Lizelle Herrera & Texas repression

Arrest exposes anti-abortion laws

By Monica Moorehead

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.

The arrest of Lizelle Herrera was not an isolated event. 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.

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 homicide — because “homicide doesn’t apply to the murder of an unborn child if the conduct charged is ‘consent 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 9 that all charges had been dropped 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 the 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...
The news release below was issued April 9 by Workers World Party 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, 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’

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 Tony Arenstein

Join us in the fight for socialism worldwide!

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

Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world and the planet itself in the never-ending quest for ever-greater profits.

Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, attacks on immigrants, misogyny, LGBTQ+ oppression and mistreatment of people with disabilities. It means joblessness, increasing homelessness and imprisonment 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 student debt. 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 the working class. Amazon just won an unprecedented union election in Staten Island across from its JFK8 warehouse. Amazon’s Kennedy-Johnson (KJ) warehouse workforce includes hundreds of workers fired for union organizing.

This came on the heels of the JFK8 victory and the Memphis 7 at Starbucks. Workers fired for organizing at Starbucks have filed a complaint with the NLRB to charge the company with retaliatory firings.

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Workers World (ISSN-1970-4203) is published monthly by WW Publishers, 147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl., New York, NY 10011. Phone: 212.627.2994.

Subscriptions: One year: $50. Institutions: $50. Letters to the editor may be condensed and edited. Articles can be freely reprinted, with credit to Workers World, 147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl., New York, NY 10011. Phone: 212.627.2994.

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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 jail, straight-line winds and tornadoes to gather in solidarity with Brookwood, Alabama, coal miners — on strike since April 1, 2021.  

The United Mine Workers (UMWA) Locals 2245, 2366 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 recent worker cuts and raise the minimum wage above 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 then 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 need for solidarity between labor 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 us.”

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 Sunson, 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 calling him a “labor traitor.” 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 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 repaired 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 miner from 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 here. 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.”

**Labor movement rallies for Alabama coal miners on strike for over a year and still holding the line, Tannehill Ironworks State Park, April 6.**
Lizelle Herrera & Texas repression

The attack on Texas and its people is nothing new, and it is at the heart of the struggle to defend reproductive justice and the right for those who can become pregnant to be the ones who control whether or not they bear children.

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 2011, 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: @JusticiaLizelle, #FronteraFundRGV #ToTheFront, #StopPolicingOurBodies*

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

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 second 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 party is a party which wants to change the French constitution so it can 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 militantizes 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. }

April 24, 2022, workers.org

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.
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, 20% have chronic health conditions. The cost of providing health care has skyrocketed. 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 standard 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. Infirmary 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 performance exam with no resolution. Only after persistent and repeated visits does anyone on staff take the incarcerated patient seriously. And being incarcerated increases 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 500,000 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 law-suit 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 Gilmore’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 brutality 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 Plyte after the PrimeCare psychiatrist canceled his suicide watch.

Armor Correctional Health Services, based in Florida, generated over $1.05 billion in 2021 revenue. In 2009, Armor was criminally charged for allegedly falsifying records in the death of a man imprisoned in Wisconsin. The company was later hired by facilities in New York, Florida, 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 $20 million to settle the dispute.

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 tell their stories far and wide — because their lives depend on our solidarity.

Struggle launched against new Cuyahoga County jail

By Martha Grewatt

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 build a new one.

In 2002 and her niece Ralkina Jones died in the Cleveland Heights jail in 2015.

Craig Bickerstaff was killed by Cleveland police in 2002 and his niece Kallina Jones died in the Cleveland Heights jail in 2015.

Chrsissy 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 industries and intersecting car and 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 Quares. 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 commissioners went into executive session to make recommendations around the new jail project, is composed entirely of politicians and makes recommendations around the new jail project.

JailCo has launched a new campaign, “Stop the Cuyahoga County Jail construction project and redirect funding to schools and social services.” Over 500 people have signed a petition to stop the plan. To sign go to tinyurl.com/SignThisToStopTheNewJailPlan.
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 “ram- pant” 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 unreported 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 letter press release, the advocacy groups called for immediate action to get at the root causes of the abuse. These include a 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 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 Dennis. “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 emaciated body was thrown down into the swirling bayou and found a few days later on Mother’s Day. His body was thrown 20 feet down into the swirling bayou and found a few days later on Mother’s Day. His body was thrown 20 feet down into the swirling bayou and found a few days later on Mother’s Day.

Torres’ younger sister Janie, who was ten years old at the time of the murder, grew up and never forgot. Torres’ younger sister Janie, who was ten years old at the time of the murder, grew up and never forgot. Torres’ younger sister Janie, who was ten years old at the time of the murder, grew up and never forgot.

However, there was no one in Houston at that time who knew or 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 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 police.”

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.

The last warden was arrested in 2020 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.

The faces of hate and love Torres
April 10 — Last weekend, Ukraine’s President Volodymyr Zelensky accused Russian soldiers of committing war crimes in the city of Bucha, near Kiev. Moscow immediately denied the allegations, calling them “fake news” and claiming that the Ukrainian right-wing nationalists, with support from the Kyiv regime, staged the event, placing deceased bodies in the streets to draw international attention to the alleged killings. The Ukrainian government is working to downplay the video footage intended to frame the Russian military. During the first three days of the Russian military operation, Moscow immediately disseminated the photos as a suspicious sign. Moscow has sought to “clear the territory of saboteurs and terrorists,” calling it a major victory of the U.S./NATO imperialist propaganda machine. This is the backdrop for the statements by European Union and Western imperialist countries, including heads of state, foreign ministers and former office holders, released statements condemning Russian “war crimes” without any evidence and possible evidence of crimes committed by 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 “special unit” 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 Russian soldiers during a period of three days” by independent parties. Russia also disseminated by independent parties. Russia also released satellite images relying on satellite images provided by Maxar Technologies. Maxar satellites directly for the U.S. Department of Defense, Army and Space Force and is owned by Wall Street private equity firms including BlackRock, so the supporters of the Big Lie from succeeding in confusing the mass public.

April 3 — Russia’s defense ministry vehicle was filmed leaving Bucha on April 3, citing the photos as a suspicious sign. Moscow said the accusations were a “provocation” and possibly evidence of crimes committed by Ukrainian soldiers after they entered the city.

April 4 — Russia immediately calls an emergency session of the United Nations Security Council to discuss Bucha and claims to be a flag-spreader by Kiev to blame Russia, Britain, which currently holds presidency of the U.N. Security Council, holds the request.

Questions abound:

Why would the withdrawing Russians, who were not being forced out in battle, leave corpses in the street to incriminate them without any evidence? Why would they leave corpses in the street for weeks as an April 5 New York Times story suggests? If the Russians had committed such a crime, how would they make no effort to cover it up? Why were there no indications of such a crime committed by Russian troops, prior to the Russian withdrawal? Why would Bucha’s mayor first act as though all is normal and orderly 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 have become co-accusators when their unrelenting disinformation has fabricated disturbing facts 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)

Alternative explanation likely:

In the photos shared by Reuters of the Bucha district station, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and American Secretary of Defense, Army and Space Force and is owned by the U.S. Department of Defense, the clothing on the bodies in the photographs is suspiciously clean and tidy which raises questions over whether the bodies were truly left on the street for weeks and exposed to the elements before being found by Ukrainian forces. The post-mortem examination also did not show typical signs of decomposition. In the photos shared by Reuters of the Bucha district station, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and American Secretary of Defense, Army and Space Force and is owned by the U.S. Department of Defense, the clothing on the bodies in the photographs is suspiciously clean and tidy which raises questions over whether the bodies were truly left on the street for weeks and exposed to the elements before being found by Ukrainian forces. The post-mortem examination also did not show typical signs of decomposition.

Russia investigates Kramatorsk attack. Is fuel to the fire in Ukraine 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 formal criminal case to investigate the premised disseminated 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 $310 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 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 and derail diplomatic peace talks. It’s no coincidence that the operation in Bucha made headlines right after Ukrainian militaries 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 nonmilitary status, including a plan to host no foreign military bases. (NFS, March 20) 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 sanc- tions 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.

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. (Reuters, April 4)
Black Liberation Movement forces joint statement on Ukraine

The following joint statement and resource list is from active organizations and movements going.

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 outcome of the 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 funded 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 grandparents make difficult decisions monthly between keeping on the lights or being able to afford insulin.

As 15% 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; 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 people 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 Asia, Africa, and 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 concern about its security and the Ukraine/NATO expansion scheme that has provoked conflict.

We call upon every community and organization fighting for justice and peace around the world to view Russia as an ally 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 Union 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
Pan-African Community
Mapinduzi
Lowcountry Action
Makanda Action Network
Black Workers for Justice
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 to know what to make of his words express U.S. policy or had simply been lifted 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 was 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 1990 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 dam- age” then — that is, civilian deaths — but even more after the U.S. occupiers faced a guerrilla uprising. They could hold it back.
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, inciting widespread protests into the streets following Chauvin’s conviction in April 2021.

Yet these “reforms” were a drop in the bucket and pledges to make real change were empty promises, designed to deflect 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.

Under outgoing Mayor Bill de Blasio, in 2021 the New York City Council cut around $1 billion from their $6 billion police budget and voted to use the funds for programs to benefit community youth. 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.

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

One year later, fiscal year 2022, the police budget increased by $400 million, and plans for a new police precinct for southeast Queens replaced plans for a promised community center. In Washington, D.C., after cutting the police budget two years earlier, Mayor Muriel Bowser recently announced plans to re-fund and 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!”

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.

Who should be tried for war crimes?

By John Catalinotto

Draftees and enlistingees — 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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Turn the Guns Around

Continued from page 8

Workers World editorial

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 cozy deals 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. Libya is a model of sources of misery for Africa. In Yemen, millions face death due to famine, including children.

Donald Trump is a special case, since he, 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 shredded, but Biden’s latest sanctions threaten to kill millions of Afghans by starvation.

Who should be tried for war crimes?

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 iact.org for background on the tribunals.)
Counter the Big Lie! Support Workers World

Cuando el medio corporativo del mundo tiene un solo posicionamiento, ¿lograrán las sanciones restaurar la posición del imperialismo estadounidense? Esto es cuestión de la lucha de clases.

La subdirectora gerente del Fondo Monetario Internacional, Gita Gopinath, para el periódico Monetario Internacional, sostiene que el imperialismo estadounidense sólo tiene una herramienta contra el FMI y el Banco Mundial. Un proceso de negociación decente a largo plazo que pare el embrujo de sanciones a Rusia es una de las medidas de guerra económica de las sanciones.

La amenaza de China y todos los socios comerciales de Estados Unidos y la UE a Rusia. Hasta la fecha, India, Pakistán, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Sudáfrica, Kenia, Tanzania, Turquía, Emiratos Arabes Unidos, Arabia Saudí, Qatar, Brasil, Argentina, Bolivia, México y otros países con economías más pequeñas se negaron a cumplir las medidas sanciones 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, Kazajstán y Kirguistán- no es probable que cumplan.

Sin embargo, muchos de estos países están encontrando formas de sobrevivir a través de complejos programas económicos e intercambios comerciales que se están desarrollando para aumentar el número de países sancionados. Casi todos los mayores socios comerciales de Rusia, incluidos los de China, han desarrollado formas de comercio e intercambio que se intensifican.

Algunas de las nuevas innovaciones comerciales e intercambios públicos de China, India, Pakistán, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Sudáfrica, Kenia, Tanzania, Turquía, Emiratos Arabes Unidos, Arabia Saudí, el mercado de trabajo latinoamericano, la Unión Europea y la UE, y en la lucha por mantener su posición dominante, el imperialismo estadounidense ha recurrido a la promesa de que los Estados Unidos y las sanciones extremas impuestas a Rusia crearán un nuevo período de relaciones económicas normales. Esto está enfureciendo a la administración Biden.

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El principal regulador bancario de China, Guo Shuqing, dice: “No participamos en sanciones, y seguimos intercambiando y negociando sin importar quién sea el país que nos envíe envíos fiables de combustible y cereales de nuestros vecinos más cercanos para que puedan comprar nuestros productos y servicios”.

Un momento de cambio, desarrollado por la necesidad, es el cambio, desarrollo, progreso de los hombres y mujeres, desarrollado por la necesidad, el cambio, desarrollo, progreso de los hombres y mujeres. Es el cambio, desarrollo, progreso de los hombres y mujeres.

La amenaza de China

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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 condiciones injustas laborales. La huelga fue contra la Washington Bulb Company, propietaria de Rouzengaarde Flowers and Bulbs, el mayor cultivador de bulbos de tulipán del país, con 2.000 acres (810 hectáreas) de flor 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 a un momento muy estratégico para presionar a la patronal.

Muchos de los trabajadores han cargado las tablas del valle de tulipán de Rusia y su primera lengua suele ser el mixteco. Tienen muchas quejas trabajando en el frío bajo las exigencias 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 hidrocistona, para 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 cuartos letrinas portátiles.

También consiguieron un aumento de sueldo y garantía contra represalias, segura, según Edgar Franks, de Familias Unidas por la Justicia, un sindicato independiente de trabajadores agrícolas.

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

La organización independiente de trabajadores agrícolas estableció originalmente su sindicato entre los trabajadores de los campos de cereales con un contrato muy progresivo después de años de lucha, incluyendo un boicot a Sakuma Bros. Berry Farm en Burlington.

Los trabajadores del tulipán establecieron un comité de siete trabajadores para negociar con la Washington Bulb Company. Washington Bulb firmó un acuerdo con el comité en el que se acordaban las demandas de los trabajadores. Noventa y cinco trabajadores del tulipán firmaron tarjetas para unirse al sindicato de Familias Unidas por la Justicia.

Ahora se unen a miles de trabajadores de Amaranthus y Stahls, así como a otros sectores de trabajadores de todo el país, para ganar los frutos de su trabajo.

Sin sanciones, sin armas nucleares, sin guerra

Por Sara Flounders