

‘We have survived and flourished’

Massive turnout on National Day of Mourning

By Will Hodgkinson
Plymouth, Massachusetts

Over 2,000 Indigenous activists and their supporters gathered at Cole’s Hill in Plymouth to commemorate the 53rd National Day of Mourning on Nov. 24.

Kisha James (Aquinnah Wampanoag and Oglala Lakota), co-leader of United American Indians of New England (UAINE), opened the rally by telling the history of NDOM, which was founded in 1970 by her grandfather, the late Wamsutta Frank James.

Kisha James quoted an account of the first NDOM by Russell Means of the American Indian Movement (AIM), who described the first NDOM as: “a day American Indians won’t forget. We went to Plymouth for a purpose: to mourn since the landing of the Pilgrims the repression of the American Indian and to indict the hypocrisy of a system that glorifies that repression.”

James went on to demolish the Thanksgiving legend, which remains the cornerstone of U.S. settler-colonial ideology. Far from being havens of “religious freedom,” as bourgeois historians insist, the Plymouth and Massachusetts Bay Colonies were genocidal theocracies financed by the trade in enslaved people and built on stolen Wampanoag, Massachusett, Nauset, Nipmuc and Pennacook lands.

The story that the first official “Thanksgiving” took place in 1621 is likewise a fabrication. In reality, Massachusetts Bay Colony Governor John Winthrop proclaimed a “Day of Thanksgiving” in 1637 to “celebrate”



Nov. 24, 2022, Plymouth, Massachusetts

WW PHOTO: RACHEL JONES

the massacre of over 700 Pequot on the shore of the Mystic River.

“When people celebrate the myth of Thanksgiving, they are not only erasing our genocide but celebrating it,” said James. “We did not simply fade into the background, as the Thanksgiving myth says. We have survived and flourished. We have persevered. The very fact that you are here is proof that we did not vanish. Our very presence frees this land from the lies of the history books and the mythmakers.”

Mahtowin Munro (Oglala Lakota), co-leader of UAINE, highlighted ongoing Indigenous resistance to capitalism’s genocidal assault on their sovereign nations. While bourgeois world leaders ignore the worsening

climate crisis, strip mining, fracking and oil and gas pipelines continue to ravage Native lands and poison water sources throughout the world.

As Munro emphasized, tribal sovereignty is facing an unprecedented threat from a reactionary campaign, backed by Big Oil, that seeks to repeal the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA). ICWA has provided Indigenous families vital protections from the U.S. racist foster care system and Christian adoption agencies, which have kidnapped Native children from their families, nations and cultures for decades.

Munro demanded the return of all sacred Indigenous funerary items and human remains looted by U.S. institutions, the abolition of settler-colonial borders and ICE’s racist state-terror regime, and the full restoration of sovereign

Indigenous territories.

“Our ancestors always taught us to demand the return of our lands,” said Munro. “It is not a new idea. The land and water are in our blood and bones, part of our bodies, and we have never forgotten that.”

Stressing the right to sovereignty

Juan Gonzalez (Maya), spoke on behalf of The Council of Maya Elders. Using Mayan and Zapatista resistance to Mexican state terror as an example, Gonzalez emphasized the need for Indigenous self-determination and autonomous organization in the fight against settler colonialism and resurgent fascism.

Leoyla Cowboy (Diné), a member of the Indigenous

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Books, bathrooms, bills – and bullets

By Martha Grevatt

WW COMMENTARY

“Senseless.”

How many times have we heard that after a mass shooting? It’s like a broken record.

The word has been repeated many times after the Nov. 20 massacre of workers and customers at an LGBTQ+ bar in Colorado Springs, Colorado. President Joe Biden called the shootings at Club Q a “senseless attack.”

But suggesting this crime is merely foolish or pointless — how the Merriam-Webster dictionary defines


senseless — denies centuries of violent bigotry against the LGBTQ2S+ community and covers up the rising attacks

that result in every new heartbreak of victims and survivors in the targeted communities.

The individual who pulled the trigger did not come out of nowhere. The shooter acted in a political climate of anti-LGBTQ2S+ and especially anti-trans hatred, fostered by at least 344 bills in state legislatures this year; 25 of them have been passed.

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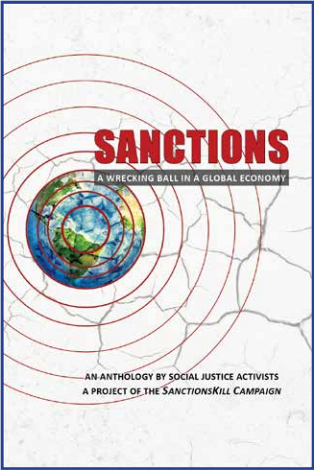
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U.S. sanctions Dec. 10 webinar exposes economic warfare

By Minnie Bruce Pratt



Intensifying U.S. sanctions, imposed on a third of humanity, are sending shock waves through the world economy. Sanctions have boomeranged on the U.S. and EU countries through inflation, supply chain shortages and a looming recession — causing hardship at home.

But by far the greatest burden is borne by the 40+ countries sanctioned by the U.S. The U.S. response is to double down with

harsher sanctions. What are the implications?

On Sat., Dec. 10, a dynamic panel of speakers will analyze this brutal form of economic warfare on civilian populations, using the just-issued anthology, “Sanctions: A Wrecking Ball in a Global Economy.” Register at tinyurl.com/yc3y2wyn.

Speakers will be Ajamu Baraka of Black Alliance for Peace; Erica Jung of Nodutdol Korean Community Development; Carlos Martinez of the International Manifesto Group; Lee Siu Hin of the China-U.S. Solidarity Network; Judy Bello of the Syria Support Movement and United National Antiwar Coalition; Ann Garrison, reporter for Pacifica Radio and Black Agenda Report; Rick Sterling from Task Force on the Americas; and Sara Flounders of the International Action Center.

As Flounders, an editor of the anthology, told WW: “U.S. sanctions have a devastating effect on countries attempting to improve basic living conditions. This book is a cooperation of many groups and is intended as a resource for activists to use in opening a conversation. The compilation is useful in a class or political meeting and is

available at a 50% discount on bulk orders to activists.”

The webinar discussion, featuring several authors of the new anthology, will include developments in key regions of the world. Of special note is the fact that Lee Siu Hin of China is in the U.S. for both the webinar and the following book signing events.

- **Tues., Dec. 6: Philadelphia** — Calvary Church Community Room, 801 South 48th St., 7:30 p.m.
- **Wed., Dec. 7: South Bronx, New York** — Hostos Community College Social Justice Day, with student activist clubs and history/sociology classes, 3:30 p.m.
- **Sat., Dec. 10: International Webinar** — “Sanctions: A Wrecking Ball in a Global Economy,” 1 p.m. ET, 10 a.m. PT, 6 p.m./18 hr GMT. Register at tinyurl.com/yc3y2wyn.
- **Tues., Dec. 13: Manhattan, New York** — The People’s Forum, 320 West 37th St., 6:30 p.m.
- **Wed., Dec. 14: Buffalo, New York** — Burning Books Bookstore, 420 Connecticut St., 7:00 p.m.
- **Thurs., Dec. 15, Berkeley, California** — East Bay Media Center, 1939 Addison St., 6:30 p.m.

“Sanctions: A Wrecking Ball in the Global Economy” can be ordered through iacenter.org/sanctions-book, including bulk orders of 10 or more. If you can send a quote, a comment or a review of the book, or if you are interested in a meeting or a signing in your area, please contact info@sanctionskill.org.

The Dec. 10 webinar will be presented by the SanctionsKill Campaign (sanctionskill.org) and co-sponsors United National Antiwar Coalition, Black Alliance for Peace, Popular Resistance, International Action Center, Task Force on the Americas, Alliance for Global Justice, China/U.S. Solidarity Network, Syria Support Movement, International Manifesto Group, Just Peace Advocates and U.S. Peace Council.

Again, register at tinyurl.com/yc3y2wyn for the Dec. 10 webinar. □

MUNDO OBRERO WORKERS WORLD

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Join us in the fight for socialism!

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

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

Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, attacks on im/migrants, misogyny, LGBTQ2S+ oppression and mistreatment of people with disabilities. It means joblessness, increasing homelessness and impoverishment and lack of hope for the future. No social problems can be solved under capitalism.

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

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

WWP fights for socialism because the working class produces all wealth in society, and this wealth should remain in their hands, not be stolen in the form of capitalist profits. The wealth workers create should be socially owned and its distribution planned to satisfy and guarantee basic human needs.

Since 1959, Workers World Party has been out in the streets defending the workers and oppressed here and

worldwide. If you’re interested in Marxism, socialism and fighting for a socialist future, please contact a WWP branch near you. □

If you are interested in joining Workers World Party contact: 212.627.2994

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Leonard Peltier’s greeting to National Day of Mourning

The following slightly edited statement from imprisoned political prisoner Leonard Peltier (Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians) was read by Herbert Waters IV (Wampanoag) on Nov. 24, 2022. See whoisleonardpeltier.info for more information.

Greetings my relatives, friends, loved ones and supporters.

First, I want to say how deeply grateful I am that you would want to hear what I have to say.

It is an honor to be with you in spirit, though I am far away. Being my age and having spent these many years in prison plays on your heart to the nth degree. I am here because I wanted to make a difference for our people, and I want to encourage others to do the same.

My heart has not changed, and my intentions have not changed. The love and faith I have in our future generations has not changed.

All the world now faces the same challenges that our people foretold, regarding climate damage being caused by people who take more than they need, dismissing

the teachings of our fathers and the knowledge of countless generations living upon the Earth in harmony.

I may sound a bit dramatic and sensitive; but after all these years and the 78 journeys around the sun, I often feel and think that I should speak my mind and heart to whomever I can whenever I can, because at my age, you never know if you are going to live another 20 years or 20 minutes.

Our people have been through a lot; generations have been imprisoned, beaten, murdered, dispossessed of our lands, and they fought so we might live.

We are proud of our ancestors. I have tried to make the best of my time upon the Earth, in my given circumstances. To say the least, this has not been an enjoyable life journey, but I am proud to have been given a chance to stand for our people. I encourage you to do the same.

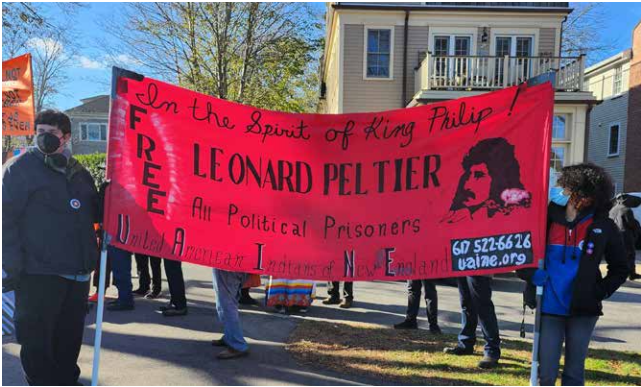
I am not a speaker, but I have spoken; I am not a leader, but I have led. Having said this, knowing what I know now, feeling what I’ve felt, seeing what I’ve seen and hearing what I have heard, I would do it all over again. For as our ancestors

loved a future for us, I love all people who have walked upon this Earth. I recognize her as the greatest manifestation of the Creator, and she should be recognized as such.

On this day of “mourning,” I encourage you, with a hopeful heart, to continue to gather and have ceremony in remembrance of all our people, especially those who have given their lives so that we might live.

Each of you has within you the potential to make a difference in the world. Each one of you has the opportunity and ability to do one act of kindness to someone in need and one act to make the Earth a better place for all life.

I, with the help of others, have started a Food Forest Movement. We encourage all people throughout the Earth to plant at least one fruit-bearing tree, so that the animals and all creatures of the Earth will



WW PHOTO: MONICA MOOREHEAD

National Day of Mourning, Nov. 24, 2022.

have healthier food, better air and cleaner water.

Forgive me if I have said too much or too little. Time in this place is often irrelevant to the task at hand. May the Creator bless you, your families and all our peoples of like mind.

Peace, love and blessings,
In the Spirit of Crazy Horse,

Doksha,
Leonard Peltier
Mitakuye Oyasin



Indigenous California peoples fight to save ancient burial mounds

Some 400 supporters joined Ohlone organizers and community Nov. 25 for the annual Shellmound Walk in the San Francisco Bay Area. Since 2005, Shellmound Walks are held the day after “Unthanksgiving” to raise awareness of the struggle of the Native California coastal nations to save the ruins of their ancient burial mounds.

This year Ohlone community organizers and supporters gathered at the West Berkeley Shellmound, the site of the earliest known habitation in the Bay Area. The 5,000-year-old Ohlone village and burial site was recently desecrated with a parking lot. A rally was followed by a walk to the Emeryville Shellmound site in West Oakland.

Over 500 shellmounds, similar to the



PHOTO: PERRY MATLOCK

Egyptian pyramids in their great age, originally ringed the Bay Area. These sites marked villages and burial grounds, where Miwok, Coastal Me-Wauk, Bay Me-Wauk, Ohlone, Patwin, Wappo, Wintu, Yokut and other coastal nations gathered before colonialism.

The ancient shellmounds of the California Coast were depicted on the original U.S. Coast Guard maps as landmarks, due to their great size. The Emeryville Shellmound was constantly occupied from 500 BCE until Spanish soldiers and missionaries imprisoned the Ohlone people. This shellmound was devastated repeatedly since U.S. colonization, most recently by real estate developers for a shopping mall.

— Story by Stephanie Hedgecoke

Massive turnout on National Day of Mourning

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revolutionary collective The Red Nation, demanded the release of AIM activist Leonard Peltier (Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians). Peltier has been a political prisoner for 47 years.

Herbert Waters IV (Wampanoag) read Peltier’s annual NDOM statement. “Our people have been through a lot,” Peltier wrote. “Generations have been imprisoned, beaten, murdered, dispossessed of our lands, and they fought so we might live. We are proud of our ancestors. I have tried to make the best of my time upon the Earth, in my given circumstances.

“To say the least, this has not been an enjoyable life journey, but I am proud to have been given a chance to stand for our people. I encourage you to do the same. I am not a speaker, but I have spoken, I am not a leader, but I have led. Having said this, knowing what I know now, feeling what I’ve felt, seeing what I’ve seen and hearing what I have heard, I would do it all over again.”

Justine Teba (Pueblos of Santa Clara, Tesque, and Acoma), a member of The Red Nation, spoke about the

Red Deal program to protect climate, biodiversity and Indigenous sovereignty, by dismantling the imperialist global system of capitalism and settler colonialism.

“We as Indigenous people are being racialized as merely Indigenous, when we are our own nations with our own citizens,” said Teba. “And it’s that nationhood and that sovereignty that The Red Nation believes in.”

From Cole’s Hill protesters marched to the site of Plymouth Rock, a pebble enshrined to settler-colonial genocide, to hear further speeches. Samantha Maltais (Aquinnah Wampanoag) discussed the struggle of Indigenous nations to protect their lands from the degradation brought by climate change and maintain tribal sovereignty within the U.S.’ inherently

racist legal framework.

“Today is not just simply a way to remember history but to assert ourselves as the resilient people who are fighting colonialism every single day,” Maltais said.

Alberto Barreto Cardonas traveled from Boriken (Puerto Rico) to urge solidarity with people there in their battle against Wall Street-backed colonial exploitation and for their campaign for independence from the U.S. metropole.

Tylee Nez (Diné) spoke about Indigenous student activism and the environmental racism experienced by Indigenous communities. Ayeta Aronson (United Houma Nation), a member of the Bulbancha Collective, discussed the Collective’s work combating the anti-Indigenous discrimination and ecological violence inflicted by the fossil-fuel industry on Indigenous nations in Louisiana.

The march ended at Post Office Square, where Massachusetts Bay colonists displayed the head of 17th century Wampanoag leader Metacomet, who led Native resistance to settler death squads during “King Philip’s War.”

At the Square, Beyon



WW PHOTOS: RACHEL JONES

Kisha James and Mahtowin Munro, UAINE co-leaders

Wren Moor (Pimicikimak Cree) discussed their work defending the Yintah, the unceded traditional land of the Wet’suwet’en Nation, located in so-called “British Columbia,” from the environmental destruction caused by pipeline projects. Moor detailed the horrific abuse inflicted on them and their comrades when Canadian RCMP police invaded the Wet’suwet’en Nation.

Jean-Luc Pierite (Tunica Biloxi), President of the Board of the North American Center of Boston, closed out the rally and stressed the importance of direct action and organization to combat the settler-colonial assault on tribal sovereignty. “Do not just fight at the ballot box,” said Pierite. “Continue to fight on the streets. ... Continue the fight, and we will continue into the future.” □



Nov. 24, Plymouth, Mass.

WW PHOTO: RACHEL JONES

Portland Starbucks: Three-day strike

By Maddi Johnson
Portland, Oregon

“Oh workers, can you stand it? Oh tell me how you can? We’ve got to stand up for our rights, not fall for Schultz’s scam!” Singing a new verse to the old union standard “Which Side Are You On,” voices harmonized in the cold, damp Portland air outside the Garden Home Starbucks Nov. 27. Already unionized, workers at that location were on the last day of a three-day strike and spirits were as high as ever.

Why go on strike after winning a union? Because they know that one victory is not a total victory. Unionizing is only one step, albeit an important one.

Six-year Starbucks veteran Riley McNutt cited the withholding of benefits

as a major reason for the strike and that the corporation had stopped tipping via credit card at unionized locations. “That’s significant,” she said. “Workers at stores with credit card tips are sometimes making twice as much.”

This discrimination is illegal, but Starbucks doesn’t care. Like Amazon, the coffee giant proudly busts unions in flagrant disregard of the law. But the workers aren’t frightened by the threat. In fact, McNutt says it’s an incentive to unionize! The bosses are only exposing their cruelty and lack of trustworthiness. Customers have noticed that they can’t tip the Garden Home workers by credit card and have asked about it. When told the reason, they get upset by the injustice.

The Starbucks workers maintained a unified front, with every single staff

member at that location showing up to picket throughout the three days. Across stores, they’ve worked closely with unionizers in Seattle.

Support from the community has been solid, judging by the pile of food donated to keep the strikers going. Worker solidarity was on display, with union members from Amazon and the Teamsters present. Hailey Espinoza, who has worked at Starbucks for 4 ½ years, spoke on their strong relationship with the nurses at St. Vincent Hospital. She says that after marching with the nurses, the nurses returned the favor by showing up to their strike. Most people who show up stay for a long time.

“Unions give workers power, and that’s a good thing,” McNutt asserted. “It can definitely be daunting, but there are those



in the community who want to help.” She said that for every five positive reactions to the strike, they do get one negative response. But with a grin, she followed up with “We’re used to it; we work at Starbucks.” □

Mushroom workers keep up the fight

By Jim McMahan
Seattle

Workers from Ostrom Mushroom Farms traveled 200 miles from Sunnyside, Washington, to picket the Metropolitan Market in Seattle on Nov. 20. The workers demanded the upscale Metro Market support them in their struggle for union recognition of the United Farm Workers. They asked that the Market communicate this commitment by observing ethical purchasing practices.

Ostrom Farms is a large agribusiness in the hugely profitable mushroom industry. The mushroom workers held a rally with solidarity messages from Starbucks Workers and other commu-



nity groups. The Ostrom workers were demanding fair pay, safe working conditions, equal opportunities and respect in the backbreaking agricultural industry.

Over 200 Ostrom workers signed a petition to Ostrom in June, making these demands. A committee of the workers met with Ostrom management in August and was able to win the back wages the company had owed to many workers. Then Ostrom began to refuse to meet with UFW representatives; so in September, they marched on company headquarters with a strong majority of workers supporting the UFW. Ostrom still refused to respond to them.

Over the last two years, from January 2021 to May 2022, Ostrom has fired over 140 of its very experienced mushroom workers; most of them were women. Then the company hired 65 temporary agricultural workers, who are also very exploited, under the federal H-2A program for non-U.S. workers. All but two of

these workers were men.

As the company was firing its majority-women workers, it blatantly posted a job advertisement on Facebook seeking “only males” to work at the firm. Washington State Attorney General Bob Ferguson has filed a lawsuit against Ostrom, charging that the company abused the H-2A system by deliberately and systematically firing female workers to replace almost exclusively with male workers. The lawsuit charges the company with retaliation against workers who have spoken out against mistreatment. (thestand.org, Nov. 14)

These efforts by bosses to divide the workers may well backfire as workers unite to fight back and demand respect for their union and no discrimination. □

Worldwide actions demand: ‘Make Amazon pay!’

By Martha Grevatt

Protesting Amazon’s treatment of workers and its practices that contribute to the climate crisis, coordinated demonstrations in over 30 countries on five continents demanded, “Make Amazon pay!” Held for the third consecutive year on Nov. 25 — “Black Friday” — the actions were called by a broad global coalition of labor, environmental and social justice organizations.

Workers struck, marched and rallied

to protest Amazon’s union busting and the unsafe conditions in the company’s warehouses and across the supply chain. (progressive.international)

Christy Hoffman, UNI Global Union’s General Secretary, said, “Today, unions, civil society and progressive elected officials will stand shoulder to shoulder in a massive global day of action to denounce Amazon’s despicable multimillion dollar campaigns to kill worker-led union efforts. It’s time for the tech giant to cease their awful, unsafe practices immediately,

respect the law and negotiate with the workers who want to make their jobs better.”

Hoffman’s union is a co-convenor of Make Amazon Pay. (uniglobalunion.org)

“Garment workers, like those I represent, toil to swell Amazon’s coffers often without any recognition that we are even Amazon workers. Amazon is the third largest direct employer in the world, but when you take us in the supply chain into account, it is even larger. At work we can face sexual harassment from

management and victimization when we try to organize in a trade union against that violence and for better pay and conditions,” said Nazma Akhter, president of the Sommilito Garments Sramik Federation in Bangladesh.

“In Bangladesh, we are on the front-line of climate breakdown, so we know climate justice and social justice cannot be separated. We have to Make Amazon Pay all its workers a decent wage in dignified workplaces and for its environmental damage.” □



New School strike

Part-time faculty at the New School in New York City are on the picket line, since the school administration failed to meet their demands for a pay increase, better health care options, a voice in curriculum planning and job security. These faculty are members of United Auto Workers Local 7902, and they voted overwhelmingly to strike when their current contract expired mid-November. The part-time faculty have not had a raise since 2018.

The 1,500 union members make up 87% of those who teach at the New School. In a statement, the union noted: “The New School’s reputation rests on its progressive history and professed values — a reputation with which its treatment of workers fails to align.” (tinyurl.com/2p9vxtss)

Nordson factory strike

Workers at the Nordson Corporation in Amherst, Ohio, have been on strike since early November. The 130+ workers are members of International Association of Machinists Local 1802. Like so many others in the U.S., workers at Nordson kept the company afloat during the pandemic despite personal risk to themselves and their families. Now they are demanding a wage increase commensurate with the cost of living under rising inflation, as well as health care options that won’t break the backs of workers struggling with exorbitant medical expenses.

Contract talks broke down when the corporate bosses would not budge on the issue of mandatory overtime. The company demands 32 weekend days per year from every worker. At one day per weekend, that rips up 60% of all weekends for workers. IAM spokesperson T. Dean Wright Jr. states, “We’re simply asking for a respectable contract that has a basic level of work-life balance for our members. We are a critical part of this community and its economy. ...” (tinyurl.com/mpb9xntx)

Maximus Call Center strike

The workers at Maximus Call Centers in four states in the South are organizing with the Communications Workers and have been on strike since Nov 1. The CWA

estimates 650 Maximus workers are on strike in the Louisiana, Mississippi, Kentucky and Virginia call centers.

Workers said they will not return until their wages are increased to \$25 an hour. The company has offered a puny \$200 incentive to workers in an attempt to break the strike. Maximus is the largest federal call center contractor handling Affordable Care Act enrollments.

Tiffany Murray, a worker at the Mississippi Call Center, spoke truth to power, “We don’t want to patch; we want a new foundation. Fix a flat, we don’t need that. We need a whole new tire moving forward. So going out is going to show them that you can’t just pacify us with a bonus. We need our rights.”

The workers demand protection from sexual and racial harrassment from callers, since their complaints on these issues have been virtually ignored by senior management. And the call center workers want 30 minutes of break time in each 8-hour shift for their mental health, given the stressful nature of the work.

At a press conference with Maximus workers, Charles Taylor, executive director of the Mississippi NAACP, aligned the Maximus workers with the strong history of Black women activists in the South: “It is not by accident that Black women from Mississippi and Louisiana are the ones to call out this injustice of our system that expects them to be essential workers but does not treat them as human beings who matter.” (tinyurl.com/yc5v9p84) □

Free Leonard Peltier and all Native prisoners

By Ted Kelly

The slightly edited article first appeared online Oct. 13, 2021.

During the era of colonial theft and conquest, North America became a proving ground for European imperialists. This was where strategies of biological warfare and genocide were honed, as well as the industry that has become a pillar of modern global capitalism: mass incarceration.

One cannot talk about the struggle of Indigenous peoples and nations against settler colonialism without talking about the struggle for prison abolition. “Indian Removal” relied on the establishment of mass internment camps, “emigration depots” and prisons.

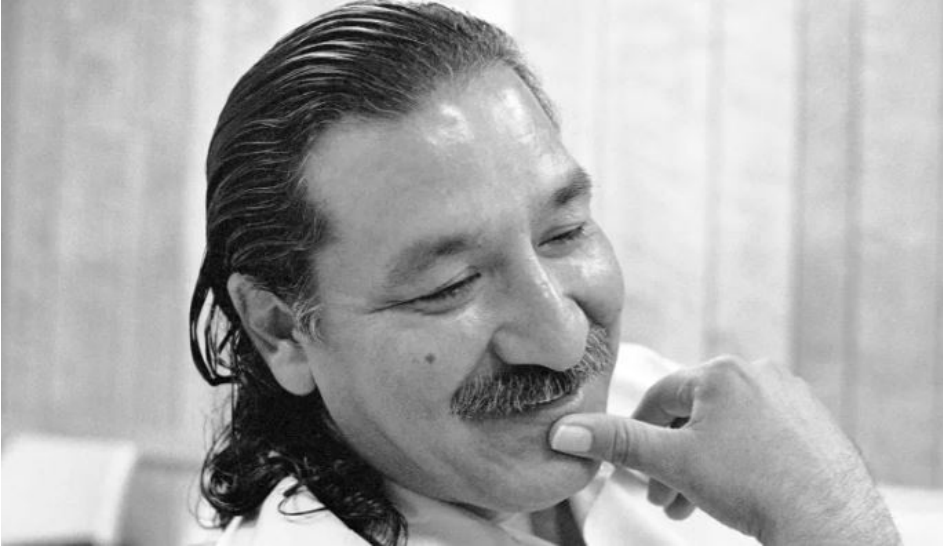
U.S. prisons have been and are concentration camps for the poor and oppressed. One certain function of this imprisonment is to prevent colonized peoples from fighting for their national self-determination — the right of any oppressed nationality to practice their own culture, customs, language and self-governance on their own lands.

In 1838, despite strong and coordinated resistance, 15,000 Cherokee people were violently displaced at the point of a bayonet by white-settler militias and the U.S. military, an atrocity known as the Trail of Tears. But a plan to commit genocide on the Native inhabitants of the continent had been underway long before President Andrew Jackson took office, before even the establishment of the U.S. government as it exists today.

In 1780 the Virginia colony’s 37-year-old governor Thomas Jefferson wrote, “If we are to wage a campaign against these Indians, the end proposed should be their extermination or their removal beyond the lakes of the Illinois River.” (tinyurl.com/fnccanc2)

George Washington himself came

from a long line of violent racist colonizers. His great-grandfather John Washington was called “Hanadahguyus,” an Haudenosaunee word meaning “Town Destroyer,” because he massacred Native people. The future president and commander of U.S. armies inherited this bloodstained title, along with tobacco plantations on stolen land and hundreds



Leonard Peltier

of enslaved African workers.

Imperialists didn’t put down the weapons of mass incarceration and displacement after forcing the Native nations of North America onto reservation lands. Children were kidnapped and taken to boarding schools, where they were subjected to terrible abuse by their jailers. This further disrupted the social cohesion of Indigenous societies, by preventing children from speaking their own languages and practicing their own cultures.

The Canadian government now admits that the bodies of at least 5,000 children have been discovered in mass graves on the sites of “residential schools” — that country’s name for these juvenile prisons. While the grim revelations of crimes committed against the First Nations in

Canada are far from over, no such process on that scale has taken place in the U.S.

But it is beyond doubt that the phenomenon of “kids in cages” did not begin — nor end — under the presidency of Donald J. Trump.

Jakelin Caal, a seven-year-old Q’eqchi’ child, and an eight-year-old Chuj child, Felipe Gómez Alonso, both from

Guatemala, died within weeks of each other in December 2018, while in the custody of U.S. Customs and Border Protection. Many of the thousands of migrants who seek asylum on the U.S. border today are members of Indigenous nations, who speak many different and unrelated Native languages, and research shows they are less likely to receive medical care than Spanish-speaking refugees. (tinyurl.com/3v25n3mh)

Prisons and Indigenous resistance

Prisons are used to eliminate the leaders of Indigenous resistance. Sitting Bull, the great 19th century Hunkpapa Lakota leader, was a U.S. political prisoner from 1881 to 1883 and was assassinated in 1890 during an attempt to rearrest him.

The Oglala Lakota freedom fighter Crazy Horse was murdered by his jailers in 1877 at a concentration camp in what is now Nebraska. Chiricahua Apache resistance leader Geronimo died as a prisoner of war at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, in 1909.

This history is why it is so crucial that revolutionaries and people of conscience join the movement to free Leonard Peltier, a member of the Turtle Mountain Chippewa also of Lakota and Dakota heritage, who has been incarcerated by the U.S. since 1975. Peltier, an American Indian Movement member, is one of the most well-known Native political prisoners from the period of militant struggle in the 1970s.

As we fight to support this generation’s political prisoners, like the #NoDAPL Water Protectors Red Fawn Fallis, Michael “Rattler” Markus, Michael “Little Feather” Giron and Dion Ortiz, we must fight to make sure no prisoners of war are left in custody to have their fates decided by their imperialist captors.

Peltier wrote in 2018, before the COVID-19 pandemic ravaged the incarcerated population in this country and before he underwent heart surgery, “It doesn’t seem as if any changes for the good or safety of Mother Earth will happen soon. But the good-hearted people are fighting back, and some good people are winning in the struggles to beat back some of this evil and to make the changes, the safety networks we need for our grandchildren and great-grandchildren so that they will be able to live happy, successful lives, at least decent lives, that most of the poor underprivileged in my generation never got to experience or enjoy in [their] short lives.” (Workers World, Dec. 3)

The International Leonard Peltier Defense Committee is urgently requesting donations to support his campaign for freedom at the ILPDC Facebook Page (facebook.com/PeltierHQ/).

This is still the year to free Leonard Peltier! □



Voices from behind the walls

The following are a small sample of the letters Workers World newspaper receives from brothers, sisters and siblings enslaved by the U.S. carceral system. You can help Workers World provide them print issues of our newspaper for free with your donation through Patreon. Read more letters and donate at patreon.com/wwp.

Dear Workers World,

I have recently been introduced to the Workers World newspaper by a couple of inmates here, and I really love reading the columns and cover stories in your paper. I hope to someday be able to join the Workers World Party and add to some of the stories/columns in your paper with some of my experiences from behind these walls.

I do not have much money at this time to be able to afford a subscription of the Workers World newspaper, but I would like to know if you could please donate a subscription to me at this time until I am able to purchase one from your organization. Please continue your great work, and I thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Respectfully addressed,
Edmund C.,
SCI Frackville, Pennsylvania

To WW:

I submit this correspondence to your office in an effort to “check-in” with your organization to let you know that I have been periodically receiving your newspaper.

I want to thank you for keeping me abreast of what is happening internationally as well as here at home. I greatly appreciate your service, and I always look forward to receiving your newspaper. Especially during the COVID-19 quarantine phase of the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections where correctional staff fail to social distance and wear their masks.

The correctional staff continue to not wear masks, and many refuse to get vaccinated, so a booster would be imperative to at the very least ensure that I am not hospitalized for their negligence and/or ignorance.

In solidarity from a modern day slave,
Louie V.,
SCI Benner Township, Pennsylvania

Dear WW:

Thank you for over a decade of the Workers World. The publication was invaluable to my personal growth, my academic career at SUNY Ulster; and, I am sure, it will remain equally important in obtaining my bachelor’s degree in social science. I, however, request to have the subscription terminated as I regain my liberty in July 2022.

Again, thank you.
Curtis Farrow,
Shawangunk Correctional Facility, New York □





1/3

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What’s in a name?

Rockefeller, Vanderbilt, Carnegie, Morgan, Mellon, Getty, Custer, Lee, Kennedy, Clinton, Bush, Trump, Musk, Bezos, and their ilk, past and present, have names that conjure up images of robber barons, imperialist land grabbers, colonizers and exploiters. They are names that can galvanize workers and oppressed peoples to unite against their common bosses, bankers, occupiers and politicians. It is rare, if ever, that a mainstream media broadcaster would mock or make fun of any of these infamous individuals’ last names. In contrast, while covering an NCAA basketball game between the Wichita State Shockers and the Grand Canyon Antelopes, during the Hall of

Fame Classic, Nov. 21, in Kansas City, Missouri, CBS Sports broadcasters Chick Hernandez and Chris Walker made jokes mocking Wichita State forward Isaiah Poor Bear-Chandler’s last name — a tribute to his Oglala Lakota heritage. (tinyurl.com/4scabyf7) Isaiah Poor Bear-Chandler, whose mother is Native, grew up on the Oglala Lakota Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota — information readily available in his Wichita State Shockers bio, had Hernandez and Walker bothered to check. Tweeting after the Nov. 21 game, he stated: “So it’s okay to make fun of my last name? Just shows your ability to be serious in a professional setting. Just because my people was almost colonized doesn’t mean I don’t know where I came

from! #WeAreStillHere #WildOglala #TeachHim” Before the Shockers’ Hall of Fame Classic championship game against San Francisco Nov. 22, Hernandez and Walker met with Poor Bear-Chandler to apologize on-air for their “comments and lack of sensitivity surrounding Isaiah’s name.” Newser.com reported that Hernandez stated: “We appreciate Isaiah taking the time to educate us on the significance of his name and his heritage. We will continue to learn from this and be better moving forward.” Wichita State issued a statement about the inappropriate remarks noting: “To his credit, Isaiah facilitated an educational and enlightening discussion engaging numerous individuals, including CBS Sports Network’s



Isaiah Poor Bear-Chandler

on-air talent.” (tinyurl.com/2p8cybvp) Racism in sports is nothing new. That this incident caused an uproar on social media, however, is a positive step forward. The struggle continues to rid the sports industry of anti-Indigenous bias, exemplified by racist, stereotypical team names and mascots such as those of the Atlanta baseball team, the Kansas City football team and numerous high school and college teams. □

Books, bathrooms, bills – and bullets

Continued from page 1

These bills attack LGBTQ2S+ youth in different ways: forcing teachers to out them to their parents, denying trans-affirming health care, blocking trans youth from school athletic programs, keeping trans youth from using bathrooms designated for their gender, yanking hundreds of books with LGBTQ2S+ content from school libraries and prohibiting classroom discussions on sexuality and gender. That last category includes Florida’s notorious “Don’t Say Gay” bill. These bills are based on hateful, long-discredited stereotypes that portray the LGBTQ2S+ community as predators, child-molesters and — to use the bigots’ latest buzzword — “groomers.” The recycled lies are peddled by well-funded hate groups, such as Family Research Council and Focus on the Family. The latter, one of the largest and most well-funded anti-LGBTQ2S+ groups in the U.S., is — not coincidentally — headquartered in Colorado Springs. Days after the Club Q attack, FOTF headquarters was spray-painted with a message that spoke truth to power: “Their blood is on your hands. Five lives taken.” FOTF and every group like it, every politician that supports these bills, every right-winger who picketed and threatened a library for hosting a “Drag Queen Story Hour” — and every media outlet that provides a podium for this vile message — all have blood on their hands! This includes Elon Musk’s newly acquired and



Righteous anger: Graffiti reads, “Their blood is on your hands. Five lives taken.” Colorado Springs, Colorado.

overhauled Twitter, where anti-trans posts are now allowed. The responsible parties are many, and their propaganda has killed far more than the five in Colorado Springs. In 2021 anti-trans violence killed at least 57 people, most of them Black trans women under 35 years old. Suicide ends the lives of LGBTQ2S+ youth in disproportionate numbers. Ease of access to guns is a contributing factor in the tragedies; most of these suicides and homicides were carried out with guns. Can we stop the violence? Some commentators, recognizing the impact of the ultraright’s anti-LGBTQ2S+ campaign, are calling the shooting predictable, even unavoidable. Cynthia Miller-Idriss, founding director of American University’s Polarization and Extremism Research Lab, told NBC news it was a “kind of inevitable development.”

This view correctly blames hate groups for the rise in anti-LGBTQ2S+ violence — along with white-supremacist, xenophobic, ableist, misogynist and other kinds of bigoted violence and state-sponsored terror. But to say these bias-motivated attacks are inevitable lays out a hopelessly pessimistic scenario, one that leaves out organized resistance. In fact there is a long history of working-class and oppressed people uniting in solidarity against hate. Here are but a few examples: In 1936 the long arm of Ku Klux Klan terror threatened the United Rubber Workers in Akron, Ohio. When the union president was brutally beaten, workers held a sit-down strike. “When work was resumed the next night, a KKK fiery cross blazed up within view of the plant,” wrote eyewitness Louis Adamic. “This caused the workers to sit down again — and dispatch a squad of ‘huskies’ to extinguish the cross.” (“My America, 1928-1938”)

In 1952, at the height of the Cold War, the U.S. State Department refused to allow African American singer Paul Robeson to travel to Canada for a performance before the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers. Robeson sang to the convention over the phone from the office of the openly pro-gay Marine Cooks and Stewards union. Decades later, LGBTQ+ activists were among those who traveled to Buffalo, New York, in 1992 to keep abortion clinics open during a violent right-wing siege. When the anti-choice bigots began targeting LGBTQ+ bars, activists organized defense guards and kept bar patrons and workers safe — dealing a second blow to “Operation Rescue.” We saw the same multinational, multi-gender unity during the assault on Club Q, when a cisgendered Latinx ally disarmed the shooter and a trans woman joined him in preventing more killings. While we won’t be surprised if there are more massacres — like the shooting spree at Club Q, like the Orlando, Florida, slaughter at Pulse in 2016 — they are not inevitable. We will not resign ourselves to living in the shadow of fear. LGBTQ2S+ people affirm: “We will not go back in the closet!” Classwide solidarity is a true bulwark against fascism, terror and hate; building solidarity can defeat the capitalist profit system, which uses every kind of bigotry imaginable to divide us from each other. The working class can unite, defend itself and organize for justice. □

Is Ukraine war at a turning point?

By Manuel Raposo

Published on jornalmudardevida.net on Nov. 21, 2022. Translation: John Catalinotto. Lloyd Austin / Mark Milley: Ukraine cannot expect a military victory. The information released in recent days about the war in Ukraine, although fragmentary and even contradictory, seems to point in one direction: the U.S. is pressuring Ukrainian leaders to accept negotiations with Russia. If this is confirmed, it will be a significant shift in the position of the U.S. and the West in relation to the course of the conflict — apparently supporting the positions of countries like Turkiye or China,

which have always advocated a negotiated solution, as well as Hungary or Serbia, which have resisted the European and U.S. policy of sanctions against Russia and of pouring oil on the flames. What could be at the basis of this possible turning point? ‘Seizing the opportunity’ Not everything is clear at the moment; and not everything is going in the same direction, as far as the position of the West is concerned. It starts in the U.S. ruling circles themselves. The most explicit position was that of the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces, General Mark Milley, who strongly advised the Ukrainians to seize the opportunity created by the slowdown in operations dictated by the

autumn/winter. Milley stated that Ukraine could not claim a military victory, noting that winter may present an opportunity for diplomatic compromise. “When there is an opportunity to negotiate, when peace can be achieved, one has to seize it. You have to seize the moment,” he said. (Politico, Nov. 14) Three days later at a press conference held at the Pentagon, Milley seemed to want to substantiate his point, saying exactly: “The probability of a Ukrainian military victory defined as kicking the Russians out of all of Ukraine ... the probability of that happening anytime soon is not high, militarily” — and hence he envisages the possibility of a “political solution.” (RT, Nov. 17)

Despite seemingly contradictory White House positions, everything leads one to believe that the recent trip to Kiev (Nov. 4) by Joe Biden’s National Security Advisor and Secretary of State Antony Blinken’s meeting with Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba (Nov. 12), while reaffirming U.S. support, will have been aimed at gauging the mood of the Ukrainian leadership and preparing the ground for a change of direction. Avoiding ‘miscalculations’ Days after these contacts, the head of the CIA, William Burns, was to meet in Turkiye with the head of Russian intelligence, Sergey Narishkin, in order to, in the cipher language of these things, “keep

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Is Ukraine war at a turning point?

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the channels of contact open” between the two powers. The initiative came from the U.S. side, the Kremlin said. (Al Jazeera, Nov. 14)

A White House spokesperson confirmed these contacts and added that in “recent weeks,” Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin and Chief of Staff Mark Milley had spoken with Russian counterparts Sergey Shoigun and Valeri Gerassimov “to make sure there’s no miscalculation” between Russians and the U.S. (Statements to Bloomberg News quoted by RT, Nov. 15)

Commenting on these facts, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres, present at the G20 summit, considered them “an extremely relevant development with regard to the future.” (Al Jazeera, Nov. 14)

From all this movement, one can deduce that Milley’s statements were only issued after thorough contacts, at various levels, with Russian officials. The concerns expressed by the leaders in Kiev can be perceived, not only because of the latent change of course, contrary to everything they have been saying, but also because they are exposed as mere pawns of the United States in its confrontation with Russia.

Change of tone in the corporate media

The top U.S. press clearly got into the campaign, reporting that the White House was privately convincing Ukrainian officials to show openness to peace talks with Russia.

The pressure, said the Washington Post in particular, is intended to prevent Ukraine from losing the support of countries where public opinion becomes hostile to the war, because it does not see a near end to the conflict. A U.S. official representative told the newspaper, “Fatigue is a real issue for some of our partners.” (Washington Post, Nov. 5)

In the wake of the missile strike incident in Poland, and in the face of Volodymyr Zelensky’s insistence, against all evidence, on blaming the Russians, a Fox News commentator [Tucker Carlson] accused the Ukrainian president of intending to “immediately lead the U.S. into a third world war.” His claims, he said, “are not only untrue,” but “it’s a lie that could cause the deaths of millions of Americans.” So, he concluded, “You have to ask yourself, is it time to stop backing this guy?” (Fox News, Nov. 17)

It seems, therefore, that several of the pillars on which U.S. and NATO propaganda has been based are showing signs of cracking. Neither the “unity” of the West is as solid as it has sought to show, nor is the “defeat” of the Russians on the horizon, nor do the gains of the Ukrainians allow them to dream of a victory, nor will Zelensky remain the leader of record in Kiev if he does not strictly respect U.S. interests.

Regardless of the results of all this maneuvering coming from the top of the U.S. hierarchy, two or three things remain in sight.

Kherson and the rest

The idea has been confirmed that the Russian withdrawal from Kherson was the result of a negotiation between the Russians and the Americans, with the purpose of smoothing out the negotiating ground. This is the only way to understand why the displacement of 115,000 inhabitants of the city, 40,000 soldiers and 5,000 pieces of military equipment,

took place with hardly a shot being fired.

Even if the loss of the city represents a political defeat for the Russians, it is far from being a military defeat — all the



Growing hunger in Ukraine.

more so because it allows the displacement of tens of thousands of troops to other combat fronts.

This reinforcement and the 300,000 new troops recently mobilized are, in the opinion of military specialists (for example, Portuguese Major Generals Agostinho Costa and Carlos Branco), a contingent that may give the Russians an offensive power capable of reversing the course of operations observed in the last two months. The Russian bombing campaign targetting electricity infrastructure and energy sources, which compromises the supply lines of the Ukrainian troops located at the front in Ukraine’s eastern regions, will contribute to this possibility.

Despite some defeats on the ground, it should not be forgotten that the Russian Federation still holds nearly 20% of the territory that was Ukrainian before Feb. 24, and nothing has suggested that it will lose it. It is not Zelensky’s speeches that can change this reality.

Advantage, Russia

Between the beginning of the conflict and the present, Russia has destroyed the Ukrainian army that existed in February, which had been trained and equipped by NATO since 2014, including its incorporation of the notorious Nazi militias.

Those fighting for Ukraine now are new armed forces, also trained and equipped by the West. They have been recruited, let’s not forget, from a naturally more exhausted and impoverished population. Nothing says they can’t have the same fate as the former.

The Ukrainians’ recruitment potential is, in fact, much more limited than those of the Russians. In a protracted war, the Russians will always have the upper hand. And as long as the war is waged at the expense of Ukrainian sacrifice and strictly on Ukrainian territory — as the U.S., the EU and NATO want and repeatedly emphasize — Russia will inevitably have a strategic superiority in the conflict.

Russia is not being hit on its own territory (excluding the annexed regions). It does not need to employ all its military resources, and it can manage time to grind down the Ukrainian response.

Ukraine: shattered and overwhelmed

In addition to the physical destruction resulting from the fighting, Ukraine’s economy is devastated. Gross domestic product has contracted by 35% by 2022, on top of the fact that Ukraine is one of the poorest countries in Europe: By the end of 2020, long before the conflict started in February, 45% of Ukraine’s population

was living in poverty. (World Bank data, October 2022)

On top of that, the debts accumulated by U.S. and European “aid” — to be paid

by endless generations of Ukrainians — reduce the country to the status of vassal of the generous allies, who pushed it into the war and encourage it to continue.

The misery induced by the dragging on of the war, the perception that the future offers nothing good, the notion that the next generations will inherit a destroyed country, will surely be factors in the demoralization of the Ukrainian population, no matter how cynically the West praises their “sacrifice.”

Signs of ‘fatigue’ in the West

The growing demonstrations in many European countries against the effects of the war — famine, lack of goods, energy shortages, detour of social resources, wage cuts, in the name of a warlike policy imposed on populations without the right to reply — may soon turn into demonstrations against the war itself, as soon as these populations realize the direct link between one and the other.

The political weakening of the European powers may be closer than one imagines, as one can deduce from the above concerns about “fatigue” affecting Europe in particular. And this will mean, for the U.S. and its allies, an added factor of isolation — in this case, internal — to add to the reluctance with which the majority of the world’s population confronted the sanctions against Russia, rejecting them.

We are not wearing the uniform of the U.S. military and government. But at least this set of factors, which an objective observation of the conflict highlights, certainly did not escape the U.S. military staff when it concluded, contrary to all that has been asserted so far by the West, that Ukraine cannot expect to win the war.

In the field of possibilities

If this position proves valid, and if negotiations go ahead, it will be interesting to observe the arguments of the Western

actors. They will surely try to prove that they have won a victory, even in the face of inevitable Ukrainian concessions that are negotiated to a settlement that suits the real contenders: the U.S. and Russia.

If that happens, Europe and Ukraine will finally see clearly the role of sacrificial lambs which they have played in all this history at the hands of the U.S., at least since 2014.

Let us not forget the incendiary fanfares of European Commissioner Josep Borrell that the war would only end with the full military defeat of Russia and the expulsion of all its troops, an idea that the Portuguese Foreign Minister, João Gomes Cravinho, thought was very good — and he repeated it.

Then there are the words of another factotum, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, who (in a moment of overzealousness) revealed that a Russian victory would be a defeat for NATO and therefore could never occur —

thereby putting NATO, not Ukraine, at the center of the stage, and establishing an equation undesirable for any Western negotiator forced to compromise.

We may see an effort by French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Olaf Sholtz to tiptoe around the table as champions of peace. They will certainly try to disguise their cowardice and constant prevarication — telephoning Vladimir Putin but yielding to Biden’s demands, sitting quietly as their own allies sabotage Nord Stream, paying monopoly prices for U.S. oil and gas, standing idly by as Europe is destroyed economically, consenting to the very fragmentation of the EU they claimed to be “the axis” of.

The growing demonstrations in many European countries against the effects of the war — famine, lack of goods, energy shortages, detour of social resources, wage cuts, in the name of a warlike policy imposed on populations without the right to reply — may soon turn into demonstrations against the war itself, as soon as these populations realize the direct link between one and the other.

It will also be interesting to see how the entire gang that has been clamoring for Zelensky and war-to-the-end journalists — commentators, “international relations” specialists, military personnel, former ministers, former ambassadors, NATO and U.S. embassy spokespersons, warmongers, anti-Putin fanatics and all the rest — will swallow what they have been saying unabashedly, when the U.S. (and behind them, the European) leadership evaluates the consequences of “eternal” support for Ukraine and declares that times have changed.

Only then, perhaps, will all these characters realize that the repeated promise to support Ukraine “for as long as it takes” really means the time needed for the West to consider that the time has come to find an understanding that suits it, while avoiding greater evils.

The greatest evils for these rulers are the collapse of Western economies, the revolt of impoverished populations, the political crisis undermining capitalist parliamentary systems, the breakup of the European Union — and the possibility that three-quarters of the world will bet on a course of development centered on new international institutions sustained by powers such as China, Russia or India. □

Día de la ‘Rebelión de la Taza Roja’

Los trabajadores de Starbucks hacen huelga en más de 110 tiendas

Por Martha Grevatt
Cleveland

Como explicaron los miembros en huelga de Starbucks Workers United (SBWU) mientras estaban en la línea de piquete, el Día de la Taza Roja es “como el Viernes Negro de Starbucks”. En todo el mundo, la promoción atrae a un número de clientes superior a la media para el reparto de vasos rojos.

Pero este año el SBWU convocó una “Rebelión de la taza roja” realizando huelgas simultáneas de un día en más de 110 tiendas el 17 de noviembre. Estas huelgas de Prácticas Laborales Desleales llamaron la atención sobre la ruptura de sindicatos por parte de Starbucks, su negativa a negociar en más de 250 tiendas sindicalizadas y las más de 900 presuntas violaciones de la ley laboral federal por parte de la empresa.

De las siete tiendas que el SBWU de **Boston** tenía como objetivo para las acciones de huelga en el Día de la #RedCupRebellion, seis fueron cerradas firmemente por los piquetes de baristas antes de las 5 a.m. Las únicas tazas rojas que se sirvieron en esos lugares estaban fuera, con los logotipos del sindicato.

Los jefes de Starbucks intentaron romper la huelga en la tienda restante, situada en el 75 de Mount Auburn St. en Watertown, Massachusetts, que según los trabajadores es la más lucrativa de la región. Utilizando exclusivamente a los gerentes de otras tiendas en huelga para dirigir la tienda, el director de distrito llamó repetidamente a la policía contra el puñado de trabajadores -algunos con años de antigüedad en el local- que estaban hablando con sus clientes habituales en la puerta.

Mientras salía el sol, con los pedidos móviles y de recogida provocando un atasco en el aparcamiento, los clientes



Filadelfia

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

hacían cola en la puerta. El SBWU de Boston comenzó inmediatamente a organizar escuadrones de trabajadores para reforzar las líneas de Watertown. A las 10 de la mañana, los simpatizantes y los huelguistas de las tiendas del 874 de la avenida Commonwealth, Coolidge Corner y Cleveland Circle habían formado una línea de piquetes que abarcaba toda la entrada de la propiedad, logrando vaciar el estacionamiento mediante giros solidarios de los clientes. A las 11 de la mañana, los gerentes tiraron la toalla y tiraron por el desagüe decenas de pedidos no recogidos tras cerrar las puertas.

Los huelguistas celebraron la victoria de sus esfuerzos militantes y colectivos componiendo y cantando un nuevo clásico sindical de las fiestas, “Los 12 días de rebelión de la taza roja”. La guitarra del líder sindical Spencer Costigan hizo sonar “Solidarity Forever” y “Wonderwall” -la canción de lucha de los baristas locales- a través del sistema de sonido móvil del Partido Mundo Obrero, lo que dio lugar a más cantos y bailes en la línea de huelga en el aparcamiento vacío.

Varias tiendas se vieron afectadas por las huelgas en la zona de **Nueva York**. Los trabajadores de la elegante trampa para turistas conocida como Roastery,

en Manhattan, llevan un mes en huelga por las condiciones de salud y seguridad, concretamente por el moho en la máquina de hielo y las chinches en la zona de descanso de los trabajadores. Starbucks aún no ha accedido a reunirse con los trabajadores y no ha ofrecido nada por escrito que demuestre alguna acción en respuesta a los problemas de los trabajadores.

Aunque no todo el centenar de trabajadores del Roastery se ha sumado a la huelga, ésta ha tenido un efecto en la cuenta de resultados de la tienda, ya que se han reducido las horas de funcionamiento desde que comenzó la huelga. Un cántico popular de la huelga es el habitual “¿Qué es un asco? La huelga de los sindicatos”, seguido de: “¿Qué es espantoso? La paralización del contrato”.

Los trabajadores de cuatro locales sindicalizados de Starbucks en **Filadelfia** participaron en la Red Cup Rebellion. La huelga afectó a las tiendas de Broad y Spring Garden y de 20th y Market en el centro de la ciudad, de 22nd y South en el sur de Filadelfia y de 34th y Walnut en el oeste de Filadelfia. La rata Scabby, enorme e inflable, hizo su aparición en una de las tiendas.

La tienda de la 34 y Walnut está en el corazón del campus de la Universidad de Pensilvania. Los trabajadores de la tienda formaron un animado piquete frente a la misma. Los cánticos incluían: “¡Vente, moca, grande, doble, rompe-sindicatos, tienes problemas!”.

En **Buffalo, Nueva York** -donde la campaña sindical de la cadena de café comenzó hace poco más de un año-, cuatro tiendas Starbucks se pusieron en huelga. Las tiendas de Elmwood Avenue y Genessee Street estuvieron cerradas todo el día. La dirección, aprovechando las nuevas contrataciones que no esta-

ban informadas de la huelga o de la historia de la represión sindical de Starbucks, obligó a otras tiendas en huelga a abrir. Pero incluso en esas tiendas, los piquetes se mantuvieron fuertes durante todo el día. Otro Scabby the Rat se unió a la línea de piquete de Elmwood Avenue por la tarde.

Dos de las cinco tiendas sindicalizadas en el **Gran Cleveland** se unieron a la huelga de un día, incluyendo la tienda de Lee y Mayfield en Cleveland Heights. Los trabajadores y simpatizantes mantuvieron un piquete desde las 5 de la mañana hasta las 7:30 de la tarde. Explicaron a los periodistas que la dirección de Starbucks había abandonado su primera sesión de negociación y desde entonces se había negado a reunirse con el sindicato. “Queremos reducir su línea de ganancias”, dijo un huelguista.

Sabiendo que ningún barista -que votó al 100% por el sindicato- iba a cruzar la línea, la gerencia cerró la tienda por ese día. Los posibles clientes tocaron la bocina, levantaron los pulgares y desearon buena suerte a los huelguistas.

La tienda original de Starbucks de **Seattle**, en la 5ª y Pike, estaba muy ocupada, pero una vez que apareció el SBWU, los clientes se fueron rápidamente. Todos los trabajadores de la tienda de la calle Pike estaban en huelga y haciendo piquetes, por lo que la tienda sólo se mantuvo abierta por dos gerentes y un gerente de distrito.

La portavoz de los trabajadores, Sara Pappin, trabajadora de Starbucks desde hace nueve años, dijo que ésta era su quinta huelga. “Estamos cansados de que Starbucks se retire de las sesiones de negociación”, dijo, “así que nos retiramos”. Los trabajadores corearon: “¿Qué es indignante? Los salarios de miseria. ¿Qué es repugnante? La represión de los sindicatos. ¿Qué es lo más terrible? El estancamiento de Starbucks”.

Los simpatizantes se unieron al piquete mientras la ruidosa manifestación atraía mucha atención y fue cubierta por al menos dos cadenas de televisión. Los trabajadores de Starbucks hicieron huelga en otras dos tiendas de Seattle, así como en las de **Bellingham, Everett y Tumwater** (Washington).

El organizador del sindicato de Starbucks Thomas Estling, que trabaja en una de las tres tiendas de **Portland** (Oregón) que se declararon en huelga, habló muy bien de su sindicato. “La forma de planificar es realmente abierta y democrática. ... Podemos reaccionar con mucha rapidez. Despidieron a uno de nuestros compañeros y en un día tuvimos una manifestación”. Subrayó que, a diferencia de algunos sindicatos controlados por representantes lejanos, el SBWU está verdaderamente dirigido por los trabajadores. “Los representantes hacen muy poco; nosotros lo asumimos todo”.

Estling también elogió a los trabajadores de Starbucks en Eugene, Oregón, diciendo que son “muy militantes”. Despidieron a uno de sus trabajadores y cerraron las siete tiendas durante una semana.

Toni Arenstein, Steve Gillis, Maddi Johnson, Marie Kelly, Jim McMahan y Arjae Red contribuyeron a este artículo.



Buffalo, Nueva York

¡Ni una masacre más!

Otra horrible masacre dirigida a la comunidad LGBTQ2S+ comenzó cerca de la medianoche del 19 al 20 de noviembre —Día del Recuerdo Trans 2022. Un tirador fuertemente armado asesinó a cinco personas e hirió a 18 clientes del Club Q en Colorado Springs, Colorado. Dos valientes clientes pudieron someter y desarmar al asesino, evitando que se perdieran más vidas.

El Partido Mundo Obrero hace llegar nuestras condolencias y solidaridad a los que perdieron a sus seres queridos y a los supervivientes de esta terrible tragedia.

Pero no podemos contener nuestra ira. Colorado Springs, la segunda ciudad más grande de Colorado —Denver es la primera— es el hogar del grupo descaradamente anti-LGBTQ2S+ que se llama Focus on the Family. La ciudad se encuentra al este del 3er Distrito del Congreso del estado, en donde la representante ultraderechista Lauren Boebert ganó la reelección a la Cámara por el más estrecho de los márgenes. Los tuits llenos de odio publicados por Boebert sirven para fomentar los ataques violentos, como el último ataque al Club Q.

El autor de este crimen de odio, Anderson Lee Aldrich, es el nieto del legislador estatal republicano de California Randy Voepel, que expresó su simpatía por la multitud derechista que atacó el capitolio de Estados Unidos el 6 de enero de 2021.

Los propietarios del Club Q abrieron el bar en 2002 para ofrecer a la comunidad LGBTQ2S+ un espacio seguro y permanente y habían planeado celebrar un brunch de drags el Día del Recuerdo Trans. El momento del tiroteo masivo no es una coincidencia.

Los políticos demócratas -hasta el presidente Joe Biden- han expresado sus condolencias y han condenado este monstruoso crimen de odio. Pero la historia nos muestra que no se puede confiar en ellos para proteger a la comunidad LGBTQ2S+ o a cualquier comunidad oprimida de la violencia, el odio o la discriminación. Muchos de nosotros recordamos cómo los demócratas han impulsado la represión contra el colectivo LGBTQ+, incluyendo la llamada “Ley de Defensa del Matrimonio” y el “No preguntes, no digas” (“Don’t ask, don’t tell”) del ejército.

Pero eso es la democracia capitalista,



Un cartel cerca del Club Q en Colorado Springs, el 20 de noviembre, después del ataque anti-LGBTQ+ : ‘No regresaremos al armario.’

donde incluso Boebert y Voepel y su calaña asesina pueden presentarse a las elecciones y ser elegidos.

Un mejor ejemplo de democracia de la clase trabajadora en acción sería el histórico boicot de décadas a la cerveza Coors, el boicot que se originó en Colorado y unió a la comunidad LGBTQ+, a la comunidad chicana y al movimiento obrero, hizo retroceder la intolerancia y también consiguió finalmente el reconocimiento del sindicato en la fábrica de cerveza de Golden, Colorado.

Hará falta más organización -y una solidaridad masiva, de base y de toda la clase- para hacer retroceder a la ultraderecha.

Lloremos a los muertos y luchemos como nunca por los vivos. □