Columbus Day topped 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:

"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 Pierre 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!”

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

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 continued on page 7
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. Organizer 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 wealthiest neighborhoods, they chanted: “Li’ar, li’ar, gentriﬁer” and “Li’ar, li’ar, 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 while organizers acknowledged the event be “family-friendly,” by explaining that “A real trans march cannot be family-friendly, since the racism, chauvinist and murder that impacts trans community are not family-friendly.”

Since 2010, Philly Trans March has held annual protests against 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-income members of the community, while signs with their Cash App accounts were circulated through the crowd.

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 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.

Speaker 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 against racism and to not remain silent when they witness discrimination in their communities or work space.

Workers World Party is a revolutionary Marxist-Communist party inside the belly of the imperialist beast. We are a multinational, multigender and multigenerational organization that not only aims to abolish capitalism, but to build a socialist society because it’s the only way forward! Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world with no planet itself in the neverending quest for ever-greener proﬁts.

Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, attacks on immigrants, misogyny, LGBTQ2S+ oppression and mistreatment of people with disabilities. It means joblessness, increasing homelessness and 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. War drags on for ever more than ever, and youth are saddled with seemingly insurmountable student debt, if they even get to make it to college. Black, Brown and Indigenous youth and trans people are gunned down by cops and bigots on a regular basis.

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

WWF ﬁghts for socialism because the working class produces all wealth in society, and this wealth should be distributed to the working class. Now is the time to point the blame at — and challenge — the real trans march cannot be family friendly because the racism, chauvinist and murder that impacts trans community are not family friendly.

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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 cuts, 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 to 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 the workforce stable but work the other 90% to the bone and squeeze as much work out of the remaining workers as possible, which results in 90% of the workforce not last- ing 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 sick workers. And doing this to the custodians particularly was important to keep everybody at their main goal was to stop the cuts in hours and halt the bosses’ offensive.

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, AFSCEME 3609; and the Harvard Grad Students Union, UAW Local 518. Leaders met; workers rallied together, and joint positions were put out to the Harvard management. UNITE HERE dining hall workers prepared over the pandemic with walkouts and walk-ins, 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 contender 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. If a union is weak and not prepared, it may let management offer wage proposals and try to suck workers into accepting an otherwise bad contract. Local 26 doesn’t deal with management; instead, it voted for it overwhelmingly. 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.

Batting 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 walk-outs, 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 contender that management had to contend with.

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Harvard workers fight back, win job security

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.

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Local 32 BJ held a walk-in, and the other two unions continued 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.

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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 79,000 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, 6 feet, 6 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 set up to review past convictions to rectify unfair or improper convictions, and Imam Jamil’s case is one of them. More than 35 representatives of local 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 just 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 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 falsification. That is just over one month for each count. Judge Patricia Cosgrove accused Mills’ watch. He resigned November 2018 under an extended period of solitary confinement, extreme medical neglect, and a virtual gag order preventing him from being the shooter. Each statement ended with the demand to Free Imam Jamil Al-Amin NOW! For additional information, see IJAN and What Happened 2 Rap on social media.

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

By Martha Grevatt

Cleveland

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

Rally outside courthouse in Atlanta, Oct. 4.

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

Assata Shakur: ‘Fight tooth and nail to save Mumbia’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 of freedom.”
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 perfected, 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 atrocities of the “Cohoba Tobacco 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.

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In 1928, despite strong and coordinated resistance, 13,000 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 against these Indians, the end proposed should be their extermination or their removal beyond the lakes of the Illinois River.”

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

Ancestral land rights of the Turtle Mountain Band of 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.

Pandora Papers confirm Latin America’s veils are still wide open

By Alejandra Garcia from Havana

*Note: The following lightly edited article appeared in Revolution 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 rich individuals. Welcome to the Pandora Papers.

Latin America is the region of open veils, as Galeano (1940-2015) put it. Today, the global scandal, which is a political tsunami for the region’s elites, reaffirms the Uruguayans’ 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 tax havens, and in some cases, they have done so while their countries have been in dire need of funds for public services.

Piñera, one of the richest people in Chile, denied having violated any law. According to the documents, the politician’s family is the richest shareholder in the controversial Dominoa construction project in the north of the country. According to the leak, his children and wife manage the family’s assets through a 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.

As we fight to support this generation’s political prisoners, like the #NoDAPL Water Protectors Red Fawn Fallis, 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 changes, the safety changes, 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/ILPDC) and their fundraising site (tinyurl.com/ytik77ra). This is still the year to free Leonard Peltier! ☑️

Leonard Peltier

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In a statement, the billionaire Piñera took on the role of someone delusional and emphasized that he was neither involved nor informed about the tax actions 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 threatened opposition leaders by saying that he did not own real estate in tax havens but that his extensive fortune derived from the sale of $5 million of his work at Banco del Guayas, 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 Latin America, 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 impo-
This article was first published in the Oct. 14, 2020, issue of Workers World. On Oct. 3, 2021, a new study from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that “one in five 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.

Columbus himself was a Spanish pirate. The Spanish Queen wrote to the queen to advocate enslaving Native peoples. 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 women, children and old men. Oñate’s "reconquest" of New Mexico included 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, to be used as their personal slave girls until they returned to their homes.

In New Mexico in 1580, 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 racism 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 costume! We are not your dime store Indian! 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 brought 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 number 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, chilies 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. After 1492

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. The smallpox was the same as that which the Spanish conquistadors and European colonial invaders brought to this hemisphere. Smallpox killed 80 million to 100 million people in 100 years. This is all stolen land. The struggle continues. This is the significance of Indigenous Peoples Day.

Trombly’s heritage is Huron nonstatus and mixed Southeast Native nations.

Indigenous Peoples Day celebrates in Philadelphia

The Philadelphia Indigenous Peoples Day Committee (PIP IDC) 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 “Sichem” 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 dismantling of Columbus statues 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. 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. Then, at least 130 cities and towns and 11 states have dumped the holiday in favor of 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 thousands in the Rock Island, Rock Sioux Tribe and other Native nations to stop the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline. Other Native nations have joined in resistance, including civil disobedience, led by Indigenous organizers who have been joined by environmentalists and other allies against the rerouting and expansion of Enbridge Line 3, which brings tar sands of Alberta, Canada, to Superior, Wisc. In the U.S., this dirty fuel travels across the ancient wild rice beds in Anishinabe 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 March in 2019.

Indigenous communities 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 town and city and state Down with white supremacy! We’re not your dime store Indian! We’re not your time share Indianist! 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 brought down by Puebloan activists. (Santa Fe Reporter, Oct. 12, 2020)

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, which holds the full text of our newspaper and the PDF file of this 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 Foundation, 151 W. 24th St., 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10011, or sign up to donate online at workers.org.

Thank you for supporting Workers World.
The delegation reported its findings at a press briefing broadcast internationally Oct. 7 by the United National Anticollusion 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 economist who has lived in Nicaragua for most of the last 20 years and is now the local volunteer coordinator for the AFGI Nica Network.

I previously worked for a major international development NGO in Chile from 1978 to 1980. Nicaragua is not a dictatorship, with Chile at that time. The reason for this 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 are really fighting in the United States to tell them about what it is that 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 see why North Americans need to 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 antiracist delegation that traveled to Nicaragua in honor of the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. its commitment to equality, peace and justice in 1984.

Thirty-seven years later, from everythink I learned about Nicaragua first hand, 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. As a U.S. citizen, it is to come here. But there is an easier way to understand what’s at stake.

How can anyone take the word of a government that claims “political prisoners” in Nicaragua has Silas holds hostage in U.S. prisons for the past 30, 40 and even 50 plus years Mumin Abaj, Leonard Pelletier, Jamal al-Amin, Rushell 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.

Sara Flounders
Flounders represented the International Action Center and the Solidarity Network.

Sanctions Kill focuses on building coordination among many organizations opposing U.S. sanctions on other 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 a allowed a moment of peace. There were nonstop U.S. contra wars, combated by a military financed by the U.S. government. From 1990 to 2007 right-wing governments repressed and privatized everything—education, health care, utilities, social services. The least neoliberal economic ideology meant nothing for the people.

In 2007 the Sandinistas won the election and right-wing privateers had a huge impact in these 14 years. Their programs were social for all, including university, free public health programs with stunning gains, road construction, now the best in Central America. They’re tackling the biggest problems of potable water, sewage and disaster preparation in a country of hurricanes, floods, earthquakes and erupting volcanoes.

We saw school buildings, hospitals and health clinics. We talked to financial planners and disaster relief planners.

Using social distancing, masks and handwashing, and an intense community-based strategy of health monitoring and basic care for all, utilizing 1,235 health posts and dozens of hospitals, 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 tinging.com/pp23347c.

Victory over genocide cannon

Dianne Mathiowetz
Decatur, Ga.

A diverse crowd gathered on Decatur Square on Indigenous Peoples Day 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 history 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 Deac/DeKalb. Demonstrators declared a victory on Oct. 12, when 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 by 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-poorest groups 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 the procedure exists in the law. Making matters worse, the Hyde Amendment, signed by former President Jimmy Carter, bars the use of Medicaid funds for abortions.

About 25 million women and girls — Black, Latinx, Indigenous, im/migrant, disabled, rural residents, victims of sexual assaults and domestic violence — would lose access to abortion if Roe is overturned. The right to privacy 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 process. They refused to include the Hyde Amendment before allowing the pre-viability abortion ban was allowed to stand. This signal a right-wing majority exists in the court.

Under pressure, on Sept. 7, the Department of Justice filed a lawsuit against Texas which said S.B. 8 was unconstitutional. At a hearing on Oct. 1, the panel of judges agreed and said the law violated the 5th Amendment, which says everyone is due equal treatment under law. They gave the state 54 days to appeal.

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 the 1973 Roe decision.

Recently, Joe Lombardo made the correct decision not to meet or communicate with agents of the fed. He 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, Joe’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.

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.

Solidarity with longtime antivarist activist Joe Lombardo!

The following is a lightly edited statement from the Committee to Stop FBI Repression on 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 anti-war activists. Their latest target is Joe Lombardo, a leader of the country’s largest anti-imperialist coalition.

Joe Lombardo has been an organizer in the antiwar movement for decades. He is a co-founder and lead organizer for Bethlehem Neighborhood Action Coalition, an anti-interventionist group based near Albany, N.Y. Lombardo also serves on the administrative committee for the country’s largest and most important anti-interventionist organization, the United National Antiwar Coalition (UNAC). UNAC members agree to participate in various anti-interventionist coalitions in a way that reflects the principles of unity and mass action.

Antiwar activist Joe Lombardo is a consistent, unequivocal and vocal opponent of all forms of U.S. imperialism, from criminal sanctions and embargoes, to illegal coups and military interventions.

As one of the coalition’s 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 antivarist movement. Out of the blue, the FBI called Joe’s former spouse for questioning. The agents pressured 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, Joe’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 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 antivarist 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 intimidate those who stand in their way. This is a potentially all out 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. ☐

Sources: Center for Reproductive Rights, Guttmacher Institute, MN. BS. Planned Parenthood Action, Texas Tribune. Kathy Durkin participated in the movement to legalize abortions.
**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 leases reinforcing stereotypes have often led diplomats and national 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 already 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 mislead their own public opinion, from which they are only now trying to extricate themselves.

The truth is that the global powers try to overturn 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 top intelligence agency to its offices in other countries. The memo states: “The central problem here (referring to the growing number of informants) is that CIA agents underestimate the capabilities of the counterintelligence corps of other countries.” Likewise, the memo emphasizes the low technical competence of its own officers and their excessive confidence in their sources.

Regrettably, U.S. diplomatic policy is a formalist and interventionist policy of the United States and the assumption of an early exit of the government of President Nicolas 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 service of local informants—who immediately understood that big business was coming their way. In this context, the informants began constructing fantastic scenarios of struggle, corruption and “dictatorship,” which they sold at a good price to their desperate employers. The officials of British intelligence were hired to contact 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 government. It soon became public that [the sabotage] was always based on the notion that “Venezuela was won over to the opposition.” Some of them, like the Spanish and German ambassadors and agents from the European Union, were declared persona non grata and expelled from the capital.

They justified their activities by saying—as Josep Borrell [then Spain’s Minister of Foreign Affairs] said on Spanish television—that “it is the moment to innovate 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, implying that their attendance not be made public in order to maintain the face of recognition of the illegitimate government. They were eager to observe valorous and honorable career diplomats making fools of themselves on the orders of their governments.

The ineffectual 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 “de facto government,” whose democratic legitimacy Spain did not recognize. Such was the consecration of their stupidity.

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.

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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 the accomplishments of Indigenous peoples in the U.S. has been won by the peoples themselves — by their unrelenting struggle. Again and again they have opposed the deadly forces of white-supremacist colonization and capitalism.

Indigenous peoples won a significant victory on Oct. 11, 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 dumping, 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 — soon won monumental 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 wildlife 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 forest management worsened by 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 reported that fossilized human footprints in the Tularosa Basin of New Mexico are unequivocal proof that humans were in North America at least 25,000 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 ever.”

This October is a chance for all progressive forces to honor Indigenous knowledge, skills and resistance, to acknowledge our mutual human interdependency 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.

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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, multigenerational 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 Justice Department 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, UAW volunteers are busy phone banking, text banking, leafletting and holding organizing meetings to make sure members understand the referendum and return their ballots.

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 the automotive industry. However, as speakers pointed out, it was the now-disgraced IEB 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.

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 734 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 2150 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 Schrock, President of Local 250, 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 2542; 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 revocate the union back in the direction of class-struggle unionism.

Martha Grevatt is a retired executive board member of UAW Local 869.
**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 fearless, 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 have for weeks and months been fleeing toward what they thought was safety, being terrorized, abused and then deported.

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 provides compassionate care. All the countries in the world are being allowed to use human rights as a way of preserving their borders.

The Biden administration has shuttled Haitians around, letting some into the country to pursue asylum claims, putting others into detention centers spread throughout the U.S. and expelling plane loads by the hour. The Biden administration has spent over $12 million on 70 flights, illegally expelling over 7,000 Haitian refugees. (tinyurl.com/8fcs9n4v)

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 throughout the U.S. and expelling plane loads by the hour. The Biden 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 Guantanamano Bay or back to Mexico where organized crime and collaborators in Mexico's 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. (}
Muchas marchas y concentraciones fueron organizadas el pasado 2 de octubre en todos los Estados Unidos. Dos días antes, el 30 de septiembre, se presentó un proyecto el recurso presentado por los proveedores de reparto de la plataforma eFood que apoyan la decisión de Roe.

En la actualidad, la mayoría de las residencias en Estados Unidos apoyan la decisión de Roe.

La decisión de Roe ha sido fundamental para proteger los derechos de los trabajadores.

Desde los mili-antes de PAME (El Frente Militante de Todos los Trabajadores de Grecia) hasta los analistas que siguen el sector de la comida rápida en todo el mundo, todos coincidieron: los trabajadores son parte esencial de la sociedad.

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