

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 headlights of the car were 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 possible, 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?



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

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

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

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



The 63 mile march to Savannah, Ga. where Julian Lewis was murdered, on Sept. 19, fourth day of the march.

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 Francys 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!

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

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

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

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

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Changing racist names of prisons

Like ‘putting lipstick on a pig’

By Gloria Rubac

Outrage over the Minneapolis police murder of George Floyd in May 2020 was immediate. This righteous anger took many forms, from marches and rallies to toppling racist statues, shutting down highways and even setting fire to police stations. The disgust was palpable and widespread.

As a result, many Confederate symbols have since been removed, either by militant protesters or by government entities to pacify protesters. A report, issued by the Southern Poverty Law Center in February 2021, announced that 168 Confederate symbols were removed in 2020. Of those, 94 were monuments. (tinyurl.com/t6wknf8w)

Now reports are surfacing that prisons named after racist, enslaver plantation owners or even former plantations may be changing their names as well. In Texas, Virginia, North Carolina and other states, many prisons were named to glorify enslavement and the plantations that enslaved people.

One of the most infamous is Angola Prison in Louisiana, built on land which was originally Angola Plantation. The prison requires incarcerated men to work in the same fields that enslaved people worked up through the Civil War.

Of Angola’s incarcerated men, 80% are Black. According to the Equal Justice Initiative, “its warden compares the grounds to ‘a big plantation in days gone by.’” (tinyurl.com/mzjxjp4s) The formal name of Angola prison is actually the Louisiana State Penitentiary.

Thirteenth Amendment’s prison enslavement exception

The Thirteenth Amendment abolished enslavement in the United States, except “as a punishment for crime.” So prison

enslavement is, in fact, legal. The end of enslavement left the Southern labor market in need of workers to do the work previously done by enslaved people. The criminal justice system became one of the primary means of continuing the legalized involuntary servitude of primarily African Americans across the South.

After the Civil War, enslavement continued in the form of convict leasing, a system whereby Southern states leased prisoners to private railways, mines and large plantations. While states profited, prisoners earned no pay and faced inhumane, brutal and often deadly work conditions.

Many historians call this period “worse than slavery,” because while the old enslavers had an interest in keeping their investment in enslaved workers alive to work another day, those who leased prisoners had no such interest. They could and did literally work a prisoner to death and then replace them with another prisoner.

Justice for the Sugar Land 95

In February 2020, as construction was beginning on a new school building in Sugar Land, a suburb south of Houston, a backhoe driver found a human bone. More bones were discovered, and ultimately the remains of 95 people were unearthed. Activist Reginald Moore had warned that the school was being built on the land of former plantations, and the remains of leased convicts were in the area.

By summer, the remains of 94 men and one woman, all African American victims of convict leasing, were recovered on the

future site of a technical education center. Ranging in age from 14 to 70, the incarcerated people had muscular builds but were malnourished, their bones misshapen from backbreaking, repetitive labor. They were buried in plain pine boxes, sometime between 1878 and 1911.

Moore’s fears had been realized. After a struggle to honor these remains, to identify them and properly bury them, the work of activists under the leadership of the National Black United Front is paying off. Construction was halted and never continued.



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

On Juneteenth 2021, an event was held on the school district’s land that abuts the previously unmarked cemetery. It was organized by the Society of Justice and Equality for the People of Sugar Land (S.O.J.E.S.), a nonprofit organization dedicated to seeking justice for the Sugar Land 95. (sojesjustice.org)

Robin Cole, a Sugar Land resident and president of S.O.J.E.S., said, “We have to get justice for the Sugar Land 95, their unimaginable lives of forced labor, and explain why people should never again be subjected to such inhumane and cruel practices that benefitted only a few.”



Cole announced that S.O.J.E.S. will build a national convict leasing museum and educational center named after the late activist Reginald Moore, to inform the world about the harrowing system of racial oppression that existed in Texas and throughout the South from the late 1800s to the early 1900s.

The museum will be part of “the Sugar Land 95” experience, a collaborative effort developed by S.O.J.E.S. to take visitors through a journey of awareness through education, memorialization, healing and reconciliation between the past and present.

‘Still a pig’

In 2021, as racist monuments and statues have been removed through the struggle, another change is happening. Departments of Correction are beginning to change the names of some prisons named after racist owners of enslaved people, some named after actual plantations.

In Texas, the former Darrington Unit is now the Memorial Unit. South of Houston in Brazoria County, it was named after John Darrington from Alabama. A large plantation owner who owned land in Texas, he sold the land to the State of Texas after enslavement was abolished. The name may have been changed, but today’s incarcerated workers, mainly Black and Latinx men, still harvest cotton with no pay.

There are other prisons whose names should be changed. A prison in Huntsville was named after Thomas Goree, a former enslaver and a Confederate captain. According to the Marshall Project, he was closely tied to the convict leasing program that killed thousands in Texas.

The Marshall Project also cites the Eastham Unit, as it is named after the

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Chuck Africa – Rest in power!

By Betsey Piette

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 incarceration at Pennsylvania State Correctional Institution Fayette, in LaBelle, Pa., a site notorious for high cancer rates.

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 around MOVE. Chuck was incarcerated at 18. Debbie Africa called her younger brother a “strong-willed, determined fighter.”

In the same podcast Mike Africa Jr. said of his uncle: “The impact he had on me personally and politically is tremendous. I would not be the me I am without him. He had the biggest, most unselfish heart, and he loved with passion and fury. The 42 years he spent in prison never broke his fighting spirit.

“Thank you to everyone that loved and supported Chuck in his fight. Thank you to those that never turned their backs on him. He loved you as much as you loved him. I’ll never forget you, Chuck. Rest well, soldier.”

Brad Thomson, Chuck Africa’s lawyer at the time of his parole, commented on Twitter: “Chuck had a heart and a fighting spirit that was unparalleled. He loved animals, boxing and literature — which we would talk about often.”

Sophia Williams with the Campaign to Bring Mumia Home remarked on Facebook: “Sorry to hear of Chuck’s passing. My condolences to all that knew and loved him. He sacrificed and fought for humanity. May his soul rest in power, knowing the impact he had.”

Chuck Africa was one of nine MOVE members charged with the murder of Philadelphia police officer James Ramp on Aug. 8, 1978, when police attacked the group’s home in Philadelphia’s Powelton Village. MOVE members claim they fired no weapons that day. The sentencing judge acknowledged there was no proof of who fired the shot that killed Ramp, but nonetheless sentenced them as a group. Within 24 hours of the confrontation, police demolished the house, destroying all evidence.

The MOVE 9, including Janet, Janine and Eddie Africa currently on parole and Merle and Phil Africa who died while incarcerated, were all sentenced to 30 years to life. Delbert Africa, released several weeks before Chuck, died in June 2020 from cancer left untreated by prison doctors. □



Action at Carswell prison: ‘Free Aafia Siddiqui!’

By Alex Colwell
Carswell, Texas

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. □



Carswell, Texas, Sept. 18.

WWW PHOTO: TANIA SIDDIQI

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, predominantly 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 rents. 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



Rally to stop housing evictions during the pandemic in Minneapolis, May 8.

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 90% 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 built 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 was needed to keep up with housing demands.

The roots 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

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 COVID-19 pandemic led capitalist countries around the world to pump trillions of dollars into propping up their economies. Yet they have not been able to stave off new social and economic crises in the making, of which the housing crisis is the canary in the coal mine.

The millions in the U.S. who face the risk of homelessness this fall and winter have ample company. Around the world, in major cities from New York to London, Berlin, Paris, Rome and others, soaring property prices and increasing rents are creating an acute global housing equality crisis. It includes a widening generational gap, as younger workers can no longer afford apartments.

Housing inequality, sure to become a trigger of social unrest, is already resulting in political crises in several countries, including Sweden, South Korea, Canada, Australia, Ireland and Singapore. Reactions to some efforts to abandon traditional rent controls and let the market set rates have brought governments down.

In an attempt to address this crisis, Argentina's government decreed a pandemic rent freeze, bypassing landlords by having their central bank create an index to determine how much rent could go up. This year China increased restrictions on the real-estate sector and may implement a property tax to decrease prices.

As with the global climate catastrophe, any sustainable solution to the housing crisis demands a systemic global economic change. For guaranteed housing and the survival of humans, workers and the oppressed across the globe must take down capitalism and replace it with a socialist system based on the premise that housing is a human right. □

New York postal workers rally Dump DeJoy and bounce 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 Assets, 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 \$12.5 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 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! □



WW PHOTO: JOE HIRSCH

Postal workers rally to save the Postal Service, Sept. 23, New York City.

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 in

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 availability of, or support the constitutional right to abortion care in order to meet the demands of their sport and unleash 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 rights recognized in Roe v. Wade."

Read the entire legal brief at tinyurl.com/hpctx9hh.

— Monica Moorehead

Changing racist names of prisons

Continued from page 3

landowners who bought Goree's family plantation about 20 miles north of Huntsville and then used it for convict 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 changing prison names is a tiny drop in the bucket for change.

Texas prisoner Shedrick Roberson, fighting for clemency from his unjustly long prison sentence of 85 years for a robbery where no one was killed, told

Workers World, "Changing names will not change conditions in Texas prisons. If you put a wig on a pig and apply lipstick, it is still 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 a 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. □

Unite for reproductive justice!

WW COMMENTARY

Continued from page 1

umbrella of the Women’s March, issued the call to “Mobilize and Defend our Reproductive Rights” Sept. 2, the day after the unpopular anti-abortion law went into effect in Texas. Senate Bill 8 bans nearly all abortions and encourages vigilantes to collect bounties from anyone 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 overturns Roe.

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 bigot-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 done using this method.

The Texas rightists’ admitted goals are to intimidate and crush the many “helpers” 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. 18 Washington Post op-ed that he had performed a prohibited abortion to challenge the inhumane, illegal law. This physician, who has performed abortions for 49 years after seeing three teenagers die from botched abortions, is a hero. He



Protest against Texas abortion ban, Austin.

rightfully asserts “abortion is an essential part of health care.”

Abortion restrictions control, don’t protect

This fundamental right is under fierce attack by reactionary forces in state legislatures, courts and executive positions, backed by wealthy donors and organizations. They are hell-bent on destroying 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.

Abortions happen, whether legal or illegal, 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.

Now many pregnant people must travel hundreds of miles out of Texas to obtain safe abortions, experiencing additional stress, taking days off from work, locating transportation, finding childcare and raising funds. Adrienne Mansanares, chief experience officer for Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains said, “They are fearful. You can see terror on people’s faces.” (The Santa Fe New Mexican, Sept. 19)

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 implemented. 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

curiae briefs are being submitted to SCOTUS to protest a potential overturn of the Roe decision in the Dobbs case.

Monica Simpson, 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-making is controlled by the state. We will continue 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 reactionary state legislatures have enacted obstacles to obtaining the procedure, aimed mainly at low-income, young people 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 governmental allies and tucked within the restrictive laws. We laud the activists who expose and denounce anti-abortion extremists for their espousal of white supremacy.

WW says the only way forward is to keep pressuring the government to protect 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 LGBTQ2S+ community, 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 progressive 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 movement that won legal abortion in the U.S.

Defend reproductive justice Support Workers World

Demonstrations are taking place Oct. 2 in every state and Washington, D.C., to defend access to legal abortion 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 hails 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 government allies. This bigotry is illuminated in restrictive laws and state repression directed against people who are low-income, Black, Latinx, Indigenous and im/migrants.

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 first-hand 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.

On Sept. 1, Texas lawmakers implemented 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, with no exceptions for pregnancies resulting from rape or incest.

SB 8 allows anyone to sue for \$10,000 those who “aid or abet” individuals in obtaining an “illegal abortion.” The state is encouraging “bounty hunters” to pursue the helpers of desperate pregnant people. Its intentions are to intimidate them, terrorize abortion seekers and shutter clinics.

Five Supreme Court justices, showing their partisanship, allowed Texas to enforce this law, violating its own Roe decision and trampling on individuals’ human rights, personal autonomy and the right to make medical decisions.

Your donations matter!

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

For annual donations of \$60, \$120 or \$300 or more,



members receive a year’s subscription, letters about timely issues and one, two or three free subscriptions, respectively, to give to friends. Supporters can receive the book, “What road to socialism?” (Notify us.) Or read it for free at workers.org/books.

Write checks, either monthly or once a year, to Workers World. Mail them with your name and address to 147 W. 24th St., 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10011, or sign up to donate online at workers.org.

Thank you for supporting Workers World.

CUBA SÍ: Solidarity

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 directive of IFCO; Dr. Samira Addrey, IFCO's ELAM (Latin America School of Medicine) coordinator; and Vijay Prashad, executive director of Tri-Continental Institute for Social Research, with Clancy 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 está sola. And that's so important at this particular time, 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 earthquake or a hurricane, whether that be because of a medical emergency, such as what happened in West Africa and the fight against Ebola, or, of course, the fight against the coronavirus.

In 1992, following the collapse of the Soviet Union, Cuba's primary trading partner, the island plunged into 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 Friendshipment 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 Friendshipments 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 claimed 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.

Believe it or not, we were banned by the U.S. government. Later, ironically and laughably, the government would claim that the aid we brought in defiance 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 throughout dozens of cities. We stopped each night in different communities, educating people about the brutal effects of the blockade on the Cuban people. We held events in churches and schools and people's homes and community centers. Talking about the Cuban reality, collecting material aid and additional vehicles and caravan members, the caravan would eventually converge at the U.S.-Mexico border, where we would cross with our aid, sometimes in confrontation with the border officials,

who at times attempted to seize our aid.

One year, they attempted to seize a little yellow school bus that was destined for a school [for children] with special needs, claiming that we were somehow supporting the military. Another year, they seized hundreds of computers destined to support Cuba's medical network. In both cases, we, along with the support of our mass international Cuba solidarity community, won the day. The people at the border engaged in long hunger strikes; and with the support of the Cuba solidarity movement across the country and some friendly members of Congress, we forced the government to back down and to return our aid so that we could continue on a journey to Cuba.

The Friendshipment caravans organized by Pastors for Peace and supported by numerous organizations, including our host tonight, the Workers World Party, strengthened our collective belief that our movement could indeed go up against the U.S. government and win.

Friendshipment 29 years later

Over these last several years, the caravan model has changed a bit. We don't ride in buses and trucks across the country the way we used to, but our goal has remained the same. And that is for people to travel to Cuba to see the reality for themselves, and for the people of the United States to return as ambassadors of friendship and love and to convey to their communities — whether that be in their schools, their families, their churches or wherever they might gather — and also to donate humanitarian aid as a symbolic gesture of friendship and solidarity and in opposition to our government's antiquated and brutal blockade.

It's important to note that the aid is symbolic. The reality is that the real relief that Cuba needs is to have the boot of the U.S. government off its neck by lifting the blockade once and for all, allowing Cuba to breathe and to provide its people with what it needs. Cuba is fully capable of doing just that. Cuba is a country that is capable of providing support for other nations in times of need and has been able to galvanize its own people to do the same in its own country, such as when they organized caravans of doctors to travel from Havana to Matanzas to combat the surge in COVID cases there.

Just imagine what Cuba could do if given the space and the respect it deserves. Some ask, why is Cuba the target of such a relentless and brutal blockade policy? The reason is because Cuba is a threat. It's the threat of a good idea. The threat of a nation

that truly puts people first — a nation that values health and education and housing for all above building up its military, as the government does in this country.

We all remember the vision of planeloads of Cuban doctors and medical professionals landing in China and Italy and South Africa and Surinam and many other countries, all of them risking their lives to help fight the deadly virus. This wasn't the first time Cuba offered this kind of selfless assistance. In fact, Cuba has never wavered in her support of those who have struggled for self-determination across the globe.

Biden no friend of Cuba

But today, Cuba is enduring another difficult moment. Despite his promise to reverse the stranglehold that the Trump administration put on Cuba, Joseph R. 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



PHOTO: GRANMA

Cuba is on the forefront of the fight against COVID worldwide.

the embassy, he has even tightened the blockade. He has maintained Cuba on the list of countries that support terrorism.

Cuba is facing severe shortages of fuel, food and medicines, and much of this is a direct result of the U.S. government's blockade policies. And that's why this 31st Friendshipment Caravan that we're organizing is so important. It's as important, I would argue, as the first one that we organized 29 years ago.

Both the Cuban government and the United Nations have estimated that the blockade has cost the Cuban 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 31st Friendshipment 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 tranquillity and resolve of the Cuban people, to move on from that failed attempt to destroy Cuban unity, and the covenant between its people and the revolutionary government.

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Gail Walker

"The Friendshipments 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."

— Gail Walker



Clancy Murray

Against blockades, COVID and empire

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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 about it. But 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, with 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 rates 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 have also 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 endemic to that island and to that region have been curbed by well-prepared plans to preserve lives.

The founding of my alma mater, Escuela Latinoamericana de Medicina, is a serious weapon to decolonize the way health is guaranteed to people all over the world. ELAM produces doctors of science and conscience and is responsible not only in addressing the health care needs of humanity but also to spread a humanist form of medicine that seeks to preserve life first rather than profits or property.

The Cuban people have supported such a project for over 20 years, having been sensitized to the needs of the

world beforehand. When Haiti was struck with an earthquake, Cuba was there and never left. When Katrina happened here, Cuba was ready; but our government refused its help, and we continue to see the negligence of leaders entrusted with the protection of our people.



Dr. Samira Addrey

"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."

— Samira Addrey

Cuba vs. COVID

Today, the trending topic is vaccines; while for over three decades, Cuba has been fortifying its biotechnological sector to be able to produce eight of the 11 vaccines used in its national vaccination program. Cuba is surging forward in production of vaccines against COVID-19 to save its population, as well as [of] other countries who have been grossly overlooked in the race to own the vaccine and to make profits from it.

Today, Cuba is the first country in the world to vaccinate children from ages two to 18 to secure a safer educational environment, before resuming in-person classes. Children and parents willingly consent to these vaccines, because there is a culture of scientific acceptance and guidance in Cuba.

Cuba already vaccinated its population with a booster vaccine called 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 employed. Not only that, the sequelae that people have to live with after having COVID-19 have a direct impact on their health and well-being, which translates to the health of families, communities and the society at large.

Cuban scientists have been working on a nasal spray vaccine called Mambisa [named after anti-colonialist Cuban guerrillas 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 system and from severe forms of COVID-19.

I have the honor of bringing together two poles in my training: the political and the social justice-driven work that are represented here 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 things like safe housing, transportation, safe neighborhoods, racism, discrimination, violence, education, access to nutritious foods, pollution in air and water, language and literacy skills, among others. In Cuba, education, housing, health, safety or human rights [are] guaranteed by the government. Yet the impacts of the blockade on delivering 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, 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 the 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 underrepresented communities between the ages of 18 and 25 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, not these borders that have been created by a few and certainly not 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 man-

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

All these 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 of not wanting to be controlled by any foreign entity, is something that we should hold deep in our hearts and should be what propels us forward. And as Harriet Tubman

said, we should not be paralyzed by our fears. We should fight for what's right, and definitely peace and liberation are worth fighting for.

Remove the scourge of imperialism from the planet

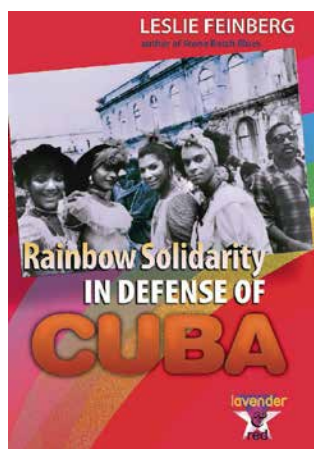
Vijay Prashad: I was in Los Angeles in 1988 when Lucius Walker came there because there had been a hurricane, I believe in Nicaragua and perhaps in Bluefields, which I visited later. Lucius Walker was attacked in August of 1988 by the Contras, and he was almost killed. He threatened to sue [then President]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

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. We want to remove the scourge of imperialism from the heart of Zambia, from the coup against the people in Honduras, the coup in Bolivia — for the whole planet.

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

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Rainbow Solidarity in DEFENSE of CUBA

By Leslie Feinberg,
author of Stone Butch Blues

This book is an edited compilation of chapters 86 to 110 from the Lavender & Red series in Workers World newspaper that began June 3, 2004.

It is available online at:
www.workers.org/books

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 provocateurs failed miserably. Their grand mobilization was a paltry 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. □



WW PHOTO: HENRY LUNA

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nicaragua Denis Ronaldo Moncada Colindres (third from left) and Nicaragua's Ambassador to the United Nations Jaime Hermida-Castillo (fifth from left), at Holyrood Iglesia Santa Cruz Church. Next to the Ambassador is Venezuelan activist William Camacaro of the Bolivarian Circle.

'Rising Together' rally for solidarity

A giant 18-foot-tall paper-mache puppet of Mumia Abu-Jamal, designed by artist Jacqueline Wade, was the centerpiece of the "Rising Together" rally held Sept. 19 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



CUBA SÍ: Solidarity against blockades, COVID and empire

Continued from page 7

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 2021. That's what the United States government is good for.

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



Vijay Prashad

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.

"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

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 Friendshipment 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.

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, including 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.

At the rally Pierre Labossiere, co-founder of Haiti Action Committee, the organization sponsoring this demonstration, gave a history of U.S. intervention and the colonization of Haiti. Labossiere said 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 of repression and hardship.

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 multinational, with Latinx, Palestinian and white activists joining in.

Speakers and organizations represented the Nation of Islam Mosque 45, S.H.A.P.E. Community Center, Southern

Justice Coalition, Shrine of the Black Madonna, National Association of Black Social Workers, National Black United Front, Black Panther Party Alumni Association, Workers World Party, Party for Socialism and Liberation, New Black Panther Party, Fight for Im/migrants and Refugees Everywhere (F.I.R.E.) and Operation Outreach OG1.

“The revolutionary people of Haiti won a war and kicked out the French but were then ordered to pay reparations. Now the people of Haiti have had to come to America’s door, and we can’t let our people down. 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 Haitian 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 concessions workers” issued a statement Sept. 22, quoting from Rose Denis, 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 front lines working to get our economy 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 support for the movement for Black Lives from labor,” Felipe Caceres, a coordinator with SEIU Local 721, said on Sept. 23. “A lot of our members were working hand in glove 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 organizations leading the way, not only for a pathway for 11 million undocumented people but also for asylum seekers.” (lataco.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



Atlanta, Sept. 26 PHOTO: GLORIA TATUM



Pierre Labossiere, co-founder of Haiti Action Committee, speaks on bullhorn in San Francisco, Sept. 24. PHOTO: BILL HACKWELL

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. 25 before Independence Hall near the Liberty Bell. Speakers demanded President Biden end an Immigration Customs and Enforcement (ICE) prison contract in Berks 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 migrants.

The message by the Shut Down Berks Coalition and seven other endorsers was loud and clear: “Immigrants in Pennsylvania are not going to allow families, women or anyone to continue to be incarcerated. We don’t need more prisons — 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. government 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 solidarity activists braved fierce winds to hear representatives from 11 sponsoring organizations representing im/migrant, Latinx, Black, Asian and Indigenous communities. Speakers condemned the systemic anti-Blackness and the legacy of enslavement embodied in the anti-Haitian terror.

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



Cleveland, Sept. 21 WW PHOTO: SUSAN SCHNUR



Philadelphia, Sept. 25 WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE



PHOTO: NATIONAL BLACK UNITED FRONT
Houston, Sept. 21

Racist terror forces out Haitian refugees

Continued from page 1

permission to stay are low.

An estimated 8,000 voluntarily returned to Mexico; some of them are hoping to get permission to work there. The rest were taken to ICE detention centers to be processed and learn their fate.

U.S. historic exploitation of Haiti

The U.S. establishment seems to believe that if they proclaim they are nasty and illegally reject refugees and asylum seekers, then all their immigration problems will be solved. But the United

States has spent over 200 years inflicting pain and economic suffering on Haiti, and Haitians still keep coming.

Thomas Jefferson, the third U.S. president (1801 to 1809), set up an economic and political blockade of Haiti in 1804 that lasted until 1862. In 1915, just before the U.S. began a 19-year-long occupation of Haiti, a Marine brigade stole Haiti’s gold reserve and turned it over to CitiBank.

Economically, whenever the U.S. supplies financial, material, medical aid to Haiti, it demands Haiti undertake “reforms,” such as cutting the duties on

U.S. 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, roughly \$5 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 long reins — to stop Haitians trying to bring food and water back to their families in Del Rio. The Haitians ducked and dodged the 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 planeloads 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 people 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 Jovenel Moïse. Long before the regime of Michel Martelly (2011-2016), during the decades of Duvalierist terror, people were fleeing the economic and political devastation caused by the U.S.

The U.S. has 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 PÂME (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%. (tinyurl.com/42wj6b7)

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 #cancel_eFood 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.”

The Trade Union of Workers in Catering-Tourism-Hotels, an organizational member of PAME, organized big strikes all over Greece. Caravans of thousands of motor bikes and scooters roared through the streets, with riders wearing eFood blazers and toting eFood containers. In Athens they also protested the government passing new antilabor laws.



September delivery drivers protest, Athens.



PHOTOS: PÂME

Facing a vast wave of strikes and solidarity throughout Greece, on Sept. 23 the e-Food Company announced: “We are transferring all the existing fixed-term contracts, hiring all 2,016 employees in Efood with contracts of indefinite duration, while recognizing their previous service. We retain the extended rights and additional benefits they enjoyed, such as private insurance.”

According to the Trade Union of Workers in Catering-Tourism-Hotels of Athens, “Efood Workers. We Are victorious! 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.” (pamehellas.gr/en)

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 which are suffering under 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 SanctionsKill Report is being distributed to all members of the U.S. 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.

‘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 area!” Any conflict over resources in the Arctic has a serious impact on the lives of the Indigenous peoples who live there. The antiwar movement should be aware of that and take into account the interests of Indigenous peoples, she told The Worker.

Paddy Eileen Colligan is a member of the communist Workers World Party in the U.S. and writes regularly for the party’s web journal workers.org. She has written about the Arctic, which is divided between Greenland, Norway, Sweden, Iceland, the U.S., Canada and Russia.

Dr. 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 800-1400, on a rapidly eroding spit of land on the Arctic Ocean near Utqiagvik, Alaska.

The field work was conducted under the protection of armed Inupiaq bear guards, who kept an eye out for the polar bears that occasionally approached the archaeological site where they were working. Besides working at this site, Dr. Colligan’s research has taken her to Nome

and Fairbanks near the Arctic Circle, as well as small communities along the west coast of Greenland.

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

The archaeologist is highly critical of the U.S. government, which wants more control in the region where Russia and China are aiming to expand the Northern Sea Route 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. Dominance in the Arctic” strategy, she said. Dr. Colligan adds that in the controversial report, the U.S. Army acknowledges that the excessive attention the U.S. 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 Dr. 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 General] 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 rife with conflict — as well as an important area rich in natural resources — and thus it is a platform for global power projection.” 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

Dr. 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 interdisciplinary 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 antiwar movement aware of the competition 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 in Africa. We need to demonstrate that NATO countries are and will remain exploitative predator nations and that they are all part of an imperialist alliance led by the U.S., whether in the Arctic or in Africa.

This is fourth in a series of articles on the Arctic, an area that has become a current focus for major powers, as the ice melts and rich raw material resources have appeared beneath the ice. Read all articles [in Danish] at arbejder.dk/udland. □



WW PHOTO:

Paddy Colligan on the Chukchi Sea section of the Arctic Ocean on an early July day in 2008.

Ida disaster — capitalism and what the movement must do

By Gavrielle Gemma
New Orleans

The author is a member of the Workers Voice Socialist Movement 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 belongings from other rooms 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 enough. So many do not have bank accounts. Hours are spent on the phone waiting for FEMA, only to be denied. You’re denied if you stayed in a non-designated major hotel. Denied if you have insurance. FEMA is done online, and at least a third of New Orleans has no access to the internet. And Sept. 19 is now the deadline for filing.

Whole towns in the bayou parishes, Terrebonne and Jefferson especially, have been declared uninhabitable. Indigenous nations in these parishes are devastated too. Workers have no jobs, no money, no homes; 13,000 are dead from COVID;

testing is hard to find, but, hey, the Saints are playing.

Insurance is all about collecting money from us, not paying it to us. If you even have insurance, there is often a hurricane 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.

Licensed contractors can’t be found; and if you do, they rip you off and double their prices. But urgent repairs like leaks, sheetrock needing to be torn down or whole house demolition cannot wait months to get some amount that insurance decides from their thrones, even if their adjusters report damage accurately.

What is needed right now is money

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 and lower-paid white workers, is being ground down. We are joining the global ranks of climate-change refugees.

This disaster has revealed its workers who are important. Bankers, real estate developers are unnecessary. Sanitation, electrical, sewage and water, hospital and retail workers are who really keep us going. Trash is piling up in mountains throughout the city, but sanitation workers need triple the wages, and the city needs to hire hundreds more.

The city announced construction projects are starting again, so they can continue their relentless gentrification, making New Orleans look like Johannesburg under apartheid. The white capitalist ruling class is the hidden hand of all this, authorized by the upper middle-class Black politicians with the support of legions of nonprofits.

\$21 trillion since 9/11

Militarism and war profiteering are not a policy; it is capitalism. Since Sept. 11, 2001, \$21 trillion has been looted from the treasury for wars that workers have no interest in. The money goes for profits to the military industries, who hold sway over the politics of the White House and Congress, Republican and Democrat. This is an amount that is so large, it could cover all our needs here and globally.

We cannot continue to fight small fights, each issue separated while the ultraright gains strength. We need to unite the left and bring issues together in a massive movement directed to involve the workers. Working together, we can take the hard but necessary road for a mass militant movement that unites the needs of the people with anti-militarism.

We don’t need endless webinars with



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

great facts; we need to go to the workers. Simply and selflessly.

Electoral politics alone is dangerous

It is the power of a movement united that can inspire and stimulate the broad working-class masses that is the urgency. Capitalism must go, but we must look inward first to our own forces, to reorient, organize with class consciousness and simply, and have political transitional demands, and not rely on politicians like Biden.

Capitalism is at the root of all misery and needs to be uprooted completely. Only the working class, with all its nationalities, can accomplish that, end imperialist wars and deal decisively with saving the planet, the people and all species. □



PHOTO: ARIEL CECILIO LEMUS

Cuba es el primer país que comienza a vacunar a los niños de entre 3 y 12 años, admite el New York Times.

Brasil para el 2 de octubre

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

Resumen Latinoamericano,
24 de septiembre de 2021

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 compulsión de mentir) en el poder.

El apoyo a la organización de las manifestaciones son los frentes Brasil Popular y Povo sem Medo, movimiento estudiantil, además de varios partidos de oposición.

Las entidades vuelven a preguntar por el impedimento del presidente. “En un país de 212 millones de habitantes, cuya mayoría, según todas las encuestas, rechaza y desaprueba a Bolsonaro, es urgente que el Congreso Nacional escuche el clamor popular y acepte la apertura de un juicio político para que se destituya a Bolsonaro y se investiguen sus delitos. y juzgado,” afirman. “Ya hay más de 130 solicitudes archivadas en la presidencia de la Cámara de Diputados, mientras el país se hunde en el fango presidencial”.

El acto es convocado por decenas de entidades reunidas en frentes (Brasil Popular, Pueblo sin Miedo y Fora Bolsonaro) y partidos políticos. “Hay que escuchar la voz de las calles”, afirman. “Y



Brasil, 2021. Contra el Presidente Jair Bolsonaro.

vamos a ser esas voces el 2 de octubre y en todas las fechas que se presenten. Hasta que Bolsonaro sea destituido para ser juzgado por los crímenes que cometió y comete a diario contra los brasileños”.

Abajo está el apelo:

No nos retiraremos de las calles hasta que liberemos a Brasil de este presidente criminal

CUT, Força Sindical, UGT, CTB, NCST, CSB, CSP-Conlutas, Interunion y Public, de manera unitaria, convocan a toda la clase trabajadora a los actos de Fora Bolsonaro, el 2 de octubre, en todos los estados de Brasil, y también En otros países.

Salgamos a las calles en protesta contra el caos que representa para el país el mitómano Jair Bolsonaro: paro récord, hambre, hambruna, inflación, corrupción, despojo de derechos, dismantelamiento de servicios públicos y estatales, atentados a la democracia, soberanía y libertades, el pisoteo de la ciencia y el desprecio por la vida.

Cada día que Bolsonaro despierta como

Presidente de la República, Brasil se hunde, se pierde y se pierde en el mundo, quedando un paria atado a la espiral de crisis (sanitaria, política, económica, institucional y diplomática) generadas por la incompetencia y el proyecto personal del poder de Bolsonaro y su inepto equipo de gobierno.

En un país de 212 millones de habitantes, cuya mayoría, según todas las encuestas, rechaza y desaprueba a Bolsonaro, es urgente que el Congreso Nacional escuche el clamor popular y acepte la apertura de un juicio político para que Bolsonaro sea destituido y sus crímenes investigados y intentó. Ya hay más de 130 solicitudes archivadas en la presidencia de la Cámara de Diputados, mientras el país se hunde en el barro presidencial.

Hay que escuchar la voz de las calles

Y seremos esas voces el 2 de octubre y en cada fecha que venga, hasta que Bolsonaro sea sacado a juicio por los crímenes que cometió y comete a diario contra los brasileños, hasta que responda 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.

Las Centrales Sindicales tomarán las calles el 2 de octubre, junto a más de 80 organizaciones representadas por Frentes Brasil Popular, Povo Sem Fedo, Frente Nacional Fora Bolsonaro y partidos políticos. Todas las entidades y sindicatos de la base, en todo el país, están convocando

acciones de protesta en las calles, plazas, así como asambleas y folletos en los lugares de trabajo y terminales de transporte público. De forma segura y respetando los protocolos sanitarios, uso de mascarilla y gel alcohólico.

No nos retiraremos de las calles hasta que Brasil sea liberado de este presidente criminal.

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

Adilson Araújo Presidente de CTB — 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 Atenágoras Lopes — CSP-Conlutas

Edson Carneiro Índio Secretario General — Interunion — Working Class Central

Coordinación Intersindical Emanuel Melato — Instrumento de lucha y organización de la clase obrera

José Gozze Presidente — Public Server Central»

Fuente: MST

Estados Unidos

Reflexiones dramáticas en voz alta

Por Sergio Rodríguez Gelfenstein

El autor es consultor y analista internacional venezolano, y fue Director de Relaciones Internacionales de la Presidencia de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela y Embajador de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela en Nicaragua.

En Estados Unidos están ocurriendo algunas cosas sorprendentes, la presidenta de la cámara de representantes Nancy Pelosi durante un evento en Londres ha admitido que el capitalismo “no ha servido a nuestra economía tan bien como debería”. Asumiendo la diferencia entre la economía especulativa que hoy domina el país y la economía productiva que le dio esplendor en el siglo XIX, cuando tras la guerra de secesión pudieron unificarse en torno al capitalismo, Pelosi ha afirmando que “el cambio económico de las últimas décadas ha favorecido al ‘capitalismo de accionistas’”.

Aunque parezca insólito, la influyente dirigente demócrata, llegó a decir que: “No se puede tener un sistema en el que el éxito de algunos emana de la explotación de los trabajadores y brota

de la explotación del medioambiente y el resto, y tenemos que corregirlo”. Ella cree que el sector privado se ha dado cuenta de esta situación y comprende la necesidad de hacer cambios.

El grito en el cielo contra China

No obstante, cuando el gobierno chino hace unas semanas se propuso incrementar el aporte que los ricos debían entregar a la sociedad a fin de avanzar hacia la prosperidad común, en Estados Unidos y Occidente pusieron el grito en el cielo.

Sin embargo, el propio presidente Biden se ha quejado de que desde el inicio de la pandemia, la fortuna de los multimillonarios haya aumentado en 1,8 billones de dólares, y que 55 de las corporaciones más grandes del país no pagan ni un céntimo en impuestos federales sobre la renta. Biden calificó tal situación de “simplemente injusta”. Entonces, uno podría preguntarse, ¿por qué es injusta en Estados Unidos y no en China?

En Estados Unidos, la Cámara de Representantes se propone discutir una ley que aumentaría los impuestos sobre la renta a los ricos y a algunas corporaciones a fin de financiar la mayor parte del proyecto de ley de gastos públicos

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.

valuado en 3,5 billones de dólares elaborado por el presidente Biden.

La medida impositiva elevaría las tasas de impuestos corporativos del 21 al 26,5%. 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.

El trasfondo de la preocupación viene dada, entre otras cosas, porque un informe de la ONU ha constatado que en Estados Unidos, una de cada tres familias con hijos pasó hambre. Incluso antes de la pandemia, en 2019, las estadísticas oficiales del Departamento de Agricultura de Estados Unidos (USDA) detallaban que 35 millones de personas pasaban hambre y 10 millones de ellas eran niños.

De hecho, a mediados de este año, 63 millones de personas en Estados Unidos

dijeron a los investigadores del gobierno que no podían pagar los gastos habituales de su hogar, en particular, el equilibrio entre la comida y el alquiler, pero que también incluía los préstamos estudiantiles y los medicamentos. Según el informe, la cifra también es muy desigual entre negros, latinos y blancos en términos de la insuficiencia alimentaria.

Por eso y no porque se haya vuelto socialista, Biden ha insistido en que: “Las grandes corporaciones y los súper ricos tienen que comenzar a pagar su parte equitativa de los impuestos” agregando que: “Hace mucho que esto debería haberse hecho”.

¡Biden hablando de equidad! 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. □