

# Yet another police lynching

# Akron community outraged

By Martha Grevatt  
Akron, Ohio

Over 1,000 people marched through downtown Akron July 3 to demand justice in the police lynching of Jayland Walker.

The 25-year-old Black DoorDash driver was riddled with bullets fired by Akron police June 27. Cops purportedly attempted to stop Walker over a traffic violation. A high-speed chase ensued, in

which police claim Walker somehow fired at them while driving; the cops fired multiple shots towards Walker's vehicle.

When Walker tried to flee on foot, police fired at least 90 shots at him, hitting Walker at least 60 times.

As is typical, the eight police involved in this cold-blooded racist murder are merely on paid administrative leave. Black leaders want to see them fired and charged.

Akron's outraged community has held multiple protests — more than one per day on average — since the killing. The protests have drawn national attention.

The Sunday afternoon march and rally was called by the Akron NAACP. Members of Walker's family, local clergy and elected officials, and a representative of Planned Parenthood addressed the militant crowd, who chanted, "Justice for Jayland Walker!"

Demonstrations continued on July 4. Akron cops arrested a number of Northeast Ohio activists along with members of Walker's family.

The action began 90 minutes after some of the shocking body camera footage, now viewed by tens of thousands, was publicly released.



Akron, Ohio, July 3.

WW PHOTO: MARTHA GREVATT



WW PHOTO: SUSAN SCHNUR

'Justice for Jayland Walker,' Akron, Ohio, July 3.

Viewers can clearly see multiple cops shoot at Walker less than a minute after exiting their cruisers. While Akron police claim to have found a handgun in Walker's vehicle, Akron Police Chief Steve Mylett confirmed Walker was unarmed when multiple cops discharged their weapons.

Release of video footage is mandatory within seven days, under an ordinance passed by the Akron City Council in June 2021. Council action came after 89% of Akron voters voted the year before for "prompt release" of bodycam footage

whenever a cop uses deadly force.

The Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation is conducting an "independent investigation." OBCI is headed by Ohio's Republican Attorney General Dave Yost. No friend of civil rights, Yost recently defended Ohio's "heartbeat bill," banning all abortions after six weeks of pregnancy.

If there is to be any justice in this horrific murder, it will only be won in the streets. □

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Philadelphia, July 3

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

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TEAR DOWN  
THE WALLS



The rich targeted Boudin

Incarcerated and  
pregnant

Popular protests say:  
'Free Mumia!'



# Free Mumia! Free ‘Em All!

## Support WW reporting

The U.S. has the highest percentage of its population in prisons — more than any other country in the world and disproportionately people of color. That’s not even counting detention centers for im/migrants who flee their homes to escape U.S. imperialist aggression and impoverishment. Here, they are brutally mistreated, detained, and families are separated.

Don’t let Fourth of July fireworks distract you from the streets and from formulating ways to dismantle the deadly, systemic oppression of Black, Brown and Indigenous people. Don’t let the hype mask the inequality, injustice and inadequate health care that are responsible for the disproportionate number of deaths of people of color from COVID-19.

What would really show solidarity with the already vibrant Black Lives Matter movement?

Raising the struggle to “Free Mumia Abu-Jamal” so it becomes a worldwide cry. The very reason why Mumia is in jail is that he used his voice and his pen to expose racism, especially the role of police terror in Philadelphia. Then the system framed him, denied him a fair trial and attempted to kill him.

Those who understand how this racist, classist, capitalist system works were in the streets over the last four decades to save Mumia’s life and promote his message. Workers World was there, demanding his freedom from the get-go. Mumia has been a longtime reader of WW, noting that it had the best coverage he had read on the 1985 bombing of MOVE.

Now the Prisoners Solidarity Committee of Workers World Party is supporting the international call to Free Mumia. Mumia’s case personifies everything wrong with the U.S. — the world’s largest center of incarcerated workers.

**Your help is needed!**

If you appreciate our coverage, it’s time to join the Workers World Supporter Program or renew your membership. The program was established 45 years ago so readers could help WW publish anti-racist, working-class truth and build campaigns needed to fight for revolutionary change leading to socialism.

Since the early 1990s, the fund has helped sponsor the workers.org website. Throughout the pandemic, when fewer print issues have been published due to staff health concerns, new articles have been posted daily at workers.org, where the PDF of the weekly newspaper has been displayed. Not one online issue has been skipped throughout this over two-year health crisis.

For a donation of \$60 a year, or \$120 or \$300, you receive a subscription to WW newspaper and one, two or three free subscriptions for friends, depending on donation. A free download of the “What Road to Socialism?” book, published in 2020, is available at workers.org/books. Or notify us if you want a paperback book.

Write checks, either monthly or annually, to Workers World. Mail them with your name and address to Workers World, 147 W. 24th St., 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10011. Put “Supporter Program” in the memo line. Or donate online at workers.org/donate/.

We are grateful for your help in building Workers World! □

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.

Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, attacks on im/migrants, misogyny, LGBTQ2S+ oppression and mistreatment of people with disabilities. It means joblessness, increasing homelessness and impoverishment and lack of hope for the future. No social problems can be solved under capitalism.

The U.S. is the richest country in the world, yet no one has a guaranteed right to shelter, food, water, health care, education or anything else — unless they can pay for it. Wages are lower than ever, and youth are saddled with seemingly 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 decades of gains and benefits won by hard-fought struggles by people’s movements. The super-rich and their political representatives have intensified their attacks on the multinational, multigender and multigenerational working class. It is time to point the blame at — and challenge — the capitalist system.

WWP fights for socialism because the working class produces all wealth in society, and this wealth should remain in their hands, not be stolen in the form of capitalist profits. The wealth workers create should be socially owned and its distribution planned to satisfy and guarantee basic human needs.

Since 1959, Workers World Party has been out in the streets defending the workers and oppressed here and



## Join us in the fight for socialism!

worldwide. If you’re interested in Marxism, socialism and fighting for a socialist future, please contact a WWP branch near you. □

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

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# Rally July 9

# Mass action to stop Philadelphia evictions, housing demolition

By Joe Piette  
Philadelphia

Are you houseless, paying too much for rent, living in unsafe or inadequate housing, threatened with eviction? Do you believe housing is a human right?

The Save UC Townhomes Coalition is asking you to join — in person or through sending statements of support — with others concerned about housing insecurity at a “Philly 4 Housing Fest — Protect the Block Party” July 9, starting at 3 p.m. at 40th and Market Streets.

Excessive rents and scarce housing availability are impacting millions of working-class and low-income residents across the U.S. In Philadelphia, the fight to save the University City Townhomes from demolition by gentrifiers and developers is on the front line of this battle.

### Housing is a human right

One in four Philadelphia residents live in extreme poverty. There is no citywide plan for preserving low-income housing or constructing new low-income affordable units for city residents.

Making matters worse, 1,700 low-income housing units at 37 sites, in addition to University City Townhomes, currently have contracts with Housing and Urban Development set to expire within the next five years. Housing activists fear many owners of those properties will sell to gentrifiers rather than renew their HUD contracts.

The pressure to sell is on, as rising mortgage rates, inflation and other negative economic developments are causing real estate investors to fear a looming crash in the housing industry.

For the working class and especially for Black, Latinx and Indigenous oppressed communities, the housing crisis has existed for a long time. The U.S. faces a shortage of 6.8 million rental units that are affordable and available to extremely low-income renters with household incomes at or below 30% of their area’s median income, according to a National Low-Income Housing Coalition analysis.

Problems caused by the high cost of housing are so widespread that three-quarters of U.S. residents now believe adequate housing is a human right. Two-thirds believe that government programs need to be expanded to ensure this right, according to a 2018 poll published by the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty.

### Stop the demolition

University City Townhomes, at 3900-3999 Market St., have provided low-income housing to 70 families since 1983. Notoriously racist Mayor Frank Rizzo — after being found guilty of housing discrimination by federal courts in the early 1980s — sold the city-owned land where the townhomes are located for \$1 to IBID Associates, a subsidiary of the Altman Group.

Current owner Brett Altman wants to make a killing in the tight housing market. So he chose not to renew the low-income housing agreement with HUD, ignoring how disruptive this decision will be to the lives of the Black resident families, including many with children and/or disabled people.

In October 2021, Altman announced his intention to evict the families, demolish the townhomes and sell the land to developers and gentrifiers for up to \$100 million.

Gentrifying developers of luxury high-rises for nearby university students and science research complexes want to push out the UC Townhome families, whose children would be forced to leave their schools and safe play spaces. Parents, elders and disabled residents would lose their proximity to hospitals and public transportation. The Townhomes is one of the few remaining Black communities left in a Philadelphia neighborhood once known as the Black Bottom.

A resident who has lived at the Townhomes since 2009, who prefers not to be named, explained why residents are resisting their evictions so strongly: “This complex is probably one of the few examples of an organically contained, yet

not over densely populated, lower-income community that facilitates children’s play, interaction and growth in relative safety.

“Its location serves to facilitate otherwise less enfranchised residents’ access to a range of goods and services not as similarly accessible to those in comparable economic circumstances.

“If empowerment, self-actualization and building communities among the less enfranchised is meant to enfranchise us, then removing us from this complex is a leap in the wrong direction.”

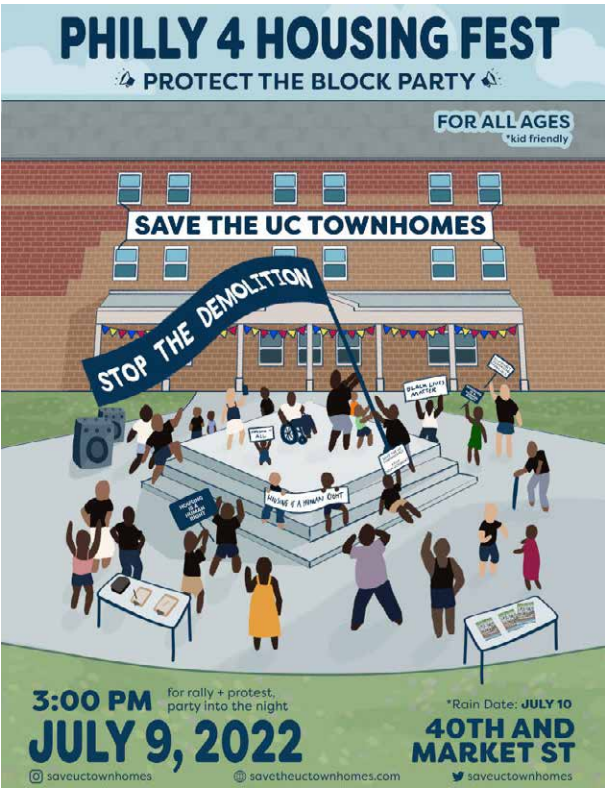
The Save UC Townhomes Coalition, made up of residents and supporters who conduct weekly organizing meetings, has responded to the gentrification threat with frequent rallies and marches. They’ve shown up in numbers to protest at nearby University of Pennsylvania offices and events, at Altman’s and other real estate offices and even at HUD headquarters in Washington, D.C.

A Residents Council has filed amicus briefs with lawyers, which are to be read by court officials, Altman and the city of Philadelphia. Residents and supporters have written numerous articles and appeared on radio, TV and in social media and have spoken at many public events.

As a result of these many actions, residents got Altman to make some repairs and improve maintenance — and most importantly, to extend his HUD contract for two months, until Sept. 8.

But most residents rely on Section 8 housing vouchers, the federal government’s inadequate program for assisting very low-income families, the elderly and the disabled to afford decent, safe and sanitary housing in the private market.

Two months is not enough time to find replacement housing that will accept Section 8 vouchers, especially in the midst



of the COVID-19 pandemic and with the extreme shortage of low-income housing in the city. Many residents are disabled or have other barriers to finding housing, including pets or poor credit due to inadequate income.

### Save UC Townhomes!

The July 9 protest will be the residents’ start of a renewed campaign to defend their homes. Their demands are clear: Stop the demolition of low-income housing at UC Townhomes and anywhere else in Philadelphia. No evictions or demolition should occur until every family has found desirable housing. If people are forced to move, the site should be preserved as affordable housing.

Altman and other developers should not get away with making millions of dollars off displacing low-income Black families. In fact, Altman owes residents compensation if they are displaced, especially since he stands to gain over \$100 million from the sale.

The Save UC Townhomes Coalition insists they won’t stop their struggle until they win. They know housing is a human right — won only if they fight for it. □

## Schools and Labor Against Privatization

# People fight to keep Oakland schools open

By Dave Welsh  
Oakland, California

The Schools and Labor Against Privatization (SLAP) coalition held a barbecue on June 26 at Parker School, which the school board has ordered to be closed and eliminated. But the East Oakland elementary school is still operating this summer unofficially as a community school for its majority Black and Brown student body.

“The billionaires are not really that interested in educating working-class youth,” said Oakland teacher Divya Farias at the barbecue, “just like they don’t seem to care about preserving working-class jobs in the port of Oakland. That’s why SLAP got organized, to stop their plans to close our public schools and privatize our public land in the port.”

Oakland is considering transferring the port’s Howard Terminal to billionaire John Fisher for use as a baseball stadium and real estate speculation. Fisher’s family owns Gap Stores and the Oakland Athletics baseball team and is associated with the Kipp Schools network of privatized charter schools.

Trent Willis, past president of International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) Local 10, based in San

Francisco but working mainly out of the major port of Oakland, was on hand too at the SLAP barbecue. “As a Black person,” Willis said, “my people worked for free for 400 years. That’s why this country is as rich as it is. And that’s why today we need to organize as working people to confront these billionaires and take back our money.

“What if all the working people didn’t go to work one day? Well then, the capitalists wouldn’t have all the

money they have — not without our labor,” said Willis. “What if we as workers decided to use the power that we have? As a first step, ILWU Local 10 decided to join SLAP to fight against privatization and the racist school closings.”

### South African dockworkers back ILWU

J.V. Dube, general secretary of Revolutionary Transport Union of South Africa (RETUSA), representing dockers in the port of Durban, issued a statement June 30:

“We, the dock workers of Durban, stand with the ILWU, maritime workers and the Oakland community, who are against selling public dock land to private developers.

“We support your stand and that of working people in the Bay Area and throughout the world, where our dock lands are being turned into condos, yacht basins and playgrounds for the rich. This has happened in Durban.

“We remember well that ILWU Local 10 stood with us against the apartheid regime in 1984 to stop cargo from the apartheid regime. Today we stand with you for a united action throughout the world for dockers, maritime workers, public educators and our communities.” □



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr on mural of Parker School.



# Wave of union organizing hits West Coast REI

By Dave Welsh  
Berkeley, California

As a wave of union organizing spreads to Starbucks coffee shops across the country, workers at an REI retail outlet here announced at a June 30 press conference that they are going union too.

A 175-store chain with 15,000 employees, specializing in outdoor recreational gear, REI has only one union store so far — in the SoHo neighborhood of New York City. Berkeley’s effort by United Food and Commercial Workers Local 5 is a bid to be the second.

UFCW organizer Jim Araby, referring to the expanding union growth across separate companies, said, “We’ve got to



## Support Unionizing REI Workers in Berkeley!

build this movement and coordinate the different parts. The union side at different workplaces needs to work together and not allow ourselves to be separated into different little fiefdoms.”

Jules Geritz, a member of the union organizing committee at the Berkeley store, where he’s worked for nearly 10 years, said the campaign had strong support from the people of Berkeley, including unanimous backing from the City Council. Kathryn Lybarger, president of the University of California’s largest employee union, AFSCME Local 3299, based in Oakland, also spoke encouraging words to the union activists at the REI store. □

# Ravenswood Aluminum workers celebrate 30-year-old victory against company

By Otis Grotewohl  
Ravenswood, West Virginia

Members of United Steelworkers (USW) Local 5668 commemorated the 30-year anniversary of the nearly two-year lockout at Ravenswood Aluminum Corporation on June 25. The commemoration was held at the Local 5668 union hall in Ravenswood.

From October 31, 1990 — the date the contract between RAC and Local 5668 expired — until June 29, 1992, roughly 1,700 workers were locked out, after the company refused to listen to concerns over health and safety. Several workers at the plant died from severe heat exhaustion during the summer of 1990.

### ‘One day longer’

A popular slogan derived from that struggle, which has been widely used in other labor disputes with mixed success since then, is “One Day Longer.” A member in the crowd told Workers World, “The phrase was coined when one of the Local 5668 leaders stated, ‘We will last one day longer than the company.’”

During the time of the lockout, RAC was owned by international hedge fund manager Marc Rich. Rich was a notorious white-collar criminal, who fled to

Switzerland to avoid prosecution for tax evasion and later received a pardon by then-U.S. President Bill Clinton in January 2001.

In their book “Ravenswood: The Steelworkers’ Victory and the revival of American Labor,” Tom Juravich and Kate Bronfenbrenner write about how

*Most of the workers who were locked out are now retired, but it was apparent at the commemoration that they remember the battle like it was yesterday. Several speakers shared memories of the fight, often pointing out it was an ‘illegal lockout’ by the company.*

officials of Local 5668 networked with unions from other countries, such as the Swiss Metalworkers and Watchmakers Union. That union confronted Rich when he attended private business meetings in Switzerland.

The 20-month long battle was

bitter and militant. The community was divided, and violence broke out from both sides. Many small businesses took open stances in the dispute, and union people would patronize some businesses and boycott others, while the company people did the same thing. One heroic picketer was wrongfully prosecuted for allegedly setting off a pipe bomb. Some people who crossed the picket line had the word “scab” painted on their houses.

Workers World spoke with area labor activist Denny Longwell, who served as vice president of USW Local 5760 for several years at another aluminum plant across the Ohio River in Ohio. Local 5760 members provided a lot of solidarity and support to their locked-out siblings in Local 5668.

Longwell pointed out the combative role the Women’s Support Group played in not only taking care of food supplies, but of carrying out guerilla-style tactics. Some members of the Women’s Support Group made “jack rocks” — little balls of welded nails — that were used to blow the tires of scab vehicles. Scabs also made jack rocks to use against locked-out workers.

Longwell told WW, “The Women’s Support Group sent a strong message to the company that they picked a fight with not only the Steelworkers, but their families too.”

### USW Local 5668 still strong 30 years later

Most of the workers who were locked out are now retired, but it was apparent at the commemoration that they remember the battle like it was yesterday. Several speakers shared memories of the fight, often pointing out it was an “illegal lockout” by the company.

Speakers included USW International President Thomas Conway, West Virginia AFL-CIO President Josh Sword and USW District 8 Director Larry Ray. Sword informed the crowd he spoke with Jim Bowen, who had served as USW District Director of District 23 and was one of the chief contract negotiators on behalf of the union. Sword stated, “According to what Jim [Bowen] told me, there are five things that



WW PHOTO: OTIS GROTEWOHL

A cake at a commemoration to honor the West Virginia workers who held out ‘one day longer’ than Ravenswood Aluminum from 1990-92.

helped win that fight: international labor solidarity, community support, bravery, creativity and perseverance.”

There was a display of photographs and newspaper clippings from the time, along with a collection of jack rocks mounted on a plaque. Refreshments were provided, including sweet tea, lemonade and two cakes with the union’s logo.

The aluminum plant has changed ownership and names a few times since the lockout, but it is still represented by USW Local 5668. The union struck over health care and wages in 2012, and coverage was provided in the pages of Workers World newspaper.

Historic lessons of the two-year lockout should be studied by anyone interested in fighting for better conditions, including the incarcerated. The workers showed that even under the most miserable circumstances, they can hold out “one day longer” than the bosses, so long as they stay united. It was especially difficult for those who had to remain principled and loyal to their class, when some of their own family members were not.

The 30-year anniversary coincides with a current lockout of 250 Collins Aerospace workers in Union, West Virginia. Represented by USW Local 1449, they are entering their sixth week of being locked out, after turning down a rotten contract offer regarding pay and increased health care costs.

The veteran members of USW Local 5668 can teach us all how solidarity can help us defeat even the sleaziest of the 1%, when we remain united and refuse to give up the fight. □



WW PHOTO: OTIS GROTEWOHL

Items displayed at 30-year commemoration on June 25 of Ravenswood Aluminum lockout union victory, including plaque with tree made from “jack rocks” used to flatten tires on scab vehicles.



# Global actions protest Supreme Court ruling

By Kathy Durkin

When the Supreme Court of the United States overturned the 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling legalizing the right to access abortion, it was a brutal blow to women and everyone who can become pregnant. The June 24 ruling was a shock felt not only in this country but around the world. There were denunciations and protests in many countries immediately; other demonstrations followed not long after.

Protesters turned out all over Europe — in Britain, France, Germany, Ireland and Italy — and in Latin America on June 24 and 25, including in Mexico and Argentina, where abortion is now legal due to a vital, strong mass movement.

Hundreds of pro-choice demonstrators marched to the U.S. Embassy in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on June 27, to denounce the ruling as unjust and a violation of women’s human rights. They carried green flags and bandannas, a symbol of the fight for legal abortions which has been adopted worldwide.

Celeste Fierro, a leader of the Socialist Workers Movement (MST), said, “Today more than ever, we need international solidarity.” (Buenos Aires Times, June 27)

In Paris, people of all ages and genders made their way to the Eiffel Tower on July 2, chanting: “Solidarity with women all over the world.”

Thousands of protesters attended demonstrations across Australia in Adelaide, Brisbane, Canberra, Perth and other cities on July 2. Abortion is still criminalized in the state of Western Australia. Activists are calling for the extension of reproductive rights and all health care to migrants and all marginalized communities.

Organizer Liz Walsh told 15,000 rally attendees in Melbourne that this protest was meant to show solidarity with U.S. activists fighting for their rights: “We are with them against the SCOTUS ruling.” Health worker Cecilia Judge emphasized, “Abortion is not a debate. Abortion is health care, and health care is a human right.” (news.com.au, July 2)

**Down with the system for the rich!**

To roars from the crowd, activist Anneke Demamele asserted, “We need

to get rid of the system that prioritizes the rich and powerful above us! Sexism permeates every area of our life.”

In Sydney, a huge crowd heard Aboriginal elder Shirley Lomas speak. Activist Hersha Kadkoi said SCOTUS’ ruling showed “relying on laws is not enough to protect our rights.” Supporters must be organized and show our strength. She stated, “Abortion rights were initially won on the streets and through protests. None of the gains from the past are set in stone; they must be defended.” (Sydney Morning Herald, July 2)

In Hobart, capital of Tasmania,

demonstrators said their rights have been won by fighting for them.

Global solidarity, strength and struggle will grow. □



London, June 25



Buenos Aires, Argentina, June 27



Melbourne, Australia, July 2

## Gabriela USA and International Women’s Alliance condemn overturn of Roe v. Wade

*This slightly edited joint statement was released on June 24 by Terrie Cervas, GABRIELA USA Secretary General and Angelica Lim, GABRIELA USA International Relations Officer and International Women’s Alliance Secretariat Member. You can email both organizations at gabrielawomen@gmail.com and internationalwomensalliance@gmail.com.*

GABRIELA USA and International Women’s Alliance (IWA) vehemently condemn the United States Supreme Court overturn of Roe v. Wade and call on all people to defend basic human rights to health care, including access to abortion, and to fight the attacks on women’s rights.

Roe v. Wade was a landmark decision by the U.S. Supreme Court in which the Court ruled that the constitution of the United States protects a pregnant person’s liberty to choose to have an abortion without excessive government restriction. This was incredibly important, because previously while the wealthy had access to safe abortions and family planning, the working class and poor had to resort to forced pregnancies or back-alley abortions that could either permanently harm their body or be fatal. The decision to overturn Roe v. Wade is not only an attack on women and the working class, but an attack on fundamental human rights by U.S. imperialism through the U.S. Supreme Court.

Many women have an abortion not as a choice but as an economic necessity for survival. In capitalist society, neoliberal policies have enabled multinational corporations to drive down wages and cut regular employees in favor of temporary workers. These same neoliberal policies allow the government to cut funding for assistance programs and social services needed by the people. Poor women and the rest of the working class have no social safety net and struggle to barely survive. Working-class people who seek abortions do so because the economic impacts of a forced birth would force them deeper into poverty.

The decision by the Supreme Court to overturn Roe v. Wade serves as an assault on the working class — who include migrants, women of color and trans people. We can expect that this ruling will result in the

criminalization of these communities, simply for seeking a medical procedure that would mean their survival.

**Impact extends beyond abortion ban**

The Supreme Court decision to overturn Roe v. Wade does not just result in a ban on abortion. This will have a huge ripple effect that will lead to other fundamental human rights being taken away from the majority of people in the U.S. Taking away the right to an abortion impacts the most marginalized and working-class birthing people, but it also allows for further attacks on the LGBTQ community, specifically potential legislation against the right to use contraception, the rights to same-sex marriage and interracial marriage, anti-trans legislation and even the right to vote.

The United States is not alone in the fight for access to abortion. In countries where abortion is illegal, specifically in underdeveloped countries, women and people who can get pregnant turn to unlicensed and illegal abortion clinics, putting them at more risk and vulnerable to complications including death. Abortions tend to be more readily available in wealthier, more developed nations, where there are less unplanned pregnancies, more access to sex education, family planning and birth control. Women from developing countries are three times more likely to experience unplanned pregnancies and are more often victims of sexual crimes.

The right to have abortions is more than just an issue of bodily autonomy but an act of resistance against a system that uses banning abortions as a form of control over women and pregnant people. Many developing countries around the world maintain backward and patriarchal views and laws that prohibit women from gaining political power. In advanced capitalist countries, the issue of abortion is turned into a moral and political issue for opposing members of the ruling class to condemn their opponents.

GABRIELA USA and IWA join the fight against the overturn of Roe v. Wade and the Supreme Court as part of U.S. imperialism’s state apparatus. Under capitalism, the government will only continue to chip away at basic fundamental rights of the people, upholding the interest of the ruling class. We recognize and uphold OUR right

to refuse this decision, through protest, resistance and fighting back. We join the fight in defense of basic health care and human dignity. We will rise united in action. We call on all GABRIELA USA and IWA member organizations, our solidarity allies and human rights defenders all over the world to:

- Organize protest actions to uphold and defend legal access to abortion and health care, a fundamental right;
- Expose the reactionary nature of the Supreme Court, as a tool of U.S. imperialism to repress the people;
- Build and strengthen the militant women’s movement by joining GABRIELA USA and International Women’s Alliance.

We must unite, organize and join the struggle against these reactionary and fascist attacks by U.S. Imperialism and its denial of the right to access abortion and health care. The people play the decisive role in history; and through our collective struggle, we will defeat Imperialism and all of its repressive policies.

**Uphold and defend access to safe abortions!**  
**Expose the rotten U.S. government and its anti-people laws!**  
**Fight for health care and human rights!**  
**Unite in struggle against imperialism!**

*\* According to the Center for Reproductive Rights, abortion is prohibited in 24 countries around the world including El Salvador, Honduras, Egypt, Madagascar and the Philippines. Globally, more than 25 million unsafe abortions occur every year (97% performed in developing countries), resulting in the deaths of about 39,000 women and girls and leading millions more to be hospitalized with complications, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). Most of these deaths are among poor women living in lower-income countries — with more than 60% of them in Africa and 30% in Asia.*

#BlackLivesMatter #NoNewYouthJail #WaterIsLife #AbolishICE #AbolishPrisons



# Well-heeled Democrats, right-wing billionaires behind Boudin recall



By Ted Kelly

A coalition of real estate developers, corporate lobbyists and Democratic party operatives succeeded in ousting San Francisco District Attorney Chesa Boudin from office in a recall election June 7. The Boudin tenure came to an abrupt end only two and a half years after San Francisco voters elected him as a reformer who promised decarceration, the abolition of cash bail and a refusal to collaborate with Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Boudin is widely seen as belonging to the cohort of reform-minded lawyers across the country, who are unconventional aspirants to an office commonly referred to as a city’s “top cop.” This so-called “progressive DAs” movement was an apparent response to the rise of President Donald J. Trump in 2017. Before Trump’s first year in office was over, Philadelphians elected civil-rights defender Larry Krasner to the DA’s office.

A year later, Rachel Rollins became Boston’s first woman of color to occupy the office, followed by Wesley Bell, the first Black man elected chief prosecutor in St. Louis, Missouri. In 2020, Cuban-American George Gascón unseated cop-friendly prosecutor Jackie Lacey in Los Angeles.

Like Krasner and other peers, Boudin declined to pursue cases that more “tough-on-crime” DAs would have rabidly prosecuted. His office declined to issue charges in a high-profile drunk driving case at the end of 2020 and instead referred the individual back to state parole officials.

While all of these “progressive DAs” faced aggressive backlash from cops, landlords and gentrifier developers, all except Boudin so far remain in office. Krasner was reelected in November 2021 with a rather remarkable 70% of the vote. Even Tiffany Cabán, who lost the DA’s race in Queens, was able to win a seat on the New York City Council as a 32-year-old queer Puerto Rican public defender who calls for the decriminalization of sex work.



Chesa Boudin

However, like Boudin, Gascón now faces a recall election. Krasner is currently a target for impeachment by the Republican-controlled Pennsylvania state legislature.

### Why was Boudin targeted?

Boudin’s brand of progressivism is not exactly the same as that of his reformist peers. Prior to his run for office, Boudin was a San Francisco public defender, who had also served as a translator at the Miraflores presidential palace for radical Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez.

Both his parents, Kathy Boudin and David Gilbert, were members of Students for a Democratic Society and the Weather Underground and were sentenced to life in prison for their alleged role in a Brinks armored truck heist in 1981. Gilbert was finally released from prison in November 2021. Kathy Boudin was paroled in 2003 but sadly passed away May 1 this year.

Boudin became the first DA in the city’s history to prosecute a cop for homicide. He implemented a diversion program that allowed people convicted of “nonviolent crimes” to avoid prison time if they were the legal guardian of a child under the age of 18. His office eliminated cash bail, something Krasner promised but never implemented.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Boudin reduced the San Francisco jail population by 40% ([tinyurl.com/39ktwm6r](https://tinyurl.com/39ktwm6r)) while Philadelphia jails remain overcrowded with skyrocketing death rates that local advocates have referred to as a “humanitarian crisis.” ([tinyurl.com/2p8b58y8](https://tinyurl.com/2p8b58y8))

Boudin’s office implemented a number of measures to limit the police department’s efforts to protect violent and crooked cops, preventing the hiring of cops with prior misconduct records, preventing prosecutors from convicting anyone based solely on police testimony and announcing that victims of police violence could seek compensation from the state for medical damages.

Perhaps most threatening to the status quo was Boudin’s launch of the Economic Crimes Workers Unit, an arm of the

DA’s office that specifically investigated instances of worker abuse, wage theft, labor trafficking, workplace retaliation and violations of “unfair competition” laws.

### Protectors of corporate crime

The highest profile case brought by this new unit involved the food delivery service DoorDash, which Boudin’s office claimed illegally classified workers as “independent contractors” as a loophole for skirting labor laws.

This type of criminal behavior is rampant in the U.S., but because these crimes are committed by bosses, bankers and billionaires, they are never mentioned by cops or “tough-on-crime” politicians. While they scream about shoplifting and petty retail theft, they don’t lift a finger to help workers who are robbed of \$15 billion a year by their bosses.

They want people to get angry about poor workers collecting unemployment, not about wealthy tax cheats accounting for \$1 trillion in lost revenue annually, according to the IRS. Because Chesa Boudin attempted to use the power of the state to prosecute capitalists instead of poor people, well-financed real estate firms, big tech corporations and cops joined together to put a stop to him.

### Right-wing Republicans, well-connected Democrats behind recall

To understand why they were able to so suddenly dismiss this young progressive from office, it helps to understand the unique recall statutes in California. Any group of at least 10 individuals can file a “notice of intent” with a city clerk in order to circulate a petition to recall an elected official.

If the petitioners can gather the minimum required number of signatures, a threshold determined by the number of people who voted last time around, it triggers a recall election. The question on the ballot is a simple yes-or-no referendum on removing the targeted official, effective immediately. Voters don’t have any say in who will replace the official if recalled.

It’s important to note that the June 7 recall effort to unseat the most high-profile “progressive prosecutor” in the country did not come exclusively from

right-wing Republicans, but from well-connected Democrats.

The notice of intent was filed by longtime Democratic Party operative Mary Jung, who rose to leadership in the early 2000s, boasting endorsements from Speaker of the House and big landlord Nancy Pelosi and two former mayors of San Francisco: five-term Senator Dianne Feinstein and current California Governor Gavin Newsom.

Jung chaired the San Francisco Democratic Party from 2012 to 2016. According to the San Francisco Examiner, Jung collected a six-figure income as a lobbyist for the National Association of Realtors at the same time.

In the San Francisco Chronicle June 9, Adam Johnson wrote: “Because Boudin’s opponents were not required to get behind an alternative, the actual politics of who is replacing him couldn’t drive a wedge between the somewhat ideological diverse anti-Boudin coalition. Which is to say, it permitted wealthy white liberals, who fancy themselves enlightened and progressive, to vote against Boudin, without the messy social costs of having to actually back a foaming right-wing candidate.”

Boudin, for his part, shares this diagnosis. “People are angry; they’re frustrated, and I want to be very clear about what happened tonight: The right-wing billionaires outspent us three-to-one, they exploited an environment in which people are appropriately upset, and they created an electoral dynamic where we were literally shadowboxing.

“Voters were not given an opportunity to choose between criminal justice reform and something else. They were given an opportunity to voice their frustrations and their outrage, and they took that opportunity.” (SFGate, June 7)

What does this mean for the movement and for the people? Chesa Boudin’s recall is a defeat. We should not deny this. While many radicals already doubted the efficacy of ever using the tools of the oppressor to dismantle the structures of oppression, this draws a clearer line on the limitations of using elected office for genuine change. But it teaches us never to forget the old adage: Know thy enemy. The capitalist class enemy is a hydra who wears many faces, and half of them are Democrats. □

# Reproductive justice and the U.S. carceral system

By Marie Kelly

The Supreme Court ruling against reproductive rights guaranteed for 50 years in the SCOTUS Roe v. Wade decision has had dramatic and devastating consequences for anyone who can get pregnant but is trapped in the U.S. carceral system.

### Number of incarcerated women accelerating

According to the Prison Policy Initiative, the incarceration rate of women in the U.S. has grown at twice the pace of men over the past 40 years. There has been a startling 475% increase in women incarcerated. The majority of women (60%) are awaiting trial and have not been convicted of any crime. (Dec. 8, 2021, [prisonpolicy.org/blog](https://prisonpolicy.org/blog))

Strict drug laws may account for some of the increase in the population of women in prisons. The crackdown on immigrants means Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents often detain immigrants in local jails. More

girls than boys are held in youth detention centers for truancy and running away from home — often a desperate attempt to escape an abuser.

What is the fate of these people, now that the federal government has abandoned any commitment to reproductive freedom for the working class?

### Prisoners subject to local and state laws

Those incarcerated in local jails and state prisons are subject to local and state laws.

At last count, 26 states have laws banning abortion. Many of these states, like Texas and Oklahoma, have seen the highest increase in the number of incarcerated women. Even for nonincarcerated people, access to abortion in these states will require travel across state lines and cash — insurmountable barriers for many poor workers, especially in Black, Brown and Indigenous communities.

For the large population of women on parole or probation, traveling out of state for an abortion poses a real threat of being sent back to prison.

Options are harsher for people arrested while pregnant, who will be forced to carry an unwanted pregnancy. Depending on state law, there is little to no option for an abortion if the person is sent to prison in a state with anti-abortion laws.

### Carceral conditions dangerous for pregnancy

Incarcerated people who are pregnant represent about 4% of the total population in women’s prisons across the U.S. They are at the mercy of a carceral system that does very little to guarantee prenatal care, proper nutrition and safety from complications due to pregnancy.

In fact, the health care in prisons is dangerously inadequate. Incarcerated people are exposed to toxins in their environments, threat of sexual abuse, risk of physical injury and severe mental distress.

Pregnant individuals need good food, plenty of exercise and proper rest. They need education about childbirth. None of these necessities are a priority in the current carceral institutions.

Workers World has reported that incarcerated women and their families in Georgia’s Pulaski State Prison “described extortion, sexual assault and physical and emotional violence, plus the inhumane living conditions of moldy food, unsanitary cells, callous guards and lack of medical care, which are all fairly standard throughout the Georgia system.” ([tinyurl.com/8rtsmj9](https://tinyurl.com/8rtsmj9))

### Giving birth while incarcerated

Childbirth is never easy, but most women have the support of family members and medical professionals. Pregnant people who are incarcerated have either the bare minimum of care or, in a worst case scenario, are totally alone in a cell when they are giving birth.

Erica Thompson is a Black woman who was held in a Florida jail in 2021 for driving with a suspended license. Guards ignored her cries for help when she went into labor and gave birth. Her baby, Ava Daniels, died at a local hospital due to complications that medical personnel said would have been

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# Mumia: Unjustly imprisoned for 40 years

By **Betsey Piette**  
Philadelphia

July 3 — Today people in Philadelphia and dozens of other cities across the U.S. and around the globe marked the 40th anniversary of the unlawful and unjust imprisonment of Pennsylvania political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal, including 29 years on death row. Now imprisoned for life in the general population, Abu-Jamal is still fighting for exoneration.

In Philadelphia activists gathered at the Municipal Services Building across from City Hall. Until June 2020, a hated statue of racist former Philadelphia Mayor and police chief Frank Rizzo stood on the plaza. Years of protests, including massive outpourings in May 2020 in response to the murder of George Floyd, forced the city to remove the 8-foot bronze statue.

Rizzo was prominent in the state’s targeting of Abu-Jamal who, as a journalist and radio commentator, would frequently call Rizzo out for his racism and brutality.

At the rally today, dozens of organizers spoke on the need to free Mumia and the importance of broadening the

movement that was instrumental in bringing Abu-Jamal off death row in 2011.

Speakers included Deandra Jefferson, Susan Abulhawa, YahNé Ndgo, Hiram Rivera, Russell Shoatz III, recent exoneree Kerry Shakaboona Marshall, Krystal Strong and Teddie Kelly. Gabe Bryant and Michael Africa Jr. chaired, and several spoken-word artists entertained the crowd.

The rally was called by #LoveNotPhear, Mobilization4Mumia, the Prisoners Solidarity Committee of Workers World Party and the Campaign to Bring Mumia Home. A militant march through Center City followed the rally.

Other cities where actions took place included Chicago; Newark, New Jersey; Oakland, California; Olympia, Washington; Los Angeles; Washington, D.C.; San Francisco; Capital Heights, Massachusetts; Detroit; Boston; Brooklyn and Rochester, New York. In the small town of Elaine, Arkansas, a group of 9- to 15-year-old students made a video calling for Mumia’s freedom.



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Krystal Strong leads chants on march for Mumia in Philadelphia, July 3.

Globally events were organized in Tepic, Oaxaca and Mexico City, Mexico; London; Berlin, Munster and Frankfurt, Germany; and in Amsterdam and other cities.

As with the MOVE 9, Jalil Muntaqim, Herman Bell and so many other political prisoners, let’s bring Mumia home! □

# The future is in the people – the people can’t wait

By **Ted Kelly**

*These edited remarks were made at the July 3 Free Mumia rally in Philadelphia.*

I owe my start in political organizing to Workers World Party and to the movement to free Mumia Abu-Jamal. To Pam Africa and Mike Africa Jr., to Asantewaa Nkrumah Ture and to YahNé Ndgo, to Joe and Betsey Piette, to Larry Holmes and Monica Moorehead, to Mumia Abu-Jamal himself. This movement has birthed generations of revolutionaries.

I want to go back to something Krystal Strong said about organizing within the community. Right now they’re organizing at 7th and Wallace streets, the

neighborhood that Mumia grew up in. That’s important. In the struggle for revolution in this country and around the world, we have to transform the way that human beings interact with each other. This country, the ideology of this country, it is fetid and backwards, and it smashes solidarity. It destroys communities.

While we were marching, Mike Africa Jr. told the story about the construction workers in the high-rise down the street here. Years ago at a march to free Mumia, workers were throwing debris and garbage down at the protesters.

These were union workers. We’re in the midst of a huge union drive effort around the country. Now, these are very important workers fighting for each other in the workplace, understanding that they have common grievances and uniting for power in the workplace.

But how can you draw a line at fighting for the Black struggle? This is individualism. This goes against community. This is against revolution. If we want to fight to transform

this society, we need everybody onboard.

But here’s the thing: Oppressed people cannot wait. Black workers cannot wait for everyone else to realize, oh, you know what? This is a pretty bad situation, this is a pretty racist society.

**‘We need soldiers’**

They can’t wait. That’s why the Black Liberation struggle has always been at the forefront of the leadership of the revolutionary workers struggle in the United States and around the world. If you are not fighting for Mumia Abu-Jamal, you are not fighting for the man who has dedicated his life fighting for you.

Forty years! Forty years this man has been in a dungeon for you and for me. Sundiata Acoli, Russell Maroon Shoatz, Mutulu Shakur, Delbert Africa. These are people who have put their lives on the line to fight for everyone, to fight for revolution, to change the way that human beings interact with each other.

Tomorrow is July 4th, and we need to understand that this is not the land of white picket fences. It’s the land of pointy white hoods. This is not the land of liberty and opportunity; this is the land of mandatory minimums and juvenile lifers.

And this is not the birthplace of democracy. This is the burial ground of John Africa, of Crazy Horse, of Sitting Bull, of Chairman Fred Hampton.

And we do not need any more martyrs. We need soldiers to fight this fight. Too many people have laid down their lives in service of a revolution that we still fight for. How much longer do you expect Black Liberation fighters to wait? How much longer are we supposed to wait for the freedom of Mumia Abu-Jamal?

I just want to say to the people who have used the strength of the movement to take power and then ignore the people that put them in power: We see you. Do you think we don’t know when we’ve been betrayed, [District Attorney] Larry Krasner? If you turn your back on this movement and you turn your back on the struggle to free Mumia Abu-Jamal, you will take that shame to your grave.

The future is in the people you see around you right now. It’s in the people all around the world today, in cities from Oakland to Philadelphia, in countries from Germany to South Africa. The future is in the people. And that’s why we say all power to the people. Free all political prisoners! And free Mumia Abu-Jamal! □



Ted Kelly speaks at July 4 rally, Philadelphia. WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

# Houston in solidarity with Mumia during 40-for-40 events

By **Gloria Rubac**

Joining supporters of political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal, Houston activists participated in the 40 Cities for 40 Years events by dropping banners over a busy freeway during 5 p.m. traffic as workers were leaving downtown Friday, July 1.

They held giant signs reading “Mumia Abu-Jamal is Innocent! Freedom NOW!” And “Honk if You Agree!” Riders in cars streaming under the Southmore bridge saw numerous signs and banners and learned that Mumia was a political

prisoner wrongfully sent to death row in 1982.

Members of Houston’s Black Panther Party Alumni Association brought their traditional light blue banners with a panther on them. Mumia joined the BPP as a teenager. As abolitionists held their banners, activist Trey Legall tied a banner for the S.H.A.P.E. (Self-Help for African People through Education) Community Center on the bridge with his shoelaces and then proceeded to drum for the duration of the protest.

Others participating in the banner

drop were with the Texas Death Penalty Abolition Movement, the National Black United Front, S.H.A.P.E.’s Elders Council of Wisdom and Workers World Party.

As NBUF national chairperson Kofi Taharka told the crowd, “We must continue to support Mumia and all of our political prisoners. We cannot forget them. We have seen the release of Jalil Muntaqim and Sundiata Acoli, but there are dozens more, including Jalil Al Amin, Leonard Peltier, Ruchell McGee and many others. Free Mumia and free them all! □



WW PHOTO: GLORIA RUBAC

# Reproductive justice and the U.S. carceral system

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preventable if she had been delivered at a hospital. (Daily Kos, Oct. 24, 2021)

Pregnant people who are transported to a hospital from prison are still being shackled, even when there are laws on the books restricting the practice. Following birth, many mothers are transported

back to prison without their newborns. This cruel separation can have profound negative implications on newborn development and exacerbate postpartum depression for the new mom.

**Abolish prisons now!**

In 1970, prior to the 1973 Roe ruling, Shirley Wheeler was convicted of

manslaughter after an illegal abortion. More recently, with the far-right direction of the Supreme Court, the anti-abortion war on pregnant people has gained momentum.

In April, only after enormous pressure from pro-choice activists, state of Texas murder charges were dropped for Lizelle Herrera. She was charged after

an alleged self-induced abortion. There was, in fact, no law on the books at the time for which she could legally have been arrested or charged with a crime. (workers.org/2022/04/63287/)

Now is the time for prison abolition. It is critical for the fight for reproductive freedom and justice. □



COMMENTARY

# Colombia's election raises hopes for peace

By M. Rafael

Since the news of Gustavo Petro's victory in the Colombian elections on June 19, a massive sense of jubilation has washed across Colombia and the world over. Colombia for the first time in its history has elected a leftist government, after 80-plus years of nearly unending civil war: between Liberals and Conservatives, Marxist insurgents and the Colombian state, and the Colombian state against its own civilian population. Many believe that this elected administration will be able to do what all others said they would and end this legacy of violence. This is seen clearly in the energy in postelection celebrations, which have been nothing short of ecstatic.

To be clear, no matter how much the Colombian right attempts to paint him as such, Gustavo Petro is not a communist. He has said repeatedly that his aim is to introduce a "humane capitalism" to Colombia, as opposed to a socialist economy.

While a cautious and dialectical approach to understanding these elections is certainly prudent, we must take our cues from activists and organizations that operate in Colombia.

The "Pacto Histórico" led by Gustavo Petro is formed by a plurality of parties across the left spectrum, including the Colombian Communist Party, the Patriotic Union (formed by former FARC militants), the Workers Party of Colombia, the Indigenous and Social Alternative Movement, Colombia Humana (the party started by Petro), among many others. In this plurality are Marxist-Leninists, Social-Democrats, Bolivarianists, Indigenistas, "green-capitalists" and others. This covers essentially

the entire democratic wing of the left in Colombia, all of whom have pledged their support for Petro, as well as expressed their optimism for his presidency.

## Armed combatants hail election results

As for insurgent groups operating in Colombia, both the ELN (National Liberation Army) and the FARC-EP Segunda Marquetalia (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia-People's Army Second Marquetalia) have raised their voice in support of the President-elect, the FARC-EP Segunda Marquetalia through their various social media platforms and the ELN through their media outlet "El Karibeño Rebelde." This is a historic achievement, as this will be the first time that the ELN and a major FARC dissident group are not at war with the Colombian government but rather are pledging their allegiance to the head of state.

In light of this, leftists in the imperial core should not — as some have done on social media — condescend to these groups, both democratic and insurgent, who have worked for years to achieve this victory and have lost their lives and their comrades in the process. Colombians living and operating in Colombia know their material conditions better than anyone else, and a victory celebrated by them should be celebrated by all people who claim solidarity with the Colombian masses.

Colombia is still in the throes of a series of wars that have killed hundreds of thousands and has left Colombia with the second highest rate of internally displaced persons in the world, after Syria. While Gustavo Petro may not match our ideologies completely, if he can successfully put an end to the Colombian government's

unceasing massacring of its own civilians and disarm the narco-paramilitary apparatus, that will be a monumental achievement and prevent untold amounts of human suffering.

If, however, the FARC are overly optimistic in the results of the election, it wouldn't be the first time that they have placed too much credibility in the bourgeois Colombian state. Six years after the failed 2016 peace agreement between the FARC-EP and the Colombian state, it is clear that the FARC leadership believed too strongly that the Colombian state would hold up its end of the agreement and have a genuine interest in fostering peace.

Since the signing of the agreement, thousands of demobilized FARC militants, mainly from Indigenous, campesino (peasant) and Afro-Colombian communities, have been assassinated by Colombian security forces and right-wing paramilitaries with government ties. This has been accompanied by an unceasing series of massacres against civil, social leaders from the Indigenous, campesino and Afro-Colombian communities, as well as trade unionists, environmentalists and other social activists.

## Lessons from the past

This hard lesson comes after a previous failed attempt by the FARC to achieve revolution via democratic means in the 1980s, with the formation of the "Union Patriótica" party.



Colombians celebrate electoral win June 19 by Gustavo Petro and Francia Márquez.

The UP was founded by the FARC and the Colombian Communist Party, as an unarmed political party, as part of the peace negotiations with Conservative President Belisario Betancur. Since its members worked openly and without arms, they opened themselves up to a politicide that claimed the lives of over 5,000 members in the subsequent years, at the hands of the paramilitaries and Colombian security services. A grim response to the question: "Why hasn't Colombia been able to elect a progressive president in its 200-year history?"

Whether or not the FARC leadership has been naive in these occasions, it should be appreciated for its magnanimous attitude towards the Colombian state, and it should go to show that the FARC has only resorted to revolutionary violence when its democratic avenues have been exhausted and the Colombian state's indifference or outright enmity toward the lives of its civilian population leads to mass death. This

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# Colombian election 'an extraordinary event'

Translated by M. Rafael and Daniela Ochoa-Bravo

*The statement below was issued June 22 by the FARC-EP (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia-People's Army Segunda Marquetalia) on the election of Gustavo Petro and Francia Márquez, candidates of the Pacto Histórico, as the first leftist president and vice president of Colombia.*

*The FARC was founded in 1964 and waged a guerrilla insurgency against the right-wing, pro-imperialist Colombian government until signing a comprehensive peace agreement with the government in 2016.*

*After the 2016 peace agreements, the majority of the FARC units demobilized and formed a political party now known as "Comunes," which supported Pacto Histórico. Since the failure of the state to fully implement its side of the agreement, two major blocs of dissidents have taken up arms against the state: the FARC-EP Segunda Marquetalia, led by alias Iván Márquez, and the bloc formerly led by alias Gentil Duarte until his death in May of 2022.*

The tides of change are unstoppable. And they must be until the community of "nobodies" — the excluded — are able to touch human dignity with their caloused, working hands.

On June 19, an extraordinary event occurred that will forever leave its mark on the history of Colombia: A legacy of over 200 years of relentless oligarchical governance finally came to end. A

governance that never once felt love for the people and, instead, chose to maintain a heart of stone. But the people also have a right to govern.

"The politics of love and the government of hope are here," announced President Petro from his victory stage, alongside Francia, the first Black vice president of Colombia. "Real, genuine change is coming. And it's not a triumph of vengeance or hate ..." Only a heart that's dominated by its unwavering love for humanity, and a drive to help turn Colombia into a great humanitarian power, could produce such a statement.

"Without life, neither hope nor peace would have reason. Peace, alongside social and environmental justice, are our central objectives," said the president-elect. And he is, of course, correct to think so. Because peace is the paramount of our rights, and it's only when we have it that we can guarantee life. Without peace, all of our other rights would be rendered worthless, because we would be dead.

Let us give this our all, as we — with our bodies and souls — collectively work toward reaching indisputable peace in Colombia. For the war to end, we must have discourse. The most legitimate mechanism to launch a new era of peace and a new country will be constituted by the Great National Agreement, the social movements that have fought with dignity, the binding regional talks and the public discourses that invite the opinion of all — the unseen, the unheard and the forgotten.

Let us all meet at the front lines of the



FARC-EP Segunda Marquetalia leaders Iván Márquez (second from left) and Jesús Santrich (second from right) announce resumption of armed struggle, August 29, 2019. Santrich was assassinated in May 2021.

struggles for social justice, for the plurality of conscience — as Petro says — and for solidarity between peoples of variously colored skin and variously colored flags. Let us continue onward for agrarian justice and land for the peasantry, for a productive and decarbonized economy, new technologies and for a country with clean energy and environmental justice.

We support the government of life and hope that is being born before our eyes like a new dawn — a government that is disposed to return us to peace and dignity, as well as to defend the world from climate change with the shield of the Amazon rainforest. This must be expanded by uniting forces between the Amazonian countries of Our America in order to absorb carbon and return it to the world as oxygen.

It is a wise decision from the new

government to promote more active integration in Latin America and the Caribbean. For let us not forget that Monroeism is still alive and conspiring against our unity, in order to dominate us without our resistance.

Let us protect Petro and Francia to assure that nothing happens to them and that they have a long life that allows them to bring about the Colombia of the future.

We call upon the force of the public to support and obey the president-elect, who, under constitutional disposition, is our supreme commander. Let us unite with the humane tide for life and peace.

A new institution will come that is more connected to the needs of the people, justice and human rights. For much too long the people have been yearning for this moment and to be embraced by the politics of love and life. □



Ecuador

# Movements halt strike after tentative agreement

By Michael Otto  
Ibarra, Imbabura Province, Ecuador

July 3 — Representatives of popular organizations ended an 18-day national strike in Ecuador the afternoon of June 30, after a tentative agreement with the neoliberal government. Many issues are left unresolved, and many Ecuadorians doubt that the government will comply with the agreement it signed. The main organizations are CONAIE, FENOCIN and FEINE, representing Indigenous, Afro-Ecuadorian and peasant social organizations, respectively.

The government estimates that this strike drained \$1 billion from an economy which was recovering from the devastating COVID-19 pandemic under Washington Consensus prescriptions for austerity. In the midst of the strike, on June 24, the International Monetary Fund disbursed \$1 billion to Ecuador.

On June 25, the strike, which began June 13, had already surpassed the 11-day Uprising of October 2019 in length, depth and breadth. That day, Indigenous women, feminists and dissident persons marched to demand an end to the violence against the participants in the national strike.

The Indigenous women and their feminist and LGBTQI+ comrades directly challenged the government, after President Guillermo Lasso had just declared that he would use any means necessary to put an end to the mobilizations. The lethal repression did continue for several more days.

The arrest of CONAIE leader Leonidas Iza on the second day of the strike only intensified the resistance and deepened solidarity. The Indigenous marchers were joined by central labor councils, transport workers, students, teachers, small and medium producers, middle classes, intellectuals, artists and many other social sectors.

These supporters assisted the strikers in Quito, the capital of Ecuador and the main focal point. Police occupied the Casa de las Culturas, which angered intellectuals and artists of all kinds, who then supported the strike.

Leonidas Iza credited a vast network of support that sustained the Indigenous



Strike leader Leonidas Iza was arrested by the neoliberal regime in Ecuador.

mobilization in Quito. That web integrated supporters in the provinces, who then sent produce to the barrios of Quito, where residents organized food kitchens (“ollas”), and the “Zones of Peace” in the universities and the Casa de las Culturas. “To say to the comrades in any latitude of the world, the struggle is the mother of all rights,” wrote Iza on Facebook.

*On June 25, the strike, which began June 13, had already surpassed the 11-day Uprising of October 2019 in length, depth and breadth.*

Meanwhile, progressive legislators in the National Assembly saw in the crisis an opportunity to oust President Lasso but failed to add enough votes to impeach him on June 27. The president scorned the authors of the constitutional option as “coup conspirators.” The National Assembly has only a 4% public approval rating, even worse than Lasso himself.

### Groups discuss 10-point agenda

That same day, CONAIE, FENOCIN and FEINE met with government ministers in the Basilica in Quito to discuss their 10-point agenda, as militants surrounded the edifice and maintained a vigil. Lasso was absent, allegedly due to a case of “asymptomatic COVID.”

According to a Twitter feed, Marlon Vargas, president of the Confederation

of Indigenous Nationalities of the Ecuadorian Amazon (CONFENIAE) stood to face the ministers at the negotiating table and said, “Authorities, we have to correct these historical errors. In the 21st century it is not possible for you to listen to us. We have to rise up! We have to march! There have to be deaths to get you to listen to us!”

Negotiations were suspended the next day, after the military launched an apparent provocation in Shushufindi Canton in the Amazonian province of Sucumbíos, which resulted in the death of an Indigenous soldier and the wounding of 12 others. President Guillermo Lasso imposed martial law in Sucumbíos and three other provinces.

Lasso used Shushufindi as a false flag to put an end to dialogue. Blaming Leonidas Iza as a perpetrator, he said, “we will not negotiate with those who hold Ecuador hostage, with those who attack our security forces.”

Lasso criminalized Leonidas Iza and summoned CONAIE to send “legitimate representatives” to the table. CONAIE answered, “Lasso does not break with Leonidas; he breaks with the people.” Thus the president only managed to isolate himself and to expose the fascist underpinnings of neoliberal “democracy.”

Lasso’s bet on a violent war of attrition, amplified by the soft power of the corporate media, failed. True to form, when the dust settled at the end of the strike, Lasso and the media projected the fake news that the government had defeated a beaten Indigenous movement.

### Indigenous leader to face charges

Lawfare criminalizes social protest in 2022, as it did in October 2019. Iza must attend a hearing July 4 in Latacunga, where he will be charged with “paralyzing a public service,” a felony punishable by one to three years in prison. President Lasso will testify against the president of CONAIE. Hundreds of Indigenous people will assemble outside the court in protest.

Dialogue with the government was resumed June 30 with representatives of CONAIE, FENOCIN and FEINE, led by Leonidas Iza. The Ecuadorian Episcopal Conference mediated the negotiations and drafted an agreement which initially

provoked a debate among the social organizations. After several hours of discussion and minor changes, the agreement was signed. ([tinyurl.com/2p8bdz22](https://tinyurl.com/2p8bdz22))

The following are some of the main points in the agreement: State of Exception (martial law) was repealed; Decree 452 requires the country’s governors to intensify control operations to prevent and eradicate speculative pricing processes; the declaration of an emergency in the health sector; establishment of compensatory public policies for rural and urban areas; and the reduction of fuel prices by 15 cents per gallon.

Executive Decree No. 95 on hydrocarbons is repealed, which stops the expansion of the oil frontier. Executive Decree No. 151 is reformed, prohibiting mining in protected areas and ancestral territories, archaeological zones and water-protection areas.

In addition, a commission will be established for the resolution of pending issues. The government has 90 days to respond to these demands.

In the 18 days of the national strike, the Alliance of Organizations for Human Rights registered 76 violations of rights, six deaths, 331 injured persons and 152 arrests.

Various observers in Ecuador and elsewhere viewed the Indigenous movement and Leonidas Iza as the winners in the fierce class struggle of June 2022, proving they could sustain 18 days of mobilization and social protests in the face of vicious repression. In fact, the mobilizations advanced the interests of the two-thirds of Ecuadorians, who labor without benefits in the informal economy, who lack access to health care and education.

Christian González, a militant in the Citizens Movement (led by Correa) who was persecuted for supporting the Uprising of October 2019, tweeted the following in solidarity with the National Strike of 2022: “Thank you guys, see you on the road here. Thankfully, this generation not only teaches us to fight, it hands us an infinite legacy of dignity.”

The road is wide open and the future is uncertain, but as Christian Gonzalez says, the Indigenous Movement teaches us to fight. It has shared with us an infinite legacy of human dignity. □

# Colombia’s election raises hopes for peace

Continued from page 8

willingness to collaborate in order to ease the great suffering of the Colombian people demonstrates that they are historically ideologically driven and are not seeking to create a perpetual conflict in order to line their pockets.

On the other hand, the Colombian state and its paramilitaries have clearly shown that they see this as their prerogative.

### Understanding ‘politics of love and life’

The writing in the communique from the Segunda Marquetalia could certainly be surprising in its tone, writing style and focal points to people whose knowledge of the FARC is limited to the propaganda published by the Colombian state and Western media. Talking about the “politics of love and life” would certainly be out of character for the brutal “narco-trafficking” outfit that capitalist media would want you to think the FARC is.

However, the FARC have written extensively on the issues of environmental

justice and social justice, highlighting the need to combat racism, sexism and queerphobia, as well as agrarian reform and worker’s rights. Indeed, since the FARC has historically been a movement constituted of a majority-campesino base and leadership, they know firsthand the need to protect the land from capitalist plunder and the dangers posed by climate change.

Perhaps one of the most significant and foreboding paragraphs from the communique is their promise to protect the lives of Gustavo Petro and Francia Marquez. Anyone savvy about Latin American and Caribbean history will recognize that the threat of an attempt on the lives of the president- and vice president-elect is very real. The “Pacto Historico” was forced to end its campaigning shortly before the elections, because of death threats against Gustavo Petro and Francia Marquez.

While their promise to protect the president- and vice president-elect is limited due to the assuredness that their administration will not contract any

insurgent groups for their security, it begs the question of what could happen following an attempt on their lives. If the FARC-EP Segunda Marquetalia are to be taken at their word, then an attempt to remove this administration violently will surely provoke a massive militant response from the Segunda Marquetalia, the ELN, the demobilized ex-FARC militants, as well as a massive popular uprising.

Fighting between the insurgent camp and the forces of reaction in Colombia would surely plunge the country into a civil war reaching heights far more catastrophic than anything seen since the time known simply as “La Violencia.”

### On the structure of the FARC dissidents

To be clear, the FARC-EP Segunda Marquetalia are not the 1:1 inheritors of the legacy of the FARC. After the 2016 peace agreements, the majority of the FARC units demobilized and formed a political party now known as “Comunes,” which also supported the “Pacto Historico.”

Since the failure of the state to fully

implement its side of the agreement, two major blocs of dissidents have taken up arms against the state: the FARC-EP Segunda Marquetalia, led by alias Iván Márquez, and the bloc formerly led by alias Gentil Duarte until his death in May of 2022. This bloc is less cohesive than the Segunda Marquetalia and does not have regular communication lines with the masses or have regular communiques, which makes it unknown if they have released any statement on the election at the time of writing this article.

The Gentil Duarte bloc has been at war with the Segunda Marquetalia and the ELN since soon after its inception, and both blocs of the FARC accuse each other of having devolved into paramilitarism, narco-trafficking and collaboration with the Colombian state. At this time insufficient investigation has been done to conclude on the nature of the conflict between these two dissident blocs; however, the Segunda Marquetalia remains more vocal and has more consistent publications. □



# Beyond the SCOTUS attack on abortion

White supremacy did not begin nor will it end with the June 24 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that swept away *Roe v. Wade*, that for almost 50 years legalized access to abortion. Yet the ruling has sharpened this major pillar of capitalist oppression that touches every aspect of life in the U.S. Without this depraved weapon to uphold the superrich's status quo, that targets oppressed peoples, especially those of color, the U.S. would not have developed into the most powerful imperialist country in history. White supremacy permeates U.S. society.

The SCOTUS ruling is a frontal attack on the right to health care for women and any person able to bear children. It has been well documented, however, that Black women are three times more likely to die in childbirth than white women. This difference arises from preexisting health conditions like hypertension, obesity and diabetes, along with overall poor health care due to racism and poverty.

Police terror remains an epidemic for Black and Brown people. In the most recent case, June 27 in Akron, Ohio, police killed a 25-year-old Black man, Jayland Walker, hitting him at least 60 times, while firing 90 bullets as Walker was running away after a high-speed chase over an alleged traffic violation.

NAACP President Derrick Johnson said, "We are just trying to live our lives, and we are tired of being hunted like prey. We know that pulling over for the police is often a death sentence." (Akron Beacon Journal, July 2)

These kinds of police murders are the norm, not the exception, especially where young Black men are viewed as less than human. On the flip side, white supremacists

like Dylann Roof, Kyle Rittenhouse and Payton Gendron were treated with kid gloves by police and in Roof's case even treated to hamburgers, after they massacred their victims, who were either Black or anti-racist.

And then there are the thousands of migrants from Central America, the Caribbean, Africa and elsewhere forced to leave their homelands, seeking a better life, only to be brutalized and even killed by Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Decades of inhumane immigration policies upheld by numerous Democratic and Republican administrations label these workers as "illegal."

Last week, over 50 migrants lost their lives in an overheated truck, when they died while trying to clandestinely cross the U.S./Mexican border.

These examples are forms of white supremacy amongst a multitude of others.

## Just the beginning

When SCOTUS overturned *Roe v. Wade*, Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas stated that this decision could lay the basis for scrapping other past landmark decisions won by mass and legal struggle. These include the right to same-sex and interracial marriage, to obtain contraceptive drugs and to end the bigoted anti-sodomy laws. Thomas says these issues were not first in the U.S. Constitution, when it was written.

That's a reason to tear up the entire U.S. Constitution and throw it away. That Constitution was first ratified in 1787 by privileged white males — only — many of them slaveholders. There was no mention of Indigenous people, enslaved

people, LGBTQ2S+ people or women. These omissions alone reflect the undemocratic, racist, misogynist and homophobic views of the rich and powerful of that day — just as they do today.

The U.S. Supreme Court, unelected by the masses and appointed for life, is the institution the billionaire ruling class is wielding to divide workers along nationality, immigration status, sexuality, sex and gender lines.

The only solution to these attacks, rooted in white supremacy, is to build classwide solidarity amongst all sectors of the global working class to defend their interests as a class. This is especially necessary as the global capitalist economic crisis continues to spiral out of control.

An injury to one is an injury to all! □



Washington, D.C.

# January 6 hearings expose fascist threat

By Martha Grevatt

Since June 9, the House Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol has built a case against former President Donald Trump, members of his administration and Trump allies. The Committee will hold additional hearings this month, keeping the spotlight on a very real, growing and dangerous fascist movement.

This movement did not appear from out of nowhere on Jan. 6, 2021; the election of an openly racist and xenophobic president in 2016 encouraged it. Events like the 2017 "Unite the Right" mobilization in Charlottesville, Virginia, where one anti-racist was murdered and many were injured, laid the foundation for the attack on the Capitol.

Discussions of the hearings are currently focused on the bombshell testimony of Cassidy Hutchinson, a former White House aide and assistant to former Chief of Staff Mark Meadows during Trump's administration. She described in detail the former president's eagerness to join the white-supremacist mob that stormed the U.S. Capitol.

Hutchinson testified that both Meadows and Trump knew in advance that the armed fascists would attempt to enter the Capitol and that she was told by a Secret Service agent that Trump went so far as to assault that agent, while he was attempting to drive the president back to the White House.

But what will be done with all this damning information? (Besides providing material for comedians and late-night talk show hosts!)

For the Democratic Party, both the awful Supreme Court ruling overturning *Roe v. Wade* and the Select Committee's evidence against Trump serve a similar purpose. That is to convince the masses that the way to bar further encroachments on basic democratic rights is to

"vote blue" in November's midterm elections. The message pushed at more moderate mass demonstrations against the SCOTUS ruling was the need to elect pro-choice candidates.

But how many pregnant people will die because they fail to obtain a safe abortion between now and November? How many Jayland Walkers and Patrick Lyoyas will be gunned down by racist, trigger-happy cops between now and November? How many trans youth will be bullied to the point of suicide between now and November? How many more migrants will die trying to come to the U.S., due to inhumane immigration policies?

And even after November, SCOTUS will still have a right-wing majority for some time.

## Limits of electoral strategies

Voting is not enough. Why can't the Democrats and their backers in organized labor call for a mass mobilization against the ultraright, right now?

The Democrats do not want to see the fascists gain ground. Even "moderate" Republicans like House Rep. Liz Cheney are alarmed by Trump's extremism. An extremist mob chanted in unison: "Hang Mike Pence" — yes, they were attacking Mike Pence, even though he is anti-reproductive justice and anti-LGBTQ+. The

fascist mob would be unkind to all those opposing Trump.

But what the Democrats really favor is a kinder, gentler and by comparison more democratic brand of capitalist exploitation. Even "democratic socialist" Bernie Sanders is not for abolishing capitalism, much less so mainstream Democrats like President Joe Biden and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. On the international arena, both the Democratic and Republican parties have been loyal agents of U.S. imperialist interests, serving the bankers, arms manufacturers and billionaires of all types.

The risk for the Democrats in calling out the masses is that the masses might take the struggle against fascism "too far"; i.e., they might not settle for just defeating the Trump wing of the ruling class. The masses in motion can have a tendency to stay in motion, which could mean taking the struggle further to one against capitalism as a whole and not just its most oppressive, most repressive, chemically pure form manifested as fascism.

A fascist state is only one form of the capitalist state. A state, as Marxists understand it, is an instrument of class rule. This was true of enslaver states and feudal states in earlier epochs, and it is true of capitalist states, including imperialist so-called "democracies" in the U.S., Europe and Japan.

Regardless of its form the capitalist state serves to keep the working class of the world exploited, so profits keep flowing into the pockets of the ruling class. The capitalists use a combination of "the carrot" (concessions to the workers and oppressed) and "the stick" (taking rights and benefits away, brute force). Traditionally Democrats have offered more carrots, and Republicans wielded a bigger stick.

But their aim is the same, and in this late stage

of capitalism, the tendency is toward the stick. Fascism is that tendency's ultimate expression — in fact the word fascism comes from the Italian word for the binding of a bundle of sticks used as a club. Its goal is to crush every organization and every expression of resistance of the workers and oppressed.

## Working class must organize independently

The facts that Trump-endorsed candidates have won a number of Republican primaries and some could be elected in November do not, of course, signal the triumph of fascism — but it is cause for alarm. Terrorist groups like the "Proud Boys" and individual white supremacists are committing murder and threatening activists. This includes the thwarted plot to attack Pride in Idaho and reports of armed Proud Boys near the Akron protests over the police killing of Jayland Walker.

The Democratic Party will use the hearings to expose the Trumpites, but it has a mushy spine. Only the workers and oppressed can defeat the far right — and that is who has the most at stake. The fascist threat calls for an organized working class response.

Unfortunately most of the leadership in organized labor is tied to the Democratic Party. But our class is developing its organizing skills, evidenced by a string of union wins at Starbucks, Amazon, Apple, REI and elsewhere. Millions of working-class youth of all nationalities were part of the Black Lives Matter upsurge following the police lynching of George Floyd.

The line from the old union standard "Solidarity Forever" still rings true. "In our hands is placed a power greater than their hoarded gold" — or their mighty clubs. We produce everything in society, and we can bring everything to a halt. We can organize a mass movement in the name of the working class that fights on every front.

That, and that alone, can push back the danger posed by fascism. □



Over 2,000 people protest Proud Boys, Philadelphia, Nov. 17, 2018

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE



# SCOTUS vs. Earth

By Paddy Colligan

Before I understood what it all meant, I thought it was awe-inspiring to see icebergs in the ocean waters around Newfoundland and Greenland. Majestic big ones (how large must they have been to travel so far from their glacial source and still be huge) or somewhat smaller ones that became trapped in fjords or bays to melt away over summer, giving local residents the pleasure of their company and maybe a chance to chip off a chunk of pure, 100,000-plus-year-old ice for their drinks.

Though some of these icebergs resulted from the normal calving of glaciers, as they flowed down to the sea around the Greenland ice sheet, at least some in the last few years were evidence of the greater fracturing due to the alarming melt rate.

The dire straits of the world’s climate is attributed to massive levels of greenhouse gases (GHG) that are warming the planet to crisis levels. These GHG were produced by centuries of burning fossil fuels, especially since the production of petroleum, removing forest cover and extensive farming which exposed carbon previously sequestered in dormant soil. Even though the world is well-aware of impending climate catastrophe, the necessary public policy changes to limit carbon release are not being made quickly enough or even at all.

The U.N. Report “Climate Change 2022” concluded that: “Net anthropogenic GHG emissions have increased since 2010 across all major sectors globally.” (U.N. report pSPM-7) That means that human-produced emissions of polluting greenhouse gases continue to increase, despite all the warnings, massive demonstrations, some shifts to wind and solar generation and experiences of climate-related disasters.

It is in this context of a looming crisis that the U.S. Supreme Court delivered its reactionary ruling last week denying the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) the authority to regulate emissions from coal-powered plants.

## WW COMMENTARY

The ruling on emissions from coal-powered generating plants was made despite the Court’s past practice of acknowledging that it is the designated regulatory agencies, not the judicial or the legislative branches, that have the expertise and responsibility to devise policies to solve complex problems.

It is now expected that the Supreme Court will rule in a similar way, as other cases come up that challenge the authority of such specialized agencies as the Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as well as others involving the EPA.

Even weak policies to protect people from damage inflicted by profit-driven corporations are anathema to the court. Life in the U.S. will become increasingly unsafe, as the unelected conservative justices continue their campaign to curtail regulatory oversight. This indeed raises the question about why they do not want protective regulations.

The consequences for world climate will be significant. The U.S., unsurpassed in the world as a climate hypocrite, continues to be the largest contributor to world GHG emissions. It hides its full responsibility for carbon emissions by excluding some sources of pollution altogether. For example, since much of its manufacturing is done in other countries, GHG emissions related to manufacturing and shipping of its vast imports are attributed to the country of manufacture, often China, so that China looks like the irresponsible one. (tinyurl.com/46p7hjk4)

The massive releases of GHG created by U.S. wars abroad are not included in the U.S. carbon account. (tinyurl.com/zzvzdr8d)

What are the consequences we — and the “august” Supreme Court justices — should be worrying about?

- Huge, destructive wildfires in the U.S., Canada, Europe, Australia;
- Extraordinary and extended cold periods — think Texas in 2021;



WW PHOTO: PADDY COLLIGAN

Iceberg in Disco Bay at the mouth of the Ilulissat Ice Fjord, Greenland. It calved from the Sermeq Kujalleq, the largest and one of the fastest moving glaciers in the northern hemisphere.

- The shrinking of the large lake systems — Great Salt Lake and Lake Chad, for example — leaving behind toxic dust to poison the land and people nearby;
- More numerous and intense storm systems, some being seen in areas previously not affected;
- Expanded insect ranges endangering humans and environments, despite a huge, recent worldwide insect die-off;
- Dramatically retreating glaciers, polar ice, thinning of the Greenland ice sheet and collapsing sections of the Antarctic ice sheets;
- Extended periods of drought in the U.S. West, India, East and West Africa;
- Intense heat waves affecting urban areas. A new study of cities in Latin America shows heat has killed nearly a million urban residents in the 21st century; earlier studies link intense heat or cold and mortality for cities in North America, Europe and China. (Pérez Ortega, Science, June 28, 2022); and
- Several recent spring times in Siberia have seen 100°F temperatures.

The list goes on and on. Yet the unelected justices in Washington are not concerned. You have to wonder just what planet they live on, that they sabotage ours. □

# Haiti: Masses take to the streets June 26

By G. Dunkel

At the call of Lavalas, a political party led by former President Jean Bertrand Aristide — who was deposed by U.S.-backed coups twice — thousands of Haitians took to the streets of Port-au-Prince June 26.

According to interviews in an AP video, besides demanding Aristide having a leading role in the transition to a reestablished functioning government, marchers were denouncing the high price of food and fuel; the increasing violence; the rampant, flagrant kidnapping of people, from women market vendors and schoolkids to doctors and lawyers; and the absence of any sort of public services.

The march began at Resistance Square near the Port-au-Prince airport and headed toward Aristide’s private house through neighborhoods where he had served as a

parish priest. The marchers want Aristide involved in resolving the current anarchy and political chaos in Haiti.

The march was so strong and large that some Haitian news sites, such as the Haitian Times and AlterPresse, wrote that only hundreds marched, in order to undermine its impact. The Al-Jazeera and the Kreyol AP videos showed thousands marching. The Lavalas executive committee released a tweet June 26 thanking the Haitian people for their response.

A post from Martinique’s television station points out that this march took place a few days after acting Prime Minister Ariel Henry visited Aristide.

Besides Henry’s visit, Helen La Lime visited Aristide June 8. La Lime’s current job is leading the United Nations Office in Haiti and representing the U.N. Secretary General. She was given her U.N. job after being a high-ranking

U.S. State Department official. She also leads the “Core Group,” a collection of ambassadors and international organizations that ensure Washington’s domination of Haiti.

## Haitians in crisis

The website of the Famine Early Warning Systems Network, run by the U.S. Agency for International Development, shows how much hunger, otherwise known as “food insecurity,” exists in Haiti. About half the country is “stressed,” and half is “in crisis.” Put another way, at least half of all Haitians regularly don’t get enough to eat and have trouble finding potable water.

The Department of Homeland Security has granted over 56,000 undocumented Haitians living in the United States under Temporary Protective Status, which allows them to work and live in the U.S., but at the same time, it has deported by air over 24,000 Haitians who didn’t meet the requirements for TPS.

Some 6,000 Haitians who have fled by boat from the northern Haitian coast have been intercepted by the U.S. Coast Guard and returned. (Miami Herald, July 1) Five or six refugee boats have managed to reach southern Florida or the Florida Keys.

The U.S. is obviously worried that Haiti could collapse, releasing a flood of refugees that would destabilize at least the



Caribbean and perhaps much of Latin America. Some U.S. officials, wanting to stem the tide of struggle and prevent it from spreading to other Caribbean nations, may be betting that Aristide can calm the coming storm. But the protest on June 26 shows he can still call tens of thousands of militants out.

David Oxygène, the leader of Moleghaf, a progressive and revolutionary Haitian organization, told Haïti-Liberté May 18, “The solution today must come from the popular masses, who must wake up and rise up to carry their popular, progressive political demands, to carry out a truly autonomous struggle to get the country out of the hole in which it finds itself.” □



Haitians demonstrate, June 26.





# La creciente furia de las masas

Decenas de miles de personas, en su mayoría jóvenes, salieron a las calles con total indignación los días 24 y 25 de junio cuando el Tribunal Supremo de Estados Unidos anuló el caso Roe contra Wade, la legalización de la protección federal del derecho al aborto durante los últimos 49 años.

Diversos grupos se apresuran a encontrar formas de garantizar el acceso al aborto a petición, incluyendo la provisión de los fondos necesarios para quienes se ven obligados a viajar cientos de kilómetros a otros estados donde las clínicas siguen proporcionando esta atención sanitaria esencial.

Esta sentencia reaccionaria y bárbara hará retroceder el reloj para las mujeres -especialmente las de color-, así como para las personas trans y no conformes con el género. Se trata de un ataque a su derecho a elegir por sí mismas a la hora de tener o no un hijo. Esta sentencia refleja cómo el patriarcado, la misoginia y el racismo están profundamente arraigados en la sociedad estadounidense.

El fallo señala un retorno a los “derechos de los estados”. En un momento de la historia de Estados Unidos, los estados tenían el derecho de esclavizar

a los africanos antes de que la Guerra Civil de Estados Unidos provocara la derrota militar de la Confederación. Un político derechista pro-vida tuvo el descaro sin paliativos de poner un signo de igualdad entre el fin del aborto y el fin de la esclavitud.

Esta comparación pretende confundir a las masas haciéndoles creer que para ser antirracista hay que estar en contra del aborto, cuando en realidad las mujeres

negras esclavizadas fueron violadas sistemáticamente por sus esclavizadores blancos y obligadas a llevar a término los embarazos resultantes, y el niño era entonces propiedad del esclavizador.

En muchas de las protestas celebradas desde el 24 de junio, no sólo había carteles

que defendían el derecho al aborto, sino también los que decían “Desfinanciar a la policía”. Había pancartas como “¡Abolir el SCOTUS!” y “¡Aborten el tribunal!” por tener el poder de tener el destino de millones de personas en sus manos.

Había pancartas que enfatizaban que el SCOTUS se preocupaba más de que la gente tuviera derecho a llevar armas que de que la gente tuviera derecho a un aborto. Esto fue en respuesta a una decisión del SCOTUS, emitida el 23 de

junio, que anuló una ley del Estado de Nueva York que prohibía a la gente llevar armas en público.

En un informe político de 1989 para una conferencia del Workes World Party/ Partido Mundo Obrero el presidente Sam Marcy declaró en respuesta al debilitamiento de Roe v. Wade por parte de la SCOTUS: “La decisión sobre el aborto confirma que siempre que la burguesía está en crisis, dejará que nueve personas, no elegidas, nombradas de por vida, decidan las cuestiones más críticas relativas a la vida en los Estados Unidos”.

Esta observación es muy oportuna hoy, cuando la burguesía y su frágil sistema se enfrentan a una crisis económica sin precedentes a escala mundial. ¿Y quién se llevará la peor parte de esta crisis? Los derechos económicos y políticos de todos los sectores de la clase trabajadora multinacional y multigénero están en la cuerda floja.

## Radicalización generalizada

Hay un viejo axioma marxista: “El ser determina la conciencia”, lo que significa que las condiciones sociales moldean la forma de pensar.

En cuanto a los ataques al derecho al aborto, a los derechos de los trabajadores y a la violencia policial contra la gente de color y ahora contra los manifestantes anti-SCOTUS, hay un gran potencial para que la conciencia de clase se desplace para crecer a escala masiva. La militancia y la escala de las protestas iniciales contra el SCOTUS no se han visto desde las consecuencias del linchamiento policial de George Floyd en mayo de 2020,

cuando millones de personas tomaron las calles durante ese verano.

Hoy, algunos están llamando en las redes sociales a una huelga general de mujeres y sus partidarios. Puede que sea un llamamiento prematuro, pero el empeoramiento de las condiciones aquí y en todo el mundo para miles de millones de personas puede justificar ese llamamiento más pronto que tarde.

Hay una ira masiva contra esta ofensiva política de la derecha rabiosa y contra la ineficacia del Partido Demócrata, que ha tenido mucho tiempo para reforzar las leyes sobre el aborto. La ira masiva expresada ahora y en los próximos meses será un importante barómetro para el resultado de las elecciones de mitad de período de noviembre.

Pero mientras estas elecciones van y vienen, lo que permanecerá son los temas de pan y mantequilla, de vida y muerte, que impulsan a las masas a las calles. Cada vez confiarán menos en las falsas promesas de los políticos capitalistas para satisfacer sus necesidades humanas, como la atención sanitaria, la vivienda, la educación, el fin de la represión estatal y el derecho a organizarse.

L.D. Barkley, uno de los líderes mártires del levantamiento de la prisión de Attica en 1971, declaró que la heroica rebelión de la prisión fue “el sonido antes de la furia”. Pues bien, lo que estamos viendo hoy en las calles, más de 50 años después, es otro recordatorio de que la furia de las masas, a pesar de los flujos y reflujos, siempre hará estragos hasta que el pueblo obtenga justicia. □

## MUNDO OBRERO editorial

*Hay una ira masiva contra esta ofensiva política de la derecha rabiosa y contra la ineficacia del Partido Demócrata.*

# El derecho a la autodefensa

Todavía estábamos conmovidos por la masacre racista en Buffalo, Nueva York, la matanza de niños en Uvalde, Texas. Luego llegó la noticia de un intento de emboscada el 11 de junio por parte de supremacistas blancos en una celebración pública del Orgullo en el Parque en Coeur d’Alene, Idaho.

Más de 30 hombres blancos del Frente Patriota acudieron al ataque desde estados de todo Estados Unidos, como Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, Michigan, Missouri, Oregón, Dakota del Sur, Texas, Utah, Washington y Wyoming. El grupo de odio se formó después de la mortal manifestación neofascista “Unite the Right” en Charlottesville, Virginia, en 2017.

Con rostros enmascarados y vestidos con “uniformes” de camiseta, pantalón y gorra de béisbol, llamaron la atención de un transeúnte, que dijo que parecía que “un pequeño ejército estaba cargando” en una furgoneta, que llevaba material antidisturbios, granadas de humo, un “plan de operaciones” y quizás otro armamento.

Se llamó a la policía, que detuvo al grupo. No hubo ataque. Y aquí quizás alguien podría decir: “Oh, bien, la policía estaba haciendo su trabajo”.

Pero este resultado casi nunca — ¡nunca! — lo que ocurre cuando se llama a la policía a un incidente que involucra a una persona o grupo oprimido.

¿Recuerdan al veterano negro en las garras del TEPT, fuera de la realidad y desnudo en Atlanta, sin nada en

las manos, que fue muerto a tiros por un policía? ¿Recuerdan cuando los policías rastrearon al supremacista blanco Dylann Roof después de que éste masacrara a nueve personas afroamericanas en el culto de su iglesia de Charleston, Carolina del Sur, y lo arrestaron sin hacerle ningún daño, invitándolo incluso a una hamburguesa de Burger King de camino a la cárcel? Estos ejemplos son interminables. Interminables.

Porque proteger a las personas no es el “trabajo” de la policía. De hecho, el Tribunal Supremo de Estados Unidos dictaminó el 27 de junio de 2005 que “la policía no tenía el deber constitucional de proteger a una persona de cualquier daño”. Ese caso se refería a una mujer que llamó a la policía después de que su marido, del que estaba separado, violara una orden de protección, secuestrara a sus tres hijas pequeñas, condujera hasta un lugar fuera de la ciudad y las matara a todas. La mujer había dicho a la policía

dónde estaba él, y ellos no hicieron nada. (New York Times, 28 de junio de 2005)

¿Cuál es el papel de la policía en el Estado capitalista? Proteger la propiedad, a los jefes y a las instituciones y organizaciones reaccionarias que sostienen ese sistema capitalista.

No podemos confiar en la policía para que nos proteja de los supremacistas blancos, de los fanáticos del género, de los queer bashers, de los que odian a las mujeres o de los que atacan a los discapacitados. A menudo, son los policías de los que tenemos que defendernos!

Como dijo Leslie Feinberg en “El derecho a defenderse”:

“Desde el violento desmantelamiento de la Reconstrucción Negra revolucionaria después de la Guerra Civil, la policía, en gran número, es llamada a proteger el derecho de los supremacistas blancos y los fascistas a reunirse y hacer públicamente su llamado al genocidio racista”. (Workers World/Mundo Obrero, 7 de diciembre de 2012)

*¿Cuál es el papel de la policía en el Estado capitalista? Proteger la propiedad, a los jefes y a las instituciones y organizaciones reaccionarias que sostienen ese sistema capitalista.*

Los trabajadores y los oprimidos tenemos derecho a defendernos. La primera línea de autodefensa -en las calles, en el trabajo- es la solidaridad entre nosotros.

La segunda es tener un plan entre nosotros sobre qué hacer en caso de ser atacados — ya sea por el jefe con intimidación o amenazas en el trabajo, o por supremacistas blancos en un evento del Día del Orgullo. Planificar con antelación y comunicarse; ser conscientes; ser solidarios; estar preparados. Es nuestro derecho defender nuestras vidas.

La mejor preparación para la autodefensa es la conciencia revolucionaria. En “Seize the Time”, Bobby Seale del Partido Pantera Negra para la Autodefensa dijo: “No combatimos el racismo con el racismo. Combatimos el racismo con solidaridad. ... Combatimos el capitalismo con el socialismo básico. Y no combatimos el imperialismo con más imperialismo. Combatimos el imperialismo con el internacionalismo proletario”. □

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