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# STOP EVICTIONS!

By Martha Grevatt

For anyone struggling to pay their rent and worried about eviction, the past few weeks have been an emotional roller coaster.

The moratorium on evictions instituted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention expired Aug. 1. Some relief was afforded when the CDC extended it for another two months. The CDC’s action was based on medical science: the very real danger of COVID spread if evicted families had to move into houseless shelters or board with extended family members or friends.

But the Supreme Court of the United States ruled Aug. 26, by a 6-3 majority, “that the CDC has exceeded its authority,” and the eviction moratorium was no longer enforceable. (supremecourt.gov)

This exposes the real character of the highest court in the land: pro-landlord, anti-worker and anti-poor.

Congressional Rep. Cori Bush rightly

stated after the court ruling, “We already know who is going to bear the brunt of this disastrous decision — Black and Brown communities, and especially Black women.” (The Nation, Aug. 27) People with disabilities, immigrants, LGBTQ2S+ people and other oppressed groups will also suffer disproportionately.

The SCOTUS ruling will not affect city, county or statewide moratoriums. But only six states currently have eviction moratoriums, all but one of which are due to expire on or before Sept. 30. States with nothing in place to address the impending housing crisis certainly are partially to blame for it.

Evictions will be a big problem in the U.S. South, where “fast-track” evictions are a scourge. Millions of Southerners could find themselves on the street.

Northern cities are also threatened with disaster. Look at Detroit. Detroit’s housing crisis predates COVID by well over a decade. This Black majority city once had the highest homeownership rate

and the highest Black homeownership rate in the U.S.

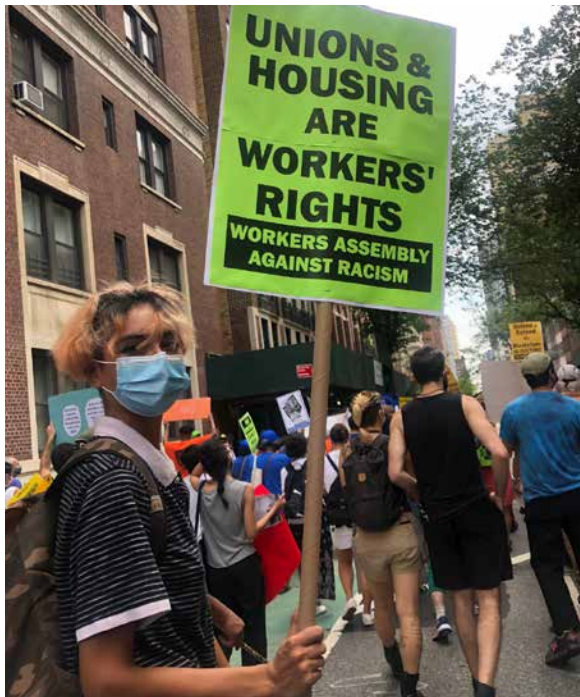
Detroit was targeted by racist, avaricious banksters who took people’s homes away, turning a city of homeowners into a city of renters. Now many of these renters face eviction.

**Where the power lies**

The plaintiffs who filed suit against the CDC moratorium — real estate tycoons and big landlords led by the Alabama Association of Realtors — have deep pockets.

The estimated 10 million renters, who could now potentially become homeless, do not.

This gross imbalance of economic power — not legal technicalities around the CDC’s



WW PHOTO: SARA FLOUNDERS

**Hundreds of New York City activists, organized by Housing Justice for All, march to demand an emergency extension of state eviction moratorium set to expire Aug. 31.**

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WW PHOTO: MONICA MOOREHEAD

**In 2009, marches all over the world called for funding people’s needs, not ongoing U.S. wars on Afghanistan and Iraq. Here, Atlanta.**

## In Kabul, U.S. lies to hide crimes — again

The bloody final week of the U.S. occupation of Afghanistan is replaying Washington’s crimes of the past 20 years. A war whose pretext was combating “terror” is ending, amid terror that U.S. mass murders have generated.

Blame for the carnage during the last 20 years was first covered by lies. In the accelerated timeline of the impending U.S. departure, some truth was exposed.

A suicide attack at the Kabul Airport left nearly 200 dead, including 150 Afghan civilians, 30 Taliban and 13 U.S. troops. In the midst of mourning for the victims — and wondering how one 25-pound explosive produced so many victims — we learned that many of them were killed by U.S. troops firing automatic rifles.

Joe Biden, in Rambo mode, promised quick

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Legal system?  
Legal oppression  
Texas incarceration:  
Shut it down!

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SHUT DOWN ATTICA. SHUT THEM ALL DOWN!

50 YEARS LATER... THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES!

SEPTEMBER 9

5PM AT THE MONUMENT IN MLK PARK – BUFFALO

50 years after the Attica Uprising of 1971, prisoners across the United States are still facing the same cruel, dehumanizing conditions. We are gathering this September 9th to commemorate the revolutionaries who put their lives on the line to fight the Prison Industrial Complex, and to raise our voices about the ongoing struggle in every prison and ICE detention center.

ATTICA IS ALL OF US! ABOLISH PRISONS NOW!



# Workers Assembly Against Racism

# Union rights, cancel rent!

By Tony Murphy

On Labor Day weekend, show solidarity with Workers Assembly Against Racism, Chris Smalls and workers fighting to organize Staten Island’s Amazon facilities. They are demanding union rights, passage of the PRO Act and a permanent eviction moratorium. Join them at their rally at 5:00 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 4, at Union Square across from Amazon-owned Whole Foods in Manhattan.

Since New York City’s traditional Labor Day parade was canceled, activists have called for this Labor Day rally to demand union rights for Amazon workers, as well as passage of the PRO Act.

With the U.S. Supreme Court decision striking down the eviction moratorium mandated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention — and with the New York state moratorium ending Aug. 31 — the Sept. 4 rally will also include the all-important demand for a permanent eviction moratorium.

“The fight to organize the unorganized goes hand-in-hand with the fight against evictions,” Chris Smalls told this writer. The Amazon worker and whistleblower was fired by the tech giant’s bosses in 2020, for leading an Amazon warehouse walkout over unsafe work conditions.

Smalls added: “Here in Staten Island, some of the Amazon workers we are trying to win a union for are unhoused. Some have been sleeping in their cars in the Amazon parking lot.” Smalls is central to efforts by Staten Island workers to build their own worker-led union, Amazon Labor Union.

This Sept. 4 action was called by WAAR,



which organized a series of dynamic New York demonstrations over the winter — in Harlem, in Union Square and outside Jeff Bezos’ penthouse — supporting the Amazon union drive in Bessemer, Ala.

Organizers emphasize that, since Labor Day is dedicated to workers rights, Saturday’s Union Square rally will call for an extension of federal unemployment benefits. The payments — set to expire Monday, Sept. 6, the federal holiday — will in reality expire Saturday, Sept. 4 — the day of the rally.

And WAAR leaders encourage New Yorkers to support the Community and Clergy March Against Evictions set for noon, Tuesday, Aug. 31, at 109 W. 38th St., Manhattan. □



WAAR activists, Harlem, Feb. 20, 2020

WW PHOTO: G. DUNKEL



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

Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world and the planet itself in the neverending quest for ever-greater profits.

Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, attacks on im/migrants, misogyny, LGBTQ2S+ oppression and mistreatment of people with disabilities. It means joblessness, increasing homelessness and impoverishment and lack of hope for the future. No social problems can be solved under capitalism.

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

## Join us in the fight for socialism!

and trans people are gunned down by cops and bigots on a regular basis.

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

WWP fights for socialism because the working class produces all wealth in society, and this wealth should remain in their hands, not be stolen in the form of capitalist profits. The wealth workers create should be socially owned and its distribution planned to satisfy and guarantee basic human needs.

Since 1959, Workers World Party has been out in the streets defending the workers and oppressed here and worldwide. If you’re interested in Marxism, socialism and fighting for a socialist future, please contact a WWP branch near you. □

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

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Vol. 63, No. 35 • September 2, 2021  
Closing date: September 1, 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.





# A Marxist history of HIV/AIDS:

## Part 3 Early Fightback, 1981-1982

By Devin Cole

*HIV refers to human immunodeficiency virus. If left untreated, HIV can lead to the disease AIDS (Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome). HIV is transmitted by four fluids: semen, vaginal fluid, blood and breast milk, and through mother-to-child transmission during pregnancy/birth.*

On July 3, 1981, the New York Times published an article with an ominous headline, “Rare cancer seen in 41 homosexuals.” Buried on page 20, the story noted two simultaneous and similar outbreaks of a cancer, Kaposi’s sarcoma, among homosexual men in New York City and San Francisco, with some of the cases dating back 30 months to January 1979. A doctor quoted in the article describes the outbreak as “rather devastating.” ([nyti.ms/2UgfINQ](https://nyti.ms/2UgfINQ))

“Rather devastating” was an understatement as to what was to come. People infected with HIV who develop AIDS frequently contract Kaposi’s sarcoma. By 1987, just six years after that headline, at least 5 million people worldwide were living with HIV/AIDS, at least 45,000 in the U.S. ([bit.ly/3rK8IF8](https://bit.ly/3rK8IF8)) There had been at least 40,000 deaths. ([bit.ly/3xaaL6l](https://bit.ly/3xaaL6l))

The year 1987 would prove to be a watershed moment in HIV/AIDS history. ACT UP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power) was founded in New York City in 1987 and began a string of direct actions to force the U.S. government to not only acknowledge the plague, but to begin to take steps to treat people and find a cure. President Ronald Reagan had refused to comment publicly on HIV/AIDS, until the resistance of masses of people forced him to speak that year.

Today it can be a common view that ACT UP was the first group in the U.S. organized to deal with the HIV/AIDS crisis. While ACT UP did coordinate and execute fabulous direct actions against bourgeois scientists, government officials and those who claimed AIDS was God’s punishment for being gay, fightback and resistance to the epidemic began almost immediately in 1981 when the disease appeared.

In August 1981, The Sentinel, a LGBTQ+ newspaper serving San Francisco, reported: “Just a few weeks ago, the government dropped millions of dollars into research to determine the cause of Legionnaires’ disease, which affected relatively few people. No such outpouring of funds has yet been forthcoming to research the how’s and why’s of KS [Kaposi’s sarcoma], a rapidly fatal form of cancer that has claimed far more victims in a very short time than

did Legionnaires’ disease.”

The Sentinel’s comment foretold the grim future to come for those suffering from HIV/AIDS, as lack of response from the U.S. government allowed thousands and thousands to die.

On the other side of the country in August 1981, future ACT UP founder Larry Kramer held a meeting at his New York City apartment with at least 75 gay men. They listened to Dr. Alvin Friedman-Kien report that virtually nothing was known about the new disease, but that he needed money to research it. This led to what was perhaps the first-ever fundraiser for HIV/AIDS research and the foundation of Gay Men’s Health Crisis. Over Labor Day weekend on the legendary gay beach Fire Island, Kramer’s group raised \$6,635 — equivalent to \$19,530 in 2021. (Randy Shilts, “And the Band Played On: Politics, People and the AIDS Epidemic,” 1987)

### National Institutes of Health did harm during an epidemic

At the time, the U.S. had advanced medical and health equipment and technology, which was primarily in the hands of capitalist profiteers, but this expertise was not put to use to stop the epidemic.

On Sept. 15, 1981, the National Institutes of Health’s department, the National Cancer Institute, held a conference on Kaposi’s sarcoma and oppor-

tunistic infections. These diseases, such as Pneumocystis Carinii Pneumonia (PCP) are usually only seen in people with weakened immune systems, typically due to cancer treatments.

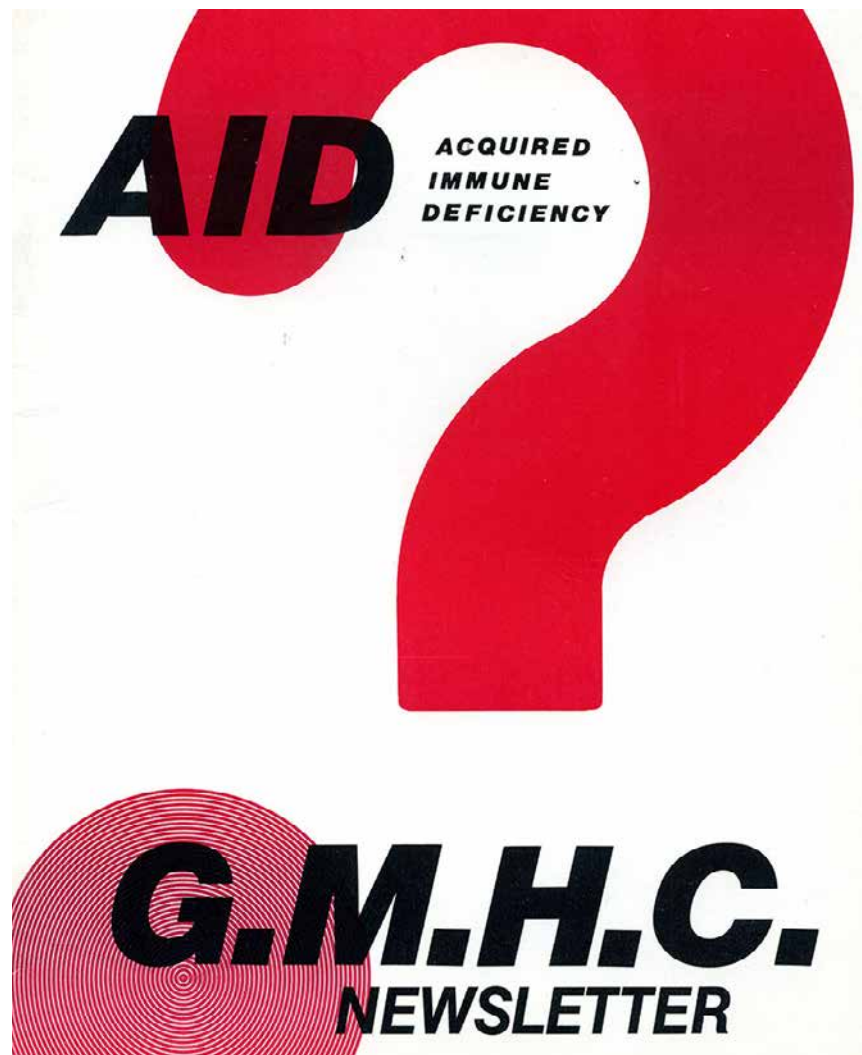
Clinicians, many of whom had been treating patients with KS, traveled from all over the country to Maryland to attend this conference, hoping it would serve as a springboard to research and contain this mysterious disease.

The clinicians attending this conference likely expected the NIH/NCI to flex its muscle. At this time, its annual budget was \$1 billion. (Randy Shilts, “And the Band Played On”) Because of inflation, this figure would be between 2 and 3 times higher in 2021 dollars.

Instead, what attendees got was a lackluster, apathetic presentation on KS in Africa, where the disease was also spreading rapidly. They

were told that the disease should simply be treated with radiation or aggressive chemotherapy.

There was no discussion of its relationship to the immune system, the relationship between KS and Pneumocystis, and hardly any discussion on possible causes for the cancer. The latter point was important as KS is associated with



The first issue of the Gay Men’s Health Crisis newsletter appeared in July 1982.

or the result of a weakened immune system, rather than causing the weakened immune system.

### ‘GRID/4H Disease’

Names for the “mysterious gay cancer” changed over years of diagnosis, treatment and struggle — with most terms inciting not only more anti-gay discrimination but anti-Black, anti-disabled and anti-addict discrimination as well. Though designated as HIV/AIDS today, in 1982 the disease was called “GRID” or “Gay-Related Immune Deficiency,” inciting even more discrimination against the LGBTQ+ community. ([nyti.ms/37vNYrg](https://nyti.ms/37vNYrg))

This label fueled the right-wing camp that had spent years platforming against LGBTQ+ issues, under the guise of “saving children” and “keeping American values.” Although GRID only stuck for roughly four months, its stigma has carried on.

Just as odious was the lesser-known but still-used term, also coined by the CDC: the “4H Disease.” This bigoted name was invented when it was erroneously believed that only four groups of people were at serious risk of infection: Haitians, heroin users, homosexuals and hemophiliacs.

After the origin of HIV/AIDS in the colonized Belgian Congo in the 1920s, Haiti is regarded as the first nation outside of Africa to see an HIV/AIDS epidemic, generally dated from 1966. Paul Farmer, in “AIDS and Accusation: Haiti and the Geography of Blame,” notes that HIV/AIDS came to Haiti through North American tourists. (“A Marxist history of HIV/AIDS — Part 2: The origins of HIV/AIDS,” Workers World, July 9, 2021)

Heroin users and hemophiliacs were looped into the blame because of the higher rates of infection among users and those stricken with hemophilia, due to needle-sharing and blood transfusions.

And then there were “the homosexuals” — who were blamed from the start.

As early as June 1982, it was known that heterosexual people, cisgender women and other “low-risk groups” could

and did contract HIV/AIDS. Another group initially considered “low-risk” was infants and children; in the early months of 1982, it was believed by medical professionals that HIV/AIDS could not spread to infants or children.

However, in a July 2021 interview conducted by this writer, Workers World Party member Marie Kelly, a retired pediatric nurse, spoke of working in a Philadelphia hospital in a predominantly Black, working-class part of town in the early 1980s and treating children who were dying from AIDS, as a result of either being born with it or contracting HIV through blood transfusions to fight their hemophilia. People who had injected drugs who were pregnant and given birth had unknowingly contracted HIV that way.

In December 1982 the CDC finally published reports of AIDS in babies and children. ([tinyurl.com/24yp8atf](https://tinyurl.com/24yp8atf))

Despite this, even with knowledge from medical professionals in hospitals and even top scientists themselves, the focus on HIV/AIDS centered around LGBTQ+ people as the cause and thus allowed anti-LGBTQ+ discrimination and prejudice to intensify. Though ‘GRID’ was officially renamed ‘AIDS’ in September 1982, the damage had been done.

*Ellen Catalinotto, who contributed to this article, worked for nearly 30 years as a midwife in New York City hospitals, where she participated in research that led to the first breakthrough in preventing mother-to-child transmission of the AIDS virus. Devin Cole is the president of Strive (Socialist Trans Initiative), a transgender advocacy organization in northwest Florida, and a member of the Workers World Party — Central Gulf Coast (Alabama, Florida and Mississippi) branch.*

All parts of this series, ‘A Marxist History of HIV/AIDS,’ are available at [workers.org/tag/hiv-aids/](https://workers.org/tag/hiv-aids/).

Next: ‘Fighting for our lives’ against AIDS in San Francisco.



# Buffalo Starbucks workers organize for a union

By **Ryan Lockwood**  
**Buffalo, N.Y.**

*Bulletin: On Aug. 30, workers at Buffalo, N.Y., Starbucks coffee shops filed petitions with the National Labor Relations Board for a vote on union representation.*

Workers at several Starbucks locations in Buffalo have gone public with an ambitious bid for union representation. The Starbucks Workers United Organizing Committee published an open letter Aug. 23, calling on Starbucks President and CEO Kevin Johnson to agree to a set of noninterference principles that “provide a level playing field that will enable Starbucks partners to choose whether or not to unionize without fear of reprisal.”

According to the letter, the workers are motivated to organize not “as a reaction to specific policies, but as a commitment to making Starbucks, Buffalo and the world a better place.”

Brian Murray, a worker on the organizing committee, told Workers World

that the next task for the campaign is petitioning the National Labor Relations Board to oversee a union vote. This petition can legally be filed once 30% of the workforce signs union cards indicating their support for representation — but he says the committee is not looking to file until they have a clear majority in at least one store.

Murray is hopeful this process can begin in the coming days. There are 20 Starbucks locations in and around Buffalo, and the organizing committee currently has a presence in about 16 of them. Despite the tall order this represents for Buffalo Starbucks workers, he remains confident: “Regardless of how the campaign goes, if we unionize one Starbucks, we make history.”

### Starbucks resisting unionization

At the time of this writing, Starbucks had scheduled voluntary listening sessions between workers and management for the beginning of September.

Management’s initial silence led some workers to speculate about possible retaliation. Starbucks’ recent history gives credence to those fears.

In July, the NLRB ruled that Starbucks had engaged in illegal union busting when it fired two organizers in Philadelphia last year. Starbucks is currently appealing the decision, which orders the company to reinstate the fired workers. Notably, Starbucks reportedly offered the former employees \$50,000 each to settle the case out of court, about triple what the company would owe in back pay. The workers refused the offer.

New York state law recognizes “at-will” employment, which stacks the deck severely against workers and allows them to be fired at the discretion of their bosses. While certain protections are afforded at the state and federal level, employers in “at-will” states are not compelled to disclose a reason for termination.

This effectively compromises what

rights the workers enjoy, including the right to form a union, because an unfair or discriminatory termination is difficult to prove. Having a union-negotiated contract, however, which usually includes a well-defined disciplinary process, or grievance procedure language, nudges the balance of power toward the workers.

Starbucks’ history of anti-union behavior cuts sharply against their carefully crafted public image of a friendly, forward-thinking company. The irony has not been lost on the workers.

The company’s progressive posturing is all well and good, yet the organizing committee member said, “but it’s really not credible when out of 8,000 locations in the U.S., there’s not one unionized Starbucks.”

The workers have set the tone for the coming struggle. They have stated their objectives and invited Starbucks to engage in a more just and equitable relationship with its workers.

In other words, the campaign challenges Starbucks to live up to its image. Whether they do so remains to be seen. □



# Nabisco workers strike across the U.S.

By **Lyn Neeley**  
**Portland, Ore.**

Aug. 28 — Nearly 200 supporters attended a rally in support of Portland Nabisco workers, who went out on strike Aug. 10. As of Aug. 25, approximately 1,000 members of the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers Union have been on strike across all six Nabisco bakeries and distribution centers in the U.S.

Strike locations besides Portland include Chicago, Richmond, Va.; Aurora, Colo.; Addison, Ill.; and Norcross, Ga. Workers are striking against company

proposals to change the health care plan and cut overtime pay on the weekends by altering schedules.

The Portland strikers, some of whom have worked at the company for up to 50 years, spoke at the rally. One said: “The union has done so much. We are so thankful to the retirees and people from other unions supporting us here today.”

A group of about 20 people from the United Food and Commercial Workers were present to show support. They told this reporter that, like the Nabisco workers, they had worked through the COVID-19 pandemic and are now having their benefits taken away by their employers. □



Portland, Ore.

WW PHOTO

# World Federation of Trade Unions backs strikers

*This statement was issued Aug. 25 by the Secretariat of the World Federation of Trade Unions/La Federación Sindical Mundial.*

The World Federation of Trade Unions, which is the militant voice of 105 million workers in 133 countries around the world, conveys its solidarity to the workers of Nabisco Company in the U.S.A. who are on strike in five locations: NABISCO distribution centers outside Atlanta, as well as in Portland, Ore., Aurora, Colo., Richmond, Va.,

and Chicago, Ill.

Nabisco workers in all five locations join voices and demand from the Company to stop exporting their jobs to Mexico and to end its demands for contract concessions.

The world class-oriented trade union movement stands by the side of NABISCO workers who fight from Oregon and Colorado to Illinois, Virginia and Georgia against negative changes in their contracts and working conditions. We urge the fulfillment of their just claims and the protection of their working rights. □



# Venezuela workers send solidarity

By **Minnie Bruce Pratt**

Workers of the Sisotrokraft Union at the Mondelez factory in the city of Barquisimeto in Venezuela sent a solidarity message Aug. 28 to striking Nabisco workers in the U.S. Both the U.S. and the Venezuelan workers are employed by Mondelez International, Inc.

Usually referred to as Mondelēz, the U.S. multinational confectionery, food, beverage and snack food company, based in Chicago, has an annual revenue of about \$26 billion and operates in 160 countries.

The video message opened with the logo “Sisotrokraft: La Verdadera Revolucion Obrera at Mondelez International Vz.” or “Sisotrokraft: The Worker Revolution at Mondelēz Venezuela.”

SISOTRAKRAFT is aligned with the FNLCT-CUTV: Frente Nacional de Lucha de la Clase Obrera/National Front for the Struggle of the Working Class and Central

Unitaria de Trabajadores de Venezuela/Central Unitary of Workers of Venezuela.

The message was delivered by Victor Gutierrez, president of the Sisotrokraft Union, from the factory floor. A large group of white-jacketed, COVID-masked workers stood with him — some working in the background on an active assembly line — and others held a sign with a solidarity motto: “Fight and Victory!”

Gutierrez emphatically affirmed: “From here, together with the workers, we stand in solidarity with the workers at the Mondelēz company in the United States, in the cities of Oregon, Illinois, Virginia, Colorado, and Atlanta, where they started a strike for 20 days to demand their rights and labor benefits that this employer has taken away from them. This employer’s association has a worldwide policy of reducing jobs and reducing the benefits and labor rights of the working class. So the call is to unite our struggle to achieve our goals.” □

## A partisan pro-worker newspaper

# Support Workers World

The real International Workers Day is May 1, not the first Monday in September. Nevertheless, we solidarize with all workers who take this occasion to celebrate union pride — and those who express a readiness to fight for their rights.

Since Workers World’s first issue in 1959, the newspaper has covered class struggles with a slant. WW is unapologetically biased on the side of the workers and oppressed. This is true of our strike coverage. When workers withhold their labor to extract a measure of justice from the bosses, WW pays attention.

Since former President Ronald Reagan broke the 1981 Professional Air Traffic Controllers strike, covered by WW, bosses have pushed for concessions in union contracts.

Since then, workers have fought fiercely against concessions and job cuts, from the Hormel and Pittston Coal strikes in the 1980s, to the Caterpillar, UPS, and the San Francisco and Detroit newspaper strikes in the 1990s, to the Alabama coal strike and Nabisco strike happening right now. This paper roots for our class — the multinational working class.

We devote ink to the resistance of unorganized workers too, including the hundreds of work stoppages demanding COVID protection and sick pay, walkouts at McDonald’s and Google opposing sexual harassment, and work and hunger strikes by incarcerated workers. Many articles have supported the Fight for \$15/hour (at

least) and a union.

This year’s front pages have focused on the Amazon union drive, led by Black workers, in Bessemer, Ala., the importance of passing the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act and more pro-labor stories.

WW issues include at least one page devoted to workers’ struggles. Our biweekly On the Picket Line column contains timely news of organized and unorganized workers in motion.

### 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 put up daily and the PDF file of the weekly issue is posted. The newspaper is now being printed and mailed out once a month.

For donations of \$60 a year or \$120 or \$300 or more if you can, 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.



# Caste: Legal oppression through our legal system

By Wesley Massey

Wesley Massey is currently incarcerated in State Correctional Institute Pine Grove in Pennsylvania.

As I sit here reading “Caste” by Isabel Wilkerson, I am reminded how dark our history in the U.S. was and still is. When I say “our,” I mean Black and Brown people.

Race is a creation of a social construct. Race or racism is not based in science or fact and certainly not truth. It is a tool used to create a caste system that gives distinction or status to people based solely on skin color — or better put, on the presence of a chemical component or the absence thereof.

In India, in the origins of caste, there were the “untouchables,” or Dalits, deemed the lowest caste — an inescapable prison determined at birth. Fast forward to Nazi Germany, where racist Aryans considered themselves superior to all.

The Nazis had been watching the U.S. and how that country had perfected a caste system regarding African Americans, and kept them to the lowest caste, using the very foundations, the mudsill that built this country — law! They made it illegal for an African American to ever be considered equal or ever have the same equity in this country.

The U.S. is still using the legal system as a tool of oppression on African Americans. They have systematically created an injustice system that keeps African Americans in cages. Our enslaved ancestors were brought to this country under the guise of a lawful legal practice. Slavery began in 1619 on the shores of Jamestown, Va. This was the start of the caste system that is still in place. This is the life of the lower caste — African Americans.

As an example of how race and caste work in the U.S.,



Wesley Massey

a Chinese man, whose skin color was whiter than the whitest man he knew, sought to have the privileges of the dominant caste (whites) but was denied. He fought his case all the way to the highest court in the land, and [in Lum v. Rice, 1927] was told that it did not matter that his skin was white, as he was not Caucasian = Aryan. Therefore he was not afforded the privileges of the dominant caste, when in actuality less than one percent of the country’s population is actually from the Caucasus Mountains near Russia.

### New voter laws protect caste system

The dominant “caste” has perverted the law and subverted the laws created in this country to bend it to fit their will and agenda. What we are seeing now with the passing of new state voter laws is the protection of the caste system. They feel threatened by the empowerment of African American voters to change and swing the elections in the favor of a suitable candidate of their choice!

Sounds like democracy, right? Democracy is an illusion that is veiled behind a curtain that has “caste” written in bold letters on it and under it — for whites only and only the whites of our choosing. They let those in the lowest caste know that they are allowed only as much democracy as the dominant caste allows them to have, and only the amount of freedom the dominant caste allows!

The magic show called the justice system is only designed for the dominant caste. For instance, up to the year 2000, it was illegal in Alabama to marry someone outside of your perceived race. Or look at the disparity [in the legal] sentencing of the dominant caste and those assigned to the lowest caste.

During slavery, African Americans were denied the most basic of human impulses — to defend oneself and to want to be free. They don’t want us to arm ourselves; they don’t want us to have the right to choose. Caste has

established a legal system that justifies the denial of adequate counsel, so that a person born into poverty cannot defend against accusations of the dominant caste.

Imagine running on a treadmill with someone in control as you run faster and faster. You believe you’ve reached your goal only to be told you’re only halfway there, and you must run faster! We have not progressed past the 1880s as African Americans. Menial movement is the illusion we have been told to accept as the semblance of progress, while the dominant caste creates more laws to set us back further.

A bigot, tyrant, oppressor and casteist has held the highest office in a so-called free democracy and pushed his racist and casteist agenda through policies and legislation. I’m talking about Donald Trump or Joe Biden or both.

We are made to pledge allegiance to our oppressor. But silence in the face of evil is evil itself. □



## UPCOMING EVENTS FOR BLACK AUGUST & ATTICA

- **August 18: From Black August to Black Liberation,** Black Alliance for Peace [bit.ly/blackaugust819](https://bit.ly/blackaugust819)
- **September 2: 50 Years of Struggle,** Prisoners Solidarity Committee of WWP [www.pub/attica](https://www.pub/attica)
- **September 4: Protest at Briscoe Unit,** Dilley, TX
- **September 8:** Forum @ Southern Methodist University
- **September 9: Attica is All of Us,** NYC
- **September 9: Shut Down Attica! Shut Them All Down!** MLK Park @ 5PM, Buffalo New York

# Texas arrests migrants, abandons food bank

By Mirinda Crissman

The state of Texas continues to be hostile to migrants. The Kinney County Sheriff’s Department posted videos Aug. 6 of migrants being magisterated in mass hearings in a parking lot.

Magistrate judges are appointed by judges of the district court. They may “dispose” of minor criminal offenses and may hold bench or jury trials in civil actions on “consent of the parties.” It boggles belief that a group of migrants forced by arrest into a parking lot “courtroom trial” have given free consent to such proceedings.

According to the Aug. 19 Grassroots Leadership News, which shared the videos with the movement fighting for migrants: “Migrants are charged with misdemeanor offenses under Gov. Greg Abbott’s Operation Lonestar,

a legally dubious initiative started through emergency orders. Through Operation Lonestar, law enforcement officers are encouraging ranchers to file criminal charges against migrants.” ([tinyurl.com/565ak8sy](https://tinyurl.com/565ak8sy))

On Aug. 24, Abbott ordered members of the Texas National Guard serving El Paso’s food banks to enforce “border security” in the Rio Grande Valley. That day, six members of the El Paso state legislative delegation wrote a letter to Abbott, urging him to reconsider his decision:

“If you pull the 90 assigned National Guard members from this post, the El Pasoans Fighting Hunger Food Bank estimates they will lose about 70% of their distribution power, as they don’t have the ability to sustain the demand of the current output with only 67 employees, a small number of AmeriCorps fellows and low volumes of volunteers. That means hundreds, if not thousands, of border families could lose their access to food.” ([ElPasoMatters.org](https://ElPasoMatters.org), Aug. 26)

During a special legislative session Aug. 27, the Texas House of Representatives passed House Bill 9. If signed into law, this bill will grant Abbott’s office \$1.8 billion for “border security.” In prior months, Texas Democrats had fled the state to break quorum, to keep a restrictive voter suppression bill from passing, but some had returned. Their very presence was instrumental in granting billions to criminalization of migrants as well as of dissent.

The Houston Chronicle reported House Bill 9 will funnel increased funding to the Texas Department of Public Safety and the Texas National Guard, which has orders to move its agents to enforce Abbott’s will at the border. Additionally, House Bill 9 will give “\$170 million to establish and staff three new processing and intake centers for migrants apprehended near the border on state jail charges.” (Houston Chronicle, Aug. 27)

Abbott and his ilk are ramping up the means to cage more humans. The conditions in migrant

detention facilities, jails and even prisons in Texas are abhorrent on a daily basis. Detainees cannot socially distance in a deadly pandemic; they face extreme heat and extreme cold and have been documented in suffering abuse at the hands of guards.

It is incumbent upon us to not allow the state to harm or kill people imprisoned in migrant detention facilities, jails and prisons. □

**DETENTION CENTERS, PRISONS, JAILS**

**SHUT 'EM DOWN!**

**CAR CARAVAN TO STOP THE DETENTION OF MIGRANTS @ THE BRISCOE UNIT, A TEXAS PRISON**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 4TH 12:30 PM CT**

**FROM: 1459 TX-85, DILLEY, TX 78017**

**TO: 300 EL RANCHO WAY, DILLEY, TX 78017**

**NO CAGES! NO BORDERS!**

**END THE RACIST OPERATION LONESTAR!**

**NO DEPORTATIONS! NO DEATH BY COVID-19!**

**IN SOLIDARITY WITH JAILHOUSE LAWYERS SPEAK:**

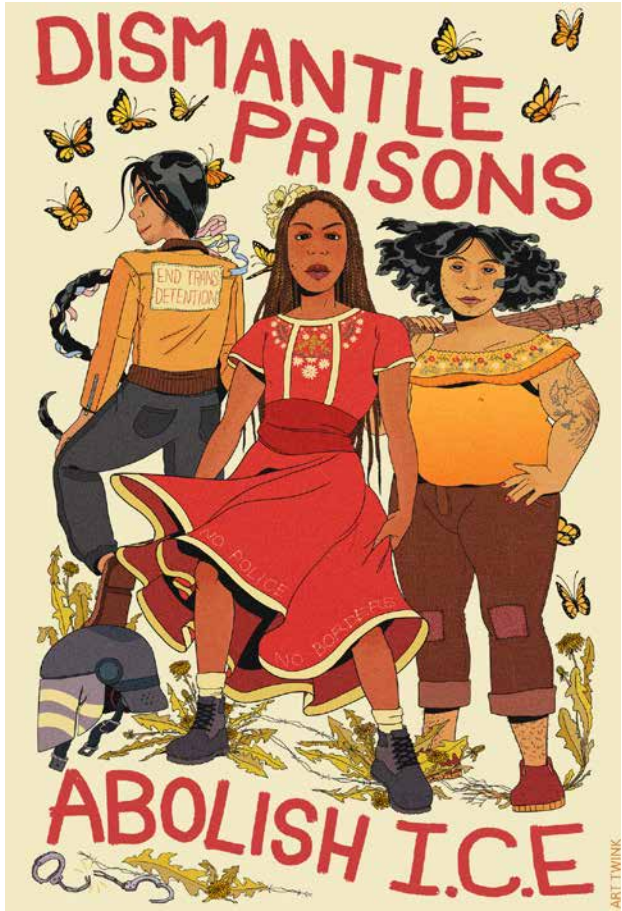


ILLUSTRATION BY ART TWINK



# Hazardous heat: Capitalism can't cope

By Lyn Neeley

Bill Stevens died from hyperthermia after falling asleep in his chair on July 2 during Portland's record-breaking temperatures of up to 116 °F. He was this writer's cousin. Bill was one of 115 Oregonians who didn't live through the heat.

In the same month, temperatures were at historic highs in Greece and Italy, bringing death there. "Heat is an invisible and insidious killer. Heat is one of those climate hazards that you don't really see," said Athens' first 'Chief Heat Officer' Eleni Myrivili. (tinyurl.com/3zxhb8tk)

In Oregon, most of those who died were older, lived alone and had no working air conditioning. Homeless people, communities of color and low-income families were disproportionately affected. The heat killed a Guatemalan farmworker who had just come to work in the U.S. A construction worker and father of five died in his hot trailer. Those living in homeless encampments located in the forests surrounding Portland were evicted because they were considered high-risk wildfire areas.

The extreme heat throughout Oregon was the result of climate change. Increased global warming is heating temperatures at the Earth's poles. This results in less of a temperature difference between the north and south areas of the jet stream, the band of high winds circling the Earth from west to east.

In late June to mid-July, a slowed-down jet stream trapped a deep mass of high-pressure air, causing a heat dome that covered the northwest from Oregon to Manitoba, Canada. The resulting heat wave killed an estimated 1,260 people in the entire region.

Heat domes, rare occurrences, are expected to be more frequent. A World Weather Attribute report concluded that

the heat wave "would have been virtually impossible . . . without human-caused climate change. The observed temperatures were so extreme that they lie far outside the range of historically observed temperatures. . . . An event like this — currently estimated to occur only once every 1,000 years — would occur roughly every 5 to 10 years in a future world with 2 °C of global warming." (tinyurl.com/3d7crxz2)

The heat dome caused Portland's mass transit system to shut down. Rubber-lined streetcar cables melted; and overhead copper power wires expanded, swelled and bowed, so that the power arms could have tangled in the sagging wires. (tinyurl.com/ysdrpnn5)

In mid-August, Portland temperatures rose again to a record 104 °F. The number of hot days over 90 °F has increased in Oregon over the last 10 years, causing severe drought in more than a third of the state since the year 2000.

Increasing temperatures have caused a 60% decline in snowpack in the state's mountain ranges. This impacts water availability and has greatly reduced agricultural production in Oregon's Willamette Valley.

Extreme heat has caused longer-lasting and more intense wildfires in the last three years in the state. Oregon's four largest wildfires have occurred in the last 20 years. So far in 2021, more than 1,000 fires have destroyed over 550,000 acres, 60 times more land area than in 2020. The Bootleg Wildfire sent dense smoke 3,000 miles all

the way across the U.S., causing a thick brown haze in New York City. The fire was so large it created its own clouds, thunderstorms and tornadoes.

According to the World Meteorological Organization, 2011-2020 was the warmest decade on record, and 2020 was the warmest year on record.

What is the U.S. — a capitalist country



PHOTO: XINHUA-LIU XU

Aerial photo taken on Aug. 19, 2020 shows wind turbines in Jiucaiping scenic spot in southwest China's Guizhou Province. (Xinhua/Liu Xu)

that boasts of its wealth — doing to avert the climate crisis? According to Our World in Data, the U.S. is the biggest carbon dioxide emitter in history, creating 25% of the world's CO2 and greenhouse gas emissions since 1751. (ourworldindata.org/contributed-most-global-co2)

President Joe Biden's climate plan is to reduce carbon dioxide emissions 50% by 2030. But his focus is to rely on the private sector, to invest more heavily in private industry. Biden's "plan" falls drastically short of addressing the U.S. impact on the world's climate crisis.

Currently the fossil fuel industry, which produces 80% of the energy used by the U.S., spent over \$2 billion between 2000 and 2016 to lobby against climate action. For the third time in recent months, the Interior Department has lowered a coal company's fees for the mining of coal on publicly owned lands. (tinyurl.com/mc52mcvb)

Biden's plan continues to subsidize fossil fuel pipeline expansion to bring nearly a million barrels of tar sands oil into the country from Alberta. The production of this oil emits up to three times more global warming pollution than that of the same quantity of conventional crude oil.

Jason Hickel, an economic anthropologist from the small African nation of Eswatini, writes that, as of 2015, the U.S. has already overshot its share of the total carbon emissions budget by 40%. He said Biden's emissions pledge only ensures "the U.S. will continue to colonize the atmospheric commons, gobbling up the fair shares of poorer nations, causing enormous destruction in the

process." (tinyurl.com/52pvxn4)

The U.S. Climate Fair Share Project notes that for the U.S. to cover its fair share of climate impact, it would actually have to cut its greenhouse gas emissions by 70%. (usfairshare.org)

## Socialist planning answers climate crisis

In a Sept. 10, 2019, Workers World article, Joshua Hanks wrote, "Socialist countries with economies that incorporate significant degrees of public ownership and economic planning, like Cuba and China, have proven capable of making rapid, drastic changes, the kinds of changes necessary to keep the environment from facing total catastrophe." ("Climate crisis cries out for social change")

According to a BBC report by David Brown: "Although China has a population 3.5 times bigger than the U.S., the country contributes only twice as much to global warming as the U.S. China's goal is to achieve a CO2 emissions peak before 2030 and attain carbon neutrality before 2060." (tinyurl.com/5mrfsktd)

By the end of 2020, more than 40% of China's power generation came from renewable resources, supporting nearly one-third of the country's electricity consumption. According to China's National Energy Administration, that country generated more solar power than any other country and had triple the amount of wind power installations. (tinyurl.com/3kd8985f)

Guizhou, a rural mountainous province in southwest China, has become a center for the development of photovoltaic cells and wind energy production. Thousands of jobs will be created. Guanling Buyi and Miao Autonomous County in Guizhou has been known for its soil erosion and desertification. But now, says Wei Chaohu, Communist Party secretary for the county, "We will have wind farms on the mountains, photovoltaic power plants halfway up the mountain top and hydropower stations down the mountains in the future, all for the sake of reaching carbon emission peak and neutrality." (tinyurl.com/5bp52yvww)

China has reforested areas the size of Ireland as part of its "Great Green Wall" program. The country deployed 60,000 People's Liberation Army soldiers from 1990 to 2015 to plant trees which reduced soil erosion, pollution and desertification and absorbed carbon dioxide. (tinyurl.com/y4rdavoo) In 2019 fly-overs, NASA satellites show an overall increase in global foliage, with China being largely responsible. (tinyurl.com/568pbpw4)

In the example of another country addressing the climate crisis with socialist planning, Cuba has nearly tripled its forested area since the revolution in 1959, from 13% to over 30% in 2019, according to a report by the Cuban Ministry of Agriculture. (tinyurl.com/y6qgbmkw). □

## Denver 'Thank You, Mexico' for sending aid to Cuba

An international statement of solidarity with revolutionary Cuba was delivered Aug. 26 at the Mexican Consulate in Denver, as Deputy Consul Jose Frederico Bass Villarreal warmly received a delegation from the Denver Peace Council.

Council members presented the deputy consul with a letter of gratitude to the Mexican people and their president, Manuel Lopez Obrador, for breaking the cruel 60-year U.S. blockade on Cuba. Mexico sent two shiploads of food and medicine to the Cuban people on July 25.

The deputy consul reminded the delegation of the 500-year history of the Spanish conquest of Cuba and of Mexico and the fraternal relations both countries have continued to this day.

The letter, which will be sent through diplomatic channels to President Obrador, stated that the action of Mexico was a "noble and humane



act." It recognized how Mexico supported enslaved African peoples who sought refuge in that country during U.S. slavery and the Civil War. Mexico also assisted in the fight against fascism and welcomed refugees from the

Spanish Civil War.

The letter ended by saying, "Mexico can be proud of its solidarity with the rest of the world."

— Story and photo by Viviana Weinstein



# Webinar debunks ‘China lab leak’ theory

These excerpts are from a Workers World livestream on Aug. 19, which featured Lee Siu Hin and Sara Flounders. For the full event, [wvp.pub/pod](http://wvp.pub/pod) or [youtu.be/bvWiBVfZnTw](http://youtu.be/bvWiBVfZnTw).

**Lee Siu Hin:** I was in China in January 2020, when there was a new outbreak from unknown sources causing pneumonia in Wuhan, a city in central China. At that time, no one knew exactly what it was. China called formally on the World Health Organization to acknowledge that it was COVID-19 in February. No one had done so officially before that. It's common knowledge and scientific fact.

However, the so-called “lab leak” theory comes from far-right, anti-China neocon warmonger politicians around the Washington, D.C., Beltway, notably Senator [Tom] Cotton and the anti-China think tanks and also from the far-right, anti-China cult Epoch Times, the so-called “Falun Gong.” From Day One, they spread the “lab leak” theory. That's how it started. This is not coming from scientists.

We need to separate the fact from the myth, the lies from the scientific proof.

I'm a medical researcher in the medical public policy area. That's the reason I've been following COVID right from the beginning, reading many papers and documents. So why am I saying this is bogus? Simply speaking, the overwhelming majority of us scientists are not buying it. The only people running after “Lab Leak” right now are a very small fraction of the scientists who are not virologists, they're pseudoscientists.

Thus, Michael Gordon, the warmonger who is now working for the Wall Street Journal, has been publishing these so-called exposé articles.

To make it simple: It's not coming from scientists. It's coming from the far-right, anti-China warmonger neocon world. They want to shift the blame of the failure of the U.S. response to the virus to China, so the U.S. government doesn't need to take any responsibility, especially right now amidst all this anti-vaccination, anti-mask sentiment.

After two years, the U.S. cannot even decide if everyone needs to wear a mask. What happened in Florida and Texas is a really good example.

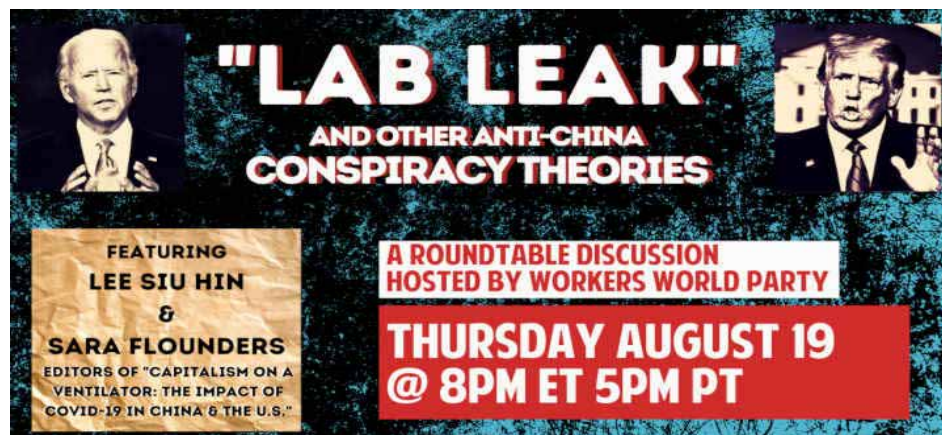
You may have thought that with Biden going to the White House, maybe this conspiracy would go away. Instead, Biden is pushing “lab leak,” and this includes the liberal Democrats. Why? Because just like Trump, Biden also failed the COVID response. And they need to find a bogeyman to scapegoat their failure. That's what we are facing.

Instead of international cooperation, working together to fight COVID, the U.S. is spending all the resources, all the time, even lots of money on pushing the bogus “lab leak” theory.

This is a war. This is a different type of war. That's what neocons are dreaming about, from the Atlantic Council to the Hudson Institute, all these think tanks.

But there's another fantasy. They want to use this to discredit China's successful vaccine diplomacy and international solidarity during the pandemic, while the U.S. selfishly didn't offer any vaccine to almost any other country. While the U.S. has become the worst source of spreading the virus to the world, it has the highest infection rate. It doesn't have any limitations for traveling to any country, so they spread the virus to other countries.

They want to use the lab leak theory to shift the blame to China, and what's more, direct the international community, especially the World Health Organization, to



investigate us instead of the alleged 200 biological and chemical weapons labs the U.S. has around the world. That's what they're doing.

**Sara Flounders:** We should be very honest about this. China is doing something that is deeply threatening to the United States ruling class. China organized an international forum on COVID vaccine cooperation. Everyone was invited. It was by video conference. And at that conference, they announced that they've already given out 750 million vaccines. Delivered to people, not just on an airport pallet, delivered into people's arms. They announced that their goal within the next four months was to have two billion vaccines to be distributed to the world.

Now, the U.S. got all angry because they said, what, China's trying to upstage us. Because the U.S. had just announced that they were going to give 100 million to the world. Just to do the math here, it sounds like a big number, lots of zeros, but it's only 5% of what China is distributing. And China had already distributed 750 million.

But what China did that was more dangerous to the U.S. They said: “We're not just distributing the vaccines, we're distributing the technology, how to make the raw materials, the skills” — in other words, those precious genetic patterns. The U.S. is all about protecting the ownership; lots of people have died from this, but the pharmaceutical industries have

made profits like never before. So this is deeply threatening to them.

They see it as an act of war on China's part. China said, rather than just distributing fish to people, we've got to teach people to fish. Now, that's a very basic concept. We've got to share the technology, the skill, the resources, and that's what we're doing. And they're handing it out. So to anyone who's into protecting patents, such as Bill Gates, Warren Buffett, Jeff Bezos and all of them as a class, they see this as a threat to their very existence.

How do the billionaires control the world in their own interests? One very important thing is establishing foundations which give out gumdrops in order to build a favorable climate for themselves, give out certain things to cut off anger, and yet never give the tools. Bill Gates' multibillion dollar fortune is built on Microsoft, on control of patents and intellectual property, very important. It was very threatening during the AIDS scourge that really laid waste to populations, particularly in Africa.

There was a call to make vaccines easily accessible through India, through other countries that could manufacture the medicines. The Gates Foundation said they would buy it at full price and then distribute it to many countries, but what that really meant was that the World Health Organization was no longer being used to develop health infrastructure, rather just to give out specific vaccines under specific conditions in this country

***'I'm a medical researcher in the medical public policy area. That's the reason I've been following COVID right from the beginning, reading many papers and documents. So why am I saying this is bogus? Simply speaking, the overwhelming majority of us scientists are not buying it. ... It's coming from the far-right, anti-China warmonger neocon world. They want to shift the blame of the failure of the U.S. response to the virus to China.'***

and that country. And Gates did this by becoming the biggest funder to the World Health Organization.

The other dominant voice in the World Health Organization — no surprise here — is the United States. But even these donations are not enough for the World Health Organization to exist. So it's really funded by private foundations and the U.S., and they set the agenda for world health, and they do it in a way that robs countries from developing health infrastructure and trained people and giving out specific vaccines in the countries that meet their conditions.

Now, I'll raise a fact that I just learned today from Siu Hin when we were talking earlier. In Afghanistan, 0.6% of people are fully vaccinated.

So here you had tens of thousands of U.S. troops, and supposedly they're there on some humanitarian mission. We all know that's a lie. But you would think at a minimum, providing vaccines would not be a big deal. Now, the U.S. has finally been chased out of Afghanistan, because they brought nothing but war and ruin. □

## Sordid source of ‘lab-leak’ accusation — against China

*The following lightly edited statement was released Aug. 24 by the International Action Center ([iacenter.org](http://iacenter.org)).*

The U.S.-China Solidarity Project has just released an up-to-date, in-depth look at the network of anti-China think tanks responsible for promoting the bogus lab-leak theory that COVID-19 originated in Chinese labs.

The report, “Chinese and U.S. Activists Say NO to the Biden's Virus Origin Investigation!” was put together by the editorial team that produced “Capitalism

on a Ventilator,” the book comparing COVID responses by capitalist and socialist governments. ([kobo.com/us](http://kobo.com/us))

In May, U.S. President Joe Biden ordered intelligence officials to “redouble” efforts to investigate the origins of COVID-19, including the allegation that the virus came from a laboratory in China. Biden asked the groups to report back to him within 90 days — a deadline that is looming as summer draws to an end.

“That puts the expected release of Biden's investigation at any day now,” said Siu Hin Lee, an author of the new report

and an editor of the book. “Our report provides ammunition for progressive U.S. forces seeking to counter the growing anti-China narrative, a poisonous focus which started in right-wing circles and has since metastasized, gradually garnering mainstream acceptance

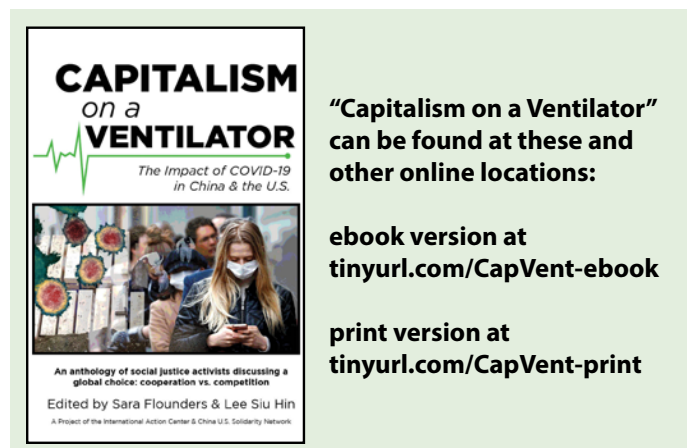
even among some leftists.”

The new report shows how a network of think tanks including the Atlantic Council, the Hudson Institute and the Center for the New American Security has teamed up with Rep. Mike Gallagher (R-Wis.), Sen. Roger Marshall (R-Kan.) and others — including the Wall Street Journal's Michael Gordon, who along with Judith Miller in 2002 promoted the Iraq weapons-of-mass-destruction lie and is now playing a crucial role in demonizing China.

As of the end of August, the U.S. COVID death toll is well over 600,000 in a country of over 333 million. By contrast, the number of COVID deaths in China, a country of 1.4 billion, has remained below 5,000.

The lab-leak theory has gained traction as the Delta variant ravages U.S. schools and communities, while China numbers remain substantially lower — even as the new strain started appearing there.

The report, “Chinese and U.S. Activists Say NO to the Biden's Virus Origin Investigation!” can be found at [tinyurl.com/5ynswr96](http://tinyurl.com/5ynswr96) and is available for download. □





WW COMMENTARY

# Overdose Awareness Day—mourning those lost

By Princess Harmony

August 31 may seem like a normal day to people, but to those who have been touched by the opioid and overdose epidemics, that date is International Overdose Awareness Day.

International Overdose Awareness Day, which memorializes those who have been lost to overdoses, was founded in 2001. Many governmental and nongovernmental organizations, as well as individuals, have taken action on this day.

The stated goals of International Overdose Awareness Day are:

1. To provide an opportunity for people to publicly mourn loved ones in a safe environment, some for the first time without feeling guilt or shame;
2. To include the greatest number of people in International Overdose Awareness Day events and encourage nondenominational involvement;
3. To give community members information about the issue of fatal and nonfatal overdose;
4. To send a strong message to current and former people who use drugs that they are valued;
5. To stimulate discussion about overdose prevention and drug policy;
6. To provide basic information on the range of support services available;
7. To prevent and reduce drug-related harm by supporting evidence-based policy and practice; and
8. To inform people around the world about the risk of overdose.

When a friend or loved one fatally overdoses, there is often no place for the families of drug addicts to go, where they can mourn without experiencing insults towards them and their deceased loved one. Besides people maligning the deceased and their family, families and friends often feel guilt and shame that they couldn't prevent the steps that led to overdose, even if they did try to help. The pain can be extra hard on parents.

Giving community members

information about overdose has the potential to turn around the negativity that people often have towards addiction encampments, such as those in Philadelphia, and to turn around the negativity towards safe injection and consumption sites.



By educating people, we begin to wipe away the stigma of being addicted and push society forward in viewing addiction as a mental illness or like a mental illness.

Studies have shown that both addiction and recovery bring a sense of shame or failure. People blame themselves for being addicts, ignoring the fact that they have both a mental illness and a condition exploited by capitalist companies that push opioids and lie about their addictiveness. ([tinyurl.com/4k2saz](https://tinyurl.com/4k2saz))

Addicts feel alone and feel like they can't be valued. International Overdose Awareness Day raises them up and treats them like they're people and like they're cared about.

### Fighting overdose epidemics with evidence

An important part of fighting the overdose and opioid epidemics is to push evidence-based treatments, policies and actions. An unfortunate truth — without putting down those who use the 12 Steps — is that 12 Step-based treatment facilities often fail their patients.

We need to push forward evidence-based treatment like methadone (Methadose, Diskets) and buprenorphine (Suboxone, Subutex, Sublocade, Zubsolv). Methadone and buprenorphine alone have been highly successful in their

treatment of people in opioid addiction.

In the United States, methadone can only be acquired from methadone clinics, a major inconvenience and threat to sobriety for addicts in recovery. Methadone clinics distribute methadone at limited hours. During methadone titration, when dosage is adjusted, patients have to come in daily. Before the COVID-19 pandemic in Pennsylvania and other states, a methadone patient could only get two weeks worth of methadone. This difficult access is very problematic for peoples' job schedules and home life.

After COVID-19 hit, these restrictions were lifted and in some states, like Pennsylvania, patients received doses for a full month. New York state created a program to deliver methadone to peoples' homes to prevent the spread of the virus in methadone clinics.

### A more humane policy needed

Under a humane and better policy, methadone would be distributed by ordinary pharmacists and drug stores. More people could get methadone for themselves at times that benefit them. COVID-19 pushed states into altering their methadone regulations, but it was only a baby step and still won't lead to the necessary reforms.

Although methadone is much more regulated, buprenorphine is regulated in a way that still inconveniences the patient. To prescribe buprenorphine products, one must be registered with the Drug Enforcement Administration, have an X-Waiver and go through up to 24 hours of training to dispense.

Although the Biden administration loosened the X-Waiver requirements by not requiring training or an X-Waiver for doctors and nurse practitioners with DEA certification who see 30 or fewer patients, the X-Waiver is still necessary for doctors who need to see more. The lack of X-Waiver providers in areas hit hard by the opioid epidemic, such as rural areas, causes people to lack access to gold-standard treatment.

Harm reductionists, activists, addicts

in recovery and addicts still using — we all are demanding the Biden administration push Congress into repealing the X-Waiver requirements. Of course, asking capitalist politicians — who helped drug manufacturers spread their painkillers — to do the right thing can be a fool's errand. But we should try anyway.

### Alternative policies, practices

Evidence-backed policy and practice have been discussed in this article but there are still more methods we need to examine. In Canada, members of the Drug User Liberation Front (DULF) and the Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users (VANDU) took the access to methadone and buprenorphine to logical, necessary ends.

They've been pushing their government into legalizing diacetylmorphine (heroin) and hydromorphone (Dilaudid) as injectable medications that would serve as a next level of medication-assisted treatment. The U.S. needs to follow this example. The U.S. should use funds it spends on imprisonment to establish rehab facilities that have successful programs.

One last method of evidence-based practice is what the DULF did: handing out untainted, fentanyl-free drugs to people. Heroin, cocaine, meth — all on the streets now tainted by fentanyl — were given out to those who needed them.

We call this safe supply: An addict is given safe drugs to use until they decide to get clean, if they decide that.

What does all this have to do with honoring International Overdose Awareness Day? An easy question to answer: If we acknowledge the needs of addicts and the necessity of new drug policies, we prevent overdoses and do justice for those who've died and even those who overdosed and lived.

We must do everything we can to save lives and prevent overdoses. For everyone who has left us.

This article is dedicated to my friends — Paul and anonymous others. If only we had the safeguards we're pushing for, all of you might still be alive. □

## Deadly overdoses increase

# Lifesaving naloxone in short supply

By Princess Harmony

In 2020, the number of fatal opioid overdoses increased 30% over 2019, leaving 93,000 people dead. These people could have been saved, if naloxone (known by the brand name Narcan) was on hand and used alongside proper first aid methods.

What is naloxone? Naloxone is an antagonist at the mu-opioid, delta-opioid and kappa-opioid receptors in the brain. When it's used on a person under the influence of an opioid, it immediately forces the opioids out of the receptors, jolting the overdosing person awake. Despite being awoken by naloxone, they still must be taken to the emergency room, where they will undergo a naloxone drip until it's safe for them to leave.

Unfortunately, many of these patients end up overdosing again, requiring naloxone again.

But naloxone, despite the fact that it is an extremely important medication, is facing a critical shortage at a time where thousands of people are dying. Pfizer, one of the makers of naloxone, reports that its supply of the medication is depleted. Pfizer sold it

at a discounted price to the Opioid Safety and Naloxone Network, who then provided various community-based harm reduction organizations injectable naloxone for people who needed it.

While this shortage does not extend to the nasal spray form — yet — it highlights that people living in addiction need this medicine. This shortage — along with shortages of other addiction-control drugs, methadone and buprenorphine (Suboxone, Subutex, Sublocade, Zubsolv) — have hit critical levels due to COVID. Drug manufacturers turned their attention toward the profits to be made off the epidemic, devoting fewer resources to the opioid epidemic Big Pharma helped create.

Some organizations that give away naloxone have had to hold back on distribution due to a depleted supply. This, while understandable, causes addicts to die while waiting for Pfizer to replenish its stock, which it has raised the price of. Emergent Biosolutions — makers of the name brand Narcan 4-milligram nasal spray — has emerged richer. So has the maker of Evzio — a name brand

auto-injectable form of naloxone, Kaleo.

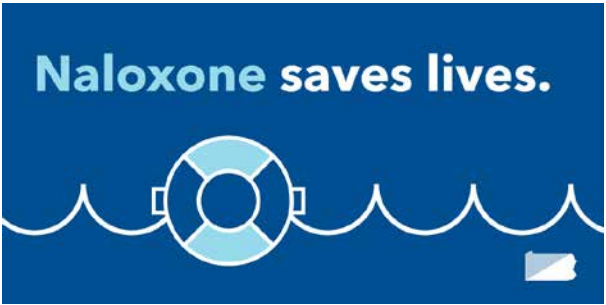
Organizations and individuals that work in the field of harm reduction have had to turn to these companies and either Narcan or Evzio, rather than Pfizer and its comparatively less-expensive generic injectable form of the drug. Emergent Biosolutions and Kaleo stand to make higher profits.

Hikma Pharmaceuticals stands to criminally benefit from the naloxone shortage and the opioid epidemic. They've formulated and patented Kloxxado, a new 8-milligram nasal spray, that may or may not even be necessary and that will definitely be harmful. What makes the higher dosage Kloxxado so dangerous is that it — like Narcan and the generic naloxone but at double the strength of Narcan — causes

the person being revived to have unstoppable withdrawal-like symptoms. Nausea, vomiting, shaking, sweats and cramps — the works. No matter what they do, even if they use an opiate again, they cannot undo this experience.

Emergent Biosolutions, Kaleo and Hikma Pharmaceuticals are making money in the void that Pfizer left behind. And while Pfizer itself benefited from the overdose epidemic, at the very least the supply of its generic injectable naloxone could be managed better. The effects of withdrawal-like symptoms could be lessened with control over how much a person is given. It could be more affordable. With the notable exception of carfentanil, most overdoses only need a single vial or sprayer in order to revive an overdosing person.

It's very difficult to fight the shortage caused by Pfizer or the companies stepping into Pfizer's void, but we can be aware of it and act accordingly. Learn how to administer naloxone, stock up on it and carry it on you at all times. We need to be prepared for a year that follows one with the highest number of overdoses. □





## Beware the siren song

# Women's liberation and Afghanistan

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

*This article originally appeared in Workers World, Dec. 6, 2001.*

As U.S. bombing and troop presence has intensified in Afghanistan, the mainstream media have issued a barrage of articles, photographs, opinion pieces and interviews claiming this war will liberate Afghan women. They present it as a “collateral benefit” that the war will reverse the Taliban’s cruel oppression of women and even give women a chance to get political rights under a new government.

Government officials, including Vice President Dick Cheney, Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld and Secretary of State Colin Powell have addressed the same subject in news conferences, briefings and interviews.

Most dramatically, “First Lady” Laura Bush was in front of the microphone on Nov. 17, instead of her husband, for the president’s usual Saturday radio address, so she could testify about the oppression of Afghan women under the Taliban.

This media blitz has been orchestrated through the governmental Coalition Information Center, set up to counter any criticism of the U.S. war. The campaign is coordinated by spin-doctors like public relations industry legend Charlotte Beers, former chair of giant ad agency J. Walter Thompson. Four of the key “gatekeepers” of this campaign are women, including chief Pentagon spokesperson Victoria Clarke and Mary Matlin, chief political adviser to Vice President Cheney.

Matlin said of these women’s commitment to advocating for the war: “I think we probably bring—and I don’t mean this to sound sexist—but we probably have more of a subconscious outrage at these issues. ... This is something that crosses my mind every day: A third of these women in pre-Taliban days were doctors, lawyers and teachers. You can’t help but be outraged.” (New York Times, Nov. 11, 2001)

### The real outrage

Which pre-Taliban days is she talking about? The outrage is ours if we look at the real history of women’s liberation in Afghanistan. Yes, terrible things have been done to women under the Taliban rule. But how did the Taliban come into existence? And what was the role of the United States?

In 1978 a revolution created a secular government in Afghanistan that tried to liberate the workers and peasants from the grip of feudal landlords. The secular



Women village defense forces carry AK-47s during a ceremony in Kabul to mark the 10th anniversary of the communist revolution in Afghanistan, April 26, 1988.

government was based on a young socialist movement, the Progressive Democratic Party of Afghanistan. The revolutionaries canceled mortgage debts of laborers and tenants; these debts had been inherited over generations so that feudal warlords held land workers as virtual serfs. And the new government promoted the welfare and liberation of women.

The revolutionary government immediately moved to improve the terrible conditions women had endured. It set up literacy programs especially for women, whose illiteracy rate was 96%. It trained more teachers and published textbooks in local languages. It organized brigades of women to go into

the countryside to provide medical services and by 1985 had increased hospital beds by 80%.

Decrees were issued, both abolishing the bride-price, so women could be free to choose their marriages, and prohibiting the punishment of women for losing their virginity before marriage. Women were able to train and then work as doctors, teachers and lawyers.

Did the U.S. government know of these things? These facts about the Afghan revolution can be found in a book published by the U.S. Department of the Army entitled, “Afghanistan—a Country Study for 1986.”

Yet it was this enlightened government that U.S. President Jimmy Carter set out to overthrow by organizing a massive counterrevolutionary army of religious fundamentalists in 1979. A CIA-orchestrated war forced the Afghan government to call for Soviet military assistance. What followed was a bitter conflict that lasted more than a decade and eventually overthrew the progressive regime. More years of war

followed, as the Taliban, the Northern Alliance and other factions—all of which drew their power from the feudal landlord class—fought for supremacy. (Workers World, Oct. 10, 1996)

The CIA had facilitated the formation of Osama bin Laden’s organization in the 1980s to attack the progressive government in Afghanistan. As U.S. vice president, George Bush Sr. oversaw the operation. Subsequently, bin Laden’s troops murdered teachers, doctors and nurses, disfigured women who took off the veil, and they shot down civilian airliners with U.S.-supplied Stinger missiles. (Workers World, Oct. 4, 1996)

### What the U.S. does care about

Now Bush and the generals claim to care about the rights of women living in the counterrevolution they financed and engineered. But the U.S. has consistently disregarded the plight and status of women in Afghanistan.

The White House and Pentagon knew the reactionary position of the U.S.-financed and trained fundamentalist groups toward women. But this was immaterial to the goal of the U.S. government to support the interests of oil corporations that have been trying to get a pipeline through Afghanistan for 10 years.

In a May 26, 1997, New York Times article, John F. Burns wrote: “While deploring the Taliban’s policies on women and the adoption of a penal code that provides for the amputation of thieves’ hands and the stoning to death of adulterers, the United States has sometimes acted as though a Taliban government might serve its interests.

“The Clinton administration has taken the view that a Taliban victory would end a war that has killed 1.5 million Afghans, would act as a counterweight to Iran, whose Shiite Muslim leadership is fiercely opposed to the Sunni Muslims of the Taliban, and would offer the possibility of new trade routes that could weaken Russian and Iranian influence in the region.

“For example, a proposal by the Unocal Corporation of California for a \$2.5 billion pipeline that would link the gas fields of Turkmenistan through Afghanistan to Pakistan has attracted strong support in Washington, though human rights groups are likely to object to the plan. ... The Afghan project, strongly endorsed by the Taliban, is part of a broader concept under which the vast mineral resources of the former Soviet republics would be moved to markets along routes that would offer these countries a new autonomy from Moscow.”

In May 1998, Time magazine reported the CIA had “set up a secret task force to monitor the region’s politics and gauge its wealth. Covert CIA officers, some of them well-trained petroleum engineers, had traveled through southern Russia and the Caspian region to sniff out potential oil reserves. When the policymakers heard the agency’s report, [Secretary of State Madeleine] Albright concluded that ‘working to mold the area’s future was one of the most exciting things we can do.’”

### ‘Free to beg’

As U.S. Marines dig in and direct air attacks near Kandahar, the U.S. continues to try to mold the future of Afghanistan, Central Asia and the Middle East—but not out of concern for the future of women. On the first day of this war, U.S. bombs struck a Kabul gynecological hospital and killed 13 women.

After weeks of bombing, U.S. newspapers enthuse that Afghan women “are uncovering their faces, looking for jobs, walking happily with female friends on the street.”

Yet, at the same time, Bush administration officials admit that they will not publicly insist women be included in talks about a post-Taliban coalition government. In fact, in the Bonn meeting scheduled by the U.S. and allies to arrange Afghanistan’s future, only three token women have been included: the widow of a mujahedeen commander killed fighting against the former secular socialist government and two backers of the long-deposed king. (New York Times, Nov. 26, 2001)

As the women of Afghanistan emerge into the horrifying destruction and chaos unleashed by U.S. bombing, what kind of freedom and what kind of rights will be theirs? A New York Times article, entitled “Behind the Burka,” focused on a 56-year-old woman with no schooling, eight children and a dead husband. (Nov. 19, 2001)

The last line of the article sums up her “liberated” future under imperialist subjugation: “Now, at last, she is free to beg.”

### Stop the war!

That is a future this Afghan woman shares with many women in the United States—women on welfare who soon will be “free to beg” under the so-called Welfare Reform Act.

Passed during the Clinton administration, it essentially eliminated Aid to Families with Dependent Children and set up a strict limit on the time length of benefits. The cut-off date of Dec. 1 is now fast approaching for thousands of already impoverished women. Some will be evicted in the middle of freezing winter. Others will be forced to place their children in foster care. Still others will be denied the most basic health care and reproductive services for themselves and their children.

And the astronomical economic cost of the U.S. war on Afghanistan will take an even greater toll on the poor in this country—especially women and children.

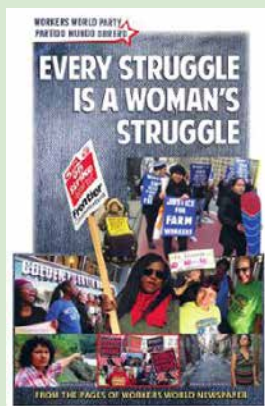
The war against Afghanistan has never been about the liberation of women, not even as a “collateral benefit.” The war is about imperialist domination for capitalist profit. Opposition to this war, and this economic system, is the only thing that will help bring about the full liberation of women.

*Minnie Bruce Pratt is an anti-racist activist, lesbian author and long-time leader in the struggle for women’s liberation.*

## Every struggle is a woman's struggle

This compilation of articles from the pages of Workers World from late 2016 to Women’s History Month 2018 shows women rising up in a wide range of struggles: against racism and white supremacy; for comprehensive health care and the right to our own bodies; for building union rights and ending the gender pay gap; for recognition of trans people’s rights; and with a look at women building socialist workers’ states.

Available as a free download at [workers.org/books](http://workers.org/books)





In Kabul, U.S. lies to hide crimes — again

Continued from page 1

revenge for the bomb attack. The U.S. military soon declared that one drone strike had killed leaders of the ISIS-K group, which had taken responsibility for the bombing. Another drone strike blew up a car, showing how the Pentagon “pin-points” terror targets.

Then we learned that the real victims of the drone strikes were Afghan civilians, including seven children. Under five years old.

This is exactly how U.S. imperialism waged a war against the Afghan people for 20 years: Every drone and rocket attack, every night raid into Afghan homes, produced civilian victims. It created enemies, who, having limited

choice, decided that even the Taliban was preferable to the Yanks.

As the Aug. 31 deadline for U.S. withdrawal approached, last week’s lies were exposed quickly. They are but the latest lies of U.S. aggression and occupation built on lies. And not only from the Biden administration, which has the unenviable task of closing shop.

Republican and Democratic Party politicians and Pentagon officials lied consistently during the 20-year occupation, and they lied last week. They lied to cover up the pillage, waste and corruption they all took part in — along with the armaments industry and military contractors. And they lied to cover up Washington’s motives for seizing Afghanistan.

They are all responsible for the 20 years

of horror inflicted on the Afghan people. They have shattered Afghan society and aroused such fury against U.S. crimes that some Afghans are willing to strap suicide bombs to themselves if the explosions kill U.S. troops or their collaborators.

This is neither a Republican war nor a Democratic war. It is a criminal war that both big capitalist parties own. George W. Bush ordered the invasion. Barack Obama expanded the U.S. military troop deployment and the drone war. Donald Trump dropped a nonnuclear superbomb on Afghanistan.

Biden’s handling of the exit grows out of U.S. military strategy during the 20-year occupation. The crime of the Afghan war is not that one or another of the U.S. presidents was incompetent or a fool — that

would be a minor crime compared to what was committed against the Afghan people.

The crime of each successive administration is that they represent the military, economic and diplomatic domination of world imperialism — with the U.S. its center — and they inflict, expand and defend the exploitation of workers and toiling people around the world, for the profits of a handful of billionaires and bankers. There is no way they can do that except through crimes and lies.

The task of anti-imperialist forces in the United States is to expose the lies and prevent the U.S. from bringing more harm to the Afghan people.

No more war, no more occupation, no more sanctions! □

STOP EVICTIONS!

Continued from page 1

authority — is what pushed the high court to deny renters the basic human right to affordable housing, here in this so-called “great democracy.” (The CDC moratorium did not protect homeowners behind in mortgage payments from foreclosure.)

As even this rotten court ruling acknowledges, Congress has the power to extend the eviction moratorium. But these capitalist politicians went on summer recess before taking action. They have done nothing to make the \$47 billion in the latest “stimulus” bill earmarked for renter assistance more accessible — only \$5 billion of it has been utilized.

President Joe Biden could extend the moratorium by executive order. It’s the sort of thing President Franklin D. Roosevelt often did, when the courts ruled against provisions of his New Deal. Biden would rather spend his time saber-rattling and threatening China.

The working class must use its power to keep people in their homes.

The Unemployed Councils in the 1930s, led by the Communist Party USA, were mass organizations that forcibly blocked countless evictions. When a family was

evicted and their belongings hauled to the curb, the Council would come and carry their possessions back into their home. Confrontational tactics also stopped farm foreclosures in this period.

In response to these militant struggles, moratoriums on foreclosures were enacted by 27 states. The Minnesota Mortgage Moratorium Act was upheld by SCOTUS in 1934 — not because the high court was progressive, but because it felt the mass pressure. That was a year of fierce class battles, including the famous San Francisco and Minneapolis general strikes.

**Labor must do more than make demands**

The threat of eviction is definitely a labor issue. The family in fear of homelessness could be that of a striking coal miner in Alabama or a striking nurse in Massachusetts.

Also consider the issue that is propelling union drives at Amazon — dangerous working conditions. An injured or COVID-afflicted Bessemer Amazon employee, now unable to work, could easily fall behind in their rent. Real estate barons from their own state led the suit against the CDC moratorium!

In its document “Priorities of the Labor Movement

to Address the Coronavirus,” the AFL-CIO presents a long list of progressive demands including, “Issue a moratorium on foreclosures, evictions and student loan defaults.” That is the right demand.

But what is the AFL-CIO prepared to do to win this? There is no strategy!

They might start by looking at the example set by some Detroit locals of the United Auto Workers, who have been assisting local groups in eviction defense for a number of years. What if the whole labor movement was given a directive: Mobilize to block evictions!

And how about a call for a general strike to demand the eviction moratorium be extended indefinitely and be expanded to cover all renters and homeowners in financial distress?

Enough is enough!

There is a housing crisis across the country, driven by skyrocketing rents and stagnant or falling wages, with millions of wage-earners still out of work.

Down with landlords and bankers — and their stooges in the Supreme Court! Not one more eviction! Housing is a human right! □

COVID-19
Socialist/progressive countries vs. capitalist?

By G. Dunkel

For a look at how the following figures were derived, given the difficulty of comparing data on COVID-19, see the article endnote.

On Aug. 26, CNN was running a short news report on the spike of COVID-19 in Florida, highlighting the 230 deaths that day from the virus. Suddenly, news anchor Don Lemon broke in: “There have been only three COVID deaths in China today, and it has 1.5 billion people.” Florida, according to the 2020 census, has 21.5 million people.

Lemon was obviously struck by this disparity. The question that his remark raises is broader: Are Florida’s COVID deaths unusual in this epidemic? Or are China’s?

There has been a serious struggle going on in the U.S. over how to respond to COVID, over interventions like masks, social distancing, hand washing, air purifiers and vaccinations. The factors influencing the spread and lethality of COVID are still being investigated.

One factor that doesn’t get a lot of attention is how the societies afflicted with COVID are organized, especially in their delivery of health care to their people.

According to the World Health Organization, as of Aug. 28 there have been 216 million cases of COVID and 4.49 million deaths worldwide. WHO admits there is a lot of imprecision in these figures. For example, some countries do very little testing, so their declared caseload is low. If there are multiple factors, such as a heart attack in a COVID patient, it can be difficult to decide which



Neighborhood health care is freely available in revolutionary Cuba.

ent countries — as imprecise as the figures are — will still get at real differences. For instance, a deliberate undercount of COVID deaths can be revealed when epidemiologists examine “excess deaths.”

So looking at two groups of countries can show remarkable differences in their response to COVID. One group consists of the United States, Brazil, India and the European Union, considered here as a country since it has a centralized statistical service for economic and health data.

The collective population of these capitalist countries, some of which are the most prosperous economies in the world, is over 2.65 billion. Since the beginning of the pandemic 18 months ago, they have recorded 128.5 million COVID cases and over 2.4 million COVID deaths. (These figures are from the end of August 2021.)

Press reports in June and July raised the question of whether India was undercounting COVID deaths by hundreds of thousands for a number of political reasons. But Worldometer and the Johns Hopkins Coronavirus

health problem caused the death.

But however imprecise the calculation of the pandemic death rate, at an official 2.08% of people who have contracted COVID-19, the disease is a much more serious illness than influenza, when the death rate is a fraction of 1%.

But comparing the death rates due to COVID between different

Resource Center appear to be sticking to the data India supplied to the World Health Organization.

Another group to be considered consists of countries which can broadly be called socialist, progressive or structured with planned economies — China, Vietnam, Cuba, Venezuela and Nicaragua. These countries are much poorer than the first group. Their total population is over 1.54 billion, about 1.1 billion fewer than the first group. Since the beginning of the pandemic 18 months ago, this group has recorded over 1.5 million COVID cases and 24,505 COVID deaths.

Even given the population difference, the difference in the number of those dying in the two sets of countries is dramatic — particularly if China’s enormous challenge in dealing with its large population is considered.

Even if the figures are not absolutely precise — given many factors including rapidly changing circumstances — they can still highlight the differences between how socialist and progressive countries care for and preserve the health of their citizens — and how capitalist countries fail the people who live under that exploitative system.

A note from the writer on the figures: “I created a spreadsheet using data from the following websites: [worldometers.info/coronavirus/](https://worldometers.info/coronavirus/), [statista.com/topics/5994/the-coronavirus-disease-covid-19-outbreak-and-coronavirus.jhu.edu/](https://statista.com/topics/5994/the-coronavirus-disease-covid-19-outbreak-and-coronavirus.jhu.edu/). For the EU, I used their statistical service [ecdc.europa.eu/en/covid-19/situation-updates/](https://ecdc.europa.eu/en/covid-19/situation-updates/). For the United States I used [covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/](https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/). For population figures I used data. [worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.TOTL?locations=1W](https://worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.TOTL?locations=1W). I also used the World Bank to get GDP figures for each of the countries included in the spreadsheet.”



# Entrevista con un economista argentino sobre Cuba

Continúa de la página 12

ha mantenido firme y sin titubeos en la defensa de la epopeya de la revolución cubana.

Pero también hay corrientes que son más dogmáticas y que han adoptado a mi juicio posiciones inadmisibles. Algunos dicen, por ejemplo, que en Cuba ya se reinstaló el capitalismo y que lo que estamos viendo es un ajuste neoliberal parecido al que se aplica en Chile, Colombia, Brasil, etc. Y con esta teoría les parece que hay que marchar en el mismo campo con las fuerzas derechistas [criticando al gobierno cubano].

**MH:** Recuerdo que Guillermo Almeyra decía “corrientes que nunca entendieron el problema del imperialismo”.

**CK:** Pero además con tantas experiencias que ya tenemos. Porque si marchás con fuerzas derechistas en contra de Cuba, no comprendo cómo de ahí va a surgir alguna vez un proyecto socialista. Es un misterio.

**MH:** La historia demuestra que eso no ocurrió.

**CK:** Justamente a eso voy. Ya tenemos la experiencia de lo ocurrido en décadas pasadas en Polonia, Alemania Oriental, Rusia. En vez de renovación del socialismo, lo que tuvimos es restauración pura del capitalismo. Yo creo que ese es un camino totalmente desvariado.

Hay otras corrientes con posiciones más “light” que plantean otra contradicción. Hay muchos pensadores que critican al gobierno cubano, a la posición burocrática pero, al mismo tiempo, dicen que no se restauró ahí el capitalismo. Entonces hay algo raro, porque ellos piensan que el capitalismo no se restableció solo en Cuba, en China se restableció el capitalismo, en Vietnam, en Rusia, etc. En un mundo de 200 países y 6.000 millones de habitantes, habría una isla con 10 millones de habitantes que sería el único caso de no restauración del capitalismo del planeta.

Si eso es así, yo creo que lo único que uno tiene que hacer es declarar su admiración infinita por Cuba y listo. Si es el único lugar del mundo que ha logrado sostener la bandera del socialismo, entonces más que ir a las marchas con los opositores lo que hay que hacer es felicitarlos y que traten de transmitirnos cuál es el remedio mágico que tienen para lograr algo así. Hay posturas muy contradictorias, muy inconsistentes.

### Medir los problemas en su contexto

**MH:** Hay problemas en Cuba. Independientemente de la posición de apoyo, hay problemas.

**CK:** Los problemas son gravísimos en Cuba, pero uno tiene que medir los problemas en relación al contexto en el que suceden. Cuba tiene terribles problemas económicos por un simple dato, en el país todas las divisas dependen del turismo, y obviamente un país sin turismo hoy en día, sin dólares, no puede comprar una computadora.

Cómo sobrevive hoy un país que no puede comprar una computadora. De algún lado tiene que sacar las divisas. Y de dónde las saca. No cabe duda que solo tiene el recurso del turismo y todos sabemos el efecto demoledor que tiene el turismo sobre un proyecto de igualdad social, de equidad.

Ellos tienen que manejarse en ese contexto, no tienen petróleo, tienen que buscarlo.

Tienen un problema agudo de alimentación, por errores de política económica, pero Cuba no es La Pampa húmeda, la porción cultivable de la isla es muy pequeña y la productividad agraria

es muy baja, es una sociedad altamente urbanizada. Son problemas de gran complejidad.

Yo siempre veo como una irresponsabilidad mayúscula el observarlo desde afuera, no colocarse en esa situación y opinar lo que habría que hacer. Porque si uno hace eso, inmediatamente choca con las restricciones [sanciones].

Por ejemplo, escuché a uno decir el otro día que Cuba tiene que eliminar el turismo. ¿De qué vive entonces? ¿Cómo obtiene los dólares necesarios para sostener la economía? Lo que no se pueden decir son disparates, emitir opiniones que son tan ajenas, tan vagas, tan desconectadas de la responsabilidad.

**MH:** Además con qué países tendríamos que comparar a Cuba.

**CK:** Claro. Cuba no es la Argentina, Cuba es una provincia pobre de la Argentina. Hay que sacarse el sombrero cuando una provincia pobre de la Argentina fabrica vacunas, está en lugares destacados en las Olimpiadas, y ha logrado el milagro de evitar el nivel de delincuencia que existe en cualquier país de la región. Ha logrado contener el narcotráfico. Y es víctima de su propio éxito porque generó una población altamente educada que tiene demandas acordes al Primer mundo sobre una economía del Tercer mundo.

Tiene que lidiar con esa contradicción y con una más compleja todavía que es que todos estamos acostumbrados a cuestionar el embargo, la intervención norteamericana, los atentados del imperialismo, pero la pregunta más compleja no es si podemos condenar eso, sino si Cuba tiene derecho a defenderse de esas amenazas. Y una vez que uno entiende que sí, que tiene derecho a defenderse, tiene que tomar conciencia de lo que está diciendo.

Porque cómo hace un país de 10 millones de habitantes para defenderse de las agresiones de la potencia mundial que, por ejemplo, acaba de devastar Afganistán. Cómo hace un David contra un Goliat para defenderse sin recursos y sin dinero. Es evidente que solo puede hacerlo introduciendo restricciones a los derechos que en otras circunstancias no regirían.

Hay que ser muy serios, muy cuidadosos con lo que se exige, demanda y proclama, como si estuviéramos no en un

Cuba: ningún otro país afrontó el Covid con una restricción tan brutal para adquirir alimentos, medicamentos y repuestos



lugar que está a 90 millas de Miami, sin ningún recurso para defenderse frente al monstruoso aparato de la CIA, sino en una lucha de equivalentes.

Yo creo que lo que tenemos que hacer, desde América Latina, fuera de Cuba, es tener muy claro que en primer lugar está la defensa, la solidaridad, nuestro sostén y nuestro apoyo que transita por el camino de abrir una brecha para la unidad latinoamericana que permita romper el bloqueo. Eso es lo que podemos hacer nosotros.

Podemos hacer demandas para que la Argentina rompa el bloqueo. Tenemos que exigir a [Presidente] Alberto Fernández que repita lo que acaba de hacer López Obrador, enviando un buque argentino con alimentos y medicinas en un acto de solidaridad con Cuba que al mismo tiempo establezca el principio de una unidad latinoamericana que si se llegara a consumir podría estructurar una política anti bloqueo donde Cuba podría recostarse en la región latinoamericana y salir de esa asfixia que le impone EEUU.

Dicho todo esto, yo he escrito y discutido en infinitas oportunidades sobre los problemas que tiene Cuba, pero siempre ubicado en el campo de la revolución. Eso es lo que primero que uno debe definir. Desde qué lugar va a cuestionar y promover transformaciones en el proceso político Cubano. Si ese lugar no está definido, se abre en el aire y no se sabe a quién uno apuntala con su prédica.

**MH:** Una última pregunta, que tiene que ver con la nueva camada de dirigentes cubanos. Problemas graves fueron enfrentados por la vieja camada de dirigentes, los marielitos, el período especial, ahora hay una nueva camada. ¿Estarán a la altura de las circunstancias?

**CK:** No lo sabemos. Y tenemos que juzgarlos con esta cautela que estoy proponiendo. Yo creo que hay una nueva generación en la dirección y también en el pueblo cubano, que tiene otras inquietudes, eso es absolutamente cierto. Pero creo que uno

puede estar en contacto a través de internet con distintas expresiones políticas de Cuba y hay un panorama muy amplio, de opiniones y visiones distintas que recrean en Cuba las cuestiones que tenemos aquí o en otros lados.

### Los cubanos apuestan por la revolución

He visto con interés que transcurrido un mes de las marchas en Cuba, los balances son bastante interesantes, todos recogen la existencia de un malestar, al mismo tiempo muchos subrayan que el grueso de la población apuesta a la revolución cubana.

Hay una ficción cuando se dice que [las marchas del 11 de julio] son las primeras grandes marchas de las últimas décadas, como si todas las marchas que hace el pueblo cubano para conmemorar sus gestas, fueran marchas que no valen. Solo las que convocan una oposición se cuentan y las demás no valen.

Es un criterio un poquito raro cuando se dice “el gobierno no debe convocar marchas”. El gobierno tiene todo el derecho a convocar a marchas y los que están con la revolución tienen todo el derecho a expresarse.

Hay que observar, analizar y, sobre todo, tener en cuenta que hay un acervo de pensamiento socialista presente en la isla, que es muy rico y que se lo observa cuando uno ve el tipo de análisis que se están haciendo en estos momentos.

Yo aposteo a que esta generación esté a la altura de las generaciones anteriores, por un hecho, Cuba es siempre la sorpresa. A lo largo de mi vida he escuchado tantas veces diagnósticos pesimistas sobre Cuba, sobre cuándo iba a ser el fin de la revolución y el transcurso del tiempo nos ha sorprendido a todos con resultados muy opuestos a los presagios mayoritarios. Esta pista de resultados positivos e innovadores puede volver a emerger en Cuba y eso sería una gran noticia para todo el pueblo latinoamericano. □

# Alex Saab remains defiant

By Roger Harris

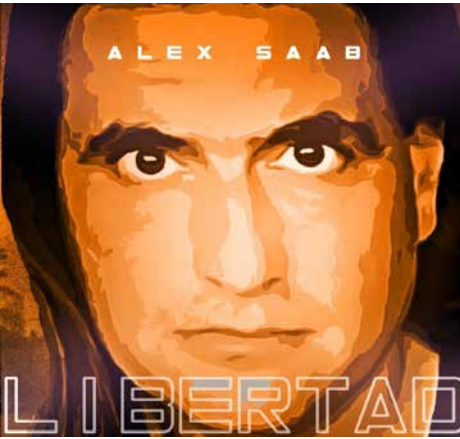
*These are the opening paragraphs of an Aug. 26 update on the struggle to free Alex Saab, published in Resumen Latinoamericano. See Alex Saab’s own letter on his struggle, ‘No retreat, No surrender!’ in Workers World, Aug. 23. (workers.org/2021/08/58518/)*

Venezuelan diplomat Alex Saab remains defiant after over 14 months under U.S.-ordered arrest in the African archipelago country of Cabo Verde. A special envoy of the Venezuelan government, he is fighting extradition to the U.S. for the “crime” of trying to procure humanitarian supplies of food, fuel and medicine from Iran in violation of illegal U.S. sanctions. To date, Saab’s legal

appeals for freedom have been either denied, rejected or ignored as his extradition to the U.S. is becoming increasingly imminent.

Saab continues to fight this flagrant attempt of extraterritorial judicial overreach by the U.S. In response to Saab’s recent appeal to the U.S. 11th Circuit Court, the U.S. filed on Aug. 24 an application for an extension to reply on Oct. 7. This legal delaying tactic is likely a U.S. ploy to allow Saab’s pending extradition without recognizing his diplomatic immunity.

Under the Geneva Conventions, a credentialed diplomat such as Saab has absolute immunity from arrest, even in the time of war. The U.S. does not recognize Saab’s diplomatic status — as if Washington has the authority to qualify who other



countries may choose and receive as their ambassadors. ...

For the complete Resumen article on Saab’s case, see [tinyurl.com/vhds35s](https://tinyurl.com/vhds35s).





FOTO: VENCEREMOS BRIGADE

**Coalición Cuba Sí de NY/NJ celebró su octava caravana de automóviles para decir 'Cuba sí, bloqueo no!' El 29 de agosto en la ciudad de Nueva York.**

## ¡La vivienda es un derecho!

*Boletín, 31 de agosto: El Centro para el Control de Enfermedades (CDC siglas en inglés), anunció que la moratoria de desalojo se extendería otros 60 días en partes del país con “niveles sustanciales y altos de transmisión comunitaria” — alrededor del 90% de los EE.UU. Pero el 26 de agosto el Tribunal Supremo de Estados Unidos dictaminó la anulación de la moratoria de desahucios del CDC, poniendo a millones de familias en riesgo de desahucio.*

Tener un techo sobre la cabeza es un derecho humano fundamental.

La Declaración Universal de los Derechos Humanos de la ONU de 1948, complementada por posteriores convenios internacionales, reconoce el derecho a “una alimentación, un vestido y una vivienda adecuados”. Se supone que los países miembros deben respetar esta carta. Sin embargo, incluso en países capitalistas desarrollados como Estados Unidos, millones de personas carecen de vivienda.

Las filas de los desamparados están a punto de aumentar debido al fin de la moratoria federal de desahucios el 31 de julio. Puesta en vigor por los Centros de Control y Prevención de Enfermedades en septiembre y prorrogada varias veces, la moratoria mantuvo a millones de hogares protegidos.

Ahora, unos 3,6 millones piensan que es probable que se queden sin vivienda en los próximos dos meses, según la Encuesta del Pulso de los Hogares de la Oficina del Censo, que hace un seguimiento del impacto de la pandemia. Más del doble

de esa cifra declaró haberse retrasado en el pago del alquiler. Los desalojos crearían una emergencia de salud pública, con personas obligadas a vivir en refugios abarrotados, especialmente con el aumento de los casos de COVID a medida que se extiende la variante delta.

“La moratoria ha protegido a los inquilinos en apuros del desahucio, tanto si vivían en una vivienda pública como privada, siempre que pudieran demostrar que habían perdido ingresos durante la pandemia, que habían intentado obtener ayuda para el alquiler y que habían hecho un esfuerzo por pagar la mayor cantidad de renta posible”, explicaba el New York Times el 31 de julio. “Para muchos inquilinos y defensores, la expiración tiene un golpe especialmente doloroso porque sólo se ha distribuido una pequeña fracción de la ayuda al alquiler aprobada por el Congreso”.

De los \$47.000 millones de dólares en ayudas al alquiler aprobadas por el Congreso, sólo se han distribuido \$3.000 millones. Muchos de los que cumplían los requisitos para recibir la ayuda al alquiler

debido a las dificultades económicas relacionadas con la pandemia, pero no pudieron acceder a la ayuda, ahora deben alquileres atrasados que no pueden pagar. Sin embargo, el presidente Joe Biden se negó el 29 de julio a prorrogar la moratoria.

**Mientras se avecinan desalojos masivos, los demócratas entran en receso**

Al expirar la moratoria, los congresistas Cori Bush, Ilhan Omar y Ayanna Pressley durmieron en las escaleras del Capitolio durante la noche para llamar la atención sobre el problema. Condenaron a los congresistas, incluidos los demócratas, que se fueron de receso de verano en lugar de quedarse el tiempo suficiente para extender la suspensión de los desalojos.

No todo el mundo quiere que se mantenga la moratoria de los desahucios. Poderosos propietarios y organizaciones como la Asociación Nacional de Agentes Inmobiliarios presentaron demandas y ejercieron presión para tratar de poner fin a la moratoria antes del 31 de julio. Los senadores republicanos Pat Toomey y Mike Crapo recibieron \$183.000 y \$281.000 dólares, respectivamente, de grupos inmobiliarios; ambos hablaron en el Congreso contra la moratoria el pasado diciembre.

Multimillonarios como Jeff Bezos están obteniendo beneficios récord obscenos; el mercado de valores está en auge y el producto interior bruto se acerca a los niveles prepandémicos. Pero 9,5 millones de personas, según la Oficina de



**Protesta contra el fin de la moratoria federal de desahucios, 21 de julio, Miami.**

## Entrevista con un economista argentino sobre Cuba

por Mario Hernández / Claudio Katz

*Entrevista con Claudio Katz, de Economistas de Izquierda (EDI). Publicado por lahaine.org el 25 de agosto.*

**Mario Hernández:** Hace unos días escribiste “Cuba inclina la balanza de América Latina”. (lahaine.org/eB8H)

**Claudio Katz:** El punto de partida de ese análisis es la hazaña de Cuba porque no hay que perder de vista que después de tantas décadas han logrado mantener el proyecto revolucionario en medio de la adversidad, del aislamiento y de los complots.

Y lógicamente que el país haya tenido manifestaciones es bastante lógico, en un escenario de derrumbe de la economía, de pandemia, agravado en el caso de Cuba por el bloqueo [de EEUU]. Que no es un dato más. Ningún otro país afrontó el Covid con una restricción tan brutal para adquirir alimentos, medicamentos, repuestos, tiene que pagar costos y fletes o seguros altísimos.

**MH:** Es interesante el lugar que le das en esa nota al bloqueo. Porque algunos lo pasan de largo.

**CK:** Yo no creo que el bloqueo sea un

problemita más que afronta un país. Es un caso único, de una pequeña economía de una pequeña isla sofocada por una primera potencia que le impide comerciar.

Hay un cálculo que dice que en seis décadas de bloqueo, las pérdidas superan los 145.000 millones de dólares, porque Cuba tiene que pagar tres veces los fletes marítimos que cualquier otro país. Está obligada a endeudarse en forma adicional para poder comerciar.

Me parece que en ese escenario, es llamativo lo que ha logrado Cuba. No solo soportando pérdida de divisas, retracción del turismo, el impacto de la pandemia, así y todo tuvo en este momento dos logros insólitos, los avances en la vacuna Soberana, el primer país latinoamericano en producirla, además es el país latinoamericano, luego de Brasil, con más logros en el medallero de las Olimpiadas de Tokio.

En estas condiciones a mí me parece que Cuba divide aguas, en primer lugar en el progresismo hay dos corrientes, una corriente progresista que adoptó una postura de solidaridad y eso ha sido muy interesante, con [Presidente mexicano Andrés Manuel] López Obrador López Obrador y otros presidentes que frente al hecho de

Cuba, tomaron actitudes de defensa del país, envío de barcos con alimentos y medicinas, incluso declarándola como patrimonio histórico de la humanidad.

Yo creo que se creó una reacción defensiva frente a la agresión de EEUU y a esto se sumó Perú. El grupo de Lima [de regímenes proimperialistas latinoamericanos] se quedó sin Lima y Perú se sumó a un proyecto de reconstruir la CELAC, recomponer la UNASUR y retomar el tema Cuba como punto de partida para un proyecto de sustitución de la OEA. Esa es la corriente progresista.

Pero hay otra corriente del progresismo que giró a la derecha de manera escandalosa, por ejemplo, los intelectuales que firmaron una carta atacando a CLACSO [Consejo Latinoamericano de Ciencias Sociales] por no criticar lo suficiente al gobierno cubano, hay nombres de gente muy conocida por nosotros.

**MH:** Menciona los, Claudio, por favor.

**CK:** Pablo Stefanoni y Horacio Tarcus, por ejemplo [desde Argentina]. Ambos firmaron esa carta. Y después hay gente que le parece que ya no tenemos que hablar tanto del imperialismo, que no tenemos



FOTO: COHA

**Una exitosa campaña de solidaridad envió 6 millones de jeringas a Cuba para apoyar el esfuerzo de vacunación COVID-19 del país.**

que idealizar la “novela cubana”. Creo que hay una fuerte presión de la sociedad en democracia dentro de la intelectualidad cubana y el papel que juegan tradicionalmente las ONG en estas condiciones.

**Dos corrientes sobre Cuba**

**MH:** Entonces hay una corriente de solidaridad con Cuba y una que se amoldó a la derecha.

**CK:** Y en la izquierda, me parece que también hemos visto una divisoria de aguas. Yo creo que la mayoría de la izquierda en la región, en América Latina se

*Continúa en la página 11*