Emergency call to action

Amazon, Starbucks, recognize unions now!

By Support Amazon Workers Network

The Support Amazon Workers Network issued the following call for mass solidarity actions Aug. 10. By Aug. 14 close to 200 organizations and individuals from many states and other countries had signed in support.

Warning: The worker organizing wave is in danger because of union busting!

The national wave of union organizing and militancy spearheaded by Starbucks workers and Amazon workers is the biggest upsurge in worker organizing since the 1930s and 1940s. The organizing wave has spread to Trader Joe’s, Chipotle, Apple, REI and a growing list of chain stores and industries.

However, this uprising of workers, which holds the potential of not only saving the labor movement but transforming it, is under life-threatening attack. We must unite in defense of the brave young workers that are the vanguard of this transformative workers struggle.

We propose these dates for coordinated mass actions across the country:

Monday, Sept. 5, Labor Day (or around that date, depending on the city): Organize a presence at Labor Day marches or organize your own action; the Amazon Labor Union is holding an action with Starbucks Workers United in New York City, Sept. 5.

Thursday, Sept. 8: Attend a national virtual planning meeting for the days of coordinated mass actions.


Saturday, Oct. 1: The six-month anniversary of the Amazon Labor Union (ALU) election victory on April 1 (which up to this point Amazon has refused to recognize) (and also International Coffee Day).

From their corporate boardrooms down to their worksite managers, Starbucks and Amazon are engaged in an outright war to crush the organizing wave.

Starbucks is firing union organizers, closing stores, cutting workers hours and denying pro-union workers wage increases and benefits. Starbucks workers are fighting back. Starbucks Workers United is still winning union elections all around the country.

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Philadelphia solidarity with Gaza

A “Philly Stands with Gaza” march blocked rush hour traffic around Philadelphia’s City Hall for an hour Aug. 10 to protest the most recent Israeli criminal bombing of the people of Gaza, which murdered at least 16 children. After an initial rally on the east side of City Hall, over 150 activists marched in support of the Philadelphia Coalition for Palestine’s demands: “Honor the 45 Palestinian martyrs; End the blockade on Gaza; Defend Palestinian resistance!” A final rally took place in the street on the west side of City Hall, punctuated at the end by the burning of an Israeli flag.

The PCP is a network of Philadelphia-area Palestinian and Palestine solidarity organizations, including Students for Justice in Palestine at Temple and Drexel Universities; Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-Philadelphia); Anakbayan Philly; Black Alliance for Peace; Workers World Party; Philadelphia Coalition for Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions against Israel (Philly BDS); Jewish Voice for Peace Philadelphia; and IfNotNow Philly.

— Report and photo by Joe Piette

Black August tribute

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Honor the legacy of Black August
Support Workers World

Did you know the month of August holds special meaning for the Black Liberation struggle? This August marks the 403rd anniversary of the arrival of the first ship of Africans brought in chains to the shores of the English colony of Virginia in 1619. And this August marks 245 years of the enslavement underlying the establishment of the U.S. colonial state—with its countless injustices, brutality and institutionalized crimes against humanity. These atrocities continue in this white-supremacist, capitalist society to this day.

But August is also a time to commemorate the Black Resistance Struggle, from the Haitian Revolution of 1801-1804 to the Nat Turner Rebellion in 1831, from the Fugitive Slave Law Convention of 1850 to the Underground Railroad that ran from the late 18th century to 1865, from the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters in 1925 to the March on Washington in 1965, the Watts Uprising in 1965 and the National Prison Strike from Aug. 21-Sept. 9 in 2018.

A number of freedom fighters were born in August, including Marcus Garvey, Fred Hampton and Jonathon Jackson. Jackson was killed Aug. 7, 1970, while attempting to free the imprisoned Soledad Brothers, who included his brother, Black Panther leader George Jackson. One year and two weeks later on Aug. 21, 1971, George Jackson was executed by prison guards. His assassination was an important lead to the heroic Attica Prison Rebellion in September 1971.

Your donations matter!

Workers World depends on your help. The WW Supporter Program was founded 45 years ago to help build this revolutionary socialist newspaper. Since the early 1990s, the fund has supported the website workers.org, where WW articles are posted daily and the PDF file of every weekly paper is displayed.

Staff and concerns during the pandemic caused us to reduce the number of printed issues to once a month. But the weekly online newspaper has never been skipped during this 2 1/2 year health crisis. And while WW’s staff is voluntary, both the printed newspaper and the website require monthly expenses.

Workers.org contains news and analysis of global and U.S. events and struggles and is a resource for political activists. The website posts first-hand accounts by worker-activists in many countries, with translations by our staff. Timely articles by worker-organizers keep the newspaper up to date on what is happening in key U.S. union drives, led by young people of many nationalities and genders. Workers.org cheers them on.

For a donation of $75 to $100 to $300 a year, members receive a year’s subscription and one, two or three free subscriptions, respectively, to give to friends. Supporters can receive the book, “What road to socialism?” (Notify us of your request.) Or read it for free at workers.org/books.

Join us in the fight for socialism!

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

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

Socialism means war and austerity, racism and repression, attacks on immigrants, migrant workers, LGBTQ+ oppression and mistreatment of people with disabilities. It means joblessness, increasing homelessness and impoverishment and lack of hope for the future. No social problems can be solved under capitalism.

The U.S. is the richest country in the world, yet no one has a guaranteed right to shelter, food, water, health care, education or anything else unless they can pay for it. Wages are lower than ever, and youth are saddled with education or anything else—unless they can pay for it. This August marks the 403rd anniversary of the arrival of the first ship of Africans brought in chains to the shores of the English colony of Virginia in 1619. And this August marks 245 years of the enslavement underlying the establishment of the U.S. colonial state—with its countless injustices, brutality and institutionalized crimes against humanity. These atrocities continue in this white-supremacist, capitalist society to this day.

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The U.S. is the richest country in the world, yet no one has a guaranteed right to shelter, food, water, health care, education or anything else unless they can pay for it. Wages are lower than ever, and youth are saddled with seemingly insurmountable student debt, if they even make it to college. Black, Brown and Indigenous youth and trans people are gunned down by cops and bigots on a regular basis.

The ruthless ruling class today seeks to wipe out decades of gains and benefits won by hard-fought struggles by people’s movements. The super-rich and their political representatives have intensified their attacks on the multinational, multigender and multigenerational working class. It is time to point the blame at—and challenge—the capitalist system.

WWP fights for socialism because the working class produces all wealth in society, and this wealth should be owned and its distribution planned to satisfy and guarantee basic human needs.

Since 1939, Workers World Party has been out in the streets defending the workers and oppressed here and worldwide. If you’re interested in Marxism, socialism and fighting for a socialist future, please contact a WWP branch near you. (?)
By Dianne Mathiowetz

Atlanta

Marvin and Mary Grier loved their 28-year-old daughter, Brianna, who delighted in dancing and having fun with her three-year-old twin daughters.

But on July 15, they were worried that she was not taking her medications for her schizophrenia diagnosis and was talking about harming herself or her children. They called 911 for help and expected an ambulance to come and take Brianna to the hospital, as had happened in the past.

Instead two Hancock County deputy sheriffs showed up and arrested Grier, forcibly handcuffing her as she lay on the ground. The police video shows the two deputies roughly pulling Grier by the legs and over the passenger seat of the car, threatening her with a taser, as she cries repeatedly for them to “get off” her. After pushing her onto the back seat, they search for several minutes in the underbrush and then drive off.

Both passenger doors of the squad car were opened to enable the two men to leverage Grier into the back seat on the passenger side. Her seat belt was not fastened, and her hands were handcuffed in front of her.

Shortly after the squad car left the family residence, Grier fell out of the vehicle onto the pavement, sustaining what turned out to be life-ending head injuries. The video shows the deputies suddenly stopped the car and then walked back to where Grier’s body lay face down on the pavement. They prod her multiple times and tell her to sit up. Finally, they turn her over and declare, “Alright, she’s breathing.”

There can be heard asking each other if they had shut the squad car door.

Grier’s parents were not told that she had been injured and not taken to hospital in Atlanta, until the next day.

The Hancock County deputy sheriffs originally claimed that Brianna Grier threatened to commit suicide if she was taken to jail and that she had kicked the passenger side door open and fallen out. This is what Marvin and Mary Grier were told.

But an investigation by the Georgia Bureau of Investigation proved that the door had never been closed by the officers, despite their claims they had done so.

Brianna Grier died July 21. A family autopsy shows that she died from blunt force trauma to her head.

Scores of family members, clergy, civil rights and Black Lives Matter activists and others attended Grier’s funeral service at the historic West Hunter Baptist Church on Ralph David Abernathy Boulevard in Atlanta Aug. 11.

Rev. Al Sharpton roused the crowd with a eulogy, declaring that they had gathered there to celebrate Grier’s life, but “we also come to condemn her passing. Her life matters; and that why we are here and will stay here.” (Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Aug. 12)

Attorney Ben Crump, representing the family, introduced Tamika Palmer, mother of Breonna Taylor, killed by Louisville, Kentucky, police executing a no-knock warrant. Palmer expressed her support for the Grier family, knowing all too well the difficulty of achieving justice for those killed by police.

Marvin and Mary Grier, surrounded by Brianna’s siblings, appealed to the attendees: “We are here to seek justice, accountability and transparency. We need answers.”

After the service, a march to the Georgia State Capitol made demands on state officials to make Black farmers face Grier’s case and to provide needed mental health resources.

Inflation Reduction Act: white supremacy and Black farmers

By Monica Moorehead

Black farmers, fighting white supremacists in the South since Reconstruction to try to hold on to a fraction of their land, were dealt another blow in the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022. Wordings in that legislation, designed to give loan assistance to Black farmers, was rewritten by Democrats to remove discrimination on the basis of race as a criteria for eligibility. Previous wording specifically designated help to farmers who had suffered racial or ethnic prejudice, including those who were Black, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian American, Pacific Islander or Hispanic.

White ranchers had sued to stop the earlier version of the plan, bank authorities objected that their investors would lose money if the Black farmers got help and paid off their loans quickly! Groups representing Black farmers voice skepticism that their investments in the loan program would lose money now as, the U.S. Department of Agriculture can continue to allocate the money for loan assistance for a worldwide history of discrimination against Black farmers.

The recent act’s failure to acknowledge the role of white supremacy in both “equality,” and “illegally seizing land owned by formerly enslaved Black people and their descendants argues forcefully, yet again, for an Aztlanic and thorough program of reparations, ultimately possible only under socialism.

The following article, “Black farmers demand justice” describes some of the past century struggles of Black farmers, particularly in the South. It first appeared on workers.org on July 14, 2002, and is featured in the book, “Marxism, Reparations and the Black Freedom Struggle” available at workers.org/books.

According to the 1920 U.S. census, there were over 925,000 Black farmers who controlled over 15 million acres, mainly based in the southern Black Belt.

Today [2002], the number of Black farmers has dramatically decreased to between 15,000 and 18,000. They control less than a million acres collectively and are losing an estimated 1,000 acres daily.

These numbers just begin to tell the tale of the plight of those remaining Black farmers. They and their will to survive total extinction by any means necessary.

This will to survive was reflected in a heroic sit-in from July 1-4, 2002, at the Department of Agriculture regional office in Brownsville, Tennessee. An estimated 300 Black farmers took part in this sit-in. They traveled from 16 states by car, train and pickup truck to show solidarity with five of their brother farmers who filed loans that were never processed.

These loans are necessary in order to be able to purchase land, fertilizer and seed to plant and harvest crops that can be sold to agronomists. If the farmers are lucky enough to produce a successful crop, they can usually pay off their loans at the end of the harvest season from their gross income. These five Black farmers – Coach Perkins, James Hood, Barton Nelson, Earnest Campbell and Gerald Pettaway – submitted loan applications in Fayette County. But their applications were sent to Haywood County, where they sat gathering dust for more than a month.

The five farmers were unable to produce any crops, and, as a consequence, they face the prospect of thousands of dollars of debt, foreclosure on their homes and loss of their land.

The 300 Black farmers who took part in the sit-in know all too well that they could easily face the same situation.

There has been little or no adequate attention paid by the big business press to this development and the issue in general. The Black Farmers and Agriculturalists Association organized the sit-in. One of the demands of the protestors was to have the five farmers meet with Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman in Washington, D.C., to discuss and resolve their grievances. There has not been any response from the Bush administration to this request. The farmers called for Veneman to be removed from office.

BFAA spokesperson Tom Burrell stated: “We’re at the point right now where we’re all but extinct. This is the last stand of Black farmers. If we don’t get a victory in the next six months, it’s curtains for the Black farmer. This is all part of a conspiracy to get rid of us. ... We are willing to stay in this building until we get what’s necessary.” The bank foreclosed on Burrell’s farm in 1981.

Law suit by 25,000 Black farmers

There are many examples that justify this righteous defiance.

For example, in 1997 six Black farmers initiated a class-action lawsuit against the USDA, charging its regional offices with racism in denying Black farmers equal access to federal loans, disaster relief payments and other programs mandated under the law for low-income farmers.

Once the original lawsuit was filed, another Black farmer became plaintiffs in the lawsuit, Pigford v. Glickman. Dan Glickman was the secretary of agriculture during the Clinton administration. Black farmers went to Glickman’s office twice to demand a meeting with him. They were arrested but not booked.

This is not the first time that Black farmers have brought charges before the USDA. In fact, so many Black farmers had filed claims against the USDA for racial discrimination that in 1983 then-President Ronald Reagan shut down the agency. When it was reopened in 1996, there were thousands upon thousands of grievances sitting in its office.

In 1999 the USDA settled the 1997 class action lawsuit out of court, by awarding the plaintiffs $450-$650 million in damages. This came out to $50,000 or less for each plaintiff—a drop in the bucket, when one considers that a new tractor costs $125,000, a new planter $40,000 and a new cotton picker $20,000.

Knowing the tremendous resources it takes to maintain a productive farm, the six original plaintiffs had demanded $3 billion in damages from the USDA. They attempted to legally challenge the court’s final decree along with hundreds of other farmers. But the courts would not budge.

Most of the farmers decided to take the money but were not informed by their attorneys that only 40% of them would receive any monetary restitution.

It is the legacy of slavery that has created a genocidal U.S. policy against southern Black farmers. And it is the injustice that they continue to face in the racist courts and from an insensitive capitalist government that has forced them to take direct action in Tennessee to show that they have the right to make a decent living on their farms, and not to have their ancestors once tilled and made fertile as slave labor.

Minnie Bruce Pratt contributed to this article.
Members United slate forms to revive UAW’s fighting tradition

By Martha Grevatt

“Change is coming to the UAW.”

This is the promise made to the rank and file of the United Auto Workers by the Members United candidates running for the union’s International Executive Board. This multinational grouping is challenging the entrenched Administration Caucus (AC) bureaucracy for leadership of the UAW. Led by candidate for International President Shawn Fain, Members United is campaigning under the banner of “No concessions. No corruption. No tiers.”

This is the first IEB election in the UAW’s history, where the rank and file will vote directly for its top leadership. For almost nine decades the IEB was chosen by delegates at the union’s Constitutional Convention. Conventions have been tightly controlled by the AC (which also calls itself the “Reuther Caucus,” named after former UAW President Walter Reuther) since it was first established in the 1940s and 1950s, when Reuther drove Communist Party and Socialist Workers Party workers out of union leadership.

Members United has the support of the rank-and-file caucus Unite All Workers for Democracy, which waged a successful grass-roots campaign to win “one member, one vote” — direct elections of the IEB — in a referendum by the membership that defeated the convention system by a 2-1 margin.

Beside Fain, the candidates are Margaret Mock for Secretary-Treasurer, Rich Boyer and Mike Booth for Vice Presidents, and LaShawn English, Brandon Mancilla and Dan Vicente for Directors of Regions 1, 9A and 9, respectively. Other unaffiliated reform candidates are also running for the IEB. Because the AC is still able to exert tremendous pressure on local UAW leaders, AC candidates were unchallenged in several IEB races.

Part of a new labor fight-back

Members United represents a real alternative to the top-down business unionism of the AC, which for decades has promoted a “partnership” with the companies that the union bargains with. This partnership has led to numerous contract concessions, one of the worst being tiered wages and benefits. This pay system has two workers, working side-by-side, doing the same work, but not getting the same compensation, because one has more seniority than the other.

“American Postal Workers Union (APWU), National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) and United Auto Workers (UAW) members, environmental groups and other union activists held a dinosaur-themed rally outside the U.S. Postal Service headquarters at L’Enfant Plaza in Washington, D.C. Aug. 9 to demand the use of union-made electric vehicles for the postal service.

The rally was held just before the Postal Board of Governors meeting opened. Workers also protested against Postmaster Louis Dejoy’s 10 Year Plan to privatize the postal service. Currently, DeJoy plans to eliminate 50,000 jobs and close many small post offices. Workers at the rally demanded his firing and to “keep the postal service a service and not a business.”

— Joe Hirsch, retired postal worker

Workers say

Stop DeJoy’s privatization of Postal Service

UAW members on strike at Case New Holland in Racine, Wisconsin, since May.

Amazon, Starbucks, recognize unions now!

Continued from page 1

over the country and flexing its muscles with walkouts and strikes. Amazon is determined to overturn the historic April 1 Amazon Labor Union victory in Staten Island, New York, and crush the ALU. At the same time, new ALU chapters are forming around the country. Amazon workers in North Carolina have formed Carolina Amazonians United for Solidarity and Empowerment (CAUSE) and are getting stronger everyday. Amazon workers everywhere, including in Amazonians United and the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union in Alabama, are coming together in spite of their different approaches to organizing.

In order for these ground-breaking battles to defeat union busting, immensely greater forces must join and strengthen them.

Howard Schultz and Jeff Bezos are this year’s poster boys for union busting. But efforts to crush the workers uprising are by no means limited to Starbucks and Amazon owners. Wall Street and the U.S. capitalist class are fully behind this war to destroy a new workers movement before it spreads further.

Our response to this threat must be equal to the danger. A level of mass solidarity and mass mobilization in defense of workers on the front line is required — greater than anything we have seen in our lifetimes. Unified organizing and widespread mass solidarity is absolutely central to the continuation of this historic transformation of the working-class movement.

At stake is nothing less than the long awaited and necessary evolution of the working-class movement, from its present weak state to a more radical, militant, inclusive and classwide movement that:

• Is led by rank-and-file workers;
• Is not dominated by business unionism;
• Is not dependent upon or subservient to the Democratic Party;
• Views all struggles as workers struggles, including the fight against racism and the struggle for a new economy; and
• Is strong enough to smash the threat of fascism.

A growing section of the left is now engaged in varying levels of solidarity work with these critical workers struggles. But as of yet, the left’s commitment to this struggle is alarmingly insufficient. While some in the organized labor movement are taking the need for solidarity against union busting seriously, unfortunately most of the top leadership of the labor movement remain unmoved by this threat and have focused on electoral politics and reliance on the Democratic Party. This must change. Now is the time to intensify the pressure to compel that change.

The days of unchallenged concessions will end,” English pledged in a campaign leaflet. She is a three-term president of UAW Local 1245 at the Stellantis formerly Chrysler) Sterling Heights stamping plant. All the candidates are current or former elected local officers.

The challenge to business unionism inside the UAW is not happening in a vacuum. Earlier this year rank-and-file Teamsters union members voted to throw out the old guard, giving every national officer position to the Teamsters United slate led by President John Odle.

Members United has come together in the context of an emerging labor resistance, led by radicalized young workers at Amazon, Starbucks and elsewhere. Young workers in the UAW, including second-tier workers in manufacturing, along with higher education workers, are among the most outspoken as July’s UAW Constitutional Convention demonstrated. Members United candidates include two young union leaders, Mancilla and Vicente.

These defiant candidates are part of a push throughout the labor movement for a return to class-struggle unionism.

Martha Grevatt is a retired executive board member of UAW Local 869 at the Stellantis Warren Stamping Plant.
Ban of nicotine sabotages drug rehab, harms users

By Princess Harmony

What would you do, if you were an addict living with the constant agony of addiction? What would you do, if you were an incarcerated addict whose only chance for freedom — from substances and from prisons/jails — is getting nothing? What would you do, if you genuinely wanted recovery?

You would go to a rehabilitation facility, right? Drug rehabilitation might help you recover from your drug problem!

According to a research report written about in Forbes, Sept. 15, 2015, more than half of all substance abusers also consume nicotine products. Trying to quit nicotine is difficult for anyone, even with aids like nicotine patches, gum or medications. It becomes even harder for people who are addicted to quit because of their addictive personalities.

So when a rule from the city of Philadelphia’s Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disability Service (DBHIDS) and the county’s Medicaid Community Behavioral Health (CBH), a managed-care organization, imposes a rule stating that smoking outside is no longer permitted at the facilities they pay for, people panic!

People will listen, and they will react poorly. On Jan. 1, 2019, the smoking ban was enacted in all facilities that Medicaid pays for in Philadelphia County. Before this ban, patients were permitted to smoke and vaping at designated times and in designated areas. This policy was ended.

Within a week of the implementation of the ban, experts in recovery and social work spoke out against the ban, saying that access to nicotine products can be deal breakers for people seeking recovery. Noted community activist and organizer Brooke Feldman said in a story for WHYY that the only thing that stood between addicts and treatment centers was a packet of cigarettes. (whyy.org, Jan. 4, 2019)

Pitfalls of smoking bans

Research regarding smoking bans, even those plan- ning to lower addiction rather than stopping cold, have shown that bans have lower retention rates in addic- tion-rehabilitation programs. Many more patients left treatment facilities against medical advice than did before these bans were instituted.

At a meeting discussing the ban’s harms, Dr. Chris Tjoa said the number of people leaving against medical advice increased after the ban was enacted. He blamed this on insurance companies insisting on patients choosing to stop smoking over their will.

In the first year of the smoking ban, approximately 1,150 people died of drug overdoses in the city of Philadelphia. In the ban’s second year, 1,214 people died. 2022 before the ban was rescinded, 1,250 more people died. In total, 3,914 people died during the period when the smoking ban was in effect. Many of these people could have been alive, if the smoking ban hadn’t become a stumbling block.

Another factor that must be considered is that after patients are clean from drugs, particularly opioids, over- dose risk spikes, because as the amount of drugs in their system decreases, their tolerance does too. People have died when this happens.

Smokers denied medical help

Addicts report seeking recovery and then being pushed away or forced out of treatment. In one case a woman was ejected from treatment at the Behavioral Wellness Center at Girard (formerly North Philadelphia Health Systems/Girard Medical Center) because she got caught smoking. She reported this to her probation offi- cer and was then sent back to jail for nine months.

Community organizer Brooke Feldman attempted to intervene on this woman’s behalf by notifying the District Attorney’s Office.

Another incident, reported by Feldman, involved a patient at CleanSlate, who was able to get into the impa- tient rehabilitation facility Keystone Center. He had to leave the facility, because after getting an upsetting phone call, he needed to smoke. He died on Roosevelt Boulevard a few days after leaving the rehabilitation facility against medical advice.

On June 25, 2019, community organizations, includ- ing Angels in Motion, Operation in My Back Yard, Sole Collective and ACT UP Philadelphia, united for a protest demanding the smoking ban end. They didn’t know why the ban was the result of a cruelly designed research study produced by the University of Pennsylvania and CBH.

These organizations couldn’t have ended the study, because if they did, the city would have had to return the money. The results of the smoking ban study can be found in the research paper: “Changes in voluntary admission and restraint use after a comprehensive tobacco-free policy in inpatient psychiatric health facili- ties.” They did not know that there were potential patients who were leaving treatment against medical advice, being forced out of it or not entering it at all.

Impact of ban

There was a study, “Impact of Inpatient Smoking Bans” which was done with all participants giving informed consent. This study looked at whether or not being forced to stop smoking cigarettes or vapes played a role in a person’s desire to enter treatment or a per- son’s departure against medical advice due to the smoking ban.

The study found that 85% of people who left against medical advice did so because they were denied the right to smoke. It found that smoking impacted a little under half of all people’s decisions to go into rehabilitation. This study’s participants were majority unhoused and came from the Kensington section of Philadelphia, the heartland of the addiction epidemic.

Why did the city of Philadelphia, CBH and other enti- ties in the city’s public health sector decide to do this study? They did it for money, which they needed for other city expenses. They certainly weren’t putting it to good use to help people who were addicted or abusing substances.

Progressives should hold the authorities’ feet to the fire and demand reparations for the people of Kensington, especially to those most impacted by this inhumane study, those with low incomes, people who are addicted and their loved ones.

Hunger in West Africa drives protests in Sierra Leone

By G. Dunkel

According to the World Bank, the index price of agricultural products — which includes food — is up 19% from January 2021. Corn and wheat prices are, respectively, 16% and 22% higher. For a third of the world’s population, the price jumps are frightening: 30% in Ghana, 15.3% in Burkina Faso. According to the World Food Programme, 7.7 million children under age five in the Sahel region are at risk. The major expense of most households is food, followed by shelter.

In West Africa, which includes some of the world’s poorest countries, the sharp, painful rise in prices is frightening. Women in Ghana, 22.4% in Sierra Leone, 18.6% in Nigeria, 15.3% in Burkina Faso. According to the World Food Programme, 7.7 million children under age five in the Sahel face severe malnutrition.

Given projections from the International Monetary Fund that the world’s economy is, at best, slowing down, it’s unlikely that this food situation will improve soon.

The recent announcement that Ukraine and Russia had reached an agreement allowing them to export grain and oilseeds was some relief, but only a few countries in West Africa — Benin, Senegal and Togo — consume much wheat. Locally produced sorghum, millet and yams are primarily what people eat.

The fallout from COVID-19 and Ebola, two of the dis- eases which affect many countries in West Africa, dis- rupted supply chains and has driven food production costs up. The war in Ukraine and the various boycotts and embargoes flowing from the situation have caused spikes in the price of fuel, which is necessary to transport locally grown food. Activists point to the high profits oil compa- nies are making as a major cause of growing hunger.

A number of countries in Africa, in particular Nigeria, Egypt and Morocco, produce fertilizer, but import/export restrictions and customs duties make it hard for them to supply neighboring countries. (Le Monde, 26 July)

Protests in Sierra Leone

Some officials in the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States are warning that if no substantial action is taken to relieve the growing hunger, especially in West Africa, social eruptions are likely. They point to the 30 or more sustained protests that shook many poor countries in 2008 when similar problems arose.

Market women, who sell a range of goods in African markets and are a major organized economic force in West Africa, have nationwide associations. In Sierra Leone, they called small protests beginning in early July, according to Africa News, they sponsored a march July 4 through the business district of Freetown, the capital of Sierra Leone, with placards denouncing “the price of commodities, and police brutality.” A few leaders of the political opposition were arrested in connection with this demonstration. (tinyurl.com/2w9evy46)

The market women, along with other smaller groups, called demonstrations Aug. 10 in Freetown and the northern cities of Kamakwie and Makeni. In all three locations serious fighting occurred between cops and protesters. Police claim three cops were killed in Kamakwie, one in Makeni and two in Freetown. At least 13 civilians were shot dead in Freetown, accord- ing to morgue attendants. A press report from Makeni said that four civilians were killed there.

From videos and photos of the incidents, the protest- ers’ demands were untenable and a palpable threat to the state. In Sierra Leone, the government is an organizing body, and the protests were largely in poorer areas where the people are less organized and have fewer resources to compensate. In March, 2008, the government responded to the protests in West Africa with a violent crackdown, resulting in hundreds of deaths.

Protests on Aug. 12 were centered in various areas of Freetown, where the cops used live fire to break them up. A high number of casualties were reported.

Given the dire situation in West Africa, it is likely these protests in Sierra Leone will not remain isolated, but will spread to other countries in the region. (end)
Black August: A tribute to freedom fighters

By Lamont Lilly

The following slightly edited article was first published in August 2013. Lilly ran as a Workers Party’s candidate for vice president in 2016.

The March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom on Aug. 28, 1963, galvanized hundreds of thousands in the streets of Washington, D.C. A. Philip Randolph helped to establish the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters in Harlem, N.Y., on Aug. 25, 1925. The Haitian Revolution launched its destruction of French colonialism in August 1791. Since the end of the school year, three teachers have been targeted for dismissal and retaliation due to their visible support for the Parker School occupation.

August marks the Nation Slater slave rebellion of 1893 and the Watts Uprising of 1965. The Philadelphia Police Department first raised the MOVE organization on Aug. 8, 1978, giving way to the unjustly imprisoned MOVE 9. August also bears the births of Fred Hampton, Marcus Garvey and Mutulu Shakur.

George Jackson

“Black August” is a month-long celebration that marks the remembrance of the lives of freedom fighters who gave their all for Black liberation, freedom, radical education and mass consciousness. The official origin of Black August was in honor of the fallen soldiers who valiantly fought to liberate Black leader George Jackson from the modern-day slave trade we now call the U.S. penal system.

Jonathan Jackson and Angela Davis

Black freedom fighters — James McClain, William Christmas, Ruchell Magee, Khadiatul Gauden and 17-year-old Jonathan Jackson — the brother of George Jackson — led a courthouse rebellion on Aug. 7, 1970, in a brave display of all-out resistance and armed struggle. Unfortunately, lives were lost as they typically are in any war for liberation. Magee, who is currently still incarcerated, was the only survivor. And though our heralded comrade, George Jackson, was not freed, the efforts of Jonathan and others would inspire decades of continued resistance and revolutionary solidarity.

George Jackson had just released his book “Soledad Brother,” a philosophical revolutionary classic. Jackson, however, was assassinated by San Quentin prison guards one year later on Aug. 21, 1971. His second book, “Blood in My Eye,” was published posthumously by Black Classic Press. Jackson’s legacy of resistance has inspired millions worldwide, while his literary works continue to teach even in his physical absence.

This is the background in which Black August was first formed. It was deep within the belly of the California penal system that it was first embraced and formally established as a month of reverence, as a time of revolutionary celebration.

The heroic Attica prison rebellion which began on Sept. 9, 1971, and was eventually drowned in blood by Gov. Nelson Rockefeller’s stormtroopers (the N.Y. state police), with the deaths of over 40 unarmed people, was sparked by Jackson’s assassination.

Incarcerated workers today have continued to protest and press forward all over the United States. Hunger strikes over the past year have roused hundreds of thousands in states such as California, Georgia and North Carolina. Letter-writing campaigns have served as vital lines of inspiration and direct communication.

Today, in the spirit of continued resistance, we honor the deaths of Mark Clark, Fred Hampton and Geronimo Pratt. We honor the sacrifices and life work of political prisoners Eddie Conway, Sundiata Acoli and our freedom fighters in exile like Assata Shakur. We have the recent and less victims of CENTELPRO’s callous attacks upon the people. We duly recognize now more than ever.

In the 42nd year of Black August, may we all keep to the spirited words of our brother and mentor, George Lester Jackson: “Settle your quarrels; come together; understand the reality of our situation; understand that fascism is already here, that people are dying who could be saved.” (“Soledad Brother”) ☑

Teachers and community fight retaliation

By Judy Greenspan

Oakland, California

The new school year in the Oakland Unified School District began on a serious and disturbing note: a physical attack on people who protest the school closure and the retaliatory firings of teachers.

Since the end of the school year, parents, students and community members have been occupying Parker School, one of three schools closed by OUSD. Throughout the summer, volunteers have been providing food, services and classes to young people in this East Oakland community.

The Oakland school district has maintained a hostile posture toward this community reclamation of a public school. On Aug. 4, a private security squad hired by OUSD arrived at Parker School and assaulted parents and community members. According to the community coalition pulled together to protest this attack, at least 21 people were injured, and four were sent to the emergency room.

Three teachers have been targeted for dismissal and retaliation due to their visible support for the Parker School occupation. Paloma Colliver, a contract substitute teaching at Markham Elementary, was abruptly fired and her gardening program terminated. Denise Huffstutler, a former Parker School teacher, received an unsatisfactory evaluation, which was placed in her personnel file and may impact her teaching career.

Craig Gordon, who has worked in OUSD for 32 years as a classroom teacher and most recently as a substitute teacher, was abruptly terminated for no reason by the district Aug. 8, the first day of school. Gordon was a very visible union and community activist who has filed grievances on behalf of substitute teachers during the COVID-19 pandemic. One of the founders of Schools and Labor Against Privatization (SLAP), he was a strong supporter of the Parker School occupation.

Press conference hits firings, retaliation

At a press conference Aug. 10, organized by community members and rank-and-file teachers, two leaders of the Oakland Education Association’s Substitute Teacher Caucus spoke out against the retaliatory firing of Gordon. Sharon Thomas, Executive Board representative from the caucus and Judy Greenspan, chair of the caucus, set the tone of the press conference, which quickly became a speak-out for justice.

Thomas read from the statement circulated in her caucus: “This firing of a retired OUSD teacher and a longtime substitute teacher is outrageous and comes at a time when OUSD is suffering a teacher shortage. On its face it makes no sense. However, we believe that Craig was targeted because of his outspoken activism on behalf of substitute teachers and possibly for his support of the community reclamation of Parker School.

According to the California Education Code, school districts can hire and fire substitute teachers at will. However, during the pandemic, OUSD literally begged retired teachers to come back to work to deal with the many vacancies. The substitute caucus is trying to remedy that unfair practice.

Greenspan began their statement with the slogan of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union leadership, which has been a popular labor slogan for over a century: “An injury to one is an injury to all.”

Greenspan reminded everyone, “We will not tolerate this attack on our Oakland community members or on our teachers. It is time to rise up and protest this violence and illegal retaliation against our union members and all educators.”

Gordon then spoke, calling out OUSD for its racist closing of schools in Black and Brown communities. “This is definitely an attack on teachers who are working to stop school closures,” he said. Gordon pointed out that OUSD is targeting the most vulnerable teachers — a substitute teacher and a contract educator.

A resolution from the substitute caucus will be presented Aug. 16 at an OEA union representatives council meeting. This resolution calls upon the leadership of OEA to take immediate action to ensure that Gordon be reinstated with back pay and that the retaliatory acts against the other two teachers be reversed immediately.

Community activists, educators and OEA members are making plans to oppose future school closings during this school year.

Judy Greenspan works as a substitute teacher at an Oakland public middle school.

Oakland, Calif.

A student-led demonstration in spring of 2022 opposing Oakland school closures.
By Frank Schumann
Junge Welt, July 23

Workers World makes excerpts from this interview available in English, as it gives a historical view from a senior legal expert in the socialist German Democratic Republic (GDR, East Germany), Friedrich Wolff: "The parliament elected the Big Lie promulgated by U.S. and German imperialism, expose individual Nazis' roles in West German politics and, in passing, provide some information about war crimes. It is standing the historical role of the Bandera fascist organization now playing a prominent role in the pro-NATO Ukraine regime. Translation: John Catalino

junger Welt: You will be 100 years old on July 30. Congratulations on this rare anniversary!

Friedrich Wolff: Please don’t congratulate me before it happens.

jW: What has always fascinated me about you is your humor – detached, self-deprecating, ambiguous wit.

FW: Conditions in the world are sad enough. You don’t change them by lamenting them or reacting depressively. Or, as Marx says, by putting one’s face into the prescribed creases. No, that was never my thing. One must distinguish between things, otherwise one sinks with one’s nose in every muck.

jW: Were you always so poised and serene? Or did such serenity only develop in old age?

FW: I don’t know. Well, I can remember phases when I was very emotional.

jW: When, for example?

FW: In the spring of 1960, when I defended Theodor Oberländer, the Federal Minister for Displaced Persons in West Germany. The Supreme Court of the German Democratic Republic (GDR) had indicted him for his involvement in war crimes.

As a first lieutenant, Oberländer had been involved in negotiations with the Ukrainian nationalists under Stepan Bandera on behalf of the High Command of the Wehrmacht in 1941. He was in the “Night of the Long Knives” of 1933. Oberländer was the control officer of [Hitler’s] fascist secret service.

FW: Oberländer was the liaison officer for the “Abwehr,” the intelligence service. The unit entered Lviv [in western Ukraine] even before the Wehrmacht and, together with Ukrainian collaborators, massacred “Jews” and then rounded up thousands of people under the control of [Hitler’s] fascist secret service.

FW: But weren’t there the same problems with Globke as in the Oberländer trial?

FW: The GDR had learned its lesson. The indictment and the opening decision were based on the London Statute for the International Military Tribunal in conjunction with Article 6(1) of the GDR Constitution. That paragraph read: “The generally recognized rules of international law bind the parties to the war and every citizen.”

Globke fit the category “every citizen,” and international law applied equally to the two German states. The GDR expressly submitted to it in its constitution. One cannot invoke this case to the mendacious statement of the “unjust state GDR.”

State Secretary Globke received a life sentence in prison on July 23, 1963. A quarter of a year later, he resigned as head of the Federal Chancellery, was awarded the Grand Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany and wanted to move to Switzerland as a pensioner.

In the 1950s, his spouse had purchased a property on Lake Geneva in the canton of Vaud. However, after Globke’s intention became known, the cantonal parlia-

ment declared that and decided to reseal the property. The couple left Switzerland and put in such putting pillars of the West German state on trial.

This was not propaganda, as is still claimed today, but a principled political confrontation with the fascist dictator- ship and its protagonists. In other words, coming to terms with the past "[Vergangenheitsbewältigung] in German." This was not something that was only invented after 1990.

‘Coming to terms with the past’

FW: I first believed that this was a word created by the West Germans when they wanted to get at our past and our biographies. No. In fact, when I looked through my documents from the Oberländer trial, I repeatedly read this term “coming to terms with the past” on my sheets from 1960.

The GDR was clearly a pioneer in both the public and the legal discussion of fascism, of the perpetrators and the victims. The first Auschwitz trials in the West took place in Frankfurt am Main only in 1965.

At that time, there had already been discussions in the Federal Republic of [West] Germany (FRG) for years about whether Nazi and war crimes should not be considered time-barred. In 1965, the Bundestag discussed the “final stroke.” Even after the U.N. had determined in a resolution in 1968 that war crimes and crimes against humanity were not subject to a statute of limitations, discussions in the Federal Republic continued.

It was not until 1979 that the Bundestag – after 30 years of debate! – decided to lift the statute of limitations for murder crimes committed during the Nazi era. By 255 votes to 222!

jW: And that is why today there are show trials, for example, against 100 year olds who stood guard in exter-

mination camps almost 80 years ago.

FW: I think that there is a serious difference between our trials and these trials today. At that time, we wanted to draw the public’s attention to certain facts, and, in doing so, we also made a political and moral judgment, which is not usually the task of the judiciary.

So these were show trials in the sense of enlightenment and social ostracism. They were a political tool for the GDR’s anti-fascist struggle against Nazis who were actively involved in the reorganization of a part of Germany.

Friedrich Wolff, top defense lawyer in the German Democratic Republic,

as a whole. The trial had great symbolic significance.

FW: In the West, people still speak of a “show trial” today.

FW: Of course it was a show trial. The GDR thus proved the continuity of the Nazi dictatorship in the West German state, the ally of the U.S. and its anti-communist busskwar against the East. So the scope of defense was limited. Nevertheless, we defense lawyers declared that the Supreme Court had no jurisdiction. First, the acts had not been committed on our territory; second, the criminal law of the GDR had not applied to Oberländer when he committed the acts. And thirdly, Oberländer was pro-

junges Welt: The general recognized rules of international law bind the parties to the war and every citizen.

FW: Was he, yes. In April, 1960, fellow lawyer Wolfgang Vogel let me know that 85-year-old Prof. Dr. Theodor Oberländer had asked him to instruct me as his defense counsel at the time to apply for the dismissal of the Supreme Court’s verdict. Oberländer was rehabili-

ted by the Regional Court on Nov. 24, 1963. Without examining the accusations of the prosecution, the verdict was annull on technical grounds “because the main burden of the defendant and the accused ’murder crimes’’ and in absence of the person concerned.”

FW: In 1993, when Oberländer was rehabilitated, the historian Götz Aly called him a “mastermind of extermi-

nation.”

FW: Which he most certainly was.

FW: Two years later, you defended another Nazi, Hans Maria Globke. He had not only contributed to the so-called Nuremberg Race Laws but had also formulated anti-Semitic laws himself. For example, [requir-

FW: and so. Since 1953 he was [West German Chancellor Konrad] Adenauer’s left and right hand in Bonn, the “gray eminence” responsible for personnel pol-

icy, for the work of the cabinet, for the establishment and control of BND and Constitutional Protection [political police organizations].

I was never afraid of the big shots. It was the trial as such. Never before had a West German former Nazi, especially one with government responsibility, been indicted by a GDR court for his war crimes. The trial was not only aimed at the specific person but at the political leadership of the Federal Republic of Germany

These were show trials in the sense of enlightenment and social ostracism. They were a political tool for the GDR’s anti-fascist struggle against Nazis who were actively involved in the reorganization of a part of Germany.

*Friedrich Wolff, born in Berlin-Neukölln in 1922, son of a Jewish doctor and a Protestant mother, joined the German Communist Party (KPD) in 1945. After studying law at Humboldt University from 1946 to 1949, he was minister’s legal office in the Ministry of Internal Affairs in Berlin, 1945. Between 1949 and 1951, he was a legal consultant in the Justice Department of the Berlin Magistrate’s Office; lawyer since 1953 and chairman of the Berlin Bar Association from 1954 to 1963. As Berlin Bar Association from 1954 to 1970, from 1984 to 1988 he was a member of the Berlin Bar Association, and also served as vice president of the Berlin Bar Association. Wolff has authored several books published by Edition Out in Berlin.
‘Operation Lone Star’ — a white supremacist ploy

Proto-fascist Gov. Greg Abbott of Texas is getting a lot of publicity these days for busing asylum-seeking migrants, who have entered the U.S. from the Mexican border, up north to Washington, D.C., and to New York City. He’s now been joined in this political stunt by Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey. Since mid-April, Abbott has sent over 6,000 migrants to D.C. from Texas, on more than 135 buses, as part of “Operation Lone Star.” In “New York City, Department of Police Commissioner Dermot Shea said Abbott is using the migrants as " Recruitment tool for the police force.”

And this jockying is not simply with words. Oh no! Actual people are being shuffled this way and that, across thousands and thousands of miles, with despair, homelessness, starvation, sickness and often death the result.

The struggle between “federal power” and “states’ rights” is a replay in a situation where much capital, including the mates of workers and oppressed people.

And white supremacy is a deadly premise on which that power is based. Either capitalist current is ready to use any technical advantage available to win — legal suppression including incarceration and forced labor, “dog whistle” racist language and publicist stunts like the busings. These practices are handed down generation to generation from one ruling-class politician to another.

Abbott’s busing plan is not new. It’s a page right out of the loathsome playbook of the White Citizens’ Council that fought desegregation in the South during the 1950’s and 60’s, under the banner of “states’ rights.”

Founded in 1954 in Mississippi, as part of the segregationist backlash to the Brown v. Board of Education desegregation ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court, the WCC was “the business arm of the Ku Klux Klan.”

Mayors, newspaper editors, business owners and Boy Scout leaders met openly in this network of white-supremacist organizations throughout the U.S. in 2021, in response to the Jan. 6 pro-Trump, violent take-over of the U.S. Capitol followed the 2020 presidential elections.

The writer was part of a Workers World Party delegation, amongst thousands of left forces confronting racist and fascist thugs in Charlottesville, Virginia, on Aug. 12, 2017.

This article first appeared on workers.org on Jan. 13, 2021, in response to the Jan. 6 pro-Trump, violent take-over of the U.S. Capitol followed the 2020 presidential elections.

A week later on Aug. 17, young anti-fascist forces tore down a statue of an unknown Confederate soldier in Durham, North Carolina, that sparked a movement across the U.S. and the world to remove monuments honoring pro-slavery figures.

The large demonstration of fascist, white-supremacist forces in Washington D.C., on Jan. 6 (2021) brought back memories for this writer of the “Unite the Right” rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, over three years ago.

Aug. 12, 2017, was filled with the most horrible racism and violence and the murder of anti-racist activist Heather Heyer and severe injuries to others there. And that day this writer saw the fight-back of working-class and oppressed people overcome the fascists and sent their flabby ideology into disarray. As far-right forces are increasingly emboldened and organized in the U.S., it’s worth looking back on Charlottesville for lessons we can apply today.

Lesson one: Kops and Klan go hand-in-hand

The police and far right have a long history of colluding or being hand-in-hand. In the current situation, when police do anything to protect the far right, despising the liberal notion that we can count on the cops. (For a deeper look at the connections between the police and the far right, read “The Klan & the Government: Foes or Allies?” by Sam Marcy, workers.org/books.)

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The writer at the connections between the police and the far right, read “The Klan & the Government: Foes or Allies?” by Sam Marcy, workers.org/books.)

Lesson two: The working class is not the base of fascism

The common stereotype of a white supremacist is a dirt-poor white worker, often from a rural area. In Charlottesville, it was immediately clear that the fascists were coming from a different social strata: The majority had substantial disposable income, enough to buy expensive uniforms, tactical equipment, gunpowder and vehicles to carry them there.

A similar pattern could be seen Jan. 6, with many of the rioters being businesspeople and at least one arriving on a private jet! While fascist movements draw in some white workers, their primary base is the petty bourgeoisie: small business owners and self-employed sectors. These elements are anxious on the one hand about the rising power of workers, especially from oppressed nations, and on the other hand the power of large capitalists, who threaten to grind them down into the working class.

The far right does not speak for the working class.

The exploited class is not only white — it is Black, Brown and Indigenous. It is undocumented migrants, Muslims, women and gender-nonconforming people, LGBTQ+’s, people with chronic health conditions and disabilities. It is primarily the most oppressed sectors of society, whose labor is most brutally exploited for profit by the capitalist class.

The working class is comprised of the very people most in direct conflict with the fascist movement — those who have historically led the resistance against it.

Lesson three: Workers and oppressed people need to respond independently

No elected politicians or sections of the Democratic Party showed up in Charlottesville to oppose the far right. The opposition consisted of various left political forces (Marxists, anarchists, social democrats), Black activists and unaffiliated workers.

The common liberal response to fascists is to ignore them, or to claim that if they don’t draw attention this dangerous notion allows white-supremacist ideas to flourish unchallenged.

The role of the working class is not to come out in response to fascist terror, but to intervene, preventing the rightists from holding their rally.

The lesson from Charlottesville is that workers and oppressed people need to respond independently. In line, the two are united in their goal of doing so.

We must build an anti-racist, anti-fascist movement deeply rooted in the working class and independent of the Democrats. We must also overcome the fear, entirely understandable, of directly confronting fascists in the streets.

Lesson four: The fascists are not invincible!

The morning of Aug. 12, 2017, began with left and right forces gathering and the balance of forces still unclear. As far-right violence increased, militant, disciplined resistance pushed them back until the police were forced to intervene, preventing the rightists from holding their rally.

The seemingly all-powerful fascists scattered and fell into bickering and infighting. Those who arrived in Charlottesville to unite the various factions of their movement left divided and demoralized.

When it seemed that the right might overwhelm the left, revolutionary leaders played a key role by conveying confidence that we could fight back. Organization, discipline and communication boosted morale, playing a decisive role in turning the tide.

It is the duty of revolutionaries to instill this confidence — in the streets, in meetings and in our propaganda. As Mao Zedong famously put it: “All reactionaries are cowards; Marxism is invincible.”
Taiwan, Kosovo, Afghanistan
Where it does not dominate, U.S. imperialism sows chaos

By Manuel Raposo

Raposo is editor of the Portuguese website, jornalmarudewida.net, where this article was published Aug. 10. Translation: John Catalinotto.

While declaring itself ready to prolong the war in Ukraine, “for as long as necessary,” U.S. imperialism is dedicating itself to creating new hotbeds of tension in various parts of the world, in a bid to threaten and show strength.

Three events reveal this: the visit to Taiwan of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, second in succession to the president behind the White House door; the Kosovo authorities’ provocations against the ethnic Serbian population, provoking the Serbian Republic and Russia; and the assassination of an Al-Qaeda leader in Afghanistan, with the aim of keeping the Taliban government under fire.

With this, the U.S. gives a practical demonstration of what the new NATO strategy, defined in Madrid at the end of June, means. Leaders expressed their intention to extend the Alliance’s radius of action all over the world, namely to the Pacific. Supported by the complicity of Western allies, the United States is venturing into what it knows best: military threats.

Taiwan
Pelosi’s visit is an obvious provocation to China and a denial of international treaties that recognize one China, of which Taiwan is an integral part. In concert with Biden’s presidency (this is the only way to understand the tour), Pelosi has acted as Biden’s presidency (this is the only way to understand the tour), Pelosi has acted as

the establishment of diplomatic relations between the U.S. and the People’s Republic of China. There is only one China, the People’s Republic, the only one represented in the United Nations; Taiwan is an island province which is part of China; U.S. purposes: to strengthen ties with one China, of which Taiwan is a part of. The message left by Pelosi is clear about U.S. purposes: to strengthen ties with one China, of which Taiwan is a part of.

The assassination of Ayman al-Zawahiri, in Kabul, followed the script that Barack Obama had already set; it is as if the United States is being used as a tool to maintain the independency of the United States, as it has been under the administration of the United States.

Set up in 1999 following the bombing of Yugoslavia by NATO forces, its function is to serve U.S. strategic interests in the Balkans and the Middle East. A Council of Europe Human Rights envoy who visited the base in 2005 called it “a reduced version of Guantánamo,” and it was known that the CIA secretly used it as a detention and torture camp for individuals labeled “terrorists.”

With the outbreak of war in Ukraine in February, Pelosi was ready to go along with sanctions against Russia. At the end of July, while increasing discriminatory pressures on the Serbian population, the Kosovo government called through the voice of its defense minister, for accelerated integration into NATO.

The Republic of Kosovo’s independence, if it is to be recalled, did not cooperate in the sanctions against Russia. Furthermore, it does not recognize the independence of the United States, self-declaring company Poland and the United States under the military action of the USA and NATO. In keeping with Serbia’s reasons, Russia and China, along with five other European countries, as of the 16th of July, did not recognize the independence of Kosovo, which, therefore, has no representation at the United Nations.

Afghanistan
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The duplication of the U.S. leads it to swear allegiance to these precepts—as did Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Pelosi herself at the height of the present crisis—while at the same time encouragingDEPENDENT POSITIONS IN TAIWAN AND SELLING ARMS TO THE CURRENT TAIPEI GOVERNMENT, UNDER THE GUARDIAN OF RESPONDING TO BEIJING’S “THREATS.” IT WAS THIS SECOND SIDE OF U.S. POLICY THAT PELOSI TOOK IT UPON HERSELF TO DEFEND THE CURRENT TAIPEI GOVERNMENT.

The White House’s game-playing, to make it look like it had nothing to do with the congresswoman’s decision, is a demonstration of political cynicism that convinces no one. Above all, it did not convince the people of Taiwan, who are the beneficiaries of substantial military assets in the waters around Taiwan in response to both the political provocation itself and the U.S. deployment of naval military forces in the region.

The point is that time is running in Beijing’s favor, both because of China’s growing economic and political power in the region and the world and because of the decline and increasing isolation of the U.S. A peaceable course of events will lead toward the integration of Taiwan’s entire population into the Chinese nation, and into the political community of the People’s Republic of China.

The duplicity of the U.S. leads it to swear allegiance to these precepts—as did Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Pelosi herself at the height of the present crisis—while at the same time encouraging...
Ucrania

¿Saboteará Estados Unidos el acuerdo sobre los cereales?

Por Sara Flounders

24 de julio — Un acuerdo negociado por Turquía para la exportación de granos de Ucrania y Rusia para debilitar el imperialismo estadounidense y sus objetivos de guerra. La respuesta de Washington: enviar más armas. El histórico acuerdo para trasladar cientos de toneladas de granos, si sigue adelante, socava la determinación de Estados Unidos y la OTAN de continuar la guerra en Ucrania a pesar del coste para ese país y de la terrible amenaza de hambruna en países de todo el mundo. A Washington le preocupa especialmente que el acuerdo haya sido concertado por el presidente de Turquía, miembro de las condiciones en el sector de la salud y la educación; el aumento de los salarios y las pensiones; la reparación de las infraestructuras públicas del país; el compromiso de acabar con la corrupción; el rechazo a las bases militares estadounidenses; la retirada de sus planes de recortar el 10% de la plantilla del sector público; y la implantación de un programa de jubilación voluntaria para los empleados del sector público, entre sus 30 demandas. Es evidente que las necesidades básicas del pueblo han sido ignoradas por el gobierno neoliberal, lo que ha provocado que millones de panameños se acuesten a su pueblo durante el tiempo que sea necesario”. (AP, 22 de julio)

En los últimos cinco meses, Estados Unidos y sus aliados europeos han suministrado miles de millones de dólares en armas a Ucrania y han impuesto sanciones sin precedentes a Moscú. Se entiende que la continua afluencia de armas, contratistas militares y medidas económicas coercitivas prolongará la guerra.

El acuerdo de alimentos

El complejo acuerdo para transportar cientos de toneladas de cereales y fertilizantes, tanto ucranianos como rusos, a través de estrechos canales desminados en el Mar Negro, y luego a través del Bósforo hacia el Mar Mediterráneo y los mercados mundiales, implicó acuerdos separados con Ucrania y Rusia.

Los militares ucranianos habían minado el puerto de Odesa y se negaban a retirar las minas, a pesar de los esfuerzos de Washington por debilitar las bases militares rusas en Ucrania.

El acuerdo limitado de 120 días —que no es un alto el fuego— crea un corredor desmilitarizado a través del Mar Negro para las exportaciones rusas de granos, aunque también implica una advertencia de que el imperialismo estadounidense está perdiendo el control político. La reunión de los dos principales objetivos de Washington pone en tela de juicio la afirmación de que Irán y Rusia están alineados e y se enfrentan al colapso. El gigante del gas ruso Gazprom ha firmado un acuerdo de $40.000 millones de dólares con la Compañía Nacional de Petróleo de Irán para ayudar a los productores iranienses a desarrollar los yacimientos de petróleo y gas en todo su país. Una semana antes, el viaje del presidente en Turquía, miembro de la élite del poder del país.

En otro acontecimiento, las fotos del presidente ruso Vladimir Putin, el presidente turco Erdogan, y el presidente ucraniano Zelenski, se mostraron reunidos en Teherán el 19 de julio, proporcionando una advertencia de que el imperialismo estadounidense está perdiendo el control político. La reunión de los dos principales objetivos de Washington pone en tela de juicio la afirmación de que Irán y Rusia están alineados e y se enfrentan al colapso. El gigante ruso Gazprom ha firmado un acuerdo de $40.000 millones de dólares con la Compañía Nacional de Petróleo de Irán para ayudar a los productores iranienses a desarrollar los yacimientos de petróleo y gas en todo su país. Una semana antes, el viaje del presidente en Turquía, miembro de la élite del poder del país.

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