Free abortion on demand for ALL genders!

By Ted Kelly

The writer (she/her) is a transgender lesbian in Philadelphia.

The Texas abortion ban — which went into effect Sept. 1 with U.S. Supreme Court approval — was a declaration of war against everyone oppressed on the basis of their gender.

But if we’re going to fight this war and win it, we need to be clear on who our allies are — and who they aren’t.

Dr. Alan Braid, an obstetrician in San Antonio, Texas, has distinguished himself as the first health care worker to announce he has already violated the state’s anti-abortion law. According to Braid, he “saw three teenagers die from illegal abortions,” prior to the 1973 Roe vs. Wade Supreme Court ruling that legalized access to abortion under certain conditions.

Now, nearly 50 years since Braid began his practice, he said, “I acted because I had a duty of care to this patient, as I do for all patients, and because she has a fundamental right to receive this care.” (tinyurl.com/4tk7sxs2)

Braid must know that by making this announcement, he is risking not only his career but his life. There has been organized, deadly anti-abortion violence for decades since Roe, including bombings and mass shootings in health care clinics and multiple assassinations of abortion providers. Braid has been brave; hopefully, his action indicates more health care workers will throw down in support of abortion rights, too.

Why is abortion access still in danger?

Why was the Texas legislature allowed to make this attack now? Why does abortion access in this country hinge on a half-century-old court ruling? The specter of “overturning” Roe vs. Wade has been held over the heads of voters for as long as I have been alive. Why hasn’t the right to safe, legal abortion been codified by legislation?

To grasp why abortion rights have been kept in this precarious legal territory, two concepts are key: class and the state.

The capitalist state is a structure based on centuries-old notions of free markets and great men striding onto battlefields to make history, of violent white European chauvinism and unwavering misogyny. The United States originated in the assumption that women and all Black people are chattels, to be owned and controlled and exploited like livestock, and that Indigenous people had no rights to their lands, societies and even their lives.

This founding racist assumption is inextricably linked to the struggle for
Demonstrations will take place Oct. 2 in every state and Washington, D.C., to demand access to legal abortions, now under fierce right-wing attack. Ninety organizations have joined the call to mobilize to defend this basic right before the Supreme Court’s term begins Oct. 4, when it will be challenged. Their determined message to the Court and the states is: “We won’t tolerate this attack on our reproductive rights.”

Workers World supports these actions and the activists who are waging the struggle to maintain legal abortions, while fighting back against the racism and misogyny inherent in the anti-abortion “movement,” and their gov- ernment allies. This bigotry is illuminated in restrictive laws and state repression directed against people who are low-income, Black, Latinx, Indigenous and immigrants. WW newspaper has covered every aspect of this struggle since the early 1970s. Our volunteer staff members have been active participants in it and have written firsthand reports and analysis.

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

As of Sept. 1, the state of Texas began enforcing the most restrictive law since 1973. It denies abortion access for the vast majority of those seeking the procedure. Senate Bill 8 allows abortions only in the earliest stage of pregnancy, which leaves out 85% of those seeking the procedure. It denies abortion access for the women and girls seeking to end unwanted pregnancies. They have made inroads in many states and are bolder than ever. Their ultimate goal: the overturn of Roe and national prohibition of abortions.

Workers World Party is a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist party inside the belly of the imperialist beast. We are a multinationals, multinationalization, and multigendered organiza- tion 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 atrocity, racism and repres- sion, attacks on im/migrants, misogyny, LGBTQ2S+ oppression and mistreatment of people with disabili- ties. It means joblessness, increasing homelessness and oppression and mistreatment of people with disabili- ties. It means joblessness, increasing homelessness and oppression and mistreatment of people with disabili- ties. It means joblessness, increasing homelessness and oppression and mistreatment of people with disabili- ties. It means joblessness, increasing homelessness and oppression and mistreatment of people with disabili- ties. It means joblessness, increasing homelessness and oppression and mistreatment of people with disabili- ties. It means joblessness, increasing homelessness and oppression and mistreatment of people with disabili-

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, multigendered and multigenerational working class. It is time to point the blame at— and chal- lenge—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 capi- talist profits. The wealth workers create should be socially owned and its distribution planned to satisfy and guaran- tees 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.

Workers World depends on you. The WW Supporter Program was founded 44 years ago to help build this revolutionary socialist paper. Since the early 1990s, the fund has supported the workers.org website where WW articles are posted daily and the PDF file of the weekly issue is displayed. The newspaper is now being printed and mailed out once a month.

For annual donations of $60, $120 or $350, or more, members receive a year’s subscription, letters about timely issues and one, two or three free subscriptions, respec- tively, to give to friends. Supporters can receive the book, “What road to socialism?” (Notify us.) Or read it for free at workers.org/books.

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Thank you for supporting Workers World.

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

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Editors: John Catalinotto, Martha Grevatt, Deirdre Griswold, Monica Moorehead, Bettie Pettey, Minnie Bruce Pratt

Web Editors: Al Alvar, Harvey Markowitz, Janet Hayes

Prisoners Page Editors: Mirinda Crisman, Ted Kelly

Production & Design Editors: Garry Armesby, Mirinda Crisman, Ted Kelly, Sasha Mamanzer, Scott Williams

Contributing Editors: Lei-Lani Dowell, G. Dunkel, K. Durkin, Sara Flounders, Theresa Gutierrez, Joshua Hans, Makasi Motema, Gloria Rubac

Workers Obrero: Teresa Gutierrez, Carlos Vargas

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Women gymnasts expose FBI complicity in abuse scandal

By Monica Moorehead

The nightmare that began with U.S. women gymnasts, both prominent and unknown, who were allegedly molested as young girls by USA Gymnastics former national team doctor Larry Nassar, did not come to an end in 2018. The horror was once again conjured up in the most excruciatingly painful manner Sept. 17 at a Senate Judiciary Committee meeting in Washington, D.C.

Four U.S. gymnasts, Olympic gold medalists Simone Biles, Aly Raisman and McKayla Maroney along with National College Athletic Association champion Maggie Nichols, provided heart-wrenching testimonies to the FBI, as well as USA Gymnastics and the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee, to take seriously their proven allegations against Larry Nassar, the man who paid roughly $30,000 per Met Gala ticket. The slogan highlights the corrupt bosses. This is barefaced exploitation, yet no one dare challenge it.

Some workers may own a house or even a car. However we do not own the land, tools, factories and other means to create products the workers they employ produce. The capitalist class keeps all the wealth accumulated for themselves, reinvesting some back into the productive cycle. They kick down scraps for the workers, just enough for us to survive and return to work day-after-day. Workers produce all the wealth in society only to have it expropriated by the bosses. This is barefaced exploitation, yet without it capitalist could not exist.

Women’s soccer player wins Equal pay, Equal pay

By Martha Grevatt

Discrimination on the basis of sex has been illegal since the 1964 Civil Rights Act was passed. Yet somehow, in the world of sports, gender equity is almost nonexistent. Women’s National Basketball Association athletes make a fraction of what NBA male players are paid.

While the income gap has narrowed substantially in tennis, with major Grand Slam tournaments such as Wimbledon and the U.S. Open paying winners equal prize money, other major sports often still perpetuate inequality. It took decades of pressure from star players like Venus Williams and Billie Jean King to reduce the disparities.

A federal judge ruled earlier this year against women soccer players who sued the United States Soccer Federation in 2016 over disparities between player’s wages or raising consumer prices. The only way for workers and oppressed people to change our relationship to the means of production, to empower ourselves in a meaningful way — is to organ- ize for socialist revolution and overturn private property relations.

If we are to demand the rich pay their “fair share,” that means taking back their wealth and private property and returning it to the workers who collectively produced it.
By Lyn Neeley
Portland, Ore.

September 19—Striking Nabisco workers at six locations across the country demanded better terms in their new contract offer by the owners, Mondelēz International. However, the overwhelming majority expressed by strikers in Portland was a resound- ing “No!”

Mike Burlingham, vice president of Portland’s Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers International Union Local 364 told this reporter, “Their contract is the first step in dividing workers.” The new contract will allow “Monster- lez” to deny overtime pay to workers on regular 12-hour shifts, work through the weekend, and force them to work on weekends. These less desirable shifts will punish newer workers and could sow division between junior and senior workers.

Every worker at Portland’s Nabisco plant walked out Aug. 17 at 7:45 a.m., striking 24/7 picket line to include Portland city commission- ers, celebrities and workers from dozens of unions. The huge show of unity helped force the company to concede some benefits: no change in their health insurance, a raise and an increase in disability benefits. But Portland strikers urged Nabisco workers in all locations to reject the contract.

Sharon, who worked at the company for 53 years said at a Sept. 18 rally, “the com- pany is so sneaky and dirty, trying to pull things off behind our backs.”

Mondelēz tried to give some workers bonuses directly instead of bargaining with the union. Sharon explained that workers at the company believe they are always a team that took pride in our work. The company is destroy- ing that feeling of comradery. Every time you divide people, you make us weaker.”

Solidarity, local and global

Portland’s professional women’s soccer team, the Thorns, and the Portland Timbers FC, at the time of the strike, said, “We’re here because you guys are fighting a lot of the same battles we are,” said player Emily Menges. She was referring to the U.S. Women’s National Soccer Team’s current fight for salaries equal to the Men’s National Team. She added, “When professional athletes and factory workers at a bakery in North Portland can find common cause, I gotta tell you, we’re going to be fighting for the striking miners.

“Those ladies are kick ass,” said Burlingham. “They marched the length of Columbia [3 blocks] and stood out to help transport supplies to the pantry. To pick up the food, I met miner Braxton W., auxiliary members Sherry and Leslie and chil- dren at Grace Klein Community/Feed BHM on Old Rocky Ridge Road in Birmingham. Tons of donated food flow through that distribution center to the 14% of Alabama’s people who face hunger—including the striking miners.

We packed flats of bread, canned peas and peaches, boxes of dried raisins and cranberries, snack bars, cake mixes, frozen pizzas and much more. We also delivered a supply of fireworks and a 53-year said at a Sept. 18 rally, “the com- pany needs your solidarity and support as they continue their long haul: Huenen Burleson @UWMAstrikePantry on Paypal.

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Carpenters strikers in Seattle, Sept. 15.

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Battle for the Atlanta forest not over

By Dianne Mathiowetz
Atlanta

Let me tell you the story about how a small group of wealthy and powerful corporate leaders, known as the Atlanta Police Foundation, grabbed city-owned, heavily forested park land for a massive police urban-warfare training center.

Much of the wheeling and dealing occurred in secret with the proposal only made public June 7, when Atlanta City Council member Joyce Shepherd introduced the “Cop City” ordinance. It authorized a 50-year lease of 38 acres of previously designated green space at $10 a year to the private Atlanta Police Foundation to build a $90-million police training facility.

Neighboring communities of mostly Black and low-income residents on the southside of Atlanta were shocked and horrified to learn that there would be multiple gun ranges, areas for deploying explosive devices like tear gas, flash-bangs and other toxic weapons.

The plan included a helicopter portal, a tactical driving course and a mock city, complete with apartment buildings, stores and a gas station where crowd control, surveillance and SWAT-style tactics would be perfected. Plus a burning tower where firefighters would train. In addition, classroom buildings, dorms and lots of concrete parking lots. The plan would require the cutting down of thousands of substantial trees, cutting down of the forest itself.

If some alert organizations and individuals had not been paying attention to the goings-on at Atlanta’s finance committee meetings, this theft of public land could have been accomplished easily. The Police Foundation leadership from Delta, Home Depot, Coca Cola and Cox Enterprises, owner of the Atlanta Journal Constitution, certainly never intended to engage the public.

Fortunately what happened was an explosion of organized resistance that started small—mostly by politically and environmentally conscious youth—but grew into a large, vocal opposition that forced repeated delays in a final Council vote. Every nearby neighborhood association, environmental and conservation groups, radical youth, left political organizations, legal experts and community groups focused on prison conditions, voting, gentrification, education and youth services had a hand in mobilizing opposition.

City Council meetings are held virtually, so hours and hours of recorded public comments, upward of 17 to 20 hours, heavily opposed to the “Cop City,” had to be played. Some of the small minority who wrote in-person support were reported.

The proposal lived in Buckhead, an extremely rich area on Atlanta’s northside. Their repeated reason for supporting “Cop City” was to stop the increase in violence and property crime in their neighborhood, even though the facility would not be operational for a few years.

Potential of more repression, environmental disaster

Some opponents raised the destruction and erasure of the remnants of the historic Old Atlanta Prison Farm, where for decades mostly Black incarcerated workers laboured under brutal Jim Crow.

Many disputed any notion that the militarized techniques wouldn’t be primarily used on people of color, particularly youth. It was not lost on DeKalb County residents that the land in question was in unincorporated DeKalb County, so they had no say about what Atlanta wanted to do with it.

In another glaring legal contradiction, the whole forest had been designated as a green space in perpetuity by a 2017 City Council ordinance.

In a heavily bankrolled public relations campaign, the Police Foundation declared that the training facility was key to “making Atlanta safe” by raising the morale of police and making recruiting additional personnel easier. It downplayed all the training of military-style weaponry and counterinsurgency tactics by saying the academy would be named the “Institute of Social Justice.”

Like many cities, Atlanta saw large continuous demonstrations following the death of George Floyd by Minneapolis police, in the summer of 2020, and again when police killed Raynard Brooks in a southsiders neighborhood of Atlanta. Large numbers of protesters were arrested; tear gas and clubs were used to disperse marchers.

Efforts to redline city funding from police budgets to mental health services, affordable housing or job training were defeated by the same Council members who a year ago voted to support Cop City with an anticipated $30-million portion to be paid out of tax dollars. Ignoring the overwhelming community opposition to the urban warfare training center, on Sept. 8 the Atlanta City Council voted to approve “Cop City.”

Many of the organization members who had canvassed door to door in the adjacent neighborhoods, heldnumerous demonstrations, organized public meetings, distributed thousands of leaflets and lawn signs and phonebanked were, of course, disappointed and angry but also determined that the fight is not over.

It is likely that, if funds are found and environmental studies remain to be done before construction can begin. Other direct actions are contemplated. Moreover, every City Council seat is up for election in November, as well as the Atlanta Police Foundation, which owns the property.

The story to STOP COP CITY is not over. The fight to abolish the racist enforcers of class rule is on. Will you join?

No cop city!

Philly rally for Ant Smith

By Marie Kelly
Philadelphia

The Philadelphia community came out Sept. 19 to show support for beloved activist and educator, Anthony (“Ant”) Smith. Organized by the Ant Smith Defense Committee, the rally and fund raiser, under the banner “Free the Bile: A Jewn For Ant” (jawn is Philly slang for a person, place, or thing) was held in Malcolm X Park in West Philadelphia.

Smith faces trumped-up federal charges stemming from the uprisings last summer, following the Minneapolis police murder of George Floyd. Smith’s arrest took place within days of the Philadelphia police murder of Walter Wallace Jr. in October 2020.

The rally included music and performances, food provided by Food Not Bombs Solidarity and vendors from the community selling T-shirts, jewelry and water ice. A crowd of over 100 people listened to speakers who included members of Ant’s family, fellow activists and his colleagues from the school where he is a teacher.

Others cited the potential devastating damage by heavy metals from exploded armaments to the air and water quality of Entrenchment Creek and the South River. Both waterways run through the area and are necessary to waterfront and other wildlife.

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The story to STOP COP CITY is not over. The fight to abolish the racist enforcers of class rule is on. Will you join?

That realization was equally motivating and exciting. My understanding of what I could not do, this is not how anyone should live their life. Working our life away in order to make the 1% richer is not what the majority of us dreamed about as children.

So many of us of color are making not only ourselves better, but the world better. However, due to the exploitative nature of capitalism, it is likely that the ability to make a meaningful impact on the world.

Even as far as day-to-day lives, how many people have missed out on their child’s first steps, learning a new language, mastering a new recipe to cook for dinner or discovering their hidden talent for break dancing?

Capitalism and the long weeks we have to work prevent people from getting the most out of life.

This epiphany highlighted for me just how necessary a working-class revolution is. As bad as I think I have it, there are millions of workers not just in the U.S. but around the world working 50-, 60-, 70-hour weeks and often more, in the most horrific conditions.

The capitalists we are wage-slaving for are having brunches, sailing on yachts and traveling to outer space. All the while they are saying meaningless platitudes such as, “Well, we all have the same 24 hours”

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It’s past time for us as workers to rectify that reality, that we in the present and also future generations all have the same 24 hours, and it should be a right, fluuous meetings, the long complex spreadsheets, the bitter dose of reality set in. At 9:00 a.m. on Monday,

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Philadelphia

For decades the toxic water and environment at Pennsylvania’s SCI Fayette prison has poisoned and killed incarcerated people inside. A rally to raise awareness to call for the shutdown of SCI Fayette was held Sept. 19, outside Philadelphia’s historic Eastern State Penitentiary, birthplace of the modern U.S. prison system.

The event, attended by around 30 people, was organized by the Human Rights Coalition PA. The rally raised the health impacts of toxic coal ash, as well as frack-waste and the link between environmental justice and prison abolition.

While coal mines have closed, fracking for natural gas has taken their place as a major environmental hazard.

Opened in 2003, SCI Fayette in LaBelle, Pa., was built on a Coal Refuse Deposit Area bordering a coal ash dump. It is situated amid a massive toxic waste dump with around “40 million tons of waste coal slurry ponds and millions of cubic yards of coal combustion waste,” according to the Abolitionist Law Center, which began investigating the facility in 2013 after receiving reports of high rates of cancers and deaths among both inmates and guards.

Realty speakers described how incarcerated people in the facility and prison staff reported chronic sore throats; throat swelling; headaches; dizziness; vision problems; stomach pain; sores; cysts; and tumors in their mouths, noses and throats and on their skin. Many were diagnosed with thyroid cancer, as were residents near nearby town of LaBelle.

In the 18 years since the prison opened, the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections reacted to incarcerated people’s reports of cancer chapters by moving them to other state facilities to die.

Letters from people incarcerated at SCI Fayette read at the rally laid bare how the isolating conditions during the COVID-19 shutdown have made conditions worse. Other speakers described how prisoners reported having to wash with contaminated water, which left them feeling like their skin was on fire. Speakers included people formerly incarcerated at SCI Fayette.

Dana Lomax-Williams, with the Delaware County chapter of the Coalition to Abolish Death by Incarceration, denounced the conditions at SCI Fayette as “the worst on earth,” and called on the Abolitionist Law Center and the newly formed Philadelphia Jericho Movement urged activists to get involved with the struggle.

Teddie Kelly with Workers World Party described the historic collusion between the prison system and the capitalist state. She noted that when white workers lost jobs after the mines closed, they frequently migrated to major cities like Philadelphia for work. Eventually employment in coal mines in rural areas was replaced by jobs in prisons. Later, many Black and Brown workers in major urban areas, who lost jobs due to globalization and the consequent offshoring of jobs, ended up incarcerated in these same rural prisons.

Philadelphia’s first Curbfest for political prisoners

By Betsy Piette

Philadelphia

Philadelphia’s first Curbfest for Political Prisoners, held in the city’s Germantown neighborhood Sept. 19, featured local DJs, performers, artists, multiple information and vendor tables about political prisoners and organizations working for their release. Curbfest events are planned for other cities in the U.S.

The event coincided with the designation of 2022 as the Year to Free Political Prisoners.” Eight separate named stations set up in and around Tubman Park (formerly Vernon Park) included portraits of Jonathan Jackson, Delbert Africa, Sekou Kambui, Carl Hampton, Saffiya Bukhari, Marilyn Buck and Nehanda Aburdan — all in reference to political prisoners who have given their lives for the struggle.

At tables throughout the event, people could pick up palms cards with information on several political prisoners including Mumia Abu-Jamal, Russell Maroon Shoats, Sundaiata Acoli, Imam Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin, Leonard Peltier, Rachell Cinqe Magee and many more. A complete list and information on 28 political prisoners is available on curbfest.com and via #Curbfest.

Young people were encouraged to visit the separate event sites to broaden their awareness of U.S. political prisoners — defined by Curbfest as “people jailed for charges related to their resistance to oppression and repression and targeted by the state for their political beliefs and/ or actions. The contributions their resist- ance makes to revolution is the basis of their capture, regardless of the charges brought under the invalid, racist laws of the government.”

Political prisoners, having served decades imprisoned, in some cases in solitary confinement, are experiencing serious health crises, leading activists to push for their compassionate release.

Today’s event was seen as part of a lead-up to the Oct. 22-23 International Tribunal in New York City for the Spirit of Mandela campaign to bring international attention to U.S. violations of the human rights of U.S.-held political prisoners.
Palestinian prisoners recaptured

By Susan Abulhawa

On Sept. 6, millions around the world celebrated as news spread that six Palestinian political prisoners had liber- 
ated themselves from Gilboa, a maxi-
mum-security Israeli concentration camp in the West Bank. For six months, with nothing but spoons and their bare hands, Yaqoub Qadri, Mahmoud Abdullah al-Arida, Muhammad Qassem al-Arida, Zakariah Zubedi, Ayham Kamamji and Munadil Infaat tunneled through to the surface and made their escape. While Kamamji and Infaat remain free and on the run, al-Arida, Qadri, al-Arida and Zubedi have since been recaptured by Israeli occupation forces. Israeli soldiers assaulted Zubeidi so severely that he is rumored, despite Israeli deni-
als, to be in a hospital in critical condi-
tion. The following article first appeared on www.aljazeera.com/

For four days, Palestinians in- 
side Palestine and living in exile in the dias-
pora were euphoric. In an act of extrava-

tant creativity and determination, six 
Palestinian political prisoners tun-

nelled their way out of an Israeli maxi-
mum-security prison.

It was presumed they did so with a spoon, as they would have had no other tools. Certainly, they had no heavy machinery typically necessary for such a feat. The tunnel openings were exceed-

ingly narrow, leaving everyone baffled how six grown men were able to pass through them.

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The passage to freedom

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They want to reflect the heavy weight of 
them onto all of our hearts and let defeat and depression set in, as it seems to be doing. They want our deflation to be as big or bigger than our initial celebration.

They want to erase from our minds the knowledge that six defenseless, emaciated men, with nothing but perhaps a spoon, shook the colonial Zionist project to its 
core. It terrifies them that we could col-
lectively contemplate the depths of hope and determination that propelled those six heroes to accomplish what everyone assumed was impossible.

Because if we did truly ruminate on that primal impulse for freedom, on the boundless hope in the heart of every rev-
nolutionary and fighter, we might find our own individual and collective power. We might begin to understand that nothing is impossible, and freedom is within our reach. We might begin to organize a collective system to protect the remaining two — Ayham and Munadil — to keep them free and alive and encour-

age more defiance and resistance.

We might rise up to rid our-

selves of the treacherous and ille-

gitimate regime of Mahmoud Abbas and install a revolutionary leadership, willing to protect its own people, instead of protecting those who occupy, rob and oppress Palestinians.

The blow they dealt 
cannot be undone.

Our brave political prisoners knew the risks they were taking. This is what revolutionaries do. They would rather fight than capit-
ulate. No matter what happens

now, what they did cannot be undone. The blow they dealt to “Israel” cannot be undone. They sacrificed so much to give us all hope. How dare we now give in to depression and the sense of defeat?

It was not defeat or depression that 
motivated them to spend sleepless hours 
digging a massive tunnel without ade-
quate tools. It certainly was not a belief 
in Israel’s carefully cultivated perception of omnipotence.

The least we can do to honor them is to carry forth the torch of hope and the impulse for liberation that surely were at the heart of their heroism. We can solid-
ify our defiance and refuse to live for-
ever exiled or captive on our knees. We can understand that nothing is impossi-
ble, including ending this cruel Zionist regime. In the face of the horrors we know those heroic political prisoners are now facing, we have no right to defeat or defeat at this hour. We can be certain that is not what they sought to inspire in us.

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Susan Abulhawa is a Palestinian writer 
and member of Workers World Party.

After 90 miles

‘Long March for No New Prisons and Jails’ arrives in Boston

By Myia X and Phebe Eckfeldt

Sept. 13—Today, a 90-mile march, the “Long March for No New Prisons and Jails,” ended at the Massachusetts State House with 100 abolitionists and supporters rallying and holding a press conference. The marchers demanded a moratorium on prison building.

“Down the Walls! Housing, daycare, educa-
tion combined,” said Andrea James, executive speaker demanded a moratorium on prison building. The state spends more on prisons than on health care and jobs — all the elements that are required for a productive and satisfactory life. We walk to raise the alarm that Governor Charlie Baker is trying to build a new, $50-million women’s prison or invest as much in renovating and expanding the women’s prison at Framingham, where currently less than 150 women are provided to her. “They raised me, educated me, and was instead locked in solitary confinement. As a result, anxiety and panic attacks are part of her daily life now.”

Another woman spoke of the deep, lifesaving support that the women incarcerated at MCI Framingham provided to her. “They raised me, educated me, and made sure I went to educational programs.”

The struggle continues with more and more people taking to the streets demanding, “Tear Down the Walls! Housing, daycare, educa-
tion, health care for our communities, not incarceration!”

By Susan Abulhawa

On Sept. 6, millions around the world celebrated as news spread that six Palestinian political prisoners had liberated themselves from Gilboa, a maximum-security Israeli concentration camp in the West Bank. For six months, with nothing but spoons and their bare hands, Yaqoub Qadri, Mahmoud Abdullah al-Arida, Muhammad Qassem al-Arida, Zakariah Zubedi, Ayham Kamamji and Munadil Infaat tunneled through to the surface and made their escape. While Kamamji and Infaat remain free and on the run, al-Arida, Qadri, al-Arida and Zubedi have since been recaptured by Israeli occupation forces. Israeli soldiers assaulted Zubeidi so severely that he is rumored, despite Israeli denials, to be in a hospital in critical condition. The following article first appeared on www.aljazeera.com/

For four days, Palestinians inside Palestine and living in exile in the diaspora were euphoric. In an act of extraordinary creativity and determination, six Palestinian political prisoners tunneled their way out of an Israeli maximum-security prison.

It was presumed they did so with a spoon, as they would have had no other tools. Certainly, they had no heavy machinery typically necessary for such a feat. The tunnel openings were exceedingly narrow, leaving everyone baffled how six grown men were able to pass through them.

I was immediately reminded of these lines from a beautiful English poem: The Earth is closing on us pushing us through the tunnel and we tear off our limbs to pass through.

The passage to freedom

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They want to reflect the heavy weight of them onto all of our hearts and let defeat and depression set in, as it seems to be doing. They want our deflation to be as big or bigger than our initial celebration.

They want to erase from our minds the knowledge that six defenseless, emaciated men, with nothing but perhaps a spoon, shook the colonial Zionist project to its core. It terrifies them that we could collectively contemplate the depths of hope and determination that propelled those six heroes to accomplish what everyone assumed was impossible.

Because if we did truly ruminate on that primal impulse for freedom, on the boundless hope in the heart of every revolutionary and fighter, we might find our own individual and collective power. We might begin to understand that nothing is impossible, and freedom is within our reach. We might begin to organize a collective system to protect the remaining two — Ayham and Munadil — to keep them free and alive and encourage more defiance and resistance.

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It was not defeat or depression that motivated them to spend sleepless hours digging a massive tunnel without adequate tools. It certainly was not a belief in Israel’s carefully cultivated perception of omnipotence.

The least we can do to honor them is to carry forth the torch of hope and the impulse for liberation that surely were at the heart of their heroism. We can solidify our defiance and refuse to live forever exiled or captive on our knees. We can understand that nothing is impossible, including ending this cruel Zionist regime. In the face of the horrors we know those heroic political prisoners are now facing, we have no right to defeat or defeat at this hour. We can be certain that is not what they sought to inspire in us.

Susan Abulhawa is a Palestinian writer and member of Workers World Party.
Untreated, opioid withdrawal can kill

By Princess Harmony

Opioid withdrawal is hell on the body and mind. You lose control over bodily functions and your life falls apart. It’s over. Because it can kill, you risk your life going through it.

At the Lebanon County Correctional Facility, a woman named Fannie Lou Hamer, herself a victim of鳖treatment under the Americans with Disabilities Act or the Fair Housing Act, was referred to. The practice was so wide-spread that legendary Civil Rights organizer Hamer herself a victim of鳖treatment under the Americans with Disabilities Act or the Fair Housing Act, was referred to. The practice was so widespread that legendary Civil Rights organizer Hamer referred to.

She needed hospitalization to get a much needed intravenous lipid drip and methadone (methadone, Dilaudid) or buprenorphine (Suboxone, Subutex, Sublocade, Zubsolv) to carry her through withdrawal. Herrera was refused access to the most basic form of addiction-treatment care.

To deny the necessity of methadone or buprenorphine in the treatment of both heroin or methamphetamine addicted people is to deny that addiction is a serious condition, whether viewed as a disease or not. Addiction is a life-threatening illness that needs health care— is inhumane. For the incarcerated, it negates two more basic rights: the right to be free of cruel and unusual punishment and the right to equal accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Statistics show that methadone and buprenorphine — the gold standards for Opioid Use Disorder (opioid addiction) treatment — when given to patients are highly successful at preventing relapse and overdose on other opioids. According to a recent study, “Medical Treatment of Diacetylmorphine (Heroin) Addiction,” a combination of therapy and methadone treatment in 22 male patients monitored for 12 weeks showed marked improvement in quality of life. The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews found that methadone is an effective medical intervention in the treatment of OUD. It reported it was more effective than treatment not including any medical intervention.

These arguments have been made in multiple court cases, winning the right to access treatment for OUD in some parts of the U.S. In Massachusetts, the American Civil Liberties Union successfully got plaintiff Geoffrey Pesce access to methadone during his stay in Middlesex House of Corrections in Essex County. In the U.S. Penitentiary at Leavenworth, another incarcerated worker, represented by the ACLU of Kansas and Missouri, won the right to be given buprenorphine by the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

This year, a Watertown, N.Y., man identified as P.G. was arrested for a probation violation before Labor Day. He needed medication to sustain his recovery from opioids and filed a lawsuit against Jefferson County with the aid of the ACLU and the New York Civil Liberties Union. The sherrif, undersheriff and the jail administrator were all named in the lawsuit.

Violation under Americans with Disabilities Act

On Sept. 7, District Court Judge David Hurd issued an emergency order giving P.G. his methadone, citing irreparable harm to his recovery should he be forced to stop taking it. And while he said that to remove him from his methadone would violate his rights under the Americans with Disabilities Act and the 14th Amendment to the Constitution.

Hurd wrote: “The uncontested evidence that withdrawal from methadone treatment is exquisitely painful, will cause a number of severe physical and mental symptoms and will place plaintiffs at a significantly heightened risk of relapse and death. Another form of cruel and unusual punishment is the transition of methadone and buprenorphine-sustained patients to the drug naltrexone (Vivitrol). Although studies sponsored by the drug’s maker, Alkermes, found the medication successfully blocks the opioid receptors in the brain, keeping patients free of opioids, the studies hid the fact that the psychological aspect of addiction keeps on burning. Freely on misinformation about what the two medications do, Alkermes made methadone and buprenorphine-sustained patients look like illicit drug users. In his request to get methadone, P.G. stated naltrexone did not work for him, yet naltrexone was all that was offered to him and other nonpregnant incarcerated workers. Naltrexone has some benefit for patients whose opioid use disorder is less severe and who have a high likelihood of abstinence. However, the American Medical Association’s Journal of Ethics has stated that while naltrexone was more useful than nothing, it still was not as successful as opioid-agonist therapies. They found its widespread use in prisons and jails was the result of lobbying on the part of Alkermes, rather than any studies proving its effectiveness in comparison to methadone and buprenorphine.

Methadone and buprenorphine — opioid agonist MAT therapies — have been found to be successful in patients seeking recovery from opioids. To remove them from their medication-assisted treatment adds an extra layer of punishment to their prison or jail sentences and almost certainly condemns them to relapse and death. P.G. was able to get methadone, but in many cases imprisoned patients are denied any option.

We have to continue to lobby for methadone and buprenorphine therapies to be seen as legitimate to save the lives of the incarcerated.
A chapter of People with AIDS (PWA), the group started in 1982 by gay activist Bobbi Campbell in San Francisco, was established in New York City that year by Michael Callen and Richard Berkowitz.

Most significantly for the East Coast, on Jan. 12, 1982, in Larry Kramer’s apartment in New York City, a group of gay men founded the Men’s Health Crisis — later known as the Gay Men’s Health Center (GMHC). Paul Popham, a Wall Street banker, was elected president of the organization. Popham’s conservative views on fighting HIV/AIDS often clashed with Kramer’s radical views. Later this would cause Kramer’s ouster from GMHC and his refusal for over 30 years to work with the organization.

On March 14, 1982, Dr. Jim Curran, an epidemiologist, became one of the first U.S. medical professionals to speak about the infectious nature of HIV. He spoke to a crowd of hundreds of doctors, many who were gay and lesbian — at the first-ever meeting of New York Physicians for Human Rights. Curran predicted that the physicians would spend the rest of their working lives fighting this mysterious illness. Despite growing concern, and despite the presence of LGBTQ+ physicians at the event, his words were hardly heeded, though ultimately turning out to be true.

GMHC quickly set up an AIDS Hotline for crisis counseling. It was started by GMHC member Rodger Mc Pam a single phone line did more for raising awareness than any government entity at that point. In fact, the Reagan administration had still not uttered a single word about the crisis. The New York Times for their scant coverage.

Almost a year after Dr. Curran’s watershed speech, the virus was still not being taken seriously. Larry Kramer published his own historic speech on AIDS in a March 27, 1983, editorial in the New York Native, “s, Counting,” Kramer lambasted the gay community for apathy towards this mysterious illness that was killing its brothers and sisters. He wrote: “In all the history of homophobia, we have never been so close to death and extinc- tion before. Many of us are dying or are dead already.”

Kramer went on to correctly state that if the illness was affecting majorly white, heterosexual, middle-class men and women, millions of dollars would have been poured into research. He cited the 1984 Tylenol scare in which $10 million was provided by the U.S. government to research deaths ultimately shown to result from drug tampering.

From 1981 to 1987 at the beginning of the epidemic, 60% of AIDS cases were among white people in the U.S. But because the illness affected mostly gay and bisexual men, people who injected drugs and eventually Black and Brown people, HIV/AIDS was not given the same attention and care as other less seri- ous health crises.

Kramer criticized the lack of response from the city of New York, where Mayor Ed Koch skirted the issue of AIDS for the first two years it ravaged the city. Kramer also criticized bourgeois media such as the New York Times for their scant coverage.

To drive Kramer’s points home, the New York Native then called for 3,000 volunteers to disrupt the city’s traf- fic and engage in act after act of civil disobedience to force New York to pay attention to the epidemic that was hitting its inhabitants.

The city management of New York, terrified at the idea of 3,000 people participating in acts of civil dis- obedience, quickly formed the Office of Gay and Lesbian Health Concerns to address the epidemic. Despite this development, the Koch administration continued to drag its feet on making any major shifts in fighting HIV/ AIDS in the city until 1985.

However, in 1984 more street activism and mobiliza- tion began to occur in New York City, not just against the mayor’s apathy, but in protest of the entire U.S. govern- ment’s refusal to deal with the epidemic. In a July interview with this writer, Workers World Party–Central Gulf Coast member Shelley Ettlinger, who lived in New York City during the HIV/AIDS epidemic, com- mented on the intense street mobilizations that began in 1984. She recalled one large protest that year at New York City’s federal building against then President Ronald Reagan and his administration.

These protests occurred during the 1984 presidential election, in which Reagan easily defeated Democratic Party nominee Walter Mondale. In a series of events that surprised absolutely no one who understood the bank- rupt, neo-liberal democracy that was the U.S. political sys- tem, neither the Republican Party nor the Democratic Party mentioned the AIDS epidemic in their press releases, campaign materials, or appearances. Yet, it is safe to say that his victory celebration on election night, he said “The best days of America lie ahead.” By this time in the U.S., over 7,000 known peo- ple had died of AIDS, and there had been over 5,500 deaths. (bit.ly/3xAA6l)

In 1986, Gay Men of African Descent was founded in New York City and began to combat the AIDS epi- demic in the Black gay male community. Even within the growing queer HIV/AIDS fightback movement, the crisis of AIDS within the Black community was largely being ignored due to anti-Black, racist attitudes within the white gay community. This would continue with gay Black men, Black women and especially Black trans women being disregarded in the struggle for HIV/AIDS research and funding -- a catastrophic error that had consequences lasting into today.

The masses force Reagan’s hand

In 1985, four years after the New York Times had published its throwaway article on a “rare cancer seen in 41 homosexuals, and after thousands of people were being diagnosed each month from AIDS, thousands of years of LGBTQ+ people, people of color, people who inject drugs and poor people being blamed for the plague and after years of discrimination in housing and employ- ment, xenophobia, racism, anti-Blackness and the phony “War on Drugs” — President Reagan finally spoke on HIV/AIDS. After demonstration on demonstration, after years of discrimination, civil disobedience, and civil disobedience, Reagan was finally forced to con- front the epidemic he had not only intentionally ignored, but had mocked in private. His first mention of AIDS was only to express his hes- itance in allowing children with AIDS to attend public school. In fact, Reagan went so far as to bar his surgeon general, Dr. C. Everett Koop, from speaking publicly on HIV/AIDS epidemic.

When Reagan finally relented in 1986, after more pub- lic pressure, he pressured Dr. Koop to keep any infor- mation released “in line with conservative policies.” In other words, Reagan advocated continuing to ignore the oppressed communities affected by HIV/AIDS, provid- ing as little funding as possible against the epidemic and drowning out the voices of millions of people demanding he take action. Dr. Koop, however, took matters into his own hands and released information that actually called for com- prehensive AIDS education and rejected mandatory test- ing. During the epidemic, this was the first instance of someone directly allied with the U.S. ruling class turning against its reactionary denial of the crisis and actually making a correct step.

Despite Reagan’s complete mishandling of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, which fueled all sorts of further discrimination against nationally oppressed groups, LGBTQ+ persons, people with disabilities and work- ing-class people, the early years of activism — at first mostly vigils and fights for justice — were soon transformed into militant actions led by militant groups that called for complete disruption of “business as usual” policies of the capitalist-imperialist U.S. These militant actions would go on to dominate the struggle against the HIV/AIDS epidemic during the late 1980s and early 1990s, as contradictions sharpened, conditions worsened, and anti-capitalist militancy grew.

Ellen Catalinatto, who contributed to this article, worked for 22 years as a midwife in New York City hos- pitals, where she participated in research that led to the first successful transmission of HIV and mother-to-child trans- mission of the AIDS virus. Devin Cole is a transgender Marxist organizer and writer. They are the president of Struggle (Socialist Trans Initiative), a socialist trans advocacy organization in northwest Florida, and a member of the Workers World Party – Central Gulf Coast (Alabama, Florida, and Mississippi) branch.
Stop U.S. submarine warfare!

The Biden administration’s latest foreign policy step has sharpened U.S. imperialism’s global conflict with the People’s Republic of China. It must be opposed by all those who want to reverse a new version of the 20th century’s Cold War and avert global war.

Biden made this move official with his Sept. 15 announcement of a deal for the U.S. to send a nuclear-powered submarine to Australia. This complex to provide Australia with the means to build eight nuclear-powered submarines. These warships can operate underwater for months at a time and threaten Western Chinese interests throughout the Pacific and Indian oceans.

China’s position is clear. Speaking for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Zhao Lijian said the submarine agreement “has seriously undermined regional peace and stability, intensified the arms race and undermined international non-proliferation efforts.” (fmprc.gov.cn, Sept. 16)

The Biden administration has thus maneuvered the Australian government into challenging Beijing in the region closest to China. It has done this even though capitalist Australia currently depends on China for much of its trade. Prior to this U.S. nuclear deal, the Australian regime had avoided steps that would lead to confrontations with Beijing.

In geostrategic terms, Washington has roped the Australian regime into the administration’s planned anti-China alliance, which includes Japan and India. This step, a follow-up to Obama’s “pivot to Asia,” exposes the U.S. aim to reverse the successes of the Chinese People’s Republic on the front burner, and this antagonism could lead to war. This danger must be resisted by the U.S. population, especially its working class in all its diversity.

New York solidarity with Zimbabwe

On the eve of the opening of the United Nations’ General Assembly in New York City, the Brooklyn-based December 12th Movement organized a Pan-African solidarity rally Sept. 28 with the theme: “Zimbabwe will never be a colony again.” Zimbabwe, formerly known as Rhodesia, won its independence in 1980 in a guerrilla struggle against its colonizer, England. Zimbabwe is one of 39 countries under sanctions by both the U.S. and England, because it dared to resist white, racist rule to win its sovereignty. Among the supporters of the rally, held at Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza, were Workers Assembly Against Racism and Workers World Party.

— Report and photo by G. Dunkel

Challenging U.S. sanctions

Iran, Syria send solidarity shipments to Lebanon

By Sara Flounders

A delivery of tankers of diesel fuel from Iran and Syria to sanctioned Lebanon is a historic breakthrough with both immediate practical assistance, political solidarity and a direct challenge to the U.S. siege of the entire region.

The shipments, which began arriving Sept. 16, were announced weeks in advance and brought thousands of tons of desperately needed fuel. The Iranian ships openly announced weeks in advance and brought thousands of tons of gasoline and that 792 tanker trucks would be involved. The first convoy of tanker trucks drove through unofficial entry points into that country. Videos of cheering crowds greeting lines of the huge tankers circulated through the media of the entire region.

The first fuel convoys were met with celebratory gunfire and people throwing rice and rose petals into their path, as they traveled through the northeastern village of al-Ain. Another 80 trucks in four convoys arrived by Sept. 17 in Lebanon’s north Bekaa Valley, Beirut and other coastal cities. Oil export monitor Tanker Trackers says that the four-tanker shipment contained a total of 33,000 metric tons of gasoline and that 792 tanker trucks would be needed to deliver the entire shipment to Lebanon.

“If the Lebanese government wants to buy fuel from us to resolve the problems faced by its population, we will supply it,” Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh stated. (tinyurl.com/e78e2bhr)

The breaking of the siege and the deliveries organized by Hezbollah, the Lebanese Resistance Movement, are viewed as a huge victory for the resistance movement in Lebanon. The successful shipment is seen as a potential challenge to the viability of U.S. sanctions by three countries — Iran, Lebanon and Syria — that are being driven by the sanctions to the brink of collapse.

Hezbollah breaks the siege

In a speech on the arrival of the first convoys, Sayed Hassan Nasrallah, secretary general and leader of Hezbollah, announced this had broken an “American siege.”

He added that a month’s supply of fuel would be distributed free of charge to government hospitals, nursing homes, orphanages, civil defense forces and the Lebanese Red Cross. The rest of the fuel will be sold “below cost” to bakeries, private hospitals and companies operating generators.

Hezbollah, a major political force in Lebanon, has long been part of the country’s governing system, with ministers and elected members of parliament. Hezbollah fought to liberate Lebanon from Israeli military occupation in 2000 and has defended the country against several U.S.-backed Israeli attacks since. Its fighters have helped elect governments, with President Bashar Hafez al-Assad of Syria withstand the U.S. effort to overturn and dismember that country.

When the U.S. put Hezbollah on its terrorist list in 1995, this initiated sanctions that have blocked every form of Lebanon’s government and business purchases, even of the most essential supplies, from other countries. U.S. sanctions are directly responsible for Lebanon’s economic collapse, that has left the country not only short of fuel but lacking in other basic necessities, such as medicine and even dining ware.

The country’s economic collapse, according to the World Bank, is one of the worst during modern times. The Lebanese currency has lost more than 90% of its value against the U.S. dollar since 2019, causing inflation to skyrocket and pushing three-quarters of the population into poverty. Electricity outages can now last as long as 23 hours a day, bringing essential industry and normal functioning to a standstill.

U.S. sanctions across the region, from Afghanistan through Iran, Iraq, Syria and Lebanon, block regional cooperation. The U.S. sanctions extend to all financial and banking transactions and to obtaining essential supplies or selling materials for export. All credits for trade and rebuilding aid in this torn region torn by U.S. wars are frozen by the U.S. sanctions. These sanctions not only target the region except Israel, which is already guaranteed billions of dollars in U.S. funding and political support.

U.S. ambassador to Lebanon, Dorothy Shea, has said the country does not need Iranian fuel. Instead the U.S. supposedly backs a plan to ease Lebanon’s energy crisis through Egyptian natural gas, piped via Jordan and Syria. At the same time, U.S. sanctions don’t allow transport through Syria.

The U.S. sanctions on Syria block all efforts at rebuilding that war-torn country — after 10 years of U.S.-backed financing of militant groups and efforts to overturn the government. As for Iran, it was the U.S. that broke the treaty it had signed in 2015, with five other countries and with Iran, that had pledged to end U.S. sanctions on that country.

U.S. sanctions affect a third of humanity with more than 8,000 measures impacting 39 countries. (sanctionskill.org/resolutions/)

All efforts at breaking this U.S.-enforced policy of mass starvation and enforced underdevelopment must be supported. End all U.S. sanctions! ☐
Despite dire conditions U.S. deports Haitians

By G. Dunkel

An Aug. 14 earthquake completely devastated southwestern Haiti, the country’s breadbasket. At least 2,200 people were killed, and tens of thousands of homes destroyed, along with roads, bridges, schools, churches and crop fields. A few days later Tropical Depression Grace dropped 3 to 15 inches of rain on the area in 24 hours.

Because of the July assassination of Haiti’s president Jovenel Moïse and a general climate of unrest and destabilizing violence, there has been no effective centralized response to the earthquake and devastating weather. This situation grew even more difficult when the current acting prime minister, Ariel Henry, was charged with complicity in the assassination.

The political and economic situation in Haiti is so dire that on Sept. 10, the Department of Homeland Security was forced to extend Temporary Protected Status for Haitians who resided in the U.S. prior to May 21.

Haitians come to apply for asylum

Haitians from across Latin America looking for asylum in the U.S. have gathered in the assassination. Actions in multiple countries Sept. 15

There were nowhere near 2 million Bolsonaristas in the streets on Sept. 7. He even called on his backers to attack the Supreme Federal Court and the Chinese Embassy.

Right-wing Brazilian President Bolsonaro—in Trump-like fashion—has wildly exaggerated his popularity. He predicted as many as 2 million people would protest the government’s policies related to the pandemic.

Top officials of the Biden administration are just as uncritical as Trump’s. These policies may not be as crudely expressed under the International Bridge at Del Rio, 150 miles west of San Antonio. This encampment began in August with a few hundred people, families and single adults. As of Sept. 18, the gathering had 14,500 people according to an estimate by Rep. August Pfluger (R-Texas), who gave the figure to Yahoo News while at the scene. Pfluger noted there had been 12,000 people present Sept. 17, with hundreds arriving each hour.

Homeland Security has quickly deported 86 Haitians from this gathering of thousands of migrants and is planning to deport more on three to five flights to Port-au-Prince, Haiti’s capital, during the week of Sept. 19. Many of the Haitian families at the U.S. border have complicated issues of nationality. Some have worked in Brazil or Chile for years after fleeing the catastrophic 2010 earthquake in Haiti and its aftermath.

The children of these families, born in Brazil or Chile, are not Haitian citizens, and Haiti is not obliged to accept them.

This gathering of Haitians at the Mexican border is a protest, a demonstration revealing that the immigration policies of the Biden administration are just as racist and exclusionary as Trump’s. These policies may not be as crudely expressed as the previous administration but they are at least as harmful.

Haitians who have known how to unite in struggle from the uprising inspired by Dutty Boukman against the Haitian enslavers in 1791 and the subsequent successful war for liberation from enslavement, the struggles against the U.S. occupation from 1916 to 1934, the protests against Jean-Claude “Baby Doc” Duvalier in 1980 that forced him from office, the massive protests against anti-Haitian U.S. AIDs policies in 1990 and more.

The age of social media, Haitian workers in Latin America maintain contact with their relatives and friends both in Haiti, North America (particularly Montreal, Boston, New York and Miami) and France. The U.S. Coast Guard has blocked access to the U.S. from Haiti by sea.

A general agreement by the people on the easiest way of getting into the U.S. was over its border with Mexico. Del Rio has a bridge that offers access. And so the people let each other know, and they came.

Latin America: 2021 has been a year of struggle

By Martha Grewatt

Mass demonstrations and strikes targeting unpopular governments and foreign business interests are taking place all over Latin America.

Throughout 2021 Argentinians have been in the streets, opposing everything from unemployment to fracking to the government’s policies related to the pandemic.

A third Sept. 15 action was a general strike in Ecuador; demonstrations Sept. 15 continued the ongoing protests against the IMF, the International Monetary Fund, for an end to privatization. The Unitary Workers Front, the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of Ecuador and the National Union of Educators were among the organizations protesting. The demonstration drew rice growers, milk producers, banana workers and taxi drivers.

The people’s movement in Honduras celebrated a victory the evening of Sept. 17, after learning that charges were dropped against Edwin Espinal and Raúl Álvarez who had faced 15-30 years in prison. They were arrested along with 180 others over bogus charges stemming from 2017 protests against massive electoral fraud that gave right-wing President Juan Orlando Hernández another term in office. Espinal and Álvarez had been jailed for 19 months under horrific conditions.

Other events this month included the commemorations of 200 years of Mexican independence Sept. 16 and the bloody CIA coup 48 years ago that overthrew socialist Chilean President Salvador Allende Sept. 11.

Each of these countries’ struggles are nails in the coffin of the Monroe Doctrine and President Theodore Roosevelt’s “Big Stick” policy in Latin America, whereby the U.S. ruling class claimed the whole Western Hemisphere for itself. To quote a popular Chilean song: “The people united will never be defeated.” (1)
La tormenta antes de la tormenta

No hay duda de que la catástrofe climática amenaza el futuro de la humanidad. La velocidad de cambio climático es insostenible y el planeta está en peligro. Los fenómenos como el cambio climático, la sequía, las inundaciones y los huracanes están aumentando de frecuencia y intensidad. La humanidad debe tomar medidas urgentes para combatir el cambio climático.

El terrorismo ambiental y el racismo capitalista en Estados Unidos forman parte del legado del desarrollo capitalista.

El terrorismo ambiental y el racismo capitalista son inextricables en Estados Unidos. Ambos son manifestaciones de una sociedad que prioriza el beneficio propio sobre el bienestar de la mayoría. El terrorismo ambiental es un medio para proteger el territorio y el patrimonio de la clase dominante, mientras que el racismo capitalista es una forma de perpetuar el sistema de opresión y explotación.

En el contexto de la crisis climática, los trabajadores de la clase trabajadora tienen el deber de tomar medidas para proteger su futuro y el futuro de las generaciones venideras. Solo un plan de lucha colectivo puede hacer frente a la lucha por un medio ambiente sano y justicia social.

La toma de conciencia de la crisis climática ha llevado a la formación de movimientos como el Movimiento Socialista Voz Obrera, que lucha por el bienestar del trabajador medio. El movimiento socialista es el camino para un futuro mejor, un futuro en el que todos tengamos la oportunidad de vivir de manera digna y con respeto hacia el planeta que habitamos.