



Lizelle Herrera & Texas repression

Arrest exposes anti-abortion laws

By Monica Moorehead

There was joy and a sigh of relief when Ketanji Brown Jackson was finally confirmed as the first Black woman justice to sit on the U.S. Supreme Court, based on a 53-47 Senate vote April 7.

Then another legal development of a totally different kind occurred in Starr County, Texas the same day.

A 26-year-old Latinx woman, Lizelle Herrera, was arrested in Rio Grande City, near the Texas-Mexico border, and charged with murder for allegedly terminating her pregnancy. Her bail was an outrageous \$500,000.

The county sheriff, Carlos Delgado, stated Herrera was arrested and served with an indictment on the charge of murder, accusing her of intentionally and knowingly causing the “death of an individual” by self-induced abortion.

University of Texas law professor Stephen Vladeck stated that, based on Texas law, Herrera should not be charged with any crime — much less murder — because “homicide doesn’t apply to the murder of an unborn child if the conduct charged is ‘conduct committed by the mother of the unborn child.’” (theguardian.com, April 9)

After the arrest of Herrera, a protest was quickly organized by La Frontera Fund, a pro-abortion group in Rio Grande City,

outside the Starr County jail where she was being held.

Rockie Gonzalez, the group’s founder and board chair, told Texas Public Radio “We would like for people to know that the legislation that Gov. [Greg] Abbott has put forth and tried to push in this state is making it so that innocent people are being harmed. And we want people to know that this type of legislation impacts low-income people of color communities the most, when state legislators put restrictions on our reproductive rights.” (dallas.com, April 9)

National outrage at the arrest, amplified on social media, led to many phone calls to the jail demanding Herrera’s release. Frontera Fund posted the following message on Instagram April 9: “Lizelle Herrera has been released on bail and has secured legal counsel. With permission from her family, Frontera Fund is launching the ‘Lizelle Herrera Legal Defense and Reconciliation Fund’ to support Lizelle and her family with ongoing legal costs beyond the bail, as well as economic relief as reconciliation for the trauma the State of Texas, Governor Abbott and the Starr County Sheriff have inflicted on them. You can donate here: bit.ly/Lizelle.

The Texas Tribune then announced on April 10 that all charges had been dropped

The arrest of Lizelle Herrera is not an isolated matter. Just as the vigilante murder of teenager Trayvon Martin helped spark the Black Lives Matter movement in 2012, the victimization of Lizelle Herrera could potentially spark an ongoing national struggle to defend reproductive justice — not in the courts but in the streets.



Solidarity demonstration for Lizelle Herrera outside jail in Rio Grande City, Texas, April 9, two days after her arrest.

against Herrera, which is a major victory since she should not have been charged in the first place.

Texas repression goes beyond abortion attacks

It should, however, come as no surprise that this arrest happened in the state where super-repressive Senate Bill 8 went into effect September 2021. Known as the “Texas Heartbeat Act,” this legislation criminalizes all abortions after six weeks from conception, a period when most people are unaware that they are pregnant. There are no exceptions to this archaic legislation — not even pregnancies resulting from rape or incest.

This law encourages “private citizens” to sue anyone who performs or assists someone in getting an abortion after embryo heartbeat is detected by ultrasound. Those who do sue can be awarded a minimum of \$10,000 for successful lawsuits.

The Texas bill is one of 26 similar state bills that have passed or are up for a vote in the near future. These seek to weaken and eventually overturn Roe v Wade — the 1973 SCOTUS decision that legalized the right to abortion. That ruling codified that women have the right of autonomy over their own bodies.

Another 2021 Texas law prohibited doctors and clinics from prescribing abortion-inducing medications after the seventh week of pregnancy and prohibited delivery of the pills by mail.

Texas is propagating these violently misogynistic laws supposedly to protect “life.” At the same time, Texas carries out more horrific executions of incarcerated people than any state — disproportionately of Black, Brown and other marginalized individuals.

Texas has the largest number of residents lacking health insurance in the country. Some 4.2 million Texas residents are

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TEAR DOWN THE WALLS

Health care profiteers

Care, not cages

Sexual abuse challenged

Labor flexes its muscles



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Protest at Starbucks CEO’s luxury penthouse

The news release below was issued April 9 by Workers Assembly Against Racism to announce a demonstration outside the home of Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz to protest Starbucks’ union busting. The action will take place Thursday, April 14, 6:00 PM at 155 West 11th Street, between 6th and 7th Avenues in New York City, and is demanding Starbucks rehire the Memphis 7 and other workers fired for union organizing.

The Manhattan luxury penthouse of Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz—who claimed last week that the rich are being “assaulted” by the “threat of unionization” while he fires union organizers left and right—will be the site of a protest this week at 6:00 p.m. Thursday, April 14, at 155 West 11th Street, in New York City.

The protest will be held by the May Day 2022 Organizing Committee, a coalition of groups including the Laundry Workers Center, Coalition of Black Trade Unionists NYC, Coalition of Labor Union Women,



Workers Power Day, March 5, Buffalo, New York. Union organizer Angel Krempa, left, has been fired by Starbucks.

Teamsters Local 808, and Workers Assembly Against Racism.

“Starbucks CEO Schultz just publicly claimed his stores were being ‘assaulted’ by the ‘threat of unionization,’” said Joan Hwang, an activist with Workers Assembly Against Racism. “From the Memphis 7 to Phoenix’s Laila Dalton, reality shows it is his workers who are being assaulted by union-busting threats, coercion and intimidation.

“Such threats aren’t deterring workers from organizing,” Hwang continued. “Sixteen Starbucks stores have voted to unionize. Amazon just won a union election in Staten Island. Workers are waking up, fighting back and winning—but they continue to need solidarity to hold out against these huge transnational corporations.” □

Amazon Labor Union: ‘We Made History’



Workers World Party First Secretary Larry Holmes and Amazon Labor Union President Chris Smalls, April 8.

The Amazon Labor Union held a “We Made History” press conference April 8 in Staten Island across from Amazon’s JFK8 warehouse. Most of the elected leaders of this Black-led union spoke about what led them to the ALU union drive and their participation that led to victory. Close to 100 supporters attended.

The ALU won a majority of votes in an NLRB-supervised election held March 25-30, making JFK8 the first unionized Amazon facility in the U.S.



— Photos and report by Toni Arenstein

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 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 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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On strike for a year

Alabama coal miners say: ‘We won’t back down!’

By Dianne Mathiowetz and Minnie Bruce Pratt
Tannehill Ironworks State Park
McCalla, Alabama

April 6 — Thousands of coal miners, supporters, labor leaders and rank-and-file union members defied threats of hail, straight-line winds and tornadoes to gather in solidarity with Brookwood, Alabama, coal miners — on strike since April 1, 2021.

Members of United Mine Workers (UMWA) Locals 2245, 2368 and 2397 continue to “hold the line” against predatory Warrior Met Coal. They walked out 370 days ago to protest the company breaking its promise to reverse givebacks that workers made in 2016. To save the parent coal company from bankruptcy, the miners had agreed to bone-deep cuts in wages, health benefits, leave time and other previous gains.

Following its familiar capitalist “bankruptcy” ploy, Warrior Met now says it made no such promise to restore wages and benefits, refusing to acknowledge its huge profits from the miners’ backbreaking labor. The coal company is “the leading dedicated U.S.-based producer and exporter of high quality metallurgical (‘met’) coal for the global steel industry.” (Business Wire, Feb. 24, 2021)

Warrior Met is backed financially by mega-hedge fund BlackRock. The UMWA miners are convinced BlackRock is blocking any progress toward a fair contract. The Alabama miners have protested in the streets in front of BlackRock in New York City several times.

“Right to work for less” business interests inside Alabama want to stop any momentum by unions, like that by the miners or the current campaign at the Bessemer Amazon warehouse. During the strike year, state and local police intensified harassment of UMWA picket lines. A state judge issued injunctions to make it almost impossible for strikers to picket.

Today’s massive rally underlined the miners’ determination to beat Big Business by holding out “one day longer, one day stronger” in Alabama.

‘Give ‘em hell!’

Alabama AFL-CIO President Ben Riley summed up the solidarity of the rally: “Our labor family is supporting you, across the U.S., across the globe. Give ‘em hell!” In addition to Riley, presidents or other officers of the Georgia, Kentucky, Virginia and West Virginia state AFL-CIOs spoke. They brought contingents ranging from mining to tobacco to confectionary production workers.

Larry Spencer, UMWA District 20 field representative, emceed much of the rally and asked unions to identify from the audience. With cheers and boisterous applause, people announced themselves as United Auto Workers (still trying to organize auto plants in Vance, Alabama) and Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union (RWDSU, organizing at Amazon in Bessemer). Others calling out as “present” were Air Line Pilots Association

(ALPA), Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU), Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, Communication Workers (CWA), Sheet Metal, Air, Rail, Transportation Workers (SMART) and UNITE HERE locals from Louisiana, Mississippi and Georgia. There were union machinists, maritime workers, plumbers, pipe fitters, postal workers, steelworkers and at least one unionized writer.

And there were miners — rank upon rank of them — wearing camouflage shirts because they are in a class war. At least fourteen UMWA locals traveled long hours to bring solidarity from Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, Ohio, Virginia and West Virginia. Third-generation African American miner James Gibbs, UMWA At-Large International Vice President, was present to contribute wisdom gained during his leadership of militant strikes against Peabody and Pittston coal companies.

Historically significant was the contingent present from UMWA Local 1440, Matewan, West Virginia — site of the 1921 epic struggle to unionize with the UMWA. State and federal troops were brought in to crush the union. Thousands of miners fought them valiantly at the Battle of Blair Mountain, the largest labor uprising in U.S. history.

Solidarity wins

Carolyn Foster, Alabama Poor People’s Campaign, reminded the crowd of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s solidarity with the striking Memphis sanitation workers immediately before his assassination there. Emphasizing the connection between worker rights, voting rights and the right to health care, she urged solidarity across issues: “Forward together! Not one step back!”

Fred Ingram, national secretary-treasurer of American Federation of Teachers (AFT), explained that his union included many different kinds of education workers and said: “All the classroom teachers across the U.S. are with you!”

Sara Nelson, militant president of the Association of Flight Attendants-CWA (AFA), emphasized her union’s connection to the UMWA tradition to “organize every single person” across lines of nationality and race: “It doesn’t matter whether you are 2,000 feet underground or 35,000 feet in the air. We are all breathing recycled air and are not safe without a union.”

‘A year of the worker’

Toward the close of the rally, Brian Sanson, national secretary-treasurer of the UMWA, blasted the failure of the Alabama state government to support the Brookwood miners. He ripped into U.S. Senator Tommy Tuberville as a “lapdog of Warrior Met.” He predicted: “A new year has begun, a year of the worker, a year we’re going to jail corrupt politicians and corporate criminals, a year of solidarity, of workers across the country saying ‘Enough is enough!’”

As the predicted rain began to fall, UMWA President Cecil Roberts said, “Even the heavens weep today



WW PHOTO: MINNIE BRUCE PRATT

Labor movement rallies for Alabama coal miners on strike for over a year and still ‘holding the line,’Tannehill Ironworks State Park, April 6.

because of Warrior Met. But this union is the union of Mother Jones. This union is the union of John L. Lewis. This is the union of the most ass-kicking bunch of workers that ever lived on this earth. We are keeping at it until BlackRock tells the company to settle that contract. We demand dignity. We demand respect. We ain’t gonna let nobody turn us around!”

Throughout the rally, tribute was paid over and over to the UMWA for its staunch support of other worker struggles. Speakers emphasized: “The UMWA always has your back.” That principled solidarity has been repaid during the year’s strike with Roberts naming huge contributions to the UMWA strike fund from national unions, as well as checks from union locals brought directly to the rally — money coming out of the pockets of current workers and retirees.

As people streamed to their cars and buses to continue a “Caravan to Victory,” these two writers distributed hundreds of copies of Workers World newspaper. The front page headline, “Rehire the Memphis Seven,” featured workers of color fired for organizing at a Tennessee Starbucks. Rally goers grabbed the paper, eager to hear news about another labor struggle in the South.

An older African American man from a Kentucky UMWA local paused to take a paper and give this comment: “I worked for the Peabody Coal Company, in the mines. We went through all this there. But UMWA saved our benefits and our pensions. So we are here in Alabama for the union now. We lived through it! We got their backs now.” □

On the picket line

By Marie Kelly

WHEN WE FIGHT WE WIN!

The labor movement has had a growth spurt since the 2020 demonstrations against racism that followed the police murder of George Floyd. Adding to the surge was the bosses’ disregard for workers’ lives during the pandemic. From hospitals to schools to factories to retail stores, workers are rising up against the ruling class.

Now in 2022 there are worker-led victories over the mega-corporations Amazon and Starbucks!

Workers continue to wield the ultimate weapon of the strike — their ability to withhold their labor power until their demands are met and their rights are won.

There have been hundreds of strikes in the past twelve months. Some were as short as a day and others have stretched for months, like strikes of the Brookwood coal miners in Alabama and the St. Vincent nurses in Massachusetts. According to the Cornell Industrial and Labor Relations StrikeTracking Tool, workers are officially on strike at these businesses and organizations, as of April 9:

- Starbucks, Washington State and Kansas, since April 6 and 8 (**Starbucks Workers United**)
- Maru Sushi and Grill, Michigan, since March 27
- Chevron Corporation/Richmond Refinery, California since March 21 (**United Steelworkers/USW**)
- Star Garden Topless Bar, California, since March 18
- Tangipahoa Parish School District, Louisiana, since March 3
- Eaton Corporation, Iowa, since Feb. 1 (**International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers/IAM**)
- Great Lakes Coffee Roasting Company, Michigan, since Feb. 16 (**UNITE HERE**)
- Cummins Northeast, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Maine, since Feb. 12 (**IAM**)
- Sherwin-Williams, Ohio, since Feb. 5 (**USW**)
- Portland Pie Company, Maine, since Jan. 2
- Gary Merlino Construction, Stoneway Concrete, Cadman, CalPortland, Lehigh Cement, Salmon Bay Sand & Gravel, Washington state, since November 2021 (**Teamsters/IBT**)
- GoPuff, Pennsylvania, since October 2021
- San Antonio Symphony, Texas, since September 2021 (**Musicians of the San Antonio Symphony**)

- Stanford University, California, since September 2021 (**Student Collective Action Against Residential Education**)
- City of Pelham, Georgia, since July 2021
- SMG Exposition Services, New Jersey, since June 2021 (**International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees**)
- Federal Industries, Wisconsin, since June 2021 (**IAM**)
- Coastal Building Maintenance, Florida, since June 2021 (**Service Employees Union/SEIU**)
- Cummins Inc, California, since June 2021 (**IAM**)
- Johnson Brothers Distributing, Rhode Island, since May 2021 (**IBT**)
- Scheppers Distributing, Missouri, since April 2021 (**IBT**)
- United Metro Energy, New York, since April 2021 (**IBT**)
- Warrior Met Coal, Alabama, since April 2021 (**United Mine Workers/UMWA**)

Great Lakes Coffee workers have been on strike two months in Detroit, February picket line.

Ramsey Clark: Why he is missed

By John Catalinotto

One year ago on April 9, Ramsey Clark — an internationalist and human rights fighter — died at the age of 93. No one up to now has taken his place. It was a special, unique one: He had been an attorney and member of the U.S. ruling establishment who, nevertheless, dedicated the second half of his life to speaking up for the oppressed of the earth.

This meant defending the peoples of Panama, Iraq, Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, Libya and Syria — among others — from invasions by the army of U.S. imperialism and its allies.

It meant defending the political prisoners of this same empire, in which he had once been U.S. attorney general.

It meant — and this is something really missed today — resisting the ideological domination of the imperialist propaganda machine, which turns every leader who challenges U.S. domination into the Devil.

Ramsey Clark turned this Big Lie around and prosecuted the rulers of the empire, people he knew so well, for the crimes they had committed — war crimes and crimes against humanity.

There are billions of people around the world who miss Ramsey Clark’s voice at this moment of world crisis. They must still win. □

WW PHOTO

Ramsey Clark with Sara Flounders, left, and Monica Moorehead, right.



Class struggle and the French elections

By G. Dunkel

Emmanuel Macron, from the party En Marche, whose job history as a banker primed him for his current role as a bankers’ president, came in first in France’s presidential vote held April 10 with 27.4%. Macron is a supporter of the European Union, which is basically the organ of the European banks.

The far right-wing candidate Marine Le Pen, representing the Rassemblement National, in her third run for president, came in second with 24.1% of the votes cast.

Jean-Luc Mélenchon, of the anti-capitalist, working-class party France Insoumise, came in a close third behind Le Pen with 21.5% of the vote.

Presidents in France are elected by direct popular vote, generally in two rounds. In the first round, candidates from a variety of parties compete. The two top vote-getters in the first round compete in the second and the winner in this round becomes president with extensive powers.

Since this way of selecting presidents went into effect in 1965, there have been two rounds of voting. There is no early voting or voting by mail.

Le Pen’s RN is a party which wants to change the French constitution so it can



Workers in Perpignan, France, take part in mass strike, December, 2019.

legally discriminate against people whose national identity is not French — like the millions of people living in France whose ancestors came from Africa or the Middle East. RN demands a total ban on the public display of Islamic symbols. Le Pen is for complete prohibition of abortion and for allowing discrimination against women.

Le Pen has waffled on Ukraine, not really opposing NATO expansion, but at the same time advocating for France to leave NATO. She responds to questions about Ukraine by opposing attacks on the

French standard of living caused by the war and sanctions, yet also says she has no use for unions — which defend the living standards of workers.

There were six left-wing parties running in this election. At the beginning of March, Mélenchon’s FI had a 13% approval rating. When the war in Ukraine started, two of the alleged left-wing parties, the Greens and the Socialist Party, each with a substantial approval percentage, immediately backed NATO’s role and pushed for France to take strong

measures to support Ukraine.

FI, in contrast, demanded an immediate cease-fire and a Europe-wide security conference. Mélenchon opposed the economic sanctions against Russia and opposed sending arms to the Zelensky government. He also demanded that France withdraw from NATO. These positions are shared by the French Communist Party. (France TV Info, March 9.)

FI has the reputation as a struggle party, a party that gets things done and is open to the youth. It militantly fights for jobs and one of its well-known militants, François Ruffin, helped found the Nuits Debout movement and led a struggle to get jobs back that was the basis for the hit film “Merci, patron!” or “Thanks, boss!” (Available on Netflix France)

This reputation and the desire of progressives in France to cast a “useful vote” in the first round led to a strong swing of support for FI, as it was the only left party that had a chance of making the second round.

Three election arenas in France: presidential, parliamentary, the streets

France is the seventh largest economy in the world. It has an aircraft carrier, nuclear weapons, and military bases in a number of African countries and the Caribbean. Islam is the religion in France with the largest number of practising members.

Since members of the French parliament run in single-seat districts, it is easier for a small party, either from the left or right, to win a seat. The same two-round system is used.

France is a country of demonstrations, where everyone from workers and students to lawyers, doctors and judges, take to the streets.

Sometimes it is a mass movement like the Yellow Vests that hits the streets all over France in protests against increasing taxes, higher rents and police violence. The CGT, a militant and very progressive labor union currently led by a Spanish immigrant, has led millions of workers and youth out into the streets, to protest changes to the labor code and retirement programs.

The French working class faces a big challenge: Le Pen winning would be a big step towards fascism and would disrupt solidarity among workers from diverse ethnic or religious backgrounds.

With no left candidate in the run-off election April 24, progressives have to mobilize against Le Pen while still giving no support to nor showing confidence in Macron. The main resistance will have to be in the streets. □

Lizelle Herrera & Texas repression

Arrest exposes anti-abortion laws

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on Medicaid — including more than 3 million children. But Texas lawmakers have refused to expand Medicaid coverage to an additional 1.4 million eligible adults. These numbers do not take into account undocumented workers and their families. (texastribune.org/2021/05/07)

In a Workers World Jan. 27 article, Kathy Durkin predicted this outcome from the rightwing campaign against reproductive rights: “Overturning legal abortions would engender more desperation, oppression and repression. This would send pregnant people seeking to end unintended pregnancies back to dangerous back-alley and self-abortions. It would be a huge medical and legal setback for millions of people and create more difficulties especially for women with low incomes, Black, Latinx, Indigenous, im/migrants, disabled people, rural residents, and individuals with



April 9 mugshot of Lizelle Herrera

various gender identities who can become pregnant.” (workers.org/2022/01/61402)

White supremacy — in Texas or other state legislatures, Republican or Democrat — is at the heart of the struggles against racism and patriarchy and serves the interests of the white, male-dominated billionaire ruling class.

The Supreme Court — which was forced to pass Roe v Wade despite a conservative majority, due to the mass struggle at that time — could very well overturn that decision this summer.

The arrest of Lizelle Herrera is not an isolated matter. Just as the vigilante murder of teenager Trayvon Martin helped spark the Black Lives Matter movement in 2012, the victimization of Herrera could potentially spark an ongoing national struggle to defend reproductive justice — not in the courts but in the streets.

And at the heart of this struggle will be the right for those who can become pregnant to be the ones who control whether or not they bear children.

Follow her story on Instagram: #Justice4Lizelle, #FronteraFundRGV #ToTheFront, #StopPolicingOurBodies

Gross negligence in for-profit prison health care

By Marie Kelly

By law, people in prison have a right to get the health care they need. In the late 1970s, the U.S. Supreme Court decision *Estelle v Gamble* set the standard for medical rights of prisoners. But prison authorities are being criminally negligent in not providing adequate health care to incarcerated people.

As the jailed population ages, 40% have chronic health conditions. The cost of providing health care has skyrocketed and local, state and federal governments have contracted with for-profit prison health care companies as a way of tightening their budgets.

Private companies give a per diem rate for basic and specialty care — which would be lower if services were publicly provided. The negotiated per diem rate creates a huge profit incentive. By providing little or substandard care, companies have everything to gain and nothing to lose. In contracting the financial and bureaucratic burden of incarcerated health care to private firms, the correctional departments “win” too.

But, to say the least, incarcerated people don’t fare well in this system.

Private companies have little regulatory oversight. There are many first hand accounts of mistreatment and neglect. Complaints of illness are ignored or dismissed. Infirmity staff are ill-trained to handle the demanding challenges of caring for a very oppressed incarcerated population. Staff are pressured to avoid sending incarcerated patients to outside facilities for treatment, even when that is the correct course of action.

Incarcerated people trying to access health care are blocked at almost every turn. They can’t simply walk over to the infirmary. Often the first attempt at treatment is a perfunctory exam with no resolution. Only after persistent and repeated visits does anyone on staff take the incarcerated patient seriously. And being incarcerated increases



Black Lives Matter of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, demonstrated July 28, 2020, to demand the Forsyth County Jail end its contract with WellPath.

one’s risk of disease due to lack of proper food and exercise, isolation from loved ones, and the mental strain of having your individual rights violated on a daily basis.

These are high hurdles for people who are sick and living in a demoralizing, punitive facility. No wonder there are so many stories from the incarcerated who spent days or weeks in pain because they were too weak and debilitated to demand the care they deserve.

Profiting from prisoners

A handful of companies currently provide the majority of health care in prisons: WellPath, Corizon, NaphCare, PrimeCare Medical and Armor Correctional Health Services.

WellPath is the largest of the private firms — responsible for over 300,000 incarcerated people in over 40 states. Former CEO Jerry Boyle was convicted this year on federal bribery charges related to “winning” a \$3.2 million contract at a Norfolk, Virginia, jail. The company donates to the political campaigns of sheriffs where it has contracts.

Corizon manages health care for some 116,000 prisoners in state and county facilities at more than 140 locations in 15 states. In 2020, they settled a lawsuit brought by an elderly disabled incarcerated man

in Florida. Corizon agreed to pay \$50,000 to Henry Washington for injuries he suffered when Corizon staff failed to administer medications he was prescribed for high blood pressure and glaucoma.

NaphCare was the private firm at Alabama correctional facilities in 2003 when Timothy Oliff’s illness was ignored by infirmary staff. He subsequently collapsed and died in the hospital. A physician at the hospital told his family that he succumbed to pneumonia and a severe stomach infection which was treatable if he had been admitted sooner. Alabama dropped NaphCare as a provider but its new choice, Wexford, is being sued for bribery in Mississippi.

PrimeCare Medical, based in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, is the for-profit health care provider at 70 carceral facilities in five states. In 2003, the company was held liable for the suicide death of 21-year-old Kyle Flyte after the PrimeCare psychiatrist canceled his suicide watch.

Armor Correctional Health Services, based in Florida, generated over \$155 million in 2021 revenue. In 2019, Armor was criminally charged for allegedly falsifying records in the death of a man imprisoned in Wisconsin. The company was dropped by at least seven counties in Florida, New York, Colorado and Oklahoma. After years of allegations of failing to meet its contractual obligations and placing inmates at risk in New York state, the company agreed to pay \$350,000 and not bid on any state contracts for three years in a settlement with the New York state attorney general.

Examples of negligence by these for-profit companies are easy to find because they are so numerous. Incarcerated people and their families are speaking out and telling stories that will make your hair stand on end or your blood boil. It is imperative that we share their stories far and wide—because their lives depend on our solidarity. □

Struggle launched against new Cuyahoga County jail

By Martha Grevatt
Cleveland

Over the past four years the Cuyahoga County Jail has become especially notorious for deplorable conditions. These include poor food and medical care, overcrowding, prisoners sleeping on floors, extreme abuse by guards, and the understaffing and neglect that have contributed to over a dozen preventable deaths. Located in downtown Cleveland in the misnamed “Justice Center,” the county jail has been the site of many protests by the Cuyahoga County Jail Coalition (JailCo).

Opened in 1976 with an annex built in 1994, the jail’s age is not the cause of the abuse prisoners have been subjected to. But Cuyahoga County Council and County Executive Armond Budish are citing the inhumane situation in the current jail as an argument to construct a new jail, estimated to cost \$550 million. Part of the financing will come from extending a county sales tax.

The site that Council has proposed is a shipping



CUYAHOGA COUNTY JAIL COALITION

container yard, formerly an oil refinery, in an industrial area. Environmental cleanup would increase taxpayers’ costs to well above \$550 million; EPA approval is needed before the site can be used for the jail. The same site was considered for a state prison 40 years ago until it was “found to be riddled with potentially hazardous chemicals. There was tetraethyl lead, used in making gasoline, sludge, asphalt, hydrocarbon liquids and vapors, solvents such as kerosene, acidic residue and asbestos.” Some cleanup has occurred since then but the extent of current contamination is unknown. (Cleveland Plain Dealer, April 4)

Nearly 20 county residents, representing a number of community organizations, gave public comment at the April 5 meeting of the Justice Center Project Executive Steering Committee. This committee, formed to study and make recommendations around the new jail project, is composed entirely of politicians — mostly judges and prosecutors. While they discuss specifics such as site location, they all treat the new jail itself — the most expensive Cuyahoga County project in history — as a done deal.

‘You cannot get well inside of a cell’

Not one resident spoke in favor of the proposed site and most opposed the new jail altogether.

Speakers called for funds to instead be used for

alternatives to incarceration. “You cannot get well inside of a cell,” said Rev. Reegie Bunch. “If you want to build something, build care, build treatment.” Azzurra Crispino, whose spouse has spent time in the county jail, argued that \$550 million could be spent on schools, public housing and other “prevention strategies.”

Brenda Bickerstaff called on the committee to “include the community.” Bickerstaff’s brother Craig Bickerstaff was killed by Cleveland police in 2002 and her niece Ralkina Jones died in the Cleveland Heights jail in 2015.

Chrissy Stonebraker-Martinez, a JailCo steering committee member and co-director of InterReligious Task Force on Central America and Colombia, charged “our communities will

become more unsafe and sick” if a jail is built “in the middle of a toxic brownfield.” The toxicity of the proposed site and the surrounding industrial area, with heavy truck traffic, will affect not only those incarcerated but visitors and jail workers. Another speaker pointed out that a nearby cement factory pollutes the area with silica dust.

“You put taxes on the poorest of us, then imprison us,” charged JailCo steering committee member Josiah Quarles. A sales tax hurts poor residents disproportionately because they have to spend a higher percentage of their income on necessities, with little to nothing left for savings.

After the impassioned public comment session, the committee went into executive session, discussing the new site behind closed doors. After two hours they emerged and notified the community activists that they had not reached a decision. This delay in selecting the site represents a victory, at least temporarily, for the movement to stop jail construction.

JailCo has launched a new campaign, “Stop the Cuyahoga County Jail construction project and redirect funds to care, not cages.” Already over 500 people have signed a petition to stop the plan. To sign go to tinyurl.com/SignThisToStopTheNewJailPlan. □

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WORKERS WORLD PARTY



California

Advocacy groups work to end sexual abuse at women’s prison

By Judy Greenspan

Sexual abuse of prisoners by guards happens daily in the U.S. — in jails, prisons and detention centers — but is rarely reported to the public. The Associated Press recently blew the whistle on a pattern of sexual abuse and harassment at the Federal Correctional Institution in Dublin, California, one of the few federal women’s prisons in the U.S. (AP, Feb. 6)

FCI Dublin is known by guards and prisoners as “the rape club,” and prisoners have suffered “rampant” sexual abuse at the hands of prison guards. Prison employees who questioned the abuse have been routinely threatened or disciplined.

AP’s investigation found a “permissive and toxic culture” at this women’s prison after scouring internal Federal Bureau of Prisons statements, documents and recorded interviews with prisoners. All substantiated unrelenting sexual abuse.

Federal prosecutors subsequently charged four prison staff, including the warden and prison chaplain, with sexually abusing prisoners over the last seven years.

On March 1, over 100 prisoner advocacy organizations around California and the U.S. sent a letter to the Department of Justice demanding an investigation and an end to the “systemic abuse” at FCI-Dublin.

In a coalition press release, the advocacy groups called for immediate action to get at the root causes of the abuse. These include an independent investigation into staff abuse, the creation of a safe line of communications to report future abuse, the release of prisoner victims back into their communities, and comprehensive medical care

and treatment for “incarcerated survivors of staff abuse.” In the statement California Coalition for Women Prisoners spokesperson Diana Block wrote: “We know that the arrest, conviction or incarceration of a handful of

She added that many incarcerated abuse survivors face immediate retaliation for reporting abuse. A large number of immigrant prisoners also face the threat of deportation after serving their sentences.

Anyone who has done prison time knows that sexual activity between guards and prisoners is “illegal.” The AP investigation, and the strong advocacy of groups like CCWP and Centro Legal de la Raza, have exposed a hideous history of sexual abuse against women, transgender, gender nonbinary and gender variant prisoners at FCI Dublin. The last warden was arrested in September for molesting a prisoner after forcing her and another prisoner to strip naked. There is a long list of civil suits and complaints documenting years of abuse.

Sexual abuse of our incarcerated siblings is rampant in every lock-up in the U.S. What is unusual is when it gets exposed for the world to see — and when advocates come forward to champion incarcerated survivors.

Advocacy groups are still waiting for a response to their letter to the DOJ on ending sexual abuse at FCI Dublin. The atrocities at this federal women’s prison remind us that the only effective, long-term solution to end the toxic culture of sexual abuse is to tear this punishment system apart at its roots and abolish prisons for good. □



PHOTO: YOUNG WOMEN'S FREEDOM CENTER

Formerly incarcerated people protest sexual misconduct by California correctional officers outside state prison system headquarters, Sacramento, Oct. 30, 2019.

bad actors will not bring justice for survivors of abuse at FCI Dublin. The DOJ must take swift, sweeping action to address the institutional culture that allowed staff to perpetrate this abuse.”

Deyci Carrillo, from Centro Legal de la Raza, commented, “This is the third time in three decades that FCI Dublin staff have been publicly accused of sexual abuse.”

Texas

Forty-five year struggle wins a bit of justice

By Gloria Rubac
Houston

On April 3, a plaza, a monument, a huge portrait, and a walking trail were all unveiled and dedicated to remembering a man brutally murdered by Houston police almost 45 years ago. The family was surrounded by hundreds of supporters and friends as well as too many politicians and police officers. The event was sponsored by Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner and Houston Police Chief Troy Finner.

What was the reason for the occasion? A 22-year-old Vietnam vet got into a scuffle at a Houston cantina in 1977 while he and others were celebrating Cinco de Mayo, a Mexican holiday. Houston police came and arrested a young Chicano, Joe Campos Torres, for disorderly conduct. The racist cops took Torres to “the hole” and beat him so severely that when they finally took him to jail, the sergeant refused to admit him and had the cops take him to the hospital.

Instead, the six white police officers took him back to the downtown hole, a platform hidden below street level on the south bank of Buffalo Bayou. Torres was beaten again, and the last words he ever heard, if he was in fact conscious, were from police officer Terry Denson: “Let’s see if the w--k can swim.”

His body was thrown 20 feet down into the swirling bayou and found a few days later on Mother’s Day. His mother told this reporter in 1977 that she would never celebrate Mother’s Day again.

One of the six cops involved was a rookie who actually reported what had happened. Otherwise, Torres would have just been an unknown body floating in the bayou. Two cops were tried in state court. Denson and Stephen Orlando were convicted of negligent homicide and sentenced to one year probation and a one dollar fine. In other words, a mere slap on the wrist!

These two cops plus a third, Joseph Janish, were convicted in federal court of violating Torres’ civil rights but



WW PHOTO: GLORIA RUBAC

Margaret Torres, mother of Joe Campos Torres, surrounded by family when a plaza was renamed for her son, murdered by Houston police. Houston, April 3.

received only one year and one day in prison for this brutal, racist murder.

There were protests, marches, rallies, press conferences but never justice.

However, there was no one in Houston at that time who had not heard of Joe Campos Torres and what the Houston police had done. The vicious brutality was never forgotten. Torres’ younger sister Janie, who was ten years old at the time of the murder, grew up and decided to keep her big brother’s name alive and to continue demanding justice.

Her mother, Margaret Torres, after several years of protesting and speaking out, just could not deal with the pain any longer and retreated into her home. However, she was at this dedication and, while walking with a walker now, held her head up while tributes were made to her son.

‘I am Joe Campos Torres’

Year after year, on the anniversary of Torres’ disappearance, there has been a community march from the bar where he was arrested to the hole where he was

brutalized and thrown into the bayou to the area downstream where the body was found. This walk for justice has attracted activists of all ages, including some who were not even born when this murder took place and others who had been active protesting the murder in the 1970s.

At the dedication Janie Torres, her son Richard Molina and another nephew, Johnny Torres, all felt this day gave a bit of closure. These activists have carried the weight of their family and fought like hell for some semblance of justice for their brother and uncle for so many years. When the whole crowd chanted, “I am Joe Campos Torres,” many were in tears or had goosebumps, but all had their fists in the air.

After the politicians finished speaking, the Torres family got to say a few words. Janie said that what the system fears is: “Our unity. Our power. Our determination.” Her son, Richard, spoke with just four words, “Viva Joe Campos Torres.”

The event culminated with two-time Grammy winner, Chicano musician and icon Little Joe y La Familia. As Little Joe spoke, he broke down in tears. Barely able to speak, he said in his biography he cited the names of 22 Chicanos who were the victims of police murder. “I have been marching and protesting over the deaths of many Chicanos at the hands of the police. This case of Joe Campos Torres just stayed with me, in my heart. Unfortunately, this chingadera continues. To be here with the familia Torres, I share their pain in my heart. I am honored to be here.”

Janie had been arrested, kettled by Houston cops, after a protest against the 2020 murder of Houstonian George Floyd in Minneapolis. She spent three days in a horribly overcrowded jail during the pandemic before she was finally allowed to be bailed out. Eventually, charges were dropped.

Both Janie and Richard said that this is just the beginning, that through unity the struggle will continue. The fight against racist and brutal cops will continue until these injustices no longer exist.□

What's the truth behind the Bucha and Kramatorsk events?

By **Richie Merino**

April 10 — Last weekend, Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky accused Russian troops of committing war crimes in the city of Bucha, near Kiev. Moscow immediately denied the allegations, calling them "baseless" and implying that Ukrainian right-wing nationalists, with support from the Kiev regime, staged the event, placing deceased bodies in the streets of Bucha in order to derail peace talks and distract the media from covering mounting evidence of war crimes committed by Ukraine's own military.

It's important to understand the timeline of events leading up to the media campaign to see it as a blatant provocation and false flag operation committed by the Kiev regime with support from Western corporate media and government officials:

Feb. 25 — During the first stage of the Russian military operation, which Moscow said aimed to eliminate Ukraine's military capacity, Russian and Ukrainian troops engaged in combat on the outskirts of Bucha. The confrontation continued into March and resulted in Russian troops taking control of the city.

March 27 — Video footage depicting Ukrainian soldiers torturing Russian POWs by shooting them in the legs was posted on social media. The video sparked widespread coverage from Western news outlets including, on April 6, the New York Times.

March 29 — Russia's foreign intelligence service warned that Kiev was working to downplay the video footage depicting war crimes by Ukrainian forces. The Russian military claimed the Ukrainian government ordered its ultra-nationalist forces to produce staged videos purportedly showing evidence of crimes committed by Russian troops against civilians. Per General Mikhail Mizintsev, the footage was supposed to incriminate Russian soldiers in "mass killings, robbery, damage to social infrastructure."

March 30 — Russian troops withdrew from Bucha and the entire Kiev region. Troops were to be redeployed for confrontation with ultranationalist militias in Donbas.

March 31 — Bucha's Mayor Anatoli Fedoruk declares the city "liberated from Russian orcs," calling it a major victory for Ukrainian defenders, with no Russian troops left in Bucha. Fedoruk's commentary, disseminated by the Ukrainian press, made no reference to murdered civilians in the locality. For the following three days, Fedoruk spoke on television, saying that the city was returning to normal. Additionally, posts from a Telegram channel dedicated to life in Bucha show photos from March 31 where there are no bodies in the streets and no mention of them either. (t.me/buchadetka/873)

April 1 — Ukrainian forces enter Bucha. In a Fox News interview, Bret Baier asked Zelensky about the Azov Battalion's neo-Nazi affiliations and allegations of war crimes mounting against them. Zelensky defends the Azov Battalion, stating, "They are what they are."

April 2 — In a video published (and later deleted) by Ukrainian military commander Sergey Korotkih, Ukrainian troops in Bucha discuss engagement rules. One of the fighters can be heard asking if it was okay to shoot at "guys not wearing blue armbands" identifying Ukrainian soldiers. The response was an

affirmative "you bet." Some of the civilians killed in Bucha were wearing white armbands, which Russian troops had asked all civilians to wear in order to identify themselves as non-combatants.

April 2 — The Ukrainian national police reported that it had deployed its "Safari" commando regiment to Bucha to "clear the territory of saboteurs and Russian troop collaborators," as well as to "inspect the sites of war crimes committed by Russia." That same day, photos of alleged Russian atrocities in Bucha began to pour out. Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmitry Kuleba claims Russian troops shot and killed civilians prior to their March 30 withdrawal. Within minutes of the "breaking news," leaders of Western imperialist countries, including heads of state, foreign ministers and former office holders, released statements condemning Russian "war crimes" without any evidence and before any forensic work or investigation was done.

April 3 — Russia's defense ministry vehemently denied Ukrainian allegations, citing the three days' delay between the troops' withdrawal and the emergence of the photos as a suspicious sign. Moscow said the accusations were "a provocation" and possibly evidence of crimes committed by Ukrainian troops after they entered the city.

April 3 — Russia immediately calls an emergency session of the United Nations Security Council to discuss Bucha and what it claims to be a false-flag operation by Kiev to blame Russia. Britain, which currently holds the presidency of the U.N. Security Council, blocks the request.

Questions about

Why would the withdrawing Russians, who were not being forced out in battle, leave corpses in the street as incriminating evidence? Why would they leave corpses in the street for weeks as an April 4 New York Times story suggests? If the Russians had committed such a crime, why would they make no effort to cover it up? Why were there no indications of such a crime on social media in the days prior to the Russian withdrawal? Why would Bucha's mayor first act as though all is normal and wonderful in the aftermath of the Russian withdrawal?

The Russian Ministry of Defense continues to maintain that what occurred in Bucha ought to be fully investigated by independent parties. Russia also declared that Western leaders and corporate media had become co-participants when they immediately disseminated the disturbing footage without investigation of the veracity of the claim that Russian soldiers were responsible.

Although the New York Times, Reuters and the Pentagon all admitted they could not "independently verify the assertions by Ukraine's Defense Ministry and other officials," claims of Russian war crimes in Bucha made headlines for days. (Reuters, April 4)

Alternate explanation likely

In the photos shared by Reuters of the Bucha massacre, most of the deceased bodies are wearing white armbands. Civilians used these to signal that they were not hostile to Russia. The corpses were lying next to bags of humanitarian aid provided by Russian forces.

Another reasonable explanation of the events, then, is that the massacre of civilians in Bucha was committed by Ukrainian armed forces and targeted

towards those perceived to be sympathetic to Russia.

Additionally, according to reports from inside Ukraine, the clothing on the bodies in the photographs is suspiciously clean and tidy which raises questions about whether the bodies were truly left on the street for weeks and exposed to the elements before being found by Ukrainian forces. The physical bodies themselves also did not show typical signs of decomposition.

Last, the April 4 New York Times article claiming to show "evidence" that bodies laid on the streets of Bucha "for weeks" relies on satellite images provided by Maxar Technologies. Maxar works directly for the U.S. Department of Defense, Army and Space Force and is owned by Wall Street private equity firms including BlackRock, so should not be considered an objective source.

Russia investigates Kramatorsk attack

Adding fuel to the fire, a missile in use by Ukrainian forces hit a train station in the city of Kramatorsk while civilian populations were evacuating. It was reported that 50 people died and another 100 were wounded. Kiev immediately blamed the attack on Russia, but pictures of the missiles quickly made their way onto social media and were identified as Tochka-U missiles, which are currently only used by Ukrainian forces, according to Russian statements.

Ukrainian forces launched a Tochka-U missile at a civilian neighborhood in Donetsk on March 14, killing at least 17 people, according to Russia Today. Immediately following the attack in Kramatorsk, the Investigative Committee of Russia announced they would open a criminal case to investigate the premeditated dissemination of false news about the Russian Armed Forces at the site.

Ukraine's propaganda war

The Russian Ministry of Defense has been clear that the military operations in Ukraine are targeting fuel and ammunition depots and claims success in that mission, saying that Russian forces have essentially destroyed Ukraine's navy, air force and defense industry.

In the propaganda war, on the other hand, Ukraine has executed multiple false flag operations with civilian victims and placed the blame on Russia. The advantage of Ukraine in this misinformation war is the backing of the U.S./NATO imperialist propaganda machine. This machine aims to manufacture popular consent for sending more Western weapons and military aid to Ukraine, which will prolong a proxy war against Russia.

Following the attack on Kramatorsk station, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced a new \$130 million military aid package to Ukraine in addition to \$500 million in World Bank loans.

Combating the Big Lie

A logical examination of the events in Bucha as presented in the timeline above lead us to conclude that the massacre was far more likely a Ukrainian false-flag operation intended to frame the Russian military



Anti-NATO protest, Bratislava, Slovakia, Feb. 2.

Although the New York Times, Reuters and the Pentagon (Reuters, April 4) all admitted they could not "independently verify the assertions by Ukraine's Defense Ministry and other officials," claims of Russian war crimes in Bucha made headlines for days.

and derail diplomatic peace talks. It's no coincidence that the operation in Bucha made headlines right after Ukrainian militias got caught on video committing war crimes against Russian prisoners of war.

This also happened just after ceasefire negotiations took a massive leap forward when Ukraine delivered a proposal for accepting a neutral and nonnuclear status, including a plan to host no foreign military bases. (NPR, March 29) The facts and contextual circumstances challenge all the falsehoods and expose the loopholes in the imperialist propaganda offensive.

These arguments show that the allegations of war crimes against Russia were manufactured and manipulated to gain support for anti-Russia actions at the U.N. They were used to demand heavier sanctions by European Union and Western countries and to increase weapons deliveries to the Kiev regime, weapons that extend the hot war and exhaust diplomatic negotiations.

Yet, despite the facts, the imperialist propaganda machine dominates public opinion. This is the result of imperialists collaborating with the most reactionary and fascist forces in Ukraine, while also collaborating with corporate media, Hollywood, academic institutions and Big Tech to legitimize ruling-class violence as the only way to resolve the crisis of capitalism-in-decline.

Only a resolute resistance by all anti-war and anti-imperialist forces can prevent the Big Lie from succeeding in confusing the masses. We must demand a full, fair and independent investigation of any such charge to fend off U.S./NATO/Kiev attempts to weaponize propaganda.

As we do this, we must continue to demand:

No war with Russia! End all sanctions on the working class!

End all financial, political and military support for the Kiev regime!

Dismantle and abolish NATO! □

Black Liberation Movement forces joint statement on Ukraine



Dismantle NATO Now!

Rescind the \$16 billion U.S. allocations sent to support the war in Ukraine!

U.S. imperialism is the main danger to peace, sovereignty, and justice for peoples all over the world!

The following joint statement and resource list is from active organizations in the Black Liberation Movement on the Ukraine crisis. The statement is aimed at Black communities, activists, and organizations who are concerned about the Ukraine situation from an anti-imperialist and Black Liberation Movement perspective. It represents the collective thinking and discussion of the listed organizations. However, each organization maintains its own outlook on the crisis, thus a resource list has been created to offer sources for a deeper understanding of the conflict than can be expressed in one statement and for signing organizations to offer their full views and perspectives that may differ in some respects from the statement.

We also circulate the statement asking all organizations and individuals who agree with the statement to endorse it and circulate it for discussion among your constituencies. If you and/or your organization do endorse the statement, please send your name and organizational representative contact information to nblmunity@gmail.com for verification and you will be listed as an endorser. Please share and circulate widely with the aim of getting endorsements and discussions going.

Signed,
Ashaki Binta
National Organizer, NBLM National Unity Initiative

The ongoing crisis and war in Ukraine threatens to pull the world into a disastrous nuclear confrontation. Disinformation, lies, and propaganda from the U.S. and other Western media are aimed at

confusing millions of people inside the U.S. and around the world to view Russia as the aggressor while hiding the U.S. role in the evolution of this conflict.

One major example of this manipulation is that Western media has not been honest about the massive role that the U.S. played in facilitating a 2014 coup in Ukraine that overthrew the country’s democratically elected president, and funneled support to neo-Nazi forces, who were favorable to U.S./EU interests, helping them rise to power in Ukraine.

We, the undersigned organizations and individuals of the Black Liberation Movement and the various mass organizations and movements fighting for justice inside the U.S., call on all peace loving, Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities to condemn and oppose U.S. involvement in the Ukraine and across Europe through its various corporate and political interests and its military arm, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

We, Black people living in the United States, are a people of African descent oppressed inside the United States. We have been barred from the right to housing, to food, to medicine, to clean air, healthy environments, education and livable wages. Our grandmothers make difficult decisions monthly between keeping on the lights or being able to afford insulin.

As 13% of the U.S. population, we face disproportionate levels of violent police repression and make up 40% of U.S. prisoners. Those corporate and elite ruling class forces in the U.S. who are making the policies to expand NATO across the 12,500 miles of Russia’s borders from Central Asia to Eastern Europe, including

Ukraine, are the same ruling elites that maintain the policies inside the U.S. that leave our communities in the racist economic and political peril we have suffered here for hundreds of years.

We further condemn the blatant hypocrisy of the U.S. government as a capitalist, imperialist, patriarchal predator power that has invaded and undermined numerous countries for regime change and other schemes, in order to control the politics, wealth, and natural resources of those nations. The United States is the strongest and largest imperialist power in the world and has repeatedly invaded other nations such as Grenada (1983); Afghanistan (2001); Iraq (2003); Libya (2011); and at least 21 others since 1945. The U.S. military arm on the African continent is known as AFRICOM, a force that breeds violence and instability in maintaining U.S. corporate interests across Africa.

In these imperialist wars, it is the Black, Brown, Indigenous, working and poor families who suffer the losses of displacement, the deaths of loved ones, and other forms of agony. Black people in this country have fought in every U.S. war while our families and communities continue to suffer the ravages of hatred, discrimination, poverty, disease, and death. In the Ukraine conflict, racism is showing its ugly face in the denial of immigration rights to African and other non-white peoples seeking to escape the degradation and violence of this conflict, like all others living in Ukraine.

We join with Black and Brown people in other countries in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, and Latin America who uphold the right of all nations to sovereignty and security, including Russia, which has

historically been invaded by the forces of imperialism and fascism across its borders several times in the 20th century.

The Russian people lost millions of lives to defeat fascism during WWII, fighting Hitler’s Nazi invasion of the USSR in 1941. This history of invasions of Russia also lies at the root of the Russian concerns about its security and the Ukraine/NATO expansion scheme that has provoked this war.

We call upon every community and organization fighting for justice and peace to adopt and sign this statement calling for the dismantling of NATO, an end to U.S. support of the war in Ukraine, and to rescind the billions of dollars in military aid to Ukraine. Those military funds sent to Ukraine should be reallocated to the needs of people inside the U.S. for universal health care, universal childcare, affordable housing, education, liquidation of all student loan debt, minimum incomes and other human needs.

Signers:
NBLM National Unity Initiative
Black Workers for Justice
Black Alliance for Peace
Spirit of Mandela
Imam Jamil Action Network
New African People’s Organization
All African People’s Revolutionary Party
Cooperation Jackson
New African Independence Party
Parable of the Sower
Pan-African Community
Mapinduzi
Lowcountry Action
Hood Communist
Larry Holmes and Monica Moorehead,
Workers World Party

Who should be tried for war crimes?

By John Catalinotto

President Joe Biden has invoked the International Criminal Court (ICC), located in The Hague, Netherlands, and accused Russian President Vladimir Putin of war crimes.

As so often with Biden’s statements, it is hard for an outsider to judge if his words express U.S. policy or had simply leapt from the ether to his tongue without benefit of conscious consideration. This threat to file war crimes charges, however, was not immediately retracted by Biden’s staff, as was his earlier threat of regime change in Russia.

For anyone who has paid attention to U.S. foreign policy over the last 33 years — the end of the Soviet Union over 1989-91 is a key historical starting point — the fact that a U.S. president should charge another country’s leader with war crimes seems the zenith of imperialist hypocrisy. It also seems as if Biden is opening a can of worms regarding U.S. presidents, an act he may come to regret.

For who will crawl out of that can?

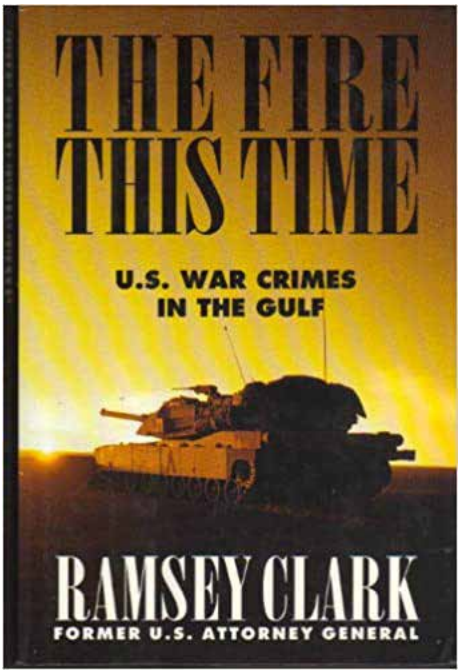
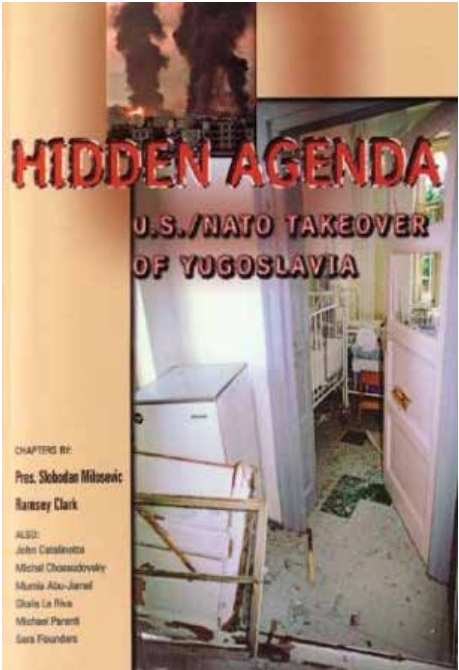
Bush Senior, George H.W. Bush, in 1991 bombed Baghdad, Iraq’s capital, killing many civilians — as any imperialist warmaker does — and his military

targeted an underground air shelter to kill the families of many members of the Iraqi government. The Pentagon targeted this shelter on purpose. But that Bush, now

dead, can only be tried posthumously.

From 1993 on, Bill Clinton continued Bush Senior’s sanctions against Iraq, which killed half a million children and twice that number of adults. In 1999 he launched a 78-day bombing campaign against what remained of Yugoslavia. NATO, led by the U.S., launched bombs and rockets at Serbian hospitals, schools, bridges, media centers and the Chinese Embassy, also destroying a center of the chemical industry and thereby polluting hundreds of square miles. Ineffective against Serbian tanks and troops, these attacks killed about 3,000 Serbian civilians, who were called “collateral damage.”

Bush Junior — George W. Bush — using the false pretext of “weapons of mass destruction,” invaded and occupied Iraq in 2003, starting with the massive bombing of Iraqi cities. This attack was aimed at creating “shock and awe” — destroying Iraq’s infrastructure. There was “collateral damage” then — that is, civilian deaths — but even more after the U.S. occupiers faced a guerrilla uprising. They could hold it back



These books report on the findings of popular tribunals of U.S. war crimes. For more information, visit iacenter.org/iac-books-and-resources/.

Continued on page 9

Abolish the police!

What will it take to stop the war against Black and Brown communities?

The 24/7 U.S. media coverage of the war in Ukraine means not much else makes the news. So when Minneapolis prosecutors announced April 6 that they would not bring charges against SWAT officer Mark Hanneman, who shot and killed 22-year-old Amir Locke while delivering a no-knock warrant in the early hours of Feb. 2, this glaring injustice received scant media coverage.

Locke, a young Black man, had a license for the gun he held for self-protection, but was given no chance to survive his encounter with Minneapolis police. Hanneman shot and killed Locke nine seconds after entering the apartment with a warrant naming someone else.

Another police officer gets away with murder in the ongoing war against Black and Brown people in the United States. The roots of this war can be traced back to white supremacist policies stemming from enslavement and leading up to the present day.

It is important to put this latest decision involving a murder by Minneapolis police officers in context. This is the same city where in 2020, another Black man, George Floyd was murdered by white police officer Derek Chauvin, who pressed his knee against Floyd's neck for over 9 minutes, suffocating him.

Historic, massive demonstrations that brought millions of protesters into the streets exploded following Floyd's killing. In April 2021 Chauvin was convicted in Floyd's murder. But apparently Chauvin's conviction was not a deterrent to police brutality.

The massive, global Black Lives Matter protests following Floyd's lynching raised demands including "Defund the Police" and "Abolish the Police." In November

Another police officer gets away with murder in the ongoing war against Black and Brown people in the United States. The roots of this war can be traced back to white supremacist policies stemming from enslavement and leading up to the present day.



Outrage over police lynching of George Floyd. The Minneapolis police station was burned to the ground May 28, 2020.

2020, Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey declared a moratorium against no-knock warrants, yet these continue, averaging around 139 per year in that city.

Across the U.S., politicians promised to deliver policing reforms. Nearly 20 cities either cut funding for police or decreased the number of officers following the summer mass upsurge in 2020. Yet these "reforms" were a drop in the bucket and pledges to make real change were empty promises, designed to deflate the movement.

A year later many cities, including New York; Los Angeles; Baltimore; Austin, Texas; and Philadelphia, began to restore or even increase police funding levels. Many responded to heavy pressure from local police organizations — misnamed unions — which promoted the false premise that police prevent crime.

expand police ranks by 4,000 over the next ten years.

While calling for "police reform" during the 2020 election, the Biden-Harris campaign made it clear that if elected, they would not defund police, they would increase funding — precisely what Biden called for in his March 1 State of the Union address. He stated "We should all agree: The answer is not to defund the police. The answer is to fund the police."

In the same budget — which proposed increasing Pentagon spending by 10% against the background of the U.S./NATO-instigated war in Ukraine — Biden called for at least \$30 billion in new police funding. Yet his administration failed to win passage of the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act of 2021 — legislation aimed at combating police misconduct, excessive force and racial bias in policing.

Letting police continually get away with the murders of Black people like Locke raises the question: Do Black Lives Matter? For police, the response continues to be a resounding: "No."

Where does that leave the progressive movement?

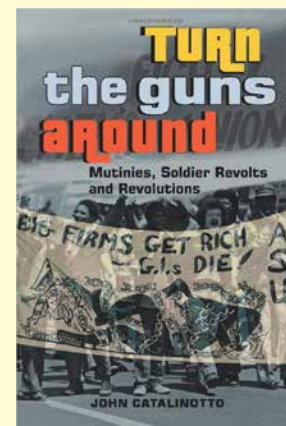
A major takeaway lesson from the historic 2020 demonstrations is that oppressed communities and their allies cannot rely on their oppressors to legislate the changes that will liberate them. To fight against the war on Black and Brown communities, our united demand must be "Abolish the police!" □

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, unemployed youth from Watts — hate the military and the Vietnam War. They throw a wrench into the Pentagon's war machine, becoming leaders of the anti-war movement and organizing a union in the conscript military to battle war, racism and their officers.

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Who should be tried for war crimes?

Continued from page 8

only by breaking Iraqi society apart and inciting sectarian warfare.

Under Barack Obama, the U.S. not only continued the occupation of Afghanistan — started under Bush Junior in 2001 — but it also promoted coup d'états in Honduras in 2009 and in Ukraine in 2014, along with a proxy war in Syria and the unprovoked brutal bombing of Libya, both in 2011, and support for Saudi Arabia's murderous war on Yemen. Syria was mostly destroyed, but finally survived. Libya is still in a state of collapse, unstable and a source of misery for Africa. In Yemen, millions face death due to famine, including children.

Donald Trump is a special case, since he, even more than the others, should face criminal charges within the United States for his actions repressing migrants

and his inaction to counter the danger of COVID-19, plus his promotion of racist, misogynist and other reactionary ideologies like homophobia and xenophobia. Trump, too, was no peacemaker; he's responsible for the assassination of Iran's General Qassem Soleimani in a drone strike. He offered U.S. recognition to Jerusalem as the capital of the Israeli apartheid regime and raised the level of Pentagon spending.

Biden's gravest war crime since taking office — up to now — has been to impose sanctions on Afghanistan, where resistance to U.S. presence forced the U.S. to finally end a 20-year war and occupation. Under Obama, Trump and Biden, U.S./NATO troops and drones killed Afghan civilians in the thousands by explosion and shrapnel, but Biden's latest sanctions threaten to kill millions of Afghans by starvation.

While U.S. spokespeople — not only Biden — threaten an ICC trial of the Russian president, they omit mentioning that the U.S. never acknowledged the authority of this court. Washington feared the indictment and trial of its own leaders, and with good reason.

Popular war crimes tribunals

As a protest to the various U.S. aggressions, and to prevent the imperialist ruling class from being the only ones to write their history, the International Action Center and allied organizations held popular war crimes tribunals against Bush Senior and his cronies in 1991-92, Clinton and company in 2000, and Bush Junior and his gang in 2004. The popular tribunals, with former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark as prosecutor, found these U.S. presidents guilty of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Before any U.S. president — who is the CEO of world imperialism — can dare to charge some other country's leader with war crimes, the very least that should be done is to allow and encourage the ICC to bring charges against the living U.S. former presidents, as well as Biden himself.

Unless the U.S. offensive against Russia and China can be stopped, Biden's greatest war crimes may still lie ahead. Better to put him on trial for what he's already done.

John Catalinotto took part in the 1992 War Crimes Tribunal regarding the 1991 U.S. war on Iraq and played a key role in the 2000 War Crimes Tribunal regarding the U.S./NATO war on Yugoslavia and the 2004 War Crimes Tribunal on U.S. crimes against Iraq. (See iacenter.org for background on the tribunals.)

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 political 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 ruling-class propaganda machine that is as well-oiled and well-funded as its military machine. The U.S.-NATO offensive 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 Marxist analysts from communist parties and liberated 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.

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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.

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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 sponsor 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?”



Antiwar rally New York City, March 5.

book, published in 2020, is available at workers.org/books. Or notify us if you want a paperback book.

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We are grateful for your help in building Workers World! □

MUNDO OBRERO Sin sanciones, sin armas nucleares, sin guerra

Continúa de la página 11

Pero el imperialismo estadounidense es incapaz de igualar los planes de desarrollo del Franja y la Ruta de China. Más de 138 países han firmado para obtener nuevos puertos, ferrocarriles, centros industriales y préstamos a bajo interés.

Los préstamos para el desarrollo de la Franja y la Ruta de China son mucho más atractivos que los sistemas de armamento de Estados Unidos y los duros planes de austeridad que conllevan los préstamos del FMI y el Banco Mundial.

Los capitalistas financieros estadounidenses están alarmados por el hecho de que dos tercios de los países miembros de la Unión Europea hayan firmado como miembros formales de los proyectos de desarrollo de la Franja y la Ruta de China. Se están reconstruyendo ciudades portuarias en Grecia, Italia, Portugal y Hungría. Hay nuevos proyectos energéticos en marcha. El comercio de Europa con China supera ahora su comercio con Estados Unidos. (tinyurl.com/5bw7t6yv)

En la lucha por mantener su posición dominante, el imperialismo estadounidense sólo tiene una herramienta contra estas relaciones económicas en rápido desarrollo y en fuerte competencia: la guerra. Tanto la guerra militar como la guerra económica de las sanciones.

Las sanciones son la guerra

Las sanciones no son un elemento disuasorio de la guerra ni un sustituto de la misma. De hecho, son una escalada de la guerra.

Utilizando el papel dominante del dólar en la economía mundial, Washington ha impuesto más de 5.500 sanciones a Rusia y está obligando a otros países a reconfigurar sus economías para acatar estas sanciones económicas extremas. Las sanciones a Rusia son las medidas de guerra económica más extremas del mundo. (tinyurl.com/2p95893c)

Las sanciones crean hiperinflación, hambrunas artificiales, trastornos sociales y crisis sanitarias que castigan a la población civil. Tan mortíferas como las bombas, las sanciones son un acto de guerra. Están correctamente calificadas como un Crimen contra la Humanidad.

¿Lograrán las sanciones restaurar la posición del imperialismo estadounidense? Ese es claramente el cálculo.

La subdirectora gerente del Fondo Monetario Internacional, Gita Gopinath,

dio una visión autorizada de esta expectativa de que las sanciones financieras llevarán a Rusia a una “profunda recesión” y “cambiarán el orden económico mundial. ... Tiene implicaciones para el orden económico mundial tal y como lo conocemos”. (tinyurl.com/2chjw8fe)

Otros artículos de prensa predicen que la economía rusa está “bajando por el tobogán de hielo”, se “desplomará”, “entrará en caída libre”, etc.

Varios economistas advierten que tendrá un impacto en la economía mundial. Para los banqueros y financieros, el dolor de millones de personas, incluso dentro de Estados Unidos, no es motivo de preocupación, siempre y cuando puedan recoger los pedazos después.

Los especuladores predicen que las industrias de “defensa” y las empresas energéticas prosperarán. Todas las predicciones financieras en EE.UU. y Europa son que esto golpeará mucho más a la economía europea.

Un tercio del mundo sancionado

En la actualidad, más de 40 países, que abarcan un tercio de la población mundial, ya sufren las medidas económicas impuestas por Washington.

Estados Unidos ha sancionado a Cuba, Venezuela, Nicaragua, China, Irán, Irak, Siria, Palestina, Afganistán, Zimbabue, Etiopía y Sudán, entre otros.

Los países que comercian con los objetivos de las sanciones estadounidenses se enfrentan a fuertes multas. Esta forma mortífera de guerra económica repercute en todos los países circundantes y destruye el desarrollo regional.

Sin embargo, muchos de estos países están encontrando formas de sobrevivir a través de complejos programas de trueque e intercambio que se están desarrollando a medida que aumenta el número de países sancionados.

Casi todos los países afectados por estas duras medidas desestabilizadas de Estados Unidos y las sanciones de confiscación de activos se han adherido a los programas de desarrollo de la Iniciativa de la Franja y la Ruta de China. Muchos de los países sancionados, como Venezuela, Cuba y Siria, reciben de Rusia envíos fiables de combustible y cereales necesarios. Estas nuevas formas de intercambio, desarrolladas por la necesidad, están empezando a debilitar el pretendido estrangulamiento económico. Rusia sigue teniendo un fuerte mercado para

sus exportaciones fuera del alcance de las sanciones estadounidenses.

Rusia también es miembro de la Organización de Cooperación de Shanghai. Se trata de una alianza económica y de seguridad que es la mayor organización regional del mundo, que abarca aproximadamente el 60% de la superficie de Eurasia, el 40% de la población mundial y más del 20% del producto interior bruto (PIB) mundial. De los 14 miembros de este bloque comercial, seis ya están sometidos a sanciones de Estados Unidos, pero mantienen relaciones económicas normales.

Los países se niegan a cumplirlas

Para sorpresa de los estrategas de la guerra de Washington, muchos países que no están actualmente bajo sanciones estadounidenses se niegan a cumplir las sanciones impuestas por Estados Unidos y la UE a Rusia. Hasta la fecha, India, Pakistán, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Sudáfrica, Kenia, Tanzania, Turquía, Emiratos Árabes Unidos, Arabia Saudí, Qatar, Brasil, Argentina, Bolivia, México y otros países con economías más pequeñas se han negado a cumplir las medidas estadounidenses que perjudican sus propias relaciones comerciales.

Se trata de naciones con economías en crecimiento y grandes poblaciones. Varios países que antes formaban parte de la Unión Soviética y que ahora forman parte de la Unión Económica Euroasiática (UEE) -Bielorrusia, Armenia, Kazajistán y Kirguistán- no es probable que cumplan.

Varios países, que no están dispuestos a enfrentarse abiertamente a la ira económica de Estados Unidos, han declarado vagamente que sólo cumplirían las sanciones impuestas por el Consejo de Seguridad de la ONU, donde un veto ruso o chino haría improbable esa votación.

La presión económica y política de Estados Unidos sobre todos estos países para que cumplan las sanciones se intensificará en el próximo período.

La amenaza de China

El principal regulador bancario de China, Guo Shuqing, dice: “No participaremos en tales sanciones, y seguiremos manteniendo intercambios económicos y comerciales y financieros normales con las partes pertinentes.” (New York Times, 11 de marzo)

Después de que Mastercard y Visa interrumpieran sus operaciones, los bancos rusos recurrieron a la china UnionPay, que

ofrece opciones de pago en 180 países.

China aún no ha prestado ayuda económica o militar a Rusia. Simplemente se ha negado a cortar sus relaciones económicas normales. Esto está enfureciendo a la administración Biden.

Estados Unidos amenazó públicamente a China por ayudar a Rusia a eludir las sanciones. A China le recordaron que dos de sus mayores socios comerciales son Estados Unidos y la Unión Europea. China necesita acceder a esos mercados.

El asesor de seguridad nacional de la Casa Blanca, Jake Sullivan, amenazó directamente a China, declarando: “Estamos comunicando directamente y en privado a Pekín que habrá absolutamente consecuencias” si China ayuda a Rusia a “compensar” sus pérdidas por las sanciones. “No permitiremos que eso siga adelante y que haya un salvavidas para Rusia de estas sanciones económicas desde cualquier país del mundo”.

Sullivan dijo que China y todos los países están advertidos de que no pueden “básicamente sacar a Rusia de apuros... dar a Rusia una solución a las sanciones” con impunidad. (tinyurl.com/j35ueywt)

Si se lanzan amenazas tan descaradas e insultantes a China, se están lanzando amenazas más duras a otros países.

Las nuevas formas de comercio e intercambio desafían el poder hegemónico del dólar estadounidense. Pero las medidas extremas impuestas a Rusia crearán un intenso dolor económico de inflación y desempleo en espiral a escala mundial.

La clase dominante estadounidense, el Congreso de Estados Unidos y los medios de comunicación corporativos de Estados Unidos apoyan unánimemente en este momento una guerra económica e incluso una confrontación militar, sin importar lo destructivas que serían para la vida humana, siempre y cuando abran nuevos mercados y destruyan a sus rivales.

Los demócratas abandonaron rápidamente las promesas de Build Back Better y un paquete de salud COVID-19 para saturar de armas a Ucrania. Los trabajadores, tanto en Estados Unidos como en Europa, pagarán el precio.

El peligro creciente es que una guerra imperialista de Estados Unidos a esta escala, combinada con la demanda de que todo el mundo participe, podría escalar peligrosamente. □



Partidarios de Lizelle Herrera, acusados de asesinato después de un aborto autoinducido, en las afueras de la corte del condado de Starr, Texas, el 9 de abril. Desde entonces, se retiraron los cargos.

Los trabajadores de las flores ganan la huelga

Por Jim McMahan

Más de 70 trabajadores de la cosecha de tulipanes, narcisos e iris en Mount Vernon abandonaron los campos el 22 de marzo durante tres días, en huelga contra las terribles condiciones laborales. La huelga fue contra la Washington Bulb Company, propiedad de Roozengaarde Flowers and Bulbs, el mayor cultivador de bulbos de tulipán del país, con 2.000 acres (810 hectáreas) de flores a nivel local.

La huelga estalló una semana antes del Festival del Valle de Skagit, que dura un mes, en el estado de Washington. En las granjas de flores acuden montones de turistas y compradores, que aportan ingresos a todo el valle.

Los trabajadores hicieron un piquete masivo con sus familias frente a la empresa

en la carretera principal. La huelga de los trabajadores llegó en un momento muy estratégico para presionar a la patronal.

Muchos de los trabajadores son indígenas del sur de México y su primera lengua suele ser el mixteco. Tenían muchas quejas trabajando en el fango por jefes exigentes e intimidantes. Los trabajadores exigían un aumento de sueldo, jornadas laborales de ocho horas, mejores bajas por enfermedad y un mejor cálculo de las compensaciones pagadas por la recogida de flores.

Los trabajadores agrícolas exigieron el acceso a la crema de hidrocortisona, para



FOTO: EDGAR FRANKS

El líder de la huelga de las flores, Tomás Ramón.

hacer frente a la savia de los narcisos cortados, que provoca dolorosas lesiones en la piel. Los trabajadores consiguieron el acceso a la crema y a guantes y otros equipos de protección, así como un mejor acceso a cuatro letrinas portátiles.

También consiguieron un aumento de sueldo y garantía contra represalias, según Edgar Franks,

de Familias Unidas por la Justicia, un sindicato independiente de trabajadores agrícolas.

Basada en el valle de Skagit, Familias Unidas apoyó a los trabajadores del tulipán en la huelga y las negociaciones.

Sin sanciones, sin armas nucleares, sin guerra

Por Sara Flounders

Un cambio sísmico está enviando ondas de choque a través de la economía global.

El bien establecido desorden capitalista, dominado por el imperialismo estadounidense y vigente desde la Segunda Guerra Mundial, está en terreno movedizo. Las sanciones económicas extremas impuestas a Rusia están arrastrando al mundo entero a una guerra que comenzó mucho antes de la intervención rusa en Ucrania el 24 de febrero.

Durante un partido de la Copa de la Europa League en Belgrado, el 17 de marzo, los aficionados al fútbol serbios levantan pancartas en las que se nombran las “intervenciones” militares de Estados Unidos llevadas a cabo desde la década de 1950, incluso con la OTAN, y condenan de forma contundente a Estados Unidos como fabricante de guerras.

Un gran cálculo es qué países se verán obligados a aceptar las onerosas sanciones económicas impuestas a Rusia por Estados Unidos. Los países que representan la mayoría de la población mundial no están dispuestos a atar su soberanía al control total de Wall Street. Para sorpresa de los estrategas de guerra de Estados Unidos, casi toda América Latina, el Caribe, muchos países de África y la mayor parte de Asia han rechazado las sanciones contra Rusia.

El desafío abierto de tantos países y de los principales bloques comerciales es una confirmación asombrosa del debilitamiento del poder económico de Estados Unidos.

El dominio de Estados Unidos en tela de juicio

Es bien sabido que el dominio económico de Estados Unidos en Europa, y en todo el mundo, se ha visto desafiado por el aumento del comercio de la Unión Europea con Rusia y China. La creciente integración del bloque de países euroasiáticos, que se extiende desde China y el sur de Asia hasta Europa, pasando por Asia Central y Rusia, supone una enorme ventaja económica para los países implicados.

La creciente integración del comercio

y la inversión de la Unión Europea con Rusia y China amenaza tanto el dominio del poder corporativo estadounidense en Europa como la hegemonía mundial de Estados Unidos.

Al poder corporativo de EE.UU. le interesa provocar cínicamente un conflicto donde menos le afecte, pero haciéndolo en una región donde sus rivales capitalistas de la UE llevarán la carga más pesada.

EE.UU. amenaza guerra nuclear para conseguir sanciones

Estados Unidos ha instigado una crisis rodeando a Rusia con bases de la OTAN, organizando constantes operaciones militares y suministrando armas pesadas a Ucrania para que dispare contra las fronteras rusas.

Estados Unidos es el único país que ha utilizado armas nucleares. Incineró dos ciudades enteras — Hiroshima y Nagasaki — en 1945. Estados Unidos se ha negado a aceptar una política nuclear de “no primer uso”.

Al colocar armas nucleares en Europa e instalar armamento con capacidad nuclear en las fronteras de Rusia, ha estado provocando abiertamente a Rusia para que ataque en defensa propia. Estados Unidos utilizó la amenaza nuclear no sólo sobre Rusia, sino para impulsar a la Unión Europea a imponer duras sanciones a Rusia, aunque fuera en contra de los intereses de la UE cortar los lazos económicos con Moscú.

Como la UE, y especialmente Alemania, no estaba dispuesta a imponer sanciones que rompieran todas las relaciones con Rusia, Estados Unidos jugó duro. El presidente Joe Biden amenazó a la UE el 26 de febrero, dos días después de que Rusia comenzara su operación militar en Ucrania, que la única alternativa a seguir las sanciones de Estados Unidos “sería la Tercera Guerra Mundial”.

“Tienen dos opciones. Empezar una Tercera Guerra Mundial, ir a la guerra con Rusia, físicamente. O, dos, asegurarse de que el país que actúa de forma tan contraria al derecho internacional acabe pagando

un precio por haberlo hecho. ... Sé que estas sanciones son las más amplias de la historia, y sanciones económicas y políticas”.

En una entrevista con el bloguero Brian Tyler Cohen, Biden dijo que su “objetivo desde el principio” era mantener a la OTAN y a la Unión Europea “en la misma página”. (tinyurl.com/22dbb5d7)

La UE, un bloque de economías capitalistas dominado por Alemania, es incapaz y no está dispuesta a desafiar directamente la hegemonía de Estados Unidos, especialmente cuando se les amenaza con una guerra nuclear en Europa si no cumplen. La UE impuso todas las sanciones exigidas por EE.UU. Sus sanciones reflejan las impuestas por Washington. Sin embargo, todavía pueden comprar algo de gas a Rusia, en base a un acuerdo con Estados Unidos.

Las sanciones se impusieron a Rusia en 2014 después de que la mayoría de la población rusa de Crimea votara a favor de la reincorporación a Rusia. Esto siguió a un golpe de estado apoyado por Estados Unidos que incluía elementos fascistas en la capital ucraniana de Kiev. En ese momento, dos regiones del este de Ucrania -Donetsk y las Repúblicas Populares de Lugansk- se separaron de las bandas fascistas de Kiev.

Desde el bombardeo de Yugoslavia por parte de Estados Unidos y la OTAN en 1999, y a pesar de las constantes advertencias de peligro incluso por parte de sus propios estrategas políticos, la política del gobierno de Estados Unidos ha sido seguir absorbiendo más países de Europa del Este en la OTAN, construyendo bases de la OTAN alrededor de Rusia, reclutando y entrenando soldados y mercenarios, creando provocaciones en la frontera rusa y utilizando a Ucrania como peón para desestabilizar toda la región.

Estos años de constantes ataques



FOTO: NO MUORI

Naval Air Station Sigonella en la isla de Sicilia, 20 de marzo. ‘No pagamos por las guerras de los ricos. Bases de la OTAN, EE.UU. fuera de nuestra tierra.’

económicos y militares a Rusia se ocultan a la opinión pública de Estados Unidos y de la UE.

¿Qué hay detrás de la política de guerra de Estados Unidos?

¿Por qué el comercio y la integración entre la UE y Rusia son tan amenazantes para el imperialismo estadounidense?

La UE es el mayor inversor en Rusia. Se construyó un nuevo y mayor gasoducto, llamado Nord Stream 2, para transportar gas natural barato desde Rusia a través del Mar Báltico y hacia Europa. Proporciona combustible a las industrias de la UE y calefacción a millones de hogares. Supone una ruptura con la dependencia del carbón y el petróleo, altamente contaminantes.

La energía representa el 62% de las importaciones de la UE procedentes de Rusia. Cuesta mucho menos que el gas de Estados Unidos, que es el mayor exportador de gas natural licuado. Esto supone un reto para abrir nuevos mercados. Con la guerra y las sanciones, las corporaciones estadounidenses del gas y el petróleo se beneficiarán inmediatamente de la subida de los precios del combustible y garantizarán su futuro control del mercado europeo.

El choque es mayor que un simple gasoducto. La economía estadounidense está centrada en la producción militar. Es el mayor exportador de sistemas de armas.

Continúa en la página 10