundry slave here is 25¢ per day. The laundry slave works 3 1/2 hours per day for 25¢; an outside unionized worker would earn \$10.50 for the same work. Projected to a monthly basis, the slave gets \$5.50, while an outsider gets \$231.00.”

### Organizing inside Attica

Incarcerated people at Attica started to fight back by staging hunger strikes and work stoppages and challenging the authority of prison guards. Tension finally reached an all-time high, and the incarcerated people at Attica were able to take the prison. Their resistance resulted in a rebellion in September 1971.

First and foremost, the incarcerated people at Attica were organized. They elected other incarcerated folks such as Elliott James “L.D.” Barkley, Roger “Champ” Champen, Richard “Brother Richard” Clark and Mariano “Dalou” Gonzalez to represent them during negotiations. They set up medical stations and worked together in keeping the hostages and themselves safe. Frank “Big Black” Smith was appointed as head of security.

During the negotiation process, incarcerated people generated demands. Some that really stood out to us were: #1: Apply the New York State minimum

wage law to all state institutions. STOP SLAVE LABOR. #6: When an inmate reaches a conditional release date, give him a full release without parole. #7: Cease administrative resentencing of inmates returned for parole violation. #15: Remove inside walls, making one open yard and no more segregation or punishment.

In law school, we learn that “reasonableness” is the standard for a lot of legal tests. While we researched materials about the Attica Uprising, we couldn’t understand what was so unreasonable about these demands and why 32 incarcerated people were murdered for simply asking for decency and dignity — the right to be treated as a human being.

### Say their names!

Tonight, we dedicate this program to the martyrs of the Attica Rebellion: William Allen, Elliott (L.D.) Barkley, John B. Barnes, Bernard

Davis, Allen Durham, Willie Fuller, Melvin D. Gray, Robert J. Henigan, Kenneth E. Hess, Thomas B. Hicks, Emanuel Johnson, Charles Lundy, Kenneth B. Malloy, Gidell Martin, William B. McKinney, Lorenzo McNeil, Samuel Melville, Edward R. Menefee, Jose Mentijo, Milton Menyweather, Richard Moore, Carlos Prescott, Michael Privitera, Raymond Rivera, James B. Robinson, Santiago Santos, Barry J. Schwartz, Harold Thomas, Rafael Vasquez and Melvin Ware. □



Attica Uprising, 1971

## Pennsylvania

# Activists rally to end ‘death by incarceration’

By Betsey Piette

A movement of Pennsylvania activists is working to end the state’s policy of sentencing incarcerated people to life without the possibility of parole (LWOP). They have coined the term ‘death by incarceration’ to describe this cruel punishment.

The activists held a press conference and rally in Philadelphia Sept. 30 to promote SB835, introduced by a bipartisan group of legislators. If passed, the state bill would offer geriatric and medical parole for anyone, aged 55 years or older, who has served 25 years or half their sentence, whichever comes first.

The bill would offer incarcerated people with a chronic medical condition — either a physical or mental illness — a chance at parole. Currently, an incarcerated person in Pennsylvania needs to petition their sentencing judge to qualify for compassionate release. And they need a doctor to confirm they have less than a year to live, and in most cases be unable to walk.

In Pennsylvania, the more than 10,000 incarcerated people over 55 are considered geriatric, because their life spans are

shortened by oppressive prison conditions, including poor nutrition and health care, severe stress and the risk of violence. The total state prison population is around 38,000. (tinyurl.com/em8s8746)

Each year, 133 people enter the Pennsylvania prison system with LWOP sentences. On average, 28 of these lifers will die behind bars each year. The geriatric population in the state exploded from 6% in 1996 to 25% by 2020. The pandemic worsened the situation, impacting 11,000 incarcerated people in the

can be convicted of felony murder, also known as second-degree murder, if they participated in a robbery or kidnapping that resulted in a death. This applies to everyone involved, even if unarmed.

### Rally to ‘Free our people!’

At the Sept. 30 gathering by the statue of Philadelphia abolitionist Octavius Catto, a group of 50 people gathered to hear from survivors of state violence, their families and legislators who are working to pass SB835. People attached photos of family members currently incarcerated with LWOP sentences to a large banner, “Free our people!”

As speakers advocated for freedom for thousands of people currently incarcerated in Pennsylvania prisons, many of those imprisoned, now or formerly, told of their experiences. Some speakers explained why the bill would be game-changing in particular for Philadelphia, seen by some as the death-by-incarceration capital of the world. Other speakers included Pa. Sen. Sharif Street, Pa. Sen. Nikil Saval and Pa. Rep. Rick Krajewski.



“Free our Elders,” Philadelphia, Sept. 30.

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

state’s prisons, with 141 dead because the Department of Corrections failed to act to contain the virus.

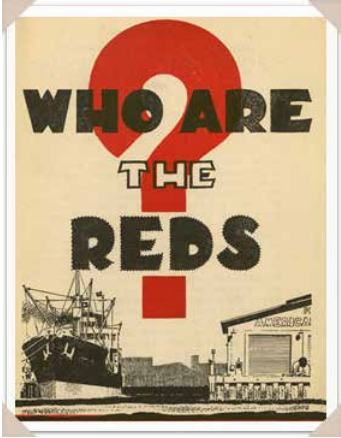
Pennsylvania has some of the harshest sentencing policies in the U.S. A person



# When they say, 'The Reds are coming!'

In the course of the battle over Biden’s “Build Back Better” bill, the ugly specter of anti-communism has raised its head, most prominently in the U.S. Senate and from the right-wing media. No doubt this poison is also being spread in less open forums.

Senator Marco Rubio infamously tweeted, “The \$3.5 trillion Biden plan isn’t socialism, it’s Marxism.” Apparently, Rubio made this distinction because the word “socialist” is being associated more and more with anything good for poor people, for the working class in general. So he had to find a new insult word.



Louisiana Senator John Kennedy — no connection with the late U.S. president — in his attack on Biden, went to the core. He said Biden’s program “will turn [the U.S.] America into Cuba.”

While many of us might react, “Would

that it were true!” the goal of the attacks is clear: to play upon years of miseducation that U.S. propaganda spouts about socialism, communism, Marxism, “the Reds!”

The next step is to mobilize these indoctrinated fears to defeat any legislative or social program that might help workers and poor people or eliminate historical inequalities.

A close look at the proposed development plan in Congress shows that – with severe limitations – parts of it provide some benefits to the working class and could be used to defend the environment.

To rightists like Kennedy and Rubio, that’s Marxism, socialism or communism.

The only truth to their comment is that it is exactly Marxists, socialists and communists who fight the hardest to win such benefits for the working class.

And we do so while attempting to build equality and solidarity among all sectors of that working class, trying to remove all the burdens of special oppressions imposed by capitalism.

While this red-baiting is an attempt to undercut Biden by calling his program “Marxist,” the truth is that his proposals are simply a set of reforms designed to make U.S. capitalist society slightly more humane and

therefore more bearable, while at the same time making it more efficient — for capitalists.

A truly Marxist or socialist program would guarantee that everyone had equal access to education, health care, guaranteed employment and income — and that care for children would be available as a social benefit for the whole society.

A Marxist program would not only tax the rich to pay for part of these benefits, it would seize the major means of production from the rich and eliminate the exploitation of workers.

Such a program would also mobilize popular forces to replace the repressive forces of the capitalist state — the military, the police, the courts and the corporate media. In the hands of the workers, these forces would be used to prevent the former capitalist rulers from using undemocratic means to take wealth from the workers — who produce all the wealth in the first place.

So we say to Rubin and Kennedy and their fellow thinkers: Your attack on the Build Back Better bill is based on fearmongering. But now you’ve got us thinking about what we really need for the U.S. and for the world: a socialist-Marxist-communist revolution — of, by and for the workers! □

# Indigenous Peoples' Day

*This editorial, which originally appeared Oct. 19, 2017, in Workers World, has been updated to reflect Indigenous struggles in 2021.*

Workers World Party is in firm solidarity with Indigenous peoples in the struggle to abolish the current “Columbus Day” as a national U.S. holiday and to rename and transform it into “Indigenous Peoples’ Day.”

Organizing by Indigenous peoples, who steadfastly refuse to mark genocide as a holiday, has already resulted in six states and 130 cities and towns making the progressive change in the U.S.

Genocide is not an exaggeration. Indigenous peoples have waged centuries of struggle to survive and advance against the death-dealing tide of settler-colonialism in the U.S.

The most recent confirmation of the terrible war waged against Indigenous peoples is seen in the 2021 exposure of the forced acculturation, starvation and murder of many thousands of Indigenous children in schools run by the U.S. states and Canadian provinces and by various religious groups. (See Workers World, July 1.)

The move to rename the holiday is an attempt to correct official history as told by invaders and colonizers.

The 1492 “voyage of discovery” by Columbus, which every U.S. schoolchild is taught, was in fact a voyage of conquest by Christian Europeans. That conquest was officially

blessed by the highest religious authority. In 1493, Pope Alexander VI issued a papal bull giving the spiritual, political and legal justification for seizing any land not inhabited by Christians. The fact that there were Indigenous peoples living on that land was known by the authors of this document, deliberately crafted to justify colonization.

The “new world” of European conquest was established on the basis of genocide, land theft and brutal injustice to Indigenous peoples. And eventually, all over the U.S., statues went up to honor the symbolic initiator of this bloodshed.

Though some may argue naively, or with deliberate racism, that Columbus Day merely honors Italian cultural heritage, progressive people of Italian descent have been making it clear that they unite in solidarity with Indigenous peoples to fight white supremacy.

Sharp historical memory underlines this support, because 19th and early 20th century Italians who immigrated to the U.S. faced virulent racism. This racism was especially aimed at those from southern Italy and Sicily linked to African lineage. In fact, in 1891, 11 Italian men were openly lynched in New Orleans.

But in 1892, when U.S. President Benjamin Harrison called for the U.S. to mark Oct. 12 as the “discovery of America by Columbus,” in part because of “the divine care and guidance which has directed our history,” he was not taking a stand against xenophobia, white



PHOTO: CHAD HIPOLITO

**During a May ceremony honoring Indigenous children whose graves were discovered at a Canadian residential school, Nipawi Kakinoosit of the Sucker Creek First Nations sings the A.I.M. (American Indian Movement) anthem at British Columbia’s provincial legislature.**

supremacy or colonization. (Common Dreams, Oct. 11)

Instead, that call was the sign of a new deal emerging in the U.S. and offered to “ethnic immigrants” — who might be Slavic or Italian or other groups vilified as of color.

The deal? Accept and go along with white supremacy and become “white” — or face the genocide, violence and discrimination visited on peoples who were Indigenous or of African descent.

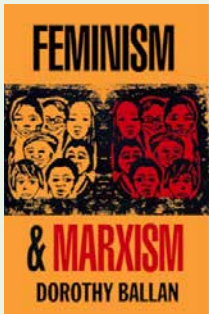
But millions of people have said NO to that deal — choosing instead to organize and struggle against racism.

This coming year gives another chance to progressive people to say “No to white supremacy! Down with statues of Columbus and all memorials to racism and colonization! Up with banners of Indigenous Peoples’ Day!” □

# Feminism and Marxism

By Dorothy Ballan

*Dorothy Ballan was one of the founding members of Workers World Party. This excerpt from “Feminism and Marxism,” written by Ballan in 1971, can be read in conjunction with the work of WWP member Leslie Feinberg, “Transgender liberation: A movement whose time has come,” to further expand the struggle against gender oppression and for liberation. Both pamphlets are available as free downloadable PDFs at [workers.org/books](http://workers.org/books).*



bearers and rearers ... remained in the home. Out of virtual necessity it was the men who were in the better position to pursue the new drive to accumulate wealth and further develop the means of production. And these did develop with accelerating speed. ...

Because the men developed this wealth, they became more dominant and eventually became the private owners. As women became more isolated, they became more dependent for survival on men.

The very dependency itself created an entirely new relation between husband and wife. No longer did they mutually cooperate as independent beings. The woman now needed the man for economic survival. And so, as Engels said, the final transformation of mother-right to father-right (descent through the father rather than the mother) marked the world historic overthrow of the female sex.

## Relation of immediate demands to ultimate liberation of women

We must fight in every way possible to improve the conditions of the workers, knowing full well that this in no way changes the fundamental character of the capitalist exploitation of wage-labor. In the same way, we fight for the right of every [person] to earn a living to maintain their family, and we resist the brutal attempt to dissolve the family by crushing poverty, political and

social repression, and the ravages of imperialist war and galloping inflation.

This is part of the struggle for immediate demands under the capitalist system. Hand in hand with these are the many demands that must be raised for women’s liberation — and raised particularly by women — despite the fact that women

will never be really free as long as capitalism exists. Such struggles as the right to free divorce, the right to free, full-time day care centers for children — particularly for working mothers, the right of free abortion, the right of equal pay to women for equal work with men, the struggle against the ideology and practice of male supremacy — all these demands and many more are part of the struggle for women’s liberation.

And as Lenin said in this connection: “‘Democracy’ is nothing but the proclaiming and exercising of rights that are very little and very conventionally exercised under capitalism. But unless these rights are proclaimed, unless a struggle for immediate rights is waged, unless the masses are educated in the spirit of such a struggle, socialism is impossible.” □



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

**Philadelphia, Oct. 2.**



# U.S. policies drove people from Haiti, now force them back

By G. Dunkel

Haitians expelled from the camp in Del Rio, Texas, at the end of September were forced or tricked into getting on planes by U.S. authorities. Sometimes the Haitians were told they were going to Miami or California, when the plane was really going to the major Haitian cities, Port-au-Prince or Cap Haïtien.

Haitian authorities dragged them off the plane in Haiti, their luggage dumped on the tarmac. Some parents told U.S. reporters that although they finally got their bags back, their children’s birth certificates from Chile, Brazil or other Latin American countries had been removed.

Most of the Haitians in the Del Rio camps had lived and worked in various Latin American countries for years. Their children are not Haitian citizens. As many as 192,000 Haitians with Chilean visas had been working on various projects in Chile; tens of thousands of Haitians had been working on building infrastructure for the 2014 World Cup and the 2016 Olympics in Brazil.

After COVID hit in 2020, work dried up in Latin America, and Haitians lost their visas along with their jobs.

According to some reports on Twitter, since the middle of September, there have been at least 43 flights to Haiti from the U.S. Most went to Port-au-Prince, but five or six went to Cap Haïtien. Between 5,500 and 6,500 Haitians were expelled from the U.S. on these flights.

The Department of Homeland Security has extended the Temporary Protective Status for Haitians in the U.S. for another 18 months, because of the “dire situation in Haiti.” Nevertheless, Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas said, “We felt it possible to return people to Haiti,” by getting USAID and NGOs to provide assistance. Mayorkas has repeatedly said that no Haitian

should attempt to get into the U.S. illegally.

Assistance promised has never arrived. Some forcibly returned families lost their luggage, along with documents like passports and birth certificates. Others had no family in Haiti to stay with, or that family was unreachable since there was no public transportation to where they lived.

One reporter interviewed a man who said he had to walk from the airport to Carrefour, a trip that is two hours by automobile.

Haiti is the most oppressed and exploited nation in the Western Hemisphere, with workers paid the lowest wages. The United States has forced Haiti to open its market to subsidized U.S. rice since the 1980s and forced Haiti to keep its minimum wage to less than \$3 a day.

U.S. intervention in Haiti has been going on since President George Washington told Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson to send \$750,000 to the French colonialist enslavers, who were trying to repress the uprising of the African people that they had enslaved. That was the first foreign aid the U.S. ever gave. More recently former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton put Michel Martelly in as president.

Destroying Haiti’s economy and politics inexorably pushes Haitians out of Haiti towards the U.S.

### More attempts will be made

Colombia’s government is well aware that tens of thousands of Haitians are in Colombia without visas and are preparing to move north to attempt to enter the U.S. across the Mexican border. Arresting them would cost money.

Over 19,000 Haitians are in Colombia’s northern town of Necoclí, waiting for a boat to take them to Panama so



A woman and child with a group of Haitian refugees seek to reach the U.S. by an overland route through the Darien Gap in Colombia in September.

they can walk across the Darién Gap, which is a jungle wilderness without roads.

The paths through the Gap, according to pictures of the Haitians trekking through it, are narrow, muddy and rocky, with standing water, hot and humid, and with many poisonous snakes. People have to carry their children and luggage. Those who collapse on the trail are often left behind. Many die.

Conditions are so bad in Haiti that many people choose to cross the Darién Gap rather than return to their homeland.

Nothing prevents the Biden administration from reversing Donald Trump’s policy of excluding Haitians. The administration could adopt new asylum regulations. In the past, presidents have adopted Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) to allow selected groups to stay for a definite period of time.

It is going to take more than threats to keep Haitians from attempting to improve their lives and the lives of their children. □

# Haitian lives matter

By Betsey Piette  
Philadelphia

As the solidarity rally in Philadelphia with Haitian refugees began to gather Sept. 28, around 75 participants were greeted by steady beats of recorded Haitian music accompanied by a live drummer.

There was a large banner taped to the wall of City Hall, reading “Haitian stories of truth, experience and memories.” People were encouraged to write messages on the banner if they had lost a loved one in Haiti due to the recent earthquake, political violence or someone trying to cross the U.S. border.

Rally chair Marline Say opened by recognizing that “We are standing on the land of the Lenape people, the original inhabitants of land taken over by European colonialists. So, let’s be clear, no one is illegal on stolen land!” She led a chant of “Reparations, not deportations.”

Haitian activist Steve Paul, standing next to a full-size cardboard cutout of President Joe Biden, recounted a

history of French and U.S. colonial and imperialist occupation of Haiti, the first country in the Western Hemisphere to overthrow slavery.

Mercedes Piquion and other speakers read statements from Haitian migrants, including many who came to the U.S. decades earlier following natural disasters and political unrest. Protected by the Temporary Protected Status program, they now face the threat of deportation.

There was broad support from groups involved in the fight to “Shut down Berks,” an Immigrations and Custom Enforcement facility in nearby Berks County. Several Philadelphia Democratic City Council people spoke including Jamie Gauthier, Helen Gym and Kenyatta Johnson, who all denounced Biden’s treatment of Haitian refugees at the Texas border last week.

Rally demands included: “Grant humanitarian parole



Philadelphia, Sept. 28

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

to Black asylum seekers at the U.S./Mexico border; stop all expulsions and deportations; and end Title 42 and the metering system, both of which disproportionately impact Black asylum seekers and remain unconstitutional.” □

WORKERS WORLD  
MUNDO OBRERO

¡Alto al terror racista contra los refugiados haitianos!

Workers World Party/Partido Mundo Obrero, saluda la valentía inspiradora del pueblo haitiano - en Del Río, Texas, y en Haití, ahora y durante más de dos siglos.

La brutalidad racista de los Estados Unidos está en exhibición en todo el mundo, con imágenes de sus guardias fronterizos utilizando látigos — que la Patrulla Fronteriza llama riendas largas — para detener a los haitianos que tratan de llevar alimentos y agua a sus familias en Del Río. Los haitianos se agachan y esquivan pero no dejan caer sus paquetes.

Mintiendo a los refugiados y diciendo que sólo los estaban trasladando a un centro de recepción con más instalaciones, los EE.UU. llevaron un avión cargado

de personas de vuelta a Puerto Príncipe. Ahora estas expulsiones -ilegales según el derecho internacional- encuentran más resistencia. En al menos un autobús que llevaba a los refugiados al aeropuerto de Del Río, los refugiados consiguieron tomar el control del autobús y huir.

Cuando los aviones llegan a Puerto Príncipe, la gente lucha por permanecer en el avión o por volver a subir a él. Sus pertenencias son arrojadas en un revoltijo en la pista, y a menudo sus pasaportes y los de sus hijos no son devueltos. Para frustrar su heroica resistencia, los haitianos son subidos a los aviones con grilletes, devueltos encadenados de la misma manera que sus antepasados fueron llevados a Haití.

Los haitianos no se van por la inestabilidad política actual. La gente de Del Río se fue de Haití mucho antes del asesinato del presidente Jovenel Moïse el 7 de julio. Mucho antes del régimen de Michel Martelly (2011-2016), durante las décadas de terror duvalierista, la gente huía de la devastación económica y política causada por EE.UU.

Estados Unidos ha estado sabotando el desarrollo haitiano desde que Haití cometió su “pecado” original — erradicar a sus esclavizadores mediante la revolución — y emergió en 1804 como un país libre y Negro.

Exigimos al presidente Joe Biden que tome medidas inmediatas: ¡Detenga las



MO FOTO: TONI ARENSTEIN

Nueva York, 21 de septiembre

deportaciones de haitianos y otros solicitantes de asilo, y detenga el terror racista ahora! ¡Reparaciones para el pueblo haitiano! □





WW/MO PHOTO: SHELLEY ETTINGER

San Antonio, Texas, 2 de Octubre.

## La brutalidad racista contra los migrantes haitianos desata la indignación

Por Martha Grevatt

El mundo entero ha respondido con horror y rabia a las imágenes de migrantes haitianos azotados y aterrorizados por agentes de la Patrulla Fronteriza de Estados Unidos a caballo. Se han establecido paralelismos con la esclavitud en el hemisferio occidental, a la que se puso fin por primera vez en Haití cuando los africanos esclavizados llevaron a cabo una exitosa revolución.

Los haitianos han organizado protestas en múltiples ciudades, incluida una frente a la Casa Blanca en el Parque Lafayette de **Washington, D.C.** La comunidad haitiana de Miami ha celebrado múltiples acciones. La gran comunidad haitiana de Boston se manifestó el 24 de septiembre. En **Atlanta**, más de 150 personas se manifestaron el 26 de septiembre en una acción convocada por Alliance for Black Lives.

El 21 de septiembre se celebraron dos manifestaciones en la ciudad de **Nueva York**, una frente a las Naciones Unidas en Manhattan. La policía limitó el número de personas que podían protestar frente a la ONU, obligando a los manifestantes a reubicarse. La segunda acción tuvo lugar más tarde en **Brooklyn**.

Cerca de 200 personas se reunieron frente al Edificio Federal de **San Francisco** durante la hora punta del 24 de septiembre. El numeroso grupo se echó a la calle coreando “Estados Unidos fuera de Haití, las vidas de los negros importan” y marchó hasta el Civic Center.

En la manifestación, Pierre Labossiere, cofundador del Comité de Acción por Haití, la organización que patrocina esta manifestación, hizo un repaso de la historia de la intervención estadounidense y la colonización de Haití.

Labossiere dijo que los haitianos que cruzaron el río en Estados Unidos eran refugiados y debían ser tratados como tales. Habló del golpe de Estado de 2004 que derrocó al presidente electo Jean-Bertrand Aristide, dando paso a un largo periodo de represión y penurias.

Jeremy Miller, de la Alianza Negra por la Paz, expresó la solidaridad de su grupo con la lucha haitiana por la libertad. Varias organizaciones, entre ellas el Workers World Party/Partido Mundo Obrero, hicieron declaraciones de solidaridad en el mitin de clausura.

### Los tejanos apoyan a los refugiados en la frontera

En el centro de **Houston**, el 22 de septiembre, la gente hizo un piquete y se concentró durante tres horas en el edificio federal Mickey Leland. Condenaron al presidente Joe Biden, las acciones de la Patrulla Fronteriza y a los partidos demócrata y republicano. La acción fue organizada por el Frente Nacional Negro Unido.

El tráfico respondía constantemente a dos grandes carteles, uno de los cuales decía “Toca el claxon para apoyar a los refugiados” y el otro, “Toca el claxon si estás de acuerdo”.

Al principio, los manifestantes eran mayoritariamente afroamericanos, y el cántico popular era “¡Deja entrar a mi gente!”. A medida que la gente salía del trabajo, la

protesta se hizo más multinacional, con activistas latinos, palestinos y blancos.

Los oradores y las organizaciones representaron a la Mezquita 45 de la Nación del Islam, al Centro Comunitario S.H.A.P.E., a la Coalición por la Justicia del Sur, al Santuario de la Virgen Negra, a la Asociación Nacional de Trabajadores Sociales Negros, al Frente Nacional Negro Unido, a la Asociación de Antiguos Alumnos del Partido de las Panteras Negras, al Workers World Party/Partido Mundo Obrero, al Partido por el Socialismo y la Liberación, al Nuevo Partido de las Panteras Negras, a la Lucha por los Inmigrantes y los Refugiados en todas partes (F.I.R.E.) y a la Operación Alcance OG1.

“El pueblo revolucionario de Haití ganó una guerra y expulsó a los franceses, pero luego se le ordenó pagar reparaciones. Ahora el pueblo de Haití ha tenido que llegar a la puerta de Estados Unidos, y no podemos defraudar a nuestra gente. Tampoco podemos defraudar a nuestros hermanos y hermanas latinos, porque Estados Unidos les robó Texas, Arizona, Nuevo México y California. Y todo este país fue arrebatado a los pueblos indígenas”, dijo a la multitud el ministro Abdul Haleem Muhammad, del Nacional del Islam.

Un gran número de haitianos han sido admitidos en Houston, y las organizaciones comunitarias están ayudando con todo, desde alojamiento hasta ropa y pañales. Houston Haitians United ha liderado este esfuerzo. El Frente Nacional Negro Unido está llevando a cabo una campaña de ayuda a los haitianos y recogiendo donaciones de productos sanitarios y de seguridad.

### Apoyo laboral a los trabajadores haitianos

UNITE HERE, el sindicato que representa a “más de 300.000 trabajadores del sector de la hostelería en Estados Unidos y Canadá, incluidos miles de amas de casa, camareros, cocineros y trabajadores de concesiones haitianos” emitió una declaración el 22 de septiembre, citando a Rose Denis, presidenta del Local 355 de UNITE HERE en el sur de Florida:

“Huí de Haití a **Miami** hace más de 17 años para escapar de la persecución política. Ahora, represento a los trabajadores de la hostelería de todo el sur de Florida, que han estado en primera línea trabajando para que nuestra economía vuelva a funcionar. Nuestro espíritu como haitianos es luchar. En 1804 lideramos la mayor rebelión de

esclavos del hemisferio occidental contra el dominio colonial. Somos resistentes, pero no podemos hacerlo solos. Es hora de que el presidente Biden dé un paso adelante y defienda a los haitianos tomando medidas inmediatas para detener las deportaciones”. (unitehere.org)

“**Los Ángeles** ha sido la zona cero en términos de apoyo al movimiento por las Vidas Negras por parte de los trabajadores”, dijo el 23 de septiembre Felipe Cáceres, coordinador del Local 721 del SEIU. “Muchos de nuestros miembros estaban trabajando mano a mano con BLM en otras cosas, así que después de ver estos visuales [de la frontera], el caucus latino y negro se reunió y decidió que Los Ángeles es la zona cero para nosotros para mostrar nuestro apoyo a las organizaciones negras y marrones que lideran el camino, no sólo para una vía para 11 millones de personas indocumentadas, sino también para los solicitantes de asilo.” (lataco.com)

En una declaración de solidaridad del 24 de septiembre, la Federación Mundial de Sindicatos, que cuenta con 105 millones de miembros, declaró “Llamamos a la clase obrera y a los sindicatos combativos de América Latina y el Caribe, así como a los de Estados Unidos, a luchar por los derechos y la protección de los trabajadores haitianos, de los trabajadores migrantes en todos los países de las Américas. Para luchar contra el racismo y las causas que generan los migrantes y refugiados, que no son otras que la pobreza, las guerras imperialistas y la explotación”.

En **Filadelfia**, unas 75 personas rodearon una enorme pancarta de “Libertad” colocada en el suelo el 25 de septiembre ante el Independence Hall, cerca de la Campana de la Libertad. Los oradores exigieron al presidente Biden que pusiera fin a un contrato de prisión del Servicio de Aduanas y Control de Inmigración (ICE) en el condado de Berks, Pensilvania. Una obra de arte de más de

1.000 flores de papel, creada por la artista visual Michelle Angela Ortiz, incluía mensajes de libertad para y por las familias de inmigrantes anteriormente detenidas en el Centro de Detención del Condado de Berks.

Tras años de protestas, el ICE se vio obligado a poner fin al Centro de Detención



Los refugiados haitianos cruzaron la frontera en Del Rio, Texas.



Cleveland, 21 de septiembre. WW/MO FOTO: SUSAN SCHNUR



FOTO: GLORIA TATUM

Atlanta, 26 de septiembre.



FOTO: NATIONAL BLACK UNITED FRONT

Houston, 21 de septiembre.



FOTO: BILL HACKWELL

Pierre Labossiere, cofundador del Comité de Acción por Haití, habla por megáfono en San Francisco, el 24 de septiembre.

de Familias, al norte de Filadelfia. Sin embargo, el ICE planea ahora sustituirlo por una prisión para mujeres inmigrantes.

El mensaje de la Coalición “Shut Down Berks” y de otros siete adherentes fue alto y claro: “Los inmigrantes de Pensilvania no van a permitir que se siga encarcelando a las familias, a las mujeres ni a nadie. No necesitamos más prisiones, necesitamos más servicios sociales”.

Refiriéndose a los recientes actos de terror en el paso fronterizo de Del Río, Texas, y a las deportaciones forzadas de miles de personas haitianas, Steve Paul, de Haitian American Voice, dijo “El gobierno de Estados Unidos tiene una larga historia de tratar a los migrantes haitianos de manera particularmente terrible por el color de nuestra piel y por el lugar de donde venimos. ... ¡No más cárceles! ¡No más ICE! No más deportaciones”. Anunció una protesta contra las deportaciones de haitianos para el 28 de septiembre en el Ayuntamiento de Filadelfia.

Este acto formaba parte del Día Nacional de Acción “Comunidades, no jaulas” de Detention Watch Network. Tuvo lugar durante la Semana Nacional de la Migración, en la que se celebraron en todo el país manifestaciones organizadas en solidaridad con todos los migrantes y en protesta por la brutalidad contra los refugiados haitianos en Texas.

Muchas fueron patrocinadas por una amplia sección de organizaciones comunitarias y de justicia social. Tal fue el caso de **Cleveland** el 23 de septiembre, cuando decenas de activistas solidarios desafiaron los fuertes vientos para escuchar a los representantes de 11 organizaciones patrocinadoras que representaban a las comunidades inmigrantes, latinas, negras, asiáticas e indígenas. Los oradores condenaron la antinegritud sistémica y el legado de la esclavitud encarnados en el terror antihaitiano.

*Judy Greenspan, Joe Piette, Gloria Rubac y Dave Welsh contribuyeron a este artículo.*