United fight against racist school closures

By Judy Greenspan
Oakland, California

“This isn’t a budget fight; this is a war,” said Jessica Black, Black Sanctuary Director of the Black Organizing Project, at the night’s massive rally against school closures in downtown Oakland Feb. 4. Black, who is an organizer of Reparations for Black Students, stated further, “This is a war on Black and Brown communities. This is a war to erase Black Oakland.”

The rally was one of a weeklong series of protests against Oakland Unified School District’s plans to close primarily Black and Brown Oakland schools. A coalition of Black educators, school workers, students, parents and community members has formed under the banner of Reparations for Black Students and is leading this massive movement to stop the racist closures.

The coalition says the proposed school closures are part of a long process of gentrification and systemic racism in Oakland. Two years ago, the Oakland School Board closed Roots International Academy, another primarily Black school in East Oakland, despite overwhelming community opposition. Anger over that closing fuels the current movement for Reparations for Black Students.

Since the OUSD announced plans to permanently close or merge 15 schools, this city’s people have erupted in protests, demonstrations, car caravans, packed school board meetings and even an ongoing hunger strike. Two Black Westlake Middle School education workers are entering the second week of their hunger strike outside the school.

Over 1,800 people packed a virtual zoom meeting of the Oakland School Board Jan. 31 to protest the planned closures. Speakers included a large group of students who all testified how important these neighborhood schools were to them and their families. Members of the Oakland Education Association (OEA), the teachers’ union, and SEIU Local 1021, which represents education workers such as attendance clerks, spoke against the school closures, as did many Oakland parents.

Several school communities held rallies outside their schools during the virtual board meeting. School Board Director Mike Hutchinson, who has been outspoken in his opposition to the closures, attended the meeting from a spirited rally at Manzanita Elementary School.

Then on Feb. 1 and 3, car caravans organized by Oakland Not for Sale stretched for blocks, as people drove to rally in front of the homes of several Oakland School Board directors’ homes, including those of Board President Gary Yee and School Board Director Sam Davis. Only two school board directors, Continued on page 2

Stop the U.S. war machine!

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

During the week of Jan. 30 to Feb. 6, an ad hoc coalition of U.S. anti-imperialist organizations in the United States held over 70 protests against U.S. and NATO aggressive actions directed at Russia. These ranged from holding signs and banners in well-trafficked areas or on highway overpasses to days of protest Feb. 5-6 to show the breadth of opposition to a U.S. war.

The groups called the actions because the U.S., working through the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, is threatening war on Russia, using the pretext that Russia is trying to invade Ukraine. The underlying reason is, in fact, U.S. imperialism’s drive to maintain and expand its global economic and strategic hegemony. NATO was established under U.S. direction after World War II specifically to oppose the socialist USSR in Europe and prevent worker revolutions from taking place in Western Europe. Following the collapse of the USSR in 1991, the U.S. has pushed successfully to increase the number of countries in NATO to oppose any independence from the U.S. in the area, spreading especially to some former USSR allies and Soviet republics.

Headlines in all U.S. media continue to blame the “danger” of Russian aggression Continued on page 7

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United fight against racist school closures

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Hutchinson and Vascedic Williams, are actively opposing the school closures. Students who serve as board directors are also speaking out and opposing the closures.

Also on Feb. 1, students and teachers from several schools, including Westlake, walked out and marched to the OUSD offices in downtown Oakland.

A Feb. 4 rally at Oscar Grant Plaza projected labor, student and community unity. Speaking for SEIU Local 2021, which brought a large delegation of school workers to the rally, OUSD Chapter Vice President Donnneva Reid reminded the crowd, “Do you know that when they close schools, we have layoffs. SEIU is the backbone of the school district, and we are being laid-off and pushed out.” Reid added, “We are here today to tell the Board no school closures.”

The rally also showed solidarity for workers in International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 6, who have been doing recycling jobs without a contract for two years. Those workers filled the stage to express their solidarity with the Reparations campaign against school closures.

“We have your back” and “Hands off our schools” made up the strong messaging from Liz Ortega, Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Alameda Labor Council, representing 135,000 Alameda County workers. Keith Brown, President of the Labor Council and also OEA, challenged the school board to join the community and take the resolution to close the schools off the board’s agenda. “Listen to us, the Oakland community, the parents of Oakland, the students of Oakland, labor— listen to us!” demanded President Brown.

The Feb. 4 event ended with a short march to the OUSD offices, which have been closed since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. OUSD continues to pay an exorbitant monthly rent on this building, while claiming it does not have the funding to keep community schools open.

On Saturday, Feb. 5, a community rally and walk for peace was held at Prescott Elementary School, another historically Black school slated for closure. The school closure measure would impact schools with the highest Black enrollment.

The school board will meet Tuesday, Feb. 8, to vote on the school closure measure. If this militant, united week of action is any indication, regardless of the outcome the Oakland community, led by the Reparations for Black Students campaign, will continue to fight for the schools that its students deserve.

BOP Director Black said it best when she stated: “We ain’t asking them a damn thing. This is our city. We make these demands! ★

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 never-ending 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 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 innumerable 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 our communities. These are our people, and we make demands!

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

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Brian Flores lawsuit vs. the NFL

By Monica Moorehead

The single most popular sports event in the U.S., amateur or professional, is the NFL. The Super Bowl is one of the most watched programs in television history. It is the NFL’s version of the World Series, Super Bowl rings, and all the hoopla about Super Bowl week. It’s the most-watched sports event, but undoubtedly many people will have on their minds the most recent developments, which again have tainted the game with systemic racism.

Brian Flores, the 40-year-old recently fired coach of the Miami Dolphins, interrupted the NFL draft on Thursday with a statement that the NFL’s hiring of Black head coaches has only been made worse by the NFL’s disingenuous commitment to social equity.

The NFL is 70% Black players, but as of today has only one Black head coach. Mike Tomlin of the Pittsburgh Steelers. Out of all 32 billionaire NFL owners, all are white except for Jacksonville Jaguars owner Shad Khan, who is Pakistani-Hindu.

The NFL’s stated diversity, equity and inclusion policies, guidelines and initiatives relating to diversity, equity and inclusion, are retaining outside experts to assist in this review and will also solicit input from current and former players and coaches, advocates and other authorities in this area.”

The Flores lawsuit is a legal anti-racist protest shedding light once again on the predominant white-supremacist U.S. society, coupled with the exploitative relationship between bosses and workers.

Tamar Rice denied justice once again

By Martha Grevatt

The family of Tamar Rice recently received another piece of infuriating news. The U.S. Department of Justice refused to reopen the case against two Cleveland police officers who murdered 12-year-old African American youth Tamar Rice Nov. 22, 2014. Without bothering to notify the Rice family attorneys, the department quietly closed the 2020 case, while President Donald Trump was still in office.

Newspaper reports leaked the department’s decision, which was opposed by veteran civil rights attorneys assigned by the Justice Department to prosecute the case.

Tamar’s family and supporters were hopping, with Joe Biden now president, the case would be revisited and a grand jury investigation would be initiated. Tamar’s Campaign for Justice demonstrated in Washington, D.C., Oct. 15, 2021, that the maimed Justice Department reopens the case. On multiple occasions the campaign called on Joe Biden’s mother Samaria Rice, submitted additional evidence against Tamar’s killer, Timothy Loehmann and Loehmann’s partner, Frank Garmback.

Tamar's family attorney Kristen Clark, wrote in a Jan. 28 letter that the department would not reopen the case, because the new information would not prove a federal civil rights violation “beyond a reasonable doubt” and thus did not change the 2020 decision when “career prosecutors determined that the federal government could not meet this high standard.”

“Tamar’s family, Tomlin of the Pittsburgh Steelers. Out of all 32 billionaire NFL owners, all are white except for Jacksonville Jaguars owner Shad Khan, who is Pakistani-Hindu.

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“Tamar’s family, determined that the federal government could not meet this high standard.”

“The family is justifiably furious,” added Jonathan Abady, one of the family attorneys. “There’s no apparent recourse or relief through the Justice Department to hold these officers accountable...”

The case reveals the shameful conduct of Democratic Party politicians, from McGinty to Biden. Cleveland has not had a Republican Party mayor since 1951. Neither party can be relied on to bring justice to victims of racist police violence.
Boston school bus drivers’ contract struggle

**Labor-Indigenous solidarity spotlighted**

On Jan. 20, hours before members of Boston School Bus Drivers, United Steelworkers Local 8751, were scheduled to take a strike vote, the drivers’ transgender, private-employer Transit and its City of Boston client came to the negotiat- ing table with substantially more wages than the union was officially demanding.

But even in this unprecedented situa- tion, the 1,000-strong Local 8751 made another pass which emphasized solidar- ity with the communities it serves. Paid job training to recruit young drivers from the communities, COVID-19 protec- tions, benefits for older retirees and cor- recting racist history, in what’s known as “America’s Hometown,” were among the counterproposals that lead to the largely Haitian and Cape Verdean drivers’ hearts.

While Transit and the City have agreed for the first time to replace hated “Columbus Day” with “Indigenous Peoples Day” and delete the word “Thanksgiving” from the drivers’ paid holidays calendar, they have balked at the union’s demand to use Indigenous peoples’ experience and language for the fourth Thursday in November and recognize “National Day of Mourning.”

Below is a letter to Boston’s mayor from United American Indians of New England (UAINE) and the North American Indian Center of Boston (NAICOB) supporting the union’s demand to put its 45 years of solidarity with Indigenous nations into the contract books — and correct history from the workers’ point of view.

(Introduction by Steve Gillis, Executive Director for NAICOB, USW Local 8751)

**Mayor Michelle Wu**

City of Boston

Via email, January 30, 2022

Re: National Day of Mourning in USWA Local 8751 contract language

Dear Mayor Wu,

We write today because we understand that there has been some objection expressed on the part of the city about the request of members of Local 8751 Boston School Bus Drivers to include a reference in their new contract to National Day of Mourning. We hope to be able to give you some background about this so that any impasse can be lifted.

Local 8751 has been very supportive of Indigenous issues for decades. In the past, years prior to Boston recognizing Indigenous Peoples Day, they had sought to have Indigenous Peoples Day set out in their contract as the holiday on the second Monday in October. Even though the city had failed to recognize the day, they felt that it was important for them to go on record that they did not cele- brate Columbus Day and instead cel- ebrated Indigenous Peoples Day. Local 26 Harvard Cafeteria Workers had also done this in their contract at Harvard before Cambridge or the university had recog- nized the day.

The same holds true with National Day of Mourning. Local 8751 is supportive of the work that we do to dispute and correct the false narrative of peaceful relations between white settlers and Indigenous peoples that is perpetuated via the Thanksgiving holiday. A National Day of Mourning on “thanksgiving Thursday” was first declared in Plymouth in 1970 by Wamsutta Frank James and other mem- bers of both of our organizations, and it continues to be honored annually more than 50 years later, with extensive media coverage and many thousands of people—now honoring the day. The 1970 sup- pressed speech of Wamsutta Frank James is in numerous anthologies and taught in hundreds of schools.

The largely Haitian and Cape Verdean membership of Local 8751 has endorsed and participated in the Plymouth National Day of Mourning for decades. The members’ lived experiences in their homelands and as immigrants within the U.S. are impacted by the systemic ineq- uities of colonialism. As a result, these union members want to express their solidarity with Indigenous peoples right here in Boston where they live and work now. Around the world, there are holi- days celebrating colonizers who invaded Indigenous lands, including Canada Day and Australia Day, and accompanying efforts by Indigenous peoples and allies to confront these holidays is international as well.

We have not sought to have Boston or any municipality officially declare a National Day of Mourning in lieu of Thanksgiving, and having the requested reference to the day in the Local 8751 con- tract does not seem to us to imply that the city is taking a position. Including the refer- ence to the day is simply respecting the wishes of the professional union drivers who safely deliver thousands of children to schools across the city every day. We appreciate the solidarity shown by Local 8751 and ask that their desire to support Indigenous communities in their contract be accepted.

Thank you.

Mahtowin Munro and Kisha James for UAINE

Raquel Halsey and Jean-Luc Pierre for NAICOB

**Big union win for Mexico’s GM workers**

General Motors workers in Silao, Mexico, have made history.

They have voted in the first independent union in any Mexican GM plant, defeat- ing the bogus company union by a wide margin. For decades, company unions allied with the forlorn ruling party, the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), have colluded with auto companies to keep wages low and maximize exploitation. The highest-paid Mexican GM workers make in a 12-hour day little more than a U.S. autoworker earns per hour.

With the Feb. 3 election of the National Independent Union of Workers of the Automotive Industry (SINTTIA), the 6,500 Silao GM autoworkers will likely see their wages and benefits increase. But GM will still make huge profits from the sale of its Silverado model trucks, made in Mexico and Michigan, some of which fetch prices as high as $78,000. And CEO Mary Barra will not take a cut in salary, which was over $2 million in 2020.

The GM bosses refuse to acknowled- ge that Mexican autoworkers are dis- satisfied with pay and conditions. GM spokesperson David Barnas claims “Our Silao employ- ees choose GM and elect to remain with the company for extended careers because of the positive and healthy envi- ronment that we have estab- lished as a corporate leader in Mexico.”

Jesus Barroso explained, “We’re fed up. Being fed up in what’s making us take this decision. I think we have the right to give our families, our kids, a better quality of life.” (ufoic.org)

¡Sí! ¡Sí! ¡SINTTIA!

Martha Grevatt is a retired executive board member of UAW Local 869.

**Portland city workers warn: ‘Don’t force a strike’**

By Lyn Neeley

Portland, Oregon

Workers at Portland’s Bureau of Development Services have been working without a contract for a year and a half. On Feb. 5, they held a rally and march of over 150 workers to demand that bosses and City Council agree to provide fair wages and respectful working conditions.

The District Council of Trade Unions, a coalition of six city unions represent- ing 1,200 city workers, says they plan to strike in May unless a decent contract is offered. Portland City Council refuses to negotiate any further. Their “last-and- final offer” leaves workers with a 5% wage cut, with the losing cost of living, and threatens to take away essential worker protections.

At the rally Chris Flanary, a housing programing specialist, said the strike will stop all housing development that is vitally needed in Portland. She shared the sentiments of the workers who say they could not afford to live and work in the city they serve.

“We demand essential wages for essential work- ers!” workers chanted.
Pandemic exposes U.S. health care crisis

By Marie Kelly

In the book “The Great Influenza: The Deadliest Pandemic in History” by John Barry, written in 2005 about the so-called Spanish Flu of 1918, we learn that pandemic actually started in the U.S. The army barracks in the Midwest were the breeding ground for the deadly virus. World War I soldiers packed into trains, and ships quickly spread the flu around the world. U.S. politicians hid the truth in order to protect the war profits, but Spain raised the alarm, and that’s how that pandemic was mislabeled. (tinyurl.com/Art746)

Since then, 6 million people have died worldwide from COVID-19, with a disproportionate percentage being Black, Brown and Indigenous people, impacted by racial disparities endemic in health care.

In February 2021, Workers World Managing Editor Michael Marlowe wrote: “The need for reparations for equal health care for African Americans is being put on full, blatant display by the raging coronavirus pandemic. It is no secret that African Americans, along with other people of color, have been dying in hugely disproportionate numbers compared to white people. The killing disparity is especially acute in large cities like Detroit, Chicago, New York, Milwaukee and Los Angeles.”

“According to Uche Blackstock, an emergency physician and founder and chief executive of Advocating Health Equity, and Oni Blackstock, a primary care and HIV physician and founder and executive director of Health Justice, African Americans are dying from the pandemic at the rate of 1 in 735 people, compared to whites at a rate of 1 in 1,050.” (workers.org/2021/02/54328)

The U.S. has the highest casualty rate in the world from COVID-19, yet Dr. Rochelle Walensky, head of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar, told Congress in May that there were 100,000 deaths in the U.S. due to COVID-19. That is a gross understatement. The U.S. has the highest mortality rate in the world.

The pandemic exposed the health care crisis in the U.S. that reemerged into new forms with the demise of Black liberation movements and in the African diaspora on breaking imperialist chains—never establishing a proper containment measure.

In February 2021, Workers World reported that a group of African American victims of anti-Black violence had been reportedly ignored by the CDC and the Department of Health and Human Services due to the newness of the virus, the “known reluctance of Black people to report death.”

That’s why every month, not just February, this newspaper commemorates Black History Month and African American History Month. Since the early 1990s, the fund has helped sponsor the “Supporter Program” in the memo line. Do online donations.

The labeling of COVID-19 as the China virus/Chinese virus by the ruling class, especially acute in large cities like Detroit, Chicago, New York, Milwaukee and Los Angeles.

“Now, as the Chinese Wuhan virus by the ruling class, specifically the former president, unleashed imperialist chains, and in the African diaspora on breaking imperialist chains and the principles of self-determination and sovereignty. Oppressed nationalities have the right to fight to end all forms of imperialism and injustice and white supremacy — by any means necessary.

Your help is needed! If you appreciate our coverage, it’s time to join the Workers World Supporter Program or renew your membership. The program was established 45 years ago so readers could help WW publish anti-racist, working-class truth and build campaigns needed to fight for revolutionary change leading to socialism. Since the early 1990s, the fund has helped sponsor the Supporter Program in the memo line. Do online donations.

We are grateful for your help in building Workers World!”
The Angola 3—Woodfox, Robert King and Herman Wallace, all African Americans—were exiled to solitary confinement for decades, among others, put a global spotlight on U.S. prisons’ use of this heinous practice and other torturous treatment of prisoners.

Woodfox describes the horrors of prolonged isolation, causing some prisoners to be catatonic, scream or self-mutilate. Woodfox’s bravery, strength and integrity inspired his many supporters worldwide.

At last. After 43 years and 10 months banished to a 6-by-9-foot cell by Louisiana prison authorities, Albert Woodfox was released on Feb. 19, his 69th birthday. Woodfox’s bravery, strength and integrity inspired his many supporters worldwide.

The U.S. has the highest incarceration rate in the world, with 2.3 million prisoners. Some 80,000 are held in solitary confinement. This criminal (in)justice system disproportionately jails African Americans and Latinos/as, who together make up the majority of inmates and are more likely to be banished for years in isolation.

Not only must solitary confinement be ended, but the entire rotten prison system needs to be uprooted. Decades ago a founder and late chairperson of Workers World Party, Sam Marcy, called prisons “concentration camps for the poor.” The poorest and most oppressed people make up the vast majority of those behind bars, victims of both capitalist exploitation of the working class and the added-on national oppression that comes from this country’s racist history of slavery and imperialist expansion.

Marcy’s understanding of the state was based on Marxism. The repressive apparatus, including prisons, has been erected to protect capitalist property and prevent the Working Class from continuing to squeeze ever greater profits out of the labor of the working class. This is also to suppress struggle and resistance. The greater the gap between rich and poor, the more workers and oppressed people end up in prison.

To rebel is justified

WWP set up the Prisoners Solidarity Committee some 45 years ago in solidarity with prisoners fighting up against their horrific conditions. During the height of the Attica uprising in 1971, which New York officials brutally repressed, prisoners invited the PSC to come to the prison and tell their story to the world.

This newspaper’s editorial page wrote on Sept. 7, 2011, after the first hunger strike: “Prisoners are among the most exploited and repressed workers. As the global capitalist economic crisis worsens and jobs disappear, the jail and prison population inside the U.S. will swell with even larger numbers of desperate, oppressed workers. In the interest of building the broadest class solidarity, the progressive movement must support the demands and tactics of prisoners, who are an integral sector of the working class.”

WW’s slogan “Tear down the walls!” was the right one during the Attica rebellion, and it is the right slogan now—with the “new Jim Crow” mass incarceration, warehousing of the jobless, provision of cheap/slave labor for corporations and continuing abuse of prisoners.

We join Albert Woodfox’s call to “End Solitary Confinement in U.S. Prisons!” and say: The prisons are the cancer. Tear down the walls!
Stop the U.S. war machine!

Continued from page 1

in the area. Yet which country has pro-

ected its military abroad? According to
PONARS Eurasia, an independent aca-
demic research network, the Pentagon
operates over 700 military facilities out-
side its borders, while Russia has fewer
than 20, as of September 2021.

The Biden administration has flown
$200 million worth of weapons and other
“lethal aid” to Ukraine and has 8,800 U.S.
troops on standby to enter that country.
The U.S. wields NATO to threaten or wage
war against Russia, in clear violation of
the principle that the U.S. is not at war.

Worldwide, workers are fighting to stop
the war. From the U.S. to New York City,
Portland, Oregon, and Philadelphia, ac-
tivists assembled at a busy intersection
in Atlanta. Their signs and banners called
out objections to incessant war propaganda
coming from the Biden administration and
big business media. Protesters labeled
NATO a tool of U.S. rule and demanded
money for jobs, housing, health care,
education, not war; supported union contracts
for workers, not military contracts; and
demanded U.S. out of Eastern Europe.

The message was clear: Not another impe-
nand war, not NATO! Workers World, Jan. 27)

United Nations. This current escalation
is just one of a series of actions, most of them held Feb. 5:

New York City

In New York City over 100 activ-

ists braved bitter cold to rally on the
north end of Times Square on the
famous “red steps.” Over 15 different organizations collaborated on this
protest, all with speakers at the rally.

These included the International
Action Center, Vets for Peace, Call to
Action on Puerto Rico, CODEPINK, Workers
Assembly Against Racism, Black Alliance for Peace, Workers World
Party, ANSWER Coalition, the Green Party
and Socialist Action. While the groups
represented different political perspectives,
there was an air of cooperation. Their mes-
 sage, which they brought to a virtual rally earlier in the day, was focused on stopping
any plans of the U.S. government for a new war. (tinyurl.com/mzqz9du)

Philadelphia activists gathered at
the federal building to raise their objections to
another U.S. war. After holding signs visi-
bile to passing cars and handing out flyers
outside, participants marched around the
nearby Liberty Bell. Brundywine Peace
Community organized this event locally.

Despite freezing temperatures and a
blustery wind, some 30 determined antinat-

War, in clear violation of

New York City

The war against Russia, in clear violation of

New York City

The war against Russia, in clear violation of

New York City

The defense was denied their right to have
legal experts testify that Lucio’s response to
the interrogation was a symptom of trau-
matic abuse. Her bowed head and sagging
shoulders, her face showing no expression
at any point. The judge ruled that Lucio was
guilty, no one should be executed.

Doria Perez Meyer, who has an inno-
cence brother on Texas death row, went to
Harlingen for the weekend events. She
attended the rally: “This system is so flawed.
There’s tampering of evidence; there’s witholding of evidence; there’s collusion.
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It doesn’t matter if a person is innocent or
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The death penalty in 2022

Continued from page 6

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#LandBack
Indigenous peoples reign redwood forests lands

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

on uncared land of the Onondaga Nation, Haudenosaunee Confederacy.

The growing LandBack movement by Indigenous nations won another significant victory Feb. 1, when more than 500 acres of the “Lost Coast” in California was transferred to the InterTribal Sitkineky Wilderness Council. (sinkenyoke.org)

The council is a “nonprofit consortium of 10 federally recognized Northern California Tribal Nations with cultural connections to the land and waters of traditional Sitkineky, Calu and neighboring Gwiyip Tribal territories. The majority of members are Bands of the Pomo Indians. The Save the Redwoods League (STRL) worked with the consortium to complete the transfer.

This area in northern California is home to endangered old-growth redwood trees, the tallest trees on Earth. That forest has now been renamed T’Cih-Léh-Dûñ (Fish Run Place) in the Sinkineky language, to recognize Indigenous peoples who lived cooperatively in the region before being attacked and forced out by European and U.S. settlers. During colonization and then capitalist exploitation of the area, 95% of Pacific Coast redwood forests were logged and destroyed. (savetheredwoods.org)

Pricilla Hunter, chairwoman of the Sinkineky Council, said it’s fitting they will be caretakers of land where her people were removed or forced to flee before the forest was stripped for profit. “It’s a real blessing,” said Hunter, of the Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians. “It’s like a healing for our ancestors. This [land] was given to us to protect.” (CBS Sacramento, Jan. 25)

STRL president Sam Hodder said the group’s goal was to increase the range of land managed by Native communities, returning that to Indigenous knowledge and practices, such as prescribed fire: “These communities have been stewarding these lands across thousands of years. It was a stewardship of that stewardship that’s gotten us into the mess that we’re in.” (CBS Sacramento, Jan. 22)

PG&E fires linked to forest devastation

One environmental “mess” Hodder references is the dangerous fire conditions created by destruction of forest by megapower company Pacific Gas and Electric.

The same day the T’Cih-Léh-Dûñ preservation was announced, PG&E was scheduled to exit five years of criminal probation. Its capitalist crime? A 2010 exploitation triggered by its natural gas lines, which blew up a San Bruno neighborhood and killed eight people.

PG&E has refused to bury its dangerous lines that spark fires. Instead, the company has destroyed many large and old trees that could ignite on contact with the lines. This has further degraded the environment.

Since 2010 the company has been linked to more than 30 massive fires, destruction of over 23,000 homes and businesses, the direct deaths of more than 175 people and subsequent uncounted health emergencies of more people.

The 2018 Camp Fire, California’s deadliest and most destructive, killed 85 people and displaced 90% of the people in the town of Paradise, destroying that and most of three other towns. (“The inferno industry and PG&E,” Workers World, Jan. 22)

Most of the T’Cih-Léh-Dûñ area was bought by the STRL in 2020 from PG&E. The land is habitat for the federally endangered northern spotted owl and other endangered species, and the utility company sought a cover for its environmental crimes against people and the Earth.

LandBack movement accelerates

The T’Cih-Léh-Dûñ transfer marks a step in the growing LandBack movement to return Indigenous homelands to the descendants of those who had lived there for millennia before European settlers arrived and seized the land.

The current #LandBack movement began in 2018, advanced by Aaron Tailfeathers, a member of the Kainai Tribe of the Blackfoot Confederacy of Canada. In 2020, spurred by protests at Mount Rushmore — a sacred Native site mutilated by the faces of U.S. presidents — the Indigenous organization NDN Collective drafted the LandBack Manifesto: “The Reclamation of Everything Stolen from the Original Peoples.”

This covers land, language, ceremony, food, culture and rights of sovereignty associated with 19 million acres of ancestral homeland to the nations that all refer to the area by the same name — Hoon’Na’aqen (Hopi), Shaw Jan (Navajo), Kiyugayut Nakuvachi (Ute) and Ansh Alashkodwe (Zuni) — Bears Ears. (sacredland.org)

Now T’Cih-Léh-Dûñ — where the Eel River runs between steep hills of old- and second-growth redwoods — has returned to its peoples. Now— toward another #LandBack victory!


Puerto Rican organizations rally against crypto colonizers

This article was based on a leaflet issued by the New York City organizing coalition of Puerto Rican and anti-imperialist groups sponsoring the Jan. 28 rally.

A coalition of Puerto Rican and global anti-imperialist groups rallied Jan. 28 at the New York City Housing Authority. They demanded Mayor Eric Adams’ immediately reject a bill that would remove 60% tax benefits for investors buying up land and housing in Puerto Rico. The rally highlighted Adams’ close relationship with Act 60 recipient, poster boy and crypto billionaire Brock Pierce.

Act 60’s tax incentives have existed in Puerto Rico since 2012, being formerly known as Act 20/22. But the rise of crypto currency — as well as the ongoing debt crisis on the island — has made Puerto Rico extremely attractive to wealthy foreign investors. These are eager to reap the benefits of the Act 60 tax exemptions and turn Puerto Rico into a crypto hub.

Act 60 provides millions of dollars in tax exemptions to certain investors and businesses. These tax exemptions are not available to longtime residents on the island.

Economists have indicated that the incentives fail to provide meaningful economic growth in Puerto Rico. Instead, measures such as Act 60 rapidly accelerate gentrification and displacement of locals on the island.

Journalist Bianca Graulau recently showed that Act 60 tax beneficiaries have purchased affordable residences that were later converted to luxury rentals, evicting longtime residents. (Los Angeles Times, Jan. 22)

A key figure in crypto currency manipulation in Puerto Rico is billionaire Pierce, who has gone on a buying spree in Puerto Rico if we don’t repeal these Act 60 tax benefits.

New York City, Jan. 28.
A revolutionary salute to the Lao People’s Democratic Republic

By Devin Cole

December 2, 2021, was the 40th anniversary of the end of the Laotian Civil War. Not only did the Royal Laotian Army fall to the Pathet Lao in 1975, that same day, but also the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, a socialist nation with a Marxist-Leninist government, was established and remains in power to this day.

To begin with, this leadership was led by Pathet Lao (“Lao Nation”), also known as the Lao People’s Liberation Army. This was a Communist organization—although not the first—formed between 1935 and 1937, when Pathet Lao dissolved after their victory over the Lao monarchists.

Since 1975, Laos has been recovering and redeveloping from the wounds of the onslaught by U.S. imperialism—the effects of scooped-earth warfare are still felt. Despite this, Laos has not only prospered through revolutionary solidarity with neighboring socialist countries China and Vietnam; it has been defended by millions of Laotian people and the 300,000-strong Lao People’s Revolutionary Party.

One of the most important actions in the history of Laos was the nationalization of the National Congress of People’s Representatives, a passage reads “this victory signifies a fundamental change in the destiny of our nation and society.” (Revolution in Laos: Practice and Prospects, p. 9) A fundamental change indeed.

Laotian resistance, however, does not begin with Pathet Lao fighting the monarchy. Laos’ history of resistance against foreign domination and imperialism also dates back over 600 years, beginning with the unification of the nation under King Tao Fungam in 1533.

From this point on, the people of Laos fought foreign exploitation by Burmese and Siamese (Thai) landlords, along with two invasions by Burma in 1563 and 1569. Battles ensued over the centuries, all in an attempt to destabilize Laos and return it to feudal landlordism and later impose other forms of oppression and exploitation.

In the late 19th century, French colonialists invaded Laos and, from 1901 to 1945, an armed uprising was waged against both the French and Laos bourgeoisie by Ong Keo and Ong Kommandam, two Alak fighters and Pathet Lao leaders in the province of Phongsaly and most of the province of Luang Prabang, breaking the front of the French colonizers stationed there.

At this point, France was forced to sign the Geneva Agreement, which recognized the sovereignty of Laos, Vietnam and Kampuchea. Under this agreement, Laos was deemed independent and controlled by a monarchy, fronted by Hisavong Yrong.

Despite this agreement, Washington accelerated its push to conquer all Indochina, which lead to the U.S. war against Vietnam and to the “Secret Wars” that culminated in a campaign of terror against the people of Laos for 20 years.

The U.S. ‘Hidden War’ against Laos

While the U.S. openly propelled an illegitimate government in southern Vietnam and waged war with the National Liberation Front and northern Vietnam, they denied their invasion and occupation of Laos and suppressed this resistance for decades.

Laos borders Vietnam on the east and allowed the Vietnamese revolutionary government to use a system of roads inside Laos to ship soldiers and military equipment to southern Vietnam to fight the U.S. Known as the Ho Chi Minh Trail, this system totaled roughly 12,000 miles of roads that made it possible for more than 2 million liberation fighters to deploy to the south.

While the trail also ran partially through Cambodia, which was just as vital to the NLF fighters, the U.S. chose to focus its secret bombing campaign primarily on Laos.

From 1964 to 1975, the U.S. carried out over 580,000 bombing missions, dropping 2 million tons of bombs on Laos. At least 50,000 people in Laos were killed in those nine years—for a country with just 3.5 million people—or more than 1% of the population. Not all of the bombs detonated; and since 1973 (49 years ago!), millions of Laotian people have been killed by stepping on hidden bombs.

In 2016 then-President Barack Obama pledged $90 million to help Laos clear the millions of undetonated bombs left undetected. Despite this, the U.S. president, including Obama, has bothered to return to Laos for the U.S. military’s crimes against humanity.

Communist victory and the rise of the LDP

In April 1975 the NLF drove the U.S. out of Vietnam, crushing its puppet government in the south and establishing a socialist nation. This victory pushed the U.S. out of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. In December 1975, after months of intense fighting around the capital Vientiane, what little infrastructure of the Laotian monarchy remained fell apart completely, leaving a victorious Prince Souphanouvong was named President, and Kaysone Phomvihane as Prime Minister.

At this point, Pathet Lao reorganized itself and became the ruling party of Laos, the Lao People’s Revolutionary Party, which still governs the country today.

The Lao People’s Democratic Republic was proclaimed in December 1975 and renamed in 1991 as a process of restructuring. Production and land were nationalized, and collectivization was implemented.

Restructuring was a challenge for Laos at first, partially because very little industry even existed in Laos that could be used as a base for productive forces, and partially because the government was still saturated with undetonated bombs that made agriculture extremely dangerous (as of 2016, 30% of land in Laos remains unsafe, which still obstructs economic expansion).

Despite these conditions, Laos has cut the poverty of its residents in half and nationalized health care and education. Laos’ smaller population means there is room for rapid expansion of hydroelectric facilities and dams, which provide clean, safe electricity.

Laos contains about 9% of the world’s hydropower potential than most countries and is projected to become a hydropower giant by 2025, being able to export up to 14,600 MW (megawatts) of power to neighboring countries, or 14.6 billion watts of electricity.

Over the last three decades, Laos has shifted away from agricultural collectivization into industrial work; rubber production is heavily centralized in Laos. Unlike in the U.S., where industrial workers are exploited for their labor, often without union representation, the industrial workers of Laos are well-represented by unions and workers’ councils. With its nationalized health care, paid sick leave and pregnancy leave are mandatory and are ample in length and pay.

Laos and COVID-19

An April 27, 2020, Workers World article offered an early analysis of Laos’ incredible handling of COVID-19, with just 19 people in the entire country being infected and no deaths. Laos, upon seeing the spread of COVID-19 across the world, immediately put the entire country on a lockdown, closing schools and border checkpoints and forcing all travelers and from the country.

How is Laos faring almost two years later? According to the World Health Organization, significantly better than the U.S. Laos has unfortunately seen 553 deaths from COVID-19, compared to the 322,900 Vietnamese deaths since the total population is 75,000. The Laotian death rate from COVID-19 is less than 3% of the shockingly high death rate experienced in the U.S.

In Laos, market relations were, similar to China, expanded following the collapse of the USSR. This allowed a capitalist class to still exist in Laos, albeit small and heavily regulated and controlled by the government.

Laos has continued to prosper in its quest towards communism. They celebrate 46 years of socialist triumph and look forward to many, many more celebrations.

Workers World Party join them in this celebration. Salute to the Lao People’s Democratic Republic! ☑
No knocks, again

Abolish the police!

No one knocked on the door of the apartment where Amir Locke was sleeping before Minneapolis police entered, using a key, at 6:48 a.m. Feb. 2. They murdered the 22-year-old Black man, nine seconds later.

Locke, who police killed while carrying out a search warrant, was wrapped in a blanket and sleeping on a couch. SWAT officers kicked the couch over, waking up Locke who allegedly displayed a gun. Police officer Mark Hanneman immediately shot him.

Repeating the official police line, Minneapolis media labeled Locke a "suspect." Only later did police admit that Locke was not named in their warrants. Locke had a license for his gun but was given no chance to survive his encounter with police.

Locke’s murder has generated protests, including a nighttime car caravan through the streets of Minneapolis Feb. 4 and a turnout of thousands of protesters over the weekend. Black Lives Matter activists disrupted and took over the press conference where Mayor Jacob Frey and Interim Police Chief Amelia Huffman tried to justify the shooting.

At 5 a.m. Jan. 10, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police, serving a search warrant for someone else, forcibly entered the apartment of 19-year-old Isaiah Tyree Williams, firing 23 shots and killing the Black youth within seconds. After the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department realized Williams was not who the cops were looking for, they immediately began demolishing him, listing charges he would have faced had he used his weapon to protect himself against their armed break-in.

Both shootings are all too reminiscent of the murder of Breonna Taylor, a 26-year-old Black woman, by Louisville, Kentucky, police on March 13, 2020. In all these cases, controversial “no-knock” search warrants, which had identified other people as target suspects, provided cover for white police officers to break into Black households at night or early in the morning, and execute people of color without trial.

Chauvin conviction — no deterrent to police brutality

On April 20, 2021, Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin was convicted on three charges stemming from his May 25, 2020 murder of George Floyd and subsequently sentenced to over 22 years in prison. Three other Minneapolis police officers linked to Floyd’s murder are currently on trial.

The same Minneapolis judge who presided over Chauvin’s trial signed off on the no-knock search warrants that resulted in Locke’s death. The St. Paul, Minnesota, Police Department had requested a knock-and-announce warrant. Yet Minneapolis police, who have the options of knock or no-knock warrants, chose the latter.

In November 2020, Frey declared a moratorium against no-knock warrants, yet the practice continued, averaging around 199 per year. Since Jan. 1 Minneapolis police requested and were granted 13 no-knock search warrants. In cities across the U.S., police are weaponizing no-knock warrants — using them to brutally murder Black and Brown people.

That Frey and Huffman allowed no-knock warrants after promising the moratorium and other reforms following Floyd’s murder exposes just how corrupt the police system is and why reforms and convictions of a few guilty cops are not enough.

Chauvin’s conviction was designed to pacify millions of BLM activists who filled the streets of cities around the world in the months following Floyd’s murder. Politicians like Frey made promises to reform and in some cases even “defund” police departments, only to have these promises evaporate since the November 2020 elections.

In the year after George Floyd’s murder, 1,068 people were killed by police — an average of three per day. This pattern did not stop with Chauvin’s conviction. The capitalist system gives white police carte blanche to shoot to kill Black and Brown people. While receiving considerable media coverage, convictions like Chauvin’s are the exception not the norm. Showcase trials, even when they result in rare jail terms for killer cops, do nothing to fundamentally change systemic racism and a capitalist state apparatus dependent on brutality and repression. The problem is not a few bad officers — the problem is systemic racism throughout the entire U.S. criminal “justice” system — from the beat cops to racist U.S. Supreme Court judges.

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Abolish the police!
U.S.-EU hide their role in Afghan hunger crisis

By Zach Kerner

On Jan. 24, U.S. and European Union representatives met with representatives of the Taliban in Oslo to discuss the situation in Afghanistan. The meeting’s purpose, according to the U.S. State Department, was the “urgency in addressing the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan” and the need to “help alleviate the suffering of the Afghan people.”

Urgent indeed. The international community has been sounding the alarm for months. United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres, not mincing words, recently warned that the Afghan cost of living had “plummeted by a thread” and, in a tweet, separately described daily life as “a frozen hell for the people of Afghanistan.”

The U.S.-EU statement focuses primarily on the Taliban’s conduct, particularly charges of women’s and human rights violations. It fails to acknowledge that the ongoing crisis in Afghanistan is the direct and intended result of U.S. and EU sanctions.

This failure is no surprise. The imperialist ruling class—organized under the U.S./EU NATO alliance—has no interest in solving problems of its own creation. To uphold their system of exploitation and oppression, the agents of imperialism conceal from the public their role in creating and profiting from chaos and violence. The legitimacy of bourgeois rule depends on violence. The legitimacy of bourgeois rule depends on violence. The legitimacy of bourgeois rule depends on violence. The legitimacy of bourgeois rule depends on violence.

Reveal the truth

Our task as revolutionaries is to find the truth and ruthlessly reveal it.

The truth is that the Biden administration responded to the Taliban’s taking power last August by launching an aggressive campaign of economic warfare against the Afghan state and its people, freezing the Afghan government’s assets, denying it access to international bank accounts, and choking off nearly all Afghan imports and exports.

By crippling the Afghan economy and keeping money out of the hands of the Taliban, the imperialists deprived the Afghan government of the revenue to provide for the basic needs of the Afghan people and to create a stable, functioning central administration.

The truth is that no U.S. law or executive order authorizes sanctions against the Afghan government. The Biden administration instead is relying on a 9/11-era anti-terrorism sanctions against Taliban officials, which were not to be used against the government of a sovereign state, de facto or otherwise.

As a former senior sanctions official in the Obama administration, Brian O’Toole, has written, these sanctions are more “powerful” now than they were when initially wielded against the Taliban in the early 2000s.

Given the “increased centralization of global finance and the primacy of the U.S. dollar in cross-border transactions,” U.S. sanctions are capable of “preventing access to international financial markets, even those not involving the United States.”

The truth is that the U.S. and NATO spent the last 20 years occupying Afghanistan, killing its people with drones, installing a repressive kleptocracy that made the Taliban look good, creating a wartime economy highly dependent on foreign aid and otherwise creating the conditions for the current catastrophe.

The truth is that the decision to impose sanctions on the Taliban sent the Afghan economy into shock. The value of Afghanistan’s currency, the afghani, has dropped to record lows. Inflation and shortages have sent prices for food and basic goods soaring.

The International Monetary Fund predicts that the Afghan economy could contract by 30% for 2021-2022. As a result of the contraction, food is scarce; half the population is in poverty; unemployment rates have skyrocketed; hospitals and clinics have closed; access to medicine is limited; and salaries for doctors and teachers have gone unpaid.

Afghan people have been forced to sell their homes and household goods to survive. There have been disturbing reports about Afghans having to sell their organs or even their children to put food on the table and survive the winter. While this reality affects the whole population, the most vulnerable sectors of Afghan society are hit the hardest.

U.S. leaders knew they would provoke crisis

The truth is that this crisis was as predictable as it is devastating. The U.S. leaders and their imperialist allies adopted these measures knowing full well that they would destroy the Afghan economy and exacerbate the humanitarian crisis.

The New York Times reported Aug. 21 that “Afghanistan is facing the heightened risk of a financial collapse after being propped up for the past two decades by foreign aid that now accounts for nearly half its legal economy” and that “the looming shock threatens to amplify a humanitarian crisis in a country that has already endured years of war.”

The Times then warned on Aug. 24: “Replacing a flood of foreign aid with sanctions threatens to cripple what is already one of the poorest countries in the world.” This is what the Biden administration meant when it repeatedly threatened to turn Afghanistan into a “pariah state.”

And yet, after the Jan. 24 meeting in Oslo, State Department spokesperson Ned Price told the press that the Biden administration was “doing everything we can to facilitate the flow of vital assistance and support to the Afghan people.”

Returning the $9.5 billion that belongs to the Afghan state and lifting the sanctions on the Taliban more broadly are apparently off the table. Price even had the gall to call the U.S. “a humanitarian leader when it comes to Afghanistan,” more proof that those words are meaningless.

The truth is that crushing the economy and social fabric of underdeveloped nations is U.S. foreign policy 101. Afghanistan is one of roughly 40 countries (and counting) that is under attack from U.S. economic sanctions, which are but one tool Washington deploys against nations that refuse to serve the imperialist ruling class.

Brute military force is another.

To get the U.S. out of Afghanistan, we need to get the U.S. out of everywhere. To do that, we need to view reality for what it is—not what the ruling-class officials and media say it is—so that the next time an imperialist mouthpiece calls the U.S. “a humanitarian leader” they convince no one.

EE.UU. fuera de los asuntos de Ucrania

Continúa de la página 12

gas fraccionado para sustituir el gas ruso que necesita Alemania. Así, la amenaña de guerra de Washington abre un camino de beneficios a costa del medio ambiente. Aunque Biden promete que no irán tropas estadou- idenses a la propia Ucrania, las amenazas de este país del mundo aumentan las tensiones que podrían estallar en una guerra nuclear. Estados Unidos ha demostrado que ninguna de sus promesas es creíble. Workers World/Mundo Obrero exige que Estados Unidos saque las manos de Ucrania, retire las tropas y las armas estadounidenses de Europa y ponga fin a la alianza de la OTAN.

WAR WITHOUT VICTORY

by Sara Flounders

*By revealing the underbelly of the empire, Flounders sheds light on how to stand up to the imperialist war machine and, in so doing, save ourselves and humanity.*


Foreign Minister of Nicaragua’s Sandinista government.

Free PDF download available at workers.org/books

End the blockade of Cuba!

By Danny O’Brien

The Portland End the Blockade of Cuba Committee met Jan. 30 at Pioneer Courthouse Square to rally in solidarity against the blockade. Workers World Party Portland branch comrades were joined by members of the Industrial Workers of the World, Democratic Socialists of America, Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, Jobs with Justice and the Portland Central American Solidarity Committee. The rally included picketing seen by drivers and pedestrians and speeches.

Following speeches, the groups held a car caravan from downtown, east through Burnside, down Cesar Chavez Boulevard, west on Hawthorne Avenue and ending in Central Eastside. The Committee plans to hold demonstrations monthly on the last Sunday of the month, in differing locations throughout Portland, to help bolster Portland’s public consciousness of the draconian sanctions against Cuba and build solidarity with the international movement supporting Cuba’s well-being and right to sovereignty.

Cuba has been under a devastating economic block- ade since Feb. 3, 1962 as U.S.-dealt punishment for its people’s liberation. Food, medicine and other vital resources are forcibly withheld from the small island nation; and all trade with the U.S., its allies or client states is strictly forbidden. Each time it has come to a vote in the U.N., the nations of the world have voted against this blockade; but each time the United States has kept on with aggression and obstinacy.

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Un Nuevo Movimiento por la Libertad ahora

Por Mumia Abu-Jamal

El gran revolucionario caribeño Frantz Fanon escribió en su ya clásica obra, The Wretched of the Earth, que los colonizados de la tierra, el siguiente llamado a acción: “Cada generación debe, desde la relativa oscuridad, descubrir su misión, cumplirla o traicionarla en relativa opacidad. Esa misión la tenemos nosotros.”

¿Cuál misión? La de desentrañar las miles de mentiras y presas del Imperio estadounidense, no sólo a mí, sino a otros también; algunos los conocí, algunos no. Hablo de capi- púnicos como Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin, Ed Pindexter (camarada del fallecido Mondo We Langa), Sundiata Acoli, Leonard Peltier, Dr. Mutulu Shakur, Julian Assange, Xinaechili, Rev. Roy Powell, y Daniel Hale. Son presos y pres- sas anti-racistas y anti-imperialistas del Imperio.


Que esas palabras energicen las nue- vos movimientos hoy en día y que vayan enriqueciendo nuestras historias vivien- tes mientras reconecten con las luchas de libertad de nuestra juventud. Muchos de nosotros somos ancianos, pero no alegremente ignoramos de los movimientos de lib- ertad actuales que responden a la tortura y asesinato de George Floyd, porque las verdaderas luchas perduen de una gen- eración a la siguiente.

Esta convocatoria viene cuando el encarcelamiento masivo ha metatizado en un sistema que ha desarrugado los pre- supuestos de los estados y ha resultado en enjaular a las ancianas y hasta recien- temente a la población juvenil. También ha resultado en una brutalidad desenfre- nada que incluye a las mujeres dando a luz en griletes y cadenas, o en la gente sometida a un régimen de aislamiento durante. Próximamente, las prisiones han empeorado con el paso del tiempo; no han mejorado. Y ahora el sistema carcelario es más grande de lo que jamás habríamos imaginado. Por eso, nos hacen falta más movimientos para cambiar las condiciones en las pri- siones, no menos. Y la abolición de las prisiones tiene que estar sobre la mesa. Queremos libertad. Queremos libertad. Queremos libertad. Lo decimos todas y todos.


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Traducción Amigxs de Mumia en México. (}

26 de enero. Al ordenar los preparati- vos para enviar 8,500 tropas estadoun- idenses más a los países cercanos a la frontera rusa el 23 de enero, el presidente Joe Biden aumentó el riesgo de una guerra entre los dos estados más poderosos del mundo con armas nucleares. Una vez más, el imperialismo estadounidense ha amenazado con una nueva aventura militar en busca de la dominación, esta vez con la excusa de la “invasión.”

Workers World Party/Partido Mundo Obrero hace un llamamiento a todas las fuerzas antiimperialistas y antibélicas de Estados Unidos y Europa Occidental para que protesten contra las amenazas de guerra de Washington y exijan la retirada de tropas estadounidenses de Europa del Este- se disolvió entonces. las repúblicas soviéticas con las naciones este. El Pacto de Varsovia -una alianza de más de media centímetro hacia el este. Propuso que la OTAN se retirara menos de media hora de territorio ruso. supercónicos con capacidad nuclear a cia de Rusia. Italia, miembro fundador países fronterizos con Rusia, en su lista de la OTAN casi países son antig- igualdad de Rusia. Italia, miembro fundador de la OTAN, tiene bombarderos F-35 supercónicos con capacidad nuclear a menos de media hora de territorio ruso. El gobierno ruso interpretó estos mov- imientos de Estados Unidos como una amenaza existencial. El presidente ruso Putin dijo: “Estamos en nuestra puerta. No hemos venido a vosotros”. Putin tenía razón. Propuso que la OTAN se retirara de todos los países cercanos a Rusia y que no hubiera lugar en la OTAN para Ucrania. El actual régimen de Ucrania tomó el poder con un golpe de estado a principios de 2014. La segunda administración de Obama financió y apoyó a las fuer- zas nacionalistas ucranianas antiurss, incluidos los neonazis, que establecieron un nuevo régimen. Este Estado antirruso atacó inmediatamente a la minoría de ori- gen ruso que vivía en Ucrania, sobre todo en las provincias del este del país. La defensa propia, la población de dos provincias orientales del Donbass.