Racist terror forces out Haitian refugees

By G. Dunkel

After images of the U.S. Border Patrol agents using long reins as whips against Haitians in Del Rio, Texas, trying to get into the U.S., spread worldwide, a top-level decision was made to shut the Del Rio camps down.

Hundreds of progressive organizations condemned the Border Patrol’s actions — from the World Federation of Trade Unions, representing more than 113 million workers in 133 countries, to U.S. labor unions, to the NAACP’s local affiliates and celebrities of all stripes. News from Del Rio made the front page of Le Nouvelliste, Haiti’s major daily newspaper, and was prominently featured on all the YouTube and web chats Haitian-oriented social media use.

There have been scores of demonstrations throughout North America, calling on the U.S. and Canadian governments to stop expelling Haitians and accept their asylum claims. According to the AP, the U.S. only accepted 5% of Haitian asylum claims in 2020, the lowest rate for any national group.

The Sept. 23 resignation of Special Envoy Daniel Foote really irritated the White House. Foote is a senior career foreign service officer, and this is the first time in over 30 years that one of this elite group resigned over his bourgeois principles. Foote argued that the deportation policy was self-defeating as it would only fuel more migration. His explanation was: “The people of Haiti, mired in poverty, hostage to the terror, kidnappings, robberies and massacres of armed gangs, and suffering under a corrupt government with gang alliances, simply cannot support the forced infusion of thousands of returned migrants lacking food, shelter and money without additional avoidable human tragedy.”

He was answered by Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman, who said in a press conference on the issue that Foote had given a misleading version of the events leading to his resignation and had advocated military intervention.

The Department of Homeland Security said nearly 30,000 migrants had been encountered in Del Rio in the past two weeks, but none were left by Sept. 24. Around 2,000 were expelled to Haiti in numerous flights. While Haiti didn’t formally object to receiving them, the Haitian office of Immigration didn’t provide much help. Often refugees did not get all of the $100 that they were supposed to get — just $25 and a promise of more later. Sometimes the promised meals were missing. People were tested for COVID, but no plan was in place to quarantine anyone.

Le Nouvelliste ran a short piece Sept. 24 on how the people expelled on the flights had to struggle to get their passports back. Immigration didn’t provide much help. More than 12,000 migrants will have a chance to make their case for asylum before U.S. immigration judges. Many of the families have mixed citizenship, with at least one Haitian parent but the children being Brazilian, Chilean or Panamanian, depending on where they were born. The odds of a Haitian getting

WW COMMENTARY

Unite for reproductive justice!

By Kathy Durkin

Over 600 marches and rallies are being organized to take place across the country Oct. 2, two days before the U.S. Supreme Court reconvenes for its fall term. The right to legal abortion is at stake. On Dec. 1, the case of Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization will be argued. Since the state of Mississippi is challenging the landmark Roe v. Wade SCOTUS ruling in 1973 legalizing abortions, this case could determine its fate.

In every state and Washington, D.C., multinational, multigender and multigenerational demonstrations will call for reproductive rights and health care for all. Everyone is united around the demand for “safe, legal abortions,” a right won by a hard-fought movement that pressured governments to accept their asylum claims in 2020, the lowest rate for any national group.

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A broken taillight
An excuse for police murder?

By Dianne Mathiowetz
Atlanta

On Aug. 7, 2020, 60-year-old Julian Lewis, a semiretired Black carpenter, was driving home in Sylvania, Ga., after going to a convenience store to get his spouse a grape soda. Georgia State Trooper Jacob Gordan Thompson followed him on Screven County dirt roads to cite him for having a broken taillight.

Thompson conducted a PIT (pursuit intervention technique) maneuver, causing Lewis’ car to careen into the ditch and smash into a tree. According to the dash cam footage in the patrol car, the 27-year-old white officer fired his gun within 1.6 seconds, striking Lewis in the forehead, killing him.

In his official police report, Thompson claimed that he feared for his life and fired once because Lewis was revving his engine and turning the wheels of his car in an effort to injure him. He also claimed the headlight of the car was in his eyes.

The Georgia Bureau of Investigation found that the force of the car hitting the tree had dislodged the battery cables and that the car had no power. No revving, no lights positional, the agent determined. In addition, the wheels were all turned away from Thompson’s vehicle.

Within days, the GBI issued warrants for Thompson’s arrest on aggravated assault and felony murder charges.

In quick order, he was fired by the Georgia State Patrol, and on Aug. 24, denied bond despite the “generations” of family in Screven County that his lawyer said would vouch for him.

Members of Lewis’ large family were relieved that justice would be done, since the facts were so clear that Julian Lewis had posed no threat to Thompson.

No justice, no peace!

So how could it be that on June 28, 2021, a grand jury of 22 people who saw the video, read Thompson’s false report, and heard the GBI agent’s testimony that the trooper had lied, declined to indict him?

Perhaps it has to do with those “generations” of family in rural Screven County where cotton fields line the dirt roads. Or the demographics of the grand jury of six Black jurors and 16 white members, when it takes 12 jurors to indict.

Lawyers Fransy Johnson and Mawuli Davis say that multiple community members told them Thompson had a reputation for harassing Black and Brown motorists. An examination of Thompson’s file shows three complaints, two for racial profiling and misconduct and one for unprofessional behavior at a crash site.

Brook Bacon, Lewis’ son, vowed to continue the fight and called for a march to start from the very place on Stoney Pond Rd. in Sylvania, Ga., where his father was murdered, to end 63 miles away in Savannah. The goal was to press the U.S. Attorney’s office for the Southern District of Georgia to open a federal investigation into the case.

Marchers, including family members of other Georgia Black men killed by police, set off in the pouring rain on Sept. 16. On Sept. 20, they reached Savannah and met with federal officials who agreed to “examine the case in consultation with the FBI.”

Julian Lewis’ family welcomed that news but vowed not to stop their fight until justice is won.

Join us in the fight for socialism!

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

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

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

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

The ruthless ruling class today seeks to wipe out decades of gains and benefits won by hard-fought struggles by people’s movements. The super-rich and their political representatives have intensified their attacks on the multinational, 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 capita- list profits. The wealth workers create should be socially owned and its distribution planned to satisfy and guaran- tee 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. 39 • September 30, 2021
Closing date: September 29, 2021

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Copyright © 2021 Workers World. Verbatim copying and distribution of articles is permitted in any medium without royalty provided this notice is preserved. Workers World (ISSN 1070-4203) 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 99, 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, NY 10011.
Chuck Africa – Rest in power!

By Betsye Pette

After a four-year struggle with cancer, Charles “Chuck” Sims Africa of the MOVE 9 died on Sept. 20. Sims, 61, was the youngest member of the MOVE 9 and the last to be released on parole, Feb. 7, 2020, after serving 42 years in prison. His battle with cancer started during his incarcerations at the Pennsylvania State Correctional Institution at Powelton Village.

In 2018 Debbie Africa, Chuck’s sister, and Mike Africa Sr., a childhood friend, were the first members of the MOVE 9 to be paroled. In a Sept. 20 podcast, Mike Sr. described how 13-year-old Chuck brought him to the MOVE. When W. F. Ramsey prison farm in Brazoria County, Texas, 1965

W. F. Ramsey prison farm in Brazoria County, Texas, 1965

Action at Carswell prison: ‘Free Aafia Siddiqui!’

By Alex Colwell

When Tania and I arrived at the Sept. 18 protest for Pakistani political prisoner Dr. Aafia Siddiqui, about 100 people were gathered on the back road behind the Federal Medical Center Carswell in Fort Worth, Texas, where she is currently serving an 86-year sentence. As the main speaker of the event led chants via a megaphone, everyone stood proudly, prominently displaying signs and banners with slogans calling for her release.

A martyr for the cause of anti-imperialism, Dr. Siddiqui’s wrongful incarceration is symbolic of the greater xenophobia in the U.S. legal system. Arrested and brought to the United States on charges for a “crime” supposedly committed while she was not on U.S. soil, Dr. Siddiqui has been held at the Center for the last 18 years. She has been held in solitary confinement and subjected to the other harsh conditions of the U.S. carceral system. A letter from her mother, Ismet Siddiqui, was read aloud at the event, in which she appealed to Prime Minister Imran Khan of Pakistan to intervene in the situation. While all this was going on, police officers drove slowly by our protest, recording us on their phones while protected by a chain link fence. Although there were no altercations between civilians and police, tensions were high.

A woman who was in contact with Dr. Siddiqui told the crowd that she felt alone and forgotten by the world. It is our responsibility to reverse this perception and to show all the oppressed people of the world that we will always stand beside them in their hour of need and that the imperialist state will not go unchallenged.
**Housing: A global human right demanding a socialist solution**

By Betsey Piette

The COVID-19 pandemic, which forced millions onto unemployment rolls and drastically reduced family incomes, has exacerbated an existing housing crisis. The U.S. Supreme Court made matters worse Aug. 26, when it ruled against the federal eviction moratorium which the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) had issued. This vote eliminated eviction protections for millions of households, pre- dominantly Black and Latinx.

Court rulings have also blocked state and local efforts to continue eviction moratorium protections. During the pandemic, the federal eviction moratorium, extended federal unemployment benefits and other federal, state and local programs have pumped close to $5 trillion into the U.S. economy. Many families were safely housed, and about one-third of renters were able to pay rent. However, the vast majority had to borrow money or turn to savings to pay rent. By early 2021, some 7 million tenants were behind on rent. According to a report issued in June 2021 by Harvard’s Joint Center for Housing Studies, these tenants are unlikely to recover without more government support.

Part of the problem was the bureaucratic way many of these capitalist government “intervention” programs were carried out. In Pennsylvania, for example, to receive rental assistance applicants had to go through a prolonged five-stage process. Tens of thousands of tenants were still waiting for assistance when the program ended in late summer.

There were no mandates that landlords accept delayed rent payments, and many refused to allow delays. By June 2021, Pennsylvania had paid out only $133 million to tenants. This is 17% of the $870 million it had been allocated by the federal program. It is unlikely that most of the remaining funds will ever go to the families most in need.

**Housing epidemic predated pandemic**

These government economic intervention programs were essentially life supports to prop up the U.S. capitalist economy. The CDC moratorium was a stopgap measure. This moratorium did little to address a growing crisis in housing affordability that had been in play long before the COVID-19 pandemic. Fueled by gentrification, ever-widening income inequality, historic racist housing policies and a chronic housing shortage, homelessness was a pre-COVID epidemic.

The crisis was in the works decades before the coronavirus emerged in early 2020. According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, between 2001 and 2019, increases in median rents outpaced increases in renters’ incomes in nearly every U.S. state. By 2019, in over 100 counties of U.S. counties, minimum-wage workers could no longer afford a one-bedroom apartment. One in four rental households paid more than half their pretax income for rent.

Before 2000, an average of 1.5 million new housing units were constructed every year. In the two decades since, only 1.23 million new housing units were constructed each year. This lack of construction left the available housing 6.8 million units short of what would need to be built every year to keep up with housing demands. The root of this crisis go back even further. Starting in the 1970s, restrictive federal housing policies stopped the expansion of public housing while cutting rental assistance programs. Income tax provisions allowed homeowners of all income levels to deduct mortgage interest and property tax costs. Landlords pay these same taxes and pass down the expense to their renters. No similar tax deductions were offered to renters.

In addition, racially driven regulations to entrench segregation limited what housing could be built and Black and Latinx workers’ access to this housing.

**Global housing market broken**

Before the pandemic, the global capitalist economy was already slowing down, driven by overproduction and capitalism’s irreversible systemic crisis. The millions who were pushed from capitalist economies to the public post office. “Dump DeJoy!”

Jonathan Smith, president of the New York Joint Center for Housing Studies, said that for the public post office and those who depend on a public post office, and for the workers who are facing a further slowdown in mail delivery beginning Oct. 1.

Jonathan Smith, president of the New York Metro Area Postal Union (APWU Local 10), said that for the public post office to survive, DeJoy must be fired immediately, and Bloom must be replaced on the Board of Governors.

The U.S. mail is not for sale! Save the people’s Postal Service! [↩]

**New York postal workers rally Dump DeJoy and bonge Bloom!**

By Joe Hirsch

New York City

On Sept. 23, in front of Brookfield Asset Management’s New York office, postal workers and allies rallied to save the public post office. “Dump DeJoy!” and “Bounce Bloom!” were heard loud and clear.

Ron Bloom is the chair of the Postal Board of Governors; he is also a Vice Chair and managing partner of Brookfield Asset, where he heads up a $60 billion investment fund. It was exposed that Postmaster General Louis DeJoy had previously purchased $305,000 in bonds from Brookfield and helped steer a $12.6 million contract from the post office to his former company XPO Logistics. And Bloom’s company holds $1.2 million worth of stock in XPO Logistics.

The real impact of the DeJoy 10-year plan is the de facto privatization of the U.S. Postal Service. This of course is detrimental to the well-being of the people who depend on a public post office and who are facing a further slowdown in mail delivery. The U.S. Postal Service is a public service. It must create a world free from racism and the survival of humans, workers and the planet.

Before 2000, an average of 1.5 million new housing units were constructed every year. By 2019, in over 100 counties of U.S. counties, minimum-wage workers could no longer afford a one-bedroom apartment. One in four rental households paid more than half their pretax income for rent. By early 2021, some 7 million tenants lost their homes. This is 17% of the $870 million it had been allocated by the federal program. It is unlikely that most of the remaining funds will ever go to the families most in need.

**Hundreds of athletes file brief to defend abortion**

Over 500 U.S. women and gender-oppressed athletes, many well-known, signed a historic 39-page amicus brief Sept. 20 in defense of the Jackson Women’s Health Organization in Mississippi. The brief supports the right to have an abortion.

The document states: “Although the terms “women” and “female” are used in this brief, people of all gender identities can and do become pregnant and seek abortion services. Accordingly, Amici are current and former athletes who are, or were at some point, able to become pregnant — regardless of gender identity.”

The brief is a legal challenge to a lawsuit filed by the Mississippi Department of Health scheduled to be heard by the U.S. Supreme Court Dec. 1. The state is seeking to not only restrict abortions but to overturn Roe v. Wade, the 1973 Supreme Court decision that legalized abortions.

Serena Williams, Megan Rapinoe, Diana Taurasi and Ashleigh Thompson are among the professional and amateur athletes who have “relied on the available abortion care in order to maintain their athletic potential and are united in their deeply held belief that women’s athletics could not have reached its current level of participation and success without the constitutional right to abortion care.”

Workers’ Rights, the Chicago chapter of the Worker’s World Party, is calling on everyone to stand in solidarity with these athletes.

Read the entire legal brief at tinyurl.com/hpktx9hh.

— Monica Moorehead

**Changing racist names of prisons**

Workers World. “Changing names will not change conditions in Texas prisons. If you put a wag on a pig and apply lipstic, it still is a pig.”

Cosmetic changes that erase racist history don’t eliminate racism. Under capitalism, we must fight for fundamental changes like prison abolition while realizing that incarceration is not the solution. We must create a world free from racism and oppression — one that includes well-paying jobs, free health care and respect — so that all working people can live with dignity and freedom.

Continued from page 3

landowners who bought Goree’s family plantation about 20 miles north of Huntsville and then used it for prison leasing. Depending on the source, there are between five and six state prison systems that still do not pay one cent for the work prisoners do. So, sharing prison labor is a tiny drop in the bucket for change.

Texas prisoner Shedrick Robertson, fighting for clemency from his unjustly long prison sentence of 85 years for a robbery where no one was killed, told that state but to overturn Roe v. Wade, the 1973 Supreme Court decision that legalized abortions.

Serena Williams, Megan Rapinoe, Diana Taurasi and Ashleigh Thompson are among the professional and amateur athletes who have “relied on the available abortion care in order to maintain their athletic potential and are united in their deeply held belief that women’s athletics could not have reached its current level of participation and success without the constitutional right to abortion care.”

Read the entire legal brief at tinyurl.com/hpktx9hh.

— Monica Moorehead
Majority, who upheld the state’s law, Sept. 1 by the Court’s conservative who “aids” an individual in obtaining an “illegal” abortion, as defined by Texas politicians, even the most desperate victims of rape, incest and domestic violence.

An appeal to SCOTUS by Texas abortion providers was smashed Sept. 1 by the Court’s conservative majority, who upheld the state’s law, the most restrictive in the country. A copycat bill was introduced into the Florida legislature Sept. 22. Other state governments are poised to imitate this legislation. Eleven states have laws on the books which would prohibit abortions if SCOTUS’ Hyde Amendment were overturned.

Pro-choice activists warn of an abortion ban across the South. This would give the states more control over individuals’ reproductive health care, trample on human rights and deny personal autonomy and decision-making, especially for the most oppressed people.

On Sept. 24, Texas misogynist and bigoted-in-chief Gov. Greg Abbott further restricted access to abortions by limiting prescriptions for medication abortions. He threatened prison time for doctors who disobey his edict, even if they practice out of state. Some 40% of abortions are performed out of state.

The Texas rightists’ admitted goals are to intimidate and crush the many “help- ers” of desperate pregnant people, to bankrupt and shutter reproductive health clinics and to punish medical professionals who, out of sympathy and adherence to their ethics, perform the procedures.

One doctor is fighting back. Dr. Alan Braid, a San Antonio OB-GYN, announced in a Sept. 28 Washington Post op-ed that he had performed abortion procedures resulting from rape or incest. He said he was performing these procedures to challenge the inhumane, illegal law. This physician, who has performed abortions for 49 years, says that women who choose to die from botched abortions, is a hero. He rightfully asserts “abortion is an essential part of health care.”

Abortion restrictions control, don’t protect this fundamental right under attack by reactionary forces in state legislatures, courts and executive positions, backed by wealthy donors and organizers. These laws deny millions of American women access to abortions needed by millions of people. They seek to isolate and make the lives of the poorest and most oppressed people even more difficult and to exert even more state control over their lives. In Texas, 70% of abortion patients are women of color.

Anti-abortion laws are a declaration of war on low-income pregnant people—Black, Latinx, Indigenous, Asian, migrant, disabled, transgender and victims of sexual violence. Youth are hard-hit by Texas’ or similar legislation elsewhere, as they must get parental or judicial approval to obtain an abortion. This is nearly impossible within the short time limits set by Texas and other states.

Increasingly, those who seek to end unintended pregnancies are women living in poverty. Those with financial means can afford more effective contraception and/or the costs of obtaining out-of-state abortions, while low-income individuals are pushed to the point of desperation.

Abortion happens, whether legal or illeg- al, safe or unsafe. Where the procedure is prohibited or severely restricted, pregnant people often turn to more dangerous abortion methods. Legalization brought about a big step forward in health care for many pregnant people who must travel hundreds of miles out of Texas to obtain safe abortions, experiencing additional stress, taking days off from work, locating trans- portation, finding childcare and raising funds. Adrienne Mansanarez, chief experi- ence officer for Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains said, “They are fearful. You can see terror on people’s faces.”

After Texas’ abortion ban went into effect on Sept. 1, the Biden administration barely reacted. It took a loud outcry to pressure the Department of Justice to file a lawsuit against Texas challenging this “illegal” law. The case will be heard Oct. 1, a month after Senate Bill 8 was imple- mented. House Democrats symbolically passed the Women’s Health Protection Act Sept. 24, but reactionary senators will most certainly block its passage.

Resistance grows

Resistance is growing. Protests have been held in Austin, the Texas capital, and in front of SCOTUS’ building in Washington. Funds to aid pregnant people in Texas are pouring in to pro- choice organizations. Women and gender oppressed athletes are speaking out in a collective voice, while scores of amicus briefs are being submitted to SCOTUS to protest a potential overturn of the Roe decision in the Dobbs case.

 Millions of Executive Director, SisterSong, Women of Color Reproductive Health Collective, states on Facebook: “No one should have to live in a world where their body and reproductive decision mak- ing is controlled by the state. We will con- tinue to work to make sure that is never a reality in Georgia or anywhere else.”

Workers World endorses the Oct. 2 mobilization and is participating in many cities, just as we marched for “free, safe, legal abortions” in the early 1970s and later to oppose the anti-poor Hyde Amendment. WW has consistently demonstrated against and written about restrictions on this basic right, as reac- tionary state legislatures have enacted obstacles to obtaining the procedure, aimed mainly at low-income, young peo- ple and people of color.

WW hails the activists who have been fighting back for years against the racism and misogyny inherent in the “anti-abortion movement” and among their government- al allies and tucked within the restrictive laws. We lead the activists who expose and denounce anti-abortion extremists for their espousal of white supremacy.

WW says the only way forward is to keep the government to pro- tect reproductive rights. A united front focused on struggle is needed to push back the right wing. That requires building an independent movement — not relying on the Democratic Party — of women’s and pro-choice groups joined with people of all nationalities, the LGBTQ+ commu- nity, workers, labor unions, im/migrants, disabled people and incarcerated workers. It means joining with organizations fighting racist police terror and those promoting immigrant rights, government services and social justice, and other pro- gressive forces, left and socialist parties. Such a movement would include the most oppressed people in the leadership. And it would aim at the underlying cause of bigotry, white supremacy, misogyny, homophobia, poverty and exploitation of workers: capitalism.

Kathy Durkin participated in the move- ment that won legal abortion in the U.S.
The following excerpted remarks were given during a Philadelphia Workers World webinar promoting the upcoming November Caravan to Cuba sponsored by IFCO/Pastors for Peace. Speakers were Gail Walker, executive director of IFCO; Dr. Samira Addrey, IFCO’s ELAM (Latin America School of Medicine) coordinator; Clancy Murray, executive director of Tri-Continental Institute for Social Research, with Chancy Murray of Workers World Party facilitating.

Gail Walker: I want to thank you, and I want to thank Workers World for organizing this event. The first thing I want to say is that Cuba is not alone. Cuba, no extra has ever been so important at this particular moment when Cuba has really been under attack. But the fact is across the globe, Cuba has many friends, because Cuba has been a friend to those who have been neglected, disenfranchised and alienated, particularly by the U.S. and its other associates of the Empire.

And that’s why the international Cuba solidarity movement has and will continue to offer its unrelenting support of the Cuban people and the Cuban Revolution. Particularly those of us in the U.S. — in the belly of the beast — have been grateful for all that Cuba has done to support those in need, with its commitment to medical internationalism, running toward the fight to help, whether that be after a natural disaster or an oil spill to an economic crisis. During that Special Period, there were shortages of food and fuel, and life was extremely difficult for the Cuban people. That same year, Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization (IFCO), under the leadership of my father Rev. Lucius Walker, organized its first U.S.-Cuba Friendship caravan, providing the U.S. people with an opportunity to express their opposition to the U.S. government’s brutal sanctions against Cuba, by donating humanitarian aid that the U.S. government blockade prevented them from accessing.

The Friendships were broadly supported by all who oppose the U.S. blockade of Cuba. Those earlier caravans consisted of hundreds of people who came together from various walks of life to express their opposition to the blockade by traveling to Cuba without requesting or accepting a license to do so. Together, we joined our right to travel to Cuba without asking for government permission. We collected tons of humanitarian aid donated by individuals, community groups and churches in the earlier days, items such as powdered milk, medicines and even used school buses.

“Gail Walker

Believe it or not, we were banned by the U.S. government. Later, ironically and laughably, the government would send us back to the same places in absence of their blockade was provided to Cuba by them.

Let me tell you a little bit more about the caravan traveling along multiple routes and dozens of trucks and buses through dozens of cities. We stopped each night in different communities, educating people about the brutal effects of the blockade on the Cuban people. We helped to counter the lies and the false argument that the Trump administration put on Cuba, Joseph Biden and his administration have done the exact opposite. Biden has not only refused to reverse the 243 punitive measures that the Trump administration placed on Cuba, like limiting travel and remittances and downsizing the economy $130 billion over the past six decades. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce estimates that the blockade costs the U.S. economy billions of dollars each year as well. The human toll is harder to quantify, but it’s clearly been significant. Human rights experts in the U.N. have called for the U.S. to ease sanctions during the COVID-19 pandemic, arguing that such a change will save lives by allowing Cuba greater access to medical supplies and equipment.

Gerardo Hernández, coordinator of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution and one of the Cuban Five heroes, certifies that the vast majority of Cubans have been severely hindered by the blockade. Our just Friendship Caravan will take place this November, and we’re urging you to join us. Our friends need us now more than ever, and we hope you will join us for this life-changing experience. And if you can’t come with us this fall, please help us by raising funds to continue this important work.

A special moment to uplift Cuba

Samira Addrey: I just feel like it’s a special moment right now, just because of the energy of this group and what we’re gathered here tonight to do, which is to uplift Cuba and be there for Cuba, as she has been a friend to so many for so long. Like Gail said, we have to stand with her during the most difficult times. I always say Gail’s response is a genetic response to being there for friends in difficult times, because she’s continuing to carry the torch of her father, the late Reverend Walker.

The blockade has had its impact. COVID-19 has had its impact, and the economic turmoil on the island also has had its impact, all resulting in a seemingly perfect storm for U.S. intervention. But based on what we saw immediately after the July 11th disturbances and what has been the response of the Cuban people for over 62 years of this cruel and unjust blockade against the island nation, the streets indeed belong to the revolutionaries. If we pay close attention to history and the voices that have called for an internationalist approach in resolving human problems, we see that the threat of our aspiration to unify oppressed people of the world is the greatest threat to the U.S., Western imperialism, [its] structure and hegemony. Cuba is the internationalist beacon of the world, and we have a lot to learn from her.

We just returned from Cuba [and saw the] tranquility and resolve of the Cuban people, to move on from that failed attempt to destroy Cuba unity, and the covenant between its people and the revolutionary government.
There were no traces of the massive disdain and disruption reported by U.S. media, and we certainly did not find Cubans under heavy military or police occupation and surveillance.

What we did see and hear were the scenes that have continuously played out in Cuba between people. Folks differ in opinions and thoughts all the time, and they seldom hold their tongues. But in Cuba there is free expression of ideas and hardly any censorship. We saw the Cuban people grappling with everyday problems.

But people continue to meet those challenges with so much grace.

Cuban government resolute in protecting people

We also witnessed the threat, the effects of the pandemic, and higher casualties reported in a daily press conference; and everyone with their hearts in their throats, as children and pregnant women were now described as recently deceased.

For Cubans, hearing the death rate in one-digit form is bad enough. Just think of how people react when those deaths are now in two-digit numbers. But the story of Cuba today is not about death. On the contrary, it’s about her dedication to the defense of life. Not only have Cubans been killed by several tons of adversity, but they also have overcome those pangs of gloom with passion enough to shut all her enemies up.

The Cuban government remains resolute in protecting its people and involving the whole nation in that incredibly challenging work. I have seen firsthand how the Cuban people have weathered the storms placed in front of them. The natural disasters that wreak extensive havoc in these United States on that island are mitigated by a well-prepared national plan that involves grassroots community at its core. Infectious diseases that have been curbed by well-prepared national plans that involve the grassroots, those vaccines, because there is a culture of scientific acceptance and guidance in Cuba.

Cuba already vaccinated its population with an unusual type known as Soberana Plus to further protect people who have had COVID-19 and who could contract it again. This is because from the very beginning, their scientists knew that with the unpredictability of viruses, all the various tools necessary to ensure a patient’s health have to be used. Not only that, the sequence that people have to live with after having COVID-19 have a direct impact on their health and well-being, which translates into families, communities, and the society at large.

Cuban scientists have been working on a nasal spray vaccine called Mambisa [named after anti-colonialist Cuban guerillas who fought Spain in the late 1800s], which will be an alternative to injections but also protect the upper airways in a way that none of the vaccines that exist today in the world would be able to do, because they are only geared to protect the lower respiratory tract from severe forms of COVID-19.

I have the honor of being one of the two poles in my training: the political and the social justice-driven work that are represented tonight by IFCO/Pastors for Peace Executive Director Gail Walker, as well as Vijay Prashad; and the other pole of my training being medicine. And the underlying theme in all these spheres is the call of justice and love to influence the way we approach human relations. As a graduate of the Latin American School of Medicine in Cuba, I know we have been trained to look at all the factors that impact and maintain the health of our people from the individual, the family and community levels.

We have been taught from early on that social determinants are what influenced the health of our people. Social determinants of health are the conditions in which people are born, growing up, living, and the society in which they live. In Cuba, education, housing, health, safety, and human rights are guaranteed by the government. Yet the impact of the pandemic is on those rights are immeasurable.

The blockade makes it hard for Biopharma Cuba to access the raw materials needed to produce a medicine like this and more essential medicines like antibiotics, antivirals, and analgesics, etc. I make this example to show how the social determinants of economics, in this case the U.S. blockade, impact Cuba’s economy, and its access to materials directly impacts the health of our people.

How ELAM decolonizes medicine

I now have the privilege of being the coordinator of the ELAM Scholarship Program at Pastors for Peace, which is entrusted with the responsibility of recruiting, vetting, and supporting candidates for the full scholarship to study medicine in Cuba. It is an amazing opportunity that is open to young people from disadvantaged and underserved communities from the ages 18 and 23 who are also U.S. citizens and have completed their college level prerequisites of biology, chemistry, organic chemistry and physics.

And the commitment that is essential to receiving the scholarship is to return to the U.S. and to serve in the communities where they are needed most. We should reach out to the youth of our marginalized communities and encourage them to pursue medicine Cuban style, because it is not entrenched in the culture of profit and rather promotes universal health care as a human right.

This blockade, which is the longest economic war on any country in the world, over 62 years, has severely impacted every aspect of life in Cuba. The pandemic has taken advantage of the vulnerabilities created by the blockade and has created a situation where difficulties are due to compounding factors.

What can we do to help? We must first understand the history of our nations is more interconnected than we realize, and we can benefit from learning from each other.

America does not belong to the United States. It belongs to all the peoples of these continents north and south and the islands in between. We must not allow false notions to divide us, or those borders that have been created by a few and certain to fall if the languages that the colonial powers have used to separate their property. We must continue to fight in this struggle for liberation and self-determination of Cuba and understand that if we fight for Cuba, we are fighting for all of mankind.

And the example that Cuba has been strong, and it must be kept alive, just like we must fight for Haiti, Venezuela.

All of the nations have been plagued by U.S. imperialism, and the examples are countless. And in the revolutionary spirit that Cuba has always shown us even before 1959, the revolutionary spirit that Cuba has been is strong, and we must not allow the colonial powers to separate our peoples.

The blockade makes it hard for Biopharma Cuba to access the raw materials needed to produce a medicine like this and more essential medicines like antibiotics, antivirals, and analgesics, etc. I make this example to show how the social determinants of economics, in this case the U.S. blockade, impact Cuba’s economy, and its access to materials directly impacts the health of our people.

To remove the scourge of imperialism from the planet

Vijay Prashad: I was in Los Angeles in 1988 when Lucius Walker came there because there had been a hurricane, I believe in Nicaragua and perhaps in Bluefields, which I visited later, Lucius Walker was attacked in August of 1988 by the Contras, and he was almost killed. He threatened to sue [then President] Ronald Reagan. I remember that well.

I’m just saying all this because I want people to get a sense that this is not about Cuba. This is a struggle to liberate the planet from the scourge of capitalism. It is not just about the language about politics that affects the lives of the 11 million people on the Cuban island. We are socialists. We want to conquer the world. We want to remove the scourge of imperialism from the heart of Zambia, from Bolivia—in fact, from Bolivia — for the whole planet.

Cuba is the front line to defend humanity against anti-humanity. At the time when the Cuban doctors are all across the Caribbean in the hot COVID wards, what

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Right-wing threats collapse
Successful Nicaragua dialogue at Holyrood Church

By William Camacaro
New York City

The Community and Popular Mass in Solidarity with Nicaragua, officiated by Pastor Luis Barrios Sept. 26, was a resounding success. Hundreds of participants filled Holyrood Church/Iglesia Santa Cruz to hear H.E. Mr. Denis Moncada, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nicaragua. They came in an organized fashion to show their support and were warmly welcomed.

The entry was secured by numerous community groups who heard that the meeting was threatened. As part of the religious service, both Pastor Barrios and Minister Moncada raised the importance of peace, security and sovereignty for Nicaragua and for all people.

Moncada raised the current situation in Nicaragua in light of the November presidential elections, the Sandinista strategy to protect the country’s sovereignty in the face of sanctions imposed by the U.S. and its allies, and the importance of international solidarity at the current juncture.

The barrage of threats from the Nicaraguan extreme right and their promise to block or disrupt and break up the gathering with hundreds of provocationists failed miserably. Their grand mobilization was a Palmy showing of nine people across the street, shouting and screaming and two people inside the church who held a flag during the mass.

After the Community Mass and Blessing by Barrios, Moncada invited all to stay for an informal dialogue. The handful of opposition forces who had been screaming across the street entered and were given the floor, but they failed to raise even a coherent question or statement. Nevertheless, the minister answered calmly and warmly with full explanations of the accomplishments in health, education and infrastructure of the Sandinista government and the significance of the upcoming democratic election. His confidence showed that he did not fear hostile questions or absurd charges.

The dialogue ended with a standing ovation, flags and photos. Afterwards the frustrated opponents stayed in the church, attempting to continue a confrontation. Members of Holyrood Iglesia Santa Cruz firmly invited them to leave.

Holyrood Iglesia Santa Cruz in Washington Heights, the heart of the Dominican community, is a historic Sanctuary church. The congregation is overwhelmingly migrants from Central and South America and the Caribbean. They have painful experiences with past U.S. wars, sanctions, raids and regime-change operations. The church hosts numerous social and community programs.

CUBA SI: Solidarity against blockades, COVID and empire

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is the United States doing? The United States this summer ran two hideous naval exercises. One was called Tradewinds 2021. The other was called PANAMAX exercises. One was called Tradewinds, the other called PANAMAX. Both were hideous, naval exercises.

The point of Tradewinds was to turn the country of Guyana against Venezuela: it took place in the country of Guyana. This is a hideous way to turn people against each other. And that’s precisely what the CIA has been trying to do on the Cuban island: Turn people against their own revolution.

Everything that has happened, in the last few years in Cuba, is a consequence of this attempt to break the revolution’s soul, to break its back.

That’s the reason that Manolo De Los Santos and I edited this book, Comrade of the Revolution, because we picked seven speeches given by a great comrade, Fidel Castro — each of the seven at a time of crisis, when the sugar harvest failed, when the Soviet Union collapsed. When neoliberalism was at its highest, and so on and so forth, Fidel could go into a crisis, analyze the conjuncture and find hope there.

And you know, when the Soviet Union collapsed, we learned something, something very interesting, he said. That we will defend ourselves, and he said something very sharp. He said if we were a capitalist country, this country would have collapsed. It’s socialism that saved Cuban socialism.

It’s the class struggle. This is medicine for the people, not medicine for the rich and medicine for money. The imperialists don’t want the example of medicine for the people.

Let’s not forget the Cuban troops — they played a heroic role in [the Battle of] Cuito Cuanavale in Angola in 1987. Cuba has only exported itself for the people. Whether the humanity is in a white coat with their doctors or a green coat with a guerrilla fighter fighting against the apartheid forces doesn’t matter. White coat, green coat — they export for humanity, but the United States exports to destroy.

This is humanity versus imperialism, and Cuba is the front line of humanity.

Our movement must be humane. It must be caring. We have to look our adversaries in the eyes and tell the truth at all times. We must be gentle people. It’s a gentleness that’s going to win the planet.

To join the 31st Pastors for Peace Friendship Caravan, go to IFCONews.org. To request an application for an ELAM scholarship, go to the same site and click on the Medical School tab.

A giant 18-foot-tall paper-mache puppet of Mumia Abu-Jamal, designed by artist Jacqueline Wade, was the center-piece of the "Rising Together" rally held Sept. 10 at Foley Square in New York City. The program used art, banners, speakers, culture and poetry to call for the freedom of political prisoners including Mumia Abu-Jamal, Julian Assange, Alex Saab, Daniel Hale, Leonard Peltier and Aafia Siddiqui. Solidarity organizations representing Palestine, Philippines, Yemen and climate justice spoke. Participants included CODEPINK, Extinction Rebellion, Veterans For Peace, International Action Center, World BEYOND War and activists marking the 10th anniversary of Occupy Wall Street.

— Photo and report by Sara Flounders

We are not just nostalgic about Cuba. This is not about the 11 million people on the Cuban island. We are socialists. We want to conquer the world.

— Vijay Prashad

Vijay Prashad
U.S. solidarity with Haitian migrants

By Martha Grevatt

The whole world has responded with horror and anger at images of Haitian migrants being whipped and terrorized by U.S. Border Patrol agents on horseback. Parallels have been drawn with chattel slavery in the Western Hemisphere, which was first ended in Haiti when enslaved Africans carried out a successful revolution.

Haitians have organized protests in multiple cities, leading one across from the White House in Lafayette Park in Washington, D.C. The Haitian community of Miami has held multiple actions. Boston’s large Haitian community demonstrated Sept. 24. In Atlanta over 150 people demonstrated Sept. 26 in an action called by Alliance for Black Lives.

Two demonstrations took place Sept. 21 in New York City, one intended to be outside the United Nations in Manhattan. Police forced the demonstrators to relocate to Brooklyn. The second action took place later in the day in Brooklyn. Nearly 200 people gathered in front of the San Francisco Federal Building during rush hour Sept. 24. The large group then took to the streets chanting “U.S. Out of Haiti—Black Lives Matter!” and marched to the Civic Center.

A Border Patrol agent stated on horseback to demonstrators standing in the street that the Haitians who crossed the river in the U.S. were refugees and must be treated as such. He spoke about the 2004 U.S. coup that overthrew elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, ushering in a long period that overthrew elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. He spoke about the 2004 U.S. coup that overthrew Aristide. He denounced the 2020 coup that deposed President Jovenel Moise and established a police state.

Jeremy Miller of Black Alliance for Peace expressed his group’s solidarity with the Haitian struggle for freedom. Several organizations, including Workers World Party, gave solidarity statements at the closing rally.

Texans support refugees at the border

In downtown Houston Sept. 22, people picketed and rallied for three hours at the Mickey Leland Federal Building. They condemned President Joe Biden, the actions of the Border Patrol, and both the Democratic and Republican parties.

The action was organized by the National Black United Front. Traffic constantly responded to two large signs, one reading “Honk to support refugees” and the other, “Honk if you agree.”

The demonstrators were at first mostly African American, and the popular chant was “Let my people in!” As people got off work, the protest became more multinatio
tional, with Latinx, Palestinian and white activists joining in.


“The revolutionary people of Haiti won a war and kicked out the French and were then ordered to pay reparations. Now the people of Haiti have had to come to America’s door, and we can’t open our doors. We can’t let our Latino sisters and brothers down either, because the U.S. stole Texas, Arizona, New Mexico and California. And this whole country was taken from Indigenous people,” Minister Abdul Haleem Muhammad of the Nation of Islam told the crowd.

A large number of Haitians have been allowed into Houston, and community organizations are helping with everything from housing to clothes to diapers. Houston Haitians United has led this effort.

The National Black United Front is holding a Haiti Relief Drive and collecting donations of health and safety products.

Labor support for Haitian workers

UNITE HERE, the union representing over 300,000 hospitality workers across the U.S. and Canada, including thousands of Haitian housekeepers, servers, cooks and concierges workers” issued a statement Sept. 22, signed by President of UNITE HERE Local 355 in South Florida: “I fled from Haiti to Miami over 17 years ago to escape political persecution.

Now, I represent hospitality workers across South Florida, who have been on the receiving end of increasing deportations over the past year running again. Our spirit as Haitians is to fight back. In 1804 we led the largest slave rebellion in the Western Hemisphere against colonial rule. We are resilient, but we cannot do it alone. It’s time for President Biden to step up and defend Haitians by taking immediate action to stop deportations.” (unitehere.org)

Los Angeles has been ground zero in terms of deportations for the movement for Black Lives from labor,” Felipe Caeceres, a coordinator with SEIU Local 721, said on Sept. 23. “A lot of our members were working in hand with BLM on other things, so after seeing these visuals (from the border), the Latino and Black caucus came together and decided that Los Angeles is ground zero for us to show our support for Black and Brown organization and leadership. We’re not only focused on deportations, we’re not only focused on deportations; we’re fighting for 11 million undocumented people but also for asylum seekers.” (latano.com)

In a Sept. 24 solidarity statement, the 105 million strong World Federation of Trade Unions declared: “We call upon the working class and militant trade unions of Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the ones of the U.S., to struggle for the rights and protection of Haitian workers, of migrant workers in every country of the Americas. To fight against racism and the causes that create migrants and refugees, which are none other than poverty, imperialist wars and exploitation.”

Migrant solidarity actions focus on Haiti

In Philadelphia about 75 people surrounded a huge “Libertad” banner laid on the ground Sept. 23 before Independence Hall near the Liberty Bell. Speakers demanded President Biden end an Immigration Customs and Enforcement (ICE) prison contract in Bucks County, Pa. An artwork of over 1,000 paper flowers, created by visual artist Michelle Angela Ortiz, included messages of freedom for and by immigrant families formerly detained at the Berks County Detention Center.

After years of protests, ICE was forced to end the Family Detention Center, north of Philadelphia. However, ICE now plans to replace it with a prison for women migrant miigrants.

The message by the Shut Down Berks Coalition and seven other endorsers was succinct and clear: “Immigrants from Pennsylvania are not going to allow families, women or anyone to continue to be incarcerated. We don’t need the pris ons – we need more social services!”

Referring to the recent acts of terror at the Del Rio, Texas, border crossing, and the forced deportations of thousands of Haitian people, Steve Paul from Haitian American Voice said: “The U.S. govern ment has a long history of treating Haitian migrants particularly terribly because of the color of our skin and because of where we come from. … No more prisons! No more ICE! No more deportations!” He announced a protest against Haitian deportations for Sept. 28 at Philadelphia City Hall.

This event was part of Detention Watch Network’s Communities Not Cages National Day of Action. It occurred during National Migration Week, when demonstrations, organized in solidarity with all migrants and protesting the brutality against Haitian refugees in Texas, were held around the country.

Many were sponsored by a broad cross section of community and social justice organizations. Such was the case in Cleveland Sept. 23, when dozens of anti-racist activists braved fierce winds to hear representatives from 11 sponsoring organizations representing im/migrants, refugees, Black, Asian and Indigenous communities. Speakers condemned the systemic anti-Blackness and the legacy of enslavement embodied in the anti-Hai tian terror.

Judy Greenspan, Joe Piette, Gloria Rubac and Dave Welsh contributed to this article.

Philidelphia, Sept. 25

PHOTO: CHRISTA BLAIR

Racist terror forces out Haitian refugees

Continued from page 1

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Judy Greenspan, Joe Piette, Gloria Rubac and Dave Welsh contributed to this article.

Cleveland, Sept. 21

PHOTO: BILL HACKWELL

Racist terror forces out Haitian refugees

continued from page 1

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In a Sept. 24 solidarity statement, the 105 million strong World Federation of Trade Unions declared: “We call upon the working class and militant trade unions of Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the ones of the U.S., to struggle for the U.S. State subsidized rice so it can drive Haitian rice, and the farmers who grow it, out of business. Former President Bill Clinton apologized for this, but in 2009 when Hillary Clinton was Secretary of State and Haiti tried to raise its minimum wage to 61 cents an hour, the U.S. forced Haiti to maintain their 24 cents an hour wage—less than $2 a day. The U.S. forced Haiti to maintain their 24 cents an hour wage—less than $2 a day.

There have been whole books written on how, and why, the U.S. economically exploits Haiti, but until the U.S. stops, people are going to be pushed out of Haiti towards the U.S.
Open the borders! Reparations for the Haitian people!

Workers World Party salutes the inspiring bravery of the Haitian people— in Del Rio, Texas, and in Haiti, now and for over two centuries. WWP also salutes the solidarity expressed in the streets by the political movement worldwide including inside the U.S. for the Haitian people.

The racist brutality of the United States was on worldwide display, with pictures of their border guards using whips which the Border Patrol calls "restraint"— to stop Haitians trying to bring food and water back to their families in Del Rio. The Haitian workers dodged and dodged the U.S. Patrol's terror but still didn't drop their packages. As of Sept. 27, all the Haitian refugees have been removed from the border but the crisis still continues. Lying to the refugees and saying that they were just moving them to a reception center with more facilities, the U.S. brought planes of people back to Port-au-Prince. These expulsions— illegal under international law— were met with more resistance. On at least one bus bringing refugees to the Del Rio airport, refugees managed to gain control of the bus and flee. When the planes reached Port-au-Prince, people struggled to remain on the plane or to get back on it. Their belongings were thrown in a jumble on the tarmac, and often their passports and their children’s passports were not returned. To thwart their heroic resistance, Haitian workers were put on the planes in shackles, returned in chains much like their ancestors were brought to Haiti.

Haitians weren’t leaving because of the current political instability. The people at Del Rio left Haiti long before the July 7 assassination of President Jeanvel Moïse. Long before the regime of Michel Martelly (2011-2016), during the decades of Duvalist terror, people were fleeing the economic and political devastation caused by the U.S. and its accomplices. PAME and WWP have been sabotaging Haitian development since Haiti committed its original "sin"— eradicating its enslavers through revolution—and emerged in 1804 as a free, Black country.

The Haitian people are due billions of dollars in reparations from all the wealth stolen from their superexploited labor and resources by both French and U.S. imperialism. These reparations can be used to build passable roads, decent housing, schools and hospitals, electricity and other infrastructure along with providing livable wages and benefits long denied to them.

We demand that the U.S. government open its borders to Haitians and other asylum seekers and stop the racist terror now! Reparations for the Haitian people! ☑

Big win for Greek delivery drivers

From the militants of PAME (the All Workers Militant Front of Greece) to financial analysts following the fast food industry worldwide, all agreed: the delivery workers at eFood platform won big.

The platform eFood is owned by a German international firm and has 90,000 clients in all major Greek cities, especially the three biggest— Athens, Thessaloniki and Patras. During 2020, a pandemic year, its profits soared by 26.7%. (Financiar.com/4Mj3j0b7)

In order to keep profits up, on Sept. 17 eFood told 115 of its workers who were on three-month contracts that they had to either become freelancers or quit. This email went viral and drew reactions from both customers and workers.

Customers/clients of eFood deleted the app from their phones in solidarity with the workers. The tags #Delete eFood and #eFood_3caned started to trend. When eFood made it much more difficult to delete the app, customers started giving eFood a bad rating, dragging it down from 3.5 to 2.2 within a few days.

One customer comment on the app read: “Please amplify the news about the struggle of delivery-distribution workers to retain basic rights like social security, employment contracts, decent pay and safety at work. They are essential workers and deserve much better.”

According to the Trade Union of Workers in Catering-Tourism-Hotels of Athens, “Efood Workers. We Are victorous! The big strikes that took place all over Greece on Wednesday brought to their knees the multinational electronic platform that announced a few hours ago that all fixed-term contracts become indefinite.”

Based on this victory, the union is considering what additional demands can now be made. ☑

Global Day of Climate Action

The climate crisis school-strike movement, Fridays For Future, called a Global Day of Climate Action for Sept. 24. More than 3,500 towns and cities in 154 countries held rallies and demonstrations that day in the largest climate protest since the pandemic began. Eric Damien from Fridays For Future Kenya said: “The pandemic has shown us that politicians have the power to act quickly and consistent with the best available science. But not even amid a pandemic is the climate crisis on hold.” (fridaysforfuture.org)

— Report by Minnie Bruce Pratt

New report

The deadly impact and global condemnation of U.S. sanctions

Sanctions Kill issued the following news release Sept. 24.

A coalition of North American human rights organizations has released a report on the impact and consequences of U.S. sanctions. The report is based on wide-ranging research and interviews with residents of countries facing U.S. sanctions.

The report reveals a reality which Western media rarely or never reports.

One finding is that U.S. sanctions hurt the poor, have resulted in thousands of deaths, and “humanitarian exemptions” do not work. Another finding is that more than 70% of the world’s nations officially condemn U.S. sanctions as violating international law and the U.N. Charter.

A free PDF copy of the report can be downloaded from sanctionskill.org/impact/.

The Sanctions Kill Report is being distributed to all members of Congress and to the representatives of all members of the United Nations.

We encourage social justice, human rights and legal organizations to study and take up this issue. The 35-page report, with its extensive references, is appropriate for college courses. ☑

This New York City protest highlighted the Indigenous struggle to stop Line 3, the Enbridge company’s proposed pipeline expansion to bring almost a million barrels of tar sands oil each day from Alberta, Canada, to Superior, Wis.

PHOTOS: PÅME

PHOTOS: PÅME
Hands off the Arctic, says U.S. archaeologist

This article is an interview with Workers World contributor, archaeologist Paddy Colligan, from a series on the Arctic, from The Worker, Danish Workers Party publication, Sept. 6, 2021, translated by Workers World.

I say to Washington: “Hands off the Arctic. We have resources in the Arctic that has a serious impact on the lives of Indigenous peoples who live there. The antinwar movement must take note of that and take into account the interests of Indigenous peoples, she told The Worker.

Paddy Eileen Colligan is a member of the Workers Party, representing the Canadian Arctic.

The archaeologist has included how people have lived for thousands of years in the Arctic, which is divided between Greenland, Norway, Sweden, Iceland, the U.S., Canada and Russia.

Colligan is an archaeologist specializing in the Arctic. She has conducted field research as well as research in several museums in Alaska, Canada, Greenland and Denmark.

Her research has included how people have lived for thousands of years in the North American Arctic. In 2008, she was part of a team of archaeologists and Inupiaq people who excavated a Thule cemetery, dating from 800 to 1400, on a rapidly eroding spit of land on the Arctic Ocean near Utqiaġvik, Alaska.

The field work was conducted under the protection of federal Inuit bear guards, who kept an eye out for the polar bears that occasionally approached the Arctic Circle, as well as small community nations along the west coast of Greenland.

As the ice melts, the U.S. shifts focus.

Colligan argues that the Arctic is highly critical of the U.S. government, which wants more control in the region where Russia and China are aiming to expand the Arctic Circle, as well as the ice melts. The climate crisis and the warming of the Arctic Ocean have suddenly made the Arctic valuable, not just strategically but as a source of raw materials, including energy resources, Paddy Colligan told The Worker.

She pointed out that while Canada and Russia control most of the Arctic’s territory, Norway and Greenland also have long borders with the Arctic Ocean. The U.S. has direct access only through its state of Alaska. U.S. strategists want to ensure they can compete successfully.

Aiming for that success, the U.S. Army has launched the “Reclaim U.S. Arctic Dominance” strategy, she said. Dr. Colligan adds that in the controversial report, the U.S. Army acknowledged that the expense of the Alaskan forces has paid to waging desert war in recent decades has caused its efforts in the Arctic to pale.

So now they are shifting focus and increasing military exercises in the region,” said Colligan, adding that as recently as last year she spoke with Army soldiers who were involved in training exercises in Alaska.

In the foreword to the report, Army Chief of Staff Gen. James C. McConville says: “To protect our nation and keep the peace, the Army must train, equip and organize to win in the Arctic, which is an arena for competition—a line of attack with conflict—with as much as an important area rich in natural resources—and thus it is a platform for the global power competition.”

McConville concludes, “The Army is committed to defending our Arctic interests,” and the goal is to “regain the Arctic dominance of the U.S. Army.”

Responsibilities of the peace movement

Colligan has little sympathy for this or for aggressive statements by U.S. President Joe Biden and NATO regarding the role of Russia and China in the Arctic. Russia has the greatest access to the Arctic. U.S. strategists, on the other hand, plan to dominate in all areas. They already made this clear in a 1992 strategic document. If the Arctic becomes open to exploitation because the ice has melted, U.S. imperialism naturally wants to determine who gets the biggest share, she told The Worker.

Her research was funded in part by the American Scandinavian Foundation and the City University of New York Graduate Center, where she has also participated in a long-standing research collaboration in the North Atlantic with an interdiscipli- nary team of researchers from the U.S., Britain, Canada, Iceland, Greenland, Denmark, Norway and Scotland.

The Worker: Dr. Colligan, what can ordinary people do to stop the Arctic becoming a military battleground and being plundered by the great power of the U.S.?

Paddy Colligan: We should make the antinwar movement aware of the situation in the Arctic, so that we are not caught off guard if conflict breaks out there. But a conflict could also break out in Ukraine, Taiwan, Korea, Iran or Africa. We need to demonstrate that NATO countries are and will remain exploitive predator nations and that they are all part of an imperialist alliance led by the U.S., whether in the Arctic or in Africa.

Collared building in New Orleans after Hurricane Ida struck in August.

Ida disaster: capitalism and what the movement must do

By Gabrielle Gemma

New Orleans

The author is a member of the Workers Voice political party, the Workers Voice of New Orleans. Here she describes the ravages of Ida, the failure of government aid and her ideas on how working class organizations should react to the crisis.

Sept. 12 — Sitting in my “living room,” piled with contents where water came in from a damaged roof, I fume at news coverage of all the help we’re allegedly getting. But reality on the ground for workers, especially the low paid, is completely different. Despite hundreds of millions of dollars for Ida recovery, little goes to those who need it now. Most recovery money goes to institutions, not the people. Directly and more storms are coming fast.

The $500 FEMA cash is delayed, if ever coming. As if $500 is anywhere close. As if $500 is enough. So many do not have bank accounts. Hours are spent on the phone trying to get something, anything, that can inspire and stimulate the broadest possible movement.

The city announced construction projects are starting again, so they can continue that relentless grinding of the working people. Insurance is all about collecting money to pay for the next expensive thing the insurance company can imagine. That is certainly deductible of thousands of dollars. Louisiana is an economic rock bottom for workers, yet has the highest home and car insurance costs in the U.S. Who has thousands to deal with emergencies — only well-to-do people.

Electrical, sewage and water, hospital and construction projects are playing. Insurance is all about collecting money to pay for the next expensive thing the insurance company can imagine. The city announces that construction projects are starting again, so they can continue that relentless grinding of the working people.

We don’t need endless webinars with the leaders of nonprofits. We don’t need endless webinars with the leaders of nonprofits. We don’t need endless endless webinars with the leaders of nonprofits. We don’t need endless webinars with the leaders of nonprofits.

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Money is needed now to get repairs done, to live somewhere else, to get a car, a job or pay your rent. Bills are coming in to the mailbox, and Entergy is asking for a $38 rate hike. The working class, especially communities of color, is in the extreme poverty category of people being grounded. Entergy is asking for a $38 rate hike.

We cannot continue to fight small fights, each issue separated while the ultra-right gains strength. We need to demand, and not rely on politicians like Joe Biden.

Paddy Colligan:

hands off the Arctic, says U.S. archaeologist
Brasil para el 2 de octubre

Centrales sindicales convocan manifestaciones para exigir el juicio político a Jair Bolsonaro

El país será testigo de nuevos actos de protesta contra Jair Bolsonaro el 2 de octubre. “No nos retiraremos de las calles hasta que Brasil sea liberado de este presidente criminal”, afirman las centrales sindicales en una citación conjunta difundida este jueves pasado. Las manifestaciones, en todos los estados y en el exterior, son una protesta “contra el caos” representada por la presencia de un “mitómano” (que tiene la compilación de mientes y mentiras de Bolsonaro). El apoyo a la organización de las manifestaciones son los frentes Brasil Popular y Povo Sem Medio, movimiento estudiantil, además de varios partidos de oposición.

Las entidades vuelven a preguntar por el caso de los 12 millones de habitantes que están en el exterior, son una protesta “contra los crímenes que cometió y comete a diario contra los brasileños”. Esta es la aspiración de las centrales sindicales. La pregunta es, ¿cuándo será el juicio a Bolsonaro y sus crímenes investigados hasta que liberemos a Brasil de este presidente criminal?”

Las Centrales Sindicales tomarán las calles el 2 de octubre, junto a más de 80 organizaciones representadas por Frentes Brasil Popular, Povo Sem Fédo, Frente Nacional Bolsonaro y partidos políticos. “Hay que escuchar la voz de las calles”, afirman. “Y vamos a ser esas voces el 2 de octubre y en todas las fechas que se presenten. Hasta que Bolsonaro sea sacado a juicio por los crímenes que cometió y comete a diario contra los brasileños, hasta que respondan por el genocidio que cometió. Se cobró la vida de casi 600.000 personas en la pandemia Covid-19, por el desempleo que llega a los 100 millones y el desaliento que provoca miseria y hambre.”

Hay que escuchar la voz de las calles y seremos esas voces el día de las elecciones. Y si Bolsonaro no está a la fecha en que venga, hasta que Bolsonaro sea sacado a juicio por los crímenes que cometió y comete a diario contra los brasileños, hasta que respondan por el genocidio que cometió. Se cobró la vida de casi 600.000 personas en la pandemia Covid-19, por el desempleo que llega a los 100 millones y el desaliento que provoca miseria y hambre.

Brasil, 23 de septiembre de 2021
Sérgio Nobre Presidente de CUT – Central Workers
Miguel Torres Presidente de Força Sindical
Ricardo Patah Presidente de UGT – Unión General de Trabajadores
Adlison Araújo Presidente de CEB – Central de Trabajadores y Trabajadoras de Brasil
José Reginaldo Inácio Presidente de NCST – Nuevo Centro Sindical de Trabajadores
Antonio Neto Presidente de CSB – Central de Sindicatos Brasileños
Secretaría Ejecutiva Nacional
El grito en el cielo contra China

El trasfondo de la preocupación viene dado, entre otras cosas, porque la tasa máxima de ganancias de capital aumentaría a solo el 25%, lo que está muy por debajo de la tasa impositiva sobre las ganancias de Capital de casi 40% propuesta por Biden. Algo raro está pasando en Estados Unidos, tal vez sea que no saben cómo manejar la crisis porque ya no es solo de carácter coyuntural, sino que pareciera apuntar a las bases mismas del sistema capitalista.

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