Rehire Memphis Starbucks 7

By Arjae Red

Bulletin: Protests were held around the U.S. Feb. 15 in solidarity with the Memphis 7.

Seven Starbucks workers at the Poplar and Highland Starbucks in Memphis, Tennessee, were fired Feb. 8 in the most vicious and blatant act of union busting by the company so far. These firings accounted for approximately 35% of the total workforce in the store, according to the press statement released by Starbucks Workers United. Among those fired was the entire union Organizing Committee, comprised of mostly Black and Brown workers.

“I was fired by Starbucks today for ‘policies’ that I’ve never heard of before and that I’ve never been written up about before. This is a clear attempt by Starbucks to retaliate against those of us who are leading the union effort at our store and scare other partners,” said Nikki Taylor, a shift supervisor and union organizer at the store.

Workers were fired for a series of minor offenses, some of which were alleged violations of policies workers were unaware of and hadn’t been trained on. Many of the violations, such as going behind the counter or entering the back of the store when they’re off the clock, are policies that have been regularly unenforced and are now being selectively enforced by the company to bring the hammer down on the union organizers. One fact that cannot be ignored is the vile racist character of this particular instance of union busting. Starbucks has used a wide variety of tactics to intimidate and silence union supporters across the country, yet a mass firing such as this has not been used up to this point. When this Memphis store filed for a union, it did so on Martin Luther King Jr. Day. In the letter to CEO Kevin Johnson, the Organizing Committee wrote: “Please, in memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., do not bring your so-called ‘pro-partner’ anti-union campaign to Memphis.”

Despite this plea, Starbucks made no hesitation to terminate this entire Organizing Committee.

Firings for minor offenses unprecedented

Former Starbucks manager for nine and a half years Amy Holden, who managed the Poplar and Highland location, told More Perfect Union: “We do not move straight to termination for anything that is not considered egregious, such as stealing and harassment . . . the majority of policy violation moves to corrective action and assumes positive intent and help that [worker] correct their action rather than moving straight to termination. It’s very rare that we move straight to termination for some sort of policy violation.”

The reality is that the violations cited by the company for the firings are things that many Starbucks workers across the country have done, or do on a regular basis, without suffering termination. Starbucks representative Reggie Borges said about the firings: “These egregious actions and blatant violations cannot be ignored.” It’s obvious that the difference here, the real “egregious” unforgivable act, in the eyes of Starbucks, is that these workers dared to file for a union election.

What about the egregious acts of union busting and countless blatant violations of labor law committed by Starbucks around the country since the union drive

Continued on page 8
The antiwar rally opposing the U.S./NATO war drive against Russia brought together a broad spectrum of participants, even before the official rally started at Love Park in Center City Philadelphia Feb. 12.

A Black Lives Matter performer Kalpulli Kamaxtli Xinchocatl pranced in regalia while playing the drums—black cowboys rode their horses across the plaza, keeping beat with the drummers. People in the plaza, taking Valentine’s Day photos at the Love Statue, drifted over to ask what was happening. When the drummers opened the rally, passersby stopped to watch and get flyers.

Noticing there was anyone counterprotesting or speaking in support of the war, even the Black police officer assigned to ask “who’s in charge” spent time explaining why he was against another U.S. war.

Roughly 50 people who planned to participate turned out, but dozens more stepped by to hear speakers and engage in conversation. Signs throughout the rally spoke to key issues on everyone’s minds, calling for fighting racism; funding human needs including health care, housing and education; supporting workers’ union rights but not another war.

The rally was organized by a coalition of groups including Black Alliance for Peace, the Green Party of Philadelphia, International Action Center Phila, Workers World Phila., Party for Socialism and Liberation Phila. and Socialist Resurgence.

The rally was chaired by Betsey Piette with the International Action Center. Femin Morale with Philadelphia Boricua spoke about the history of U.S. militarism and its particular impact on its native island Puerto Rico, where the U.S. Navy tested weapons for decades on the smaller island of Vieques until residents organized to kick them out. Scott Williams from WWP led off with his talk. He described how U.S. corporate media through constant propaganda whips up sentiment for wars, while the U.S. NATO install missiles and conduct “war games” at the Russian border. Williams called for funding for peoples’ needs not war.

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Education workers fight for justice

By Hadley Willow

Education workers are adding to a recent surge of worker organizing across the country and around the world, a surge that is energizing the solidarity of the working class. This surge is reminding the capitalists that they are dependent on the labor of workers and that decent wages and safe working environments are not a privilege but a right.

The ability of educational institutions to function depends on the skilled work of K-12 teachers, higher education teachers, teaching assistants, bus drivers, cafeteria workers, custodians and many others, who are rightfully demanding that they be fairly compensated for their indispensable work.

Student Workers of Columbia, United Auto Workers Local 2226, voted Feb. 9 to conduct a Jan. 28 to accept a new contract with Columbia University, following a long and arduous 10-week strike that began Nov. 3, 2021, to demand the union, which secured a 6% retroactive wage increase, an expansion of union membership to include teaching assistants and research assistants, the right to involve third-party arbitration in the case of sexual assault or discrimination, as well as many other changes essential to their demands.

At the end of January, student workers at Ohio State University, many of whom work in the dining hall, gathered to demand higher wages. Jobs like these, which are essential to campus life, are usually performed by the poorest and most vulnerable workers on the campus community. These jobs often provide less compensation than those with off-campus employers. Because they can’t afford to live on campus, some students spend their time commuting, which disproportionately affects their academic performance.

Teachers in Puerto Rico have been walking off the job this week and joining thousands of public sector workers in the capital of San Juan to protest low wages. Much of the unrest comes after a teacher, Pablo Mas Ogando, died in a car crash, presumably from exhaustion on the way home from his long commute. Because one of three jobs he needed to support himself.

Struggling for more than economic demands

In solidarity with their Indigenous membership, Boston School Bus Drivers, Steelworkers Local 87530 rejected an agreement last week within the city of Boston, which actually offered them a higher wage increase than they were asking for, but which denied acknowledgement to the National Day of Mourning in place of the Thanksgiving holiday. The offer was brought to the table just hours before the union planned to vote on a strike. This is an indicator of the leverage workers have in this current historical period, and it highlights the power of worker organizing to influence social and political conditions even beyond the workplace, setting precedents for society as a whole.

To this point, organizing workers have been influencing public policy regarding COVID-19 protocols as well. In order to avoid a strike by teachers in Oakland, the Oakland Unified School District reached an agreement Jan. 24 with the Oakland Education Association to improve COVID-19 safety procedures and testing practices.

Workers in the U.S. are being brutally confronted by the failure of electoral politics to improve their working conditions and standard of living, to address climate change, to contain an epidemic, to prepare for natural disasters and to end racism. They are reawakening, realizing their own agency and responsibility as workers to change their conditions.

The U.S. is controlled by corporate interests, and so long as corporations think they have unlimited power, they will control politics. Conversely, as workers seize their own power and fully realize the strength we have in numbers and necessity, we can begin to build a world that is designed and maintained for us — not the capitalist ruling class.

Oakland, Calif., teachers prepare to strike

By Judy Greenspan

Elected teacher representatives of the Representative Council of the Oakland Education Association (OEA) voted Feb. 7 to conduct a strike vote if the Oakland Unified School District Board of Directors approved any of its proposed school closures. Teachers boycotted their scheduled professional development meetings for the second week in a row Feb. 9.

The next day a large community rally was held at Brookfield Community Park. Then on Feb. 11, chanting “Black Lives Matter,” hundreds of students walked out of Oakland Tech, one of the city’s high schools, and marched to the OUSD offices in downtown Oakland.

Students left messages outside the empty district office and chalked the message “Protect Black Schools” in the street.

Oakland teachers could go on strike as early as March 4 if the membership of OEA approves the strike action. Teachers are reaching out to other educator unions in parents and students to get their support. OEA is demanding funding for all the schools from Governor Gavin Newsom.

The Oakland community will continue to organize to stop the school closures and mergers. After the Oakland Education Association and the OEA Substitute Teacher Caucus, Oquendo, died in a car crash, presumably from exhaustion on the way home from his long commute.

Teachers in Puerto Rico began staying off the job and protesting Feb. 4, the day of this march. The Puerto Rico Teachers Federation officially called a strike five days later. They demand a raise in their monthly salary, frozen for the past 14 years, and adequate pensions.

Teachers’ pensions were drastically cut under the austerity terms of the Fiscal Control Board, imposed on Puerto Rico by the U.S. Congress in 2016. Firefighters and other workers have joined the teachers, who are also demanding the resignation of Governor Pedro Pierluisi.

— Report by Martha Grevatt

On the picket line

By Marie Kelly

Brew union strong

Baristas at five Pittsburgh-based Coffee Tree Roasters filed for union representation and received union certification on Feb. 17, 2022, and Dec. 22, 2021, respectively. Riley Davis, a barista at the Mt. Lebanon location said, “We feel we deserve electronic tips, guaranteed meal and rest breaks, paid sick time and open communication with management.” (tinyurl.com/ad88cqt6)

The UFCW then filed Unfair Labor Practice charges with the NLRB against Coffee Tree Roasters after barista Liam Tinker was fired after the day on the election filing; Tinker had appeared in a video announcing the union campaign. “It’s not too hard to figure out what happened here,” said Wendell Young IV, President, UFCW Local 1776. “[But] I think they picked on the wrong group to do that. This is a really well-committed, well-organized group of workers.”

REI is not ‘woke’

Workers at the Soho REI store have filed for a union election. The 160 workers are organizing with Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union (RWDSU). Given REI’s corporate image of being pro-worker, voluntarily recognizing the union would seem likely.

Not too long ago, REI took on Starbucks, for example, like Starbucks, of capitalists adopting a progressive public persona, when in truth they are driven to profit at the expense of minimum-wage workers.

In a union-busting attempt, REI created a ridiculous podcast where CEO Eric Artz answered questions from Will Oremus, the company’s chief diversity and social impact officer—yes, that is really her title.

In the podcast, the two introduce themselves by stating their pronouns and an Indigenous land acknowledgement, in a contemptible attempt to sound “woke.” The conversation goes on to tout the company’s social justice efforts and how a union would hinder communication between worker and boss.

This paternalistic approach may not fool anyone. However, union organizers must inoculate workers who may be on the fence against these tactics that are meant to confuse and scare workers. It’s important to remember that in 2016, REI was one of the largest companies that did not allow workers in Seattle to attempt to unionize. Workers there described wages so low that some were forced into homelessness.

Railway workers fight against austerity

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Puerto Rico

Teachers strike against austerity

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Railway labor law blocks workers’ right of way

Unless you have been living under a rock, you are aware of the supply chain fiasco exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Railway workers have been suffering under the “essential worker” yoke, possibly longer than any other unionized industries in the country, and railroad workers maintain the vital supply chain. Workers of the major rail companies have been at odds with the Railway Labor Act of 1926.

The 17,000 conductors and engineers of BNSF, a Class 1 railway, have said “enough!” The last straw came when BNSF bosses unilaterally instituted a new time-off policy that would penalize workers for taking a day off for any reason. (tinyurl.com/muqtding)

Railway workers are already on a 24/7 on-call schedule. Their response — a strike on Feb. 1 — was stymied by a judge’s Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) ruling that would hold the workers and BNSF’s two largest unions, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BLET) and the Transportation Division of the International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail, and Transportation (SMART-TD) in contempt of the Railway Labor Act of 1926. The unions appealed to the secretaries of Transportation and Labor to intervene, but the Biden administration has failed to act.

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We need prison abolition, not reform

By Mirinda Crissman

Nearly 2.3 million people, who are incarcerated every day in prisons, jails and detention centers in the United States, face perilous death sentences across the U.S. have reported 577,073 total cumulative cases among incarcer- ated people and 3,023 total cumulative cases according to the UCLA Law COVID Behind Bars Data Project.

This project is sure to note that true case and mortality counts are likely higher, and may be significantly higher, than reported. This undercount is due to the data available being self-re- ported by carceral agencies, which may be concealing reported cases due to poor testing practices by many agen- cies, but the undercount is also due to the fact that many carceral agencies have stopped reporting COVID-19 data. (uclawidbehindbars.org)

Some of the most heartrending data col- lected on the members of our class behind bars come from projects like Perilous Chronicle, which has kept a running list with news sources detailing the uprisings, hunger strikes, escapes and other various acts of resistance available to the public. PC has been tracking these acts of resis- tance by incarcerated people in the U.S. and Canada since the end of 2010. Since the pandemic has exacerbated already dire conditions inside, the number of recorded acts of resistance has increased. (perilouschronicle.com)

In 2021 there were at least 112 recorded acts of resistance in 2020 across prisons, jails and detention centers in the U.S., which was up markedly from previ- ous years. Pandemic exacerbates suffering

The COVID-19 crisis behind bars has elicited a number of lackluster and inadequate responses from the various carceral agencies at the federal, state, and local levels.

Isolation, already extreme while incor- cerated, is made worse when the response to the rapid spread of the virus is lockdown of imprisoned people to their cells — with minimal if any access to basic hygiene like daily showers let alone basic recreation lev- els needed to sustain bodily health. Many facilities suspended in-person visits with lovers and families, which found one of the few places for human connec- tion with their larger communities they were kidnapped from. Quality physical and mental health care behind bars is already hard to come by, if imprison- ed people can even gain access to it. Mental health care is largely nonexistent in a setting that has often driven people to take their own lives because conditions are so brutal.

Suicides in U.S. jails and prisons rose sharply from 2000 to 2019, according to a study released in October 2021 by the Bureau of Justice Statistics. (The San Diego Union-Tribune, Oct. 7, 2021)

Various federal, state and local systems of prisons, jails, juvenile and migrant detention centers are decentralized. One thing many of these systems have in common is the spread of the virus through transfers of incarcerated peo- ple, from processing facilities and other units, made during a highly contagious pandemic, without testing and/or quar- antine protocols.

Build toward revolution

Even prior to the pandemic, prisons, jails and detention centers were a pub- lic health crisis. To imprison this many people — most of whom are historically and disproportionately oppressed in this coun- try on the basis of race, gender, disability and class among others — is to make them vulnerable to premature death, because of the organized violence and organized abandonment by the capitalist state.

The organized violence of cops, courts and cages — on stolen Indigenous lands — and systemic hospital closures, mass houselessness and environmental racism are a handful of examples that exemplify injustice. And such structural condi- tions are the cause of long-term inequal- ity on this continent since the colonizers first arrived.

Colonizers have imposed class war from their ruling positions since land- ing from across the Atlantic Ocean, with various means of forced and otherwise exploited labor for the profit of a few, especially enslavement. Prisons, jails and detention centers are one of the most effective tools the ruling class has to impose social control and drive wages down for the entire working class.

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From an always-present and ever-grow- ing movement of abolitionists in Texas, rejecting the war on migrants through Governor Greg Abbott’s Operation Lonestar, to each and every one of the 50 countries where the repressive U.S. model of prisons and policing has been exported, we are fighting for abolition like our cities depend on it. Because they do. The U.S. empire has a violent history of institutionalizing and codifying white supremacy. Prisons in form and function are monuments to white supremacy. They are concentration camps for the poor, oppressed nationalities and dissenters. This is exemplified in this moment of global pandemic, where the rapidly accel- erating and completely preventable deaths of people inside and outside prisons are an act of genocide. This does not come as a revelation but as a call to action.

We’re not building toward reform of any of these institutions. Prisons, jails and detention centers are themselves a form of enslavement and encomiendas (the Spanish Crown’s land grants to Spanish settler-colonizers conferring rights to tribute and forced labor from Indigenous inhabitants). Reform gives us more of what we’ve already got — structures of unrelenting violence that continue to maintain wealth accumulation for human traffickers and perpetrators of genocide.

We are building toward abolition, toward revolution. We support diversity of tactics and the right of the oppressed to self-defense and self-determination by any means. We are fighting to redirect stolen resources toward human needs like health care, housing, safe water and food and to transform the root causes of suffering and violence.

What we build together, in the wake of tearing down the walls of capitalist cages, to protect vulnerable members of our class as well as ourselves, will make all the difference.

Mirinda Crissman is co-chair of the Prisoners Solidarity Committee of Workers World Party.

Philadelphia

Protest caravan targets jails

By Joe Piette

Incarcerated people in Philadelphia’s jails — 90% awaiting trial while not convicted of any crime — are suf- fer from horrible jail conditions. In response, family members and community activists drove at least 50 vehicles in a Feb. 12 caravan to highlight this city’s crisis. In response, family members and community activists have stopped reporting COVID-19 data. (uclawidbehindbars.org)

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From an always-present and ever-grow- ing movement of abolitionists in Texas, under such barbaric conditions.

Jails continue to harm people and fail to make our communities safer, strong reasons why jails and prisons should be abolished. ☐

Incarcerees are not being provided enough time out of their cells for a shower, get medical care or make phone calls. Some people are not let out of their cells for days at a time, a violation of constitutional protection against cruel and unusual punishment. At least 18 prisoners died in Philadelphia jails in 2021.

In January, for the second time in seven months, the Pennsylvania Institutional Law Project succeeded, through the legal system, in forcing Philadelphia to pay $225,000 to community bail advocates, because of the inhumane and dangerous conditions. The Philadelphia Bail Fund said it plans to use the money “to free as many people as possible” from custody, in what it called “deplorable, life-threatening conditions” behind bars. (Inquirer.com, Feb. 1)

Young people continue to be subjected to violence and are consistently being denied medical care, adequate hygiene or nutri- tion, access to counsel and even court dates. Since nearly everyone in jails is being denied more than an hour or two of out-of- cell time, the entire system is the equivalent of solitary confinement.

The caravan comes on the heels of many protests over the last two years against the city’s failures to protect the rights of people inside the city jail and to stop Philadelphia using the torture of solitary confinement. No one should have to be incarcerated
Rodney Reed – overturn his conviction and death sentence!

By Gloria Rubac

Rodney Reed’s birthday was Dec. 22. This was the 24th birthday and holiday season he has spent away from his children, his five brothers, his mother and his large loving family — while entombed in solitary confinement on death row in Texas.

Reed was given an indefinite stay of execution on Nov. 15, 2019, by the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, the highest criminal court in Texas. He’s been in solitary confinement on death row in Huntsville, Texas, only five days before he was to be legally lynched in Huntsville, Texas.

His case was then sent back to the trial court to determine if Reed’s claims of innocence were valid.

Due to COVID-19, the evidentiary hearing was repeatedly postponed but was finally held in July 2021 in Bastrop County, where Reed had been convicted. Numerous new witnesses and overwhelming evidence of Reed’s innocence were presented during the two-week hearing, contradicting much of the State’s evidence in Reed’s original trial.

But the presiding judge, J.D. Langley, adopted nearly verbatim the State’s proposed order in Reed’s case, which included several obvious factual misrepresentations.

The Innocence Project in New York, representing Reed, filed a “Memorandum and Objections to Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law” with the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals on Feb. 1. “Because the judge abandoned his duty to be a neutral, independent fact finder, the CCA should reject the trial court’s copy-and-pasted order,” the Innocence Project declared in a strongly worded press release.

The statement continued: “The trial court judge overseeing Rodney Reed’s July 2021 evidentiary hearing abdicated his role as an unbiased, deliberative, independent fact finder. The only evidence connecting Reed to Stites was from their being together during a date the night before she disappeared.

More supporting facts

The Innocence Project alerts people to these facts in the case of Rodney Reed:

1. The murder weapon, a belt, was never tested for DNA.
2. The State’s forensic experts have admitted to errors in their testimonies, which led to Reed’s conviction and death sentence.
3. Renowned forensic pathologists have concluded that Reed’s guilt is medically and scientifically impossible.
4. Fennell’s best friend at the time of the crime, Bastrop Sheriff’s Officer Curtis Davis, has now revealed that Fennell gave an inconsistent account of where he was on the night of the murder. When asked to explain this discrepancy, Fennell declined to testify, because his answers might further incriminate him.
5. An affidavit from an insurance salesperson stated that Fennell threatened to kill Stites while applying for life insurance.
6. A confession by Fennell has come to light. On Oct. 29, 2019, Arthur Snow, a former member of the

Aryan Brotherhood and Fennell’s cousin, pleaded that Fennell had confessed to murdering Stites stating, “I had to kill my n*****-loving fiancée,” in a conversation.

7. Reed’s crime was that he, a Black man, was romantically involved with a white woman in a small conservative Texas town, where tributes to the Confederacy still sit on the grounds of the courthouse where Reed was tried.

On Dec. 17, 2020, the Innocence Project filed a request for “Grant of Application for Writ of Habeeb Corpus” in trial court and with the CCA, because the district attorney at Reed’s trial illegally hid statements taken from Stites’ co-workers. These affirmed that she and Reed knew each other and were involved.

At trial, the DA repeatedly stated that Reed did not know Stites. The DA also suppressed statements from Stites’ and Fennell’s neighbors about loud domestic violence arguments between Stites and Fennell.

Under the 1965 U.S. Supreme Court case Brady v. Maryland, the State had an affirmative duty to turn over all evidence favorable to Reed’s defense. Instead, the State has hidden evidence pointing to Reed’s innocence for more than two decades.

This evidence could have exonerated him from the very beginning.

Reed’s family and supporters will hold a 2:00 p.m. CST press conference March 4 outside the Texas Criminal Court of Appeals to urge the court to deny Judge Langley’s biased ruling that simply copies the position of the State.

Letters of support for Reed can be sent to Rodney Reed #999271, Polunsky Unit DR, 3872 FM 350 South, Livingston, Texas 77351.

‘Attica’ nominated for Oscar

By Marie Kelly

In early September 1971, over 1,000 prisoners, mainly Black and Latinx, rebelled against racism, brutal treatment and horrific conditions at Attica Correctional Facility in upstate New York. Their uprising lasted for five days, until the onslaught was over, 43 people were dead.

Renowned director Stanley Nelson and co-director Traci Curry produced a documentary feature simply entitled “Attica,” about this historic uprising and the state’s repression. It was released by Showtime in early November.

In his comment at IndieWire, Robert Daniels wrote, “Stanley and Curry’s ‘Attica’ is a harrowing piece of filmmaking and a fitting, powerful homage to the many prisoners, guards, former Attica prisoners, members of the observer community and family members of the guards.”

Moorehead stressed: “Some of the most inspiring segments of the documentary showed historic footage of prisoners organizing themselves, cell block by cell block, during the four days before the state’s assault.” (tinyurl.com/2xw6znf)

In a synopsis of the film’s reviews, the website Rotten Tomatoes gave it a score of 98% based on critics’ reviews. A synopsis of them says, “Attica revisits the titanic riot with intelligence, compassion and anger, presenting a version of events that honors history as much as it exemplifies the art of documentary filmmaking.” (tinyurl.com/2tw7wpc)

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Roxana Hadadi’s review in the Los Angeles Times notes a poignant distinction made in the film, in that it refers to Attica as an uprising and not a riot. She says, “Attica” is a jarring, engrossing and moving story of how those in power will lie, humiliate, kill and cover up to retain it; and the documentary is one of the year’s best.” (tinyurl.com/m7r7z8kb)
Consciousness of race and class, knowledge of systemic oppression, police brutality and still-burning racial tensions in this country flooded the minds of the masses, planting many seeds that today have grown into many saplings, stronger now against the winds that threaten them. The dismantling of Confederate and colonial statues is an important harbinger of more resistance to come.

Honor Black History Month! Support WW!

Workers World newspaper commemo-
rates Black History Month because white supremacy pervades life under capital-
ism. Every struggle—from fighting for living-wage jobs to ending police ter-
ror, from winning affordable housing to defending the basic right to vote—is rooted in the centuries-long battle to end this country’s horrific history of racism. We are still dealing with the legacy of enslavement—that heinous, violence-driven form of superex-
ploration that reemerged into new forms with the demise of Black Reconstruction.

That’s why every month, not just February, this newspaper chronicles the struggles of peoples of African descent and their allies to eradicate institutionalized, systemic white supremacy. A case in point is our continuing coverage of the movements to free political prisoner-
ers—like Mumia Abu-Jamal, Ruchell Magee, Dr. Mutulu Shakur and Imam Jamil Al-Amin—and to honor the leg-
hends of trailblazing Black women such as Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks and Fannie Lou Hamer.

Ten years ago today on Feb. 26, Trayvon Martin, an unarmed Black teenager, was murdered by an armed fascist in Sanford, Florida. The murder, George Zimmerman, was found “not guilty” in a powerfully racist court decision, and all charges were let go.

The murder and acquittal were followed by enormous protests countrywide and were instrumental in spawing the Black Lives Matter movement, which has grown into many saplings, stronger now against the winds that threaten them.

On this anniversary, we honor and still mourn the loss of Trayvon Martin and the countless other people of color who have been stolen from us by the fascist and rac-

face values of the United States and so
dominated the lives of his then-spouse and punched his father-in-

are instrumental in spawning the Black Lives Matter movement from a hashtag
demonstrates the power of the police and court system that is wielded against the

Honor Black History Month! Support WW!

WWPHOTO: MONICA MOOREHEAD

Ferguson, Missouri, August 2014

By Danny O’Brien

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Ten years ago today on Feb. 26, Trayvon Martin, an unarmed Black teenager, was murder...
By Olugbile Alade

February, as we all know, is Black History month; a time to celebrate Black Americans and their accomplishments. Countless Black workers and the bourgeoisie establishments will no doubt pay lip service to the African American experience by hawking items with Black historical figures on them, likely as another way to profit off marginalized communities, which is par for the course for capitalists. While these superficial acts of solidarity that extend from good on the surface, we must take heed and remember the struggle for Black Liberation in its entirety.

As long as the United States of America has existed, it has inflicted the most horrific violence one can imagine on enslaved African people and their descendants. This violence by the white-supremacist ruling class kicked into high gear the moment Black Americans started posing a serious threat to the settler-colonial project. In 1866, a pair of massacres took hold in the Black communities of Memphis, Tennessee, and New Orleans. In the former, white mobs pillaged Black neighborhoods and killed 46 Black people and savagely beat 28 Black women all while burning 90 homes, four churches and 12 schools. (tinyurl.com/zp8byowmt)

In New Orleans, even more carnage was inflicted, and 29 people were killed, and the 46 people were wounded. Both massacres were fueled by the reactionary police forces, which perfectly highlights the dangers the so-called “men in uniform” have posed to Black people throughout the history of the United States.

The most horrifying violence against Black communities carried on into the 20th century. In 1921 a spurious rape accusation against a teenager named Dick Rowland motivated a gang of white rioters to raid the Black neighborhood of Greenwood in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The damage the white mob left in its wake was staggering: 35 city blocks were burned, more than 800 people were injured, and as many as 300 people had died. (tinyurl.com/czqjukdcn)

The neighborhood of Greenwood would never be the same, as many of the survivors of that horrific date in June fled from Tulsa and away from the physical and emotional impact.

Modern-day racist terror

White-supremacist violence against Black communities continues to this very day, with several examples of terrorist acts highlighting the ongoing threat set- tler-colonial nationalism poses to Black Liberation. The mass shooting enacted by Dylann Roof on a Black church in Charleston, South Carolina, on June 17, 2015, that claimed the lives of nine Black Americans, was motivated by the same pathetic menace that spurred the Tulsa Massacre of 1921 and the tragic murder of Emmett Till in 1955.

These two tragic events projected the racist myth that Black men posed a threat to the chastity of white women and by proxy the hegemonic masculinity of white-supremacist patriarchy. Before Roof pulled the trigger, he shouted: “You rape our women, and you’re taking over our country.” (tinyurl.com/3phfrana)

The subsequent treatment of Roof after he committed this demented act, being treated by the police to a Burger King meal like he hit a walk off home run in a little league game, stood in stark contrast to the senseless treatment the so-called “men in blue” have inflicted on innocent Black people, some of them children.

Anti-Black racist violence has also infiltrated Historically Black Colleges and Universities of higher learning. At the beginning of this year, HBCU institutions across the country have been on high alert over bomb threats. Universities such as Xavier University, Southern University and Prairie View A&M in Louisiana and even the prestigious institutions such as Spelman College and Howard University, have been on lockdown over this recent wave of bomb threats.

These threats against these institutions come on the heels of the Supreme Court reconsidering the role of affirmative action in college admission decisions. Using divide-and-conquer tactics, especially amongst Black and Asian people, white-supremacists have been in the vanguard of robbing Black American youth of their opportunity to advance, not only themselves but their communities as well. Not merely being satisfied with the courts being in their favor, they’ve resorted to outright terrorism on HBCUs and not the hallowed halls of the Ivy League, which were built in part on the blood and sweat of enslaved African people. Not to mention the fact that all this is taking place in the middle of the rise of the omicron variant, so not only do these students have to contend with the omnipresent threat of getting infected with COVID-19 but also the possibility that their lives could be taken from them in an instant.

Despite what bourgeois institutions might tell you, Black history is not confined to a 24-day period in the middle of winter, it encompasses the entirety of U.S. history. While you might hear the nonthreatening parts of Black his- tory this month, it is important to recognize the violence Black people had to endure and to not be oblivion to it. It is time to consider the Black struggle in its entirety, and it’s time to fight back against white-supremacist violence to clear the way for Black Liberation.
Haitian workers demand: ‘Triple the minimum wage’

By G. Dunkel

Haiti faces a crisis of government legitimation. The only elected officials in the country at any level whose terms have not expired are 10 senators. The date for the expiration of the term of Haiti’s President Jovenel Moïse would have been Feb. 7, 2022 — but he was killed by assassination July 7, 2021.

The significance of that date was emphasized by stories on Haiti run Feb. 7 by the Washington Post, New York Times, BBC, as well as the Miami Herald — the U.S. bourgeois newspaper with the most extensive coverage of Haiti.

But Haitian workers have another problem they want to address. The minimum wage for workers in the export sector of the country’s economy has not been raised for three years. The commission that sets the increase, which is based on various factors, is supposed to meet three months before each fiscal year begins, but it has not convened for over three years.

The current minimum wage in Haiti is 500 gourdes for an 8-hour day, which converts to $4.83 a day, or 60 cents an hour in U.S. currency.

Workers swing into action

Thousands of workers walked out in demonstrations Feb. 9 and 10 to demand 1,500 gourdes for an eight-hour day — $14.49 in U.S. dollars. The two-day job action shut down the major manufacturing park of the export sector, Sanopri, in the capital city of Port-au-Prince. A union official, Pierre Télémaco, told Haiti Liberté that inflation had reached 26%. High inflation and a low minimum wage provide a good explanation of why 40% of Haitians don’t get enough to eat and are food insecure. (tinyurl.com/bdtyw7zw)

The heading of which commission sets the minimum wage released a statement Feb. 8 saying the commission would send a request to de facto Prime Minister Ariel Henry to approve a new minimum wage. Workers have warned that if the increase is not enough, they will continue their walkouts.

Political maneuvering

Feb. 7 was not only the anniversary of the assassination of Jovenel Moïse. On the same date in 1986, dictator Jean-Claude “Baby Doc” Duvalier fled for his life in a U.S.-supplied plane out of the country. Many schools, banks and businesses closed this Feb. 7 out of fear of a social eruption.

According to CNN, the investigative judge on the assassination, Garry Orélien, won’t bring Bezos redemption nor make Amazon workplaces safer. Fundamental improvements in wages and working conditions will only happen when Amazon workers organize and fight to take back the billions Bezos stole from exploiting their labor.

Rehire the Memphis Starbucks 7

Continued from page 1

kicked off in August? The fact is that while Starbucks nitpicks over policies to stack petty violations against union organizers in Memphis, the company is waging a relentless campaign against its workers across the country with no regard for the laws that it vows to abide by in the vote.

Protesters gathered outside the Memphis Starbucks store where the firings took place to join a picket line Feb. 9, forcing the store to close around 12 noon and remain closed for the rest of the day as well as the next day.

Whether or not Starbucks gets away with this brazen mass firing will depend on how the workers and public respond. So far, the righteous outrage is growing as is the rapidly expanding network of stores that have filed for union elections.

Today, Feb. 10, in New York City three stores, located in Astor Place, Chelsea and Brooklyn, have filed for a union election, along with a fourth store on Long Island. The Chelsea location is a Roastery Manufacturing Store, a more significant location compared to some of the regular Starbucks cafes.

This brings the total number of Starbucks shops filing for a union to a whopping 72, as of this writing. Both the union busting by Starbucks and the wave of workers joining the fight show no signs of slowing down, but the real power will always be in the hands of the workers.

The ruthless employed in Memphis against this committee led by Black and Brown workers is characteristic of the way that capitalism as an economic system has always imposed the most suffering on Black and Brown people. Despite Starbucks’ “progressive” appearance and dishonest embrace of the slogan “Black Lives Matter,” the veneer of social justice is quickly aban-

Haitian textile workers protest on Feb. 9.

What $203 billion can buy

By Betsey Piette

Oh, the trials and tribulations of centibillionaire Jeff Bezos — what to do with $203 billion in space? Done that. Go into space a second time? Lost the $203 billion? Go into space? Done that.

Fortunately for Bezos the Smithsonian Institution since it opened. The “gift” placed on different locations in the Air and Space Museum for at least 50 years. The board reversed their decision compared to some of the other agreeing with his name on their walls, regardless of any agreements, so they are stuck with his name for all time. Bezos recently donated $200 million to the organisation that sets the increase, which is based on various factors, is supposed to meet three months before each fiscal year begins, but it has not convened for over three years.

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China holds first-ever carbon-neutral Olympics

By Lyn Neeley

This year's Beijing Winter Olympics is the first in history to be carbon-neutral. This includes renewable energy in all venues, introducing new low-carbon technology and using transportation fueled by hydrog en, natural gas and electricity.

China completed the Zhangbei power grid station in time for the Olympics. That's the world's first renewable energy-based, flexible direct current (DC) power transmission system. This means, according to "China Daily," the system has "strong controllability, fast power adjustment speed and a flexible operation mode, compared with AC and conventional DC. It is considered the "golden key" to solve the problem of large-scale consumption of new energy." 

To save energy, China has refitted five venues from their 2018 Olympics, like the Water Cube, converted into solar panels on a Chinese mountainside.

China is planting 60 million trees: white birch, oak and ginkgo, which will reduce CO2 output by about 1.1 million tons. From 1990 to 2015, China deployed 60,000 People's Liberation Army soldiers to restore large areas of China the size of Ireland. Called the "Great Green Wall" program, it reduced soil erosion, pollution and desertification and absorbed carbon dioxide. NASA satellite data shows that China and India are leading the world in an increase in greening on land. (tinyurl.com/jf6hopwpg4) These Olympics are the first to use natural CO2 refrigerant (also known as dry ice) to cool skating venues, instead of synthetic hydrofluorocarbon, estimating saving the release of up to 26,000 tons of carbon. (tinyurl.com/4z5lymnr)

China has been heavily criticized for creating artificial snow for sports events, a feature of most winter Olympics. However, Beijing has developed water-conserving technologies to optimize water usage. According to "Nature" magazine, the amount of water used in the Olympics is less than 10% of the water resources for the Yangtze and Zhujiang areas, which have more water compared with neighboring areas. China is limiting the impact of snowmaking by collecting the snow and reusing it after melts. (tinyurl.com/3zhp3cp2)

In the middle of the world pandemic, China is limiting the spread of COVID-19 at the Olympics by limiting the number of spectators. This has had the effect of saving more than 500,000 tons of CO2, which would otherwise have been generated by the travel and accommodation sectors. Western media has been highly critical of China's zero-tolerance approach — despite the fact that China has only had 4,636 COVID-19 related deaths, while the U.S. has had over 948,000 recorded deaths as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. (worldometer.org)

Marie Sallois-Dembreville, director of Corporate and Sustainable Development at the International Olympic Committee, said that Beijing's thorough approach of accounting for sustainability at all stages of the process is "something we will encourage for future games." (tinyurl.com/3xhp3cp2)
Unite our class to fight COVID-19

Private industries in the imperialist countries of North America and Europe have overreacted the COVID-19 crisis. And the governments have managed it so poorly that the disaster created an opening for ultraright groups to mobilize. The so-called truckers’ revolt in Canada and the United States, and the current fascist spasm in England and France, are one of the direct results. The consequence of the imperialist policy of exploitation and accumulation of profit that sets off these crises. And the governments have managed it so poorly that the disaster created an opening for ultraright groups to mobilize. The so-called truckers’ revolt in Canada and the United States, and the current fascist spasm in England and France, are one of the direct results. The consequence of the imperialist policy of exploitation and accumulation of profit that sets off these crises.

Biden, Johnson & Ukraine: Who fabricates a war, and how?

By Sergio Rodriguez Gelfenstein

The author is a Venezuelan international relations expert, who was previously Director of the International Relations of the Government of Venezuela, his country’s ambassador to Nicaragua and an advisor for international politics for TELESUR.

Feb. 2 — It is almost natural that countries (especially the powers that have more capability of doing so) would like to protect their interests by unleashing conflicts abroad. For that, they invent attacks on their national security, exploit false national interests and make short-term calls for national unity in defense of the threatened sovereignty and integrity.

Who can doubt that the artificial conflict between Russia and Ukraine corresponds to this logic? Especially given the current favorable climate for provocations of Joe Biden in the United States and Boris Johnson in Great Britain. Biden’s popularity is one of the lowest of any U.S. president at the end of his first year in office.

According to an article published by the Los Angeles Times on Jan. 20, which cites an Associated Press—NOCAff Public Affairs Research survey, just 28% of Americans approve of the U.S. president’s management. In addition, just 28% want Biden to run for reelection in 2024, including only 48% of Democrats. Regarding the economy the situation for Biden is worse, as only 37% of Americans think he should step aside immediately.

Biden, Johnson failing in polls

In general, people perceived Biden as being unable to build consensus with the Republicans—which was a great promise of his campaign—and he has not succeeded in convincing some of the more conservative legislators of his own Democratic Party to support his program. In this context, citizens wonder what is the point of reelecting Biden, whom they see as extending the crisis.

Boris Johnson’s situation is similar. Johnson is being questioned and debated in the midst of a deep political crisis, originating from the leak of an email in which the prime minister’s principal secretary, Martin Reynolds, invited government personnel to a party during full COVID lockdown. The opening was for support their strikes and struggles.

Yet all capitalist governments, even those where universal health care was available, had been reducing government health care budgets over the past three decades. When COVID-19 exploded, health care systems and workers were stretched to the edge of collapse.

Pharmaceutical monopolies profited from government funding to develop vaccines, which they then patented. They used their patent monopolies to squeeze every last dollar and euro out of the world’s population in the richer countries, and they abandoned the poorer countries.

People correctly suspect foul play by pharmaceutical firms. Big Pharma operates to make profits, not to save lives. Saving lives is at best a fortunate side effect of their profit-making. This is the nature of the capitalist profit motive.

We must demand they release their patents, allowing others around the world to manufacture vaccines and assure worldwide distribution. This is the only way vaccines can be used to limit or eliminate a disease. Otherwise new variants continue to evolve.

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Research and testing of the vaccines’ safety and effectiveness must be completely transparent — so that the population understands how vaccines reduce transmission and/or symptoms. Every business decision, pricing, distribution, etc., must be revealed to the public.

We must demand that the population be educated regarding how vaccines work. Accusation of a decision was a mistake, but with the rhetoric typical of subordinate
Ottawa: Even though Ottawa’s premier, Doug Ford, declared a state of emergency on Friday, Feb. 11, truckers have continued their protest, reinforced with provincial and federal officers, the cops have done little to unblock Canada’s capital. The New York Times reports that police and military veterans have been organizing logistics for the rightist protestors. Demonstrators opposed to the blockade prevented protest trucks from occupying a new neighborhood of Ottawa on Feb. 17.

Windsor, Ontario/Detroit, Michigan: The Ambassador Bridge, the major economic issue in this protest, connecting two auto-production cities, was closed by the truckers on Friday, Feb. 11.

Paris: Parallel demonstrations, but with few trucks, are taking place simultaneously with a hotly contested protest, connecting two auto-production cities, was cleared by Sunday night, Feb. 13.

By Paddy Colligan and G. Dunkel

Jan. 29 and demanded food from the staff, who gave them some. As the news of free food spread, protestors kept on coming in, and arguments grew heated. After this harassment made the news, the kitchen got over 10,000 complaints.

Most protestors either own their trucks or are owners of small companies, who have also encouraged their workers to join the protest. The workers in the trucking industry are employed by large trucking companies and do not support this anti-mandate movement. Since Canadians trust their universal health system, they are reluctant to support the anti-mandate movement.

The Teamsters issued a statement Feb. 10 about the blockade on the Ambassador Bridge. They denounced “the ongoing Freedom Convoy protest at the Canadian border that continues to hurt workers and negatively impact [the] economy. The livelihood of working Americans and Canadians in the agricultural, automotive, and manufacturing sectors is threatened by this blockade.” (teamster.org, Feb. 10)

Connection to U.S. reactions

The so-called “Freedom Convoy” crowd sourced its funds through GoFundMe, raising over $100,000 Canadian dollars in under two weeks. The funds kept coming in until GoFundMe shut down the effort, froze the funds and then announced it would be automatically returning them some. As the news of free food spread, protestors kept on coming in, and arguments grew heated.

Counter-protest against right-wing demonstrations, Ottawa, Ontario.

Biden, Johnson & Ukraine

What fabricates a war, and how?

Continued from page 10

countries, he hastened to clarify that: “I have no right to say that it is a mistake of the governments of respected countries. I think it’s a mistake for us, for Ukraine.”

Inter-European contradictions

On the other hand, this situation has continued to deepen inter-European contradictions. The leaders of the EU and NATO used arguments to explain to their citizens why, following orders from Washington, they force them to pay for the gas they consume, a price three or four times higher than what they would have to do if they obtained it from Russia.

Such reasoning begins to make an impression on some European leaders, whose rationality does not allow them to understand that the United States is not fabricating facts in Ukraine a conflict that they do not consider their own. In this regard, the German Foreign Minister, Annalena Baerbock, stated that NATO’s expansion to the east is not the Alliances’ agenda.

Similarly, Baerbock reiterated that Ukraine’s inclusion in NATO “is not currently on the agenda,” adding that Ukrainians want to live in peace, so it is essential to respect the commitments that Europe accepted when implementing the Minsk agreements. Interestingly, in that question Germany’s position coincides with Russia’s.

That same day, Jan. 28, confirming the statements of President Zelensky, Ukraine’s Defense Minister Alexei Reznikov told the Parliament that there are no preparations for a Russian offensive against his country. He explained that “At the moment, there is no event or action of a military nature.” (SAPA Moscow) That is notably different from what happened last spring.

But what was Biden’s decision in this situation, in which one might expect tensions to ease and conditions for negotiation and dialogue to improve? The same day, without commenting on Zelensky’s statement or that of the Ukrainian defense minister, Biden announced that he was going to transfer more troops to Eastern Europe and the NATO countries in the short term.

In parallel, the United States convened a session of the U.N. Security Council which, according to the Russian representative before that entity, Vitaly Nebenzia, does not contribute to the resolution of the conflict in Ukraine but rather harms it. Nebenzia said that the open forum offered by the United States is a classic example of “megaphone diplomacy,” which does not solve anything and creates more noise by transmitting the wrong message of what is happening in the country.

Ukrainians disapprove of NATO

By the way, has anyone bothered to ask the Ukrainians what they think about joining NATO? The Ukrainian president, Volodymyr Zelensky, associated with the Institute of Eastern European Studies of the Free University of Berlin in an article entitled “NATO and Ukraine: let the Ukrainians decide democratically,” published on the portal simperisimo.info, points out that in December 2007, less than 20% of Ukrainian citizens supported their country’s joining NATO.

Although after the 2013 coup d’état and the referenдум on Crimea that consecrates the U.S. and Great Britain, that figure increased to around 40%, a majority of more than 60% of Ukrainian citizens still reject their entry into the aggressive war organization led by the United States.

However, in his latest article, Ischenko clarified that “the polls no longer included the most pro-Russian citizens, who are critical of the EU” [sic] from the territories that are not under the control of the Ukrainian government: Crimea and Donbass,” which makes it impossible to compare the numbers statistically.

Thus it is clear that the “conflict” in Ukraine is a contrived invention of the United States and Great Britain, with the complicity of European elites aimed in the short term to increase Big Media’s power— that is, to have the key workers issues of truck drivers in both countries, are being well financed by U.S. reactionary movements and getting trumped up and传媒 attention. Meanwhile, Big Media is barely acknowledging the enormous U.S. worker resurgence underway and growing— the strike wave this past fall, massive education and health worker organizing, the unionization struggle spreading like wildfire through Starbucks, the drive to unionize Amazon, one of the biggest high tech exploiters in the world. Working-class activists can take heart from these developments and more.

Because of the violent and harassing behavior of the Convoy participants.

Avi Lewis, a professor at the University of British Columbia, told Chris Hayes of MSNBC Feb. 8, “There is just no way they can get in.” So, this is an expression of far-right populism and far-right organizing that goes far beyond our borders.

Far-right politicians in the U.S. have been eager to show their deep support for the Freedom Convoy. To Senator Ted Cruz, they are “heroes.” He released a statement that said: “They are patriots, and they are marching for your freedom and for my freedom. They are— those truck drivers, God bless them. They’re defending Canada, but they’re defending America as well.”

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton and other state attorneys general are seizing the opportunity to change GoFundMe with deceptive trade practices for taking down the page.

Florida Governor Rick DeSantis is happy to make a buck selling “Crisis Yeah” t-shirts with the help of the truck drivers. The far-right orator Donald Trump has invited the truckers to speak out on his new social media platform, while he characterizes the centrist Trudeau as being “far-left.”

Evaluating the protestors’ protest

There are similar, copyleft right-wing protests in Australia, New Zealand, France and in New York and Alaska.

A statement from the Communist Party of Quebec points out: “This movement has become, in a few days, a symbol for all those who are more or less moved by everything that is happening in our society, but who—and this should not be underestimated—are also more and more attracted to right-wing and even extreme right-wing movements.”

The statement goes on: “All this reminds us at the same time how, just because people demonstrate in the streets or on the roads and/or carry out other more direct types of actions, it is not necessarily for a good cause. Although they constantly repeat the word Freedom, most of these people are thinking above all about their own individual freedom and not about the common good.” (pqs.ca, Jan. 29)

There is a risk that the key workers issues of truck drivers in both countries, are being well financed by U.S. reactionary movements and getting trumped up and传媒 attention. Meanwhile, Big Media is barely acknowledging the enormous U.S. worker resurgence underway and growing— the strike wave this past fall, massive education and health worker organizing, the unionization struggle spreading like wildfire through Starbucks, the drive to unionize Amazon, one of the biggest high tech exploiters in the world. Working-class activists can take heart from these developments and more.
Gran victoria sindical para los trabajadores del GM en México

Por Martha Grevatt

Los trabajadores de General Motors en Silao, México, han hecho historia. Han logrado tener el primer sindicato independiente en la gigantesca planta automotriz en el país. Pero GM, a pesar de la alianza con el Partido Revolucionario Independiente, no se detendrá en su esfuerzo para mantener los salarios bajos y satisfacer su quema.

Durante décadas, los sindicatos de empresa aliados con el antiguo partido gobernante, el Partido Revolucionario Institucional (PRI), han coludido con las empresas automovilísticas para mantener los sueldos bajos y aumentar la explotación. Los trabajadores mexicanos de GM, en especial los de la planta en Silao, han intentado desafiar este sistema y exigir mejores condiciones de trabajo.

El hecho de que GM se niegue a considerar un sindicato demuestra su desdén por la democracia y su deseo de mantener el control absoluto. Sin embargo, los trabajadores de GM en México han demostrado una resistencia inquebrantable y un deseo renovado de organizarse.

Hoy, 10 de febrero, en la ciudad de New York, tras su histórica huelga en la planta de Poplar Highland de Memphis, Tennessee, para protestar por el despido masivo del 8 de febrero. Hoy, los trabajadores de GM en México están resolviendo este problema y llevando el cambio a su trabajo.

Y así, la lucha por los derechos laborales y la unión de trabajadores continúa en el mundo.

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**Starbucks despedirá a comité organizador y sindicato se extiende a NYC**

Por Arjae Red

El desafío de Starbucks sigue en marcha: el despido masivo de trabajadores de todo el país para reprimir la formación de sindicatos. En el caso de Starbucks de la ciudad de New York, se han registrado despidos de trabajadores que se han movilizado por el Tratado de Libre Comercio (TLCAN) para defender sus derechos laborales.

Este es un desafío común entre las empresas multinacionales que buscan controlar el trabajo de sus empleados. Sin embargo, los trabajadores de Starbucks en todo el país están organizándose para resistir este tipo de violación de derechos laborales.

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**Con la elección del 3 de febrero del Sindicato Nacional Independiente de Trabajadores de la Industria Automotriz (SINTTIA), los 6,500 trabajadores de GM de Silao probablemente verán aumentado su poder de negociación y un mayor control sobre sus condiciones de trabajo. Pero GM seguirá obteniendo enormes beneficios de la venta de sus camiones modelo Silverado, fabricados en México y Michigan, algunos de los cuales alcanzan precios de hasta $78,000. Y la consejera delegada, Mary Barra, no se recortará el sueño, que superará los 72, al momento de escribir este artículo.**

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**Una vez más, la historia de Starbucks y la adopción deshonesta del eufemismo “Las vidas negras importan”, la corriente de justicia social se abandona rápidamente cuando llega el momento de que la empresa pisotee el poder de los trabajadores.**

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**Sindicistas brasileños fueron de la planta de GM en Silao, México, donde los campesinos están llevando una huelga para apilar violaciones insignificantes de los tratados de libre comercio.** Ellos, como éste, no pueden ser ignorados. Es obvio que la empresa, afiliado a la Confederación de Trabajadores Mexicanos (CTM), negoció un contrato deficiente sin su aprobación. En agosto, el resultado de esta decada de abusos de derechos laborales, las bases votaron para rechazar el contrato de la CTM. La AFL-CIO protestó para que se aplicara una cláusula de derechos laborales en el acuerdo 2022 entre los Estados Unidos, México y Canadá, que sustituyó al Tratado de Libre Comercio de América del Norte (TLCAN) de 1994. Esto ayudó a garantizar el derecho al voto de los trabajadores de Silao y, potencialmente, de los trabajadores de GM, Ford y Stellantis (antes Chrysler) en otras plantas mexicanas. Y los trabajadores de la AFL-CIO, junto con sindicatos canadienses y brasileños, se manifestaron frente a la planta el 3 de febrero en solidaridad con los trabajadores de GM de Silao. El sindicato United Auto Workers saluda la victoria electoral. Jesús Barroso explicó: “Estamos hor- tos. El hortazgo es lo que nos hace tomar esta decisión. Creo que tenemos derecho a dar a nuestras familias, a nuestros hijos, y de que la red de tiendas en rápida expansión que han solicitado una elección sindical. Hoy, el 10 de febrero, en la ciudad de New York, tres días después de que se iniciara la huelga en la planta de Silao, se produce el despido masivo de trabajadores de GM en México. El sindicato United Auto Workers protestó por el despido masivo del 8 de febrero.