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.

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.

Continued on page 6

Save the post office! 3
Amazon workers win 4
Union votes: ‘Defund police’ 4
Global supply chain breaks 5
Liberation for oppressed genders 10

Editorials
Accused of Marxism? 10
Indigenous Peoples’ Day 10

End ‘death by incarceration’
The workers killed at Attica
Khalida Jarrar released 8-9

Workers killed at Attica
Khalida Jarrar released 8-9

Brazilians in the streets 3
Release Alex Saab! 3
Haitian refugees 11
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 firce 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 abortion, 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, imm/migrants, attacks on ever-greater profits. The wealth workers create should be socially owned, not be stolen in the form of capitalist profits. The wealth workers create should be socially owned, not be stolen in the form of capitalist profits. The wealth workers create should be socially owned, not be stolen in the form of capitalist profits.

Five Supreme Court justices, showing their partisanship, allowed Texas to enforce this restrictive law since 1973. It denies abortion access to the poor and working class. The justice system is biased against the poor and working class. Its intentions are to intimidate, terrorize abortion seekers and shut down clinics.

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, multicultural and multigender working class. It is time to point the blame at— and challenge— the capitalist system.

Workers World Party was founded 44 years ago to help build this revolutionary socialist party. Since the early 1980s, the fund has supported the workers.org website, where WW articles are posted daily and the PDF 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 $500 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.

Write checks, either monthly or once a year, to Workers World. Mail them with your name and address to 147 W. 24th St., 2nd floor, New York, NY 10011, or sign up online to donate online at workers.org.

Thank you for supporting Workers World. ☐

Workers World Party is a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist party inside the belly of the imperialist beast. We are a multiracial, multigender and multigendered organization that not only aims to abolish capitalism, but to build a socialist society because it’s the only way forward! Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world and the planet itself in the never-ending quest for ever-greater profits.

Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, attacks on 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 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, multicultural and multigendered working class. It is time to point the blame at— and challenge— the capitalist system.

WWF works 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. ☐

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

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700,000 in the streets demand ‘Bolsonaro out!’

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 sent 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.”

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 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.

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: João Catulinoitad

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 28 other countries. About 700,000 people relied on the Postal Service to ensure this constitutionally mandated #ForaBolsonaro demonstration. She was on the committee that provided for dialog 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 cuts to her head and hand. She was rescued on the spot and taken to the Real Hospital Português. Despite the shock, 50,000 people participated in the demonstration in São Paulo alone.

In Porto Alegre (Rio Grande do Sul state), around 80,000 demonstrators took place in 304 Brazilian cities and protests in 28 other countries. About 700,000 people relying on the Postal Service to protest the president’s trucking decisions in 304 Brazilian cities and protests in 28 other countries.
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 have won another victory, further exposing Amazon’s crisis and the pandemic.”

In reaching a settlement, Amazon avoids what could have been a $78 million fine, as well as the NLRB’s potential for a long and costly hearing to determine if Amazon’s firing of Costa and Cunningham violated work protections.

Local 21 filed a complaint in October 2020 alleging Amazon’s firing of Costa and Cunningham violated workers’ rights. Inequality, racism and sexism are at the heart of both the climate crisis and the pandemic.”

Seattle’s Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 21 filed a complaint in October 2020 alleging Amazon’s firing of Costa and Cunningham violated workers’ rights. Inequality, racism and sexism are at the heart of both the climate crisis and the pandemic.”

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’s Union Organizing Program (UOP) has been relentless in its efforts to organize warehouse 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 live stream

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 Force of Workers World Party. Speakers represented a wide range of worker actions happening around the country. Minnesota Pratt, fraction member and Alabama native, gave an historical context for labor struggles that defied white supremacy in the U.S. She said, “I’ve been active on the United Mine Workers coal miners’ strike, now in its seventh month, and on developments in the historic Bessemer strike. It’s not a 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 164, 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, shifting health care away from the direct line of production.

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

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 sexism and gender violence, and organizing on international solidarity that charts the union’s independent political platform.

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

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 workers who are fighting 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 UE is indeed leading through tough times. Workers United, which organizes city workers across the state. Local 150 has led recent, successful campaigns, notably in Durham, N.C., to move money and programs 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 the 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 reallocation 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 department has to go,” said a Durham resident.

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 $3,000 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, unions and 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 not given appreciation. We are not collective bargaining to help the steel of Virginia Beach,” stated Christina Wilson-Darien, who has worked as a behavioral staffed with social workers, mental health workers and emergency responders, rather than armed police.

Rivera Imperato, a sex worker and facilitator for the United Electrical Workers, which organizes city workers across the state.

UE in June 2020, becoming the largest National Labor Relations Board election union to face 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.

“The 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 clean room at Refresco.

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

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, notably in Durham, N.C., to move money and programs away from police departments to address the needs of other city workers and the Black community.

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Global supply chain crisis

Workers’ health and safety vs. capitalists’ profits

By Betsy Piette

At the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic in 2020, panic buying seemed to create a shortage of different necessities, such as toilet paper. But then through the COVID-19 pandemic, housing prices started rising drastically, as demand surpassed supply due to short-term economic lockdowns.

As students returned to in-person learning, schools found nutritious food for school lunches much 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. British Steel went into liquidation, which some blame on COVID-19, while others point to a shortage of truck drivers due to BREXIT. In September, U.S. stores warned starting customers 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 blabber about 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 managers point to labor shortages: not enough dock workers to unload the massive numbers of mega shipping containers; not enough drivers to haul goods away.

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

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 wage workers into globalized manufacturing and services. From cars to computers, most production today depends on the collective labor of this global workforce. If a producer of labor, from a to a supercapital, 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 1960s. 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 served as a buffer against production shortages. Just-in-time introduced the capital, and a burdensome profit-sapping clock into jobs made unsafe because of the pandemic.

The result has been an ever-widening income inequality. While capitalists, 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, yesteryear’s 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 60 million global transport workers, employed in over 3.5 million road, freight and airline companies and in 60% 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 where this problem is at the center of the explanation for what has gone awry. Workers took 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, calling for an end to COVID restrictions that do not exempt transport workers. “Driver 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.”

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” of supply chains was 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.”

Hunger-striking seafarers sought to be liberates from a bulk tanker where they were trapped from 2019 to 2021 due to COVID restrictions and corporate legal abandonment at sea. The sailors from India, Turkey and Azerbaijan — were freed after intervention from the International Transport Workers’ Federation.
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 1,500 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. 1, 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 Jimenez went to Mexico for an abortion. A week later, she died from septic shock.

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 anti-abortion extremists out of town.

Protests demand reproductive justice

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.

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.

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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.
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 right. 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 J. of Women's March-Pensacola and WWP, and Shannon D. of WWP. WWP zines and papers were eagerly sought, and people uppladed 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+; Aadite 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.

Continued on page 8
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 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 Mathiouzeta, Jim McChesney, Betsey Piette, Minnie Bruce Pratt, Arjaae Red, Gloria Rubac, Susan Schmee, Carlos Spletstosser, Joanna Straughn and the WW Boston bureau.

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! ☑
Attica: Class exploitation sparks prison rebellion

By Tania Siddiqui

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 for crime 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 the situation we find ourselves in. 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 Cluchette (collectively they were 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 19-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 Rachell Magee, but his demands were unmet. He, along with Christian and McClain, were murdered by police. Rachell 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 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 1846-65 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 $35.00 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 $25.65 an outside unionized worker would earn $10.90 for the same work. Projected to a monthly basis, the slave gets $53.50, while an outsider gets $231.00.”

Organizing inside Attica

Incarcerated people at Attica started to fight back by changing strike 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 their prison. Their resistance resulted in a rebirth 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” Changmoh, Richard “Brother Richard” Clark and Mariano “Dulao” 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 negotiations, 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 read about the Attica Uprising, we couldn’t understand what was so outrageous 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, Malooly, 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, Giridell Martin, William B. Melvin, Samuel Melville, Edward R. Menefee, Jose Mentijo, Milton Menyweather, Richard Moore, Carlos Prescott, Michael Privitiera, Raymond Rivers, James B. Robinson, Santiago Santos, Barry J. Schwartz, Harold Thomas, Rafael Vasquez and Melvin Ware.

Pennsylvania Activists rally to end ‘death by incarceration’

By Betsy Piette

A movement of Pennsylvania activists is working to end the state’s policy of sentencing incarcerated people to life without parole (LWOP) and the rising cost of treating elderly and geriatric incarcerated people suffering from chronic diseases.

In 2018, the Abolitionist Law Center in 2018, a Black organization, filed a class-action lawsuit in Pennsylvania, on behalf of incarcerated people suffering from Alzheimer’s disease.

Several speakers addressed the excessive cost of incarcerating geriatric people — often two to three times higher than that of a nonelderly inmate. The 2019 Pennsylvania Department of Corrections (PA DOC) budget sought $19 million to meet the rising cost of treating elderly and sick inmates, who are more likely to suffer from cardiac disease, high blood pressure, hepatitis C, diabetes and other chronic diseases.

One speaker strongly denounced a proposal from the PA DOC to construct a new prison planned to exclusively house incarcerated people suffering from Alzheimer’s disease.

Several speakers addressed the racial disparity in Pennsylvania prisons, where Black, Latinx and Indigenous people account for 65% of those served lifetime sentences on LWOP sentences, released by the Abolitionist Law Center in 2018, a Black Pennsylvania is 18 times more likely than her white counterpart to be sentenced to life without parole.

The press conference was hosted by Straight Ahead, with endorsements from groups Human Rights First, American Civil Liberties Union, Amistad Law Project, grassroots prisoner support groups such as Human Rights First, American Civil Liberties Union, Amistad Law Project, grassroots prisoner support groups such as the Coalition to Abolish Death by Incarceration.
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 infamous 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 that the women [who were] child bearers and reapers ... remained in the home. Out of vir- tual necessity it was the men who were in the better posi- tion 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 dependence of women on men, the struggle against the ideology and practice of capitalism, particularly for working mothers, the right of free abortion, to free, full-time day care centers for children— particularly by women— are part of the struggle for women's liberation— and raised 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 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 coloniza- tion! Up with banners of Indigenous Peoples’ Days!”

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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 this program 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 hard- est to win such benefits for the working class.

What we do so that we can build capacity and solidarity among all sectors of that working class, try- ing 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 exploita- tion 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 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! ☐

Workers World Party is in firm solidarity with Indigenous peoples’ day, the struggle to abolish the cur- rent “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 Columbus as a holiday, has already resulted in six states and 130 cities and towns making the pro- cessive 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 United States.

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Against Indigenous peoples is seen in the 2021 exposure of the death-dealing tide of settler-colonialism in the U.S., statues went up to honor the symbolic initiator of this bloodshed.

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

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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 Haitien. 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 and other loved ones were left behind. Sometimes the Haitians 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 Haitien. 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 aid for the 2014 World Cup and the 2016 Olympics in Brazil.

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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 el esclavismo 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 manifiestan frente al consulado de Haití. En la ciudad de Nueva York, se pidió una reunión 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 los edificios de las manifestantes a recortarse. La segunda acción tuvo lugar un poco 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 grupo se desplazó hasta una plaza de la ciudad para escuchar a una oradora.

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 en Haití y el desalojo de los trabajadores que trabajaron allí.

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


Haitians United ha liderado el desalojo de “refugiados” de la colonización de Haití. Unos han sido deportados y otras son “inmigrantes” que trabajan en las fábricas de Texas, Arizona, Nuevo México y California. Y todo esto fue perpetrado en nombre de “los trabajadores indígenas”. Los trabajadores haitianos es importante hacerles entender que el lucha por los derechos.