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 Ogala Lakota), co-leader of United American Indians of New England (UAINE), opened the rally by telling the story of NDOM, which was founded in 1970 by her grandmother, the late Wamsutta Frank James.

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 Penacook 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” 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 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 hosted 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 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 National Day of Mourning on Nov. 24, Plymouth, Massachusetts


day of mourning

Nov. 24, 2022, Plymouth, Massachusetts

WW PHOTO: RACHEL JONES

Continued on page 3

Books, bathrooms, bills – and bullets

By Martha Grevatt

“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 LGBTQ2Q+ 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-LGBTQ2Q+ and especially anti-trans hatred, fostered by at least 344 bills in state legislatures this year, 25 of them have been passed.
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/yqc3y2wyn.

Speakers will be:

• John Hulsman, a history professor at the University of Mary Washington, 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 response 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, 803 South 43rd 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/yqc3y2wyn.

• 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., 7:30 p.m.
• Thurs., Dec. 15, Berkeley, California — East Bay Media Center, 1935 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/yqc3y2wyn for the Dec. 10 webinar. ☐

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 neovegetarian quest for ever-greater profits.

Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, attacks on im/migrants, misogyny, LGBTQ+ oppression and mistreatment of people with disabilities. It means joblessness, increasing homelessness and impoverishment and hopelessness of life 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 ginned 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 change — 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 organizer 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 known these many years in prison plays on your heart to the 5th 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 change 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 27 journeys around the sun, I often feel and think that I should speak my mind and heart to whomsoever 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 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 ancient burial mounds, were discovered in the Bay Area. For example, the Emeryville Shellmound was constantly occupied from 5000 BCE until Spanish soldiers and missionaries imprisoned the Ohlone people. 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 5000 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

continued from page 1

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, Tesuque, and Acoma), a member of The Red Nation, spoke about the Red Deal program to protect climate, biodiversity and Indigenous sovereignty, by dismantling the imperial 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 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, Beon 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.”

— Story by Stephanie Hedgecoke

Kisha James and Mahtowin Munro, UAINE co-leaders

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— Story by Stephanie Hedgecoke
Portland Starbucks: Three-day strike

By Maddi Johnson
Portland, Oregon

“O workers, can you stand it? Oh tell me how we can live, for we've got up to stand, for our rights, not for fear of Schulte's scorn” 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 giant proudly bunts 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 treatworthiness. 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 picket lines. Workers sent in their sick days in early hour shifts for their strong relationship with the nurses at St. Vincent Hospital. She says that after marching with the nurses, she returned the favor by showing up to their strike. Most people who show up stay for a long time.

The workers 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 positive reactions to the strike, they do get one negative response. But with a grin, she followed with “We’re used to it; we work at Starbucks.”

Mushroom workers keep up the fight

By Jim McManah
Seattle

Workers from Ostrom Mushroom Farms traveled 200 miles from Sunnyville, Washington, to picket the Metropolitan Market in Seattle on Nov. 27 – “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 treatment of workers and its practices that contribute to climate crisis, coordinated demonstrations in over 50 countries on five continents demanded, “Make Amazon Pay!” Held for the third consecutive year on Nov. 27, “Black Friday,” the actions were aligned the Maximus workers with the strong history of Black women from Mississippi and Louisiana are the centers 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.”

Nordson factory strike

Workers at the Nordson Corporation in Cambridge, 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 factory at大道 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 issued a no-strike clause in mandatory overtime. The company demands 32 weekend days per year from every worker. At one day per weekend, that rips up 60% of workers’ pay. The workers want this issue separated. We have to Make Amazon Pay all its workers a decent wage in dignity and for its environmental damage.”

Worldwide actions demand: “Make Amazon pay!”

By Martha Greavett
Protesting Amazon’s treatment of workers and its practices that contribute to the climate crisis, coordinated demonstrations in over 50 countries on five continents demanded, “Make Amazon Pay!” Held for the third consecutive year on Nov. 27, “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 with shoulder to shoulder in a massive global day of action to denounce Amazon’s despotic 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! With the release of a new report, “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 retailer in the world, but when we take up in the supply chain in 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 garment workers’ union again in the United States, Bangladesh and Cambodia.

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“At a press conference with Maximus workers, Charles McNutt, a former union president, asked the company executives if they were aware of the discrimination. 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 moving forward. So going out is going to show them that you can’t just pacify us with a bonus. We need our rights.”

Ostrom workers: workers at Ostrom Mushroom Farms traveling 200 miles from Sunnyville, Washington, to picket the Metropolitan Market in Seattle on Nov. 27 – “Black Friday.”

Workers demand protection from sexual and racial harassment 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 eight-hour shift, which the company took away. Workers are on the picket line with retaliation against workers who have spoken out against mistreatment. (timelyurl.org/lwpwvpxt)

Maximus Call Center strike

Workers at the Maximus Call Center 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 contract 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 moving forward. So going out is going to show them that you can’t just pacify us with a bonus. We need our rights.”

Ostrom Mushroom workers picket in Seattle, Nov. 20.

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.

The 200 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. (timelyurl.com/zppypvxsx)
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 and language and self-government 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/ffnccanc2)

George Washington himself came from a long line of violent racist colonizers. His great-grandfather John Washington was a Haudenosaunee, an Iroquois 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 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 beyond doubt that the phenomenon of “kids in cages” did not begin—nor end—under the presidency of Donald J. Trump.

Jakinel Caal, a seven-year-old Quiche child, and an eight-year-old Chuj child, Felipe Gomez 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/jp25m3h)

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 rearrrest 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 Geromino died as a prisoner of war at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, in 1910.

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” Girón 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 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/wwwp.

Dear Workers World,

I have been recently 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

Dear 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 boaster 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,
Darren 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 ☑️
What’s in a name?

By Manuel Raposo

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.

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-ethnic 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 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. LGBTQ+ people affirm: “We will not go back in the closet!”


This view correctly blames hate groups for the rise in anti-LGBTQ+ 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 hopelessy 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 (KKK) 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 Adalric Karczewski. “This caused the workers to sit down again — and dispatch a squad of ‘huskies’ to extinguish the cross.”

(“My America, 1928-1938”)
the channels of contact open" between the two powers. The initiative came from the U.S. side, said the Kremlin said. (Al Jazeera, Nov. 14)

A White House spokesperson confirmed these contacts and added that it was "seeking to secure" Defense Lloyd Austin and Chief of Staff Mark Milley had spoken with Russian counterparts Sergey Shoigu and Valeri Gerasimov "to make sure there's no miscalculation" between Russians and the Americans, with 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...and looking to the future." (Al Jazeera, Nov. 14)

From all this movement, one can deduce that Milley’s statements were not an isolated case, at various levels, with Russian officials. The concerns expressed by the leaders in Kiev are linked, as they must be, because of the latent change of course, contrary to everything they have been saying, but also because they are exposed as mere pawns of those 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 face 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 wonder, is it possible that this is just a stunt? Nothing says they can’t have the same fate as the former.”

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 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% to 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 Ukraine, and by endless generations of Ukrainians — reduce the country to the status of vassal of the generous allies, who pushed it into the war and encouraged 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 offers them “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 the 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 all European countries, 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 controllers of Europe and Russia.

If that happens, Europe and Ukraine will finally see clearly the absurdity of sacrifices that have been played in all this history at the hands of the U.S., at least since 2014.

Let us not forget the incendiary features of this war, which Shoigu and Valeri Gerassimov “to make sure there’s no miscalculation” between Russians and the Americans. “So, he concluded, “You have no right to reject them.” (Fox News, Nov. 17)

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Growing hunger in Ukraine.

Continued from page 6

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Growing hunger in Ukraine.
Día de la Rebelión de la Taza Roja

Los trabajadores de Starbucks hacen huelga en más de 110 tiendas

Por Martha Grevatt

Como explicaron los miembros en huelga de Starbucks Workers United (IIU) en los dos Estados de Colorado, que el Club Q, el Día de la Taza Roja es “como el Viernes Negro de Starbucks”. En todo el mundo, estos trabajadores están en el respeto de clientes superior a la media para el reparto de vacíos rojos. Para verse así, el SBWU convocó una “Rebelión de la taza roja” realizando huelga simultáneas de un día en más de 110 tiendas el 17 de noviembre. Estas huelgas son un momento de afirmarse que los trabajadores en los 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 en el día, mientras que la decimosexta de los en noviembre 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 en noviembre, situada en el 75 de Mount Auburn St. en Watertown, Massachusetts. Los trabajadores de Starbucks en Watertown es la más lucrativa de la región. Utilizando exclusivamente a los gerentes de otras tiendas para expresar que perdieron a sus seres queridos y a los supervivientes de esta terrible tragedia.

Mientras salía el sol, con los pedidos móviles y de recogida provocando un ataques en el aparcamiento, los clientes hacían cola en la puerta. El SBWU de Boston comenzó inmediatamente a organizar un primer frente aplantear celebrar reforzar las líneas de Watertown. A las 10 de la mañana, los simpatizantes y los de la comunidad chicana y al movimiento obrero, que tenían como objetivo para turistas conocida como Roastery, en el oeste de Filadelfia, “Los 12 días de la comunidad LGBTQ2S+ una espacio seguro y permanente y habían planeado celebrar 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 moño en la máquina de hielo y las chinchas en la zona de descanso de los trabajadores. Starbucks aún no ha acudido a negociar con los trabajadores.

Aunque no todo el centenar de trabajadores del Roastery se ha sumado a la huelga, esta 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 cínico popular de la huelga es el habitual “¿Qué es un asco? La huelga de los sindicatos”, seguido de: “¿Es espantoso? La parálisis de los sindicatos”.

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 y High Street en el centro de Filadelfia, y en el oeste de Filadelfia. La rata Scabby, enorme e inflable, hizo su aparición en la línea de huelga.

La tienda de la 34 y Walnut está en el corazón del campus de la Universidad de Pennsylvania. Los trabajadores de la tienda formaron un animalista frente a la misma. Los cínicos incluían: “(Vente, mocha, grande, rode, ron-sindicatos, que los sindicatos hacen tanto)”. 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 están en la huelga, obligó a otras tiendas en huelga a abrir.

Por las condiciones de salud y seguridad, los trabajadores de la tienda de Lee y Mayfield en Cleveland han dicho que Starbucks se retiró de las sesiones de negociación, dijo, “así que nos retiramos”. Los trabajadores corearon: “¿Qué es indignante? Los salarios de miseria. ¿Qué es espantoso? La represión de los sindicatos. ¿Qué es lo más terrible? El estancamiento de Starbucks”.

Los sindicalizados se unieron al piquete mientras la riñosa manifestación atrayó mucha atención y fue cubierta por al menos dos cadenas de televisión. 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 nuestra línea de ganancias”, dijo un huelguista.

Y también mencionó que ningún barista -que votó al 100% por el sindicato- había cruzado la línea, la gerencia cerró la tienda por ese día. Los posibles clientes tomaron la huelga como una forma de protesta.

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 y 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 desacreditadamente anti-LGBTQ2S+ que se llama Focus on the Family, con sede en esta ciudad y que se opone al derecho al aborto. Es el centro del Estado de Colorado. El organizador del sindicato de Starbucks Thomas Estlin, que trabaja en una de las tiendas de Portland (Oregon) que se declararon en huelga, habló muy bien de su sindicato. “La forma de planificar es realista y democrática... Podemos reaccionar con mucha rapidez. Despideron 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. “Nuestros representantes hacen muy poco; nosotros los asumimos todo”. Estlin también elogió a los trabajadores de Starbucks en Eugene, Oregon, diciendo que estaban muy miles de personas a uno de sus trabajadores y cerraron las siete tiendas durante una semana.

Toni Arene, Steve Gillis, Maddi Johnson, Mary Kelly, Jim McMahon y Arja Red contribuyeron a este artículo.