Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite! workers.org  Vol. 64, No. 16 April 21, 2022  $1

Victoria en Amazonia

Stop NATO’s dangerous war against Russia

By John Catalinotto

As the live battle between the U.S.-led NATO forces and Russia in Ukraine is entering its eighth week, it has revealed itself as a proxy war, one opening a potential path to a world conflict.

To confront and stop this catastrophe, antiwar, popular and working-class forces in the imperialist countries must mobilize to stop the U.S.-NATO forces from extending and expanding the war. This may lead to sharp confrontations with the imperialist ruling class, but it is the only course possible.

This danger of a wider war has grown since Washington pressured Beijing in early March to honor sanctions against Russia or face greater U.S. hostility.

U.S. imperialism has dragged its West European allies—despite their own contradictory interests—into a confrontation with Russia. This confrontation uses Ukrainians as cannon fodder and a Ukrainian actor/comedian, Volodymyr Zelensky, as the pretend leader in Kiev. In reality, Washington gives the orders.

The Pentagon and the U.S. military-industrial complex have already used the Ukraine conflict to twist arms throughout Western Europe and in the U.S. itself and increase military spending. Germany nearly doubled its outlay for the military, U.S. sanctions on Russia have disrupted economic plans in Western Europe, raising energy prices and increasing inflation.

NATO is sending stockpiled weapons to the Kiev puppet regime’s army. Even though these weapons will likely目的地

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May Day! One working class united vs. union busters

This joint call to action is signed by Starbucks Workers United and Amazon Labor Union.

In the last few months, there has been an explosion of workers across the country coming together to organize for the first time. Many other workers, who already belong to unions, have been fighting for better contracts.

Through the COVID-19 pandemic, we have seen working class people on the front lines struggling to get by, while corporations make off with unprecedented profits. As corporations grow richer and the cost of everyday living rises, conditions for workers deteriorate. Many of us say enough is enough—we want better conditions, better pay and a say in our workplace.

Workers built these companies and their fortunes, and we are simply demanding to have a real voice in our workplace. However, this modest demand is met with ruthless union-busting campaigns from companies like Starbucks and Amazon.

We have faced firings, threats, intimidation, lies and slander. We have been retaliated against for doing something for which we have a basic right to do—organize.

Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz said recently that corporations across the country are “under assault” by unions, a battle cry that is reflected in the war being waged against workers.

From Buffalo and Staten Island, New York, to Memphis, Tennessee, and Bessemer, Alabama, Seattle, Mesa, Arizona, and everywhere else, we remain persistent and determined to continue to fight for a better workplace and a better world. With many major victories, we have shown we can win. But it is only possible when we unite together in our common interests.

We are calling on our communities, friends, allies, neighbors—the whole working class—to join together in solidarity this May Day 2022 and mobilize against the union busting of Starbucks, Amazon, and every other company engaged in repressing its workers.

Whether you are attending a May Day event or hosting your own, we must be loud and clear that we will defend our right to organize without any impediments, legal or otherwise.

Protest/press conference at luxury residence of Starbucks CEO, Howard Shultz, New York City, April 14. The action was called by Workers Assembly Against Racism, a main initiator of May Day at Union Square.

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May Day means internationalism
Support Workers World!

May Day. Workers. Resistance. Solidarity. Fight back. May 1 is International Workers’ Day. Although officially commemorated in 80 countries, it is not recognized in the U.S., where it originated in 1886 in Chicago during the struggle for the eight-hour workday. Its militant legacy is marked by protests by the global working class against capitalist exploiters. It is a day of solidarity with workers everywhere.

The class struggle is alive in the U.S., as shown by the hundreds of strikes in the last year. Workers are rising up in hospitals, schools, factories, coal mines, stores and eateries. Workers World applauds the successful worker-led union drives at a Staten Island Amazon facility and at over 200 Starbucks stores. These wins have spurred on more worker organizing around the country.

WW newspaper is partisan. We side with workers fighting for their rights. Their struggles are featured on our pages and in our bi-weekly column “On the Picket Line.” Not only does WW write about worker organizing, but our staff members join rallies and picket lines.

On this May Day, WW supports all workers, organized and unorganized. We express solidarity with the millions of working-class women, lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and non-binary people and those who are disabled, low-wage earners, jobless or incarcerated.

Workers World is the weekly newspaper of the Workers World Party. It was established 45 years ago so readers could read about struggles of workers fighting for a socialist future, please contact a WWP branch near you.

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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Workers World Party contact: 212.627.2994 centralgulfcoast@workers.org

Workers World banner at an earlier May Day rally.

WW agrees with May Day’s socialist founders: End capitalism! Fight for socialism!

Your help is needed!
If you appreciate our coverage, it’s time to join the Workers World Supporter Program or renew your membership. It 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.

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By Monica Moorehead

This year marks the 79th anniversary when the great Baseball Hall of Famer, Jackie Robinson, broke the color barrier of segregated all-white Major League Baseball on April 15, 1947. This coming October also marks the 60th anniversary of Robinson's death due to a heart attack, with complications from diabetes, at the age of 53. That lethal combination of diseases is not uncommon for African American men to suffer in disproportionate numbers.

Robinson's number 42 was retired from all teams in the MLB on April 13, 1997. Since 2004, all National and American League teams have worn number 42 jerseys April 15 on “Jackie Robinson Day” in recognition of his historic rookie debut with the then Brooklyn Dodgers.

Robinson, like so many other great Black baseball players, played in the Negro Leagues prior to 1947. As soon as Robinson set foot on the Dodgers’ Ebbets Field, he had to endure incredible racist taunts and epithets from white players, including some of his teammates, and fans. His family did not escape this horrific trauma when Robinson received letters with death threats at his home.

The white Dodgers shortstop, Pee Wee Reese, temporarily left his position during a game in Cincinnati in 1948 to put his arm around Robinson’s neck. This modest show of solidarity was viewed as a revolutionary act at the time. It silenced the fans who were taunting Robinson then, as was happening at so many away and home games.

One reporter who recorded Reese’s gesture was Lester Rodney, a reporter for the Communist newspaper, the Daily Worker, one of the few newspapers that consistently covered Robinson’s rookie year. Today MLB is composed of fewer than 8% African American players and has only two Black general managers out of 30 – Dusty Baker with the Houston Astros and Dave Roberts with the Los Angeles Dodgers. Robinson lamented the fact that baseball owners were reluctant to hire Black managers, saying: “I am not convinced that baseball is ready to allow Negro players or ex-players to enter the executive suite. In fact, I feel that there is a much stronger feeling on the part of the top brass of baseball to the idea of letting Negroes get to the top than there was in the early forties to allow Negroes to play.”

He added that “baseball owners are willing to “exploit the talent of Negro and other colored players, but after their playing careers are over, they have nowhere to go. Because the owners don’t have the courage or decency to think in terms of the contributions these players have made to their fortunes, they just let them go.” (Washington Post, April 14)

More than a baseball player

Never known as a radical, Robinson nevertheless became a national hero on and off the field because he changed the “color” of baseball – still known as “America’s pastime” and the most popular sport in the U.S. in his day. Even before becoming famous, he opposed racial segregation whenever and wherever he could. For instance, while living in Pasadena, California, in 1938, Robinson was arrested for defending a friend who was unlawfully detained by police. When he joined the segregated U.S. army during World War II, he was arrested for refusing to sit in the back of a military bus.

He became a prominent civil rights figure before the Civil Rights Movement gained prominence in the early 1950s, including when segregated schools were legally outlawed by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1954.

After playing 10 years in the MLB, Robinson was forced to retire prematurely due to diabetes. He then marched alongside Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., during the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.

Robinson’s legacy is that he fought for racial equality not only inside baseball but also throughout society until the day he died.

The march, an ambitious undertaking, succeeded in making the existing top-down structure business unionism democratic.

Millions More Movement to May Day

Clarence Thomas speaking at Oscar Grant Plaza, Oakland, California, Juneteenth 2020.

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The marchers, including Teamsters National Black Caucus Chair Chris Silvera, Metro Washington, D.C., Labor Council Representative Patricia Ann Ford and MWWM Co-Chair and ILWU Local 10 Executive Board Member Clarence Thomas.

The next chapters are each devoted to a different aspect of MWWM/Local 10’s militant, class conscious activism: demanding reparations for Hurricane Katrina survivors, reviving May Day from 2005 onward, fighting the color barrier of baseball, and organizing for political prisoners. It is with deep respect and gratitude that we see this as not only erasing the past but creating the future.

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From The Daily Worker, one of the few newspapers that consistently covered Robinson’s rookie year.
Oakland union plans one-day strike

By David Welch and Judy Greenspan
Oakland, California

At the beginning of this past school board meeting in March, Alicia Trimble, a teacher from the Oakland School District, spoke about her concerns about the quality of classroom instruction. She said, "I'm concerned about the lack of resources available to our students, and I believe we need to do more to support them." The board members agreed with her and discussed ways to improve the situation.

Boston union to Starbucks’ Schultz

‘No to NFTs or union busing!’

By Steve Gillis

It quickly turned into a celebration with love, solidarity, optimism and “not gonna take it anymore” attitude—beneath of their feet. "No to NFTs; Matter movement under pandemic pre- cariousness—are this new labor move- ment's main assets.

With advanced communications and technical skills, artistic merchandise and logos, and coordination through traveling and social media, organizers are reviving methods employed by socialists in the past. "We are building a new movement under pandemic pre- cariousness," said Steve Gillis.

Brian Murray and Casey Moore of Buffalo @SBWorkersUnited with Steve Gillis, center, April 11.

Portland to Starbucks: ‘Union coffee is hot’

Portland union to Starbucks: ‘Union coffee is hot’

Portland protests rallied April 16 in front of a Starbucks location which is one of the city stores trying to unionize. Four of these Starbucks will be casting their ballots later this month on whether to unionize. Three of these Starbucks will be casting their ballots later this month on whether to unionize.

Follow the rally, demonstrators got out of the cold rain and traveled in a car caravan to two other unionizing Starbucks. They supported workers at each location by driving through, honking, and placing orders under thesame "union strong."
May Day: A clarion call to free them all!

By Ted Kelly

On May 1, 1886, the American Federation of Labor organized militant actions demanding the right of all workers to an eight-hour workday. On that day, workers walked off their jobs and withheld their labor from being exploited by the bosses.

As Martha Grevatt, a WW managing editor and retired Chrysler autoworker, wrote in WW: “About a quarter of a million took part in many cities, but Chicago, with its militant, left-wing labor movement, had the largest demonstration. There, tens of thousands laid down their tools, and women and men poured into the streets. The demonstrations continued past May 1, and on May 3 police attacked and six workers were killed.

“The next day a protest over the killings was held in Haymarket Square. A bomb was thrown, a policeman was killed, and a struggle broke out that left seven police and four workers dead. Eight workers’ leaders were convicted of murder, five of them sentenced to life and four workers dead. Eight workers’ leaders in Haymarket Square. A bomb was thrown, a police -

Meanwhile, international human rights activist like Julia Wright, daughter of acclaimed novelist Richard Wright, reminds us in a public letter that “Mumia is the most internationally recognized political prisoner of the era is due to his own passionate internationalism.

“Never forget that Mumia Abu-Jamal has bestowed on us that honor: We are global freedom-fighters. Never forget Mumia, alongside many others in the Black Panther Party, took the struggle for freedom to the international level.

“Never forget that on that account, freedom fighters from the world over have adopted him as the ‘voice of the voiceless.’ And that they stand ready today to place their newly found voices at his service as political characters.

“The effort to free political prisoners like Mumia must be international because, from the time of the transatlantic slave trade, the U.S. carceral apparatus itself was not confined to any recognized borders.

“Prisons are used to eliminate the leaders of Indigenous resistance. Sitting Bull, the great 19th century Hunkpapa Lakota leader, was a U.S. political prisoner from 1880 to 1883 and was assassinated in 1890 during an attempt to reassess him. The Ogala Lakota freedom fighter Crazy Horse was murdered by his jailers in 1877 at a concentration camp near Fort Robinson. The Chiricahua Apache resistance leader Geronimo died as a prisoner of war at Fort Sill, Okla., in 1910. (workers.org/2021/10/359565/)

Why we must free them all

Author and CUNY professor Dr. Johannna Fernandez connects this legacy of white supremacist political repression of African and Indigenous leaders to the immigrant labor and political activists targeted by the state. She told WW, “In the late 19th century, labor activists who were identified as part of the Haymarket Affair were rounded up by the police, accused of crimes they did not commit and sentenced to death. In the early 20th century, Sacco and Vanzetti, two anarchists, were executed by the state. In the 1960s, the Rosenbergs, who were communists, were executed by the state. During the post-Civil Rights Movement era, Mumia became the figure that the state wanted to make an example of to send a message to those who dare resist a society rooted in the state, resist capitalism, resist Empire — that is what will happen to you.

“So when you ask the question, ‘Why do we need to be with Mumia?’ it’s because if we allow the state to get away with murder in the case of Mumia this is a warning to everyone.

“The question has only become more urgent since the advent of Black Lives Matter and the movement for environmental justice predicated on Indigenous sovereignty represented by AIM leader and political prisoner, Leonard Peltier.

Community leaders like Anthony Smith in Philadelphia, Dakota Access Pipeline protesters like Red Fawn Fallis and Jessica Reznicek, and countless other organizers and activists now constitute a new generation of U.S. political prisoners. Young whistleblowers like Chelsea Manning and Daniel Hale have been viciously prosecuted for revealing hard proof of the war crimes committed by the U.S. military in its imperial adventures abroad.

Larry Holmes urges us to remember that Mumia Abu-Jamal has been imprisoned for longer than many of these next generation political prisoners have been alive: “Look at it this way. How can we possibly free these comrades, if we cannot free Mumia now, when his life is at risk behind bars?”

For over 40 years now, the U.S. has been expending an unimaginable amount of effort and resources to fight back against the tide of people power demanding the liberation of Mumia Abu-Jamal. This is in itself proof that the ruling class believes his release would be a transformative moment in the struggle against mass incarceration, white supremacy, and capitalism. It would signify a bursting of the dam, unleashing a cascade of working class power. And from the confines of this vast network of dungeons, a militant, revolutionary class will emerge to usher humanity into the next phase of its history.

The legacy of May Day is the ongoing fight for a world without capitalism under any form.

To build a working world, we must abolish prisons to free them all.

The writer is co-chair of the Prisoners Solidarity Committee. Monica Moorehead contributed to this article.

Folkston detainees, immigrant rights activists chant together

By Dianne Mathiowetz

Folkston, Georgia

April 16—Multiple organizations forming the Coalition to Shut Down ICE in Georgia have drawn special attention to the expansion of the Folkston ICE facilities in southeast Georgia, close to the Florida border. Although the Biden administration had said it would no longer deport migrants to private prison operators, the GEO Group has been authorized to expand its Folkston site to some 3000 beds. This would be the largest detention center for immigrants in the U.S.

The Coalition organized multi-faceted event on April 16 to protest expansion of the prison for profit. There was a family-friendly event with food and games for children in a downtown Folkston park, and also a protest across the street from the ICE facility.

To everyone’s surprise, several dozen detainees, who were in the exercise yard and saw demonstrators arrive with banners and signs, went to the fence with fists up. For 90 minutes, they chanted and exchanged information with their supporters, who learned there was a hunger strike going on to protest the inhumane conditions.

Coalition members—who had come across Georgia and north Florida—left inspired by the resistance of the detainees and vowing to redouble efforts to “Shut Down Folkston!” (*)
Prisoners Solidarity Committee demands: Ban Shackling!

By Marie Kelly

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

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

The United Nations Human Rights Commission (UNHCR) has also pushed against shackling of incarcerated persons when they are sick and/or hospitalized. This was in response to the shackling of Corrections— in whose custody he had been for the last 46 years.

In 2021, Gamble was taken to the medical wing of State Correctional Institution Coal Township, where he had been imprisoned, and was told he was getting a routine colonoscopy. What he did not know was that medical staff at the prison performed an biopsy and extracted a length of his intestines. Their test confirmed that he had colon cancer. For eight months, no medical staff, no prison administration—none relayed this diagnosis back to the patient, whose worsening abdominal pain and other unexplained symptoms were being treated with two Tylenol a day.

After months of Gamble filing grievances with the prison medical administration, he was allowed to see the prison medical staff. He made demands with the doctor to see his medical records, a guard dropped a medical slip in his cell that confirmed the diagnosis of colorectal cancer, as well as the news that the cancer had spread to his liver.

More than 20,000 elderly and dying prisoners sent petitions for compassionate release between January 2020 and June 2021. Only 3,910 were granted. (U.S. Sentencing Commission) There are over 300,000 prisoners in the U.S. over the age of 50. (Bureau of Justice Statistics) A 2018 report, “The High Costs of Low Risk: The Crisis of America’s Prison Population,” says: “With an estimated 2.3 million people in confinement, one out of every 32 adults under correctional control or community supervision, and roughly one-third of all adults with some sort of criminal record, the U.S. surpasses all other countries in sheer numbers and per capita incarceration and criminalization rates.

“By 2030, the population of people aged 50 and older is projected to account for one-third of all incarcerated people in the U.S., amounting to a staggering 4,400% increase over a 50-year span.”

Released after 46 years, Bradford Gamble exposes medical abuse

By Ted Kelly

This edited article first appeared on workers.org on March 22, 2022.

There were moments Bradford Gamble doubted he would live long enough to see freedom. Despite the fact that Gamble uses a wheelchair, despite the fact that he has Stage 4 metastatic cancer, despite the fact that he is dying, only weeks ago he was shackled to a hospital bed at Geisinger Medical Center, still a prisoner of the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections— in whose custody he had been for the last 46 years.

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“By 2030, the population of people aged 50 and older is projected to account for one-third of all incarcerated people in the U.S., amounting to a staggering 4,400% increase over a 50-year span.”

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

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

1) Ban the practice of shackling the incarcerated when hospitalized.
2) Healthcare professionals must advocate for the release of incarcerated persons who are ill or aged.
3) Restraints must NEVER be used for staff convenience or client punishment.
4) Incarcerated pregnant persons must have their privacy safeguarded at all times and will remain unshackled during labor, childbirth, and postpartum recovery.
5) Healthcare institutions must have the incarcerated patient verify who they’ve designated as eligible to receive updates on their medical condition and treatment.
6) Hospitals must adopt policies and staff educational programs on caring for incarcerated admitted patients.
7) Healthcare professionals should support prison abolition efforts.
WITH INCARCERATED WORKERS

Act now! Stop the execution of Melissa Lucio!

By Gloria Rubac
Houston

Melissa Lucio, the first woman of Mexican descent on Texas’ death row, has lived in relative anonymity since being convicted of capital murder in 2008 in the tragic death of her young daughter. Now she is just one of the many people who have been sent to prison.

Innocence Project exposes the truth

The Innocence Project’s website lists “9 Facts You Should Know About This Innocent Woman Facing Execution,” summarized below:

Two-year-old Mariah’s death was a tragic accident, not a murder. She fell down the stairs, appeared uninjured, and two days later, didn’t wake up. Two hours after her death, Lucio was interrogated, while in shock and pregnant with twins.

Cops berated and intimidated her for over five hours. After this browbeating and after Lucio said over 100 times that she did not cause her child’s death, she was coerced by a Texas Ranger into what he referred to as “confession at gunpoint” at 3 a.m. She just wanted the interrogation to be over. Experts concluded that Lucio “was relentlessly pressured and extensively manipulated during the interrogation.”

Judge Catharina Hayes wrote on behalf of the seven dissenting judges on the Fifth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals: “The State presented no physical evidence or witness testimony establishing that Lucio abused Mariah or any of her children, let alone killed Mariah.” Lucio had no prior record of violence.

Lucio is a survivor of life-long sexual assault, being at age six, and domestic violence. The trial court denied testimony about this history, and how it shaped her reactions following the tragic death of her daughter. The Texas Ranger who coerced her incriminating statement testified that her behavior showed she was guilty.

Former Cameron County District Attorney Armando Villalobos was seeking Lucio’s conviction to appear tough on crime. Lucio’s family was torn apart. Her 12 children were aged 2 to 15 when she was arrested. She gave birth to twin boys while in jail, and gave them up for adoption. The other children were split up, some sent to live with relatives, others placed into foster care.

Tivon Schardl, chief of the Capital Habeas Unit of the Federal Defender for the Western District of Texas and one of Lucio’s attorneys, said, “Texas tore this family apart through the cruelty and injustice of Ms. Lucio’s wrongful conviction. Her children, mother, and siblings have been traumatized by Ms. Lucio’s arrest, prosecution, and death sentence.”

On April 15, Lucio’s attorneys filed a 242-page application for a writ of habeas corpus asking the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals to stay her execution and vacate her conviction and death sentence. For the first time, the courts will have the opportunity to consider the scientific and expert evidence showing that her conviction was based on an unreliable, coerced confession and unscientific false evidence.

The case exposes the rampant corruption of the U.S. carceral system. Justice delayed is indeed justice denied here.

But longtime civil rights attorney Terry Gilbert, whose firm represented Lucio, wrote in a Cleveland Plain Dealer op-ed piece: “His ordeal was not in vain, and his spirit as a freedom fighter will live on.”

It is time to change this in the commonwealth of Pennsylvania’s criminal court system!

Dear Mundo Obrero/Workers World,

My name is Mr. John Jefferson and I am currently confined at a New York state correctional facility. The purpose for this correspondence is that I’m very much interested in Mundo Obrero/Workers World newspaper. Could you send me the paper, if you can? This man has showed me your paper and told me to write down the address. Thank you for your help.

John Bernard Jefferson, Jr.
Sing Sing Correctional Facility
Ossining, New York

In the wake of the murder of George Floyd, and the subsequent calls for social justice reform, criminal justice reform and the dismantling of racist systems, I implore you to get involved. The type-written letter I have enclosed is about the effects of the 1993 crime bill signed into law by President Clinton, which included provisions that take away a person’s appellate rights. I am fundamentally opposed that a one-year time limit to present legal claims is put against Pennsylvanians who have limited or no general education, no legal education, and are adjusting to prison life, and yet they are expected to learn and navigate a legal system that practicing lawyers learn how to navigate in 4-12 years of college education. How can incarcerated Pennsylvanians who do not have a college education expect to present legal claims with competence in a one-year time limit?

The results have been that thousands of poor people, uneducated people and African Americans have been picked out of the system because the people involved did not meet the one-year time frame. Thousands of Pennsylvanians that are owed judicial relief are sitting in prison even though they may have illegal sentences.

It is time to change this in the commonwealth of Pennsylvania’s criminal court system!

John Passmore
SCI Somerset
Somerset, Pennsylvania

Peace & Power 2 Those Who Dare a Struggle! I hope this brief letter lifts your spirit and finds you at peace as you, me, we struggle to engage colonial capitalism and challenge its relationship with the people on an international level.

I’m a prisoner who is a revolutionary internationalist and would like to be placed on the mailing list for any and all information your organization can share.

Thank you.

C. Wiggins
South Central Correctional Center
Licking, Missouri

Letters from behind the walls
Stop NATO’s dangerous war against Russia

Continued from page 1

is U.S. dollar hegemony ending?

By Betsey Piette

Is there a global movement underway to ditch dependence on the U.S. dollar? Is the world witnessing the end of U.S. economic hegemony? The answer to both questions is yes. The institutionalization of the global economy has been studied by economists for some time. Most admit it was not a matter of will it happen, but when. Since 2000, U.S. control of global exchange has been falling. The 2008 U.S. economic recession accelerated this process as more countries questioned investing in risky U.S. dollars. Expanding U.S. sanctions are fueling a rapid shift in global currency exchange that threatens the hegemony of the dollar. The latest U.S. sanctions aimed at Russia may be the tipping point, because many countries will lose so much economically by obeying the sanctions that they are refusing to obey them. In addition, by seizing funds of countries that have invested in dollars held in imperialist banks, the U.S. has forced countries to rethink how to store their reserves.

An International Monetary Fund report on March 24 found “a decline in the dollar share of international reserves since the turn of the century that is being increasingly diversified.” The IMF’s study revealed that the dollar’s decline did not mean increased use of the pound sterling, yen, or euro—but of the official currency of the People’s Republic of China—the yuan renminbi.

Gold standard and the dollar

As World War II ended, U.S. imperialism dominated the global economy, holding most of the gold and serving as the world’s creditor. At a meeting of 44 countries in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, in 1944, participants agreed to fix their currencies to the dollar, which in turn was fixed to gold at $35 an ounce.

Until 1971, the U.S. kept the dollar price of gold fixed and allowed only $30 billion of dollars to maintain confidence in future gold convertibility. Facing massive debt from the war in Vietnam, U.S. President Richard Nixon took the dollar off the gold standard in August 1971, to avoid draining U.S. gold reserves.


The IMF has been studying the effects of such a move for a number of years. In 2010, it concluded that the dollar is no longer the world’s only reserve currency. The IMF found that “the dollar’s share of global reserves has declined from 90% in 1995 to 70% in 2009.”

Sanctions and wars

Heads of oil-rich countries, Saddam Hussein in Iraq and Muammar Gaddafi in Libya attempted to establish new gold-backed financial systems separate from the IMF. Both Iraq and Libya faced sanctions. Both leaders were vilified and executed.

The U.S. and Britain invaded Iraq in 2003. The U.S. and NATO bombed Libya in 2011. The U.S. and Britain invaded Libya in 2011, to remove President Vladimir Putin from office.

Washington imposed sanctions on Russia and is forcing other countries, particularly allies in the European Union, to reconfigure their economies to abide by these extreme economic penalties.

After initially taking a serious hit to their economy with a significant drop in the value of the ruble, Russia has been taking measures to rid itself of dollar-based assets under U.S. control.

Russia is one of the world’s largest exporters of oil, gas, wheat, and fertilizers. Since Russia’s normal trading partners still need commodities from Russia, they now seek alternative payment currencies to the dollar, including the Russian ruble, the Chinese yuan, the Indian rupee. They must do this to evade U.S. and EU sanctions.

Putin stated: “This is a war to lock in [U.S.] allies so they cannot trade with Russia. They cannot use the dollar. This is depending on [U.S.] American oil for which they will have to pay three or four times as much.” He notes that if not allowed to sell fertilizer from Russia, countries must either pay more for U.S. liquidified natural gas or experience 50% crop failures.

Russia is now insisting that “unfriendly nations” including EU countries supporting U.S. sanctions, pay for Russian rubles with euros. Many countries not currently under U.S. sanctions are refusing to comply with the sanction imposed on Russia. They include Brazil, India, China, and South Africa which Russia comprise the BRICS countries. China and Russia have boosted bilateral trade in each other’s currencies.

Over one-fourth of countries hold one-third of the world’s population, face economic sanctions imposed by the U.S. To circumvent U.S. sanctions, many of these countries are developing new exchange programs.

The IMF found that “the dollar’s share of global reserves has declined from 90% in 1995 to 70% in 2009.”

Is the dollar hegemony ending? Anyone familiar with the recent history of U.S.-invited wars must be furious upon learning that Washington’s leaders want to change Putin with war crimes. Even if the stories of civilian deaths in Ukraine are true—and nothing has been proven yet about what happened and who was responsible—they are incomparable to the millions killed during U.S. invasions and bombings of infrastructure in Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya, Yugoslavia, etc.

Western governments, while boasting of “free speech,” have censored major media presenting the Russian side—RT, Sputnik—while the corporate media omit the recent history of NATO’s threats to Russia. Since 1991 NATO has nearly doubled its members, annexing countries of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, some bordering on Russia and all whose regimes are hostile to Russia. NATO holds regular war exercises near the Russian border. Most important, the U.S. is installing nuclear-capable rockets in the region that can reach Russian cities in five minutes and make a first nuclear strike on Russia possible.

Thus the advance of NATO eastward must be considered a serious existential threat to Russia, a danger at the very least of “regime change” to a Russian ruling-class that stands on the brink of nuclear war to maintain their ruling-class relations.

Since the U.S., Britain, EU, and Japan refused to honor their obligations of Glof of other nations which was held in their currencies, why should other countries be obliged to pay them back and to service their loans?”

The U.S. policy of prolonging the war in Ukraine by sending weapons and mercenaries is a danger to the world’s people. It is also a direct attack on the standard of living of the working class and people worldwide, including in the United States. Any mobilization of the workers to defend their standard of living must include a strategy to stop this war, a strategy aimed at the defeat of the imperialist ruling class, the main enemy of the working people.

Thus it is vital for anti-war and working-class organizations to organize education and action to demand: Cut the military budget!

No arms to Ukraine! Dismantle NATO!
By Danny O'Brien

The reputation of the United States and its unrelenting military must precede any claim these entities make about “truth.”

Time and time again, the U.S. State and Defense Departments have lied their way into war. U.S. forces have razed the earth on which theyوار, and countless millions of people have died in their wake. Defense companies and politicians have profited from the total expense of the global community.

Some are of the lies the U.S. has fabricated in order to justify its wars?

The USS Maine — and Cuba

In February 1898, a United States battleship called the USS Maine blew up in Havana Harbor, then Spanish-controlled Havana Harbor, now liberated and under the control of our allies. The explosion, publicized with fervor by media mogul William Randolph Hearst and his belliscose cronies, was then called bull (reason for war) for the United States to go to war with the Spanish Empire.

A declassified CIA document written March 13, 1962, outlined Operation Northwoods in which the United States planned a false flag operation on Cuba following its 1959 Revolution: “Remember the Maine” incident, and follows with plans to intentionally blow up a U.S. ship to create an “unprovoked attack” on communism. Our revolutionary comrades in Cuba hold as official history that the 1898 incident was a planned, false-flag operation.

Some historians believe the Maine catastrophe to have been caused by a U.S. nuclear-powered, exploded on board, or, more dubiously, by spontaneous combustion. The lie of the USS Maine and its supposed “unprovoked attack” on Cuba is repeated ad nauseam.

The result of the ensuing 1898 war was a U.S. imperial siege of the Philippines, the decimation of its inhabitants, and the subsequent economic exploitation of the country for generations. Filiipinos have razed the earth, paid for by the U.S. War Department, and countless millions of Filipinos, out of a pop -

Japan’s heinous conquest of China.

The U.S. had supplied oil and war materials to Filipino propagandists as part of an “Open Door” policy of exploitation in China. Then Japanese imperialism turned its goals toward the Philippines, a country filled with rubber, tin, and oil in the rest of Southeast Asia. At this point the United States cut off Cuba’s economic ventures with massive embargos and then simply not stop at the Philippines, where the U.S. had already amassed large military forces as part of its colonial domination.

Uncle Sam’s dictionary seems to define an “unprovoked attack” as one in which the U.S. or its imperial interests are wounded, regardless of provocation.

The most simplistic, nationalistic U.S. textbooks trumpet that the atomic bombs the U.S. dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945 were “justified” retaliation for Japan’s bombing of Pearl Harbor. As if the death of hundreds of thousands of nearly all military forces, could justify the death of over 200,000 people, the vast majority of whom were civilians! Why is this really necessary?

Another reason given to uphold that lie is that the Maine was a necessary to enter World War II on the Pacific Front. What is stricken from the record of this atrocity is that the Soviet Union had plans to enter the war against Japan. This military move on the U.S. part could have easily led to a Japanese surrender to the USSR, considering how the tide of history and the USSR’s Red Army was against the U.S. Red Army.

Instead, the U.S. dropped its nuclear bombs mere days before the Soviets were to enter Japan, and negotiated a surrender that led to a Japanese client state whose ruling class was dependent on U.S. imperialism and its military machine.

The lie of Tonkin

In summer 1964, a U.S. warship, armed to the teeth, was taking a ill-fated cruise in the territorial waters of North Vietnam. The ship was surveilling the National Liberation Front and the North Vietnamese Army’s infrastructure, supposed to be U.S.-backed and armed coup government of South Vietnam.

During this excursion, the ship attacked the coastline, supposedly because it was being followed by North Vietnamese ships. It was not attacked by torpedoes. Instead, it attacked torpedo boats two days later. But President Lyndon Johnson and Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara said otherwise. In order to rally public support towards a war in Vietnam — already being played out covertly for years in the hands of the CIA.

The conflict, lasting 11 more years, senselessly claimed the lives of over three million Vietnamese people, again mainly civilians. The U.S. implemented scorched-earth policies and kill quotas, targeted civilians and agricultural infrastructure, and massacred non-combatants, torching their villages and using chemical weapons to poison the countryside.

‘Baby Incubators’

In October 1990, a 15-year-old girl, identified only as Nayirah, gave testimony to the U.S. Congressional Human Rights Caucus that Iraqi soldiers had stormed a Kuwaiti hospital and “thrown babies out of incubators to leave them on the cold floor to die.” (LA Times, March 6, 1992) She was later identified as Saud Al-Sabah, daughter of Saudi Al-Sabah, the Kuwaiti Ambassador to the United States – not exactly a disinterested witness.

This lie was specifically crafted and funded by Hill & Knowlton Strategies, a U.S. public relations firm known for its anti-labor stance, which represented the steel industries multiple times during various strikes in the first half of the twentieth century. The firm was also responsible for putting out misinformation about the dangers of asbestos and asbestos.

The Kuwaiti ambassador and his suspicious Citizens for a Free Kuwait organization paid $12 million for the incubator lie. This prepared a pretext for the U.S. government to justify entering the Gulf War, which caused the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Iraqis, and to bomb the population back to pre-industrial infrastructure and sanitary conditions through fire and brimstone.

‘Weapons of mass destruction’

There were no weapons of mass destruction in 2002 Iraq, another lie used to justify a second U.S. Gulf War in March 2003. This is admitted and well-known now.

But in late 2002, the United States agencies fabricated false reports of such weapons, and the U.S. administration clamped for the United Nations to give it leeway to fire the fires of hell down on Iraq. So continued an almost endless war that would ultimately claim the lives of countless civilians.

The WMD lie was finally retracted in 2016 by the U.S. secretary of state who made it before the U.N. in 2003. This was General Colin Powell, who had also been chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Syria and sarin gas

Like a broken record, the United States has claimed that the Baath government of Syria, led by President Bashar al-Assad, has attacked its own citizens using sarin gas. U.S. Human Rights Watch released a report denouncing the military alliance that President Trump’s orders to take out the tian, and turned into support -

ing a proxy war on that country. This war, ongoing, has been a bloody quagmire that has already killed hundreds of thousands of civilians in less than a decade’s time.

Message to the working class of the United States

Working class and oppressed peoples are the primary targets of such blatant, ham-fisted lies and propaganda. Those in the State Department, with their pockets full from the coffers of Raytheon, Boeing and Lockheed Martin, need no facts or real world conditions to justify their wars. U.S. forces have razed the earth on which they can realize that the United States cut off Japan’s economic ventures with massive embargos.

The lie of Tonkin — and Cuba

The United States ignored all of these claims and went forward with its attacks on Syria [including the infamous 59 Tomahawk cruise missiles launched on then President Trump’s orders to take out the Syrian airforce “from where the [alleged] chemical attack was [allegedly] launched” NYT April 6, 2017], claiming the accusation was retracted in order to justify the U.S. entry into supporting a proxy war on that country. This war, ongoing, has been a bloody quagmire that has already killed hundreds of thousands of civilians in less than a decade’s time.

Ms. Flounders sheds light on how to stand up to the imperial war machine and, in doing so, saves the lives of countless civilians.

— Miguel d’Escoto Brockmann, Foreign Minister of Nicaragua’s Sandinista government.

Free PDF download available at workers.org/books
Heated waves melt ice at both poles of Earth

By G. Dunkel

This updated article first appeared on workers.org March 30, 2022.

The climate crisis is real. Millions of people throughout the world are suffering and dying from floods and rising sea levels, droughts, stronger hurricanes and more intense storms. The world is at a crossroads everywhere, you’re seeing a society willing to put itself on war footing to defend the lives of people—again against the virus.

Xenophobic criticisms of China by the bourgeoisie deny the fact that the Chinese are saving lives while over a million people in the world have died. China has also publicized the/signup and a socialized health care system, has had fewer than 5,000 deaths due to COVID-19. (worldometers.info)\[1\]

The changes in the Arctic and Antarctic are due to global warming, and the two poles are warming faster than the rest of the planet. The rapid changes and climatic gyrations at both Poles are due to global warming.

The Inuit, whose ancestors inhabited the land from Baffin Island in the east to the Beaufort Sea in the west, depend on fishing which supply much of their food. Those living on one of the remote remote Inuit communities, such as Arreak, have experienced a heat wave at the same time as the Antarctic, which is surprising since it is a different hemisphere and since its winter lasts until late April.

The Arctic is home to a number of Indigenous nations who depend on ice for transportation between communities, hunting which provides them with food, and fishing which supply much of their food.

There are at least 60 words in Inuktitut, the Inuit language, to precisely identify ice types. (G. Dunkel, “Sea ice is melting,” East Village, New York, April 16)

The Arctic is warming much more rapidly than the rest of the planet, except perhaps Antarctica. The Inuit, whose ancestors have moved into the area thousands of years ago, want to have a say in what happens there.

The rapid changes and climatic gyrations taking place at both Poles are due to global warming throughout the world. While the capitalists see the chance for big profits—the example of the oil industry in the U.S. see they can use sanctions on Russia to make billions in profits from the German energy market—all their promises, promises are ignored in the blink of an eye.

The changes in the Arctic and Antarctic cause large changes for the rest of the world. The vanishing ice cover in the Arctic means more heat is absorbed and more water is available for evaporation, which intensifies the warmer Antarctica gets, the quicker its ice sheilds go, the quicker its ice cover melts, and the quicker the seas rise throughout the world.

Renewables won’t solve all the problems of global warming. But adopting them will provide the world with the time to develop other, more comprehensive solutions. $
Palestinians resist Israeli attack on mosque

By Richie Merino

Israeli occupation forces violently raided Palestinian worshippers on April 15, during early morning prayers at the al-Aqsa Mosque in occupied East Jerusalem. The premeditated and orchestrated attack came on the second Friday of Ramadan, the holiest month of the year for Muslims, when tens of thousands of worshippers travel to al-Aqsa to pray. Israeli occupation forces wounded more than 153 Palestinians and arrested more than 350 Palestinians.

According to the Palestinian Center for Human Rights (PCHR), thousands of worshippers experienced intimidation on entering the gates to the mosque compound amid a heavy presence of Israeli occupation forces, including snipers perched on the rooftops. Given the Israeli regime’s long history of terrorizing Palestinians during the holy month of Ramadan, the worshippers had placed wooden barriers around the mosque in anticipation of an Israeli raid. Shortly after the dawn prayer was concluded, Israeli forces occupying the roof smashed the glass windows of the mosque’s prayer hall and ambushed the worshippers, firing rubber-coated steel bullets, tear gas, stun grenades, and live rounds. Palestinians resisted the violent onslaught for four hours before Israeli occupation forces finally cleared the prayer hall and arrested hundreds of worshippers. Multiple videos posted on social media showed heavily militarized Israeli forces launching stun grenades inside the mosque and brutally punching and kicking Palestinians into submission. One video shows Israeli forces kneeling on the upper bodies of worshippers as they are hoisted into the air. Israeli forces shot rubber bullets into the eyes of al-Aqsa guards attempting to assist women and children caught in the crossfire. Another disturbing video shows an Israeli police officer striking an unarmed Palestinian woman in the arm with a club as she attempts to document human rights violations.

Francesca Albanese, the newly appointed U.N. special rapporteur on human rights in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, said on Friday that "places of worship are sacred and religious spaces, and religion, must be protected, especially on holy days." She added that intentional and revamped attacks on civilians constitute war crimes under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

Sheik Ekrima Sabri, the imam of al-Aqsa, said the raid was executed in coordination with far-right Israeli nationalists, who have vowed to raid the mosque and bring animals to slaughter inside its courtyard. The onslaught was intended to remove Palestinian residents and, in更深 for Israeli settlers to storm the mosque during the Jewish Passover holiday, which started that week.

During and after the planned raid, Israeli forces tried to enter al-Aqsa Mosque carrying sheep and answering calls from Zionist organizations to slaughter the animals for religious sacrifices. Such nationalist groups also advocate destruction of the mosque and construction of a Jewish temple in its place. If such animal sacrifices were to occur inside al-Aqsa, it would be an unprecedented escalation of the Israeli occupation and would likely provoke massive worldwide condemnation, which would reverberate to the extent of the holiest in Islam.

Zionism is racism

According to the imam of al-Aqsa, it is likely that Israeli occupation forces will try to destroy the mosque and carry out a long history of escalating violent attacks on Palestinians.
El creciente movimiento por los derechos sindicales recibió una inyección de energía el 1 de abril con la inspiradora victoria de los trabajadores de los almacenes de Amazon, en el que trabajadores de Maryland y del distrito neoyorquino de Queens en una huelga de hambre. 

Por Tony Murphy

Un reciente artículo del New York Times detalló cómo Amazon se puso en la ofensiva desde el comienzo de la pandemia, no para hacer el lugar de trabajo más seguro, sino para contrarrestar el paro de Smalls en protesta por la falta de seguridad de COVID. La empresa "formó un grupo de inteligencia global" y "les ofreció un paquete de beneficios" a los trabajadores que le apoyaran en su campaña sindical. 

Amazon es tan grande que ha evitado una gran parte de las promesas hechas a la clase trabajadora en las promesas hechas a la clase trabajadora en la campaña sindical del sindicato de los trabajadores de los almacenes de Amazon. 

En tercer lugar, el ritmo de trabajo agotador y el ambiente de violencia laboral de Amazon en Estados Unidos ha dado lugar a la falta de seguridad de COVID. La empresa "formó un grupo de inteligencia global" y "les ofreció un paquete de beneficios" a los trabajadores que le apoyaran en su campaña sindical. 

El hecho de que se hayan superado todos estos obstáculos es un testimonio de la organización de base, de trabajadores que se unen para luchar por sus derechos laborales y para proteger la vida y la salud de sus compañeros de trabajo. El líder de la UAL, Derrick Palmer, describió cómo incluso acudía al trabajo para organizar las acciones de solidaridad que elevaron el perfil de la lucha sindical. 

Maryland y del distrito neoyorquino de Queens en una huelga de hambre. Los líderes de WAAR también organizaron un piquete en el aparcamiento de la empresa en Staten Island, asegurando que los valientes activistas de la UAL y los trabajadores de los almacenes de Amazon no lucharan solos. 

La victoria del sindicato de Amazon ha dado un fuerte impulso al movimiento obrero. Construir la solidaridad con los trabajadores de las empresas antirrevolucionarias será fundamental para defender los logros de ese movimiento.