Workers World Party statement

Solidarity with railroad workers!

President Joe Biden has just signed legislation, passed by both houses of Congress, imposing a contract between Class One freight rail companies and the 11 railroad unions. Thus, with the stroke of a pen, the CEO of the capitalist state, Biden, stripped these unions of their most basic right: the right to strike.

A separate bill adding seven paid sick days to the railroad workers’ contract—a key bargaining issue for the workers—passed in the House but was defeated in the Senate.

This anti-worker legislation should shatter any illusions that the Democratic Party is the party of the working class. Biden’s signing the deal gives the lie to his phony statement, made for the umpteenth time on Labor Day 2021, that he intends “to be the most pro-union president leading the most pro-union administration in American history.” (whitehouse.gov)

railroadworkersunited.org

If they were to strike now, rail unions would be in violation of the law and would confront the capitalist state apparatus as well as the freight companies. Unlike the bulk of U.S. private sector workers, rail workers are not covered by the 1935 National Labor Relations Act.

The 1926 Railway Labor Act, passed before the National Labor Relations Act and before the mass labor upsurge of the 1930s, has language intended to limit the ability to strike. Specifically, it allows Congress to pass legislation imposing a contract on railroad workers—which it has done 18 times since the law’s passage—even after the workers vote to reject that contract.

Biden says his action “helps our nation avoid what, without a doubt, would have been an economic catastrophe” for millions of workers, many of them union members. But what really hurts unions is this bipartisan attack on the one real weapon labor has against capital: the power to withhold our labor.

Workers World Party is in unshakable solidarity with the rank-and-file railroad workers in whatever action they take next. We say no to state-sponsored strikebreaking. Repeal the Railway Labor Act! Pass the Protecting the Right to Organize Act! All power to the workers!
Amazon Labor Union calls out CEO Jassy

By Tony Murphy

New York City

Nov. 30 — In Manhattan today, Amazon Labor Union President Chris Smalls led a picket line outside the New York Times’ Dealbook Summit, where Amazon CEO Andy Jassy was a scheduled speaker.

The summit was a meeting of war criminals and job-killing billionaires — people like FTX cryptocurrency flingner Sam Bankman-Fried and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, murderer of Palestinians — as well as Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg and Jassy, both of whom are responsible for tens of thousands of layoffs.

Smalls used the criminal bourgeois get-together and media attention to demand Jassy recognize and negotiate with the ALU. For several hours, Smalls and ALU supporters rallied in the rain, chanting “Union busting is disgusting!” and “What do we want? Contract!”

At one point Smalls spoke forcefully into the bullhorn, “Andy Jassy, come on out, baby! We got some contract negotiating to do!” He was joined by members of unions including Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union (RWDSU), as well as supporters from Workers Assembly Against Racism, Workers World Party, People’s General Strike, Party for Socialism and Liberation, Democratic Socialists (DSA) and others.

Since Jassy began his tenure as Amazon CEO at the beginning of 2022, the e-commerce giant has used heavily paid union busters to suppress the rights of its workers, harass organizers and delay bargaining required by law.

The company has been charged with multiple Unfair Labor Practices for its unlawful treatment of Amazon employees at the JFK8 warehouse in Staten Island.

Last week in a rare move, a federal judge filed a national “cease and desist” order against Amazon, prohibiting the company from violating the rights of workers engaged in union organizing. In October, Jassy was personally cited by the National Labor Relations Board for violating labor law and interfering with the rights of Amazon workers.

Jassy and billionaires like Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz are trying to resist the just demands of successful union campaigns, by refusing to negotiate with the unions their workers voted for by firing workers at will.

The ALU is holding them accountable! ☑

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Members elect militants

‘A new, more aggressive UAW’

By Martha Grevatt

For over 70 years, the International Executive Board (IEB) of the United Auto Workers union has been dominated almost exclusively by the same class-collaborationist faction. A new militant team—UAW Members United, which ran on a platform of “No concessions, no corruption, no tier” — was endorsed by the rank-and-file caucus Unite All Workers for Democracy (UAWD) — is on the verge of taking the union in a very different direction.

After the first-ever direct elections by the rank and file, the Administration Caucus has lost its monopoly of power over the IEB.

As the mail-in ballots were counted from Nov. 29 to Dec. 2, wins for union reformers were announced. Regional Directors Lashawn English, Brandon Mancilla and Dave Green defeated incumbent leaders in Regions 1, 9A and 2B respectively. A new slate led by Sean Scott Mock became the first African American woman to be elected UAW International Secretary-Treasurer. Rich Boyer and Mike Bost defeated the incumbent slate for the three vice president positions, beating the AC’s chosen candidates.

English is African American; Boyer is Mexican; and Mancilla is Guatemalan.

Members United presidential candidate Shawn Fain will be in a runoff election next year with the incumbent president. About 20% of the vote in that race went to other opposition candidates. Also going to a runoff will be Members United candidates for Regions 9 director, Dan Vicente.

The only Administration Caucus candidates elected to the IEB were those who ran unopposed. This remarkable development comes just over a year after the same organization was led by scan-sweep elections in the Teamsters (IBT).

“No matter what company our members work for, whether it’s the Big Three auto companies or the University of California system, we want to put every employer on notice: Prepare for a new, more aggressive UAW!” Fain said in a news release issued after all the ballots were counted. “The cozy labor-management relationship is on its way to the dustbin of history.”

Nearly 60,000 UAW-represented studen-workers are in the fourth week of striking the University of California system. Contracts with Caterpillar, Ford, General Motors and Stellantis (which includes the Chrysler brand) expire in 2023.

What happened?

For decades, UAW militants have been trying to bring the union back to being the fighting, democratic union that won recognition through the sit-down strikes of the 1930s. Many groupings have emerged over the decades — Locals Opposed to Concessions, New Directions Movement, Solidiers of Solidarity and Autoworker Caravan, and the latest, UAWD.

These groupings’ demands included changing how the Board is elected. They wanted to end the system that restricts the choice to delegates to a tightly controlled Constitutional Convention and replace this with direct elections by the membership.

But resolutions for “one member, one vote” were repeatedly shot down on the floor during past conventions. Direct elections came by way of a different process. A consent decree between the federal government and the UAW came after a federal investigation uncovered widespread corruption on the part of IEB members and union staff. The settlement was for a referendum to be held where the membership would decide whether to switch to a one member, one vote system.

This was a necessary step to root out a corrupt, bureaucratic leadership that had made major concessions and allowed hundreds of thousands of jobs to be permanently eliminated — through plant closings, outsourcing and automation.

Direct elections won, defeating the convention system by a 2-1 margin.

Now the rank-and-file membership has made its voice heard again. As Mock explained, “the shop floor, so far, they’re speaking. They’re speaking in the votes being cast.” (In These Times, Dec. 2)

Change is coming to the UAW, and not a moment too soon. The shift to electric vehicles — which require fewer worker-hours to assemble — threatens to usher in a new wave of restructuring and job cuts.

Now the task is to mobilize the rank and file who elected these new leaders. It will take more than aggressive bargaining strategies. A monumental struggle will be required to reverse the patterns of making concessions and stop the hemorrhaging of more jobs.

And autoworkers will not win by themselves. Their union must be part of a global, multinational, multigendered, multigenerational classwide movement to finally put people before profits.

Martha Grevatt is a UAW Stellantis retiree and was an observer at the ballot counting for the Members United slate.

New School adjunct faculty strike enters third week

By Paddy Colligan

New York City

Dec. 5 — Raucous twin picketlines at the New School University Center and at neighboring Parsons School of Design in support of striking faculty declared their anger at the intransigence of the school administration. Honking cars and trucks, banging on buckets, tambourines and trumpets accompanied chants of “The teachers have spoken: the strike will not be broken!” and “Stand up, sit down, New York is a union town!” to make downtown Fifth Avenue a noisy center of struggle.

Part-time faculty at The New School have been on strike since Nov. 16. Demands include wages and benefits, but the 1,600 members of Adjuncts Come Together—UAW (ACT-UAW) Local 79002 are also demanding that the administration work to resolve issues of inequality that plague the institution.

Despite its progressive history as a haven for academics persecuted in 1930s Nazi Germany, and similarly persecuted scholars of color after World War II, the New School still has to answer for its anti-union and anti-worker actions.

Today’s treatment of its part-time academic staff resembles all too well the unequal business model of many private institutions of higher education in the United States. Adjunct teachers, who provide over 85% of university instruction, cannot be expected to solve budget deficits. Organizing and strikes are trending, as U.S. higher education institutions try to impose shockingly inadequate pay on part-time faculty.

After 95% of the union members voted to reject what the university administration called its final offer, the contract dispute was submitted to mediation, which began Dec. 1 and continued over the weekend.

ACT-UAW members have been joined on daily picket lines by others from The New School community, both workers and students, and by union members from other colleges and universities in New York City, many of whom face their own contract issues.

A lawsuit by parents of New School students, to be filed Dec. 4, accuses the University of fraud for not providing services the parents had already paid for.


Together-UAW (ACT-UAW) Local 79002

Union strong at Houston Starbucks

Supporters gathered at the Starbucks in Houston’s huge medical center for a “sip in” on Dec. 2 to support workers there who signed union cards. They are expected to have an election after the holidays. A vast majority of Starbucks workers around the country have signed union cards, and organizers say they’re confident the union will win an election.

The large group of supporters, called out by the DSA, waited in line to order their coffee. All gave their names as “Union Strong,” to be put on their coffee cups. Some workers’ shifts ended while the supporters were present and came out to thank everyone for solidarity. Workers said that managers were the ones taking orders and cashing out, while trying to keep union organizers in the back filling orders, where they could not speak with customers.

The second Starbucks in Houston where workers have gone public with their plans to unionize with Starbucks Workers United.

— Story by Gloria Rubac

Striking UAW-represented student workers at University of California-San Diego, Nov. 14.
**The torturous process of executions**

**By Gloria Rubac**

During the 48 hours from the morning of Nov. 16 to the evening of Nov. 17, several executions occurred in four states—Arizona, Alabama, Oklahoma and Texas—were scheduled and executed.

Three did take place, but in Alabama officials stopped the killing of Kenneth Eugene Smith after unsuccessfully searching for a vein to insert the IV for the lethal injection process. This was the second time in two months that Alabama has called off an execution in progress.

Texas did better luck with their killing machine the evening of Nov. 16, but not until they had stabbed, joked and tortured Stephen Barbee while trying to find veins for the required two IVs that are used in Texas executions. As I learned more, he transformed into a story of more than just torture, the isolation, the attempts to remove dignity, the denigration, the isolation and the humiliation.

Three are organizing a demonstration Dec. 15 at the Federal Building in San Francisco, the Labor Action Committee to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal and Workers World Party are organizing a demonstration Dec. 15 at the Federal Building.
‘They want to lead us into war’

Interview with historic African leader from Mali

By Raphaël Schmeller [guest]

This interview with Aminata Dramane Traoré was first published Nov. 30 in the German newspaper junge Welt (jW). Aminata Dramane Traoré, human rights activist and former Minister of Culture in Mali, discusses the chaos caused by Western states in the Sahel and the interests of the international oligarchy. She will be a guest speaker at an “International Rosa Luxemburg Conference” in Berlin in mid-January 2023. Translated by John Catalinotto.

junge Welt: The media are focusing on the war in Ukraine on a daily basis. The African continent’s point of view hardly plays a role. How do you view this context?

Aminata Dramane Traoré: The war is exacerbating our problems considerably. You could say it is one evil too many. Another thing is that solutions could have been found at the beginning to prevent an escalation. But I don’t think anyone was interested in that. And now I have the impression that no one is interested in the deeper causes of the war.

jW: Can you tell us what are the war’s deeper causes?

ADT: What’s involved are the economic and geopolitical interests of the various actors. It is these issues that, in my view, underlie the upheavals that are underway in Ukraine. So from an African perspective, the war is also related to the economic policies that are being imposed on our countries.

jW: Can you elaborate?

ADT: In the 1960s, we wanted to break out of [foreign] domination and a model based on exporting only a few raw materials, without ever using them locally — so as to create jobs and transform our agriculture and our own production of food needs. To this day our economy consists of producing for international demand and therefore having a lower unemployment, mass poverty, emigration and what is called jihadism are directly related to these economic policies.

jW: In the West, Russia in particular is blamed for problems like hunger crises. Do you share this view?

ADT: No. After all, it is not Moscow but the West with its policies and military interventions in recent years that have failed and made everything worse — for example, in Iraq or Afghanistan. And when the British-French partnership and NATO decided to attack Muammar Gaddafi and destroy Libya, Russia played no role there either. The West should stop misleading the public.

jW: Can you explain what consequences the Western sanctions against Russia have for your continent?

ADT: Russia and Ukraine have a significant role in the supply of wheat, which, along with other things, is now lacking because of the sanctions. This leads to hunger, and this brings us back to my previous answer: if we could structure our economies to prevent our own needs, we would not be in this situation today. So Ukraine is another problem for us but not the fundamental one.

jW: Russia and Mali signed an agreement last month to fight terrorism. What is this about?

ADT: This is not a question at the moment of systematically challenging the West. It’s about wanting to have the right to diversify our military partnership. Because when you come to fighting terrorism, the West is ineffective.

The French military operation “Barkhane” failed to contain and effectively combat jihadism over a period of a good 10 years. On the contrary, the number of jihadists was around 400 in Mali in 2013, and they now number thousands in several countries in the Sahel.

This situation occurred because the jihadists can recruit locally. Hundreds of thousands of young men and women now enter the labor market in these countries every year, yet there are no jobs. The prevailing economic model has no answer to poverty.

jW: Now the French troops have been withdrawn from Mali. You had already called for this 10 years ago. Why?

ADT: The real reason for the military intervention was never to combat terrorism. It is, conversely, a consequence of the expansionist policies of the capitalistic system. [The governments in] countries like Mali do not make the decisions when it comes to their economic policy; they are at the mercy of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, which we have long since taken over.

As the core of the debate is that nothing has been done from the basic needs of Africans, while at the same time respecting their human rights and an intact environment, including the climate. Again, France and its allies, including Germany, are not even capable of successfully fighting jihadism. These countries are here because they want to take us to war, so they can defend their [economic and strategic] interests.

jW: Will this situation change, now that France is turning its back on Mali?

ADT: In reality, France does not want to leave the country, it is just pretending to leave. And this is not only true for France. The German foreign minister, for example, says that it is out of the question for Russia to be left in charge of the country now.

I find this Russia argument — which is being served up all the time right now for everything in all kinds of variations — incredible. The West was there before Russia — it was the West that failed to solve the problem. And yet now it’s supposed to be all about Russia?

The vast majority of Malians have long wanted negotiations with the Malian jihadists. But France and Germany say that dialogue between Malians, that is, between the jihadists, the authorities and civil society, is out of the question. They have repeatedly prevented such negotiations in recent years.

jW: Why have they refused to let these negotiations take place?

ADT: Because the West does not want to go. Because if the Africans can solve the problem themselves, they will be forced to leave. The military operations, the CFA franc [currency of the former French colonies] tied to the euro, the trade agreements between the West and Africa — are all only there to defend the interests of the international oligarchy.

ADT: In reality, the ongoing problems in Africa, there is now increasingly another one: the climate crisis.

ADT: Yes, this is a big problem, Africa, which produces just 3% of global greenhouse gases, is the region of the world that already feels the consequences of the climate crisis the most. When we see how little progress has been made since the 2015 Paris climate conference, how small payments of reparations are being kicked over and how billions are now being spent on war, we in the Global South really feel mocked.

The funds are there that could be used to ensure that neither Africa nor other parts of the world have to suffer so much from the consequences of the climate crisis. But little is being done in the fight against it, because that is not in the interest of capitalism either.

jW: Is the climate issue increasing resistance to Western interference?

ADT: I believe so. There is a new generation of Africans today who understand these connections. In this context, [French President Emmanuel] Macron talks about anti-French sentiment, which he says is on the rise, but that is not the point. People have simply become aware of cultural and racial contempt and want to emancipate themselves. It is this resistance that is at the heart of the conflict in Mali — not Russia or jihadism.

jW: What is your view of the future?

ADT: Times are tough, and everyone knows what’s at stake. So it’s up to us to change the circumstances. But we should not forget that all African leaders who have tried to represent the interests of their peoples in the past have been killed, their governments destabilized or marginalized in one way or another.

So there will be no democracy in Africa as long as democracy is in crisis in the ostensibly developed countries, which today face the same difficulties as the so-called Third World. In fact, great democratic regressions can actually be observed in the West. One could say that these countries are now themselves on the road toward the “Third World.” Maybe then we can talk to each other as equals.

Translator’s note: In January 2006 Ms. Traoré hosted the Bamako section of the World Social Forum and facilitated the special meetings of anti-imperialists organized by the late Saïd Amin, which I had the honor of attending.

International Day of Solidarity with Palestine

Philadelphia City officials and other political leaders and community activists celebrated a city proclamation recognizing Nov. 29 as International Day of Solidarity with Palestine. The event featured speakers as well as placards and huge Palestinian flags.

When a small number of pro-Israel reactionaries turned out to harass the demonstrators, the Palestinian activists and their supporters used the huge flags to create a barrier, blocking out the counterprotest.

That evening the documentary, “Naila and the Uprising” was shown at the Making Worlds bookstore, hosted by Black Alliance for Peace, Philby ISA, the Philadelphia Palestine Coalition and Workers World Party. The film chronicles the remarkable journey of Naila Ayesh and other women in Gaza throughout the First Intifada in Palestine in 1987. A lively discussion following the film focused on the continued importance of the global Palestine solidarity movement.

— Report and photo by Joe Piette
The anti-LGBTQ+ assaults have been aggressive and unremitting—from hundreds of punitive legislative bills to a deadly attack on people—gay, trans, heterosexual—at Club Q. The mocking voices have been loud on radio, television, social media.

But breaking news! Despite these coordinated attacks, LGBTQ+ folks are way out ahead in public opinion. In a pre-midterm election poll taken by the Human Rights Campaign and data analyst winter Catalyst, voters ranked LGBTQ+ issues so low on issues to be worried about that transgender health care and participation in sports came in last with just 5%, versus inflation at 59%.

In general, people—even if they don’t identify as LGBTQ+ themselves—don’t see gender fluidity or queer sexuality as a threat. A very small minority is vicious and murderous.

The survey amounts to a broad public opinion poll—a reality check for how much LGBTQ+ people have created a future of sex, gender and sexuality that reflects a reality check for how much LGBTQ+ people have created a future of sex, gender and sexuality that reflects the wide, beautiful spectrum of human life.

We fought Florida’s Anita Bryant 1977 smear campaign to “Save Our Children.” We turned back California’s hateful Briggs Amendment in 1978 that threatened to ban all LGBTQ+ people from teaching in public schools. We rallied with the largest civil disobedience demonstration and arrests ever at the U.S. Supreme Court in 1986, after the Justices upheld the infamous Bowers v. Hardwick case to keep “crime against nature” laws on the books, leaving us marked felons in many states.

We came out to friends, family, co-workers and bosses and held state and national marches year after year. And in 2003, eleven LGBTQ+ historians filed a brief with SCOTUS that eviscerated the bigoted religious attitudes and lying history used to uphold Bowers, resulting in the Lawrence v. Texas decision that decriminalized our sexuality.

In 2015 Obergefell v. Hodges affirmed the right to same-sex marriage, with Gallup polls finding that public support for marriage equality reached 50% in 2011, 60% in 2013 and 70% in 2021.

These details merely scratch the surface of the daily, determined, risky, exhilarating, imaginative organizing that has transformed social and familial culture in the U.S. Working and oppressed people have been creating families of love and survival throughout the history of this country—from Indigenous nations to Black enslaved people, from white mill workers to LGBTQ+ sex workers.

The right-wing rhetoric for “traditional” sex and gender is heating up again, as companies try to seize every hour that workers have for their families and for themselves. Workers are fighting and striking to hold onto time for their human loving relationships—from coal miners in Alabama to online health associates and railway workers, from warehouse workers at distribution conglomerates like Amazon to baristas at coffee shops like Starbucks.

The LGBTQ2S+ movement has given the world a vision of living that elevates human love, affection and kinship, and it is family friendly.

Let us fight for this vision of a world where the entire spectrum of sex and gender is available to all, and where multiple forms of family life and love can be created to help sustain us against corporate predation.

Let us be inspired by Cuba’s Code of Families—passed in September after years of neighborhood discussion, debate and additions—by a two-thirds majority. Now there is official Cuban state recognition of families of choice from heterosexual couples to grandparents with grandchildren to LGBTQ+ friends in loving combinations.

Instead of being pushed back by the voices and violence of bigots, let us organize, rally, march—be out, loud and proud! Let us press forward, further, into an even more radical collective future.

Continued on page 7
When Nicaragua identified its first COVID-19 case on March 18, 2020, President Daniel Ortega understood that shutting down the economy would be catastrophic for the country's informal farm workers. In Nicaragua, three-quarters of all jobs are in farming. If workers don't work, they don't get paid.

Nicaragua's Sandinista government has been working for the last decade to strengthen local food production and self-sufficiency in the face of Western sanctions. Small, informal farmers play a decisive role in the Nicaraguan agricultural sector, producing 80% of basic grains and 65% of livestock products. Smallholder farmers generate most of the sector's exports, including coffee, meat, peanuts, sugar, sesame, beans and dairy products. Since the Sandinistas' food sovereignty campaign began in 2007, Nicaragua has produced around 80% of all the food it consumes.

President Ortega was under pressure from all sides to introduce strict COVID-19 restrictions and lockdowns. Nicaragua's neighbors, El Salvador and Honduras, imposed lockdowns two days after registering their first cases. Costa Rica ended its lockdown, and closed its borders three days later. These three governments demanded Nicaragua join them in closing its borders.

Right-wing domestic opposition groups and media were also calling for a complete shutdown of the economy. But Nicaragua had barely recovered from a violent U.S.-backed coup attempt in 2018, and a lockdown would have further undermined the government's attempt to rebound economically.

Because the Sandinista government chose to thread a narrow needle and protect the livelihoods of informal farm workers, Western liberal corporate media seized the opportunity to attack and began to spread misinformation.

On April 4, 2020, BBC News falsely reported that in 2020, one of the lowest death rates per 100,000 of the population of 6.5 million. John Hopkins University, Nicaragua had one of the lowest death rates per 100,000 population in the world — 189, compared with 276 for Britain and 374 for the U.S. The international corporate media did not question whether lockdowns were in Nicaragua's best interests or whether they were even feasible. Their only concern was how to make the victories of the Sandinista Popular Revolution invisible. The country generates 70% of its electricity from renewable sources, with electric power distribution covering more than 90% of the population. The government maintains subsidies for the price of petrol and its derivatives, for public transport on both land and water transport, and electricity for low-income families.

Nicaragua has the most advanced and democratic system of autonomy for Indigenous peoples in Latin America, which is distinct from the nation's identity in the name of 23 Indigenous and Afro-descendant territories. The country sponsors and helps develop thousands of cooperative businesses and agricultural enterprises and has an ambitious national plan to fight poverty that exceeds the efforts of the United Nations sustainable development goals.

Nicaragua has overcome centuries of colonial oppression and neoliberal exploitation in order to achieve these victories. So, to the same extent that the radical democracy of the Cuban Revolution and the Bolivarian Revolution in Venezuela are steadily defeating the economic, psychological and political and economic blockades of the West and its local proxies, so too will the popular Sandinista Revolution in Nicaragua.

Nicaragua has the most extensive and well-equipped universal public health system in Central America – and it's free for everyone. During the height of the pandemic, health “brigades” made 5 million house-to-house visits to provide education and to counteract misinformation, while also identifying and treating potential cases. Every Nicaraguan household received four visits.

As for vaccines, Nicaragua was at a disadvantage, compared to its neighbors El Salvador and Honduras, as Nicaragua received no early vaccine donations from the U.S. However, once supplies arrived via the WHO's COVAX initiative, the government quickly met and surpassed vaccination rates in the region.

Societal trust in the universal health care system allowed community-based health teams to fully vaccinate 86% of the population, the highest rate in Central America (while 95% have had at least one dose). This was all achieved without coercive vaccine mandates. Since the pandemic's start, the government has built 24 new hospitals, 181 maternity homes and well over 3,000 health centers.

Nicaragua's COVID-19 response was objectively better than its neighbors and even many Western nations. According to Johns Hopkins University, Nicaragua had one of the lowest death rates per 100,000 population in the world — 189, compared with 276 for Britain and 374 for the U.S. The international corporate media did not question whether lockdowns were in Nicaragua's best interests or whether they were even feasible. Their only concern was how to make the victories of the Sandinista Popular Revolution invisible.

Successes of the Sandinista Revolution

Nicaragua has achieved one of the lowest rates of excess COVID-19 deaths in Latin America, the highest rates of COVID-19 vaccinations in Central America and one of the highest GDP growth rates in the region and world.

One might think that would be great interest to neighboring countries and the international community more broadly. But instead, the revolution- ary Sandinista government is maligned and demonized by the U.S. government and the empire's stenographers in the corporate media. An institutionalized propaganda campaign attempts to denigrate, belittle, undermine and ignore the Sandinistas' achievements and successes in the Sandinista government.

The Sandinista Revolution in Nicaragua has achieved one of the lowest rates of economic inequality in Latin America, because the country is showing the world what can be achieved when the people's welfare – and not monopoly profits – is at the forefront of national activity. Nicaragua has universal and free education from preschool through trade, university and professional school.

More than 1 million packages of subsidized supplies are delivered to students all over the country every year. In addition, the government has built 70,000 homes annually. About 2 million families have been given title to their properties by the government.

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By Richard Merino

Public health care worker from Nicaragua's medical brigade administers vaccines going door to door.

By depending on the Nicaraguan people's trust in the universal health care system created by the Sandinista government and refusing to lock down, President Ortega saved his country from economic disaster. Nicaragua's economy recovered swiftly from the pandemic, with its GDP growing by more than 10% in 2021 and is forecast to be 4% this year – the highest growth in Central America and one of the highest in all of Latin America and internationally.

Nicaragua has the most extensive and well-equipped universal public health system in Central America – and it's free for everyone. During the height of the pandemic, health “brigades” made 5 million house-to-house visits to provide education and to counteract misinformation, while also identifying and treating potential cases. Every Nicaraguan household received four visits.

As for vaccines, Nicaragua was at a disadvantage, compared to its neighbors El Salvador and Honduras, as Nicaragua received no early vaccine donations from the U.S. However, once supplies arrived via the WHO's COVAX initiative, the government quickly met and surpassed vaccination rates in the region.

Societal trust in the universal health care system allowed community-based health teams to fully vaccinate 86% of the population, the highest rate in Central America (while 95% have had at least one dose). This was all achieved without coercive vaccine mandates. Since the pandemic's start, the government has built 24 new hospitals, 181 maternity homes and well over 3,000 health centers.

Nicaragua's COVID-19 response was objectively better than its neighbors and even many Western nations. According to Johns Hopkins University, Nicaragua had one of the lowest death rates per 100,000 population in the world — 189, compared with 276 for Britain and 374 for the U.S. The international corporate media did not question whether lockdowns were in Nicaragua's best interests or whether they were even feasible. Their only concern was how to make the victories of the Sandinista Popular Revolution invisible.

Successes of the Sandinista Revolution

Nicaragua has achieved one of the lowest rates of excess COVID-19 deaths in Latin America, the highest rates of COVID-19 vaccinations in Central America and one of the highest GDP growth rates in the region and world.

One might think that would be great interest to neighboring countries and the international community more broadly. But instead, the revolution- ary Sandinista government is maligned and demonized by the U.S. government and the empire's stenographers in the corporate media. An institutionalized propaganda campaign attempts to denigrate, belittle, undermine and ignore the Sandinistas' achievements and successes in the Sandinista government.

The Sandinista Revolution in Nicaragua has achieved one of the lowest rates of economic inequality in Latin America, because the country is showing the world what can be achieved when the people's welfare – and not monopoly profits – is at the forefront of national activity. Nicaragua has universal and free education from preschool through trade, university and professional school.

More than 1 million packages of subsidized supplies are delivered to students all over the country every year. In addition, the government has built 70,000 homes annually. About 2 million families have been given title to their properties by the government.

The country generates 70% of its electricity from renewable sources, with electric power distribution covering more than 90% of the population. The government maintains subsidies for the price of petrol and its derivatives, for public transport on both land and water transport, and electricity for low-income families.

Nicaragua has the most advanced and democratic system of autonomy for Indigenous peoples in Latin America, which is distinct from the nation's identity in the name of 23 Indigenous and Afro-descendant territories. The country sponsors and helps develop thousands of cooperative businesses and agricultural enterprises and has an ambitious national plan to fight poverty that exceeds the efforts of the United Nations sustainable development goals.

Nicaragua has overcome centuries of colonial oppression and neoliberal exploitation in order to achieve these victories. So, to the same extent that the radical democracy of the Cuban Revolution and the Bolivarian Revolution in Venezuela are steadily defeating the economic, psychological and political and economic blockades of the West and its local proxies, so too will the popular Sandinista Revolution in Nicaragua.
Un tribunal anula la prohibición del aborto en Georgia

Por Dianne Mathiowetz

Atlanta

El 16 de noviembre, el juez del Tribunal Superior del Condado de Fulton, Robert McBurney, ordenó la restitución de las regulaciones sobre el aborto que existían antes de la implementación de la controvertida legislación de 2019, que prohibía casi todos los abortos. Esta legislación, que entró en vigor en julio tras la anulación de Roe v. Wade por parte del Tribunal Supremo, prohibió los abortos a partir de las seis semanas de embarazo, si se podía detectar la actividad del desarrollo cardiaco del feto. Muchas personas ni siquiera saben que están embarazadas a las seis semanas, por lo que la legislación les niega esencialmente cualquier opción.

Por ahora, se restablecerá la ley vigente antes de 2019, con un plazo de 24 semanas. El juez dictaminó que cuando la legislación de 2019 fue aprobada por la Asamblea de Georgia, las garantías de aborto de Roe v. Wade en la Florida y en Georgia eran inconstitucionales entonces y no podían ganar estatus legal tres años después con una nueva sentencia tras un cambio en el Tribunal Supremo.

McBurney declaró que la Asamblea General tenía la opción de volver a aprobar las restricciones en esta próxima sesión, si así lo decidió.

Casi inmediatamente después de conoci- cerse el fallo del juez, los teléfonos de las clínicas de Atlanta empezaron a sonar incesantemente con solicitudes de citas. Algunas personas que llamaban habían planeado ir a otros estados, pero se sen- tían aliviadas de no tener que gastar tiempo y dinero para obtener la atención sanitaria que deseaban.

Ninguna clínica de la zona de Atlanta había estado todo desde julio; las tasas de los servicios completos exigía la reposi- ción del personal y la preparación de la seguridad. Sin embargo, desde el 16 de noviembre se han realizado decenas de procedimientos.

Aunque el fiscal general del estado pre- sentó inmediatamente un recurso ante el Tribunal Supremo del Estado de Georgia para revalidar la decisión del juez McBurney, no se ha indicado qué hará este tribunal. En Georgia, como en todo el país, la gran mayoría de la población apoya el derecho al aborto.

Miles de personas se manifestaron y marcharon en Atlanta y en todo el estado tras la sentencia del Tribunal Supremo. Los derechos reproductivos y la justicia han ocupado un lugar destacado en las últimas semanas, sobre todo en la con- tendida por el Senado de Estados Unidos entre Raphael Warnock y Herschel Walker, cuya segunda vuelta se celebrará el 6 de diciembre.

La mayoría de los funcionarios electos y políticos contrarios al aborto se mantienen en silencio sobre si la legislación tendrá otro intento en 2023; ya que sólo se aprobó con un margen de un voto en la Cámara de Georgia hace tres años. Lo que está claro es que seguirá habiendo un movimiento creciente para garantizar los derechos reproductivos y la justicia.