In honor of Dr. King

Actions support Amazon workers

By Martha Grevatt

Amazon, which bought Whole Foods in 2017, is the second-largest employer in the U.S. and has made record profits during the pandemic, with global net revenue in 2020 of $386 billion.

Across the country, the movement to back Amazon workers in their righteous, growing fights for safety and union rights continues to pick up steam. Solidarity actions took place Jan. 12, the birthday of hated Amazon boss Jeff Bezos, and on Jan. 15, the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who fought racism and organized for worker justice.

All the actions drew widespread support from passing motorists and pedestrians, as well as some Whole Foods store customers. They were called and joined by Support Amazon Workers Network, local Amazon worker solidarity groups and numerous labor leaders, community activists, environmentalists, anti-racists and youth. Workers World Party endorsed the actions.

‘Crappy birthday to you’

In New York City Jan. 12, protesters delivered Bezos — richest man in the world and union-buster-in-chief — a five-foot-long un-birthday card at Amazon’s city headquarters. On Manhattan’s 34th Street — during the year’s coldest week and as COVID-19 cases filled local hospitals — a crowd blocked the entrance to Amazon’s bookstore to demand the company recognize the unions being organized around the country by its workers.

As supporters of the Atlanta Amazon Workers Solidarity Network approached the Midtown Whole Foods, they were met by the store manager and a security guard. Within their rights to distribute leaflets on the public sidewalk and hold signs supporting the right of workers to organize a union, they engaged customers and passersby.

Drivers at the busy intersection took the leaflet with the headline, “Amazon, Stop Union Busting.” While stopped at a light, one man gave a donation to the campaign.

Cleveland activists demonstrated outside Whole Foods, singing “Bad birthday to you; bad birthday to you; you’re a union buster; bad birthday to you.” One of the participants was a Starbucks worker organizer. Workers United, seeking union recognition at a downtown Cleveland Starbucks, filed with the National Labor Relations Board Jan. 10.

In San Francisco, Bezos’ birthday was “celebrated” with a loud and angry protest outside a proposed new massive Amazon warehouse located in the South of Market neighborhood. Amazon recently purchased an entire square block in this city, in an area zoned for low-cost housing, to build a large warehouse. This building will not only threaten union organizing but has the potential to wipe out small retailers in the area.

Organized by the United Front Committee for a Labor Party, the protest demanded, “End slave labor and union busting by Bezos.”

Actions honor Dr. King Jan. 15

Braving a -6°F wind chill and threats of arrest by a police squad, community, labor and student activists picketed outside a Whole Foods in Boston’s Jamaica Plain neighborhood Jan. 15. The Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, Team Solidarity-the Voice of United School Bus Workers, United American Indians of New England, Pride at Work Eastern Massachusetts, Democratic Socialists of America-Boston, Workers World Party and ACT UP-Boston put out the call.

Leaders from local unions were joined by Organized by the United Front Committee for a Labor Party, the protest demanded, “End slave labor and union busting by Bezos.”

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A 10-point fightback program

The Women and Gender Oppressed Caucus of Workers World Party issued the following statement and program on the 40th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision. Email the caucus at women-gender-uswp@workers.org

As a result of a hard-fought mass movement, the U.S. Supreme Court issued the landmark ruling in Roe v. Wade on Jan. 22, 1973, legalizing the right to access safe, legal abortions. Now this right is severely endangered by the ultraright seeking to overturn it. Already, Texas implemented a near ban on abortion with no exceptions for rape or incest victims, even children. Other states seek to copy this law, and 22 are set to overturn legal abortion if Roe is overturned.

It is women and gender-oppressed people, Black, Latinx, Indigenous, im/migrants, low-income, young, LGBTQ+ and disabled people over decades. The struggle to preserve legal abortions is but one part of that.

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To a socialist future — Build Workers World

Workers World newspaper’s articles and editorials analyze major global and U.S. developments, always with an anti-capitalist, anti-imperialist perspective. Our pages report on people’s movements here and abroad to not only inform our readers but to promote those struggles and grow solidarity with them. WW aims to advance the struggle for socialism.

The WW Supporter Program was launched 44 years ago to help build this unique socialist newspaper. Since the early 1990s, the program has also supported workers.org, the website where new articles are posted daily, and each week’s full issue is displayed in a PDF document. The newspaper is printed and mailed out monthly.

For annual donations of $50, $120 or $300, members receive a year’s subscription, letters about timely issues and gift subscriptions. Supporters can receive the book, “What road to socialism?” (Notify us!) Or read it at workers.org/books.

Write and mail monthly or annual checks to Workers World, 147 W. 24th St., 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10011. (Include your name and address.) Or donate at workers.org.

Join us in the fight for socialism!

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

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

The ruthless ruling class today seeks to wipe out basic human rights. It means joblessness, increasing homelessness and impoverishment and lack of hope for the future. No social problems can be solved under capitalism.

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.

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The ruthless ruling class today seeks to wipe out basic human rights. It means joblessness, increased
Fires expose housing crisis

By Betsy Piette
Philadelphia

On Jan. 5, 12 people, including nine children in an extended family, died in a row house fire in Philadelphia’s Fairmount neighborhood. All the victims were Black. Four days later on Jan. 9, a fire in a Bronx high-rise in New York City claimed 17 lives, including eight children. The complex housed a large community of Black and Brown residents, including West African migrants from Gambia. In both cities, the fires were the deadliest in decades.

The poverty rate in Philadelphia, a majority-Black and Brown city, is 25.7%, highest among the 10 largest U.S. cities. One of the most densely populated U.S. counties, the Bronx has a comparable poverty rate and also a people-of-color majority.

Between 1999 and 2021, the federal government’s failure to provide safe housing has led to residential fires killing Black people at more than twice the rate of white people.

Cuts in federal and state funding for affordable housing have drastically reduced availability over the past two decades. This is not by accident. In 1999, President Bill Clinton signed the Faircloth Amendment to the 1997 United States Housing Act, making it illegal for the federal government to build or fund more public housing units than existed on Oct. 1, 1999.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the U.S. population has grown by around 51 million. The inflation-adjusted median cost of buying a home has risen by 36.8%. At the same time, by 2011, nearly 30% of Black households were spending more than 25% of their income on housing.

In 2011, PHA moved the McDonald family, who escaped, were living in an apartment managed by the Philadelphia Housing Authority (PHA), put them on a waiting list. Without consulting the family, PHA did nothing. The PHA learned the family had again outgrown the apartment occupancy code, but this time the family, PHA put them on a waiting list. Without consulting the family, PHA did nothing. The PHA learned the family had again outgrown the apartment occupancy code, but this time

In the 1930s, massive workers’ protests against evictions forced the federal government to respond by establishing the Housing Act, which built millions of new homes. However, most of those publicly funded homes were constructed in predominantly white neighborhoods. Decades later, a majority of public housing residents are Black and Latinx, including immigrants. Single parent households with children comprise over 30%. People with disabilities make up 9%.

Two years before Clinton abandoned public housing, a 1997 study by the Federal Emergency Management Agency revealed that overcrowding in housing would invariably lead to more fire deaths. The study commented: “One way low-income families deal with the lack of affordable housing is by doubling up in homes with extended family members or friends. By increasing the number of people in a given house—hold the number of potential victims of a fire also rises. This is especially true for households with very young or very old household members, who may be unable to escape flames or smoke on their own.”

The Philadelphia fire

In Philadelphia, the 12 McDonald family members who died, and two others who escaped, were living in an apartment managed by the Philadelphia Housing Authority. Under PHA codes, maximum occupant residency for the unit was eight. In 2011, PHA moved the McDonald family who were living in a modest two-bedroom apartment. The family, PHA put them on a waiting list that had been closed to new applicants since 2013.

Their apartment included the upper two floors of a three-story row house built in 1879. There were no fire escapes or sprinklers. A single stairway provided egress to exits on the building’s first floor.

Members of the family occupying the first floor who escaped the fire reported being awaken by screams from above, not smoke detector alarms. While the PHA claimed to have inspected the smoke detectors in May 2021, fire inspectors found no working units in the structure.

The Bronx fire

Although the Bronx fire was not in a public housing authority-managed building, it was in a federally subsidized housing complex, one of many owned by for-profit investors. Relying on several government incentive programs, a trio of investment firms including Camber Property Group, Belveron Partners and LIHC Investment Group purchased the 19-story Bronx tower in 2019 for $166 million. These investment companies, collectively holding assets worth billions of dollars, rank among the 20 biggest owners of affordable housing in the U.S.

The corporate bosses’ aim is to keep their megamansions turning in no matter whom they exploit or repress or how badly they destroy the planet. The super rich fear that the multinational, multigender working class and their allies will organize and mount an independent, unified struggle — not relying on the Democratic Party — which will ultimately aim at capitalism itself. But this is exactly what is needed to win reproductive justice and a lot more. In fact, getting rid of capitalism altogether and fighting for a socialist system is the way to win permanent reproductive justice.

10-point program for reproductive justice

1. Free, safe, legal abortion on demand for women, people of all oppressed genders who can become pregnant and survivors of rape and incest.
3. Free, universal health care is a human right from birth to death. End racism, homophobia, transphobic, misogynist, anti-immigrant exclusions from quality health care.
4. The right to have children and raise them in healthy circumstances: subsidized child care; nutritious food; funding of SNAP and WIC programs; child tax credits; paid parental leave; affordable, healthful housing; safe jobs at a livable wage with accommodations for pregnancy and disability; prevention of infant and child mortality; a clean environment; and ending police vio - lance. Defend the Indian Child Welfare Act.
5. Stop ALL racist, genocidal state violence.
6. Access to free, safe contraception and reproductive health education.
8. No reproductive coercion, abuse or neglect of people of color, the incarcerated, the disabled, sex workers and those of all oppressions based on nationality, gender, gender identity, disability and age.
9. The right to participate equally in every aspect of life without fear of violence or sexual assault.
10. Down with misogyny, white supremacy, patriarchy, all forms of big- otry and the capitalist profit-driven medical industrial complex!

The struggle for reproductive justice is a struggle against capitalism

By Dorothy Ballan

A Marxist analysis of the role of women through history, and an account of the struggle for reproductive justice be aimed at the capitalist system and promoted by the capitalist state repression or employer discrimina - tion. It is crucial that the struggle for reproductive justice maintain that people should make decisions about their lives without state repression or employer discriminatio - tion. It means freedom from racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, ableism and anti-worker and anti-im/migrant ideologies are embedded within the capital- ist system and promoted by the capital- istic class to divide the workers.

It is crucial that the struggle for repro - ductive justice be aimed at the capitalist system, the root cause of all oppressions, exploitation and inequality. It is the bosses who deny workers COVID-19 sick days and sick pay. It is the capital- istic class which opposes workers’ rights to safe working conditions and to organize, including at Amazon.

The corporate bosses’ aim is to keep their megamansions turning in no matter whom they exploit or repress or how badly they destroy the planet. The super rich fear that the multinational, multigender working class and their allies will organize and mount an independent, unified struggle — not relying on the Democratic Party — which will ultimately aim at capitalism itself. But this is exactly what is needed to win reproductive justice and a complex’s exit stairways after two interior apartment doors failed to auto- matically close and contain the smoke. While smoke detectors went off during the fire, tenants reported that smoke alarms rang so frequently, many residents came to ignore them. The building was not equipped with sprinklers or fire escapes. Residents had repeatedly complained about the lack of adequate heat, faulty safety doors and other code violations including mice, roaches and lead paint.

Some of the survivors of the fire have filed a $1 billion lawsuit against landlords for code violations that caused the fire.

Yet in December 2021, the New York Housing Conference, a housing policy organization, named Camber owner Rick Gropper “Developer of the Year.” And Gropper serves on New York Mayor Eric Adams’ transition team for housing issues.

Housing crisis is a working-class issue

Workers in the U.S. are experiencing the worst housing crisis since the 1930s. Even before the onslaught of the COVID-19 pandemic, housing was increasingly unaffordable. In 2021, the National Low Income Housing Coalition found that nowhere in the U.S. was someone working a minimum-wage job able to afford a modest two-bedroom apartment.

Housing costs take up an ever-grow - ing percentage of family income, forcing workers to choose between paying rent or feeding their families. Rising rents, a resumption of evictions and job losses due to the pandemic, coupled with rampant gentrification, have created a widening gap between need and supply. The NLIHC estimates there are only 34 housing units for every 100 low-income households. Millions of workers are not safely housed. Millions more can’t be safe in a place that doesn’t provide heat in the winter. Working-class and oppressed people demand a right to safe and afford - able housing.

Feminism & Marxism

By Dorothy Ballan

A Marxist analysis of the role of women through history, and an account of the struggle for reproductive justice be aimed at the capitalist system and promoted by the capitalist state repression or employer discrimination. It is crucial that the struggle for reproductive justice be aimed at the capitalist system and promoted by the capitalist state repression or employer discrimination.
Solitary confinement on death row—a death before dying

By Gloria Rubac

“It is inhumane, and by its design it is driving men insane. Solitary confinement makes the criminal justice system the criminal,” said Anthony Graves, survivor of death row and solitary confinement, speaking in Houston after his exoneration and release.

In a desperate move in the midst of a raging COVID-19 infection, 200 prisoners on death row at Rikers Island—New York City’s jail complex, went on a hunger strike Jan. 8. Citing dangerous and unsafe living conditions exacerbated by an unending COVID-19 guarantee, prisoners, all of whom are pretrial detainees, are refusing to eat any food provided by the Department of Correction. (New York Times, Jan. 11)

Eyes on You, an organization of formerly incarcerated people, family members and medical workers is actively supporting the hunger strike. One of its formerly incarcerated members, William Malik Clanton, is hunger striking in solidarity with the people inside. They are demanding the end of inhumane living conditions.

COVID-19 rates have recently skyrocketed at Rikers, and over 370 prisoners have tested positive for COVID-19. According to a recent report about three COVID-19 deaths and overcrowding at Rikers and documenting the inability of the jail to provide safe social distancing and adequate PPE for its incarcerated population. The attorneys were quoted as saying “It is really a public health crisis.”

Recently, a Supreme Court judge in Manhattan ordered the release of a prisoner who had been forced to participate in a “Fight Night” at Rikers Island. Prison yards have been allowing some prisoners to set up planned fights at the prison.

Prisoners on death row have given media interviews since they began their hunger strike. One prisoner, Nelson Piner, said that his sleep is often disturbed by noise and water bugs crawling over him. Prisoners complained that they have been allowed outside of their cells for weeks.

“Is inhumane, and by its design it is driving men insane. Solitary confinement makes the criminal justice system the criminal,” said Anthony Graves, survivor of death row and solitary confinement, speaking in Houston after his exoneration and release.

“Knew guys who dropped their appeals, not because they gave up hope on their legal claims but because of the intolerable conditions. I was able to visit another inmate before he was executed. I went there to lift his spirits, and he ended up telling me that he was ready to go and that I was the one who was going to have to keep dealing with this madness. He would rather die than continue existing under such inhumane conditions.”

By Judy Greenspan

In a desperate move in the midst of a raging COVID-19 infection, 200 prisoners on death row at Rikers Island—New York City’s jail complex, went on a hunger strike Jan. 8. Citing dangerous and unsafe living conditions exacerbated by an unending COVID-19 guarantee, prisoners, all of whom are pretrial detainees, are refusing to eat any food provided by the Department of Correction. (New York Times, Jan. 11)

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“I cried at night because of this feeling. I am living amongst millions of people in the world today, but most of the time I feel alone. I cry at night because of this feeling. I just want to stop feeling this way, but I haven’t been able to.”

Jail officials admit that staffing shortages due to the COVID-19 pandemic have created an unsafe environment inside the jail, which houses over 5,400 pretrial detainees, 21 and 24 [hours] per day. According to a recent report, Rikers guards just want to stand there and let the fights happen. They have been charged with “deliberate indifference” for failing to protect the prisoners, including a man who was held pretrial at Rikers. (New York Times, Jan. 12)

Shut it down! Rikers Island should be shut down. It is endangering the lives of incarcerated people who have not even been sentenced to prison. In October 2021, more than 23 community organizations and advocacy groups called upon the city of New York to “decarcerate” Rikers Island. ( Vera Institute for Justice, Press Release)

All over the country, prisoners, rights groups and family members are calling for mass releases of elderly and incarcerated people with preexisting conditions. Rikers Island is a concentration camp for the poor, particularly Black and Latinx people facing trial, which should have been shut down long ago.

The heroic prisoner hunger strike continues as we go to press. Eyes on You has issued a short list of demands on behalf of the striking prisoners. “Release everyone from all jails and tell me that Pending release, Eyes on You demands access to any NYC jail facility of our choosing. (Eyes on You’s notice. No new admissions in 2022.)

Workers World salutes the efforts of the Rikers prisoners and their outside advocates for justice. To get involved in the campaign to support the hunger strikers, contact New York City Jericho. (www.jerichomy.org)
COVID-19 rages
Nurses organize Day of Action

By Marie Kelly

As the omicron variant dominates the medical system’s ability to control the pandemic death toll in the U.S., the federal government has blatantly put its priority instead on saving corporate profits. The latest examples have been the eating of CDC quarantine timelines, the lapse of OSHA’s emergency standard for hospitals, the lack of engagement by hospital workers and the Supreme Court ruling against vaccine mandates for private companies.

Member of NNU’s Council of Presidents, Zenei Triunfel-Cortez, RN, spoke of the moral injury and trauma which nurses are experiencing as they have witnessed how COVID has prolonged the pandemic yet now force them back to work while ill or before they are sufficiently recovered. Triunfel-Cortez said: “Our employers claim there is a ‘nursing shortage,’ and that’s why they must float optimal isolation times. But we know there are plenty of registered nurses in this country. There is only a shortage of nurses willing to work in the unsafe conditions created by hospital employers. Layoffs of nurses stress protected that indignant and poor people are’d disproportionately unnecessarily vulnerable, because the U.S. has failed to adopt universal, government-funded health care. Public hospitals in cities and rural areas do not have the resources that for-profit hospitals have. Small rural hospitals are not able to pay the high rates of ‘traveling nurses,’ who make up for short staffing through temporary and less. In Pennsylvania, the Temple University Medical Center nurses, represented by the Pennsylvania Association of Staff Nurses and Allied Professionals, also organized a press conference. Temple, in line with new CDC guidelines, expects nurses to return to work five days after being sick with COVID-19 even if they are still symptomatic. As one Temple RN put it, the forced staffing of hospital workers is putting everyone in danger. Chicago nurses spoke out about the rapidly deteriorating conditions inside hospitals in that city during their livestreamed press conference. Scott Mechanic, RN, an emergency room nurse at the University of Chicago Medical Center, exposed corporate health care failure to improve conditions: “We don’t have food-service people. We don’t have supply—personnel delivers our most critical supplies. We don’t have people to repair our equipment. But every day we’re getting more patients. The virus feel betrayed by employers and government agencies, who called them heroes. Nurses are witnessing what happens when we put it plainly: ‘I voted yes, because in this moment, I have to vote yes for life. I will ensure that we will know it; they honor it. They honor our picket line, so they don’t cross it; they honor it. They honor our picket line, and they don’t go to work. We’re just trying to tell the company how strong we are; just make sure they know that we are together, and regardless of what they do, they’re not going to break us.’

Danbury federal prison overrun by COVID-19 infections

By Judy Greenplan

With COVID-19 infections spiking in the outside general population, it is no wonder that the prison population is also suffering. Recent news out of the Federal Correctional Institution in Danbury, Connecticut (designated in the Federal Bureau of Prisons as the “prison”), revealed that more than half of the people incarcerated at its prison camp were not informed that they had COVID-19, nor were they put into isolation. (newstimes, Jan. 4.)

It took the intervention of U.S. Senators Richard Blumenthal and the U.S. Representative Jahana Hayes, all of Connecticut, who fired off protest letters to the U.S. Attorney General, the Director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons and the acting warden of FCI-Danbury. The elected representatives are demanding that the prison administration allow the failure of prison officials to adhere to COVID-19 isolation procedures.

In the letter, the three federal legislators stated: “These actions, if true, are shocking and contrary to BOP and CDC guidelines regarding the isolation of individuals who test positive for COVID-19.”

Unlike the outside world in this age of social media, it is hard to find out what is happening to people behind the walls of U.S. prisons. The federal prison system is especially notorious for hiding the truth from the public.

Unfortunately, a Congressional letter alone may not be enough to reel in the Danbury prison and redress the injuries inflicted after a major COVID-19 outbreak, the Danbury federal prison was singled out by then Attorney General William Barr for large releases of prisoners to home confinement. Federal prisons are not being straight. Prisoners were placed in quarantine, as has been the case around the country. And prisoners, including the medically-vulnerable and pregnant people, have continued to be exposed to COVID-19 infection. (New York Times, Feb. 27.)

The Color of Change and the National Council of Incarcerated Women and Girls have an online petition demanding a mass release of the medical vulnerability at FCI-Danbury.

Clearly the demand for the mass release of all prisoners suffering from and vulnerable to COVID-19 must be heard loud and clear through the warden’s unhuman and unjust legal system.
young workers, artists and a spokesperson for the Young Black Panther Party.

CBTU-Boston President Jamie Wallace warmed people up with Stevie Wonder’s “Happy Birthday” refrain and by speaking about Dr. King’s leadership in the union struggles of his day. The crowd cheered for King’s 93rd birthday and chanted, “Jeff Bezos, We Say No! Union Busting’s Got To Go!”

Bitter cold weather did not stop activists from coming out in Philadelphia, gathering outside the Whole Foods Market at 10th and South streets.

Speakers represented Workers World Party, Black Alliance for Peace and Philadelphia Food Not Bombs Solidarity. A Jeff Bezos puppet, a sign depicting a defecating Bezos and the main banner were courtesy of Spiral Q. More than one worker stopped to talk about their experiences working at Amazon or Whole Foods. Drawing widespread support from passing motorists, Houston activists carried signs blasting centibillionaire Bezos outside a Whole Foods Market. Despite the unusually cold temperatures and 40 mph winds, which kept some supporters away, the messages were dramatically well-received. One person got out of their car and told protesters how much he appreciated the demonstration.

Houston cops, in marked and unmarked cars, came to protect Whole Foods from the truth: Union busting is disgusting! In this so-called “right-to-work” state, working-class people realize how much better their lives and their jobs would be if they had a union contract. A Jeff Bezos piñata was the star of the day!

Portland Amazon workers, Whole Foods workers and community supporters rallied in front of a Whole Foods store. They were greeted by raised fists from a heavy stream of traffic along the crowded four-lane highway.

Speakers described how Whole Foods and Amazon workers are regularly forced to violate social-distancing policies to complete their work and have to supply their own personal protective equipment — with COVID-19 testing no longer being made available. These essential workers say they have little-to-no control over their work schedules and are being forced to compensate for continual understaffing.

Demonstrations took place in other cities, including Harrisonburg, Virginia.

Struggle wrests partial victory from NLRB

On Jan. 11 the NLRB announced dates for a new union representation election at Amazon’s Bessemer, Alabama, warehouse — allowing the majority-Black workforce a do-over of the election in 2021, when a lopsided majority of ballots went against representation by the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union. The ballots will be mailed to workers beginning Feb. 4, to be returned to the NLRB before March 28, when the counting will begin. The second election was ordered by the Board after hearing weeks of worker testimony documenting widespread illegal union busting by Amazon.

However, the NLRB ruling fell short of what the RWDSU thought was necessary to prevent a repeat of last year’s setback. Amazon will still be allowed to have a mailbox on company premises, maintaining an atmosphere of surveillance and intimidation.

“We are deeply concerned that the decision fails to adequately prevent Amazon from continuing its objectionable behavior in a new election,” the RWDSU said in a Jan. 11 statement. “We proposed to the NLRB a number of remedies that could have made the process fairer to workers, which were not taken up in the Notice of Election issued today.” (rwdsu.info)

The remedy should have been simply to award immediate union recognition and compel the Amazon bosses to negotiate, as the boss-controlled election process allows companies time and legal cover to conduct union busting. Unions will have to develop strategies that go outside the NLRB, if Amazon and all unorganized workers are going to have a voice on the job.

Judy Greenspan, Lyn Neely, Dianne Mathiowetz, Tony Murphy, Betsy Piette, Gloria Rubac and Maureen Skehan contributed to this article.
Students and teachers fight for safe schools

By Judy Greenspan and Minnie Bruce Pratt

In the struggle over public schools, the question is what will win out — churning out workers for the profit system or safety for the people?

On the West Coast, angered by the Oakland Unified School District’s inability to tackle the rapidly spreading COVID-19 crisis in the city’s public schools, teachers and students have conducted well-attended protests. Teachers organized a sick-out on Jan. 13; teachers held a similar protest Jan. 7. Both protests effectively shut down classes in 10-12 schools, while other schools had very low student attendance. Students have announced a student strike for Jan. 18. Teachers in many Oakland schools will hold a sick-out, as well.

According to rank-and-file teachers, OUSD has been dragging its feet on providing basic safety measures and personal protective equipment, such as KN95 masks, since the fall 2021 surge in pandemic infections. The Safety Bargaining Team of the Oakland Education Association has made repeated attempts to sit down with OUSD’s administration. When OUSD failed to respond, the team disbanded in protest.

Rank-and-file teachers and students, particularly in the secondary schools, then stepped up to organize sick-outs and other protests. A petition signed by more than 1,200 Oakland students vehemently protested the increased COVID-19 cases in their schools and the lack of the recommended N95 masks, no designated space for people to eat safely, no access to weekly testing and no safe-keeping arrangement of classroom desks. Protesters gave the district a week to remedy these serious safety violations.

In response, OUSD unevenly rolled out N95 masks at some schools and set up a few outdoor spaces where students can eat. However, OUSD is refusing to consider weekly access to testing at its schools. There is no social distancing in most classrooms.

Many rank-and-file teachers and students are pushing for a return to distance learning, at least until the omicron variant surge diminishes in Oakland. The infection rate in Oakland, particularly in the west and east areas of the city, has outpaced in other areas of Alameda County.

By the weekend of Jan. 15, OUSD and OEA had reached a tentative agreement about some of the safety measures. It remains to be seen if this agreement will be approved by the OEA Representative Council or supported by students planning the Jan. 18 strike.

School struggles surge, states organize

In recent weeks, teachers and student-workers at universities have won big victories for better wages and safer workplaces. On the East Coast after 10 weeks on a dynamic picket line, the 3,000 members of Student Workers of Columbia-United Auto Workers Local 2110 claimed victory against elite education behemoth Columbia University. On the West Coast, the “We Vote No!” and the 17,000 members of Student Researchers United-UAW won union recognition across the entire University of California system, (Workers World, Jan. 12)

In secondary education, members of the tightly organized and militant Chicago Teachers Union walked out for a week over unsafe conditions for teachers and students due to the pandemic, facing down city’s hostile mayor, Lori Lightfoot. (“Profit plague feuds omicron surge,” Workers World, Jan. 13)

In response to the omicron variant surge in the states and Chicago Public Schools’ refusal of teachers’ attempt to intervene, high school students organized to act through Chi-RADS — Chicago Public School Radical Alliance — a group of largely queer Black and Brown youth from a range of high schools and neighborhoods.

Prioritizing people’s lives over money, Chi-RADS participants wrote that they “believe in the re-imagination of our education and want to ensure that “is not just the education of what learning should look like in the eyes of American capitalists.” (Full statement and demands at tinyurl.com/ycky6fih)

Students hold the demands of Chicago’s Radical Youth Alliance at a rally outside Chicago Public School headquarters, Jan. 14.

In Columbus, Ohio, 120 students walked out of Hickman High School to protest the school board’s decision to cancel the mask mandate for city schools.

Students and teachers fight for safe schools

By Martha Grevatt

Early in the morning of Jan. 10, another group of Starbucks workers — called “partners” — filed for a union representation election with the National Labor Relations Board. A solid majority of the 20 employees at the West 6th store in downtown Cleveland signed cards to be represented by Workers United.

This is the first store in Ohio to seek unionization, joining the union drive that began with two successful elections in Buffalo and has spread to multiple cities across the U.S.

“We were keeping up with what’s going on in Buffalo,” morning shift supervisor Maddie VanHool told Workers World. “If they can do it, why can’t we?” Shift supervisors have additional responsibilities, such as opening the store and monitoring inventory, but they do not hire, fire, or issue discipline. They are hourly workers and eligible for union membership.

VanHool identified three key issues motivating partners to sign union cards. “A big part is the COVID mess” — workers want clear, safe guidelines. As the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended keeping changing, the situation “leaves us wondering as service workers, what’s safest.”

A second issue is the five-day training period, which both trainers and trainees believe is too short. There is a great deal a new hire needs to learn, from Starbucks “philosophy” to all the recipes for the different drinks.

Pay and benefits, while better than some in the industry, are still inadequate and leave “partners struggling to make rent and pay bills.” They want better health insurance with mental health coverage and insist Starbucks live up to its claim of providing good pay and benefits.

The potential bargaining unit is a diverse but tight-knit group, with a majority of women and ranging in age from 18 to 60+. Many were hired in summer 2021, but a few have worked at the store on and off for as long as seven years.

Solidarity ‘blows up’

It took less than a week for union supporters to get 16 of the 20 workers to sign union authorization cards. They are now voluntarily recognize Workers United based on a “card check,” showing overwhelming support for the union, and deny recognition, forcing an NLRB election. The latter has been the company’s pattern so far.

“Webers Workers is proud to stand with Cleveland Starbucks partners, as they attempt to win a real seat at the table, safety on the job and economic justice,” said Mark Milko, Ohio state director for the Cleveland and Midwest Regional Joint Board of Workers United, in a Jan. 10 press release, “Their fight is our fight, and we’ve got their backs.”

Support has been “overwhelming in the best way” according to VanHool. People are coming into the store supporting and asking to take pictures with pro-union partners. Solidarity from unions, such as the North Shore Federation of Labor and a utility workers union, “has also been very cool. . . . We didn’t expect it to blow up so fast.” There has already been widespread media coverage.

Clevelanders can show solidarity by coming in the store and ordering their coffee “union strong.” Inside and outside the store, supporters call out the company to express their opinions and “be ready to support us if their in-store catering escalates.” Some big Starbucks bosses are expected to visit the store in the near future to try to change workers’ minds through one-on-one conversations. Their success is doubtful.

Will the Cleveland Starbucks workers have to strike down-the-road for a good first contract? Maybe. As VanHool said, “We’re preparing for the worst but hoping for the best.”

Starbucks union push comes to Ohio

By Martha Grevatt

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Haitian government collapsing
U.S. involved in Moai assassination?

By G. Dunkel

Conditions for most people in Haiti are dire. While the country has significantly reduced its poverty rates, living standards and wages of Haitian workers are the lowest in the Western Hemisphere, the International Labor Organization says. Estimates from the U.N. are that 20% of Haitians live below the absolute poverty line of $1.23 a day and that about 1.5 million Haitians don’t earn enough to eat—particularly women, children and adolescents. Less than 1% of Haiti’s workforce has its basic medical care covered, and almost 90% of the population has no access to health care.

A powerful Aug. 14 earthquake in southwestern Haiti followed by a tropical storm two days later killed 2,248 people and left thousands of homes, businesses and roads badly damaged. In this area, 18% of women and 12% of men are homeless, while 53% of women and 56% of men sleep next to each other in two-bedroom homes. (Rapid Gender Analysis in Haiti: Impacts of the 2021 Earthquake, reliefweb.int)

Conditions in Haiti are so dangerous that in May the Biden Administration extended Temporary Protective Status for Haitians already residing in the United States. But since September 2021, Immigration and Customs Enforcement has been deporting Haitians detained trying to cross the border into Texas. Generally there is at least one plane load and 12 times as many as seven plane loads of people sent back to Haiti every month. Meanwhile, large boatloads of Haitians have been reported landing in the Florida Keys during the last weeks of December.

The total number of ICE deportations, which certainly are a burden on Haiti’s already stressed economy, has not been announced but is likely to be well over 15,000 people.

Economic catastrophe, political instability
Colonialism and imperialism have strangled Haiti’s economy since 1804— that year the enslaved people of Haiti declared the country’s independence from France. The French enslavers demanded compensation for their “lost property,” a debt in the millions not paid off until 1947. The imperialists U.S. imposed its first-ever economic and diplomatic blockade on another country by sanctioning Haiti’s increasingly impoverished economy, which did not recognize Haiti as a sovereign, independent nation until 1862.

Now extreme political instability is in Haiti intensifying its economic catastrophe.

Interim Prime Minister Ariel Henry went to Gonaïves to celebrate the 281st anniversary of Haiti’s independence Jan. 1. As Henry left the cathedral ceremony, his bodyguards came under sustained, heavy gunfire from an armed group and he was forced to flee.

Years of corruption and mismanagement by Haitian governments dominated by the U.S.—with reliance on foreign nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) to provide basic services like health care, education, sanitation and emergency services during disasters—have left enormous voids in Haiti’s social infrastructure. A mutual dependence among non-governmental organizations has expanded to cover all voids. Sometimes these organizations are called “crisis entrepreneurs,” especially by the bourgeois press in Haiti, the United States and France. A more neutral term is armed groups. Many of these armed groups are indeed criminal, like the “400 Mawozo,” which kidnapped 17 North Americans in October 2021 and demanded a ransom of $81 million. Anti-crime armed groups—an outgrowth of the “vigilance brigades” formed after the overthrows of U.S.-backed dictator “Papa Doc” Duvalier—do exist and confront these groups, which have close ties to the police and big bourgeois interests.

Bombshell from bourgeois press
The New York Times dropped a bomb Jan. 10 “bunker buster” on Interim Prime Minister Henry, who left his job as a career neurosurgeon to enter politics as a leader of the Democratic Convergence Movement. The DCM was part of the U.S.-orchestrated campaign to overthrow President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in 2004. Henry took on his current role

A group of Haitian organizations known as Ka’ohewai built a ko’a altar on Dec. 10, honoring the winter solstice and the 218th anniversary of Haiti’s independence from France. The French outgrowth of the “vigilance brigades” formed after the overthrows that became an “active leak,” one Navy captain wrote. "Activist organizations will use this to advance their anti-Hill narrative ... at a sensitive time as the contested case hearing begins and (the) legislative season starts." (tyn.com/2pg8khxw)

Doomed
The main strike demands were the need for the government to consider faculty, staff and students when policy changes are made. Government rules changed six times in less than one year. Another demand was for a new education minister.

The unions estimated that 75% to 80% of secondary and higher education schools and 60% of primary schools and daycare centers were closed. The main strike demands were the need for the government to consider faculty, staff and students when policy changes are made. Government rules changed six times in less than one year. Another demand was for a new education minister.

French teachers on strike, Jan. 12.

Massive education strike demands better COVID-19 response

By G. Dunkel

In France, a Jan. 13 massive strike protested ineffectual government COVID-19 plans for schools. The nationwide strike was organized by unions representing teachers, other school staff, parents and students. All French unions representing workers in education supported the call for the strike, along with student unions which represent secondary and university students. Parents and their organizations generally supported the strike. Since there is no constitutional right to strike in France—although essential public services have to be maintained—principals, directors, administrators and teachers are in a bind.

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Many of the more militant unions want another day of action in February.
Nicaraguan people see a bright future

By Carlos Marcos
Managua, Nicaragua

Thousands gathered in Managua’s Revolution Square to witness the inauguration of Daniel Ortega and Rosario Murillo—Nicaragua’s president and vice president, respectively, on the 40th anniversary of the Sandinista Revolution. Ortega announced that Nicaragua would be joining China’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). This announcement comes just one month after the U.S. made diplomatic ties with the Republic of China (Taiwan) and the recognition and return to diplomacy with the People’s Republic of China. Since Ortega’s speech, it has been revealed that Nicaragua and China signed a Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation in the field of economy. Nicaragua is the latest of over 100 nations to sign onto the global plan for economic development and cooperation.

The agreement between Nicaragua and Honduras, while the same at the time, is a joint effort of the Latin American and Caribbean States (ALBA) for the cooperation and integration of the region. The development of a new support system in the fight against imperialism by Nicaragua is to make alliances with other countries, including the U.S. and European Union, against nations around the globe. In this context, the U.S. delegation demanded reparations by the U.S. government. This writer was a member of the U.S. delegation to Nicaragua during the inauguration ceremony. The U.S. made its article available (aka sanctions) against Nicaragua.

End the sanctions, pay reparations NOW!

The new sanctions target over 100 individuals and several companies in Nicaragua. President Ortega took time to recognize one particular target of the sanctions—Brenda Rocha, the President of the Supreme Electoral Council. Rocha lost her right arm when she was just 15 years old after being wounded in an attack carried out by the U.S.-backed Contras in the 1980s. President Ortega brought to the fore the sheer hypocrisy of a country such as the U.S. to impose sanctions on another country in the name of the “human rights.” Where were the human rights for Brenda Rocha, when the U.S.-backed Contras killed 50,000 Nicaraguans? Where are the human rights for the Nicaraguan people, when the U.S. refuses to pay the millions of dollars in reparations owed as determined by the International Court of Justice in 1986 in the “Case concerning military and paramilitary activities in and against Nicaragua.” (tinyurl.com/murbugj)

The U.S. accuses Ortega and the Sandinista government of tolerating crime, corruption, and human rights violations. Despite the fact that the U.S. government is incapable of containing every single and every growing political crises; taking for example the imprisonment of 700 Trumiput for their involvement in the Jan. 6 U.S. Capitol insurrection.

The U.S. says Nicaragua is undemocratic; while at the same time, it orchestrated a coup against nations around the globe, imposes illegal sanctions and blockades on countries like Nicaragua, Cuba and Venezuela, and even goes so far as to attempting as assasinate heads of state as they tried to do with President Maduro in 2018.

The resounding reelection of Daniel Ortega shows that the Nicaraguan people are resolutely behind the revolutionary government of Nicaragua. While the U.S. government has stood idly by, attacking and harassing nations they perceive to be weaker, their victims turn to each other for support and cooperation.

The U.S. delegation consisted of members of Alliance For Global Justice, Black Agenda Report, Black Alliance for Peace for Peace Workers World Party and other anti-imperialist activists and reporters. Delegates from the U.S. delegation—workers from the Sandinista Revolution, Viva Nicaragua! Viva the FSLN! Viva Comandante Daniel Ortega! Hands off Nicaragua! The writer is one of the U.S. delegates who attended the Ortega inauguration.

U.S. delegation to Nicaragua demands ‘End U.S. sanctions!’

By Arjae Red
Managua, Nicaragua

Members of anti-imperialist organizations from around the U.S. traveled to Nicaragua during the week of Jan. 10 to observe the inauguration of President Daniel Ortega and Vice President Rosario Murillo of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (Frente Sandinista de Liberación Nacional, FSLN).

Ortega and Murillo’s landslide victory came after a failed U.S.-backed coup in 2018, when the anti-commu- nist opposition continued the work of the contras— the U.S.-backed counter-revolutionary groups of the 1980s— assauling and killing police and FSLN supporters.

The failed coup attempt alerted the Nicaraguan people that it was important to support the revolutionary gov- ernment and that the gains of the revolution are constantly under imper- ialist attack.

The U.S. delegation consisted of members of Alliance For Global Justice, Black Agenda Report, Black Alliance for Peace for Peace Workers World Party and other anti-imperialist activists and reporters.

Delegates from the U.S. delegation called for an end to the criminal blockade of Cuba by the U.S. and called for the ongoing sanctions on Nicaragua.

The U.S. delegation called for an end to sanctions and exposed the hypocrisy of the U.S. government. This writer was a member of the U.S. delegation to Nicaragua during the inauguration ceremony. The U.S. delegation consisted of members of the Popular Vanguard Party of Costa Rica. The U.S. delegation was a part in the underground struggle against the dictatorship of Anastasio “Tachito” Somoza, president for most of 1967 through 1979.

During this time, unions were illegal in Nicaragua. Farming conditions were very close to slavery, as represen-tatives from the ATC emphasized. Repression, assassinations and attacks on workers by the repressive regime were com-mon. One of the first accomplishments of the Revolution was to enact aggres-sive labor reform and create co-ops and unions.

ATC speakers stressed above all that, besides fighting for better con-di-tions, workers would not be able to do anything important with the goal of being able to exercise control and ownership of their work-places. Without workers’ in- volvement and participation, the labor movement must be ready to consolidate their gains and defend the Revolution.

International worker solidarity

Workers World Party delegates had the chance to visit Casa Ben Linder, named for an engineer and supporter of the popular Sandinista Revolution from Portland, Oregon, who was killed by the Contras in 1985.

Linder was killed along with two Nicaraguan comrades while install- ing electrical infrastructure for rural Nicaragua. Since 1980, Casa Ben Linder has been a place where people visiting Nicaragua can come to pay tribute to the life and work of Ben Linder and the Sandinista Revolution.

The delegation visiting delegation watched the Jan. 10 inauguration ceremonies, they heard President Ortega declare his elation about Nicaragua’s renewed relationship with the people of Nicaragua and the Sandinista Revolution.

Delegates had to fight for the right to observe the inauguration ceremonies, they heard President Ortega declare his elation about Nicaragua’s renewed relationship with the people of Nicaragua and the Sandinista Revolution. Nicaragua! Viva Nicaragua! Viva the FSLN! Viva Comandante Daniel Ortega! Hands off Nicaragua! The writer is a member of the U.S. delegation.
Each new evidence emerges that U.S. capitalist institutions mismanage society and sabotage any actions that might aid the working people — who create all of society’s wealth. In sum, the Supreme Court reasserted its historic role as servant of profiteering monopolies, a role that might aid the working people — who create all of society’s wealth.

The Supreme Court is not only a pro-property institution, it is currently dominated by ultraconservative individuals who are major participants in the system that ensures the revulsion of every worker and oppressed person in this country. Its right-wing majority includes those who earn property of the rich, whether these rich be enslavers of capitalist government bureaucracy. Nevertheless, OSHA provides for an opening for workers, in unions or not, to resist the attempt to protect worker health and safety. The corporations’ existence as profiteering institutions depends on their willingness to sacrifice their workers. That this choice is inevitable and legal under capitalism makes it no less a crime against the working class. Those who make the decision should face judgment from the workers whose lives they threaten.

Neither the last administration, which sabotaged public health, nor the current one has shown competence in combating COVID-19. By imposing a safety mandate through OSHA, however, the Biden administration attempted to pressure all the big corporations to act together to increase worker safety. Many bosses refused to sacrifice profits and sued to stop the mandate.

Regarding COVID-19, what the Supreme Court decision did was aid these owners by sabotaging OSHA’s electronic worker safety system. SCOTUS blocked OSHA’s ability to perform the tasks in its job description. Not only does the Jan. 13 decision aid the spread of COVID-19, it could also be extended to weaken or dismantle other OSHA directives to protect worker safety. The message from SCOTUS to the working class in the U.S. is clear: Neither form unions that can directly impose safety requirements on the bosses and corporations, under workers control, or sacrifice your health and life.

Mobilize to eliminate the inherently anti-worker Supreme Court. Organize in the long term to replace the capitalist system — which not only exploits workers but kills them — with a system that puts human safety before profits — socialism.

By Stephanie Trombly

For those who grew up in Minneapolis, the name Clyde Bellecourt is synonymous with social justice and community organizing. His activism was a driving force behind the creation of AIM, the American Indian Movement (AIM), and his legacy is that young Native Americans can feel proud of being Native Americans, that they can feel proud for who they are as Indigenous students. (Star Tribune, Jan. 11)

We can see Bellecourt’s efforts today, in 2022.

“Thank you for leading AIM in support of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe.”

By Brother Chris Hollis

Brother Chris Hollis is a member of the Durham Branch of Workers World Party.
Alicia Jrapko ¡presente!

The following statement was sent out by Resumen Latinoamericano and the Third World, an anti-imperialist publi-
cation founded in 1969. Graciela Ramirez, editor of Cuba En Resumen, and Gerardo Hernández, one of the Cuban 5, signed the statement which has been lightly edited by WW.

Dear comrades and friends,

With deep sorrow and on behalf of her family, we want to report that our dear colleague, sister and friend Alicia Jrapko passed away late last evening after fighting a courageous battle for many years. In spite of the hard treatment, she never stopped working as much as she could. Alicia regretted not being able to continue contributing as much as she did, but she was able to feel the energy that always characterized her.

Alicia was a great Argentine revolu-
tionary, the daughter of workers who at a very young age took up the struggles of a generation that dreamed of building an Argentina with social justice for the people and respect for human rights. "... in Latin America a great admiration was forged for Cuba, for Fidel, Raúl, Che and so many other revolutionaries. In Argentina, in the same way that one thing, but it was not achieved, and a great part of my generation lost their best children."

Alicia was born on Jan. 1, 1953, in Merlo, Buenos Aires province, grew up and was educated in Córdoba, where she studied journalism. Argentina’s military dictatorship imposed in 1976 unleashed a fierce repression against all popular mili-
tants. Thirty thousand were detained-dis-
appeared, among them many of Alicia’s classmates. She was unable to finish her degree; and with the clothes she was wearing, in the year “76, she had to go into exile.

Each of Alicia’s three children bear the middle names of her disappeared com-
rades: Gabriela Emma, Eileen Mabel and Juan Alberto.

For several years she lived in exile in Mexico, then settled in the United States, the most difficult country, and at the same time the most necessary to support the causes of Latin America and fight against imperialism ... it was difficult for her, a woman, to become doctors in the attacks against Cuba by the media and the government.

Solidarity with Cuban Revolution and the Cuban Five

Alicia became committed to the strug-
gle for Cuba and the Cuban Five in the early 1990s to Cuba solidarity work through IPCO-Pastors for Peace, where she worked closely with Rev. Lucius Walton, the West Coast coordinator, and helped organize and recruit African American and Latino students to attend the Latin American School of Medicine (ELAM) in Cuba to become doctors in their communities.

Her solidarity work brought her closer to Cuba every day; she became a spokes-
person and a champion of the caravans of Pastors traveling thousands of miles through the U.S. to counter the lies of the U.S. government against Cuba and to support the revolu-
tionary humanist aid as a symbol of solidarity with the Cuban people.

Alicia stated, “We knew that the human-
itarian work of the caravans was symbolic, but we wanted to show that the U.S. government could not block solidarity between peoples. And we wanted to show that Cuba was not alone. The experience of traveling to Cuba on Pastors for Peace car-
avans changed my life forever and brought me closer to Cuba and its people.”

In 2000 Alicia was in the forefront of the battle for the return of Elián González to his father in Cuba, but her pivotal work can be found in the struggle to free the Cuban 5 political prisoners, unjustly incarcerated for monitoring the activity of terrorists in the U.S. against Cuba.

Alicia assumed with determination and incomparable courage the leader-
ship of the Cuban Five Defense Committee for the Freedom of the Cuban Five in the United States and managed to get trade unions, religious leaders, congression-
al representatives, jurists, intellectuals, actors and artists to join the campaign for the release of Cuban anti-terrorist fight-
ers and to defend their human rights. Alicia Labalino Salazar, Antonio Guerrero Rodríguez, Fernando González Llort and René González Sehwerert. Alicia was co-chair of the Nobel Committee for the Cuban Five in 2011 and was released in 2014, regardless of the risks and the enormous distances, together with her partner in struggle and dreams, Bill Hackwell, she visited Gerardo Hernández more than 100 times in two maximum security federal penitentiaries and was the constant and affectionate supporter of family visits.

Alicia's enormous work and polit-
ical commitment transcended before the Cuban people who conferred upon her in 2002 the unique honor of the Feliz Elmuñzu Medal awarded by the Union of Journalists of Cuba, the Shield of the City of Holguín and the Medal of Friendship awarded by the Council of State of the Republic of Cuba through the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP), for her immense work during the long years of struggle for the freedom of the Five.

A dedicated internationalist

Pages would not be enough to describe the enormous work that this courageous woman carried out with extraordinary modesty, simplicity, dignity and fidelity, with all her energies placed at the service of human betterment throughout her pre-
cious life.

Alicia’s work focused on Latin America including the defense of the Bolivarian Revolution of Venezuela, and she was also an active participant in the struggle for the cumulative effect of the U.S. war in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Since 2011 Alicia has been a co-chair of the National Network on Cuba (NNOC). She was the coordinator of the International Committee for Peace, Justice and Dignity for the Cuban Five. She helped the ICAP in the U.S. and founder and co-editor of Resumen Latinoamericano in English. She created the U.S. chapter of the Network in Defense of Humanity and was a member of its General Secretariat.

In her last project, despite being ill, Alicia was the co-chair of the Nobel Committee for Cuba’s Henry Reeve medical brigade, in one more effort in her tireless fight against the criminal blockade of Cuba.

Her name, Alicia, is the essence of truth. That truth was carried as a ban-
er by our dear Ali throughout her life, the truth of the people against injustice, the truth of honesty, dignity and modesty of true revolutionaries, capable of giv-
ing their all, without any other personal ambition or motive; precisely, the leadership pulled people to her and the struggle, always with her big smile and sincerity, earning her the respect of all.

She honored us with her friendship and affection, with her enormous cour-
age. And she leaves us all in this infinite sadness, but we also leave her with her example of how to live a life of struggle, nobility, dignity and hope.

All our love goes to Gabriela, Eileen and Juanito, her beloved children; her life

Necesitamos la abolición de las prisiones

La violencia organizada de los policías, los tribunales y las jaulas –en tierras indí- genas robadas- y el cierre sistemático de hospitales, la falta de vivienda en masa y la explotación de fuerza laboral en gran medida inexistente en un entorno que a menudo ha llevado a personas a quitar así la vida porque las condiciones son muy difíciles.

Los suicidios en las cárcel y prisiones de Estados Unidos aumentaron considere-

Varios sistemas federales, estatales y locales de prisiones, cárcel, centros de detención de menores y migrantes están sobrecargados. La mayoría de esos sistemas tienen en común la propagación del virus a través de las transmisiones de personas encarceladas, instalaciones de procesamiento y otras unidades, realizadas durante una pandemia altamente contagiosa, sin pruebas y/o pruebas de examen detallado.

Construir hacia la revolución

Incluso antes de la pandemia, las prisio-
nes y los centros de detención eran el actu-
o de genocidio. Esto no viene como una revelación sino como una llamada a la acción.

No estamos construyendo hacia la reforma de ninguna de estas instituciones. Las prisiones, las cárcel y los centros de detención son en sí mismos una forma de esclavitud y de encierro, una concesión a los propietarios de la vida. No somos ni estamos construyendo hacia una abolición. La reforma no da más de lo que ya tenemos: estructuras de violencia incesante que siguen manteniendo la acu-
mulación de riqueza para los traficantes de personas y los perpetradores de genocidio.

Estamos construyendo hacia la abol-
ición, hacia la revolución. Apoyamos la unicidad de tácticas y el derecho de los oprimidos a la autodeterminación y la autodeter-
minación por cualquier medio. Luchamos por reorientar los recursos robados hacia las necesidades humanas, como la atención
sanitaria, la vivienda, el agua potable y los alimentos, y por transformar las causas profundas del sufrimiento y la violencia.

Lo que construimos juntos, tras der-
ribar los muros de las jaulas capitalistas, para proteger a los miembros vulnerables de nuestra clase, así como a nosotros mis-
mos, marcará la diferencia.

Mirinda Crisaman es copresidenta del Comité de Solidaridad con los Presos de Workers World Party/Partido Mundo Obrero.
La campaña de sindicalización en Starbucks estalla en todo el país

Por Arjae Red

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Búfalo, Nueva York - La chiopa que se encendió en esta ciudad el pasado agosto, cuando lxs trabajadorxs de Starbucks anunciaron su intención de sindicalizarse, se ha convertido en una llamada de justo anhelo del clase trabajadora, con nuevas tiendas en todo el país pidiendo elecciones sindicales. Todas las ciudades, como Arizona; Boston; Seattle; Knoxville, Tennessee; Chicago; y Bloomfield, Colorado, se han unido a la lucha, ampliando su alcance por todo el país. Las victorias en dos de las tres zonas decididas en la primera ronda de votaciones que tovieron en Búfalo (la segunda vez aún está siendo impugnada en los tribunales) demostraron que organizar un sindicato -incluso contra una empresa con tanto dinero y desprecio por sus trabajadorxs como Starbucks- es una lucha que se puede ganar.

Esta oleada de nuevas peticiones sindicales se produce en un momento en el que la COVID-19, especialmente los casos provocados por la variante omi- cron, está arrasando en USA con tasas de infección que baten récords. Las tiendas de Starbucks en Búfalo, y sin duda otras ciudades, se enfrentan a un pico de infecciones. Starbucks ha inundado el distrito con nuevas contrataciones en un intento consciente de minimizar la presencia de lxs trabajadorxs como Starbucks- es una lucha que se puede ganar.

Esta lucha de los verdaderos recuentos de casos y de muertes que los reportados. Este recuento insuficiente se debe a que los datos disponibles son autodeclarados por los organismos gubernamentales, y en muchos casos, utilizando los casos notificados debido a las malas prácticas de análisis de muchos organismos, pero el recuento insuficiente no tiene en cuenta que muchos organismos penitenciarios han dejado de notificar los datos de COVID-19 (tinyurl.com/5hdye6en).

Algunos de los datos más alentadores recogidos sobre los miembros de nuestra clase entre rejas proceden de proyectos como Perilous Chronicle (PC), que ha recogido datos sobre los miembros de nuestras organizaciones de detención de al menos 460.918 casos totales acumulados entre las personas encarceladas y insuficientes, has mostrado una gran solidez de resistencia y un alto espíritu de lucha.

Desde el comienzo de la pandemia, las prisiones y los centros de detención del ICE en Estados Unidos han informado del 460.918 casos acumulados entre las personas encarceladas y insuficientes, un gran número de los que le informaban de las nuevas tiendas que se unían a la lucha, lxs trabajadorxs de Starbucks y el movimiento sindical, no es una respuesta a la rápida propagación del virus es el encierro de las personas que están sufriendo las consecuencias de la naturaleza internacional de la clase obrera. Al igual que lxs trabajadorxs son siempre más poderosos en el lugar de trabajo cuando se unen contra su jefe, la clase obrera de un país es más poderosa cuando se une con otras trabajadorxs a través de las fronteras nacionales contra sus explo- tadores capitalistas comunes.

La evolución del movimiento obrero en USA abre nuevas posibilidades para lxs trabajadorxs a escala mundial. Después de décadas en las que el movimiento obrero ha sido destruido, lxs trabajadorxs están resurgiendo. La victoria en Búfalo es la primera de muchas que vendrán, tanto para lxs baristas como para toda la clase obrera.

Este proyecto se asegura de señalar que los verdaderos reacios de casos y de mortalidad son probablemente más altos, y pueden ser significativamente más altos, que los reportados. Este recuento insuficiente se debe a que los datos disponibles son autodeclarados por los organismos gubernamentales, y en muchos casos, utilizando los casos notificados debido a las malas prácticas de análisis de muchos organismos, pero el recuento insuficiente no tiene en cuenta que muchos organismos penitenciarios han dejado de notificar los datos de COVID-19 (tinyurl.com/5hdye6en).

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En 2021 se registraron más de 180 actos de resistencia, que para muchos son uno de los puntos de referencia de los conflictos. Muchos de estos actos de resistencia se producen en un momento en el que el movimiento obrero está en consonancia con las directrices de los CDC (Centros para el Control y la Prevención de Enfermedades). Sin embargo, estos actos de resistencia no son una respuesta a la rápida propagación del virus es el encierro de las personas que están sufriendo las consecuencias de la naturaleza internacional de la clase obrera. Al igual que lxs trabajadorxs son siempre más poderosos en el lugar de trabajo cuando se unen contra su jefe, la clase obrera de un país es más poderosa cuando se une con otras trabajadorxs a través de las fronteras nacionales contra sus explotadores capitalistas comunes.

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Necesitamos la abolición de las prisiones, no la reforma

Por Mirinda Crissman

Casi 2.3 millones de personas encarceladas con prisiones, cárceles y centros de detención de Estados Unidos, se enfrentan a posibles condenas de muerte mientras están encerradas durante una pandemia que obliga a enfrentarse a condiciones inhumanas e insuficientes, han mostrado una gran solidez de resistencia y resiliencia a su brutal opresión.

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