



# Indigenous Peoples Day

## Columbus Day toppled in Boston

By K. James  
 Boston

In a major victory for Indigenous people everywhere, Boston Mayor Kim Janey signed an Executive Order declaring the second Monday in October to henceforth be Indigenous Peoples Day. Janey [Boston's first woman and first Black mayor] signed the order Oct. 6 inside Boston City Hall, the administrative hub of one of the birthplaces of the European settler-colonial project in the Americas.

Present at the signing and press conference were members of the Massachusetts Tribe at Ponkapoag, whose traditional territory encompasses the city of Boston, as well as Indigenous activists and leaders from the North American Indian Center of Boston (NAICOB) and United American Indians of New England (UAINE).

Raquel Halsey, member of the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation and Executive Director of the NAICOB, said of the Executive Order: "I'm so proud to

have a mayor who listens to the community and works to make Boston an inclusive city. As a service provider, we have heard countless stories of Indigenous people feeling unwelcome in Boston, and they have felt the lasting consequences of genocide and colonialism every day. Recognizing Indigenous Peoples Day is an important step toward addressing the lived experiences of many residents and building trust between municipalities and Indigenous nations."

Bolstered by that victory, an energized crowd of several hundred Indigenous people and allies gathered Oct. 9 for a rally and march to demand the Commonwealth of Massachusetts follow Boston's example and replace Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples Day. The demonstrators rallied outside the Massachusetts State House.

Mahtowin Munro, Oglala Lakota co-leader of UAINE and lead organizer for IndigenousPeoplesDayMA.org, explained some of the group's demands:



WW PHOTO: MAUREEN SKEHAN

**Protestors rally Oct. 9 for Indigenous Peoples Day in Boston to demand the name of Faneuil Hall be changed.**

"Indigenous Peoples Day is being declared in cities and towns all across Massachusetts and across the country. We call on the state legislature to step up now and pass our statewide Indigenous Peoples Day bill.

"It will also be important for them to pass our other legislation currently before them, including bills to ban Native American team mascots; to provide for Indigenous curriculum content in the public schools; to protect sacred Native American heritage; and to improve educational outcomes for Indigenous students. And we call upon the federal government to Stop Line 3 and other destructive pipeline projects that run through and endanger Indigenous lands."

Munro continued: "In solidarity with our many migrant and refugee relatives who live in Boston and elsewhere, today we are also saying, 'Break down the borders! ICE [Immigration and Customs Enforcement] and the Border Patrol need to stop harassing and detaining Indigenous, Haitian and other refugees!'"

After rallying at the State House, demonstrators joined Kevin Peterson, founder of the New Democracy Coalition, and other Black community activists to demand that Faneuil Hall, one of Boston's shrines to slavery, be renamed. Jean-Luc Pierite from NAICOB and other speakers emphasized the need for collective Black and Indigenous action and liberation.

The crowd finally made their way to the so-called Christopher Columbus Waterfront Park, which once housed a Christopher Columbus statue, since beheaded and removed. Rally organizers demanded that the park's name be changed and a more appropriate statue be erected to commemorate Boston's vibrant Indigenous community.

The Boston victory is the culmination of six years of activism on the part of local Indigenous leaders. Every year since 2015, protesters have walked through the streets of Boston chanting words which are now no longer a statement, but rather a promise: "City by city, town by town, we're going to take Columbus down!" □

## U.S. delegation says 'Hands off Nicaragua!'

Workers World bureau  
 Managua, Nicaragua

Nicaragua's Alliance for Global Justice delegation visited Nicaragua to learn about the advances of the Sandinista government over the last 15 years. The object of the visit was to counter the tsunami of false information daily churned out by the U.S. State Department and its allies in the national and international media.

For a week in early October, the

delegation visited government ministries, universities, hospitals and schools, and they had conversations with Nicaraguan small farmers and co-op organizers, in addition to members of the international community, in the cities of Managua, Leon, Granada and Masaya. They also met with the political affairs officer at the U.S. Embassy in Managua to present a statement of protest against U.S. interference in the internal affairs of the

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TEAR DOWN THE WALLS



Imam Jamil Al-Amin at 78

'Inhumane conditions'

Assata on Mumia

Colonization & incarceration

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# Annual Philly Trans March 2021

By **Betsey Piette**  
Philadelphia

The annual Philly Trans March kicked off with a short rally in Washington Park near Philadelphia's historic district on Oct. 9. A two-hour energetic and militant march around the area followed, returning to the park for a final rally. Many of the nearly 300 participants were trans youth of color.

The event began with inviting Indigenous trans participants to come to the stage, where one gave opening remarks. Organizers acknowledged the city of Philadelphia was built on the stolen land of the Lenni Lenape people. Some of the large, clenched fist signs carried by participants included the words "Indigenous, Two Spirit pride."

All the speakers were people of color. The march was led by Black trans youth on the microphone, and Black trans and other participants were asked to come to the front to lead the march. As demonstrators marched down heavily gentrified South Street and through some of the city's wealthier neighborhoods, they chanted: "Liar, liar, gentrifier" and "Liar, liar, colonizer."

The response from people on South Street was mostly friendly, with some stopping to listen to speakers when the march stopped at different intersections for a prolonged time. During one stop, a speaker addressed requests made by some white organizers that the event be "family friendly," by explaining that "A real trans march cannot be family friendly, since the racism, chattel slavery and murders that impact the trans community are not family friendly."

Since 2010, Philly Trans March has held annual protests against the hate, social injustice and inequality faced by trans, nonbinary and gender-nonconforming individuals and communities. Several speakers addressed how oppression has impoverished many trans people — particularly those of color and the elderly. Appeals were made to support low-to-no income members of the community, while signs with their Cash App accounts were circulated through the crowd.



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

**Philly Trans March outside South Street Pier, Oct. 9**

March organizers distributed a flyer noting the broad diversity of the trans community and the Philly Trans March. "We are an all ages, unified, community group that supports no policing, sex workers, formerly and currently incarcerated folks, those that are houseless, disabled, undocumented, little to no income, and any other historically and traditionally excluded and silenced member of our community," it read.

Speakers raised demands Philly Trans March has generated over the years, including: "the abolition of prisons and police; protection for people impacted by ever-growing rates of deportation, policing, separation from families and detention while seeking asylum; and the end of various forms of harassment, assaults and murders that affect us every day."

Other demands spelled out the need for economic justice: "investment in transformative justice infrastructures; the building of Black trans leadership and compensation; safety and affirmation for trans students; protection and better resources for trans elders; and reparations to be given to Black and Indigenous trans people."

Rally organizers called on white activists to be "accomplices" not just "allies," urging them to become active participants in anti-racism work and to not remain silent when they witness discrimination in their communities or work spaces. □



**Philly Trans March, Oct. 9** WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

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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.

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*this week*

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Vol. 63, No. 41 • October 14, 2021  
Closing date: October 13, 2021

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Workers World (ISSN-1070-4205) is published monthly by WW Publishers, 147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl., New York, NY 10011. Phone: 212.627.2994.

Subscriptions: One year: \$36; institutions: \$50.

Letters to the editor may be condensed and edited. Articles can be freely reprinted, with credit to Workers World, 147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl., New York, NY 10011. Back issues and individual articles are available on microfilm and/or photocopy from NA Publishing, Inc, P.O. Box 998, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-0998. A searchable archive is available on the Web at www.workers.org.

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

Periodicals postage paid at New York, N.Y.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Workers World, 147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl.

New York, N.Y. 10011.

# Harvard workers fight back, win job security

By Ed Childs  
Boston

Scoring a victory for hospitality and service workers countrywide, on Sept. 23, UNITE HERE Local 26 at Harvard University beat back management and won job security for its members. A five-year contract was negotiated, and workers voted for it overwhelmingly. Local 26 represents dining hall workers who prepare the food and feed the students.

Five years ago, Harvard management went on the attack with big cutbacks, including eliminating affordable health care. But after a three-week strike, the workers were able to thwart the attack and halt the bosses' offensive.

What Harvard proposed this time was a huge attack — cutting full-time workers, who are currently 70% of the workforce, to 40%. On top of that, management wanted to cut 30 to 40 jobs. This would be devastating for the 500 workers who work for Harvard and the 250 who work for outside contractors, all of whom are covered by the same contract.

Harvard is trying to implement the Amazon model of worker exploitation. Amazon's strategy is to try to keep 10% of the workforce stable, but work the other 90% to the bone and squeeze as much work out of them as possible, which results in 90% of the workforce not lasting more than a year. Amazon does that through automation and speedup.

Management at Harvard is trying to bring that model into the dining halls, by bringing in prepared foods and working people until they drop, not caring about having a stable workforce. They are also doing this to the custodians particularly and somewhat to the clerical and graduate student workers.

The main issue was job security. Our main goal was to stop the cuts in hours and stop the elimination of any jobs. It was important to keep everybody at their living standard and to stop work overload. Another big issue was to extend this to workers employed by outside contractors. We demanded that if their workers were laid off, they would have to be



PHOTO: GARY DAVIS

**Workers from different unions rally to demand Harvard management take on all laid-off Harvard workers, whether employed by Harvard or outside contractors.**

allowed into the HU workforce. For nine months these issues alone were being negotiated by management and UNITE HERE Local 26.

## Preparing for the fightback

Harvard management informed Local 26 of their vicious plans at the beginning of negotiations a year ago. They tried to use the pandemic to beat the union down, aware that UNITE HERE was vulnerable with 80%-90% layoffs at hotels. Many workers were suffering either from layoffs or anxiety about getting their jobs back due to the pandemic.

Local 26 leaders and workers at Harvard prepared for this extended struggle by forming a coalition with the other unions on campus, particularly SEIU 32 BJ, representing the custodians and guards; Harvard Union of Clerical and Technical Workers, AFSCME 3650; and the Harvard Grad Students Union, UAW Local 5118. Leaders met; workers rallied together, and joint positions were put out to the press and management. UNITE HERE dining hall workers prepared over the pandemic with walkouts and walk-ins (work stoppages), demanding PPE and safety on the job.

Local 32 BJ held a walk-in, and the other two unions carried out actions to prepare to fight attacks by management during the pandemic and get ready for negotiations.

UNITE HERE Harvard workers formed a contract committee of over 30 workers to negotiate the collective bargaining

agreement; all negotiations were open to all members. Management wanted to hold negotiations by Zoom, but the union demanded face-to-face meetings.

For one year, union staff and dining hall leaders organized their members, discussing the issues and preparing for a possible strike. Management threatened to cut hours and jobs and tried to play off one section of workers against another, using the fear caused by the pandemic to lay off workers in certain departments.

Battling all this, the leaders and staff instilled in the workers the need to be strong and unified. With discussion groups in dining halls, the walk-ins and walkouts, and especially unifying with custodians, clerical workers and students, workers saw their strength and management's weakness. Help from the hotel workers — who are in desperate need because of 70% unemployment — lifted the workers into a strong fighting force that management had to contend with.

Management saw strikes happening all over the country, including the nurses strike at St. Vincent's Hospital in Worcester, Mass. The Harvard Grad Student Union took a strike authorization vote with over 90% in favor during this time. Eight new shop stewards were developed as leaders during this period of struggle.

After nine months of negotiations, as Local 26 prepared to strike, HU management started to capitulate. They saw the need to sign with the dining hall workers, the strongest force on campus by far.

**'When Harvard says cut back, we say fight back!'**

There was no talk at the negotiating table about wages and stipends until job security was won first. If a union is weak and not prepared, it may let management offer wage proposals and try to sucker workers into accepting an otherwise bad contract. Local 26 doesn't deal with money until the very end. Management does not take us seriously unless wages are put last.

In this five-year agreement, there will be no cuts in anyone's hours as of Dec. 1, 2020 — when Harvard started instituting cuts. All jobs stay. All laid-off workers from outside contractors will be brought into the Harvard workforce according to their seniority working at Harvard. Recognition of the seniority of all workers under the contract, regardless of which employer pays them, is an unprecedented victory.

Both union members and management understood the strength of the workers' struggle, and in one day they agreed to a wage increase. No matter what their job position may be, everyone gets \$4.03 an hour more over five years. This purposely shows solidarity with lower-paid workers.

The workers won a health care package that continues with no deductibles, no fees and no co-pays. Unprecedented also!

People who work for educational institutions cannot collect unemployment benefits for traditional seasonal layoffs; the contract stipulates that by the end of the contract, workers will get \$3,800 per month of seasonal lay-off pay in lieu of unemployment.

The contract was overwhelmingly supported by the membership, knowing that their preparation and willingness to fight beat back a vicious attempt to attack their living standard.

Now the struggle continues to support the other unions on campus against similar attacks by Harvard management.

As the saying goes, "The workers united will never be defeated!"

*Childs is a retired Chief Shop Steward with UNITE HERE Local 26.*

# West Virginia metal workers on strike

By Otis Grotewohl  
Huntington, W.Va.

Metal workers from two companies in West Virginia went on strike Oct. 1 over their employers' decisions to bargain in bad faith. Both of their contracts expired Sept. 30, and the companies — Special Metals Corporation of Huntington and Sulzer Pumps located in neighboring Barboursville — refused to negotiate on any contract terms. Both firms are asking workers to pay significantly more — \$750 to \$1,000 more each month — in health care costs, despite not offering any significant pay increase. The big issue at Sulzer is seniority rights.

There are roughly 450 workers employed at Special Metals and about 50 at Sulzer. Bargaining unit members of Special Metals are exclusively represented by United Steelworkers Local 40; workers at Sulzer are organized by the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers Local 598. The two companies are among the largest employers in Cabell County.

Workers World spoke with strikers from Special Metals and joined a couple of their picket lines. Members of USW Local 40 are holding down the lines at all hours of the day and have pickets set up at all six

entrance gates.

One veteran electrician told this author that: "The company grills food for the scabs everyday for their lunch break, and they never do anything like that for us." Another picketer pointed out, "The company is willing to pay scabs more than they are willing to pay us, and they are even putting them up in hotel rooms." The strikers all agreed that they are the ones with the experience, knowledge and proper training to operate the equipment.

Tension is high between the workers and the company. Workers spoke about how they yell at the scabs and private security guards on a regular basis, as the guards try to use intimidation tactics.

## Part and parcel of a bigger strike wave

It is clear from standing on the picket line and speaking with the workers at Special Metals that the company bosses were preparing this assault on their employees long before Oct. 1. But the courageous action of the strikers at both facilities could not have come at a better time.

As capitalists and their corporate media hacks push the false narrative that "workers are not willing to work," the true reality is that parasitic employers are having a hard time finding people who are willing to work in dangerous conditions for low

pay and next-to-no benefits during the COVID-19 pandemic.

U.S. capitalists refuse to consider the notion of providing all working people a living wage, and at the same time they are determined to drive up consumer prices in a desperate attempt to maximize their profits.

Just recently, workers at every Nabisco facility settled a bitter strike. Now there's a strike of Kellogg's food workers in four states. There are walkouts and strikes by health care workers at hospitals throughout the U.S. John Deere workers rejected a first contract offer by a wide margin Oct. 10.

This month 98% of the members of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees voted for strike authorization. (NBC, Oct. 4) If carried out, the IATSE strike could dramatically impact Hollywood and the entertainment industry in the U.S. This strike authorization covers some 60,000 production and post-production workers in all the big streaming content movie providers: Amazon, Netflix, Hulu and others, where



WW PHOTO: OTIS GROTEWOHL

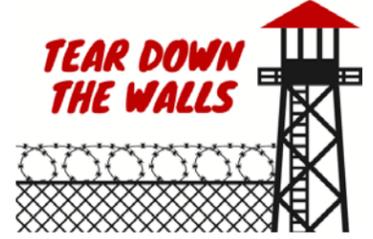
**Metal workers on picket line in Huntington, W.Va.**

workers are forced to work 12-hour days without lunch breaks for months at a time, under contract language dating from when those corporations were "start-ups."

And there are serious attempts to organize people who have not historically been organized, such as fast-food workers, incarcerated workers, sex workers, and workers in the newer corporate entities including Amazon employees.

As the bosses try to use the pandemic as an excuse to negotiate in bad faith, organized and unorganized workers are fighting back. The old labor slogan still rings true: "An injury to one is an injury to all." □

# Atlanta rally celebrates 78th birthday of Imam Jamil Al-Amin



By Dianne Mathiowetz

The 78th birthday of political prisoner Imam Jamil Al-Amin (formerly known as the Black militant activist, H. Rap Brown) was commemorated by a rally and delivery of 78,000 signatures on petitions calling for his freedom to the Fulton County District Attorney's office in Atlanta, Oct. 4.

As chair of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), Brown and the organization's members were in the forefront of the historic voting rights struggle in rural areas of the South. This period of the 1960s and '70s was marked by racist violence against Civil Rights activists, including beatings, bombings and murders by the Ku Klux Klan and other white supremacists. Alarmed by his charismatic personality and persuasive speaking style, local, state and national governments spied on, harassed and instigated violence against Brown.

Brown later converted to Islam while imprisoned in New York state, taking the name Jamil Abdullah al-Amin. He returned to Atlanta and established a mosque and community grocery store in the West End, a neighborhood suffering from institutional neglect, poverty and drugs. Al-Amin is largely credited with building community empowerment to

reclaim the area from crime and disrepair.

On the night of March 16, 2000, two Fulton County deputies got into a firefight in the West End with a man described as 5 feet, 8 inches to 5 feet, 10 inches tall with "cold grey eyes." This resulted in the death of one deputy, the wounding of the second and the alleged wounding of the shooter.

Brown-eyed, 6 feet, 5 inches tall, and unwounded, Imam Jamil was charged and later convicted in a 2002 trial fraught with prosecutorial misconduct and lack of physical evidence. It was riddled with state and media bias based on decades of government surveillance, slander and misinformation. Fearing his influence, in 2007 the state of Georgia took the unprecedented step to have him transferred into the hands of the federal government's prison system.

During Al-Amin's over 20 years in prison, he has endured extended periods of solitary confinement, extreme medical neglect, and a virtual gag order preventing him from

speaking to the press.

As with the many other political prisoners from that period of heightened political struggle and repression, there have been persistent campaigns to gain freedom for Imam Jamil Al-Amin. The Imam Jamil Action Network (IJAN) initiated the Oct. 4 rally and delegation visit to District Attorney Fani Willis' office. A Conviction Integrity Unit has been

and national organizations including CAIR (Council on American Islamic Relations), ICNA (Islamic Council of North America), Justice for Georgia, Workers World Party, Moorish Science Temple of America, First Iconium Baptist Church and others addressed the DA's staff. They spoke of Imam Jamil's

major contributions as a young activist to win voting rights; his achievement of bringing peace to the West End; the decades of harassment, threats and surveillance as a target of the FBI's COINTEL program; and the sham of a trial that would not allow the testimony of a man, fitting the description, who has repeatedly admitted to being the shooter. Each statement ended with the demand to



Rally outside courthouse in Atlanta, Oct. 4.

PHOTO: ATLANTA IJAN

set up to review past convictions to rectify unfair or improper convictions, and Imam Jamil's case is one of them.

More than 15 representatives of local

Free Imam Jamil Al-Amin NOW!

For additional information, see IJAN and What Happened 2 Rap on social media. □

## 'Inhumane conditions' Ex-jail director faces jail

By Martha Grevatt Cleveland

Former Cuyahoga County Jail Director Ken Mills was sentenced to nine months in prison Oct. 8, after a three-week trial where he was found guilty of two counts each of dereliction of duty and falsification. That is just over one month for each death of an incarcerated person between May and November 2018 under Mills' watch. He resigned after the eight deaths and shortly before U.S. federal marshals released a scathing report on conditions in the jail.

Judge Patricia Cosgrove accused Mills of creating "inhumane" and "horrific" conditions, saying: "I don't know how you



One of many protests outside the Cuyahoga County Jail against terrible conditions.

PHOTO: CLEVELAND JAIL COALITION

can live with yourself or look at yourself in the mirror." (Cleveland Plain Dealer, Oct. 9) He withheld food, running water and medical care, neglected basic sanitation and caused major overcrowding that

meant prisoners slept on cafeteria floors or in areas without working toilets. Even after the jail population was beyond capacity, Mills blocked the hiring of additional nurses.

During the sentencing, the courtroom was packed with formerly incarcerated people and family members of those who died in the jail from suicide, drug overdose and denial of medical care.

When Mills was hired in 2015 by County Executive Armond Budish, he had never worked in a jail.

Budish, who oversees county operations including the jail, is partially responsible for the deplorable conditions, which he allowed to go unchecked.

Many have still not been corrected. There have been five more deaths since Mills resigned, but no charges have been filed against Budish.

In an Oct. 10 statement, Lu Zucker of the Cleveland Jail Coalition said: "No individual in the county government is wholly responsible for the abuse and deaths inside the jail. Mills stepped down almost three years ago, and community members locked in the jail continue to be denied emergency medical care, continue to be tortured and raped, continue to be

denied water and adequate food, and continue to die. These are systemic issues that cause human rights violations, and these issues lie within the very structure of the U.S. criminal justice system." The Coalition was formed in 2018 in response to the outrageous number of jail deaths that year. □



## Assata Shakur: 'Fight tooth and nail to save Mumia's life and to free him'

Note: This statement was recorded at Radio Havana in Cuba in 1998 and featured on All Things Censored: Vol. 1 1998 by Mumia Abu-Jamal.

"The first time I heard a tape of one of Mumia's radio broadcasts, it was the first time I fully understood why the United States government was so intent on putting him to death. I make a special appeal to you sisters and brothers to fight tooth and nail to save Mumia's life and to free him from the grips of his oppressors.

"As you honor our forefathers and foremothers, I urge you to honor our living heroes. When you honor the names of Nat Turner, Harriet Tubman and Malcolm

X, I urge you to honor the names of Geronimo Ji Jaga, Sundiata Acoli, Mutulu Shakur and Mumia Abu-Jamal. I urge you not to forget and not to betray our living heroes. If we ignore their struggle, we are ignoring our own. If we betray our living history then we are betraying ourselves.

"We could not save Malcolm X, but we can save Mumia. We can save him, and we must save him — because we love our brother, and we need our brother to help us fight for freedom. Free Mumia Abu-Jamal; free all political prisoners. Let us carry on our tradition to freedom." □



ASSATA SHAKUR SAYS: "FREE MUMIA! FREE ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS!"



WW GRAPHIC: DEVIN COLE

# Free Leonard Peltier and all Native prisoners!

By Ted Kelly

During the era of colonial theft and conquest, North America became a proving ground for European imperialists. This was where strategies of biological warfare and genocide were honed, as well as the industry that has become a pillar of modern global capitalism: mass incarceration.

One cannot talk about the struggle of Indigenous peoples and nations against settler colonialism without talking about the struggle for prison abolition. “Indian Removal” relied on the establishment of mass internment camps, “emigration depots” and prisons.

**U.S. prisons have been and are concentration camps for the poor and oppressed. One certain function of this imprisonment is to prevent colonized peoples from fighting for their national self-determination — the right of any group of people to practice their own culture, customs, language and self-governance on their own lands.**

U.S. prisons have been and are concentration camps for the poor and oppressed. One certain function of this imprisonment is to prevent colonized peoples from fighting for their national self-determination — the right of any group of people to practice their own culture, customs, language and self-governance on their own lands.

In 1838, despite strong and coordinated resistance, 15,000 Cherokee people were violently displaced at the point of a bayonet by white settler militias and the U.S. military, an atrocity known as the Trail of Tears. But a plan to commit genocide on the Native inhabitants of the continent had been underway long before President Andrew Jackson took office, before even the establishment of the U.S. government as it exists today.

In 1780 the Virginia colony’s 37-year-old governor Thomas Jefferson wrote, “If we are to wage a campaign against these Indians, the end proposed should be their extermination or their removal beyond the lakes of the Illinois River.” ([tinyurl.com/fncanc2](https://tinyurl.com/fncanc2))

George Washington himself came from a long line of violent racist colonizers. His great-grandfather John Washington was called “Hanadahguyus,” an Iroquois word meaning “Town Destroyer,” because he massacred Native people. The future president and commander of U.S. armies inherited his bloodstained title, along with tobacco plantations on stolen land and hundreds of enslaved African workers.

Imperialists didn’t holster the weapons of mass incarceration and displacement after forcing Native nations of North America onto reservation lands. Children were kidnapped and taken to boarding schools, where they were subjected to terrible abuse by their jailers. This further disrupted the social cohesion of Indigenous societies, by preventing children from speaking their own languages and practicing their own cultures.

The Canadian government now admits that the bodies of at least 5,000 children have been discovered in mass graves on the sites of “residential schools” — that country’s name for these juvenile prisons. While the grim revelations of crimes committed against First Nations in Canada

are far from over, no such process on that scale has taken place in the U.S.

But it is beyond doubt that the phenomenon of “kids in cages” did not begin — nor end — under the presidency of Donald J. Trump.

Jakelin Caal, a seven-year-old Q’eqchi’ child, and an eight-year-old Chuj child, Felipe Gómez Alonso, both from Guatemala, died within weeks of each other in December 2018, while in the custody of U.S. Customs and Border Protection. Many of the thousands of migrants who seek asylum on the U.S. border today are members of Indigenous nations, who speak many different and unrelated Native languages, and research shows they are less likely to receive medical care than Spanish-speaking refugees. ([tinyurl.com/3v25n3mh](https://tinyurl.com/3v25n3mh))

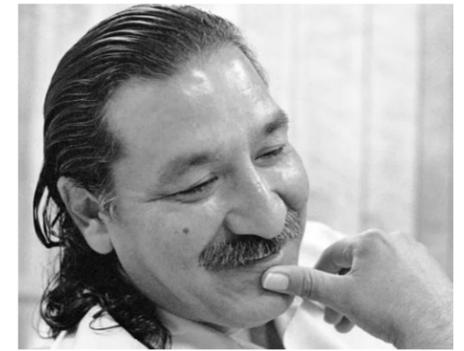
## Prisons and Indigenous resistance

Prisons are used to eliminate the leaders of Indigenous resistance. Sitting Bull, the great 19th century Hunkpapa Lakota leader, was a U.S. political prisoner from 1881 to 1883 and was assassinated in 1890 during an attempt to rearrest him. The Oglala Lakota freedom fighter Crazy Horse was murdered by his jailers in 1877 at a concentration camp in what is now Nebraska. Chiricahua Apache resistance leader Geronimo died as a prisoner of war at Fort Sill, Okla., in 1909.

This history is why it is so crucial that revolutionaries and people of conscience join the movement to free Leonard Peltier, a member of the Turtle Mountain Chippewa also of Lakota and Dakota heritage, who has been incarcerated by the U.S. since 1975. Peltier, an American Indian Movement member, is one of the most well-known Native political prisoners from the period of militant struggle in the 1970s.

As we fight to support this generation’s

political prisoners, like the #NoDAPL Water Protectors Red Fawn Fallis, Michael “Rattler” Markus, Michael “Little Feather” Giron and Dion Ortiz, we must fight to make sure no prisoners of war are left in custody to have their fates decided by their imperialist captors.



Leonard Peltier

Peltier wrote in 2018, before the COVID pandemic ravaged the incarcerated population in this country and before he underwent heart surgery, “It doesn’t seem as if any changes for the good or safety of Mother Earth will happen soon. But the good-hearted people are fighting back, and some good people are winning in the struggles to beat back some of this evil and to make the Changes, the safety networks, we need for our grandchildren and great-grandchildren so that they will be able to live happy, successful lives, at least decent lives, that most of the poor underprivileged in my generation never got to experience or enjoy in [their] short lives.” (Workers World, Dec. 3)

The International Leonard Peltier Defense Committee is urgently requesting donations to support his campaign for freedom at the ILPDC Facebook Page ([facebook.com/PeltierHQ/](https://facebook.com/PeltierHQ/)) and the fundraising site ([tinyurl.com/yxtkb77a](https://tinyurl.com/yxtkb77a)).

This is still the year to free Leonard Peltier! □

## Pandora Papers confirm

# Latin America’s veins are still wide open

By Alejandra Garcia from Havana

*Note: The following lightly edited article first appeared in Resumen Latinoamericano — English, Oct. 7.*

In 1971, Uruguayan political scientist and author Eduardo Galeano read the pulse of Latin American reality well with his gem of a phrase: “The world is divided above all between the unworthy and the outraged, and everyone knows which side they want to or can be on.” This he wrote in his book, “The Open Veins of Latin America,” which I leaf through today, 50 years later.

This masterpiece by one of the region’s most influential journalists has never been as relevant as it is today. Just a few days ago, 2.9 terabytes of information leaked by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) brought to light the offshore business dealings of 35 world leaders, including 14 Latin American presidents and ex-presidents. Welcome to the Pandora Papers.

Latin America is the region of open veins, as Galeano (1940-2015) put it. Today, the global scandal, which is a political tsunami for the region’s elites, reaffirms the Uruguayan’s theory. No other place in the world is as well-represented as Latin America in the biggest leak of data concerning so-called tax havens.

Of the 14 leaders immersed in the scandal, three are current presidents: Sebastián Piñera of Chile, Guillermo

Lasso of Ecuador and Luis Abinader of the Dominican Republic. They hold or have held financial offshore accounts in locations outside the jurisdiction of their homelands.

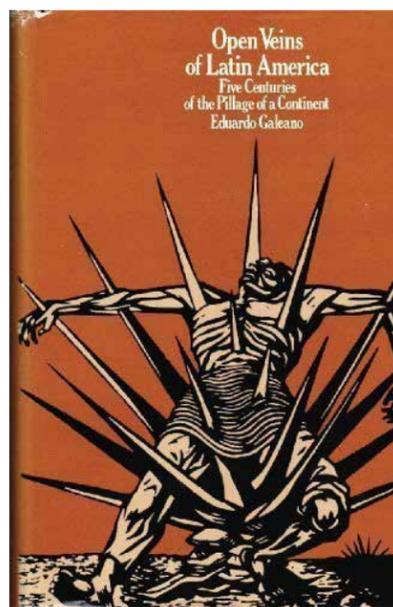
“In a region marked by inequality, these documents confirm the gap that exists between normal, law-abiding citizens and those who have access to tax havens and use them for their own private purposes,” explained Ewald Scharfenberg, Venezuelan journalist and an ICIJ member. A huge part of the political elite is involved in these practices, which is why the establishment will never take actions against this “shadow economy,” he added.

This observation is not new. Galeano warned of it five decades ago when he wrote that: “In a sense the right wing is correct in identifying itself with tranquility and order; it is an order of daily humiliation for the majority, but an order nonetheless; it is a tranquility in which injustice continues to be unjust and hunger to be hungry.”

In early August 2021, for example, the two most prominent figures of the Pandora Papers in Latin America — Sebastián Piñera of Chile and Guillermo Lasso of Ecuador — spoke out in favor of abolishing all tax havens, arguing that they are often used for illegal schemes, dubious business dealings or tax evasion.

Tax havens must disappear to make international financial transactions more transparent, they both assured the press. Defenders of those who use the

tax shelters claim them to be legal; but if they are, the larger question that screams out is: “Ought these offshore accounts be legal?”



Today, the leaders were left speechless and “surprised” by the ICIJ’s revelation. Piñera, one of the richest people in Chile, denied having violated any law.

According to the documents, the politician’s family is the largest shareholder in the controversial Dominga construction project in the north of the country. According to the leak, his children and wife manage the family’s assets through the tax haven of the U.S. Virgin Islands.

In a statement, the billionaire Piñera took on the role of someone delusional and emphasized that he was neither involved nor informed about the transactions in question. All this is happening while in Chile, people still demand justice for the crime of police brutality with which Piñera’s administration attacked the anti-government protests of 2019 in response to an economic crisis, a crisis made much worse two years into the global pandemic.

The story repeats itself in Ecuador, where President Lasso immediately declared his innocence on Twitter by saying that he did not own real estate in tax havens but that his extensive fortune is the result of his work at Banco de Guayaquil, of which he is the largest shareholder.

What came to light about Latin America was “no surprise to the citizens of the continent,” said Deputy Director of the Science and Politics Foundation in Berlin, Günther Maihold. “The region’s political elites have always sought their financial opportunities abroad and not in their home countries,” he explained.

Again, Galeano’s words of wisdom come to mind:

“Latin America’s underdevelopment arises from external development and continues to feed it. A system made impotent by function of its international servitude, and moribund since birth, has feet of clay. It pretends to be destiny and would like to be thought eternal.” □

# Indigenous Peoples Day in the time of COVID-19

By Stephanie Tromblay

*This article was first published in the Oct. 14, 2020, issue of Workers World. On Oct. 7, 2021, a new study from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that nearly one in 500 children in the U.S. have experienced the loss of a parent or caregiver since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. For Indigenous children the number is one in 168.*

To see people still celebrating Columbus in the time of COVID immediately brings to mind the smallpox and other pandemics which swept this hemisphere from ocean to ocean as it was stolen following 1492.

Spanish conquistadors and European colonial invaders carried disease to every corner of this hemisphere. In 1492 no one in the so-called “western” hemisphere had immunity to European and Asian diseases, which had jumped species from rats and domesticated herd animals to humans. It is estimated that some 112 million people were living in this hemisphere in 1491: Smallpox, flu, measles and other imported infectious diseases then killed 80 million to 100 million people in 100 years.

Christopher Columbus’ real name was Cristóbal Colón; he was a Spanish pirate. The Spanish Queen would have executed him had she known. There is no evidence he was ever in Genoa. When he landed in 1492 in the Bay of Pigs (Playa Giron) in Cuba, he immediately wrote to the queen to advocate enslaving Native peoples. Columbus cut off the arms of Taíno men to feed the war dogs he used to terrorize Indigenous people.

## Mercenary conquistadors

From contemporary descriptions of conquistadors Cristóbal Colón, Hernán Cortés, Francisco Pizarro, Juan de Oñate, Francisco Vásquez de Coronado and Hernando de Soto, we can characterize them as completely out-of-control mercenary forces. They committed murder, rape, torture and robbery on a global level, followed by enslavement of whole Indigenous nations.

Pizarro took Inca leader Atahualpa hostage and melted down his ransom of seven tons of gold and 13 tons of silver, all of which was artwork and jewelry. Some \$129 million in gold was shipped to Spain every year. In the largest

colonial rebellion against Spain, the Incas melted gold and poured it down the conquistadors’ throats.

De Soto’s expedition group traveled from Florida across the Mississippi to Arkansas, all the way following existing Indigenous roads and paths from Native town to Native city — stealing food and burning storehouses, fields and towns. They enslaved local Indigenous people and burned them alive if they made trouble. De Soto cut off their hands if they didn’t lead him to gold.

De Soto used his imported war hogs to roust people out of fields as they invaded; smallpox along with seven other diseases carried by these pigs were spread everywhere. The great Mississippian culture fell in a few short years as a result of these new diseases. Only mounds remain of their vast earthen pyramids.

After Oñate worked thousands of people to death in the gold and silver mines of Zacatecas, he left Mexico to take over the vast lands to the north, which he named New Mexico — home of the great Puebloan cities, as well as the Diné and Apache Nations.

Oñate attacked Acoma Pueblo in 1599, when it rose up against the settlers. His men killed 800 children, women and men. Oñate ordered every man over 25 to have a foot cut off and sentenced each to 25 years of slavery. Females and males between 12 and 25 years of age got 25 years of slavery. Sixty young girls were sent to priests in Mexico, never to return to their homes.

In New Mexico in 1680, the Pueblos rebelled and burnt out the Spanish and kicked them out for 12 years — the second largest anti-Spanish colonial rebellion. No one erects a statue to Oñate to this day without protest, and this year his statues were brought down across New Mexico by Puebloan activists.

Coronado wandered all over the Southwest in search of gold; he attacked, occupied and burned the Pueblo towns he encountered — Puebloan territory had then extended all the way into what is now Texas.

Decimated Indigenous nations faced unending waves of Spanish, French, English and then American settlers — all mean with greed and emboldened by racist propaganda — coming to steal the land and create wealth. Smallpox blankets were used to steal lands to build the United States.



**‘We are not your Halloween costumes! We are not your dime store Indians!’ a speaker shouted from the bandstand on the Santa Fe Plaza last Indigenous Peoples Day in Santa Fe, N.M., as a colonialist obelisk was taken down by Puebloan activists. (Santa Fe Reporter, Oct. 12, 2020)**

## Before 1492

Historically, Indigenous societies were gardening and farming societies. Over one half of all food crops in the world, by numbers of species and by volume, were domesticated by Indigenous people in this hemisphere — tomatoes, squashes, beans, chocolate, pumpkins, pineapples, cassava, avocados, papaya, quinoa, amaranth, acai, chiles and many more.

Maize corn was the world’s first selectively bred food grain. Varieties of maize corn were cropped from Mexico up and down the East Coast, all over the Mississippi River valley and the Southwest.

In the Chilca Canyon of Peru, 10,000 years ago, the potato was domesticated — hundreds of varieties for every altitude from the high peaks to the valleys. Incan civilization grew from ancient farming communities, which held land in common. Incas distributed stored supplies from public warehouses to the sick, elderly, poor, widows and disabled people. Cusco had a population of 50,000-100,000, and there were many smaller cities and towns.

And across this continent, people lived communally in small villages and cities; most of those societies still had a matrilineal structure. The precolonial history and cultures of Indigenous societies are what Indigenous Peoples Day celebrates.

This is all stolen land. The struggle continues. This is the significance of Indigenous Peoples Day.

*Tromblay’s heritage is Huron nonstatus and mixed Southeast nations undocumented.*

## Houston celebrates Indigenous Peoples Day



Houston celebrated Indigenous Peoples Day with activists and community members Oct. 9. The event, which included speakers, poetry, ceremonial dance and a parade, was put on by Brown Berets de South East, Tejas, at Moody Park, also known as Chicano Park.

Photo by Mirinda Crissman

## Indigenous Peoples Day celebrated in Philadelphia

The Philadelphia Indigenous Peoples Day Committee (PIPDC) held a walk in “Peace, Unity and Respect to our Ancestors, Culture and Heritage” Oct. 10. Participants gathered at Philadelphia City Hall and walked down Market Street to Front Street, ending at the statue of the Indigenous Lenni Lenape Chief “Sachem” Tamanend.

On Oct. 7, a flag raising event was held at City Hall to celebrate the 10th anniversary



of the recognition of Indigenous Peoples Day by the City of Philadelphia.

Photo by Joe Piette

## Mark Indigenous Peoples Day. Support Workers World!

Boston Mayor Kim Janey proclaimed Oct. 6 that the second Monday of October every year would be Indigenous Peoples Day. The document says this commemoration will be “in lieu of” Columbus Day ... and renounces the racist and colonial history of Boston and its impact on Indigenous peoples.”

This was a victory for Native people, considering that the European invasion, theft of their land and culture, denial of all rights, torture and genocide, began in what is now the state of Massachusetts and continued there for years.

Then on Oct. 8, President Joe Biden proclaimed a federal Indigenous Peoples Day and acknowledged the “wrong and atrocities that many European explorers inflicted on Tribal nations and Indigenous communities.”

These pronouncements came about due to the unified militant struggles by Indigenous peoples and their allies, which have intensified in the last five years.

The movement for recognition of Oct. 12 as Indigenous Peoples Day began in Berkeley,

Calif., following a huge march in San Francisco, on Oct. 10, 1992, protesting the celebration of conquistador and genocidal murderer Christopher Columbus’ arrival 500 years earlier. Since then, at least 130 cities and towns and 11 states have dumped the holiday honoring the genocidal conqueror and now revere Indigenous people, their heritage and culture on that day.

### A rising tide

Thousands of people from around the world traveled to join in solidarity with the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and other Native nations to stop the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline, starting in 2016.

Protests, including civil disobedience, led by Indigenous organizers have been joined by environmentalists and other allies against the rerouting and expansion of Enbridge Line 3, which brings tar sands oil from Alberta, Canada, to Superior, Wisc. In the U.S., this dirty fuel travels across the ancient wild rice beds in

Anishinaabe lands in Minnesota, threatening many waterways.

Non-Native supporters have joined the movements to rename sports teams bearing racist, anti-Indigenous names.

Indigenous activists participated in the courageous Black Lives Matter protests in Minneapolis and elsewhere decrying the police murder of George Floyd. BLM demonstrators have joined Native peoples’ struggles; the Chicago BLM had a delegation at Standing Rock. Unity and allyship have grown between these movements and strengthened their struggles against their common enemy: white supremacy.

Workers World has continually supported the righteous struggles of Native peoples on the streets and in our newspaper. WW joins Indigenous communities to demand: Drop ‘Columbus Day’ as a federal holiday! Commemorate Indigenous Peoples Day in every city, town and state! Down with white supremacy!

### 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 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.

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 to donate online at workers.org.

Thank you for supporting Workers World.

# U.S. delegation says 'Hands off Nicaragua!'

Continued from page 1

Nicaraguan government.

The delegation reported its findings at a press briefing broadcast internationally Oct. 7 by the United National Antiwar Coalition. The following is a sampling of excerpts from the findings.

## Excerpts from the briefing

*Coleen Littlejohn, who coordinated the delegation, opened. She is a retired development economist who has lived in Nicaragua for most of the last 41 years and is now the local volunteer coordinator for the AFGJ Nica Network.*

I previously worked for a major international development NGO in Chile from 1978 to 1980. Nicaragua is not a dictatorship, while Chile at that time definitely was. Nicaragua has achieved and continues to work toward the development of its people, doing things that people in the U.S. can only dream of.

Nicaragua's accomplishments include free health care and education, community policing, a country that gets 75% of its energy from renewable sources, 92% food self-sufficiency and women in at least 50% of public and elected positions.

The Nicaragua Network, a project of the Alliance for Global Justice, has been working to reach out to people and movements who want real change in the United States to tell them about what is really happening in this incredible country. And also to let the people of the United States know about how the U.S. government has been trying to destroy the "threat of a good example."

Now the Nicaragua Network is organizing delegations of U.S. movement leaders to come and see why North Americans must defend Nicaragua and the Sandinista Revolution.

## Monica Moorehead

*Moorehead is a managing editor of Workers World newspaper and represented Workers World Party on the delegation.*

I was a member of an antiwar delegation that traveled to Nicaragua to honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s commitment to equality, peace and justice in 1984.

Thirty-seven years later, from everything our delegation has witnessed firsthand, I see this revolution continues to thrive as a real democracy by using its limited resources to commit to the well-being of all its people.

The U.S. accusation labeling the upcoming Nov. 7 election here as "undemocratic and unfair" is an outrage and totally absurd. How can anyone who thinks rationally take the word of a government that disenfranchises the vote of Black people, migrants, etc., after the 2020 U.S. election?



U.S. delegation meets with ministers and presidential advisers of international relations in Managua.

How can anyone take the word of a government that claims to support "political prisoners" in Nicaragua but has held hostage in U.S. prisons for the past 30, 40 and even 50 plus years Mumia Abu-Jamal, Leonard Peltier, Jamil al-Amin, Ruchell Magee and many more?

The U.S. has no right to intervene in the internal affairs of another country, especially their elections, considering the biased nature of the U.S. elections dominated by the big capitalist parties, the Democrats and Republicans.



WW PHOTO: MONICA MOOREHEAD

Acronym for Sandinista National Liberation Front (Frente Sandinista de Liberación Nacional) on top of the volcano directly across from the U.S. Embassy in Managua.

## Joav Elinevsky

*Elinevsky represented Massachusetts Peace Action.*

Nicaragua is a beautiful country with beautiful weather, blessed with fertile land because of the many volcanoes here, making Nicaragua 80% food independent. I found Nicaragua like a house with open doors with warm and friendly people, industrious, creative, hardworking and proud. During my daily walks here, I could go anywhere I wanted, at any time of the day or night, and feel safe and welcomed.

The best way to learn about Nicaragua is to come here. But there is an easier way for the smart people that read the New York Times or The Guardian or from our

[U.S.] government. Just reverse what you hear. The truth is the opposite of what they publish.

After 17 years of right-wing governments, the Nicaraguans overwhelmingly elected the Sandinistas. Why?

Poverty decreased from 48% to 29% in 2014. Hundreds of thousands of women received loans under the program, Zero Usury and Zero Hunger. Education at all levels is free. All the socioeconomic indicators show great success with the commitment to the poor, to a mixed economy and democracy.

## Stan Smith

*Smith represents the Chicago ALBA Solidarity Network.*

Nicaragua had just over 50 hospitals when Daniel Ortega was elected president in 2007. Now there are 77 hospitals, one-third built in the last 14 years

Today all health care is free. Today education, including university, is free. Even child day care centers are free and available to all.

Today women make up 50% of elected positions in the national, regional and local governments.

These are rights and benefits we do not have in the United States.

Nicaragua is the safest country in Central America. Its murder rate is half of what it was in 2006. Its murder rate is eight to ten times lower than in El Salvador.

Extreme poverty has been reduced by half.

Infant mortality and maternal mortality have been reduced by more than half since 2006. Only 50% of the people had access to electricity; under the Daniel Ortega government, this is now 99%.

In 1989 after 10 years of the Sandinista government, illiteracy had been reduced to 10%. After 16 years of neoliberal, pro-U.S. government rule, it had jumped to 30%. It had tripled. After the 14 years of the present government, it is now down to 4%.

Our delegation feels it is urgent for all of us to increase our efforts to work against U.S. interference in Nicaragua's November

election. It is urgent we focus on opposing a new U.S. regime-change operation.

## Sara Flounders

*Flounders represented the International Action Center and the Sanctions Kill campaign.*

Sanctions Kill focuses on building coordination among many organizations opposing U.S. sanctions on 39 countries, one-third of the world's population. This is a crime against humanity. The U.S. has declared Nicaragua, a developing country of 6 million people, to be "an extraordinary threat to the national security of the United States." How preposterous!

But U.S. corporate power is threatened by the example of what Nicaragua is building for the people. We came to see for ourselves.

We heard vivid descriptions of the crimes of the U.S.-backed failed coup in 2018, with social media saturation, mercenary terror squads, roadblocks and demands for the popular Sandinista government to resign.

The Sandinista revolution of 1979 was a profound upheaval, a change in consciousness, a combative determination to build a new society.

Through the 1980s Nicaragua was not allowed a moment of peace. There were nonstop U.S. contra wars, combated by a mobilized population.

From 1990 to 2007 right-wing governments reversed and privatized everything — education, health care, social services. The harshest neoliberal economy meant nothing for the people.

In 2007 the Sandinistas won the elections and began programs that have had a huge impact in these 14 years. Their programs are free education for all, including university, free public health programs with stunning gains, road construction, now the best in Central America. They're tackling the big problems of potable water, sewage and disaster preparation in a country of hurricanes, floods, earthquakes and erupting volcanoes.

We visited schools, hospitals and health clinics. We talked to financial planners and disaster relief planners.

Using social distancing, masks and hand-washing, and an intense community-based strategy of health monitoring and basic care for all, utilizing 1,233 health posts and door-to-door check-ins, has resulted in the lowest documented rate of COVID in this hemisphere. Meanwhile the U.S. has the highest rates of death and infection in the world. That's the difference a coordinated free public health system makes.

We need to defend Nicaragua and rally the entire progressive political movement to understand what's at stake.

Defend Nicaragua!

*The entire press conference may be viewed at [tinyurl.com/ve23347c](https://tinyurl.com/ve23347c).*

# Victory over genocide cannon

Dianne Mathiowetz  
Decatur, Ga.

A diverse crowd gathered on Decatur Square on Indigenous Peoples Day on Oct. 11, to honor the Muscogee Creek nation whose land this had been before settler colonialism. Organizers determined that banishing the "Indian Wars" cannon from its place of prominence in the public space would be a step toward changing the narrative of white supremacy.

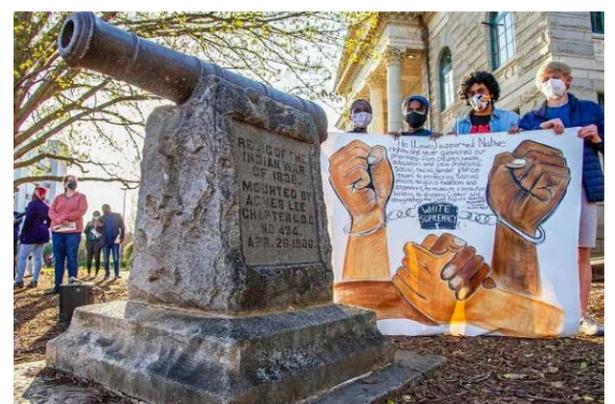
Last year, a grassroots movement, led in part by the Beacon Hill Black Alliance for Human Rights, brought about the successful removal of the "Lost Cause" monument, a towering obelisk placed directly at the courthouse entrance in 1908. The United Daughters of the

Confederacy gifted both of these symbols of racism and violence that stood protected for over 110 years.

On the eve of Juneteenth, 2020, however, the Confederate monument came down to the cheers of hundreds.

Carrying a basket with almost 2,000 cards with individuals' names who demand the removal of the genocide cannon, the chanting group marched to the DeKalb County Commission Building where a resolution to remove the war relic is scheduled for a vote on Oct. 12.

Speakers included Muscogee Creek elder, John Winterhawk; Kayla Evans, a Decatur HS student and leader of the Student Coalition for Equity; and Sara Patenaude from Coalition for Diverse Decatur/DeKalb. Demonstrators declared a victory on Oct. 12, when



Demonstrators gather at war cannon in Decatur, Ga.

the County Commission unanimously voted to remove the cannon. Another brick down in the wall of white supremacy in response to the power of the people! □

## No abortion bans

# 'We won't go back!'

By Kathy Durkin

The right to access safe, legal abortions is under attack across the U.S., especially in the South and Midwest. It had been considered settled law since the Supreme Court of the United States legalized access to abortions in the landmark 1973 ruling in *Roe v. Wade*.

In the *Roe* opinion, seven of nine justices, mostly Republican appointees, agreed that the right to privacy, incorporated into the Due Process clause of the 14th Amendment, includes a person's right to make their own medical decisions, including about pregnancy. They acknowledged that forcing someone to continue a pregnancy can increase the risk to physical and mental health and financial stability. Although not stated by the justices, an unintended pregnancy can also interfere with personal relationships, family life, education and jobs.

Yet this fundamental right has been under attack from the political right ever since *Roe* was decided. The reactionaries pushing anti-abortion measures were emboldened during the Trump administration, which appointed three Supreme Court justices and 220 federal judges. Many are hostile to reproductive rights.

Misogyny, racism, anti-worker and anti-poor attitudes shape their opinions. Their allies in state legislatures have pushed for restrictions and obstacles to abortion in every way, with help from conservative organizations and think tanks.

This means that for many people, particularly low-income individuals and members of Black, Latinx, Indigenous and im/migrant communities who have trouble obtaining decent medical care, abortions are often inaccessible, even though the right to have the procedure exists in the law. Making matters worse, the Hyde Amendment, signed by former President Jimmy Carter, a Democrat, bars the use of Medicaid funds for abortions.

### SCOTUS majority linked to conservative group

The campaign to eliminate the right to abortion is aggressive, well-coordinated and well-financed. Even though the *Roe* ruling is established precedent, usually considered sacrosanct, anti-abortion forces are hell-bent on overturning it and criminalizing abortions. Six SCOTUS justices have ties to the reactionary Federalist Society, including the three Trump appointees. Their aim is to nullify gains made by people's movements, including abortion, voting, immigrant, labor and LGBTQ rights — to set the clock back decades.

In 2021, there have been more state legislative attacks on abortion rights than ever before, with nearly 600 measures proposed in 47 states by early June; 97 were implemented. Over 20 states have "trigger bans" to criminalize abortions if *Roe* is overturned.

In 31 states, the majority of legislators oppose



Bans Off Our Bodies Women's March in San Antonio, Oct. 2.

abortion while opposing benefits for pregnant people and children. Their "right to life" slogan is a lie. Not one Republican Congress member voted for the Women's Health Protection Act to protect reproductive rights.

The right wing is using access to a medical procedure as a political tool to whip up their base and promote their agenda. They are whipping up racism and misogyny against low-income and women of color.

If *Roe* is overturned and abortion criminalized, the procedures will continue, only in unsafe environments without medical practitioners. Before *Roe*, the Guttmacher Institute estimates that one-sixth of all pregnancy-related deaths were caused by illegal abortions.

About 25 million women and girls — Black, Latinx, Indigenous, im/migrants, disabled, rural residents, victims of sexual assaults and domestic violence would lose abortion access if states can again prohibit the procedure as before the *Roe* decision. It would also impact people of various gender identities who can become pregnant.

### A basic right lost overnight

When Texas implemented a near-total ban on abortions Sept. 1, millions of residents lost a fundamental right overnight. Senate Bill 8 banned abortions after the sixth week of pregnancy, with no exceptions for rape and incest. The state set up a bounty system enabling vigilantes to sue any "helper" of an abortion seeker for \$10,000.

When the Center for Reproductive Rights appealed to SCOTUS, the top court took a sledge hammer to its own ruling legalizing abortion in *Roe*, when five conservative justices issued a one-paragraph unsigned response refusing to halt the Texas law.

Under pressure, on Sept. 9 the Department of Justice filed a lawsuit against Texas which said S.B. 8 was unconstitutional. At a hearing on Oct. 1. Federal District Judge Robert Pitman agreed with the DOJ and issued a 113-page opinion Oct. 6.

Judge Pitman blocked enforcement of the ban, writing: "From the moment S.B. 8 went into effect, women have been unlawfully prevented from exercising control over their lives in ways that are protected by the Constitution." He rebuked SCOTUS justices for not stopping the law's

enforcement immediately, explaining in detail how pregnant people are suffering because of the horrific law.

Judge Pitman said the state contrived an unprecedented statutory scheme "with the intent to preclude review by federal courts that have the obligation to safeguard the very rights the statute likely violates." He criticized the state for deputizing private citizens to enforce the law through civil action for financial rewards.

In a groundbreaking judicial move, Pitman's decision said, "The Court recognizes that not all pregnant people identify as women." Imagine the right-wingers' reactions to that statement!

Invariably, Texas lawyers appealed Judge Pitman's decision to the notoriously reactionary 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which reinstated the ban on Oct. 8.

In the intervening 48 hours, many clinics were open and abortions were performed. Under S.B.8, doctors and clinic operators can be sued retroactively for their actions in that two-day period.

### 'People need our help'

Amy Hagstrom-Miller, CEO of Whole Women's Health, said those clinics were performing abortions, aware of the risks. She said, "But not for a second do we question that it was the right thing to do. People need our help, and they shouldn't be put through this."

Meanwhile, hundreds of desperate pregnant people are being turned away from clinics daily. Some are driving hundreds of miles to overwhelmed clinics in neighboring states, while others are flying to Oregon and New Jersey. Not everyone can take off work, get childcare, as most abortion seekers are parents, acquire funds, transportation and housing. Some fear asking friends for help as they could be sued. Most minors, undocumented im/migrants and domestic violence victims can't travel.

The Texas law was the first time since 1973 that a pre-viability abortion ban was allowed to stand. This signaled a rightward shift toward federal curtailment of the procedure. The state of Mississippi in *Dobbs vs. Jackson Women's Health Organization* passed a 15-week abortion ban, but has asked SCOTUS to outlaw all abortions. That case will be argued on Dec. 1.

Through amicus briefs, thousands of people and hundreds of organizations have urged the top Court to strike down Mississippi's abortion ban and protect this essential human right and medical procedure.

Hundreds of thousands of demonstrators showed their support for legal abortions in every state and Washington, D.C., Oct. 2. The overwhelming majority of people in the U.S. support the *Roe* decision. It's time to keep the pressure on and keep on marching.

Sources: *Center for Reproductive Rights, Guttmacher Institute, MSNBC, Planned Parenthood Action, Texas Tribune. Kathy Durkin participated in the movement to legalize abortions.*

## Solidarity with longtime antiwar activist Joe Lombardo!

The following is a lightly edited statement from the Committee to Stop FBI Repression issued Oct. 2.

On the heels of its defeat in Afghanistan, the U.S. government has made it clear it is once again setting its sights on antiwar activists. Their latest target is Joe Lombardo, a leader of the country's largest anti-imperialist coalition.

Joe Lombardo, 73, has been an organizer in the antiwar movement for decades. He is a co-founder and lead organizer for Bethlehem Neighbors for Peace, a local antiwar group based near Albany, N.Y. Lombardo also serves on the administrative committee for the country's largest and most active coalition of anti-intervention organizations, the United National Antiwar Coalition (UNAC).

UNAC and its member organizations are consistent in their unequivocal and vocal opposition to all forms of U.S. imperialism, from criminal sanctions and embargoes, to illegal coups and military interventions.



Antiwar activist Joe Lombardo is a consistent, unequivocal and vocal opponent of all forms of U.S. imperialism.

As one of the coalitions' main leaders, Joe has helped to coordinate conferences, mass mobilizations and webinars around the issues of peace and justice at home and abroad for UNAC. In his many years as an activist, he has traveled to countries throughout the world as an ambassador for peace and human rights.

Last week, federal agents once again made their move against the antiwar

movement. Out of the blue, the FBI called Joe's former spouse for questioning. The agents pressed her to answer questions over the phone and to meet in person to discuss Joe's past activities and travels. They specifically asked about Joe's 2019 trip to Venezuela, which he took as part of a U.S. Peace Delegation.

The feds rely on the fact that the average person is caught off guard and gets very nervous when FBI agents come knocking with demands for information. Luckily, Lombardo's former spouse knew to reach out to him and to a movement lawyer and made the correct decision not to meet or speak with the FBI about Joe.

All those active in the movements for peace and justice should use this moment as a reminder to never speak with agents of the federal government prying into your political activism or the activism of others. "I have nothing to say. Please speak with my lawyer," are all that needs to be said.

Activists should take the time to educate friends and family members on this subject as well. Although not necessary, having the name of a movement or civil liberties lawyer on hand could help people feel less nervous in such a situation.

All this begs the question: Why is the federal government once again going after antiwar activists? The powers that be, Democrat or Republican, feel threatened by the influence and power of our people's movements and will use any opportunity to try to criminalize, silence or destroy them. An attack on one is certainly an attack on all. Solidarity is always the order of the day.

The Committee to Stop FBI Repression (CSFR) stands in unwavering support of our brother in the movement, Joe Lombardo. We oppose all efforts by the U.S. government to target activists in any progressive movement in this country. We call for an end to investigations, political harassment and threats against activists and our movements. □

## Venezuela

# Ignorance of reality exposed by U.S. foreign policy blunders

By Sergio Rodriguez Gelfenstein

*Sent to Workers World by the author, a Venezuela analyst and writer. Translated by Michael Otto*

The erroneous views on Venezuela of those who observe the country through lenses reinforcing stereotypes have often led governments and international organizations to make decisions following opinions that have already been set in stone, based more on wishful thinking than on reality. Of course if they begin by considering Venezuela a threat, they have already transformed the country into an enemy that must be defeated.

The United States and the European Union developed policies based on false information. Their informers almost daily announced the imminent overthrow of President Nicolás Maduro. Founded on these falsehoods and supported by the claims, hopes and personal ambitions of a bunch of crooks who turned politics into a business, these countries devised grotesque projects that had no basis in Venezuela's daily life.

Likewise the profit motive—that put the national interest and the lives of millions of citizens in second place—led them to provide imaginary evaluations. These false evaluations induced Washington and Brussels to constantly misstep, provoking colossal ridicule, from which they are only now trying to extricate themselves.

The truth is that the global powers trying to overthrow the constitutional government of Venezuela believed or wanted to believe, and had strong interests in believing, the lies they heard for many years.

An article published in The New York Times on Oct. 5 reviewed a memo sent earlier by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency to its offices in other countries. The memo states: “The central problem here (referring to the growing loss of local informants) is that CIA agents underestimate the capabilities of the counterintelligence corps of other countries.” Likewise, the letter “criticizes the low technical competence of its own officers and their excessive confidence in their sources.”

Regarding Venezuela, the absurd interventionist policy of the United States and the assumption of an early exit of the government of President Maduro led to an unlimited level of interference. Washington recognized Juan Guaidó as president, which forced the Venezuelan government to break relations with the U.S. in January 2019.

## Informants saw big money coming

The break left the northern country without the normal avenues to observe the situation in Venezuela. At the same time, the U.S. was impelled to put itself at the mercy of local informants — who immediately understood that big business was coming their way. In this context, the informants began constructing fantastic scenarios of struggle against the “dictatorship,” which they sold at a good price to their desperate employers. The officials of European embassies, contacted for the same purpose, also paid.

Once the U.S. diplomats left Caracas, that diplomatic role was played by their European colleagues. Some of them, such as the ambassadors of France, Spain, Germany and others, unleashed a

veritable maelstrom of subversive activities — widely known and documented by the Venezuelan intelligence services.

It soon became public that [the sabotage] was always based on the notion that Maduro would get out soon. Some of them, like the Spanish and German ambassadors and agents from the European Union, were declared persona non grata and expelled from the country.

They justified their activities by saying — as Josep Borrell [then Spain's Minister of Foreign Affairs] said on Spanish television — that “they were innovating in terms of international law.” That was how he explained their recognition of Guaidó as interim president, at the same time they were secretly negotiating all kinds of transactions with the only government that always existed in Venezuela at this time — that of Nicolás Maduro.

The European diplomats in Caracas quietly attended the meetings of ministers and government officials, imploring that their attendance not be made public in order to maintain the farce of recognition of the impostor Guaidó. It was a pity to observe veteran and honorable career diplomats making fools of themselves on the orders of their governments.

The ineffable Borrell said, as early as March 3, 2019, barely a month and a half after the self-proclamation of Guaidó, that the United States government, which had recognized the proclamation of Juan Guaidó as president-in-charge of Venezuela, did not think that Nicolás Maduro “was going to show resilience.”

In an interview on the digital channel La Sexta, Borrell said that the situation was “peculiar” and “atypical,” in that Spain recognized as legitimate a president who did not have control of any territory, knowing full well that the administration of the country was in the hands of a “de facto government,” whose democratic legitimacy Spain did not recognize. Such was the consecration of their stupidity.

Therefore as there could not be two ambassadors, they gave Guaidó's envoy the nonexistent title of “personal representative,” making it clear that in case a Spaniard had any problem in Venezuela, the entity to negotiate with was that “de facto government,” which was the one that had “control of the territory and the administration.”

Contradicting his own statement on the national television of Spain, now he did not speak of “innovation” but of a situation “unforeseen in the manuals of International Law.” That was because five weeks after the self-proclamation of Guaidó, Maduro was still managing the country from Miraflores, while Guaidó was in the jungle protected by the paramilitary gang Los Rastrojos in alliance with the government of Colombia. Five weeks!!!

## After 138 weeks, Maduro still president

Maduro continues to be the president of Venezuela after 138 more weeks have passed. That's because since 1810, as Borrell seems to have forgotten, the president of this country has been elected by Venezuelans, not by the king of Spain.

Europe quietly obeyed the orders of Trump, who mistreated, spied on and humiliated them as can only be done to those who have no principles or ethics in life. They thought that the arrival of Joe Biden to the presidency would change everything and they would once again



Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro still in charge 138 weeks after U.S. announced his replacement by imperialist puppet Juan Guaidó.

have a relationship between equals with Big Brother. It didn't work out that way. The permanent disrespect—which for Washington is state policy toward those it considers inferior—was maintained and even deepened.

The United States left them in the dark about its intention to flee Afghanistan abruptly, applying an “every man for himself” policy that abandoned the Europeans to the mercy of the “terrorists,” whom they could not defeat and who seized power, and to other terrorists, rebels who continue to act despite 20 years of failed military intervention. It is worth saying that each of their two enemies were created by the same powers that are now ducking out of the back door of history.

The flight from Afghanistan and the most recent AUKUS (Australia, United Kingdom and United States) agreement against China, which among other things has meant the breaking of a contract between the island continent and France to build submarines, in order to be replaced by subs made in the USA, seem to be awakening Europe from its dream of a love affair with Washington.

General [Charles] de Gaulle's voice echoes in their consciences and brings them back to the reality of submission, indignity and dishonor into which they have fallen.

Paradoxically, these events have influenced Europe's need to disengage from U.S. policy towards Venezuela, and they have begun to move their pieces: They have supported negotiations between the government and the terrorist opposition in Mexico and have recognized the country's institutions, while they are preparing to send an observation mission to the local government elections in November.

We hope that, as usual, they will not have prepared the final report before arriving in the country.

## The blockade hurts all Venezuelans

As in any negotiation, the parties must be prepared to compromise. The Venezuelan government has agreed to participate in Mexico by assuming a responsible attitude in the face of the great hardships that the U.S. and European sanctions and blockade have brought down on the shoulders of all citizens — those who support the government as well as the opposition.

But, in spite of that, for the opposition it is still a mere theatrical production. Everyone knows that they are

participating in the dialogue on orders from Washington and Brussels, because [all these reactionary forces] need an elegant way out of the mess they created. That is why such talks are taking place abroad.

In this way the U.S. government tries to give the idea that within Venezuela, no conditions for dialogue exist. When the opposition commissioners return to Caracas, they go home and sleep peacefully, protected by the police and security institutions which guarantee their safety. I am sure that Pope Francis would be willing to offer the facilities of the Apostolic Nunciature to hold such meetings, or they could even be held in any other institution of the country.

Finally, there is a narrative involving Venezuelan women, who are neither persecuted nor intimidated for speaking. They do not have to return from Mexico to go to a mountain or put on a guerrilla uniform. No, as I have already said, they sleep safely in their beds, after displaying themselves in front of the spotlight of the world media that tries to prove that there are no conditions in the country for such an event.

In this sense, these negotiations in Mexico are nothing more than an export product designed in Brussels and Washington to confuse international public opinion and hide the fact that Venezuela is governable and peaceful, despite the fact that there are still national and foreign actors who are trying to destroy the peace that has been so hard to achieve.

I say this because in the aforementioned interview of March 3, 2019, Borrell denied that the government of Spain is “following” the United States. If that were so, how does one explain that today, Oct. 6, U.S. State Department spokesperson Ned Price stated that at a meeting in Paris between Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Spanish Foreign Minister José Manuel Albares, they discussed plans to cooperate on human rights in Latin America, “including efforts to support the Venezuelan people as they work to restore democracy in their country”?

It is not only tailing but also subordination, absence of honor and dignity, submission, subjugation and humiliation typical of the mediocre elite that has ruled the [Iberian] peninsula for centuries and that intends to continue imposing a model that we got rid of more than two centuries ago. □

# First here, still here and 'strong as ever'

In 1971 Congress declared the second Monday in October Columbus Day to honor a genocidal colonizer. After decades of struggle by the Indigenous movement, this holiday was instead celebrated in the U.S. this year by 14 states and more than 130 local governments as Indigenous Peoples' Day.

The struggle even pushed President Joe Biden to make the first-ever presidential proclamation of the day for this Oct. 11. But that concession fell far short of justice.

There was no mention of U.S. reparations to Indigenous peoples. Not even a pro forma apology for centuries of U.S. genocide; broken treaties; land theft; attempts at cultural obliteration; pillaging of natural resources; failure to fund education, health care and housing for Indigenous communities and nations.

Any public recognition of the history and accomplishments of Indigenous peoples in the U.S. has been won by the peoples themselves — by their unrelenting struggle for over 500 years against the deadly forces of white-supremacist colonization and capitalism.

Indigenous peoples won a significant victory on Oct. 8 when Biden restored federal land protection to Bears Ears, Grand Staircase-Escalante, and the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts national monuments. In 2019 President Trump had

thrown the lands open to exploitation by mining, fossil fuels and uranium corporations, which for decades had left a trail of toxic land dumps, sickness and death in Native nations of the Southwest.

But it was Indigenous struggle that wrested the land protection from the government in the first place!

The 2016 united effort of the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition — Navajo, Hopi, Zuni, Ute Mountain Ute, and Uintah and Ouray Ute Nations — won monument status for those 1.3 million acres of sacred ancestral lands with actual Indigenous oversight.

This Indigenous oversight of the land aims to preserve both the health of the lands — and the health of the peoples. Native people carry eons of knowledge on how to intertwine the care of the Earth and its people.

This is dramatically shown in the repeated and ongoing Indigenous actions to simultaneously protect the water, land and their sovereignty — like the Dakota Access Pipeline at Standing Rock in 2016 and the Enbridge Line 3 pipeline struggle now.

As wildfire raced through Redwood Mountain Grove on Oct. 8 — Earth's largest grove of giant sequoias — U.S. National Park Service representatives had to admit the fires were fueled by a century of poor forest management worsened by



Standing Rock, 2016.

PHOTO: TRIBAL COLLEGE/ROB WILSON

climate change.

But Indigenous nations in their Sierra Nevada home had kept the forest healthy by practicing planned burning, long before white settlers arrived.

A Sept. 22 article in the journal *Science* asserted that fossilized human footprints in the Tularosa Basin of New Mexico are unequivocal proof that humans were in North America at least 23,000 years ago — 10,000 years earlier than previously postulated by white academics.

The thousands of years of human presence and development on this continent are no surprise to Indigenous

peoples — who were here first and are here still. As the United American Indians of New England say: “We are not vanishing, we are not conquered, we are as strong as ever.”

This October is a chance for all progressive forces to honor Indigenous knowledge, skills and resistance, to acknowledge our mutual human interdependence and to provide practical, material support for Indigenous sovereignty, for return of their lands, for reparations and for their work to stop the death-dealing exploitation of our only Mother Earth. □

## UAW members step up struggle against business unionism

By Martha Grevatt

Over 20 rank-and-file autoworkers spoke on a webcast Oct. 7, challenging the corruption, lack of union democracy and the “partnership” with corporations perpetuated for decades by the International Executive Board of the United Auto Workers. The multinational, multigendered and multigenerational group of unionists advocated for direct elections of International officers — popularly known as “one member, one vote” — in opposition to the current system of election by delegates to the union’s quadrennial conventions.

Speakers gave concrete examples of convention practices intended to stifle opposition to the Administration Caucus, which has completely dominated IEB elections for over 70 years.

The webcast was organized by the federal monitor assigned to oversee the UAW as part of a consent decree, agreed to by the union and the U.S. government after a federal investigation uncovered widespread union corruption. Another part of the consent decree was to allow every member to vote in a referendum to decide whether to keep the delegate voting system or go to the direct election system. Mail ballots will be sent to members beginning Oct. 19.

Many of the panelists are members of the Unite All Workers for Democracy caucus, which has stepped up its grassroots campaign for one member, one vote. Every day, UAWD volunteers are busy phone banking, text banking, leafletting and holding organizing meetings to make sure members understand the referendum and return their ballot.

A few Administration Caucus supporters presented on the webcast to argue for retaining the current system of IEB elections. Their main point was to raise the specter of so-called “dark money” — that IEB candidates might be funded by shadowy corporate sources. However, as speakers pointed out, it was the now-disgraced IEB



PHOTO: UAW LOCAL 2069

**Striking Volvo workers rejected several contracts proposed by the UAW leadership earlier this year. In a second vote on the final concessionary contract, members ratified it by a slim margin and returned to work in July.**

officers who took corporate money, specifically bribes from FCA (formerly Chrysler, now Stellantis) intended to influence contract negotiations to the detriment of plant workers.

### Battle for class-struggle unionism

Speakers represented a broad cross section of workers under the umbrella of the UAW: General Motors, Ford, Stellantis, auto repair and academic and legal services workers.

Andrew Bergman, member of Harvard Grad Students Union UAW Local 5118 — which may soon be striking the university — and member of the UAWD steering committee, said that winning direct elections was “about social justice. It’s about organizing the unorganized, and most importantly it’s about our members’ material conditions by getting stronger contracts.”

Eric Truss of Local 600, with 30,000 members in 48 units including the Ford Rouge complex, spoke for Autoworkers Caravan. AWC drove to Washington, D.C., in 2008 to lobby against concessions in the lead-up to the 2009 General Motors and Chrysler bankruptcies. Referring to a 2014 UAW Convention resolution, Truss

asked, “Why would you ask for a raise in our union dues, when you couldn’t even get a raise in our contracts for eight years?”

“We have to fight off the disease of corruption,” said Roberta Gainer, member of Local 774 at GM Powertrain near Buffalo, N.Y. Tim Thomas, who identified as “a revolutionary member” of Local 551 at Ford’s Chicago assembly plant, said the UAW “is too male; it is too stale, and it has completely failed all of us.”

Tim Doane, GM worker and member of Local 31, criticized the Administration Caucus for allowing two-tier contracts. “I’ve been working for almost 10 years. I’m still not at full pay ... I’m helping make profits every time I punch in,” he pointed out.

Zachary Valdez, shop steward for Local 2110 at Columbia University, closed the panel with an appeal: “This is our chance. Are you going to let this historic moment pass you by?”

Other panelists included: Brian Schneck, President of Local 259, which represents auto mechanics in Metro New York; Local 7902 Vice President Duncan Osborne, representing workers at the New School in New York City; Leah Margulies, Legal Aid attorney and member of Local 2325; Retired President and Shop Chair Frank Hammer of Local 909 at GM Powertrain in Warren, Mich.; Detroit Local 7 Alternate Convention Delegate Jamonty Washington; retired longtime UAW staff person and UAWD steering committee member Mike Cannon; Keith Bower-Brown from 10,000-strong Local 2865 at the University of California system; UAWD Steering Committee Chair and Local 551 member Scott Houldieson; and this writer.

Soon, the rank and file may indeed make history and reroute the union back in the direction of class-struggle unionism.

*Martha Grevatt is a retired executive board member of UAW Local 869.*

## Lakhimpur Kheri Massacre

# India escalates terror targeting farmers

By Tania Siddiqi

Farmers in Lakhimpur Kheri district, Uttar Pradesh, India, organized a demonstration Oct. 3. At the protest Ashish Mishra, the son of Ajay Mishra, the Minister of State in Home Affairs, and other supporters of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) brutally murdered four protesting farmers.

Samyukt Kisan Morch (SKM), the umbrella body representing multiple farmers' unions, stated: "One of the four slain farmers was shot dead by Ashish Mishra during the incident, while the three other farmers were killed by the vehicles." (CBS News, Oct. 7) Lovepreet Singh, one of the farmers who was mowed down at the demonstration, did not receive adequate medical care while being transported via ambulance and died before reaching the hospital. (Tikri Updates Twitter, Oct. 5)

As previously reported by Workers World, the fascist BJP continues to use violence and terror to crush the farmers' protests in India. However, the farmers continue to respond to the government's repression with acts of resistance. (Workers World, Feb. 3) Dr. Darshan Pal, President of Krantikari Kisan Union stated that the farmers at Lakhimpur Kheri endured a state-sanctioned terror attack and asserted that "SKM will fight this battle till the end." (The Wire, Oct. 9)

Joginder Singh Ugrahan, President of Bharatiya Kisan Union (Ekta Ugrahan) said that BJP's tactics have become increasingly barbaric, and that it is now resorting to

murder as a desperate attempt to end the farmers' movement. He states: "[I]t is clear that the government has retreated to its last resort of violence. But let me also admit that we will give a befitting reply to this government. Neither will we back off nor will we be intimidated." (The Wire, Oct. 9)

Since the brutal Lakhimpur Kheri Massacre, the farmers have planned a number of actions to counter state terror. SKM announced that farmers' unions will hold remembrance ceremonies for the farmers murdered by the state during the Lakhimpur Kheri massacre Oct. 12.

During the occasion of Dussehra [marking the victory of good over evil] on Oct. 15, SKM declared that people should "burn the effigies of anti-farmer BJP government symbolised by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and any local leader." (The Wire, Oct. 9) SKM also stated that a "Rail Roko" (train stoppage) will be held throughout India Oct. 18.

### Global support for Lakhimpur Kheri farmers

The farmers are not alone in fighting against the repressive BJP. Members of the South Asian diaspora have held demonstrations in solidarity with the farmers. In Canada, Britain, and the U.S., protesters have



gathered outside of Indian consulates calling for justice for those brutalized by the state during the Lakhimpur Kheri Massacre.

The Boston South Asian Coalition released a statement supporting the farmers' protest, saying in part: "As the ruling elite, backed by corporate power, are becoming increasingly brazen with abusing state machinery against the people of India and its ecology, the farmers are fighting to safeguard every citizens' right to live with dignity and to protect the environment for everyone."

Indeed, the farmers' achieving their demands would be a victory for all oppressed people. The revocation of the farm bills would be a direct attack against capitalism and would expose the fragility of the ruling class. It would demonstrate that workers engaging in a collective and coordinated struggle can pave the way toward revolution.

Already, farmers in India have proven they refuse to accept anything less than the demands they laid out over a year ago, when the protests began. As state-sanctioned terror targeting the farmers intensifies, we must lend support whenever possible. Solidarity with the farmers in India! Kisan mazdoor ekta zindabad! Build a workers' world! □

# U.S. rejects Haitians fleeing utter misery

By G. Dunkel

There are two streams of Haitian refugees fleeing the utter devastation of their country, inflamed by the feckless, decades-long U.S. domination of their economy and politics and more recently the devastating magnitude 7.2 earthquake that struck Aug. 14.

One by land comes from the over 200,000 Haitians who had been living and working in Latin America for years. They recently arrived at the Texas/Mexico border in caravans, propelled there by the loss of jobs and COVID-19 constrictions impacting Latin American economies.

Others attempt to cross by sea in overloaded, rickety sailboats, mainly from Haiti's northern coast which includes some of the country's poorest regions. The U.S. Coast Guard has sent back over 1,000 Haitians this year, with over 260 in September alone. The Bahamian Defense Force [coast guard] is in the process of repatriating over 1,000 Haitians.

Cuba, with a significant number of Haitian Cubans, has received a number of Haitian refugees for whom it



U.S. Coast Guard intercepts Haitian refugees.

provides compassionate care. All the countries in the northern Caribbean are on the lookout for Haitian sailboats in distress.

There are currently over 20,000 Haitians in northern Colombia waiting to cross the Darién Gap, a dense,

roadless tropical forest bordering Panama, in smaller groups to head north through Central America to the U.S.

The U.S. has an active program which is expelling Haitians. According to @JakobJohnston on Twitter, using publicly available government procurement records, the Biden administration has spent over \$12 million on 70 flights, illegally expelling over 7,000 Haitian refugees. (tinyurl.com/8fcs9n4v)

The Biden administration has shuttled Haitians around, letting some into the country to pursue asylum claims, putting others into detention centers spread around the U.S. and expelling planeloads by the hour. Biden's administration wants to avoid attention, especially since it concluded this summer that conditions in Haiti were so dire it should extend Haitians Temporary Protected Status.

From Oct. 11 to 17, the Black Alliance for Just Immigration has declared a National Week of Action in Support of Black Migrants. It is critical that the crises facing Haitian refugees be made a major focus of these events. □

# National week of actions in support of Black migrants

The following lightly edited statement was issued by Black Alliance for Just Immigration, Color of Change and other Black-led groups around the country.

Oct. 11 is Day 1 of the National Week of Action in Support of Black Migrants led by Black Alliance for Just Immigration (BAJI), Color Of Change and other Black-led groups around the country.

Haitian asylum seekers, who have for weeks and months been fleeing toward what they thought was safety, are being terrorized, abused and then deported. Others are being sent to Guantanamo Bay or back to Mexico where organized crime and collaborators in Mexican security forces routinely prey on Black migrants because of their skin color.

Thousands of people, including families and children, will be expelled to Haiti — a country the Administration itself has described as teetering on the brink of collapse, after centuries of imperialism, foreign intervention, climate crisis and more.

The Biden administration made promises to the Haitian community to have more fair immigration policies. And yet Biden may soon be responsible for carrying out the largest mass expulsion of would-be asylum

seekers in recent American history.

It's time to turn up the pressure and hold Biden to his promises.

When we say Black lives matter, we must mean ALL Black lives — including the lives of Black migrants.

- Stopping deportations to Haiti
- Granting humanitarian parole to thousands of Black asylum seekers and processing their claims without further delay
- Conducting a thorough investigation into the acts of Border Patrol agents in Del Rio and anti-Black practices throughout the agency
- Halting the treatment we witnessed, and instead employing a humanitarian approach to immigration

It's time to put an end to anti-Black immigration practices. Seeking asylum is a legal and human right, fundamental to maintaining democracy. It must extend to Black people. □





WW/MO FOTO: GLORIA RUBAC

**Protesta contra la prohibición del aborto en Texas. Houston, 2 de octubre.**

## Unidos por la justicia reproductiva

Por Kathy Durkin

*Muchas marchas y concentraciones fueron organizadas el pasado 2 de octubre en todo los Estados Unidos. Dos días antes de que la Corte Suprema de Estados Unidos vuelva a reunirse para su periodo de otoño.*

El derecho al aborto legal está en juego. El 1 de diciembre, se debatirá el caso *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*. Dado que el estado de Mississippi está impugnando la histórica sentencia sobre *Roe v. Wade* por la Corte Suprema de Estados Unidos (siglas en inglés, SCOTUS), en 1973, que legalizó el aborto, este caso podría determinar su destino.

En todos los estados y en Washington, D.C., las manifestaciones multinacionales, multigénero y multigeneracionales reclamaron los derechos reproductivos y atención sanitaria para todos. Todo el mundo está unido en torno a la demanda de "abortos seguros y legales", un derecho conquistado por un movimiento muy reñido que presionó a una Corte Suprema de Justicia designada principalmente por los republicanos para que legalizara el procedimiento. En la actualidad, la mayoría de los residentes en Estados Unidos apoyan la decisión de *Roe*.

Más de 90 organizaciones, bajo el paraguas de la Marcha de las Mujeres, hicieron un llamamiento para "Movilizarse y defender nuestros derechos reproductivos" el 2 de septiembre, el día después de que entrara en vigor la impopular ley antiaborto en Texas. La Ley 8 del Senado prohíbe casi todos los abortos y anima a los vigilantes a cobrar recompensas a cualquiera que "ayude" a una persona a obtener un aborto "ilegal", según la definición de los políticos de Texas, incluso a las víctimas más desesperadas de violación, incesto y violencia doméstica.

El 1 de septiembre, la mayoría conservadora del Tribunal Supremo desestimó el recurso presentado por los proveedores de servicios de aborto de Texas y confirmó la ley estatal, la más restrictiva del país. El 22 de septiembre se presentó un proyecto

de ley similar en la legislatura de Florida. Otros gobiernos estatales están dispuestos a imitar esta legislación. Once estados tienen leyes en vigor que prohibirían el aborto si la Corte Suprema de Justicia revoca la ley *Roe*.

Los activistas a favor del derecho al aborto advierten de una prohibición del aborto en todo el Sur. Esto daría a los estados más control sobre la atención sanitaria reproductiva de las personas, pisotearía los derechos humanos y negaría la autonomía personal y la toma de decisiones, especialmente a las personas más oprimidas.

El 24 de septiembre, el misógino e intolerante gobernador de Texas, Greg Abbott, restringió aún más el acceso a los abortos al limitar las prescripciones para los abortos con medicamentos. Amenazó con penas de prisión para los médicos que desobedezcan su edicto, incluso si ejercen fuera del estado. Alrededor del 40% de los abortos se realizan con este método.

Los objetivos admitidos por los derechistas de Texas son intimidar y aplastar a los numerosos "ayudantes" de las embarazadas desesperadas, quebrar y cerrar las clínicas de salud reproductiva y castigar a los profesionales médicos que, por simpatía y adhesión a su ética, realizan los procedimientos.

Un médico está luchando. El Dr. Alan Braid, ginecólogo y obstetra de San Antonio, anunció en un artículo de opinión publicado en el *Washington Post* el 18 de septiembre que había realizado un aborto prohibido para desafiar la inhumana e ilegal ley. Este médico, que lleva 49 años practicando abortos después de ver morir a tres adolescentes por abortos chapuceros, es un héroe. Afirma con razón que "el aborto es una parte esencial de la atención sanitaria".

### Las restricciones al aborto controlan, no protegen

Este derecho fundamental está siendo atacado ferozmente por fuerzas reaccionarias en las legislaturas estatales, los tribunales y los puestos ejecutivos, respaldadas por donantes y organizaciones adineradas. Están empeñados en destruir el acceso al aborto que necesitan millones de personas. Pretenden aislar y dificultar aún

más la vida de las personas más pobres y oprimidas y ejercer un control estatal aún mayor sobre sus vidas.

En Texas, el 70% de las pacientes que abortan son mujeres de color.

Las leyes contra el aborto son una declaración de guerra contra las personas embarazadas de bajos ingresos — negras, latinas, indígenas, asiáticas, migrantes, discapacitadas, transexuales y víctimas de la violencia sexual. Las jóvenes se ven muy afectadas por la legislación de Texas o por otras similares en otros lugares, ya que deben obtener la aprobación paterna o judicial para poder abortar. Esto es casi imposible dentro de los plazos cortos establecidos por Texas y otros estados.

Cada vez más, las que tratan de poner fin a los embarazos no deseados son mujeres que viven en la pobreza. Las que tienen mejores medios económicos pueden permitirse anticonceptivos más eficaces y/o los costes de obtener abortos fuera del estado, mientras que las personas con bajos ingresos se ven empujadas al punto de la desesperación.

Los abortos se producen, ya sean legales o ilegales, seguros o inseguros. En los lugares donde el procedimiento está prohibido o muy restringido, las personas embarazadas suelen recurrir a métodos de aborto más peligrosos. La legalización supuso un gran avance en la atención sanitaria.

Ahora, muchas embarazadas deben viajar cientos de kilómetros fuera de Texas para obtener un aborto seguro, lo que les supone un estrés adicional, tener que ausentarse del trabajo, buscar transporte, encontrar una guardería y recaudar fondos. Adrienne Mansanares, directora de experiencia de Planned Parenthood de las Montañas Rocosas, dijo: "Tienen miedo. Puedes ver el terror en las caras de la gente". (*The Santa Fe New Mexican*, 19 de septiembre)

Después de que la prohibición del aborto en Texas entrara en vigor el 1 de septiembre, el gobierno de Biden apenas reaccionó. Fue necesario un fuerte clamor para presionar al Departamento de Justicia para que presentara una demanda contra Texas impugnando esta

ley "ilegal". El caso se verá el 1 de octubre, un mes después de la entrada en vigor de la Ley 8 del Senado. Los demócratas de la Cámara de Representantes aprobaron simbólicamente la Ley de Protección de la Salud de la Mujer el 24 de septiembre, pero los senadores reaccionarios seguramente bloquearán su aprobación.

### La resistencia crece

La resistencia está creciendo. Se han celebrado protestas en Austin, la capital de Texas, y frente al edificio del SCOTUS en Washington. Los fondos para ayudar a las embarazadas de Texas están llegando a las organizaciones pro-aborto. Las mujeres y los deportistas oprimidos por el género se manifiestan con una voz colectiva, mientras que se presentan decenas de escritos de amicus curiae a la SCOTUS para protestar por una posible anulación de la decisión *Roe* en el caso *Dobbs*.

Monica Simpson, Directora Ejecutiva de SisterSong, Colectivo de Salud Reproductiva de Mujeres de Color, afirma en Facebook "Nadie debería tener que vivir en un mundo en el que su cuerpo y su toma de decisiones reproductivas estén controlados por el Estado. Seguiremos trabajando para asegurarnos de que eso nunca sea una realidad en Georgia o en cualquier otro lugar".

Workers World/Mundo Obrero respaldó la movilización del 2 de octubre y está participando en muchas ciudades, al igual que marchamos por "abortos legales, seguros y gratuitos" a principios de la década de 1970 y más tarde para oponernos a la Enmienda Hyde, contraria a los pobres. WW/MO se ha manifestado constantemente en contra de las restricciones a este derecho básico y ha escrito al respecto, ya que las legislaturas estatales reaccionarias han promulgado obstáculos para obtener el procedimiento, dirigidos principalmente a las personas de bajos ingresos, los jóvenes y la gente de color.

WW/MO saluda a los activistas que llevan años luchando contra el racismo y la misoginia inherentes al "movimiento anti-aborto" y entre sus aliados gubernamentales y arropados por las leyes restrictivas. Aplaudimos a los activistas que exponen y denuncian a los extremistas antiabortistas por su defensa de la supremacía blanca.

WW/MO, dice que la única manera de avanzar es seguir presionando al gobierno para que proteja los derechos reproductivos. Se necesita un frente unido centrado en la lucha para hacer retroceder a la derecha. Para ello es necesario construir un movimiento independiente — que no dependa del Partido Demócrata — de grupos de mujeres y proabortistas unidos a personas de todas las nacionalidades, a la comunidad LGBTQ2S+, a los trabajadores, a los sindicatos, a los inmigrantes, a los discapacitados y a los trabajadores encarcelados. Significa unirse a las organizaciones que luchan contra el terror policial racista y a las que promueven los derechos de los inmigrantes, los servicios gubernamentales y la justicia social, y a otras fuerzas progresistas, de izquierda y socialistas.

Un movimiento así incluiría a los más oprimidos en la dirección. Y apuntaría a la causa subyacente de la intolerancia, la supremacía blanca, la misoginia, la homofobia, la pobreza y la explotación de los trabajadores: el capitalismo.

*Kathy Durkin participó en el movimiento que consiguió el aborto legal en EEUU.*

## Obreros griegos lograron gran victoria—quieren más

Por G. Dunkel

Desde los militantes de PAME (el Frente Militante de Todos los Trabajadores de Grecia) hasta los analistas financieros que siguen el sector de la comida rápida en todo el mundo, todos coincidieron: los trabajadores de reparto de la plataforma eFood ganaron a lo grande.

La plataforma eFood es propiedad de una empresa internacional alemana y tiene 90.000 clientes en las principales ciudades griegas, especialmente en las tres más grandes: Atenas, Salónica y Patras. Durante 2020, un año de pandemia, sus ganancias se dispararon en un 26,7%. ([tinyurl.com/42wjk6b7](https://tinyurl.com/42wjk6b7))

Para quedarse con las ganancias, el 17 de septiembre eFood comunicó a 115 de sus trabajadores con contratos de tres meses que debían hacerse autónomos o renunciar. Este correo electrónico se hizo viral y suscitó reacciones tanto de



Protesta de repartidores en Atenas en Septiembre.

FOTO: PAME

los clientes como de los trabajadores.

Los clientes de eFood borrarón la aplicación de sus teléfonos en solidaridad con los trabajadores. Las etiquetas #delete\_eFood y #cancel\_eFood empezaron a ser tendencia. Cuando eFood dificultó la eliminación

de la aplicación, los clientes empezaron a dar una mala calificación a eFood, haciéndola bajar de 3,5 a 2,2 en pocos días.

Un comentario de un cliente en la aplicación decía: "Por favor, amplíen las noticias sobre la lucha de los trabajadores de reparto y distribución para conservar derechos básicos como la seguridad social, los contratos de trabajo, un salario decente y la seguridad en el trabajo. Son trabajadores esenciales y merecen algo mucho mejor".

El Sindicato de Trabajadores de la Restauración-Turismo-Hoteles, miembro de la organización PAME, organizó grandes huelgas en toda Grecia. Caravanas de miles de motocicletas y scooters

recorrieron las calles, con pilotos que llevaban chaquetas de eFood y contenedores de eFood. En Atenas también protestaron contra la aprobación de nuevas leyes antilaborales por parte del gobierno.

Ante la amplia ola de huelgas y la solidaridad en toda Grecia, el 23 de septiembre la empresa e-Food anunció: "Estamos transfiriendo todos los contratos de duración determinada existentes, contratando a todos los 2.016 empleados de eFood con contratos de duración indefinida, al tiempo que reconocemos su servicio anterior. Mantenemos los derechos ampliados y los beneficios adicionales de los que disfrutaban, como el seguro privado".

Según el Sindicato de Trabajadores de la Restauración-Turismo-Hoteles de Atenas, "Trabajadores de eFood. ¡Salimos victoriosos! Las grandes huelgas que tuvieron lugar el miércoles en toda Grecia pusieron de rodillas a la plataforma electrónica multinacional que anunció hace unas horas que todos los contratos de duración determinada se convierten en indefinidos". ([pamehellas.gr/es](https://pamehellas.gr/es))

Basado en esta victoria, el sindicato está estudiando qué otras demandas podrían hacerse ahora. □