With high-tech weapons to Ukraine

U.S. escalates war

By John Catalinotto

April 25—Twice in the last week, the Biden administration promised to deliver $800 million in heavy and technologically advanced weapons to Ukraine, for a total of $1.6 billion, added to nearly $3 billion earlier. The U.S. has coordinated deliveries from Canada, Britain and other NATO powers. These deliveries are just a beginning.

According to the U.S. government, the weapons involved include heavy artillery, drones that can fly themselves into targets and explode, anti-tank and anti-aircraft weapons and tanks. And more ammunition of all sorts.

“The push now is to get countries [in Eastern Europe] with Soviet-era tanks, artillery and perhaps even fighter planes to provide them to Ukraine, with the promise that the United States will replenish them with more modern, Western-made arms in return.” (New York Times, April 20)

It is nearly impossible, except for military commanders, to learn what the actual military situation is in Ukraine. As in all wars, no one tells the truth publicly about their casualties and how precarious their forces are. U.S. corporate news reports about the results of battles have been skewed to exaggerate setbacks for the Russian army and glorify resistance from Kiev’s army.

Corporate news on the war in the U.S. and Western Europe has amounted to an avalanche of uncontested anti-Russian propaganda with the goal of demonizing Russia and its leaders. As in Bucha, a town near Kiev temporarily occupied by the Russian army, the imperialist media collaborated with the Ukraine regime to invent massacres or blow them out of proportion. (workers.org/2022/04/63341/)

Despite the lack of accurate information, some obvious conclusions can be made about the consequence of these weapons deliveries and the goal of the U.S.-NATO forces.

Washington aims to prolong war

The first conclusion is that the weapons deliveries show that Washington aims to prolong the war against Russia and will continue to use the Ukrainian population as cannon fodder in that war. Long before Washington orchestrated the 2014 coup in Kiev that brought an anti-Russia regime to power, its strategists had as a goal weakening Russia and changing the government there. Prolonging the war will kill or wound large numbers of Ukrainians and Russians.

The second conclusion is that the Biden administration is risking this step even though it can lead to a direct confrontation between U.S.-NATO forces and Russia. The current proxy war can escalate to a war between...
May Day means internationalism Support Workers World!


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 about 30 Starbucks stores, with organizing drives at 220 or more eateries. These wins have spurred on more worker organizing around the country.

WNI 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 workers, especially Black, Latinx, Indigenous, immigrants, women, other gender-oppressed people and those who are disabled, low-wage earners, jobless or incarcerated.

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.

Since the early 1990s, the fund has helped sponsor the workers.org website. Throughout the pandemic when fewer print issues have been produced due to staff health concerns, new articles have been posted daily at workers.org, where the weekly newspaper’s PDF has been displayed. Not one online issue has been skipped throughout this two-year health crisis.

For a donation of $60, $120 or $240 a year, you receive a WNI newspaper subscription and one, two or three free subscriptions for friends, depending on donation. Read a free download of “What Road to Socialism?”, published in 2020, at workers.org/books. Notify us if you want a paperback book.

Write checks (either monthly or annually) to Workers World and mail them, with your name and address, to Workers World, 147 W. 24th St., 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10011. Put “Supporter Program” in the memo line. Or donate online at workers.org/donate.

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

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

Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, attacks on im/migrants, misogyny, LGBTQ+ oppression and mistreatment of people with disabilities. It means joblessness, increasing homelessness and 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 a job — unless they can pay for it.

No social problems can be solved under capitalism.

By Richie Merino
New York City

Hundreds of protestors marched through midtown Manhattan streets April 20 in support of the Palestinian liberation struggle. They were rallying against Zionist attacks on the al-Aqsa Mosque, as well as cities and villages throughout occupied Palestine.

The demonstration began outside the Zionist Israeli consulate, as people gathered to hear activists from Within Our Lifetime-United For Palestine, Samidoun New York/New Jersey, Palestinian Youth Movement, Existence is Resistance and Deolonize This Planet. The speakers and audience alike expressed full support for the Palestinian people's struggle to liberate their land “from the river to the sea.”

Protesters then marched, waving Palestinian flags, shouting chants for liberation and return and carrying banners: “Globalize the Intifada,” “Honor the Martyrs of Palestine Within Our Lifetime.” The demonstration was met with applause, whistles and claps by passersby on the streets and at its endpoint at the public plaza at 59th Street and Fifth Avenue.

During times of increased Israeli aggression, a thermonuclear defense and support of Palestinian resistance is imperative in every way possible. Zionist attempts to weaken the collective Palestinian spirit and to undermine popular support and trust for Palestine will fail, when faced by solidarity with Palestinian resistance.

Those who marched affirm that we remain steadfast in our determination to liberate Palestine — including the 4,500 Palestinians incarcerated for their leadership in the liberation struggle.

We demand: End all U.S. aid to the racist state of Israel! Free all incarcerated workers struggling against the forces of Zionism!

We assert: Strength and victory to the resistance! Palestine will be free from the river to the sea! 🔥
ALU organizes movement for second union vote

By Monica Moorehead

Staten Island, New York

An earth-shattering victory was won April 1 by the Black, rank and file-led Amazon Labor Union to organize a union at Amazon’s JFK8 warehouse – the first such win against Amazon in the U.S. On the heels of this historic victory, the largest ALU rally to date was held April 24 outside the Starbucks JFK8 facility.

Hundreds of unionists and supporters, including representatives from the progressive movement, cheered as speaker after speaker expressed their whole-hearted gratitude to and solidarity with the ALU, which has uplifted and changed the social landscape of the entire labor movement.

The rally was anticipated even before a second union vote for ALU got underway April 25 at Amazon sorting warehouse LDJ5, near the now-unionized JFK8 facility.

This second union drive at Amazon facilities is so significant that seasoned organizers with the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers Union (UE) from North Carolina, Virginia and Chicago traveled to Staten Island to help do outreach to Amazon workers before the vote and to be present at the epic rally as well.

ALU president Christian Smalls chaired the rally. Speakers included U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders; Sara Nelson, international president, Association of Flight Attendants-CWA; Kshama Sawant, socialist Seattle city council member who pledged $20,000 to ALU; Charles Jenkins, president, Coalition of Black Trade Unions, New York City chapter; Randi Weingarten, president, American Federation of Teachers (AFT); Jessica Roberts, state senator, Queens, New York; Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, U.S. representative, New York District 14; a delegation of Amazon workers; and others.

May Day at Union Square

Larry Holmes, representing Workers Assembly Against Racism, invited everyone to attend the May Day rally and march, May 1 at Union Square, New York City. Holmes stated that the ALU, Starbucks Workers United and other unionizing efforts and victories will be celebrated there. He urged that all workers of all generations come to support these youth-led revolutionary campaigns that are scaring the bosses – like Jeff Bezos, Howard Schultz and others on Wall Street – to death!

Union surge puts serious pressure on NLRB

By Martha Grevatt

When it comes to busting unions, there are two tricks that a boss will use to mislead and intimidate potential pro-union workers. High on the list are mandatory “captive audience” meetings. Until now, the National Labor Relations Board has allowed companies to require attendance at these meetings – held when workers are on the clock – and force workers to suffer through a negative, one-sided presentation.

While working school union representation wait weeks or months for the NLRB to schedule an election, a union-busting corporation such as Starbucks or Amazon can use the wait time to propagandize in favor of a vote against the union. Facing retaliation – even firing – if they do not attend, workers really are held captive during these obligatory sessions.

One might think this would be illegal under Section 7 of the 1935 National Labor Relations Act, which grants “the right to self-organization,” and Section 8(a) of which deems it an unfair National Labor Practice for an employer “to interfere with, restrain or coerce employees in the exercise of the rights guaranteed in Section 7,” (nlt.gov)

Now at long last, NLRB General Counsel Jennifer Abruzzo purportedly agrees. In an April 7 memo to the Board, she states, “The Board years ago incorrectly concluded that an employer does not violate the Act by compelling its employees to attend meetings in which it makes speeches urging them to reject union representation” and adds she “will urge the Board to correct that anomaly.”

Abruzzo cites a 1948 case allowing the company “to schedule an election, a union-busting effort in organizing campaigns. But until the Board votes, it’s union busting as usual.”

What is significant about the Joy Silk doctrine – which came out of a 1949 case but was overturned in the 1974 Linden Lumber case – is that it mandated that an employer generally had to recognize a union by “card check.” Before the 1974 ruling, if a majority of workers signed union authorization cards, the company could only require a secret ballot election if it demonstrated a “good faith doubt” that a majority of eligible employees had actually signed cards.

There are currently many examples of unions collecting cards signed by a majority of workers, only to later lose a representation election. The NLRB election process gives the boss time to misinform and scare enough workers into voting “no.” If the NLRB votes to ban mandatory captive audience meetings and/or reinstate the Joy Silk doctrine, that will give unions a huge advantage in organizing campaigns. But until the Board votes, it’s union busting as usual.

Abruzzo, formerly on the legal staff of the Communications Workers union (CWA), was appointed NLRB general counsel in February 2021, after President Joe Biden fired Trump appointee Peter B. Robb. However, there have been plenty of attorneys in her position who were appointed by Democratic presidents, yet took no action to reverse Board practices that undermined unions. Why now?

What has made a change is the current labor upsurge being led by Starbucks and Amazon workers. Even before the memo and brief from Abruzzo’s office, some unions, including the Teamsters, were weighting the idea of skipping the election process altogether and going on strike if an employer refuses to recognize the union via card check.

A political appointite is not so likely to make concessions to labor, when there is a hull in the class struggle – but the same individual may feel compelled to take a progressive position when unions are on the move.

In fact, the NLRB might be overwhelmed by the growing number of work forces filing for representation elections. Since April 1 alone there have been over 200 separate filings, 15 just on April 21. The surge in the month of April includes over 50 Starbucks stores across the country.

Clearly, the class struggle is putting tremendous pressure on the ruling class.
Doctors unionize
By a vote of 209-39 in favor, the resident physicians at the University of Vermont Medical Center have become the newest members of the Committee of Interns and Residents (CIR). The National Labor Relations Board held the union elections last summer, after the hospital declined to recognize the union despite over two-thirds of the resident staff signing union membership cards. (Seven Days, April 14)

The Service Employees Union (SEIU) and has over 20,000 members across the U.S. Resident physicians are the backbone of medical staff at university hospitals. They work long hours, especially in the evening and overnight “off” hours, when attending physicians are not available. Even with changes to residency work hour sets in 2003, many resident doctors still work 80 hours a week, and they sometimes work for 30 hours straight. (cseiu.org)

Resident union members share a common concern with nurses’ unions. How can they properly and safely work, organizing workshops and providing administrative assistance. The union drive also highlighted the pre-

position of international graduate students, who are often prevented from working in the summer, and the need to form a union gained momentum during the pandemic when graduate students bore the task of testing up online learning for students. Carolyn Cargile, a Senior Teaching Fellow and Ph.D. candidate in Fordham’s English Department, credited the Amazon and Starbucks union drives as inspiration. She said, “Especially seeing the victory at Amazon — which has such a history of union busting and anti-union campaign — and seeing the union win, it emphasized that these really powerful corporations are not immune to the work of organizing.” (The Bronx Free Press, April 14)

Grad students want credit
Graduate Students at Fordham University in New York City voted by a landslide to join the Communications Workers of America (CWA). The NLRB tally was 229 in favor of unionizing and only 15 opposed. The graduate students are fighting for a pay increase, better health care benefits and child care. They seek a formal grievance process, since they are often exploited by universi-
ties who consider them a cheap labor pool.

Grad student duties at Fordham include teaching classes, tutoring students, supporting faculty members’ work, organizing workshops and providing administra-
tive assistance. The union drive also highlighted the pre-

position of international graduate students, who are often prevented from working in the summer, and the need to form a union gained momentum during the pandemic when graduate students bore the task of setting up online learning for students. Carolyn Cargile, a Senior Teaching Fellow and Ph.D. candidate in Fordham’s English Department, credited the Amazon and Starbucks union drives as inspiration. She said, “Especially seeing the victory at Amazon — which has such a history of union busting and anti-union campaign — and seeing the union win, it emphasized that these really powerful corporations are not immune to the work of organizing.” (The Bronx Free Press, April 14)

Essential workers win big
Worker power and union clout were forces that the Realty Advisory Board in New York City had to reckon with in order to avert a strike of essential building workers, who are members of Local 32BJ of the Service Employees Union (SEIU). The contract for the 32,000 doormen, superintendents, resident managers, handypersons, con-
cierges and porters was due to expire, and a strike was set for April 21. The last 32BJ resident building workers’ strike was over 30 years ago and lasted 12 days.

The contract still needs to be ratified by the rank and file, but negotiations have guaranteed a 12.6% wage increase, $3,000 bonus, 100% employer-paid health insurance with no premium-sharing for union members and protected paid sick leave and vacation days.

President Kyle Bragg said: “We got a deal done that our members have earned and deserved. This contract honors the indispensable contributions that 32BJ members made throughout the pandemic and includes a number of gains—a real victory for our members’ sacrifice.” (Eyewitnes News ABC, April 20)

Atlanta Apple store workers move to unionize
By Dianne Mathiowetz
Atlanta
April 27 — Shock waves were no doubt felt at tech giant Apple headqua-
ters when workers at the Cumberland Mall Apple retail store in Atlanta made national news with the announcement that they had filed for a National Labor Relations Board election — the first Apple store to do so in the U.S. According to a press release issued by the Communications Workers (CWA), more than 70% of the 107 employees at the store have already signed union cards.

One worker voiced excitement at the union effort with a request to get a photo of this writer in her “Power to the Workers” face mask during a visit to the store. Derrick Bowles, a member of the union organizing committee, said the first Bessemer, Alabama, drive at that Amazon warehouse in 2020 had inspired him to think seriously about the need for a union at his workplace.

Although those workers are skilled at dealing with customers’ technical ques-
tions and are subject to the same tempers and lack of respect by management as workers elsewhere, they are not immune to the work of organiza-
tion of the proletariat.

The development of modern industry, the immense majority, in the interest of the bourgeoisie; they club together in order to keep up the rate of wages; they found permanent associ-
atelions in place of the old ones. This organization of the proletariat

large, or in the common ruin of the contending classes.

From ‘The Manifesto of the Communist Party’
By Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels
These excerpts are from the edition posted at marxists.org and attributed to Marx/Engels ‘Selected Works’, Vol. One (Moscow: Progress Publishers, 1969). This 1888 translation was by Samuel Moore in cooperation with Friedrich Engels, who footnoted the opening sentence: “That is, all written history. In 1847 the pre-history of society, the social organization existing previous to recorded history, was all but unknown.” Engels adds he developed this perspective in ‘The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State’, using the research of Lewis Henry Morgan, based on knowledge shared by Ely Parker, Seneca Nation, on still existing matrilin-
eral, pre-class societies, specifically of the Iroquois Confederation in central and western New York State.

The history of all hitherto existing soci-
ety is the history of class struggles.”

Freeman and slave, patrician and ple-

bureaucracy into two great classes directly facing each other: bourgeoisie and proletariat.

The workers begin to form combin-
te the new classes, work condit-
i...
Happy birthday, Mumia!

By Betsey Piette and Gloria Rubac

Political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal’s 68th birthday was celebrated worldwide April 24. The day honoring the veteran Black Panther was marked with in-person and virtual demonstrations, solidarity events, film showings, letter writing and teach-ins in New York City; Boston; Oakland, California; and in Mexico, France and Germany.

Black Power Media broadcast an all-day “Happy Birthday, Mumia!” special. Love Not Fear and the Cops Off Campus Coalition held an all-campus teach-in and call to action from the Paul Robeson House in Philadelphia — historic home of that earlier internationally famed Black revolutionary from 1966 until 1976.

In the neighborhood in Philadelphia

Mumia’s birthday was specially celebrated with a “Give Back to the Community” in this city where he grew up.

At the Richard Allen housing project in North Philadelphia, organizers with Love Not Fear Philadelphia and other Mumia supporters swept stones and debris from a small lot where they set up soccer nets, which were later donated to the community along with other sports equipment. There were tables loaded with dozens of bags of groceries distributed to community residents, plus free books for both children and adults.

In the weeks prior to the event, organizers had gone door-to-door to let residents know to expect them. The area is surrounded and threatened by gentrification.

There was face painting for neighborhood children. Videographers from Spirit of Mandela were on hand to interview transfer participants and neighborhood residents. T-shirts were sold at discounted prices.

A highlight of the day was when two of Mumia’s friends and former classmates at Stoddert Flesher Junior High School and Benjamin Franklin High School came out to share their fond memories of Mumia, why they believed he was innocent and how he was framed.

They pointed out the house where Mumia grew up. One brought out their junior high school yearbook from 1968, which included Mumia’s picture and two pieces he wrote, as Wesley Cook, at age 14. The one called the term “Black” to be used instead of “Negro” in a reflection on the need for Black involvement in the movement initiated by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The other was a poem on self reflection.

During the event the film crew from the Spirit of Mandela hung a large red, green and black banner on a wall visible from the street. It read: “We still charge genocide.”

With activists in Houston


It was an afternoon of joy and concern. Joy that Mumia is still alive after years on death row and in prison. Concern that Mumia is living on “slow death row” with a myriad of serious health issues.

The gathering was sponsored by the Texas Death Penalty Abolition Movement; the Harris County Green Party; Workers World Party; Party for Socialism and Liberation; the Brown Berets of Houston, Tejas; Justice or Else Houston Organizing Committee; and the National Alumni Association of the Black Panther Party.

The following message of solidarity was posted on Twitter by Within Our Lifetime (@WOLPalestine): “On July 3rd, 1982, Mumia Abu-Jamal was unjustly sent to death row by a racist system. Today on his 68th birthday we join the global call to demand freedom for Mumia and all political prisoners, from Pennsylvania to Palestine! #40YearsInPrison #FreeMumia #FreeThemAll

Activists in Philadelphia are organizing for a major demonstration in Center City July 3, to mark the 40th anniversary of Mumia’s unjust conviction and sentencing. They are calling on the movement to hold events that day in at least 40 cities.

#FreeMumia #FreeThemAll

Pennsylvania Prisons
A fight for humane release policies

By Joe Piette

Philadelphia

Bradford Gamble is out of prison after serving 46 years and is now living with his nephew, Shaquan J. Jordan, in West Philadelphia. He is terminally ill with metastatic colon cancer that has spread to his liver. Gamble is one of only 33 people in the last 13 years who have successfully petitioned the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections to release him because of his health.

Gamble was arrested in 1976, when he was 19 years old, and sentenced to spend the rest of his life in prison, with no chance of parole. He says he deeply regrets his past actions, which caused the death of another person, and thinks about this every day. He is far from the rash teenager he was 46 years ago.

A terrible choice

The 66-year-old Gamble won his release because of the help of Bryant Arroyo, another incarcerated person, who informed him of a little-known state law that allows terminally ill people to be let out of prison — but only if they have less than a year to live. For those sentenced to a life term, it’s one of the only ways they can get out of prison. Rather than get treatment to prolong his life and stay in prison, Gamble decided to refuse medical treatment so he could die at home instead of behind bars. He has six months to a year left to live. If his health improves, the DOC or a state prosecutor could send him back to prison.

“The statute is drafted so narrowly that it forces you to make decisions like forgoing lifesaving treatment in order to get even the possibility of medical transfer,” said Rupakel Rashedaw, an attorney with the Abolitionist Law Project, a public interest law firm that represented Gamble in his transfer petition. Rashawat is working to help more seriously ill people get out of prison before they die.

End life terms without parole

Abolitionist activists are trying to get laws passed that would put an end to life sentences without the possibility of parole. In Pennsylvania, 13.4% of people in prison are sentenced to life terms without parole, compared to a 5.6% average in other states.

This and other sobering statistics compiled in a Families for Justice Reform report are driven by two state laws: the mandatory minimum sentence of life imprisonment required for first- and second-degree murder charges; and the denial of parole eligibility to anyone with a life sentence.

By 2019, because of these and other severe sentencing policies, Pennsylvania courts had imprisoned more than seven times the number of people they incarcerate in 1970.

Harm sentences target the oppressed

These laws are racist. While Black residents comprise 11% of Pennsylvania’s population, an astounding 63% of those sentenced to life terms are Black. As a result of decades of these draconian white-superiorist sentencing policies, the prison population of those 50 years of age or older increased from 353 people in 1970 to 10,706 in 2019. This is a 30-fold increase!

There is no rational reason to imprison people for so many decades, especially after they reach the age of 50. The fact is that only 1% of those released at age 55 or older are reincarcerated within three years. Among people previously convicted of first- and second-degree murder, 11% were serving life sentences. Thus, it is only 1% of those sentenced to life terms who will be reincarcerated within three years.

Not only are activists and relatives of incarcerated people campaigning to end life sentences without parole, but there is an effort to persuade state legislators to pass a compassionate release policy for elderly and ill people.

Rally to abolish death by incarceration!

The Coalition to Abolish Death by Incarceration is one of many Pennsylvania organizations demanding that legislators support bills that would allow “our loved ones” the opportunity to come home from prison. The organization is mobilizing for a movement wide “Second chances keep our communities safe” rally in front of the state capitol in Harrisburg, on May 25. (Bcme/e/35LH9D8h)

Thousands of people remain in Pennsylvania’s prisons even if they are ill, were imprisoned decades earlier and are no longer considered a threat to the public. It’s a burden on people in prison and their families. It also costs the state $2.2 billion a year to feed, house and provide medical care for incarcerated people.

Gamble told his supporters a few days after his release, “I didn’t make it out here just to say, oh, I’m home. Family, friends, it’s lovely. It’s beautiful. But I got more to do.”

Wanting to inform health care workers about medical abuse in the prisons, he stressed: “I’m a human being. And I deserve to be treated as a human being, I want you all to know that there are things going on behind closed doors.

“People like me are not being treated as human beings. We’re being treated like cattle. We’re being treated like nonfunctional robots. The DOC medical department is 100% wrong in their way of treating us. We need people to know and understand that. I’m out here now, but I never left the prison mentally, because a lot of the people I love are still there. And they need your help.” (workers.org, March 22)

A month later, Gamble participated in a petition via Zoom on April 20 along with Celeste Trusty, Secretary of the Pennsylvania Board of Pardons, and State Senator Sharif Street. He joined panel members in urging legislators to pass SB688, which would replace the current restrictive compassionate release law and establish more flexible parole opportunities based on age or illness.
Supporters rally to stop Melissa Lucio’s execution

By Gloria Rubac

April 25 - Melissa Lucio was granted a stay of her April 27 execution by the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, to consider evidence of her innocence.

A National Day of Action for Melissa Lucio was held from coast to coast in the U.S. on April 23. Lucio, the first woman of Mexican descent on Texas' death row, has lived in relative anonymity since being wrongfully convicted of capital murder in 2006 in the tragic death of her young daughter.

Now she is facing execution April 27 for a crime that never occurred. Lucio has maintained her innocence for 14 years.

From Dallas to Boston, Cleveland to Los Angeles, and throughout Texas — Austin, Houston, Brownsville, Dallas, El Paso, Harlingen and San Antonio — the rallying cry was “Free Melissa! Stop the execution!”

In Houston, as well as in no other cities, family members and supporters of Lucio participated. Activists spoke there with local and national media, with both English and Spanish language TV present.

Cops terrorize child, protect a bag of Doritos

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

Syracuse, New York

By now you’ve probably seen the video, if you can bear to watch yet another horrifying, racist police assault on a peaceful color. Three massive white cops are terrorizing and shoving around — an eight-year-old Black child.

A week ago, in this city where I live, Kenneth Jackson videotaped the cops manhandling and shoving the wailing and screaming eight-year-old pat on the butt, barking “Keep walking,” “He’s a kid,” “Yes, he’s a kid!” And in the background, “Are you going to pay for what he takes?”

Jackson says, “Yes, he’s a kid!” And in the background, “Why are we all doing?” For a bag of chips, you treating him like a child in a dungeon.

The cops are defiant, barking “Keep walking,” “He’s stealing,” “Are you going to pay for what he takes?” Jackson says, “Yes, he’s a kid!” And in the background, “Why are we all doing?” For a bag of chips, you treating him like a child in a dungeon.

The cops drive off with the child, whose fate is unknown to those watching.

For all we know, he will be suddenly, “accidentally” dead like Tamir Rice, who was 12 years old when he was killed by cops for just being a boy, fiddling with his toy gun, in a playground in Cleveland.

Or almost asphyxiated, like the 12-year-old Black girl in Kenosha, Wisconsin, this March, when a cop kneel with his knee on her neck, her “same ‘suffocating’ move that killed the adult George Floyd in nearby Minneapolis. Or body-slammed, like a young Black girl in 2021 by a white “resource” officer in Florida. Or handcuffed with extensive injury force, like the 10-year-old Black girl seized by a white cop in Honolulu in 2020. (The Root, April 21)

Like any of the thousands of Black children hurt and killed by the forces of white-supremacist “law” and vigilantism in the U.S. over the last 100 years.

Since then, the police chief has resigned — with no reference to this footage as a reason. His replacement defended the cops as doing “Community Policing 101.” Excused because they didn’t handcuff or arrest the eight year old, but “took him home” — to “imindiate his her, who works two jobs, take care of a sick wife and tries to keep his family together. Yes, this is “community policing” — where it is blatantly obvious that the cops’ job is to protect property, not people. Three cops throw an eight-year-old Black child around — because of a bag of Doritos.

And did anyone ask the child if he was hungry? The Census Bureau ranks Syracuse number one in child poverty in the U.S. for a city its size. (syracuse.com, March 27) The city school in my neighborhood has an entire “resource” room filled with backpacks, shirts and shoes.

For all we know, he will be suddenly, “accidentally” dead like Tamir Rice, who was 12 years old when he was killed by cops for just being a boy, fiddling with his toy gun, in a playground in Cleveland.

Community marches for justice for Patrick Lyoya

By Sam Tuminingly

This article appeared in the April 13 online issue of Fightback News! (fightback.org)! Four police video images of the killing of Patrick Lyoya were released that day. On April 22 Lyoya’s funeral service took up the character of a political rally with hundreds attending and Black political leaders demanding justice. Audience members carried signs and wore t-shirts with the assertion, “It’s our right to live,” in English, Sushahili and French, spoken in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Grand Rapids, Michigan - A crowd of hundreds marched to the Grand Rapids City Commissioners meeting, April 13, to demand both the release of several images of the raw video showing the murder of Patrick Lyoya and the arrest of the still-unnamed killer cop. Lyoya was a 26-year-old Congolese immigrant executed by the Grand Rapids Police Department last week (April 4 - WW). In the days after his death, citywide mourning and protests against the police have increased and are expected to surge after the release of the video this Wednesday.

The police department has continued to stall the footage, while the city insists it is acting in full transparency. Patrick’s father, Peter Lyoya, said the video shows his son murdered “execution style” on the ground. The family has said the narrative was that of the department, that there was a “struggle,” run counter to the facts.

The Royal Black Panther Party of Grand Rapids organized the protest for the first time at the meeting. It was attended by hundreds of community members and weaved through all the major streets of downtown. “Say his name! Patrick Lyoya!” and “You can’t stop the revolution! GRPD is not the solution!” echoed through the city.

Before the protest, barricades were erected around the police station. A few of the businesses downtown have boarded up their windows with “Patrick Lyoya” painted on the plywood.

The protesters stopped in front of City Hall and were led through chants of “I am! A revolutionary!” and “Black power!” before crowding into the building. Demonstrators were led up in groups due to capacity limits, while the rest stayed on the first floor to continue chanting and watching the livestream in an overflow room.

City Manager Mark Washington, near the beginning of the meeting, said the video would be released tomorrow at 3 p.m. during a livestream with the police chief, who will “provide context” for the images. The video provided Wednesday will be composed from nine different sources. GRPD Chief Eric Winstrom released a statement warning the video has “graphic images resulting from the loss of life” and will be tagged with an age restriction on the city’s YouTube page.

During public comments, calls for the release of the video, the arrest of the unnamed killer cop and the resignation of the entire commissioner board were prevalent. A few speakers acknowledged their continued presence at the meetings over the past few years, and the city’s inaction in resolving the GRPD’s brutality, which has left local activists with physical injuries and mental trauma.

Commissioners were called out by name for failing to do their jobs and for their “crocodile tears” now that the attention is on them. One local woman said her husband was murdered by the GRPD, and her 12-year-old child was too traumatized to attend the meeting.

The meeting lasted well over four hours. Further protests were scheduled for after the release of the video. ☐

Another life, another loss

April 19 — They came to America to escape from interethnic wars in the DRC, the Democratic Republic of Congo, in central Africa. Like many refugees of war, they thought that America was the land of peace. The Lyoya family settled in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and began living their lives as refugees have done for generations.

But something as small as a traffic incident revealed the limits of the land of peace. When 26-year-old Patrick Lyoya faced a traffic stop, he appeared to turn his vehicle into a bullet with a sprint to a cop stopped his vehicle. He bursts into a sprint with a cop in hot pursuit. When the cop pulls a Taser, Lyoya seems to cover it with his hands, thus blocking its effect.

Someone points a phone cam at the altercation, which shows a cop seemingly on Lyoya’s back, pushing his head downwards. A shot is heard, and Patrick Lyoya is gone, dead from a bullet in the back of his head. Once again, driving while Black is a capital offense.

For Love not Phear, this is Mumia Abu-Jamal.

These commentaries are recorded by PrisonRadio.org.
The coming of age of a Vietnam War military resister

By John Catalinotto


That Greg Laxer, who most of us in the American Servicemen’s Union office circa 1968 knew as “the Shadow,” should write and publish a memoir of that period, is no surprise. Like the more famous “Shadow” — the old-time radio-drama namesake of his protective pseudonym — he knew the evil that lurked in the hearts of Pentagon generals, and he was ready to expose it to the world.

Even in 1968, Laxer had a reputation of being the most stubborn of a determined iconoclasts in the ASU, a characteristic vital for writing and producing a book about his experiences.

Laxer was one of a group of antitwar heroes this reviewer had the privilege to know and/or work with, those at the visible apex of the iceberg of resistance in the ranks of the military, those who were among the first to resist and keep resisting. What these leaders represented terrified the Pentagon’s officer corps — at least those capable of understanding the politics of what was happening — who finally decided they wanted a professional army.

A voyage through the 1960s

To be effective and worthwhile, a historical memoir must be honest, as accurate as possible, and it should take into account the reader’s feelings at each moment of crisis.

Not that he always told all the truth to his parents. No, but as he reread them for the memoir, he remembered what he was hiding from them or why he was being so bad about the mail. He remembered how he felt when he wrote them. The reader who pays attention will feel it too.

In a letter to his parents at the time of his first confrontation in the Army, Laxer wrote that his attorney “thought accepting the Article 15 wouldn’t be a bad idea, but I said it would equal alibi surrender. I convinced him that he couldn’t dissuade me from making a stand at trial.” (p. 102)

Laxer displayed his stubbornness repeatedly in his memoir. Other antitwar soldiers might have accepted their lawyer’s advice to plead guilty to a minor infraction, instead of forcing a court-martial they were doomed to lose. Laxer never accepted what appeared to be a prudentially wise tactic if he believed it violated his principles.

Embracing the ‘enemy’

While getting experience as a medic at Valley Forge General Hospital in Pennsylvania in 1969, Laxer had to fill out a form for the $5,000 insurance payment in 1969 should he be killed in combat. He wrote, “I designate as my beneficiary ‘The National Liberation Front of South Vietnam.’” (p. 177)

From the family letters you can find a bibliography of revolutionary ideology that Laxer devoured during those years. Marx, Lenin, Malcolm X and Franz Fanon were on the list. Anyone interested in the music of that period would find an equally impressive discography of the protest musicians, jazz players, composers and other popular artists of the time.

At the start of his Army experience, Laxer was a committed pacifist. After a few years of reading and the direct contact with Pentagon reality, his voyage had him to understand the necessity for oppressed peoples and nations to resist U.S. imperialism, with arms if necessary. His pantheon of heroes included Ho Chi Minh.

Aborts short on money — most of which he spent on books and records — to get a ticket to Hawaii and join the sanctuary struggle there in August 1969, the AWOL Laxer typed an authentic-looking military order to report to Honolulu and use it to board a flight.

He was present at some of the biggest struggles in the military during his four years, from Oahu, Hawaii, Fort Ord, California, to the Fort Dix Stockade in New Jersey. Anyone who wants to learn how the Vietnam War affected this individual — and many different personalities who made a similar voyage — should pick up this memoir.

Catalinotto was circulation manager for The Bond, the newspaper of the American Servicemen’s Union from 1968-70, and is author of “Turn the Guns Around — Multinational Soldiers Revolt and Revolution.”

U.S. aims to push China into war over Taiwan

By Jorge Cadina

Article first published in Avance, the weekly newspaper of the Portuguese Communist Party, April 21. Translation: John Catalinotto.

It is evident that the U.S./European Union wants to prolong the war in Ukraine as long as possible. But war-mongering is also evident at the other end of the planet: The U.S. is repeating the Ukraine script in Taiwan.

Contrary to the words of respect for China’s territorial integrity uttered during the video-summit between Presidents Xi [Jinping] and [Joe] Biden in March, the Special Administrative Region of China, with 75 million inhabitants, is a region of the Chinese Republic and the People’s Republic of China.

The Chinese response also took the form of military maneuvers, which the April 15 GT describes thus: “The Chinese island, including the hawk of all wars, Lindsey Graham, already in March there was a visit by senior U.S. military and intelligence officials. Arms are being sold to the island, which is not officially recognized as a country by the U.S. itself: $780 million last year (TheHedensfotostart, Aug. 6, 2021); $100 million in February (CNN, Feb. 8); $95 million in April (Al Jazeera, April 6).

While the flames of war are burning in Ukraine, it would seem logical not to instigate new hotbeds of conflict. That’s how it would be if decadent imperialism did not want war. But it does. And just as it uses force to consolidate its empire, it is ready to push China into a war over Taiwan.

The Global Times states that “the deceptive nature and duplicity of U.S. policy toward China is fully exposed.” (GT, April 9) The Chinese Minister of Foreign Affairs demanded that Pelosi not only postpone, but cancel the visit. (GT, April 9)

The Chinese response also took the form of military maneuvers, which the April 15 GT describes thus: “The People’s Liberation Army is ready for combat and will defend all the wars of imperialism, including the invasion of Taiwan, if necessary.” (GT, April 15)

U.S. aims to push China into war over Taiwan

Stop U.S. war games!

‘One dream to reunite Korea’

By Brenda Ryan

A march calling for reunification of Korea and an end to U.S.-South Korea war games rallied in New York City on April 23. The protest began at Dag Hammarskjold Plaza with chants of “Stop the U.S. war machine from North Korea to the Philippines,” “No more war drills” and “End U.S. war games.” People proceeded to the Republic of Korea Permanent Mission to the United Nations and then formed a human chain from the United Nations to the Republic of Korea Permanent Mission of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea to the U.N. to unite the two Korea.

“If our dream in 1945, we’ve always had one dream to reunite Korea,” one of the organizers told the crowd. But they added, U.S. war games, which take place several times a year on the Korean Peninsula, are “driving 80 million Koreans to fear and despair, destroying any hope for inter-Korean relations.”

The event was organized by the 615 N.Y. Committee for Reunification of Korea with the support of numerous organizations, including the International Action Center and Workers World Party.

Militarism is always accompanied by lies and authoritarianism. Publie, the newspaper of Big Capital that has defended all the wars of imperialism, including the invasion of Iraq, is indignant at those who raise suspicions about war propaganda. Suspicions [were] expressed by exter nal forces and seces sionist initiatives [. . .] so as to preserve national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Meanwhile, the U.S. strives to destabilize Pakistan and threats India, “guilty” of not going along with the strat egy of sanctions and war-mongering against Russia. (GT, April 12)

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George Galloway, on April 17. Lira is a critic of the post-coup regime in Kiev, as well as its president, Volodymyr Zelensky. On April 26 tweet, Lira wrote, “You want to learn the truth about the Zelensky regime? Google these names,” [336x915] "Human Rights Watch, have accused "The Galloway Show," hosted by antiwar People first became alarmed when he did the war— pushes this dangerous policy of the people in the markets are relieved on April 22 to dis- forged student debt, finance housing for the Russian government, said that the Russian government is fighting Nazi influence in Ukraine and a propaganda crusade to make Stepan Bandera— a Nazi collaborator during WWII — a national hero throughout Ukraine. "Gen- a third conclusion is that the arms manufacturers to the most armed forces— from prolonging the war creates forces— from the current vilification cam- on Lira's list? What happened to them? The people Lira referred to are in his haunting late March tweet. The first SBU victim mentioned is Vlodymyr Struk, a well-known journalist, Lira tweeted. The Second person on the list is Denis Kireev, a top member of the Ukrainian negotiating team killed in broad daylight in Kiev, after the first round of talks with Russians, allegedly by the SBU. (Grayzone, April 17). Also on Lira’s list are Mikhail and for the liberation of the city of Genichesk, in 2015. A Workers World article, "U.S., EU threaten Belarus while of context. The current vilification cam- Never Ukrainian officials have been bringing about "decommunization," a pro-capitalist attack against socialism that started with the counterrevolution of the Soviet Union in 1991 and that intensified shortly after the 2014 overthrow of former Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych." According to a report from the Indian Marxist journal, The International, “Decommunization rules were intro- duced in 2015 to prohibit communist iconography, and the electoral commission decided that the Communist Party of Ukraine (KPU) would not be allowed to run in the 2019 elections.” (March 10) As part of its “decommunization” camp- aign, Zelensky personally announced March 20 the suspension of 11 moderate to left-wing political parties in Ukraine. The parties barred: Freedom Party-For Life, Shariy Party, Nashi, Opposition Bloc, Left Opposition, Union of Left Forces, State, Progressive Socialist Party of Ukraine, Socialist Party of Ukraine, Socialists Party and Volodymyr Saldo Bloc. The targeting of some of these parties threatens the security of the trade unions affiliated with them, despite Zelensky being portrayed as a “liberal darling” by the West. Statues and monuments representing national liberation, socialism and work- ers’ power have been destroyed through- out Ukraine. Workers World has featured articles about the destructive and mur- derous actions of anti-communist forces within Ukraine since the destruction of the USSR, including interviews with peo- ple who fought against those forces of reaction in 2014. In May 28, 2021, a Workers World article warned about the threats Belarus and pro-defensive pro-Russian forces, pointed out that reactionary Belarusian opposition Roman Protasevich joined the pro-Nazi Azov Battalion — the official regiment of the Ukrainian National Guard — for a 2014 photo op of this group destroying a statue of Bolshevik revolutionary leader, Vladimir Lenin. Recently a statue of Lenin taken down by the Ukrainian government in 2015 was reconstructed two days before the late revolutionary’s 152nd birthday. On April 20 “Coordinamento Ucraina Antifascista” posted a photo of the statue on Facebook with this comment: “United in the Flag of Victory, the statue of Lenin restored after the liberation of the city of Genichesk, in Kherson region.” There is a Crusade of Ukrainian nationalist- ists and proponents of Stepan Bandera to silence their critics, ban moderate- to-left opposition and even murder some of their challengers. Unfortunately, there are many progressive-minded peo- ple, particularly in the West, who are focused on the wrong direction. Genuine anti-imperialists and Marxist revolutionaries who care about the Ukrainian and Russian working classes and oppressed peoples need to demand: Self-determination for People’s Republics in Donbas! No arms to Ukraine! Disband NATO! ☐ U.S. escalates war Continued from page 1 major world military powers, armed with thousands of nuclear weapons. It can lead to World War III. A windfall for the merchants of death and Human Rights Watch, have accused Antisemitism, which ignores the atrocities committed by the current government in Kiev. Rarely realized is the fact that the Ukrainian government is the product of an illegitimate 2014 coup, carried out by fascist hooligans with the financial blessing of the U.S. and NATO. Now since early March, several Ukrainian dissidents — opponents of the Kiev regime — have been arrested or kidnapped by the government Security Service of Ukraine, known as the SBU, and the Western media has been silent. A Grayzone April 17 article claims, “Pro- Western monitors, including the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, have charged the SBU of systematically torturing poli- tical opponents and Ukrainian dissidents with near-total impunity.” “The U.N. OHCHR found in 2016 that ‘arbitrary detention, enforced disappear- ances, torture and ill-treatment of such conflict-related detainees were common practice of SBU.’” — A former Kharkiv SBU officer explained, “For the SBU, the law virtually does not exist, as everything that is illegal can be either classified or explained by referring to state necessity.” The mysterious case of Gonzalez Lira Anti-imperialist activists around the world were relieved on April 22 to discover that Chilean journalist Gonzalez Lira was still alive, after he had gone missing in March 26. People first became alarmed when he did not appear on his scheduled tweet of the “The Galloway Show,” hosted by antiwar George Galloway, on April 17. Lira is a critic of the post-coup regime in Kiev, as well as its president, Volodymyr Zelensky. On April 26 tweet, Lira wrote, “You want to learn the truth about the Zelensky regime? Google these names,” in the market industrial, complex, first and foremost for U.S. arms manufacturers and their critics. If you have not heard from me in 12 hours or more, put my name on this list.” [219x954] George Galloway's tweet is Dimitri Djangrov, Washington, D.C., Jan. 27. Antiwar protesters rally in front of the White House, Washington, D.C., Jan. 27.
May Day message
Workers and oppressed people of the world, unite!

Corporate advertisers change their slogans regularly. How many of us remember “Look for the golden arches”? We can date ourselves by what we can recall. But it’s a different story with the slogans of the working class. “An injury to one is an injury to all” has stood the test of time. The same with the chorus of U.S. labor’s most famous anthem: “Solidarity forever, for the union makes us strong.”

Today we remind ourselves that the struggle of the most oppressed for liberation is part and parcel of the fight for socialism. Solidarity against national oppression — racism and white supremacy in the U.S. — and other forms of special oppression is how we build working-class unity. It’s part of building a global, classwide movement to bring down the capitalist system of exploitation.

International Workers Day — May 1, May Day — is when, on the same day all over the world, workers demonstrate their power. The day was declared in 1889 at a socialist conference and recognizes a mass protest three years prior, where workers, many of them immigrants, demonstrated in Haymarket Square in Chicago for the eight-hour workday. Eight workers and union leaders were framed by the state of Illinois for the killing of a police officer; five paid the ultimate price.

“We have shown that we can win”

For decades May Day, recognized around the world, had barely been celebrated in the U.S. In 2005 the Million Worker March Movement led a May Day march in New York City. In 2006 millions of immigrant workers held a general strike, one of the few political strikes and by far the biggest in the U.S. labor history. May Day is now again commemorated every year across the country.

This past year has witnessed a marked increase in the number of strikes and union drives. In the U.S. Starbucks and Amazon workers and the National Labor Relations Board at about 30 eateries, and so far the union has won at all but one store. The Amazon Labor Union (ALU) won its first — and definitely not its last — election at a warehouse in Staten Island. This is a black-led union with many immigrant members from all over the world.

In a joint May Day statement, Starbucks Workers United and the ALU said: “From Buffalo, New York, to Memphis, Tennessee, to Staten Island, New York, 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.”

Last year total union membership in the U.S. fell by 300,000 members, continuing a decades-long pattern of decline. But so far this year, at nearly 1,000 different workplace locations, workers have filed for a union election. The filings are trending upward, with over 2000 so far in April. (nlrb.gov)

“Labor’s fortunes are about to be reversed by a new, youth-led working-class surge”

This is part of a global resurgence of the class struggle, with mass strikes in India, Haiti, Brazil, France and other countries over the past year.

Lenin’s call to action is hardly out of style. Workers and oppressed people of the world, unite! You have nothing to lose but your chains! (nlrb.gov)

French election

Xenophobe loses, banker wins

By G. Dunkel

Emmanuel Macron, the candidate for Forward the Republic (La République En Marche [EM]), won the second round of France’s presidential election with 58.54% of the vote. His opponent Marine Le Pen, the candidate for the National Rally (Rassemblement National [RN]), got 41.46% of the vote.

The two bourgeois parties which have alternated in running France ever since de Gaulle instituted the Fifth Republic in 1958 have evaporated. Their pitiful descendants together got less than 6% of the vote in the first round of the presidential elections April 10. That meant they neither made the second round nor received government funding.

Macron’s re-election is the result of attacks on the working class. He raised taxes on gasoline and diesel, which set off the Yellow Vest movement at the end of 2018. This movement produced tens of thousands of protests, mainly in rural areas of France, over a broad range of issues — fuel prices, a tax on wealth, police violence and raising the minimum wage. It’s estimated that 3 million people participated.

Macron’s government had police fire rubber-coated bullets at demonstrators, injuring thousands, many of whom lost an eye.

Macron changed the labor law so that it was easier to fire workers. He tried to raise the age of retirement.

One common charge against him is that he is “a president of the rich,” unsurprising considering his career as an investment banker at Rothschild & Co. He has vigorously pursued neocolonial interventions in the African countries which are former French colonies.

Le Pen’s xenophobia

Le Pen proposed laws making it legal to discriminate against people whose national identity is not French. She advocates legalizing discrimination against Muslims—there are around 6 million Muslims living in France—against women (with a ban on abortion) and against immigrants.

She has made a big point of promising to improve workers’ incomes by lowering the value-added tax—a sales tax—on consumer goods.

In her concession speech after the results were announced, Le Pen said that although she didn’t win, she could still have a victory if she won 40% of the vote. But while over 40% of French voters who went to the polls did indeed support Le Pen, the number of voters who stayed home, or cast blank or spoiled ballots, was the highest since 1969. Many progressives refused to vote for either candidate.

The Greens, the Socialists, the Communist Party and the Republicans all issued calls for their supporters to vote for Macron, to create a “republican bloc” against the far right.

Jean-Luc Mélenchon and his party, La France Insoumise (France Unbowed), who narrowly missed the second round coming in a close third to Le Pen in the first round, called for “no vote for Le Pen” but refrained from endorsing Macron.

Calls for a third round

A group of trade unions considered to be moderate has called for a major push at the May Day events to defend the interests of all French workers.

A group of small left parties and anarchist groups have called for a Third Round of struggle in the streets. In Toulouse, Marseille, Strasbourg and Paris, hundreds of people came out to protest and confront the police April 24 after the results were announced.

Putting forward their version of Round 3, Mélenchon and France Insoumise, along with the Union de la Gauche (Coalition of the Left), have announced a campaign for Mélenchon to run for the post of prime minister in the parliamentary elections in the middle of June.

Like the presidents of the United States, Russia and Turkey, the French president wields major executive powers, but the French president cannot be impeached or forced to resign. The French prime minister runs the government and is responsible to the National Assembly. And the Assembly can hold a vote of no-confidence and remove the prime minister at any time.

Nevertheless, the president’s decrees need the prime minister’s signature. While the prime minister is appointed by the president, the National Assembly must accept the person. If a party other than the president’s controls the National Assembly, the president must choose that party’s candidate.

The class struggles that have been roiling France the past few years will continue, despite the election results.
Climate emergencies and U.S. impe-
rialsm have made a historic leap: they are increasing the death ratio of the entire population. In the world of cars and air, where everything is powered by fossil fuels, oil, and natural gas — oil and gas have to meet the needs of the super-rich ruling class, priority must be given to Indigenous land stewardship, food sovereignty for the masses and abolishing debt.

Today, conditions for displaced persons in general are falsely blamed for much of the world’s scarcity. But there are more than enough resources to go around to take care of everyone: nature can regenerate a hundredfold of what people own, hoard and amass wealth at the expense of the people who created it. Where there are already conditions for solving much of the suffering, hundreds of years of individual socializing and capitalizing in society obscure the fact that more people are simply being displaced, yet they will ever be displaced from their land.

The displaced migrants face food insecurity, unemployment, homelessness and lack of adequate health care, water, electricity and sanitation, among other issues. During the COVID-19 pan-
demic, an estimated 40 million people in the United States — the richest coun-
try in the world — find themselves on the brink of homelessness and facing many of the exact same conditions migrants face globally.

Military, police and climate emergencies

What the U.S. military does abroad, internal law enforcement like police do to people at home. They will forcibly displace people, whether through armed force or eviction notice, so that the ruling class can make another dollar.

Also increasingly displacing those liv-
ing at home and abroad are climate emer-
gencies. Rising global temperatures from capitalist production on stolen land — par-
ticularly overproduction and overconsumption on fossil fuels like coal, oil and natural gas — has led to extreme weather. Wildfires and hurricanes are becoming more and more frequent, and more violent.

Native people successfully practiced stewardship of these lands for thousands of years with controlled burns and sustain-
able use. Their forced displacement was a driving, if not the major, factor in producing misery in order to profit the few. Land mismanagement and rising tem-
peratures have led to drier forests and deserts primed for fire and dust storms, as well as an increase in heat energy released via hurricanes. Excessive cap-
italist oil production pollutes and heats the air — which has no borders — and rising sea levels are all “gifts” from colonial land mismanagement.

The U.S. military is one of the world’s largest consumers of oil. This armed body is guilty of displacing the living by driving climate crisis in its consumption of fossil fuels — in addition to displacing the living through violent, antagonistic conflict.

A recent report put out by Brown University’s Cost of War project conserva-
tively estimates that U.S. wars since 9/11 have forcibly displaced at least 37 mil-
lion people in 21 countries, including Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, Yemen, Somalia, the Philippines, Libya and Syria. This exceeds those displaced by every earlier war since 1990, with the exception of World War II. Other data suggest that the total dis-
paced by U.S. post-9/11 wars could be closer to 58 million people.

Deaths from initial military intervention, in addition to direct combat, have been calculated to be as high as 3.1 million, with injured and traumatized folks extending into the tens of millions. (tinyurl.com/CostsOfUSWarOn Terror, Sept. 21, 2020)

The greed and violence of a few is hurting us all toward environmental collapse. More and more of us will find our situations resemble those of migrants globally. There are millions, even billions, of us whose collective sur-

vival depends on our ability to remake the world. What has been built by colonizers can be dismantled.

Capitalists have been “stewards” of the planet by force only in recent history. They claim to be stewards of the land, living in harmony for thousands of years before all this destruction. And they know how to do it again.

Abolish private property on stolen land! The earth can provide for everyone’s basic human needs. Given that we are facing with so many crises of cap-
itlism, there is much work to be done. As long as work is dictated by what makes bosses and the ruling class money, peo-
ple will not be free. And we will see more forced migration and misery.

Engaging in explicitly anti-colonial projects, the way this world was built, and we can look to those who have successfully begun to do so, like Thomas Sankara.

Thomas Sankara and agroecology

Dr. Amber Murray explains: “The rev-
olutionary transformation of the West

African country Upper Volta to Burkina Faso (what is known as the August Revolution of 1983) occurred during a previous neoliberal crisis, that of the 1980s African debt crisis. Sankara vehe-
eently and publicly denounced odious debt and rallied African political leaders to do the same.

Sankara’s politics and political lead-
nership challenged the idea that the global capitalist system cannot be undone. During four years as the president of Burkina Faso, he worked with the people to construct an emancipatory politics informed by human, social, ecological and planetary well-be-
ing. (Tambuzani News, May, 5, 2016)

Esteban’s projects spearheaded by Sankara in Burkina Faso included the centering of food so-
ecurity within the vocation of agroecology. Agroecology encourages “power-dispersing and power-creating” communal food cultivation that enhances “the dignity, knowledge and capacities of all involved” and the regeneration of the environment. (From the documentary “Sur les traces de Thomas Sankara,” 2012) Other successful projects included the planting of 10 mil-
lion trees across the Sahel, as a means of beginning to repair colonial suffocation through a sustainable agroecological system. Sankara met an untimely demise, due to his revolutionary ideas and ways to remake the world. His spirit and ideas live on in revolution today.

From independence to recent conflicts, the U.S. military has fulfilled accio-
nes militantes para apoyar y ayudar a los pasajeros del metro de Nueva York que tienen problemas de discapacidad. Los pasajeros pueden acudir a la Oficina para proteger a los fail on the face of a life according to the number of passengers of the world’s largest consumers of oil. This armed body is guilty of displacing the living by driving climate crisis in the consumption of fossil fuels — in addition to displacing the living through violent, antagonistic conflict.

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Por Richie Merino

Las fuerzas de ocupación israelíes asaltaron violentamente a los fieles palestinos el 15 de abril, durante las oraciones matutinas en la mezquita de Al-Aqsa, en la Jerusalén oriental ocupada. El ataque premeditado y orquestado se produjo el segundo viernes del Ramadán, el mes más sagrado del año para los musulmanes, cuando decenas de miles de fieles se desplazan a Al-Aqsa para rezar. Las fuerzas de ocupación israelíes hirieron a más de 230 palestinos y detuvieron a más de 400 durante el brutal asalto.

Según el Centro Palestino de Derechos Humanos (PCHR), miles de fieles sufrieron intimidaciones al entrar en las puertas del recinto de la mezquita en medio de una fuerte presencia de las fuerzas de ocupación israelíes, incluidos francotiradores encaracolados en la azotea. Dado el largo historial del régimen israelí de aterrorizar a los palestinos durante el mes sagrado del Ramadán, los fieles habían colocado barreras de madera alrededor de la mezquita en prevención de una invasión israelí.

Poco después, el Halalchm, superior del cuerpo de los fieles mientras los maltratan y los detienen por la fuerza.

Mientras tanto, en el exterior de la sala de oración, la policía israelí bloqueó la entrada al recinto y disparó balas de goma contra los paramédicos mientras corrían a socorrer a los heridos. "Golpearon a todo el mundo", dijo un periodista. "A los periodistas, a los médicos, a las ancianas... a todos los que se interponían en su camino. No perdonaron a nadie", dijo el testigo Fakhri Abu Diah a Middle East Eye. Las fuerzas israelíes dispararon balas de goma a los guardias de al-Aqsa que intentaban ayudar a las mujeres y los niños atrapados en el fuego cruzado. Otro video inquietante muestra a un agente de policía israelí golpeando a un anciano mientras le daba la espalda.

Durante y después de la invasión prevista, los israelíes incluso intentaron asaltar de nuevo la mezquita, dado el largo historial de Israel de intensificar los ataques violentos en la Palestina ocupada. Las fuerzas israelíes, por su parte, han pretendido capturar el lugar. Si estos sacrificios de animales se llevan a cabo en la mezquita de al-Aqsa llevando ovejas y respondiendo a los llamamientos de las organizaciones islamistas para sacrificar a los animales para los sacrificios religiosos. Estos grupos nacionalistas también abogan por la destrucción de la mezquita y la construcción de un templo judío en su lugar. Aunque este sacrificio no se llevará a cabo, se producirá en el interior de al-Aqsa, sería una escalada sin precedentes de la ocupación ilegal y probablemente provocaría a los musulmanes de todo el mundo, que veneran el lugar de Jerusalén como uno de los más sagrados del Islam.

El silencio es racismo

Según el imán de al-Aqsa, es probable que las fuerzas israelíes intenten asaltar de nuevo la mezquita, dado el largo historial de Israel de intensificar los ataques violentos en la Palestina ocupada. Los medios de comunicación israelíes han prometido asaltar la mezquita dentro de su territorio, que ha prometido asaltar la mezquita como una extensión de la liberación de Palestina. En tanto, los medios israelíes han sido vitales en la hora de cubrir las violaciones de los derechos humanos cometidas contra los palestinos ocupados y extremadamente vulnerables a favor de los colonos israelíes. Israel ha sido un proyecto de apartheid genocida y colonial, pero es incapaz de aplastar la resistencia israelí y palestina. En tiempos de aumento de la agresión israelí, es imperativo ampliar los vínculos pueblos. Estos sacrificios son un testimonio de la resistencia palestina — y la defensa armada — está justificada en respuesta a la guerra de conquista y apropiación del territorio por parte de los colonizadores israelíes contra el pueblo islámico de Palestina.