Workers — are not only waking up and Starbucks to REI Co-op to grad student of every sector of the workforce — from working class upsurge, as members cannot be overstated. It comes at a time solidarity from socialists played a big role, anti-union Amazon April 1.

New York, Amazon warehouse workers, in a decisive victory against the vehemently winning election of the Staten Island, received a shot in the arm with the inspir-

HISTORIC VICTORY

The significance of this victory, in which solidarity from socialists played a big role, cannot be overstated. It comes at a time of working class upsurge, as members of every sector of the workforce — from Starbucks to REI Co-op to grad student workers — are not only waking up and fighting back, but winning, too.

This awakening of struggle is particularly needed now, with Congress funding the war against Russia in Ukraine, scrap-

By Tony Murphy

The growing movement for union rights received a shot in the arm with the inspir-

off the job in coordinated actions demand-

Overcoming barriers to unions

It’s worth noting how much Amazon’s Staten Island warehouse workers — mostly African American and Latinx, mostly African American and Latinx, Staten Island warehouse workers — had to overcome to win the union vote.

First of all, there was the over-

מאוניצות

Cleveland anti-war protest

Transgender visibility

Atlanta housing struggle

Origins of NATO

Imperialism’s weak link

Health care denied

Ban shackling now!

Organizing wave grows

Artists unite

Starbucks workers fight back

Workers’ flower power

Call center walkouts

Museum workers: ‘Contract Now!’

Continued on page 6
Counter the Big Lie! Support Workers World!
When the corporate media delivers a single position 24/7, focusing on an enemy, when they demonize that country’s leader, when opposing voices are buried in an avalanche of distortions and outright lies, where can patriotic people find the antidote to the Big Lie?
They can turn to Workers World, the newspaper and e-zine with six decades of experience resisting a rulings-class propaganda machine that is as well-oiled and well-funded as its fascist-class rival. The U.S. National Office is in Eastern Europe and the ensuing war in Ukraine has confronted us with another such challenge.
With our own articles and analyses—and by making the positions taken by working-class leaders and liberation movements and governments from around the world easily found on the workers.org website—WW has published in one web section a wealth of in-depth coverage unavailable at few other websites. These articles explain the historical background and present a class context of U.S. and NATO intervention in Ukraine and conflict with Russia. Find this coverage in the right-hand column of WW newspaper’s home page at workers.org.
Our resistance is the class truth that tears down the Big Lie, and the strength of that truth depends on the support it can win from our readers.
Your help is needed!
If you appreciate our coverage, it’s time to join the Workers World Supporter program or renew your membership. The program was established 45 years ago so readers could help WW publish anti-racist, working-class truth and build campaigns needed to fight for revolutionary change leading to socialism. Since the early 1990s, the fund has helped support the workers.org website. Throughout the pandemic when fewer print issues have been published due to staff health concerns, new articles have been posted daily, and the PDF of the weekly newspaper has been posted at workers.org. Not one online issue has been skipped throughout this two-year health crisis.
For a donation of $60 a year, or $120 or $300, you receive a subscription to WW newspaper and one, two or three free subscriptions for friends, depending on donation, and updates. A free download of the “What Road to Socialism?” book, published in 2000, is available at workers.org/books. Or notify us if you want a paperback book.
Write checks (either monthly or annually) to Workers World and mail them, with your name and address, to Workers World, 147 W. 24th St., 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10011. Put “Supporter Program” in the memo line. Or donate online at workers.org/donate. We are grateful for your help in building Workers World!

Join us in the fight for socialism!
Workers World Party is a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist party inside the belly of the imperialist beast. We are a 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 never-ending quest for ever-greater profits. Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, attacks on im/migrants, misogyny, LGBTQ+ oppression and mistreatment of people with disabilities. It means joblessness, increasing homelessness and impoverishment and lack of hope for the future. No social problems can be solved under capitalism.
The U.S. is the richest country in the world, yet no one has a guaranteed right to shelter, food, water, health care, education or anything else—unless they can pay for it. Wages are lower than ever, and youth are saddled with seemingly insurmountable student debt, if they even make it to college. Black, Brown and Indigenous youth and trans people are gouged down by cops and pigs on a regular basis.
The ruthless ruling class today seeks to wipe out decades of gains and benefits won by hard-fought struggles by people’s movements. The super-rich and their political representatives have intensified their attacks on the multinational, multigender and multigenerational working class. It is time to point the blame at—and challenge—the capitalist system.
WWF fights for socialism because the working class possesses all wealth in society, and this wealth should remain in their hands, not be stolen in the form of capitalist profits. The wealth workers create should be socially owned and its distribution planned to satisfy and guarantee basic human needs.
Since 1959, Workers World Party has been out in the streets defending the workers and oppressed here and worldwide. If you’re interested in Marxism, socialism and fighting for a socialist future, please contact a WWP branch near you.

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

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For a donation of $60 a year, or half that amount for a half year, you can help WW publish anti-racist, working-class truth and build campaigns needed to fight for revolutionary change leading to socialism.

El ominoso ómnibus
El mundo quiere paz, Biden quiere guerra

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Defying bigots

Trans Day of Visibility celebrated

By Betsey Piette and Minnie Bruce Pratt

To mark Transgender Day of Visibility — celebrated internationally on March 31 — activists gathered for a small rally outside City Hall in Upper Darby, Pennsylvania, April 2.

Organizers with U.D.T.J. (Understanding, Devotion, Take Action, Justice) brought colorful LGBTQ+ rainbow flag, which includes a “Progress Pride” flag, which carries additional black and brown stripes to represent marginalized LGBTQ+ communities of color, and a transgender flag, which carries a light blue, pink and white color scheme.

U.D.T.J. arranged to have the transgender flag raised on the flagpole atop City Hall. Members of Philadelphia Workers Solidarity Network turned out to support the event with signs protesting transphobia, racism and other forms of bigotry.

U.D.T.J. organizer Kyle McIntyre, who organized the first George Floyd protests in Upper Darby in 2020, chaired the rally and led the group in chants including “Transwomen are women,” and “Trans rights are human rights.”

Upper Darby is a large, very diverse suburb west of Philadelphia. The event was held in a plaza sandwiched between two major streets, and there was steady car traffic, with some drivers honking in support.

“Rights are human rights!”

In the first months of 2022, over 151 pieces of anti-LGBTQ+ measures were introduced in U.S. state legislatures, to make a total of over 300 measures currently being considered. Attacks on young trans people were particularly aggressive and hateful.

A weekly ACLU update on this reactionary trend notes: “These measures target transgender and nonbinary people for discrimination, such as by barring or criminalizing health care for trans youth, barring access to the use of appropriate facilities like restrooms, restricting trans people’s ability to fully participate in school and sports, allowing religiously-motivated discrimination against trans people or making it more difficult for them to get identification documents with their name and gender.”

In February Texas Gov. Greg Abbott issued a directive to mandate state investigation of parents as “child abusers” if they provide their children with gender-affirming medical care. On March 11, Texas District Judge Amy Clark Meachum blocked the investigation, saying Abbott’s actions unconstitutional.

The Idaho House of Representatives passed a bill March 8 to criminalize gender-affirming medical procedures for transgender youth. If the bill becomes law, anyone “convicted” of helping a child travel across state lines to access such health care could be sentenced to life in prison.

Ohio’s “SAFE” bill “prohibits specific medical coverage for LGBTQ+ youth, specifically trans or nonbinary people,” according to Ohio Capitol Journal.

On March 23, Florida’s Gov. Ron DeSantis signed into law the infamous “Don’t Say Gay” bill that allows parents to sue teachers and school systems in the state who provide a curriculum including LGBTQ+ sexuality and gender identity.

Pushback to these bigoted bills has been energetic and widespread. Young people in Florida arranged militant walkouts from their schools to protest the “Don’t Say Gay” bill. (See “Save our children” — from bigotry and hatred!” Workers World, March 26).

Trans lawyer Sydney Duncan in Alabama states emphatically that the boilerplate anti-trans bills, promoted for political gain, will ultimately be struck down because there is no evidence for the state-specific legislative claims that trans people or trans issues cause harm.

Instead, Duncan says, “In each case, [there] is a groundswell of support for trans people. Corporations and universities have been cowardly; but in every state, allies and parents and doctors and trans kids have stepped up, with a wave of folks who do care, standing behind them. The [bills] are loud, but they are small. We are many, and we are right.” (Twitter @sydneysduncan, March 9)

Activists demonstrate to legalize rent control

By James Raynor

Atlanta

About 200 people marched to support legalization of rent control and to protest rapidly rising rental costs. As landlords continue to buy up all available housing, they have raised prices faster than almost anywhere else. The rising rental costs — as landlords continue to buy up all available housing, they have raised prices faster than almost anywhere else.

As landlords continue to buy up all available housing, they have raised prices faster than almost anywhere else. As landlords continue to buy up all available housing, they have raised prices faster than almost anywhere else. As landlords continue to buy up all available housing, they have raised prices faster than almost anywhere else. As landlords continue to buy up all available housing, they have raised prices faster than almost anywhere else. As landlords continue to buy up all available housing, they have raised prices faster than almost anywhere else. As landlords continue to buy up all available housing, they have raised prices faster than almost anywhere else. As landlords continue to buy up all available housing, they have raised prices faster than almost anywhere else. As landlords continue to buy up all available housing, they have raised prices faster than almost anywhere else. As landlords continue to buy up all available housing, they have raised prices faster than almost anywhere else. As landlords continue to buy up all available housing, they have raised prices faster than almost anywhere else. As landlords continue to buy up all available housing, they have raised prices faster than almost anywhere else. As landlords continue to buy up all available housing, they have raised prices faster than almost anywhere else. As landlords continue to buy up all available housing, they have raised prices faster than almost anywhere else. As landlords continue to buy up all available housing, they have raised prices faster than almost anywhere else. As landlords continue to buy up all available housing, they have raised prices faster than almost anywhere else. As landlords continue to buy up all available housing, they have raised prices faster than almost anywhere else. As landlords continue to buy up all available housing, they have raised prices faster than almost anywhere else. As landlords continue to buy up all available housing, they have raised prices faster than almost anywhere else. As landlords continue to buy up all available housing, they have raised prices faster than almost anywhere else. As landlords continue to buy up all available housing, they have raised prices faster than almost anywhere else. As landlords continue to buy up all available housing, they have raised prices faster than almost anywhere else. As landlords continue to buy up all available housing, they have raised prices faster than almost anywhere else.

The march started from a fenced off park in the middle of the city to a fenced off state capitol building in downtown Atlanta.

Meow Wolf Workers Collective wins first contract

By Stephanie Hedgecock

Santa Fe, New Mexico

Santa Fe’s own Meow Wolf Workers Collective CWA 7055 won its first union contract March 23, after over two years of fighting for their right to organize and one full week of work-site activities including desktop picket signs and workers wearing yellow to support their bargaining team.

Over 170 working artists in the creative industries staff and other workers faced a mass layoff of 39 later recalled. The CWA-affiliated MWWC filed unfair labor practice charges in December over management changing holiday and time-off policies, requiring new hires to sign anti-union agreements (known as “direct}
WWP Prisoners Solidarity Committee demands

Ban shackling!

By Marie Kelly

Members of the Prisoner Solidarity Committee of Workers World Party investigated the use of shackles on prisoners while hospitalized and concluded this inhumane practice is widespread in hospitals across the United States. The PSC of WWP is calling on health care workers to support a ban on this practice, as it flies in the face of ethical patient care.

To that end, the PSC created a list of demands around the proper treatment of incarcerated sick, elderly or pregnant people. These demands only address the tip of the iceberg of the appalling conditions that exist behind the walls of the U.S. carceral system at the local, state and federal level.

The United Nations Human Rights Council issued a strong statement in 2021 against shackling of incarcerated persons when they are sick and/or hospitalized. This was in response to the shackling of political prisoner Mumia Abu Jamal, while he was hospitalized with heart failure and a COVID-19 infection.

The statement read in part: “The use of shackles during his hospital stays is deplorable and causes Mr. Abu-Jamal additional and unnecessary suffering.” Citing international standards on the treatment of prisoners, the U.N. human rights experts added that “instruments of restraint are to be imposed only when no lesser form of control would be effective to address the risks posed by unrestricted movement.

“We are concerned that the medical condition of Mr. Abu-Jamal (who also suffers from a severe skin condition and hepatitis C) could be linked to years of medical neglect by the Department of Corrections of the state of Pennsylvania,” the experts said.

The prisoners’ rights movement has made progress since the 1971 Attica prison rebellion, when imprisoned organizers penned the powerful statement read by L.D. Barkley: “We are men! We are not beasts, and we do not intend to be beaten or driven as such. The entire prison populace . . . has set forth to change forever the ruthless brutalization and disregard for the lives of the prisoners here [at Attica] and throughout the United States.”

Firsthand accounts from incarcerated people describe rampant medical neglect by for-profit health care contractors hired by prisons across the country. The harshness and apathetic treatment that incarcerated people routinely endure flies in the face of every ethical standard this health care worker has held for my entire professional life as a Registered Nurse. Compassionate release of elderly or terminally ill persons rarely takes place. When it does, it is often too late to provide any true quality of life.

Last week, the PSC had the opportunity to present the Ban Shackling demands at a national conference of Healthcare-Now, a group of labor activists and health care workers who are campaigning against the enactment of single payer universal health care in the U.S. We are raising awareness among health care workers of the dire health conditions of incarcerated people and connecting with allies to grow a campaign that will empower physicians, nurses, and other health care workers to resist the status quo, insist on delivering quality care to incarcerated patients and ultimately work with us to abolish the carceral system.

BAN THE SHACKLING OF INCARCERATED PEOPLE RECEIVING MEDICAL CARE

1) Ban the practice of shackling the incarcerated when hospitalized.

Shackling of chronically ill and elderly incarcerated people has many negative impacts: difficulty for healthcare workers to properly assess and treat a patient’s condition, risk of falls and deep venous thrombosis, damage to skin integrity, and increased pain from poor mobility and positioning. Escape is not a legitimate concern. An incarcerated person must be very sick before the prison administration will allow them to go to an outside hospital. On top of that standard protocol has an armed guard stationed with an incarcerated person 24 hours a day. U.N. human rights experts issued a statement April 20, 2021 saying “…international standards on the treatment of prisoners clearly stipulate that instruments of restraint are to be imposed only when no lesser form of control would be effective to address the risks posed by unrestricted movement.”

2) Healthcare professionals must advocate for the release of incarcerated persons who are ill or aged.

Carceral institutions are not equipped to provide timely proper treatment for either acute or chronic medical conditions. Prisons and jails have not protected the incarcerated during the COVID pandemic resulting in death by incarceration. Many have complaints that put them at risk of succumbing to infectious diseases such as influenza or coronavirus. The aged incarcerated population must be guaranteed Medicare and the quality of care it could provide. “From forced sterilization to ‘food deserts’ and chemical contamination, from toxic stress based on the environment in which one lives to the criminalization of mental illness, Black, Brown, and Indigenous people are neglected and left out of any illusion of the human right to health…”Spirit of Mandela Tribunal 2021. Health care is a human right.

3) Restraints should NEVER be used for staff convenience or client punishment.

The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) regulations for not using physical restraints that apply to incarcerated persons who are admitted to a hospital. The healthcare team is responsible for practicing situational awareness, evaluating and initiating other therapeutic measures to adequately provide treatment, before resorting to using restraints. A complete doctor’s order is needed to initiate the use of restraints. Restraints without a valid and complete order are considered failure to protect and hospitals are liable for any injury to patients caused by restraints and jeopardize the hospital’s accreditation status.

4) Incarcerated pregnant persons will have their privacy safeguarded at all times and will remain unshackled during labor, childbirth, and postpartum recovery.

The United Nations, Amnesty International, and other prisoner advocacy groups condemn the practice of shackling during childbirth. Kimberly Mays, who was shackled during childbirth in 2000 likened it to giving birth in front of “human masters”. The American Nurses Association and American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists are against the practice citing the risk of harm to both the mother and fetus. The American Psychological Association takes a stand against the practice because of the emotional trauma it causes especially since many incarcerated women have been the victim of sexual or physical abuse. After delivery, shackles interfere with the bonding process between mother and child since the mother has a hard time safely handling her baby and breastfeeding. In 2018, the First Step Act became a federal law banning new federal laws of incarcerated individuals during childbirth labor in federal prisons. As of 2020, 27 states ban shackling of pregnant prisoners. In practice, these laws are frequently ignored and not enforced. The shackling of patients during childbirth should be banned unconditionally at all levels of the carceral system. Anything less than a total ban will allow this dehumanizing practice to continue.

“I’m a human being. And I deserve to be treated as a human being. I want you all to know that there are things going on behind closed doors. People like me are not being treated as human beings. We’re being treated like cattle... And we need help... It’s as simple as that. We need help..." - Bradford Gamble, freed from imprisonment after 46 years
called cells, suffering with no voice. Very trapped behind these walls in these cages of a doubt. Support that conclusion beyond a shadow of fact. There is overwhelming evidence to interests of their families and friends. They see is a roadblock or what they need these laws that only seem to focus on what to equality and equal protection with when they stole our family and friends. They are robbing us at the same time. Officials are not only abandoning us, they ciné, we could and would see that elected officials are not only abandoning us, they are robbing us at the same time. But let us know that you love us, that you care about us. The word care in your job description — health care — should mean a lot. Bradford Gamble, freed from imprisonment after 46 years.
Workers and community allies picket in front of the Buffalo Starbucks where the recent firings occurred.

No justice, no coffee!

By Arjze Red
Buffalo, New York

Starbucks workers in Buffalo, N.Y., called a boycott April 2 to protest the unjust firing of Angel Krempa and Nate Tarnowski. Both workers were well known union supporters, terminated for bogus violations. Starbucks workers and community members held a picket at the store the workers were fired from and distributed flyers explaining the situation to customers.

Many organizations came out to support us including Cincinnati Socialist Workers Organization, Queen City Workers’ Center, Buffalo Democratic Socialists of America, Join Our Union, the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees Local 10, and Workers World Party Buffalo branch.

The union statement describes the circumstances of Angel's firing as follows: "Starbucks claims they fired Angel because of two almost opposing reasons, one was to the store, but Starbucks policy only requires that Angel call the store ahead of time to notify her team she would be late, which she did. She planned to be late because she and her family were busy planning a funeral and the files to prove it. The real reason Starbucks fired Angel is the same reason she has been targeted for months, because she is a union leader who is unafraid to stand up to the company.

Conditions like this are becoming more common in stores across the country, like in Memphis, Tennessee, where Starbucks fired an entire organizing committee led by Black and brown workers, many of them women.

Other workers in Buffalo were unjustly fired in previous weeks such as Cassie Fleischer and Danny Rojas. Starbucks is waging a war against its workers that is far beyond simply union busting. Workers have faced vicious intimidation, threats and relentless harassment. This is on top of having transfer requests denied, hours slashed, and other examples of economic retaliation.

One Starbucks worker this writer spoke to, Collin Cochran, who works at the Walden Anderson store, said, “They closed my store for two months in the middle of our union campaign. It was a huge blow to Starbucks corporate and we’re gonna make them pay for it!”

Strike wave grows

About halfway through the picket, police were called on the workers, allowing them the opportunity to fill their historic role as strikebreakers. Starbucks management claimed they did not call them and it was instead the property owner who called, but the property owner is part of Starbucks and the files to prove it. Either they were called by the boss or landlord, the police were eventually taken out of the store and the picket continued strong.

This picket in Buffalo follows three strikes at other Starbucks locations in Kansas City, Missouri; Denver, Colorado and Olympia, Washington, also protesting union busting and retaliation against workers. Among the growing resistance from workers are also some major victories. The day before on April 1, the Starbucks roasting plant in New York City became the newest store to officially unionize. The roasteries are massive compared to cafes. The New York City store has approximately 100 workers — a major win for the union, and a huge blow to Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz’s swollen ego.

One worker at the roastery, Ashley Carrigan, said in a Facebook post, "When we are paid almost bare minimum, our CEO [Kevin Johnson] was given a $600 million golden handshake. We deserve better than a $600 million golden handshake from the man of no justice, no coffee."

This is a sentiment shared by many Starbucks workers, who do not fail to see the hypocrisy in the company’s “we’re all partners” attitude. When some “partners” make off with millions of dollars, others struggle to pay their rent and medical bills.

Impact of Amazon workers victory

On the same day as the NYC roastery victory, there was an enormous union victory at Amazon. Workers at the Staten Island, New York This is a major development for the whole working class and signals a reemergence of a militant organized labor movement that has been long overdue in this country.

Despite having two almost opposite strategies in organizing, workers in Starbucks United and Amazon Labor Union have one thing in common — the fact that their campaigns are both entirely worker-led.

Starbucks Workers United is affiliated with the Washington-based despicable union busting tactics. It’s perfectly permissible to have a “partners” attitude. When some “partners” make off with millions of dollars, others struggle to pay their rent and medical bills.

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Starbucks United is affiliated with the Washington-based Barrett Institute. This makes the victory against Amazon all the more impressive. Chris Small, president of the ALU, said in a now infamous quote, "We would like to thank Jeff Bezos for going to space because while we were here, we were saving people’s lives."

As the class struggle intensifies, workers across industries are showing that we aren’t going down without a fight.

The author is a contributor to Workers World newspaper and a union committee member with Starbucks Workers United in Buffalo.

ALU historic victory

Continued from page 1

in what would be a killer for many union campaigns: an annual workplace turnover rate of 40%. Going on strike because in part of a struggle is a way to reach, out-of-the-way places that make it difficult to hold protests and solidarity actions to support the strike. Most Manhattan, Brooklyn or Bronx residents who don’t have cars have to take a ferry to Staten Island — then a bus trip to reach the Amazon warehouse.

Key role of working class solidarity

That all these barriers were overcome is a testament to the rank-and-file, worker-to-worker organizing carried out by the ALU leadership. The twenty core leaders read labor history on the basics of deep organizing, and patiently won over their co-workers.

ALU leader Derrick Palmer described how he even came into work to organize workers there. The most significant achievement in multiple New York struggles.

WAAR activated frequent trips to Staten Island to the ALU tent stationed across from the Staten Island warehouse, signing up workers on cards and putting up pro-union artwork on the chainlink fence. WAAR leaders also purposely organized protests centrally in Manhattan, to break the struggle out of its physical and political isolation.

Between May 2021 and February 2022, WAAR brought together students, migrant workers, Black Lives Matter activists, POC and socialists, anarchists, workers rights activists, and union members made thousands of calls to Amazon workers, urging them to vote yes for the union. This was organized virtually, with people making calls from home, and from the offices of UNITÉ HERE Local 100, and WAAR.

Solidarity was crucial in the Amazon union victory, making sure the brave ALU activists weren’t fighting on their own.

This year’s May Day rally in New York — set for 1:00 p.m. at Union Square — will add a massive demonstration to the international socialist and workers’ holiday: Stop union-busting!

Along with the union victory at Starbucks and Staten Island, the union-busting will continue. Already, workers at Starbucks stores were fired, they are waging a war against its workers that is far beyond simply union busting.

The Amazon Labor Union victory has given a powerful boost to the workers’ movement. Building solidarity and increasing the connection among struggles will be critical for defending the gains of that movement.
Flower workers win strike

By Jim McHanna
Seattle

On March 22, over 70 tulip, daffodil and iris harvest workers in Mount Vernon walked out on strike, leaving behind a drain that is pumping wastewater into the Skagit River, striking against terrible labor conditions. The strike was against the Washington Bulb Company, which is owned by Rosengardt Flowers and Bulbs, the largest tulip bulb grower in the country with 2,000 acres of flowers locally. The strike took place at 11 call centers in nine states. For 2021 to a union.

The energetic rally took place the same day Amazon workers in Staten Island, New York, won their historic union-recognition vote. Several speakers mentioned the union victory, which was reflected on the 12th anniversary of the passage of the ACA. Without a recognized union, CCWU has engaged in organizing efforts with Communications Workers of America (CWA) and previous efforts to unionize Maximus workers have fizzled, CCWU hopes to win recognition to bargain with Maximus.

As a way to participate in the strike action, several workers held a virtual town hall, hosted by CWA local 3509, discussing the company's practices and steps needed to win justice and fairness for its workforce. (tinyurl.com/3yuef366) Sheree Collier, 59, who has worked for the company since 2017, makes the same per hour wage as new hires. Speaking at the virtual town hall, Collier, who works at the Hattiesburg facility, stated "While security guards average $50,000 per year, flower workers average $4,500 to $2,500, still $831 more than the national average of $4,669 for single coverage. Maximus workers perform essential services that we all benefit from. As long as I do my job, [Maximus] should pay me for what I’m worth. We don’t want Maximus to silence us any longer. We have a right to organize a union," Collier said. She led the group in chants: “More dignity, more respect — more money in our checks.”

Maximus workers organizing with CWA on strike for justice.

Call Center Workers United led the walk-out — the workers are Indigenous from southern Mexico, and their first language is often Mixteco. They had many grievances working in the mud for demanding and intimate labor. Workers demand an increase in pay, guaranteed eight-hour work days, improved sick leave and a better calculation of bonuses paid for the picking of flowers.

The farmworkers demanded access for hydrocortisone cream, to deal with the sap from cut daffodils which causes painful skin lesions. The workers won access to the cream and gloves and other protective equipment, along with better access to four portable toilets.

They also won an increase in pay and a guarantee against retaliation, according to Edgar Franks of Familias Unidas por la Justicia (Families United for Justice), an independent farmworker union. Based in the Skagit Valley, Familias Unidas supported the tulip workers with the strike and negotiations. The independent farmworker organization originally established their union among berry field workers with a very progressive contract and agreement of struggle, including a boycott of Sakumas Bros. Berry Farm, in Burlington. The tulip workers established a seven-member committee to negotiate with the Washington Bulb Company. Washington Bulb signed an agreement with the committee addressing the workers demands. Ninety-five tulip workers signed cards to join the Familias Unidas por la Justicia union.

They are now joining thousands of Amazon and Starbucks workers as well as other sectors of workers across the country to win the fruits of their labor.

Workers harvest tulips at Washington Bulb Company.

Historic one-day strike at Maximus call centers

By Betsye Piette

Workers at two Maximus federal call centers in the U.S. South held a one-day strike March 23 to demand better treatment from the company, better health care coverage and higher wages. The walkouts, involving Black women and other people of color — the majority of call center workers — took place in Bogalusa, Louisiana and Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

The call centers are in “right-to-work” states, where workers legally cannot be required to join or pay dues or representation fees to a union.

Maximus has around 10,000 workers at 11 call centers in nine states. For 2021 the company reported profits of $4.25 billion — an increase of 22.8% over the previous year. Last year Maximus CEO and President Bruce L. Caswell received $7.9 million in total compensation.

If you have recently called 800-Medicare or an Affordable Care Act (ACA) marketplace plan, the person answering your call was probably not a federal employee but a Maximus worker. Around 86% of federal government call center work is contracted out to nonunion private corporations that do not have to abide by federal standards for pay and benefits.

Maximus manages call centers for state and federal programs including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Federal Student Aid, the ACA and all things Medicare-related. A global company, Maximus provides military support services.

With their union recognition victory, the workers are asking for a fair contract that includes securing union representation, pay increases, benefits such as paid sick leave and insurance co-pays. Maximus workers, who are underpaid for their work, will also be organizing for a national convention.

Philadelphia Art Museum workers rally for CONTRACT NOW!

By Joe Piette

In the face of an intransigent management, who have refused to settle on a contract with workers for almost two years, over 200 Philadelphia Museum of Art (PMA) staff workers and their supporters rallied and marched on April 1. The museum workers won a historic victory on Aug. 6, 2020, with 89% voting to unionize as the Philadelphia Museum of Art Union (PMA Union), in affiliation with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees District Council 47.

Outstanding issues involve wages, benefits and workplace initiatives, such as implementation of worker protections of job security and safety from harassment, for transfer and promotion opportunities, and affordable health insurance.

The energetic rally took place the same day Amazon workers in Staten Island, New York, won their historic union-recognition vote. Several speakers mentioned this union victory, which was reflected on several signs. As with workers at Starbucks and Amazon, solidarity from other workers can be critical at times when powerful capital institutions refuse to give workers what they need and demand.

PMA worker Lav said, “I work front-of-house as a member of the Visitor Services Assistants team. I’ve worked at the museum for less than a year; but because turnover is so high, I’m already the second most senior person on that team. Many [workers] have left because of how management has responded to COVID-19. People are also leaving because there are so few career opportunities for Visitor Service Assistants here.”

Adam Rizzo, PMA Union President told the crowd: “It is shameful that a museum with a $60 million [annual] budget has staff working multiple jobs to get by. The PMA prioritizes spending $233 million on new spaces, while employees who work in those spaces haven’t received a raise in years.”

Muralist and street artist Symone Salib said, “Some of my first experiences with art came at the PMA. Workers make lasting memories, like the ones that I have, possible. But they are overworked and underpaid.”

Cathy Scott, President of AFSCME District Council 47 stated: “No employer should get away with stonewalling a fair union contract. It’s union busting, pure and simple. PMA has a responsibility to the community as a civic institution.”

Among largest U.S. museum staff unions Pennsylvania State Senator Niki Saval said, “The Art Museum is wealthy, powerful and resourceful. It does not exist without its workers. Your labor opens up the world. It is cruel that you are being undervalued. Enough is enough.”

The PMA Union is one of several unionized workforce at cultural institutions in Philadelphia, including the Free Library of Philadelphia and the Philadelphia Zoo. The PMA Union joins a fast-growing list of major art museums with unionized staff, including the New York Museum of Modern Art, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the Brooklyn Museum, the Guggenheim Museum, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art and Seattle’s Frye Art Museum.

With their union recognition victory, the PMA became the first major U.S. museum to be organized in a “wall-to-wall” union, where all staff legally eligible for collective bargaining are represented by a single union. It made them among the largest museum staff unions in the U.S. and part of a rising tide of unionization across U.S. cultural institutions and industries.

PMA Union members are asking supporters to express solidarity by sending a letter to members of the Art Museum Board of Trustees. Tell them PMA workers need a fair contract NOW! (t.co/uTWRWSm46W)
NATO's global history of reaction

By Sara Flounders

The U.S.-commanded military alliance known as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was founded April 4, 1949, but its origins stretch back to the early geographic reach but obscure NATO's intent, and how NATO has acted, first from 1949 to 1951, and later from 1951 to the present.

From its founding moment, NATO was an aggressive military apparatus to coordinate the U.S. and Western military and intelligence apparatus among the ten founding Western European member countries (plus U.S. and Canada) under U.S. command. NATO's history of war and expansion is tied to its original purpose as an imperialist weapon against the working class. The 1991 broken promise by Secretary of State James Baker, echoed by many other Western politicians, to Soviet Prime Minister Mikhail Gorbachev that if the Russia that came forward would not expand one inch to the East” is often quoted today in discussing the encirclement of Russia and the root of the U.S.-Russia rivalry.

What needs to be understood is why did NATO expand? Why was NATO's expansion inevitable?

NATO expanded because the capitalist states were fracturing. The defeat of socialism in Eastern Europe and the dismemberment of the Soviet Union and the auctioning off of formerly nationalized public property and industries was only possible with an enforcement organization.

Just as the U.S., the center of financial capital, is held together by the largest repressive state apparatus, the largest international capital, is held together by the largest military organization.

NATO’s founding principle was to ensure a strong U.S. military, political and economic presence in Europe. There was no plan to end the U.S. military occupation of Europe. Its stated purpose from its inception was a military alliance against the Soviet Union.

NATO claimed to be a collective security arrangement against Soviet expansion, even though the Soviet Union was hardly expanding. It was devastated by World War II and had suffered the overwhelming majority of the losses in human life (27 million losses) and industrial capacity. Over 700 cities and towns lay in total ruin. Refugee camps and rationing dominated daily life.

The border between two social systems

But the fact that the Soviet Union had survived was threatening to the capitalist class.

In all the countries liberated by the Red Army from Nazi Germany’s occupation in Eastern Europe, workers organizations were attempting to reorganize society. Only by organizing on a non-capitalist basis could they defend their countries from capitalist reconquest.

By John Catalinotto

By Sara Flounders

“By revealing the underbelly of the empire, Flounders sheds insight on how the U.S. spends billions on a war machine and, in so doing, save ourselves and humanity.”

Miguel d’Escote Brockenmich, President, UN General Assembly, 2008-2009; former Minister of Nicaragua’s Sandinista government

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WAR WITHOUT VICTORY

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Denouncing this development and labeling Germany from the Mediterranean Sea to the Black Sea—a choke point for the Soviet ports of Odessa and Sevastopol.

It was only after West Germany’s acceptance into NATO and the creation of the NATO and the Eastern European countries formed the Warsaw Pact in 1955 in self-defense. The Soviet leaders viewed the Marshall Plan as an industrial strategy to create a peace and stability in Europe. They are less than 3% of the 27 million NATO military force, among its 30 member countries, with another 80 states that resent, resist, and paramilitary forces. But U.S. officers still command this alliance—the largest military force in the world under a single command.

NATO has a permanent, integrated military command structure, composed of both military and civilian personnel. It has a single member to form the military command, and the commanders order them to, including, Iraq, and Afghanistan. Each country is forced to pay for the maintenance of their own forces. (shape NATO)

Cold War leads to bankruptcy

The Cold War was a relentless war of military expenditures calculated to bankrupt the Soviet Union, which had less wealth and which did not exploit subject nations in the Global South.

According to a NATO report, “The Soviet Union was spending three times as much as the United States on defense even though it has the smallest economy on the order of that posed formerly by the Soviet Union.”

This policy of expanding military costs was enormously profitable to the capitalist and industrial world.

The Soviet Union had to match each U.S./NATO escalation. The 1980 U.S. strategy was to deploy nuclear-capable cruise missiles and ground-launched missiles in Western Europe aimed at bankrupting the Soviets.

Reagan’s 1983 Strategic Defense Initiative known as “Star Wars,” called for enormous new military expansion. The Soviet Union, starting in the mid-1980s, devoted 15-17% of its gross national product to military spending.

Enacted with great U.S. and Western applause, concessions by Mikhail, who became the Soviet leader in 1985, led to the complete unraveling and dismemberment of the Soviet Union by 1991.

U.S. victory opens endless war

Instead of the Cold War’s end ushering in the promised era of peace and stability, U.S. imperialist expansionism, now dominant, opened a new era of endless war and colonial reconquest. The wars in Iraq were in Eastern Afghanistan, in Libya, and collapsed Russia, and in the energy-rich southwestern Asia and North Africa.

The Federal Republic of Germany annexed the German Democratic Republic in 1990 and both populated populations were absorbed into the NATO Alliance. A new era of open capitalist markets meant that major Western corporations seized control of locally owned industries and resources in Eastern Europe and Russia.

Any country resisting complete takeover was targeted. Iraq in 1991 and then Yugoslavia in 1995 and many other countries of colonial style reconquest.

The corporate media bragged about the level of destruction of these modern, devastating wars that had high levels of education, health care and infrastructure.

But since they were countries that had no weapons systems, and they were using NATO bombs, they were destroyed with impunity. They were to serve as an example to others.

Pentagon document for world domination

What was in store for the world was discussed at the highest levels of the U.S. establishment.

In a 1992 article in Workers World newspaper, then WWP chairperson Samedu told workers: “On March 8, 1992, the New York Times published excerpts from a 46-page secret Pentagon draft document, (written by Paul D. Wolfowitz), that it outlined an ‘unrestricted war policy’ on the face of the planet. It is to exercise its power not only in Europe, Asia, the Middle East and Latin America, but also on the territory of the former Soviet Union...

“Our first objective,’ it states, ‘is to prevent the re-emergence of a new rival, either in Europe or elsewhere, that the former Soviet Union or elsewhere, that poses a threat on the order of that posed formerly by the Soviet Union. It is of fundamental importance to preserve NATO as the primary instrument of Western defense and security, as well as the channel for U.S. influence and participation in European security affairs.

“But then it adds: ‘While the United States supports the goal of European integration, we must seek to prevent the emergence of European-only security arrangements which would undermine NATO, particularly the alliance’s military command structure. The latter, of course, is led by the U.S.’


April 4 is a day to remember not only because of the founding of NATO but the famous condemnation of the Vietnam War made by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on April 4, 1967: “The greatest purveyor of violence in the world is my own government. I cannot be silent.”

NATO is the greatest purveyor of violence and we cannot be silent.

Turn the Guns Around

By John Catalinotto

Draftees and enlistees—eighteen-year-olds from the South Bronx, factory workers from Buffalo, miners’ sons from Kentucky, and young youth from Watts—hate the military and the Vietnam War.

NATO is the greatest purveyor of violence and we cannot be silent.

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NATO is the greatest purveyor of violence and we cannot be silent.
By Manuel Raposo

The author is editor of the Portuguese web magazine, jornalmarxisdavida.net. Translation: John Catalinotto.

March 28 — The G7 is united. The rest of the world is trying to avoid being bowed behind them. A key element of the West’s propaganda war against Russia is the argument that what is at stake is a confrontation between Democracy and Autocracy. The argument, extending beyond the Ukraine conflict, includes China and tries to convince people that there is a conspiracy of dictatorships and autocracies around the world with the goal of undermining and overthrowing Western democratic regimes.

This supposed battle for democracy and freedom is a facade covering up what has happened in Ukraine and what is happening there now. At the same time, it is an inversion of the facts of the last 30 years: in reality, it was the Western powers — invoking a moral superiority that they themselves lack — that carried out aggressions all over the world, violating the sovereign rights of nations, trampling on the freedom of others and floating what they call international law. An evil that comes from within

It is clear that the aim of this propaganda is to mobilize public opinion behind the motto under the pretext of defending freedom and democracy — or, as the crudest propagandists put it, “our way of life.”

We can see this from the fact that in many ways even an accentuation of U.S. aggressiveness.

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The peoples of the West have become so accustomed to judging their freedom and democratic regimes by the ritual of elections that they no longer ask themselves if they have any real democracy and enjoy any real freedom.

They only know that their personal and collective needs are increasingly eroded, that the politicians elected to govern always represent the same ruling forces and that democratic power is ultimately the monopoly of an all-powerful bourgeoisie that will not relinquish its privileges.

And they know that economic development (or the lack of it) leads to greater social inequalities from year to year. For this very reason, a huge percentage of citizens turn their backs on elections, seeing in them no chance to express their will.

What democratic legitimacy can an elected power arrogate to itself under these conditions, other than the “phantom democracy” that results from the power it holds?

A ‘free choice’ ... manipulated

The manipulation of public opinion by democratic regimes does not always make use of the crude repressive methods of a dictatorship, but it is certainly more effective in collectively conditioning mentalities.

This was proven in the 2016 U.S. elections and in the Brexit referendum that same year, with the intervention of experts in the manipulation of public opinion, making use of personal data provided by social networks, namely Facebook.

The idea of the voter’s free choice, in the secrecy of the ballot box, has never had much contact with reality, given the inequalities that condition the options of each voter and the narrow alternatives that are placed before them. But with such sophisticated interventions of “modern life,” a new era in the technique of shaping public opinion has surely been inaugurated. It provides everything but the individual freedom that so-called liberal democracy yields as its emblem.

Neither law nor justice, only force

Whenever they face serious resistance to their interests, the ruling classes in Western democracies do not fight it out based on law or justice — they try to crush it with all the economic, political and military force they possess.

Invasions of sovereign countries, coups d’état, deadly economic sanctions, illegal prison systems like the U.S.’s in Guantánamo, legalization of torture, persecution of those who dare to denounce state crimes, like Julian Assange, and exceptional laws under the pretext of fighting terrorism are weapons that such democracies do not hesitate to use to impose their will.

The natural revulsion at these methods brings with it, on the part of the affected populations, a rejection of those particular democracies, their leaders, and in many cases even their peoples, who are seen as accomplices to the barbarities committed by the leaders they have elected or accepted.

The proof of the facts

How can North American or European democracies be an attraction to people in the rest of the world, if they only serve to ensure that the voters of the U.S. or Europe periodically approve a permanent policy of subjugation of peoples and countries?

For the populations of the rest of the world, the end of the West’s democracy is marked by demands for more in the rejection of the West and its preached moral and political values than the accusations about the “impediments” of Vladimir Putin or Xi Jinping.

Interests, not ideals

The West — which basically created the conditions for the outbreak of the war and is doing its utmost to prolong it at the expense of the Ukrainians — wants to give an ideologically slant to the conflict: democrats versus autocrats, civilization versus barbarism, good people versus criminals. This attempt to give ideological cover to its own actions is intended to hide the interests at play.

Military aid to the Ukrainian regime does not aim to defend any of the principles behind a direct entry into the war, the U.S. and the EU have taken a defensive military stance, leaving it up to them to try to get the Russian Federation into a guagamea and wear it down as much as possible. In this sense, the conflict, is on the part of the U.S. and the reconquered Europeans, yet another proxy war, now no longer in faraway places, but on European soil and with the Ukrainians as cannon fodder.

Turning the page

It is true that the Russian invasion was condemned by a large majority in the U.N. General Assembly, but as a victory of the “free world” against “tyranny” would require too much optimism on the part of the West. In fact, this formal condemnation cannot be seen separately from another fact: Countries representing the overwhelming majority of the world’s population refused to go along with the sanctions against Russia decreed by the Americans and Europeans. This means that formal condemnation is not matched by the condemnation sought by the U.S. and the EU.

If the values preached by Western democracies were at stake in Ukraine and were seen by the rest of the world as universal values, certainly the countries of the so-called Global South would react differently. Yet more than half of the world did not support sanctions, because it saw no reason in principle or interest in siding with the U.S. and the EU.

This more-than-ballot-world, in its diversity, realizes the essence of the matter: The hitherto irresistible power of the imperialist powers is being called into question, as much by China’s economic enormity as by Russia’s military capacity and political decisiveness. And it is on this basis that a majority of the peoples of the world tend to bet.
Dear Editor:

Some years back Prison Radio quoted a progressive judge as saying that we had reached: “the twilight of evil.” Half a century ago, George Jackson told us: “The war is not being won by the white, but we work within the blackest ring of this” —  the blackest ring of this by his murder, but did we really heed his words? Because heedling them would have involved making radical choices, and those choices are being made by those who are —  are still to be made today.

For today the police are not defended but refuted to the hilt, and the Pentagon to be hit with the pretense of “foreign” wars.

Today we live in a society where the 8 minutes and 26 seconds of George Floyd’s high-tech lynching can no longer compete with the 15 seconds of one single nonlethal Hollywoodized slap that has gone internationally viral. However we must remember that films are the number two most effective vehicle for freedom to the international level.

The “across-the-ponders,” the Mumia in Europe, South America, Asia, Africa, and “the Basque Country etc., . . .” for their support from building solidarity.

This year —  with increased support from their community and other local unions and a re-invigorated person-to-person campaign —  the workers’ prejudice —  anything to keep workers from building solidarity.

This time they are trying to split the new “independent” unions and the older “traditional” unions.

And of course this is more disinformation. Many, if not most, of the independent unions are getting some kind of support and information from established unions. For instance, the UNITE HERE Local 100 office in Bessemer, Alabama, Amazon warehouse as a “failure” by the established Retail, Warehouse and Department Store Union (RWDSU).

The outcome of that BAmazon vote, which ended March 25, has yet to be decided. Objectively, the ballot results showed a clear and dramatic gain for the union in this second election attempt in one year. Last year’s tally was a dismal 2 to 1 against Amazon.

The turnaround in “yes” votes in one year is already the equivalent of an organizing triumph. Even if the contested votes are not ruled for the union, there will surely be another drive, and then another, until there is victory.

Capitalist bosses are going to use every possible tool to try to wreck the worker organizing in their factories, warehouses, schools, hospitals —  everywhere.

But the ongoing Starbusters surge is now being amplified by the valiant Amazon worker victory. Already in North Carolina the formation of CAUSE has been announced —  Carolina Amazonians United for Solidarity and Empowerment. African American leader Mary Hill, an Amazon worker in Raleigh, said: “We’re tired of the divisions inside, that’s why we decided to organize.” (Southern Workers Assembly @SWA_solidarity, April 2) Expect more campaigns to emerge immediately. Get ready to jump in and lend a hand. Worker solidarity wins!

Mumia with love, and there is both history and strategy to that love. Please allow me to send my tribute and encouragement to the Mumia Committees in Omicron-invaded and-war-torn Europe (France, Germany, Great Britain, Austria, the Basque Country etc. . . .) for their long haul, discreet mobilization for him against so many odds.

As long as Mumia’s words will continue to cause ripples like mighty pebbles cast from the ground zero of his prison to spread through the world, he stands an infinity of chances.

Julia Wright
March 31, 2022
Unions in India stage two-day countrywide strike

By Martha Grevatt

A gigantic countrywide general strike over political demands — known in India as a “bharat bandh” — brought out workers, students and farmers March 28-29. Media reports claim at least 30 million workers participated. Amjarjeet Kaur, General Secretary of the All India Trade Union Congress, put the number closer to the 200 million that unions had predicted ahead of the strike. She said more joined the second day.

Nearly 1/8 of India’s 28 states and eight “union territories” (under federal governance) were impacted. Ten of the 11 labor federations came together around a program of demands, targeting new antila-

World hunger and the war in Ukraine

By Vijay Prashad

During this war on Ukraine, No Cold War launched a new publication called Briefings, which will be factual texts on matters of global concern. Tricontinental: Institute for Social Research shared this first briefing:

The war in Ukraine, along with sanctions imposed by the United States and Western countries against Russia, have caused global food, fertilizer and fuel prices to skyrocket and endanger the whole world supply. This conflict is exacerbating the existing crisis of global hunger and is violating standards and well-being of billions of people — particularly in the Global South.

War in the ‘breadbasket of the world’

Russia and Ukraine together produce nearly 30% of the world’s wheat and roughly 12% of its total calories. Over the past five years, they have accounted for 17% of the world’s corn, 32% of barley (a critical source of animal feed) and 75% of sunflower oil (an important cooking oil in many countries). On top of this, Russia is the world’s largest producer and exporter of fertilizers and natural gas (a key component in fertilizer production), accounting for 15% of the global trade of nitrogenous fertilizers, 17% of potash fertilizers, 20% of natural gas. (tinyurl.com/t5j5efmw)

The current crisis threatens to cause a global food shortage. The United Nations has estimated that up to 30% of Ukrainian farmland could become a warzone; in addition, due to sanctions, Russia has been severely restricted in exporting food, fertilizer and fuel. This has caused global prices to surge. Since the war began, wheat prices have increased by 57% and gas by 91%. By early March, 53% and some fertilizers by 40%. (tinyurl.com/t5j5efmw)

The Global South is ‘getting pummelled’

The painful impact of this shock is being felt by people around the world, but most sharply in the Global South. “In a word, developing countries are getting pummelled,” United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres recently remarked. (tinyurl.com/2q9jskbf)

According to the U.N., 45 African and “least developed” countries import at least a third of their wheat from these two, Russia or Ukraine — 18 of those countries import at least 50%. Egypt, the world’s largest wheat importer, obtains over 70% of its imports from Russia and Ukraine, while Turkey obtains over 80%.

Countries of the Global South are already facing severe price shocks and shortages, impacting both production and consumption. In Kenya, bread prices have risen by 40% in some areas and, in Lebanon, by 70%. Meanwhile, Brazil, the world’s largest producer of soybeans, is facing a major soybean crisis as Russia’s purchase cuts close to half of its potash fertilizer from Russia and neighboring Belarus (which is also being sanctioned) — it has only a three-month supply remaining, with farmers being instructed to ration.

“The United States has sanctioned the whole world”

The situation is being directly exacerbated by U.S. and Western sanctions against Russia. Although sanctions have been justified as targeting Russian government officials, such measures have only hurt all people, particularly vulnerable groups, and are having global ramifications (U.N. News, Dec. 8, 2021). Nooruddin Zaker Ahmadi, director of a Afghan immigration company, made the following diagnosis: “The United States thinks it has only sanctioned Russia and its banks. But the United States has sanctioned the whole world.” (tinyurl.com/t5j5efmw)

“A catastrophe on top of a catastrophe”

The war in Ukraine and associated sanctions are on top of an already existing crisis of world hunger. The U.N.’s Food and Agriculture Organization found that “nearly one in three people in the world (2.7 billion) did not have access to adequate food in 2020.” (tinyurl.com/3jz25gj5) In recent years, the situation has worsened as food prices have risen due largely to the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change and related disruptions.

“Ukraine has only compounded a catastrophe on top of a catastrophe,” said David M. Beasley, the executive director of the U.N. World Food Program. “There is no precedent or emergency this size or since World War II.” (tinyurl.com/t5j5efmw)

“If you think we’ve got hell on earth now, you just got ready,” Beasley warned. Regardless of the different opinions on Ukraine, it is clear that billions of people around the world will suffer from this humanitarian crisis until the war and sanctions come to an end.

In 1962, the Polish poet Wisława Szymborska wrote “Starvation Camp near Jodo.” Located in southeast Poland not far from the Ukraine-Poland border, Jasko was the site of a Nazi death camp, where 1,500 people — mainly Jews — were caged and left to die of starvation. How does one write about such immense violence? Szymborska offered the following reflection:

“Write it down. Write it. With ordinary ink on ordinary paper; they weren’t given food, they all died of hunger. All. How many?”

“It’s a large meadow. How much grass per head? Write down: I don’t know. How many hands round off to zero. A thousand and one is still only a thousand. That one seems never to have existed: a feticheus, an empty cradle, a prayer, a bound to the earth, sobs, cries, and groans, stairs for a void bound- out to the garden, no one’s spot in the ranks ... Each death is an abomination, including the 300 children who die of malnutrition every hour of every day.”

Haitians say: We want justice and a new constitution!

By G. Dunkel

Tens of thousands of Haitians surged through the streets of Port-au-Prince and smaller cities Les Cayes, Jacmel and Carrefour March 29, demanding respect for the 2016 constitution.

At times the demonstrations and maneuvers, the coalitions and neocolonial interventions over elections are confusing and hard to disentangle. But one thing is clear: Voting in Haiti often is not choosing the “lesser of two evils.”

How Haiti’s next presidential election will be conducted still has not been settled.

Current situation

Since previous Haitian president Jovenel Moïse, with firm U.S. support, chose not to organize elections and ruled by decree, no official in Haiti has ruled by election. Moïse was assassinated last July. De facto acting Prime Minister Ariel Henry, perhaps implicated in the assassination plot, runs the country because government officials take his direction without parliament getting in the way.

Lawlessness and criminal activity, including kidnappings, have spread throughout Haiti. According to police, kidnappings increased 58% over last year, with 225 cases already reported in 2022. Kidnapping criminal gangs have blocked road access to Port-au-Prince from Jacmel, Les Cayes and Jérémie, major cities in Haiti’s southwest.

A pastor conducting a televised service was kidnapped. There are anecdotal reports of people in police uniforms participating in kidnappings. The jet burned at the Les Cayes airport allowed the U.S. military to override this blockade, being in supplies without paying the gangs. U.S. deportations of 20,000 Haitians caused considerable suffering. An additional 50,000 to 250,000 Haitians, stuck in Latin America without jobs and unable to send money home, are trying to get into the U.S. Their remittances made up nearly a third of Haiti’s GDP (gross domestic product). This is another hidden, but real, strain on Haiti’s economy.”

Demonstrators protesting increasing violence at the Antoine Simon Des Cayes airport in Les Cayes, Haiti, March 29, 2022.

Millions participated in an “All-India Bharat Bandh,” a general strike held March 28-29. In a country of over 1.4 billion people, with 350 million categorized as work- ers, estimates of 50 million represents a huge expression of working-class power. ☑
MUNDO OBRERO editorial

El mundo quiere la paz, Biden amenaza con la guerra

Por John Catalinotto

29 de marzo—Encuentras recientes muestran que la pandemia de la gente en Estados Unidos teme que la crisis actual pueda escalar a una guerra con Rusia, una guerra que la mayoría de la gente no quiere formar parte. (cbs42.com, 26 de marzo)

Los comentarios del presidente Joe Biden realizados el 26 de marzo en Varsovia son consistentes con un cambio en su política en Moscú—ciertamente no alivian estos temores. El sabor del peligro permaneció incluso después de que sus cohortes retaran inmediatamente el comentario de Biden. Biden se excedió más tarde diciendo que se trataba de una “indignación moral” y no de un cambio en la política de Estados Unidos.

Moscú reaccionó con hostilidad, lo cual es fácil de entender. Washington ha llevado a cabo pólizas destinadas a derrocar a otros gobiernos en todo el mundo, teniendo éxito en las últimas tres décadas en Panamá, Yugoslavia, Irak, Afganistán, Honduras, Libia, Ucrania, y muchos otros. En los últimos años, los gobiernos de Biden son los miles de miles de millones de dólares que en armonía con el mundo ocasiona al pueblo ucraniano como carne de cañón contra Rusia. La propia OTAN está aumentando constantemente su fuerza militar en los países de Europa del Este que rodean a Ucrania.

La “indignación moral” es una afirmación impropiamente hipócrita por parte de Biden. Entre los comunistas y los liberales de la CIA, pasando por la policía del capitólo y los departamentos de policía locales. Para estos últimos, las reformas policiales estipuladas en la Ley George Floyd, aprobada por la Cámara, fueron desechadas.

Recorte de los fondos de COVID-19

Los demócratas del Congreso habrían propuesto $30,000 millones de dólares para continuar la lucha contra el COVID-19. Con la promesa de que si Biden es el jefe de Estado del imperio norteamericano, no hay un millón de miles de niños que en 5 años “en riesgo de morir por desnutrición aguda en Ucrania” según UNICEF.

La propuesta de la OTAN 2023 es $782,000 millones de dólares para las naciones que forman parte de la OTAN. Casi $7,000 millones de dólares para apoyar a Ucrania, la cual ha sido la principal fuerza en la reducción de la cantidad, las demócratas convencionales eliminaron los $4,000 millones restantes del presupuesto, con la deuda promesa de recuperar los $4,000 millones durante el año fiscal siguiente.

El 10 de marzo se aprobó en la Cámara de Representantes y en el Senado, un proyecto de ley “ómnibus” de gastos por valor de $1,5 billones de dólares respecto al proyecto de ley “ómnibus” de asistencia del abuso de sustancias, la ayuda para la reducción de la cantidad, las demócratas convencionales eliminaron los $4,000 millones restantes del presupuesto, con la deuda promesa de recuperar los $4,000 millones durante el año fiscal siguiente.

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El dinero restante deben ser enviados a: WW-MundoObrero@workers.org

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