

# Residents resist millionaire developers

By Joe Piette  
Philadelphia

Darlene Foreman, a 60-year-old Black woman and one of the UC Townhomes tenant representatives, told the assembled press on July 11: “This is a fight for the Townhomes but not only the Townhomes.” It’s for people “all over the country who are facing displacement.”

Behind her were about 50 other residents and supporters holding signs or cell phones as she continued: “I will not be displaced. ... Me, the residents here and people all over the country are sick of it. So, if this fight takes today, tomorrow, next week, next month, next year, the year after that, then we’re gonna be out here fighting!”

In the background were about 15 tents, which were put up on the property’s green lawn after a “Protect the Block Party” July 9. Residents and housing activist supporters are taking turns staying overnight as part of the “We ain’t going nowhere” campaign, joining in the residents’ resistance.

During the press conference, organizers announced the housing center’s new



Residents and supporters march, Philadelphia, July 9.

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

name, as residents covered up the official 5' by 5' sign with their own new banner proclaiming “The People’s Townhomes.”

The day before, a huge white banner with black lettering was put up on the sloped roof facing 40th Street that said “Housing is a human right.”

Dominique Walker of Oakland, California-based Moms for Housing, said, “We’re here to show solidarity with the People’s Townhomes. We know firsthand what displacement looks like. In Oakland, there’s been a lot of displacement of our

Black and Brown residents. We know if we don’t resist, they will continue to do this.”

Aliyah Phelps of Moms for Housing said: “That’s something that we lose when gentrification happens — that sense of community, that sense of belonging, that sense of security that’s so important. When you lose that, you end up losing other things. Mental health deteriorates, your safety net, crime, everything.”

Resident Sheldon Davids said, “This is a special place, where our children can play safely, where our elders can access nearby

hospitals. The People’s Townhomes are located next to the 40th Street Station. Access to this major transportation hub is not a small thing; that is one of the reasons why we are not going anywhere!”

## Housing is a human right

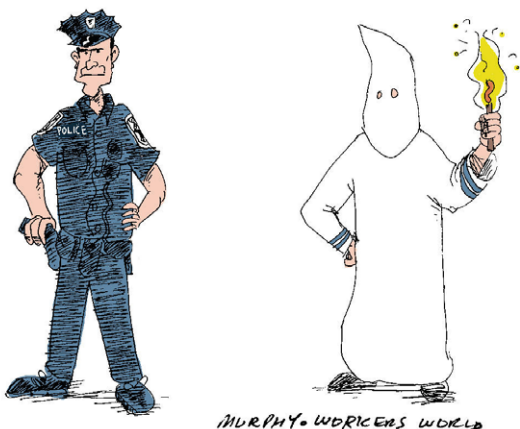
UC Townhomes residents and their supporters staged a “Families4Housing” march to kick off a summer of events on July 9. Their goal is to stop displacement of 68 West Philly families from the low-income housing units near the University of Pennsylvania and Drexel University, which is targeted for development by gentrifiers.

Just before the march began to form up, Philadelphia drum group Positive Movement Entertainment Drumline circled through the crowd, getting everyone’s attention with their powerful drum beats. Soon after as the march started, Krystal Strong led with chants of: “When Townhomes are under attack, what do we do — stand up, fight back!”

The marchers took a circular route that led them by the campuses. At 38th and Chestnut streets, UC Townhomes resident Darlene Foreman started a chant as marchers blocked a trolley and automobile traffic for 15 minutes. “They’re holding up our lives; we’re holding up the traffic.”

Continued on page 8

One of these things is just like the other



MURPHY • WORKERS WORLD

Protests  
continue  
against  
killer cops 3



Women’s March ‘Summer of Rage’ kicked off in Washington, D.C., July 9.

Biden’s order ‘too little, too late’ 5

July 4: Nothing to celebrate 6

Mobilizing and striking 6-7

‘How we stay free’ 10

Editorial: Bring Brittney home 10

4-5

TEAR DOWN THE WALLS

‘20th century  
escaped  
slave’  
U.S. enslaved  
labor today

Assata Shakur



# Houston welcomes Pastors for Peace caravan

By Gloria Rubac  
Houston

Houston activists welcomed the IFCO (Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization) Pastors for Peace caravan July 9. Angie Langdon and Mario Galvan were greeted with dinner and over a dozen boxes of medical aid for Cuba.

Langdon is Social Media Coordinator for Pastors for Peace. As guest speaker, she explained the blockade and why they were defying the U.S. government by taking aid to Cuba and taking people to see firsthand what life on the socialist island is really like.

Galvan had bought a new van so he could travel the Southwest route, which began in New Mexico, then made stops in Oklahoma City and Dallas before arriving in Houston. After they left Houston, they headed to Louisiana. There are three caravan routes which will converge in Miami; and the caravan will then be in Cuba from July 16-30.

Since 1992, IFCO/Pastors for Peace has organized 31 Friendshipment caravans to Cuba. With each caravan



Houston activists welcome Pastors for Peace caravan, July 9.

and each successive effort made to resist the 60-year U.S. economic blockade of Cuba, the U.S. government has been compelled to back down, to relent and to soften its enforcement of the blockade.

Pastors for Peace takes humanitarian aid donated by the people of the U.S. to the people of Cuba. And they take people to Cuba in defiance of the U.S. blockade. See ifconews.org/news-events/ for more information about the Friendshipment caravans to Cuba. □

# Atlanta marks 40th anniversary of Mumia’s incarceration

By Dianne Mathiowetz  
Atlanta

To mark the 40th anniversary of political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal being sentenced to death, the film “Long Distance Revolutionary” was screened in Atlanta July 3. After decades of political and legal struggle, Mumia’s death sentence was overturned, although he remains incarcerated in Pennsylvania’s hellholes called prisons.

Recently released Black liberation leader, Jalil Montaqim was a special guest and encouraged all efforts to free Mumia. The event, in solidarity with the call by LoveNotPhear, was sponsored by the Imam Jamil Action



Brother Jalil, holding one side of the ‘Long Distance Revolutionary’ movie poster.

Network (IJAN), Workers World Party, Community Movement Builders, Black Alliance for Peace-Atlanta Chapter and the Atlanta Coalition in Defense of Black Lives. The evening ended with a rousing litany of “Free Them All!” chants. □

# Join us in the fight for socialism!

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

Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world and the planet itself in the neverending quest for ever-greater profits.

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

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

- National Office**  
147 W. 24th St., 2nd floor  
New York, NY 10011  
212.627.2994  
wwp@workers.org
- Atlanta**  
PO Box 18123  
Atlanta, GA 30316  
404.627.0185  
atlanta@workers.org
- Austin**  
austin@workers.org
- Bay Area**  
P.O. Box 22947  
Oakland, CA 94609  
510.394.2207  
bayarea@workers.org
- Boston**  
284 Amory St.  
Boston, MA 02130  
617.522.6626  
boston@workers.org
- Buffalo, N.Y.**  
335 Richmond Ave.  
Buffalo, NY 14222  
716.883.2534  
buffalo@workers.org
- Central Gulf Coast**  
(Alabama, Florida, Mississippi)  
centralgulfcoast@workers.org

- Cleveland**  
cleveland@workers.org
- Durham, N.C.**  
919.322.9970  
durham@workers.org
- Houston**  
P.O. Box 3454  
Houston, TX 77253-3454  
713.503.2633  
houston@workers.org
- Minnesota**  
minnesota@workers.org
- Philadelphia**  
P.O. Box 34249  
Philadelphia, PA 19101  
610.931.2615  
phila@workers.org
- Portland, Ore.**  
portland@workers.org
- Salt Lake City**  
801.750.0248  
slc@workers.org
- San Antonio**  
sanantonio@workers.org
- West Virginia**  
WestVirginia@workers.org

# MUNDO OBRERO WORKERS WORLD this week

- ♦ In the U.S.**  
Fight to save the UC People’s Townhomes! . . . . .1  
Houston welcomes Pastors for Peace caravan . . . .2  
Marking 40 years of Mumia’s incarceration. . . . .2  
Protests over cop murder of Jayland Walker . . . .3  
Another Houston police murder . . . . .3  
Community forces out Tamir Rice’s killer . . . . .3  
Abortion access: don’t agonize — organize . . . . .5  
Mobilizing against Amazon — across borders . . . .6  
We should not be celebrating the 4th of July . . . .6  
On the Picket Line . . . . .7  
Striking Starbucks workers turn up the heat . . . .7  
WW photographer on panel . . . . .10
- ♦ Around the world**  
Humanitarian crisis in England? . . . . . 8  
G7, NATO and BRICS summits. . . . .9  
Ous Jabeur: a trailblazer. . . . .11  
Haiti’s president assassinated a year ago . . . . .11  
Abe’s killing spotlights Japan’s global role . . . . .11
- ♦ Tear down the walls**  
Assata: ‘I am a 20th century escaped slave’ . . . . .4  
Who really profits from ‘forced labor’? . . . . .5
- ♦ Editorial**  
The campaign to bring Brittney Griner home . . .10
- ♦ Noticias en Español**  
El Título IX . . . . .12  
Hambre en África Oriental . . . . .12

Workers World  
147 W. 24th St., 2nd Fl.  
New York, NY 10011  
Phone: 212.627.2994  
E-mail: ww@workers.org  
Web: www.workers.org



Vol. 64, No. 28 • July 14, 2022  
Closing date: July 13, 2022

Editors: John Catalinotto, Martha Grevatt, Deirdre Griswold, Monica Moorehead, Betsey Piette, Minnie Bruce Pratt

Web Editors: ABear, Harvey Markowitz, Janet Mayes

*Tear Down the Walls!* Editors: Mirinda Crissman, Ted Kelly

Production & Design Editors: Gery Armsby, Sasha Mazumder

Copyediting and Proofreading: Paddy Colligan, S. Hedgecoke

Contributing Editors: LeiLani Dowell, G. Dunkel, K. Durkin, Sara Flounders, Gloria Rubac

Mundo Obrero: Carlos Vargas

Copyright © 2022 Workers World. Verbatim copying and distribution of articles is permitted in any medium without royalty provided this notice is preserved.

Workers World (ISSN-1070-4205) is published monthly by WW Publishers, 147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl., New York, NY 10011. Phone: 212.627.2994. Subscriptions: One year: \$36; institutions: \$50. Letters to the editor may be condensed and edited. Articles can be freely reprinted, with credit to Workers World, 147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl., New York, NY 10011. Back issues and individual articles are available on microfilm and/or photocopy from NA Publishing, Inc, P.O. Box 998, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-0998. A searchable archive is available on the Web at www.workers.org.

A headline digest is available via e-mail subscription. Subscription information is at workers.org.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, N.Y.  
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Workers World, 147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl. New York, N.Y. 10011.



# Despite police attacks, protests continue over cop murder of Jayland Walker

By Martha Grevatt

The racist police lynching of Jayland Walker in Akron, Ohio, on June 27 sparked a wave of protests that shows no signs of letting up. Walker, a 25-year-old Black man who worked as a DoorDash driver, was shot around 60 times by eight police, who fired 90 shots as Walker fled on foot from the scene.

The city administration, which has yet to release the names of the murdering cops, has instead imposed harsh repression against activists. Dozens of protesters have been arrested and brutalized, while a curfew in downtown Akron remains in effect as of this writing.

About 50 peaceful demonstrators were arrested July 4 — so-called “Independence Day” — after being tear-gassed and confronted by cops in riot gear and armored vehicles. Charges include rioting and disorderly conduct. Northeast Ohio progressives mobilized solidarity, providing jail support and within days crowdsourcing all the funds needed to post bond for everyone arrested.

In a video interview, one arrested person described seeing activists visibly injured, including one with an apparent



Akron, Ohio, July 3

WW PHOTO: MARTHA GREVATT

dislocated shoulder, who was not receiving medical attention. The interview revealed that protesters were at one point shackled together at the ankles. When the Summit County jail in Akron was filled to capacity, some people were transferred out of the county to the Stark County jail. Upon release, a number of people were driven around Akron by sheriffs, who then dumped them at remote locations.

Seven more people were arrested and assaulted on July 6. By this time out-of-state activists had traveled to Akron to show solidarity with Walker’s family and the Akron community. Among the arrested were Bianca Austin, aunt of Breonna Taylor, who was murdered by Louisville, Kentucky, police in 2020 and

Jacob Blake Sr., father of Jacob Blake Jr., shot and paralyzed by Kenosha, Wisconsin, cops in 2020.

Beaten by Akron police and suffering a seizure that required hospitalization, Blake Sr. spoke at a July 9 rally: “When I woke in the hospital, I was more determined than ever. We cannot let fear dictate what we do. ... We refuse to be stepped on any more!” (Akron Freedom BLOC)

As Ohio’s Black Lives Matter movement grows in numbers and militancy, the repressive arm of the white-supremacist ruling class continues to flex its muscles. The Ohio House passed House Bill 109, which lets police arbitrarily categorize a protest as a “riot.” HB 109 creates new “crimes” for participants in such protests.

### People demand justice!

After the arrests of Blake, Austin and others, the Akron Freedom BLOC (Black Led Organizing Collaborative), Serve the People Akron and Akron Democratic Socialists of America held a joint news conference to release 12 demands:

“The Establishment of an Independent Truth and Reconciliation Commission to investigate Jayland Walker’s murder and others killed by the Akron Police Department; release the names of all

officers involved in the murder of Jayland Walker, cut their administrative leave, fire them, prosecute them immediately; abolish the deployment of tear gas, pepper spray, rubber bullets in City Code Section 35.17; disarm any police or security forces deployed to meet protests or assemblies; release all memorandums of understanding and current, in-place contracts between the City of Akron and the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 7 and Regional Branch of the Fraternal Order of Police;

“Release a financial breakdown of all expenditures of dollars and contracts executed to meet protestors and assemblies over the last week; legislate the abolition of curfews; legislate the abolition of police chases, eliminate traffic stops for all traffic violations; legislate the immediate release of officer-involved incidents; stop arresting peaceful protestors, immediately release all protestors from all jails and holding institutions, expunge the records and clear the bail and fines of all those arrested for protesting over the last week; create a Citizens Review Board for the police, with power to subpoena and members selected strictly by local organizations; and create a Citizen-led Commission to study and strategize the defunding and abolition of the Akron Police Department, municipal holding centers and jails.” (list abridged) □

# Another Houston police murder

By Gloria Rubac  
Houston

“Say his name! Jalen Randle.” This chant went on for over 45 minutes, on the way to and outside of the downtown Houston Police headquarters. The crowd had marched from City Hall, and their chants were echoing off the skyscrapers.

Randle’s parents and family members were joined by 50 friends and activists July 2 to protest this latest cop killing in Houston. They were demanding the firing and arrest of the cop who murdered their son.

Jalen Randle, a young Black man, was assassinated by a cop who was chasing him on foot on April 27. The cop, Shane Privette, pointed his gun at Randle and gave him



Jalen Randle’s father Warren Randle at rally July 2.

WW PHOTO: MARTHA GREVATT

commands to show his hands. The camera worn by Privette shows the officer getting out of his vehicle, giving a command to Randle but then shooting him in the back of the neck before finishing his sentence.

When Randle fell to the ground, Privette shouted, “Oh shit!” Randle’s body was then handcuffed and dragged to the sidewalk. In comments captured on the body camera video less than a minute before the shooting, Privette said, “He ain’t leaving this neighborhood alive.”

During a press conference outside the District Attorney’s office in early June, civil rights attorney Ben Crump said, “The release of this footage, while heartbreaking for the family of Jalen Randle, gives us a clearer picture of what happened to Jalen in his final moments. The brutality displayed in this video is extremely disturbing — from the officer firing a deadly shot, seemingly as he ordered Jalen to put his hands up, to the way they handcuffed and dragged his lifeless body across the ground.” Crump was hired by Randle’s

family to investigate his death.

Much of the press conference covered Officer Privette’s prior uses of force. He was indicted by a grand jury in 2017 for allegedly kneeling a Black drug suspect in the face. Those charges were thrown out, but a federal civil suit related to the incident is ongoing.

The crowd demonstrating at the police headquarters July 2 was so militant that many dozens of police surrounded the protest. Randle’s father put his face into the faces of the cops, all the while loudly chanting his son’s name.

“I’m furious; I am furious. I’ve cried all I can,” said Tiffany Rachel, Randle’s mother. “Now I need to tell y’all that I am mad, and I need to get justice for my child.”

She announced that they would be holding a town hall meeting soon. □

# Community outrage forces resignation of cop who killed Tamir Rice

By Betsey Piette

Timothy Loehmann, the cop who killed 12-year-old Tamir Rice in Cleveland in 2014, was sworn in as Tioga, Pennsylvania’s lone police officer July 5. On July 6, protesters demonstrated outside the north Pennsylvania Tioga Borough office. The firestorm of outrage from borough residents and others forced Loehmann’s resignation July 7.

Borough Mayor David Wilcox, who swore him in while acknowledging Loehmann was the cop fired by Cleveland, claimed the council hadn’t allowed him to see Loehmann’s resume when

he was hired. (SunGazette.com, July 7)

On Nov. 22, 2014, Rice, a Black child, was outside a Cleveland recreation center with a pellet gun. Responding to a 911-call, Loehmann and his partner Officer Frank Garmback pulled up to the gazebo where Rice was playing with the pellet gun. Loehmann shot and killed Rice within 12 seconds of exiting his car.

While both officers claimed they gave Rice several warning commands, there were no witnesses to corroborate their story. In conflicting accounts, the officers said Rice was “holding the pellet gun” and that Rice was

“reaching for the gun.”

Nonetheless a 2015 grand jury failed to indict Loehmann. In 2017, he was fired for neglecting to disclose he had been allowed to quit his job with the Independence, Ohio, police department, after showing “a dangerous lack of composure” during firearms training.

In October 2018, a decision by the Bellaire, Ohio, police chief to hire Loehmann also led to community protests that forced Loehmann to withdraw his application.

In July 2021, the Ohio Supreme Court denied Loehmann’s appeal to get his job back. However, this January the U.S. Department of

Justice refused to reopen the case against the two officers. The Department had quietly closed the case in 2020, while President Donald Trump was in office.

Samaria Rice, Tamir’s mother, said: “He [Loehmann] shouldn’t be a police officer anywhere in the United States.” The family’s attorney Subodh Chandra stated: “While it’s great that Loehmann will not be inflicting himself with a badge and a gun upon Tioga, borough officials need to be held accountable for their appallingly poor judgment and ineptitude. ... This game of whack-a-mole with Loehmann shamelessly resurfacing as a cop elsewhere must end.” (Philly.com, July 8) □





On her 75th birthday

# Assata Shakur: ‘I am a 20th century escaped slave’

By Assata Shakur

*In honor of Assata Shakur’s 75th birthday on July 16, WW is reprinting this slightly edited version of her open letter, first posted on Dec. 30, 2014. The FBI put out a \$2 million bounty for her recapture almost 50 years ago.*

My name is Assata Shakur, and I am a 20th century escaped slave. Because of government persecution, I was left with no other choice than to flee from the political repression, racism and violence that dominate the U.S. government’s policy toward people of color. I am an ex-political prisoner, and I have been living in exile in Cuba since 1984.

I have been a political activist most of my life, and although the U.S. government has done everything in its power to criminalize me, I am not a criminal, nor have I ever been one. In the 1960s, I participated in various struggles: the Black Liberation Movement, the student rights movement and the movement to end the war in Vietnam. I joined the Black Panther Party.

By 1969, the Black Panther Party had become the number one organization targeted by the FBI’s COINTELPRO program. Because the Black Panther Party demanded the total liberation of Black people, J. Edgar Hoover called it “the greatest threat to the internal security of the country” and vowed to destroy it and its leaders and activists.

In 1978, my case was one of many cases brought before the United Nations Organization in a petition filed by the National Conference of Black Lawyers, the National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression and the United Church of Christ Commission for Racial Justice, exposing the existence of political prisoners in the United States, their political persecution and the cruel and inhuman treatment they receive in U.S. prisons. According to the report:

“The FBI and the New York Police Department, in particular, charged and accused Assata Shakur of participating in attacks on law enforcement personnel and widely circulated such charges and accusations among police agencies and units. The FBI and the NYPD further charged her as being a leader of the Black Liberation Army, which the government and its respective agencies described as an organization engaged in the shooting of police officers.

“This description of the Black Liberation Army and the accusation of Assata Shakur’s relationship to it was widely circulated by government agents among police agencies and units. As a result of these activities by the government, Ms. Shakur became a hunted person; posters in police precincts and banks described her as being involved in serious criminal activities; she was highlighted on the FBI’s most wanted list; and to police at all levels, she became a ‘shoot-to-kill’ target.”

I was falsely accused in six different “criminal cases,” and in all six of these cases, I was eventually acquitted or the charges were dismissed. The fact that I was acquitted or that the charges were dismissed did not mean that I received justice in the courts; that was certainly not the case. It only meant that the “evidence” presented against me was so flimsy and false that my innocence became evident. This political persecution was part and parcel of the government’s policy of eliminating political opponents by charging them with crimes and arresting them with no regard to the factual basis of such charges.

## Political frame-up

On May 2, 1973, I along with Zayd Malik Shakur and Sundiata Acoli were stopped on the New Jersey Turnpike, supposedly for a “faulty tail-light.” Sundiata Acoli got out of the car to determine why we were stopped. Zayd and I remained in the car. State trooper [James] Harper then came to the car, opened the door and began to question us.

Because we were Black and riding in a car with Vermont license plates, he claimed he became “suspicious.” He then drew his gun, pointed it at us and told us to put our hands up in the air, in front of us, where he could see them. I complied, and in a split second, there

was a sound that came from outside the car; there was a sudden movement, and I was shot once with my arms held up in the air and then once again from the back.

Zayd Malik Shakur was later killed; trooper Werner Foerster was killed; and even though trooper Harper admitted that he shot and killed Zayd Malik Shakur, under the New Jersey felony murder law, I was charged with killing both Zayd Malik Shakur, who was my closest friend and comrade, and charged in the death of trooper

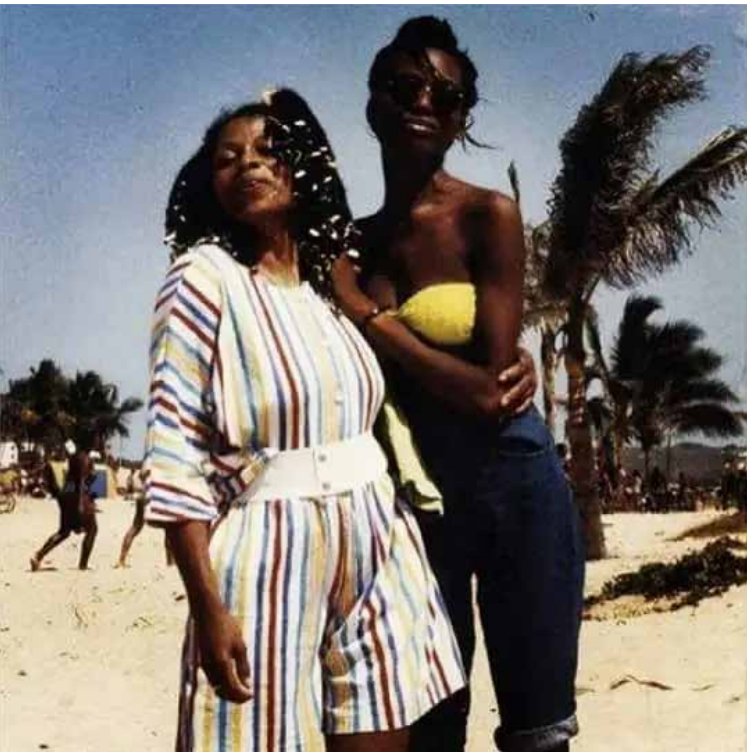


PHOTO VIA SOCIAL MEDIA FROM ARTIST, LIBRARIAN, HEALER OLA RONKE

Assata Shakur and her daughter Kakuya in Cuba

Foerster. Never in my life have I felt such grief. Zayd had vowed to protect me and to help me to get to a safe place, and it was clear that he had lost his life trying to protect both me and Sundiata.

Although he was also unarmed, and the gun that killed trooper Foerster was found under Zayd’s leg, Sundiata Acoli, who was captured later, was also charged with

***Like most poor and oppressed people in the United States, I do not have a voice. Black people, poor people in the U.S. have no real freedom of speech, no real freedom of expression and very little freedom of the press. The Black press and the progressive media have historically played an essential role in the struggle for social justice. We need to continue and to expand that tradition. We need to create media outlets that help to educate our people and our children and not annihilate their minds.***

both deaths. Neither Sundiata Acoli nor I ever received a fair trial. We were both convicted in the news media way before our trials. No news media were ever permitted to interview us, although the New Jersey police and the FBI fed stories to the press on a daily basis.

In 1977, I was convicted by an all-white jury and sentenced to life plus 33 years in prison. In 1979, fearing

that I would be murdered in prison, and knowing that I would never receive any justice, I was liberated from prison, aided by committed comrades who understood the depths of the injustices in my case and who were also extremely fearful for my life.

The U.S. Senate’s 1976 Church Commission report on intelligence operations inside the USA revealed that, “The FBI has attempted covertly to influence the public’s perception of persons and organizations by disseminating derogatory information to the press, either anonymously or through ‘friendly’ news contacts.” This same policy is evidently still very much in effect today.

On Dec. 24, 1997, the New Jersey State Police called a press conference to announce that New Jersey State Police had written a letter to Pope John Paul II asking him to intervene on their behalf and to aid in having me extradited back to New Jersey prisons. The New Jersey State Police refused to make their letter public. Knowing that they had probably totally distorted the facts and attempted to get the Pope to do the devil’s work in the name of religion, I decided to write the Pope to inform him about the reality of “justice” for Black people in the state of New Jersey and in the United States.

## ‘All I have is my voice’

In January of 1998, during the Pope’s visit to Cuba, I agreed to do an interview with NBC journalist Ralph Penza around my letter to the Pope, about my experiences in the New Jersey court system and about the changes I saw in the United States and its treatment of Black people in the last 25 years. I agreed to do this interview because I saw this secret letter to the Pope as a vicious, vulgar publicity maneuver on the part of the New Jersey State Police and as a cynical attempt to manipulate Pope John Paul II.

I have lived in Cuba for many years and was completely out of touch with the sensationalist, dishonest nature of the establishment media today. It is worse today than it was 30 years ago. After years of being victimized by the “establishment” media, it was naive of me to hope that I might finally get the opportunity to tell “my side of the story.”

Instead of an interview with me, what took place was a “staged media event” in three parts, full of distortions, inaccuracies and outright lies. NBC purposely misrepresented the facts. Not only did NBC spend thousands of dollars promoting this “exclusive interview series” on NBC, they also spent a great deal of money advertising this “exclusive interview” on Black radio stations and also placed notices in local newspapers. ...

Like most poor and oppressed people in the United States, I do not have a voice. Black people, poor people in the U.S. have no real freedom of speech, no real freedom of expression and very little freedom of the press. The Black press and the progressive media have historically played an essential role in the struggle for social justice. We need to continue and to expand that tradition. We need to create media outlets that help to educate our people and our children and not annihilate their minds.

I am only one woman. I own no TV stations or radio stations or newspapers. But I feel that people need to be educated as to what is going on and to understand the connection between the news media and the instruments of repression in Amerika. All I have is my voice, my spirit and the will to tell the truth. But I sincerely ask those of you in the Black media, those of you in the progressive media, those of you who believe in truth and freedom, to publish this statement and to let people know what is happening. We have no voice, so you must be the voice of the voiceless.

Free All Political Prisoners. I Send You Love and Revolutionary Greetings from Cuba, One of the Largest, Most Resistant and Most Courageous Palenques (Maroon Camps) That Has Ever Existed on the Face of This Planet.

Assata Shakur, Havana, Cuba  
Oct. 5, 2013





# Who really profits from ‘forced labor’?

By Betsey Piette

First signed by President Joe Biden in December, the “Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act” took effect June 23. Under this latest anti-China measure, all goods made in Xinjiang province are banned, unless the importer can demonstrate the imports were produced “free of forced labor.” The ban also impacts programs that transport Uyghur workers to job sites.

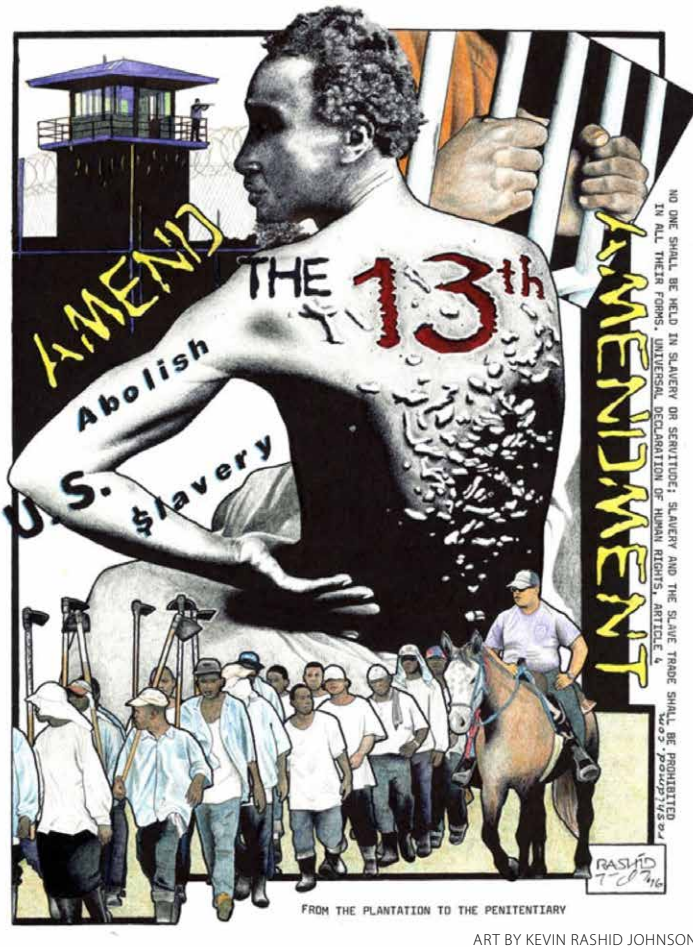
The new law could affect a handful of companies or far more. Its implementation could result in more detention of goods at the U.S. border, further delaying product deliveries and further fueling inflation. Hardest hit will be U.S. industries that rely on the import of commodities using lithium, nickel manganese, beryllium copper and gold mined in Xinjiang. These include manufacturers of solar panels, auto companies and energy firms.

This latest U.S. anti-China propaganda campaign is based on unsubstantiated claims that Uyghur people were forced to take up new jobs in industries recently relocated to Xinjiang.

However, if U.S. politicians and anti-China lobbyists are genuinely concerned about protecting people from being subjected to “forced labor,” they should look no further than the U.S. prison-industrial complex. According to a report the American Civil Liberties Union released June 15, incarcerated workers in the U.S. produce roughly \$11 billion in goods and services each year but receive pennies an hour in “wages” for their work.

Jennifer Turner, principal author of the report stated: “The United States has a long, problematic history of using incarcerated workers as a source of cheap labor and to subsidize the costs of our bloated prison system. Incarcerated workers are stripped of even the most minimal protections against labor exploitation and abuse. They are paid pennies for their work in often unsafe working conditions, even as they produce billions of dollars for states and the federal government.”

In the U.S., which imprisons a higher percentage of its population than any other country, roughly 800,000 people are subject to this forced labor, making roughly



ART BY KEVIN RASHID JOHNSON

13 cents to 52 cents per hour. In Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina and Texas, incarcerated workers are essentially enslaved — paid nothing for their labor.

Over 75% of incarcerated workers interviewed by the ACLU told researchers that if they refuse to work, they are subjected to punishment, including solitary confinement, loss of family visits and denial of reduced sentences.

The Global Times, which is publishing a series of stories to expose the U.S. as a real “contemporary slavery empire,” says that this exploitation of incarcerated workers “plainly demonstrates the U.S.’s real disregard for basic human rights and their brutal exploitation of the

country’s workforce.”

The 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, passed on Jan. 31, 1865, while abolishing enslavement actually allowed enslavement to remain legal, as “a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted.” This amendment lets the government legally impose forced labor on incarcerated workers across the country.

## Prison labor insourcing

Part of the problem for the U.S. enforcement of the anti-China labor ban is identifying what companies produce goods involving Uyghur labor in Xinjiang province. But it is very easy to find what U.S. companies are profiting directly from privatizing prisons or exploiting prison labor.

A majority of the labor performed by exploited prisoner-workers directly benefits the states managing prisons. Incarcerated workers are forced to perform various tasks from food preparation to laundry services. But many private companies profit as well.

Two major companies — Core Civic and Geo Group — are the giants of the U.S. private prison industry. Core Civic recognized \$526 million in annual gross profits in 2021. Geo Group made \$628 million. But these companies are not alone in profiting from prisons.

A Feb. 15 report by CareerAddict.com estimated that 4,200 large corporations use over 600,000 incarcerated workers to produce goods and services. There are several well-known companies on this list. McDonalds and Wendy’s use prison labor to produce frozen beef patties and other products. Calls to Verizon, Sprint or Avis for service may be answered by incarcerated workers.

Walmart and Starbucks use enslaved prison labor to cut down their costs of producing goods and services. Prison labor produces circuit boards for Compaq. For years Aramark has used incarcerated workers to prepare and package most food items used in prisons. In 2019 Aramark was sued for using “involuntary servitude” — they were not paying incarcerated workers anything.

Politicians could amend the 13th Amendment to remove the prison labor exclusion clause. Biden could take measures to end contracts with private prison companies. But none of this is likely to happen under capitalism.

Those genuinely concerned about “forced labor” should be on board with the movement to abolish prisons. □

## WW COMMENTARY

# Abortion access: don’t agonize—organize!

By Kathy Durkin

Thousands of women and people of all genders, nationalities and ages, who gathered in Washington, D.C., on July 9, turned out to protest the outrageous decision handed down by the Supreme Court on June 24, outlawing abortions. By a 5-4 vote, the reactionary, unelected, appointed-for-life justices nullified the legal right to access abortions, overturning the court’s decision in the 1973 Roe v. Wade case. Unsurprisingly, their opinion is rife with arrogance and misogyny.

Hundreds of protesters risked arrest at the White House gate, objecting to the Court’s ruling and to state abortion bans, which are cruel, tyrannical and dismissive of the rights of pregnant people to bodily autonomy, decision-making and safe medical care. These render women and others who can become pregnant subordinate to the rule of misogynist, racist and classist judges, legislators and governors.

Demonstrators pressured the Biden administration to protect abortion rights, and they were dissatisfied with his inaction and ambiguous executive order issued July 8. They demanded he declare a public health emergency on abortion, which could free up federal funds for local governments to expand access and codify reproductive rights through executive action. Biden wants Congress to do this, but activists aim to push him as far as possible.

Democrats are in disarray over what to do about the SCOTUS ruling. It took two weeks after the Court’s final opinion was publicized for the

Biden administration to respond with some measures, although ultraright Justice Samuel Alito’s draft opinion was leaked May 2.

When SCOTUS issued its thoroughly horrific, anti-woman decision, it enraged the millions of people who support legal abortion and the many who will be personally affected by the Court’s ruling.

Biden’s administration is not treating this as a public health emergency. But it is.

## Fury at SCOTUS decision

Biden spoke July 8 because he had to respond to the rage unleashed countrywide against the Supreme Court ruling. His comments disappointed the majority who want the administration to propose a concrete plan to protect abortion rights.

He outlined measures his administration would implement to protect abortion rights through a presidential executive order. These are supposed to ensure access to reproductive health care, including medication abortion

(by pills), emergency contraception and protection of patients’ privacy. But how all of this will be done is unclear.

And what will the administration do with Republican-led states that ban medication abortions, when the federal Food and Drug Administration has mandated their use for all U.S. residents? Will the administration fight back if recalcitrant states defy the FDA rules? And how will pregnant people who travel out of state for abortions get federal legal protection?

What Biden said was vague and no comfort to those who will need abortion services. What was not vague was that his administration will not intervene to reverse the horrific bans enacted by conservatives in half the states. This is a terrible blow.

Coming up with a plan of action within 30 days, based on “existing” laws, was relegated to Secretary of Health and Human Services Xavier Becerra, who said there is no “magic bullet” to restore abortion access.

Biden could galvanize his administration to strengthen abortion services in states where the procedure is legal,

support doctors facing medical and legal dilemmas and help pregnant people travel out of state or obtain abortion pills online. The administration must be adamant that all medical emergencies, whether ectopic abortions, miscarriages or infections, can be treated in hospitals without punitive retaliation.

## Need for action, not words

Angry pro-choice activists, especially youth, want action, not words. When Biden was pushed to do more to protect the right to abortion, his response



Women’s March for abortion rights, Washington, D.C., July 9.

Continued on page 7



# Workers mobilize against Amazon – across borders

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

Despite ferocious union-busting attacks, Amazon workers continue to organize and move forward – with recent noteworthy progress from the U.S. South to the Mexican border.

On July 7, More Perfect Union broke the news on Twitter that workers at Amazon warehouse SDF1 in Campbellsville, Kentucky, are affiliating with the Amazon Labor Union.

On April 1, the ALU, under Black leadership, won a historic victory as the first Amazon union in the U.S. to win an NLRB-supervised election, at the Staten Island, New York, JFK1 warehouse. Yet Amazon refuses to recognize the ALU, despite the lopsided vote in the union’s favor. The company has filed 25 “objections” with the NLRB in an attempt to have the vote thrown out, subjecting union leaders to a torturous hearing far away in Phoenix, which has dragged on for weeks.

The Kentucky Amazon facility, which employs about 1,000 people, was one of the first Amazon warehouses built in the U.S. About 600 of the workers are eligible to vote in the National Labor Relations Board election.

Matt Littrell, 22, a picker at SDF1 and chair of the local organizing committee, said workers there are making “good progress” building support and could petition the NLRB for a vote “maybe within the next six months.” (wdrv.com/news, July 7)

Charges against Amazon for union-busting activities were filed May 6 on behalf of the Campbellsville workers, including for coercive actions like surveillance and illegal “changes in terms and conditions of employment.”

Inspired by the ALU, Amazon workers launched a union drive in March at the RDU1 warehouse at Garner, North Carolina, in the Raleigh-Durham area. Organized as CAUSE (Carolina Amazonians United For Solidarity and Empowerment), workers are dynamic on the ground and on social media, pointing out that Amazon pays workers so little that some workers have to sleep in their cars.



An organizing flyer at Amazon’s SAN3 warehouse at the Otay Mesa, California, border crossing between Tijuana, Mexico, and San Diego.

On July 6, in the organization’s Twitter video, Amazon worker “Darren” said that RDU1 reminds him of his time in prison, “from the constant surveillance, short breaks, harassment by racist security guards, to the cheap labor.”

In March just before the ALU’s epic New York win, Amazon workers in Bessemer, Alabama, voted for the second time on whether to become a local of the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union. In February 2021, those BHM1 warehouse workers were the first to hold a NLRB union election at an Amazon facility in the U.S. Bessemer, an old steel-producing and labor union town, adjoins the city of Birmingham.

Despite the initial loss, workers continued to relentlessly organize. The 2022 March vote in Bessemer was so close, the outcome is still undecided as of July, with disputed ballots to determine the outcome.

### Solidarity across the border

Amazon warehouse workers who have had to commute as much as five hours a day on foot, from Tijuana, Mexico, to the SAN3 warehouse in San Diego, have initiated

independent worker-led actions, winning some concessions from the company. (Vice, July 8, [tinyurl.com/45a34aam](https://tinyurl.com/45a34aam))

About 1,500 people work at the warehouse near the Otay Mesa, California, border crossing, the majority of them coming to work from Mexico. Since September 2021, when the facility opened, workers have demanded a \$2-an-hour raise, transportation from the border, limits on mandatory overtime, more break time and onsite COVID-19 testing.

After the company ignored a March petition, the group Las Peticiones formed to push for worker demands. In April they won free daily bus service from the border to the warehouse, paid for by Amazon.

Organizing continues for the workers’ other demands in the independent union pattern first initiated in 2018 against Amazon at the Fulfillment Center in Shakopee, Minnesota, half an hour from downtown Minneapolis.

There Amazon warehouse workers from the Somali community became the first to successfully push Amazon to bargain over working conditions, such as prayer rooms for Muslim workers and reduced productivity quotas during Ramadan. Those Shakopee warehouse workers went out on strike against Amazon on Prime Day in 2019. (“We are not robots!’ Somali workers back down Amazon,” Workers World, Dec. 22, 2018. [tinyurl.com/yc5sxhku](https://tinyurl.com/yc5sxhku))

Workers are on the move throughout Amazon in the U.S., increasingly winning through the international character and growing solidarity of the working class. Follow Workers World for news on more developments — and more victories.

*The ALU has asked supporters to attend the virtual NLRB hearing in solidarity. Register at [tinyurl.com/msc2cakk](https://tinyurl.com/msc2cakk)*

# We should not be celebrating the 4th of July

By Arjae Red

*Below is an edited speech gave at the “We reject your 4th” pro-choice demonstration in Buffalo, New York.*

With the overturning of Roe v. Wade weighing heavily on a lot of people right now, many are choosing to not celebrate the 4th of July today. This egregious assault on reproductive rights has shown millions of people that this country views them only as property of a patriarchal capitalist system and that no mainstream political party is willing to defend the interests of the people.

While we should welcome those who have come to this realization as a necessary part of elevating our political consciousness, we must make something abundantly clear for those who haven’t already been saying it all this time. This country did not become unfree the day Roe was overturned. Freedom has never existed for the majority of the population here. Black and Indigenous people have been considered property and “savage” (so stated in the Declaration of Independence) since European colonizers arrived on these shores, more than 500 years ago in search of colonial and later capitalist expansion.

This is a country built on stolen land drenched in the blood of untold millions of Indigenous peoples, who were slain and driven onto reservations, often a tiny fraction of their original lands, where they lack clean water, adequate housing and access to healthy food — reservations that are assaulted by oil pipelines and some even effectively turned into nuclear dump sites from the tailings left from uranium mining that poison whole communities.

This is a country built on the backs of Black people who were stolen from their homelands, enslaved and had their culture and families torn away from them. A whole economy built on enslavement

persists up until this day, with prisons taking the place of plantations. A country whose own constitution proclaims Black people to be only three-fifths of a human being. A country that has persecuted Black freedom fighters and holds political prisoners like Mumia Abu-Jamal captive.

This is a country that dropped two atomic bombs on Japanese cities, killing hundreds of thousands of civilians, making many more sick for generations. A country that had concentration camps for Japanese people forcibly removed from their communities.

### Injustice continues

Even today, this country maintains concentration camps in the form of prisons and ICE detention centers. Biden did not close the camps, which were expanded by Republicans. Former President Barack Obama did not close Guantanamo Bay, as he said he would. This war on immigrants continues with 53 migrant workers dying from extreme heat in a locked semitruck just the other day.

This country wages endless imperialist wars all over the world, killing immeasurable millions through warfare and sanctions. Roughly 1.5 million people were killed during the occupation of Iraq alone, with half a million children killed mostly through starvation — an effect of U.S. sanctions.

Many other countries like Cuba suffer from crippling blockades, sanctions and economic warfare preventing medical equipment and other vital necessities from reaching people who need them.

This country lost about a million people — disproportionately working-class Black, Brown and Indigenous people — to COVID-19, deaths that were largely



Arjae Red speaking, with Starbucks Workers United contingent at “We reject your 4th” pro-choice demonstration in Buffalo, New York, July 4.

preventable but were allowed to happen anyway for the sake of maintaining high profits over implementing common-sense safety protocols. Meanwhile the People’s Republic of China, a country with more than four times the population of the U.S., has fewer than 6,000 total deaths.

This is a country where workers like myself have to fight tooth-and-nail for our union against these so-called “progressive” companies, facing an unlimited number of illegal union-busting tactics that are given no more than a slap on the wrist by the NLRB (No Labor Rights Board).

While we struggle for our unions here, the United States sponsors right-wing death squads to kidnap and assassinate workers and union organizers in other countries, as they have done in Nicaragua, Guatemala, Colombia and others. Not to mention countries which have had their governments overthrown and replaced with a U.S. puppet regime, like in Bolivia recently, Chile in 1973 and many more.

This is a country where police will indiscriminately gun down Black people and get a paid vacation, like when 25-year-old Jayland Walker was shot over 60 TIMES by Akron, Ohio, police while unarmed just a week ago ... while white-supremacist mass shooters like Peyton Gendron are

taken alive by police, while fully armed with assault weapons and body armor, after having just killed 10 Black shoppers and injuring three others in our own city.

### ‘Gross injustice and cruelty’

This is a country where police will soon be arresting and charging people for seeking abortions to “save the kids,” while they sit outside an elementary school and let another mass shooter slaughter dozens of children, like in Uvalde.

The overturning of Roe is only the most recent incident in a centuries-long list of atrocities that were integral to the settler-colonial foundation of the United States.

So we should not be celebrating the 4th of July now, and we never should have been in the first place. When you really understand U.S. history, there is no way to view the 4th of July other than how Frederick Douglass had put it in 1852, a speech referenced by India Walton at today’s demonstration:

“What, to the American slave, is your 4th of July? I answer; a day that reveals to him, more than all other days in the year, the gross injustice and cruelty to which he is the constant victim. To him, your celebration is a sham; your boasted liberty, an unholy license; your national greatness, swelling vanity; your sound of rejoicing are empty and heartless; your denunciation of tyrants brass-fronted impudence; your shout of liberty and equality, hollow mockery; your prayers and hymns, your sermons and thanks-givings, with all your religious parade and solemnity, are to him, mere bombast, fraud, deception, impiety and hypocrisy — a thin veil to cover up crimes which would disgrace a nation of savages. There is not a nation on the [E]arth guilty of practices more shocking and bloody, than are the people of the United States, at this very hour.” □



**On the picket line**

***WHEN WE FIGHT WE WIN!***

**By Marie Kelly**

## Immigrant detainees strike ICE detention centers

Immigrants fighting deportation while being held in two federal detention centers in California have organized a labor strike to protest unsafe working conditions and the outrageously meager compensation of \$1 per day. These workers are responsible for cleaning dormitories and bathrooms at the Mesa Verde and Golden State Annex facilities, which are run by the private multimillion dollar GEO Group corporation.

The Florida-based company reported a \$551 million profit in the first quarter of 2022 alone. In a statement released by the Golden State Annex strikers, the workers pinpoint the injustice and greed of the for-profit carceral system: “We are being exploited for our labor and are being paid \$1 per day to clean the dormitories. Meanwhile, private prison corporations like the GEO Group receive tens of millions each year to accommodate us detained in ICE custody.”

Reports of black mold and other toxins in the facilities have prompted the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to launch an investigation. Immigrant advocates are supporting the workers' heroic labor action and holding protests outside the facilities to call attention to the inhumane conditions inside. ([tinyurl.com/ydfjvfhn](https://tinyurl.com/ydfjvfhn))

## UPenn workers defeat two-tier pay

University of Pennsylvania housekeeping workers won a major contract victory. Rank-and-file members of Teamsters Local 115 launched a successful campaign prior to contract negotiations. They surveyed over 200 members about issues, held conference calls to keep members informed and nurtured members who wanted to get more involved in organizing.

The rank and file were vocal and held demonstrations to garner public support. The activities put pressure on their union leadership to press their demands and on the university to bargain in good faith. In June the 250 housekeepers ratified a five-year contract that ended the two-tier pay system (a grossly unfair pay structure meant to disrupt worker solidarity by paying newer workers less than higher seniority workers for the same work) and provided wage increases.

Teamster member Therese Wible said that in her 31 years as a union member, this is the best contract she has seen. “We haven’t seen raises like this since the ’80s, and I’ve never seen our union hall so packed.” The workers vow to continue their grassroots solidarity campaign to keep both employer and union leadership focused on the demands of the rank and file. With their

contract victory, they proved it is a strategy that delivers!  
([tdu.org/upenn-teamsters-defeat-2tier](http://tdu.org/upenn-teamsters-defeat-2tier))

## Television production workers unionize

The 20th Television Animation company has voluntarily recognized The Animation Guild (TAG), International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE) Local 839, as the bargaining agent of production workers for “The Simpsons,” “Family Guy” and “American Dad!” animated TV shows. (Deadline, July 5) The company action came after 90% of the workers across all three shows demonstrated support for union representation.

No union-busting law firms were hired. No worker organizers were fired. No protracted NLRB election happened here; the supermajority was recognized via “card check.”

Besides collective bargaining for rights like a fair wage, health care and other benefits, the production workers want to change the narrative around the work they do. The job was often viewed as a stepping stone to advancement, but many workers like writers' assistants and production coordinators have made it a career.

Jason Jones, who works on the “American Dad!” production, says many workers love what they do and don’t want to move on to something else. “I would hope that it galvanizes everyone else to organize and recognize their own self-worth and not believe in that old studio construct that production is somehow a stepping stone to a better career path.” ([tinyurl.com/593uz5t5](https://tinyurl.com/593uz5t5)) □

# Striking Starbucks workers turn up the heat

**By Arjae Red**  
**Buffalo, New York**

Buffalo Starbucks workers at the 3611 Delaware Ave. location went on strike July 8 against Unfair Labor Practices and union-repression by the company. Many workers at this location were formerly working at the Sheridan and Bailey location, which was shut down weeks ago, causing the workforce to relocate.

The reason given by the company for the shutdown was “maintenance,” but this was the same reason given for closing the Walden and Anderson location and many others. The company uses maintenance and construction as a pretext for shuffling workers around at stores with strong union support, disrupting union activity and cutting hours from workers’ schedules.

In addition to being relocated to a new store, the workers at the Delaware Avenue store have been facing understaffing and a refusal by the company to solve basic problems in the store. Management is holding their support for the

union against them, telling workers things like “you chose this when you voted for the union.”


In attendance at the picket line were Starbucks workers from other locations across the district, even some



**Striking Starbucks workers and members of WWP Buffalo and Atlanta branches demonstrate against unfair labor practices outside Starbucks at 3611 Delaware Ave, Buffalo, New York, July 8.**

recently fired workers who were prominent organizers, such as Victoria Conklin. Members of the community stopped by the picket to show support, including organizers from Communications Workers (CWA) Local 1168, Buffalo DSA, Workers World Party's Buffalo branch and some passersby.

This strike is one of many Starbucks strikes erupting across the country over union busting and a massive list of Unfair Labor Practice charges. The very next day, the first unionized Starbucks on Elmwood Avenue in Buffalo also went on strike.



These Buffalo strikes follow strikes in Seattle, where eight stores went on strike at the same time. Workers at Pike Place Market, the infamous first Starbucks location in Seattle, joined the strike after being forced to reapply for their jobs. This strike has been joined by other stores in Seattle, Chicago, Pittsburgh and Dallas, making the multistore work stoppage the largest concurrent strike so far in the union campaign. □

## Abortion access: don't agonize — organize!

Continued from page 6

was “Vote, vote, vote” in November midterm elections for candidates who support legalizing abortions.

Reproductive rights advocates say Biden's words are "too little, too late." Democratic politicians, who tell everyone to wait and vote in November, are losing credibility due to their cowardly inaction in this nationwide crisis.

Some activists say the administration took a good first step, but many have demanded a declaration of a health emergency, which would ensure federal assistance for those living in anti-abortion states who seek medication abortions or out-of-state care. Some pro-choice advocates suggest using federal land to set up clinics to perform abortions. Biden could do that but said it's "unworkable."

Biden called for lawyers to represent pro bono those prosecuted by states with abortion bans. He said the Federal Trade Commission would protect the privacy of abortion seekers searching for information online, who face arrest in the hostile states.

The president asserted that abortion seekers, doctors and clinic operators would be protected, but he did not specify how this would be done or who would do it. In the past, anti-abortion extremists have bombed family planning clinics, stalked and murdered medical and other staff and volunteers.

Some of Biden's major supporters have instructed him to find a way around the SCOTUS ruling and state abortion bans, now implemented in 13 states with 12 ready to criminalize the procedure. Several bans apply from the moment of fertilization!

Some states even criminalize emergency abortions for people with life-threatening medical problems. Where does that leave the ill patient or doctor facing this dilemma?

The story of a 10-year-old rape victim who had to travel out of Ohio to obtain an abortion is just one horror story of many. Can anyone discount that child's fear and anguish? Apparently, right-wing judges and legislators can. And they call themselves "pro-life" and "pro-child." What a travesty!



Participants in Women's March 'Summer of Rage', Washington, D.C., July 9.

These same forces oppose government funding and services needed to raise healthy children. One might think abortion opponents would push for essential benefits for families. Not so. The same politicians who oppose abortions have vetoed funding services for children and parents, like food programs or Medicaid expansion.

The SCOTUS ruling and state bans are traumatizing pregnant people and worrying clinic staff, who are afraid to do anything allegedly illegal. They will disproportionately affect Black, Latinx, Indigenous, immigrant and low-income women. The campaign of terror is deliberately aimed at them to perpetuate racism and discrimination. The ultraright forces behind these heinous bans and restrictive laws deliberately strive to perpetuate this oppression.

## Don't mourn! Organize!

The counter to the SCOTUS ruling and state abortion bans is mass protests and more mass protests, using every tactic, civil or not. The Women's March is calling for a "Summer of Rage." Join those demonstrations or any you can. Or organize one. Boycott. Occupy. Block the streets. Strike. Rally.

This malevolent right wing has to be pushed back by a fierce, militant, independent mass movement composed of women and all who can get pregnant, people of all nationalities and genders, workers, immigrants, LGBTQ+ people, youth, individuals with disabilities and all progressives. □



# Humanitarian crisis in England?

By G. Dunkel

The resignation of Boris Johnson as leader of the Conservative Party of Great Britain, which means he will be replaced as prime minister, was not just the comeuppance of a slapdash serial liar, forced out of office by 59 cabinet resignations in 40 hours.

The leadership of the Conservative Party had come to the conclusion that Johnson, aka Mr. Brexit, didn't have the wherewithal to reach a new agreement with the European Union over the northeast of Ireland, to deal with the growing anger over the cost-of-living crisis in Britain, immigration — sending refugees to Rwanda is not a real solution, labor shortages and the economic and political problems created by the conflict in Ukraine.

Britain, which consists of the nations England, Scotland, Wales and the British-occupied north of Ireland, is the fifth largest economy in the world and a major military power.

On news of Johnson's resignation, Volodymyr Zelensky, the president of Ukraine, called Johnson to express his "sadness" and to say "Ukrainian society greatly sympathizes with you." (Le Monde, July 8) Johnson, a strong supporter of U.S./NATO's military pressure on Russia, had visited President Zelensky twice during the war and held frequent phone conversations.

In May inflation in Britain hit a 40-year high of 9.1%, the highest in Europe and the highest among the G7 leading imperialist economies. All European economies are suffering from a spike in energy prices, but one of the side effects of Britain's exit from the European Union is that Britain is hit the hardest.

Washington has forced its European allies to impose sanctions — embargoes on Russian exports. What makes the embargoes politically unpalatable is that the rising energy prices give Russia rising revenue on its exports at the same time they damage European economies. (bloomberg.com, July 8)

Inside Britain, The Rail, Maritime and Transport



Boris Johnson's hypocrisy plus anti-popular policies finally did him in.

Workers (RMT) conducted a series of one-day strikes in June that halted most train service. The union demanded better working conditions, higher pay and to avoid layoffs. The pay raise the RMT is seeking is below the expected rate of inflation but more than that of most recent union contracts.

RMT leader Mick Lynch managed to publicize his union's positions, which helped win the battle for public support, confronting Johnson and the corporate media's Red-baiting of the RMT. When a popular morning

television host asked Lynch if he was a Marxist, he shot back: "You do come up with the most remarkable twaddle sometimes." (New York Times, July 2)

The Labour Party, currently the official opposition in the British Parliament, describes itself as a coalition of social democrats, democratic socialists and trade unions. In the RMT strikes, which affected millions of commuters, it took the position that: "We do not want to see these strikes go ahead with the resulting disruption to the public." (Guardian, June 20) The left-wing of Labour opposed this position as anti-union and pushed back hard.

Beyond the RMT, the Communication Workers Union, which represents postal workers; the Independent Workers' Union of Great Britain — gig food delivery; United Voices of the World — hospitality; and some British Airways staff are preparing job actions. (Al Jazeera, July 2) To hold a legal strike, unions in Britain must overcome bureaucratic restrictions.

Besides the unions preparing for a summer of discontent, The Joseph Rowntree Foundation, an anti-poverty group, reported the last week of June that "7 million U.K. households have missed out on food or essentials like showers and toiletries this year, because they couldn't afford them." Some 2.3 million households "did not have the choice between heating their home or having enough food — because they couldn't afford to do either." (bigissue.com, June 29)

The cost-of-living crisis occurred because inflation cut into real wages; companies indulged their drive to increase profits by imposing price hikes, using inflation as an excuse/cover, and the cycle repeated.

A committee of the Conservative Party sets out the rules for selecting a new leader, who will become the new prime minister, because the party has the majority in Parliament. The possible candidates are richer and older than the majority of people living in Britain. It is unlikely that they will make any major changes in Johnson's anti-worker and pro-war policies. □

# Residents resist millionaire developers

Continued from page 1

Strong pointed out that organizers are changing the name of UC Townhomes to "The People's Townhomes" as one lead banner proclaimed.

Back at the Townhomes, a rally stayed in the street for an hour at 40th and Market streets. Speakers included Mother Pam, the two speakers from California's Moms for Housing and several more residents.

Adding to the march's visual effects, Spiral Q provided a three-fourths life-size cardboard cutout of a bulldozer, plus three tall banners that read: "Reckon with Black Legacies." The Townhomes are located in what little remains of a historic Black community long targeted by gentrifiers.

**Tip of the gentrifiers' iceberg**

Over the next five years, 37 other Philadelphia low-income housing properties face renewal of HUD contracts, including a senior high-rise across the street. Another is Center Post Village, two blocks away at 40th Street and Powelton Avenue. Postering last week in the Powelton Village neighborhood where this writer once delivered mail, I was shocked by how many single-family homes had been torn down, replaced by new high-rent apartments.

Residents from these Black and Brown communities are being displaced into a housing market with fewer and fewer affordable vacancies. Many parents and seniors will have difficulty finding safe, healthy housing that offers similar amenities as their current neighborhood. According to widely published reports by Realtor.com, Philadelphia's rental vacancy rate is well under 5%, with residents oftentimes being offered units in outlying areas with surging rates of violence and few amenities.

Back at the People's Townhomes site, a "Protect the Block Party" continued late into the night. People danced to music by several DJs. A badminton game was set up, and children enjoyed making giant soap bubbles. Cindy Lou expertly



Aliyah Phelps (on mic) and Dominique Walker of Moms for Housing during rally July 9.

face-painted children and adults. Free pizza, cookies, water and ice were provided to participants. The protest continued overnight with around a dozen tents set up for those who could stay.

Organizations including Iffy Books, Workers World Party, Iglesias Community Garden, Asian Pacific Islander Political Alliance, environmentalist organization Thrive, Food Not Bombs Solidarity, Community Action Relief Project, Abortion Liberation Fund of Pennsylvania and Critical Resistance tabled at the event. □



Spiral Q "bulldozer" and encampment, July 11.



Darlene Foreman speaking at July 11 press conference.



# G7, NATO and BRICS summits confirm a global divide

By Sara Flounders

Three very different international meetings were held during the week of June 23-30. The three “summits” confirm a growing global divide. It is worth examining these meetings; who attended, and especially what they projected. Two focused on confrontation and military escalation — in sharp contrast to the first — BRICS — which focused on cooperation, sustainable development and trade.

## BRICS Summit, June 23-24

The 14th BRICS Summit was the first gathering. It was held virtually June 23-24 and was chaired this year by China.

BRICS stands for the countries of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. These five countries, with a total population of 3 billion, or 40% of the world’s people, have widely different political and economic systems. But they are all developing countries and were all formerly colonies or neocolonies looted by the G7 bloc of imperialist countries. They are shaped by anticolonial struggles and face the necessity of cooperation.

The focus of the BRICS Summit was on increasing sustainable development and building an open world economy that supports trade and promotes cooperation. It was held under the theme: “Partnership, in a New Era for Global Development.”

BRICS is a unique forum that holds dozens of meetings prior to its annual summits. This year 70 conferences and events took place, covering the fields of political security, economy, trade, finance, sustainable development and public health, as well as people-to-people and cultural exchanges. BRICS maintains a commitment to strengthening multilateralism and opposing hegemonism.

Argentina and Iran have recently formally applied to join BRICS.

Eight other developing countries have held meetings and expressed interest. These expanded meetings are called BRICS+.

The concluding statement noted that, despite the COVID-19 pandemic and other challenges, BRICS countries in 2022 have jointly continued enhancing solidarity and deepening cooperation.

BRICS countries produce around one-third of the world’s food. They are committed to furthering technology transfer, sustainable agricultural cooperation and rural development to safeguard food security and increase industrialization, digital connectivity, infrastructure development and health care, with special attention paid to Africa.

South Africa will chair BRICS meetings in 2023, including the 15th BRICS Summit. (XIV BRICS Summit Beijing Declaration)

## Group of 7, June 26-28

The 48th Group of Seven (G7) held a three-day summit this year June 26-28 in Schloss Elmau, Krün, in the Bavarian Alps of Germany. Its stated purpose is to

coordinate global economic policy.

Leaders from Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Britain and the United States, as well as the European Union, were present. These are the countries responsible for the looting and colonization of Asia, Africa and the Americas. They owe reparations for the genocide of Indigenous peoples, the enslavement of African people and the devastating world wars of the 20th century.

This summit of the most powerful and wealthiest imperialist powers was focused on how to intensify sanctions on Russia and how to continue the war in Ukraine.

Their new demands that oil-producing countries agree to a cap on Russian oil prices and on Russian gold and rare minerals, along with new restrictions on technology, are likely to be ignored by the developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America.

While the G7 member states represent less than 10% of the world’s population, their gross domestic product (GDP) comes to 45% of the global total. These powerful economies function in the interests of a tiny class of corporate owners, who make up less than 1% of their own population. What concerns this owning class is that while their wealth is concentrated in ever fewer hands, their position has slipped from controlling 70% of global GDP some 30 years ago. How to reinforce their declining position — in the face of a capitalist economic recession, soaring energy prices and inflation — is increasingly dividing them.

The days of dominance of the dollar and euro have passed. The rounds of sanctions imposed on Russia, harsher than ever before, were ignored by most of the world. The effort to strangle some 40 other countries with sanctions has forced open new forms of exchange. Global trade is moving toward a basket of currencies that include the Russian ruble, trading at an all-time high, the Chinese yuan and the Indian rupee.

As a public relations gesture, G7 politicians once again grandly pledged to raise \$600 billion in private and public funds over five years to finance needed infrastructure in developing countries, especially in Africa. This measure was proposed as a counter to China’s multitrillion-dollar Belt and Road Development initiative, involving more than 100 countries.

But this G7 plan, called the “Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment,” was just a relaunch of last year’s G7 pledge of \$600 billion. That plan was called 2021 Build Back Better World B3W. That grand pledge never moved past last year’s press release announcement.

Its fate was similar to Biden’s promises and silent defeat of a Build Back Better (BBB) transformational package for social needs and infrastructure within the U.S.

The idea that Washington, which has hardly completed any large infrastructure

project within the U.S. in decades, will help build infrastructure in the developing world is not taken seriously by any country. U.S. military industries are more interested in the superprofits of new weapons systems, the construction and maintenance of 800 military bases around the world and the project of building a new forward base in Poland.

## NATO Summit, June 28-30

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) held its Summit Meeting in Madrid this year.

NATO is the U.S.-commanded military alliance that serves as a global enforcer of U.S. corporate power. It was formed in 1949 by 12 imperialist countries of Europe, Canada and the U.S. to blockade the Soviet Union and the countries attempting to build socialism in Eastern Europe after World War II.

Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, this military alliance has surged across the Balkans and Eastern Europe, pushing these formerly socialist countries into a military straitjacket. NATO has imposed harsh capitalist economic restructuring, enforced privatization of industry and housing, along with costly military maneuvers every month to bolster U.S. wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

This 2022 meeting of generals and capitalist politicians agreed on a fundamental shift in NATO, whose Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg declared it the “biggest overhaul of our collective deterrence and defense since the Cold War.” (tinyurl.com/drk4chkp)

The NATO press release brags: “NATO’s closest partners Finland and Sweden were invited to join the Alliance, a significant boost to Euro-Atlantic security. ... Allies further agreed on long-term support for Ukraine through a strengthened Comprehensive Assistance Package.”

Most ominously, Australia, Japan, New Zealand and the Republic of Korea were invited as “Indo-Pacific Partners” to participate in a NATO Summit for the first time. This invitation was part of a new “NATO Strategic Concept” — a 10-year strategy plan that openly declares China a threat: “The close alliance between China and Russia threatens western values.”

The NATO meeting focused on “strengthened forward defenses, enhanced battlegroups in the eastern part of the Alliance and an increase in the number of high-readiness forces.” The number of NATO troops on high alert would rise from the present 40,000 to well over 300,000.

The United States will deploy over 20,000 additional forces to Europe. There are currently approximately 100,000 U.S. forces in Europe.

The plan includes enhanced rotational deployments in the Baltic region by armored, aviation, air defense and special operations forces.



It is worth noting that NATO’s track record in pumping up the size of its forces on the ground was disastrously ineffective in Iraq and in Afghanistan.

With NATO trainers, the Ukrainian army grew from 6,000 combat-ready troops in 2014, at the time of the U.S.-backed coup against the elected Ukrainian government, to nearly 150,000 by June 2021, according to a summary put out by the U.S. Congressional Research Service. Ukraine’s military expenditure tripled in that time.

The U.S. modernized Ukraine’s tanks, armored vehicles and artillery systems and was the main provider of military hardware, radio equipment, military transport trucks and more than 200 Javelin man-portable, anti-tank missiles. Britain, Poland and Lithuania have also supplied Ukraine. (france24.com)

Now these same well-trained, “combat-ready” Ukrainian troops are collapsing faster in Lugansk than NATO-trained forces did in Afghanistan last year. No evaluation of NATO’s resounding defeat in Afghanistan or the collapse in Ukraine was discussed.

The grand NATO plan to pull Russia into a quagmire in Ukraine and use sanctions to destabilize Russia with hyperinflation and shortages has hit the NATO members far harder than Russia. This is only escalating their wild thrashing about for other military solutions.

Instead, the NATO Summit called for intense military involvement in the Middle East, North Africa and the Sahel region of Africa. The Sahel stretches from Morocco, Algeria, Libya, Egypt, Mali, Niger, Chad and Sudan to Ethiopia.

Rather than making development plans for Africa, NATO is planning increased military interventions and wars.

## Global divide grows

New international alliances are forming. The presidents of Russia, Iran, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan — the five countries that share the Caspian Sea Basin, met June 29 in Turkmenistan at the Sixth Caspian Sea Summit — to plan regional cooperation and development, especially of oil and gas resources. (tinyurl.com/yeyt7s43) They pledged to keep foreign armies out of the Caspian Sea basin. (apnews.com)

What is clear from the G7 and NATO meetings is that the U.S. ruling class is withdrawing rapidly from economic globalization, because it is no longer able to call the shots. Now it is doing all it can to sabotage supply lines and create shortages. A brutal effort is underway to establish new, smaller economic and military pacts with its allies. The resulting recession and inflation may derail their plans.

Mass demonstrations held at the G7 Summit and the NATO Summit are a sign of growing and needed resistance. □

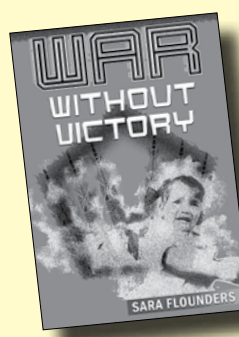


## Capitalism at a Dead End

*Job destruction, overproduction and crisis in the high-tech era*

by Fred Goldstein

For more information on these books and other writings by the author, **Fred Goldstein**, go to **LowWageCapitalism.com**



## WAR WITHOUT VICTORY

by Sara Flounders

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

— Miguel d’Escoto Brockmann,

President, U.N. General Assembly, 2008-2009;

Foreign Minister of Nicaragua’s Sandinista government.

Free download at [workers.org/books](http://workers.org/books)  
PentagonAchillesHeel.com



# The campaign to bring Brittney Griner home

Brittney Griner is a 31-year-old, 6-foot, 9-inch center for the Phoenix Mercury in the Women’s National Basketball Association. As a college player for the Baylor Bears in Waco, Texas, she is a former Associated Press Player of the Year and a two-time Olympic gold medal winner. Griner, who is Black and a lesbian, is also a WNBA champion.

Griner has been outspoken since 2020, when she opposed the playing of the national anthem before basketball games in protest of the 2020 racist police murder of Breonna Taylor, a 26-year-old Black medical worker in Kentucky.

As most of the world knows by now, Griner was arrested Feb. 17 at a Moscow airport for possessing hashish oil in her luggage after flying from New York. She remains incarcerated to this day.

She had played for a Russian Premier League team during the WNBA offseason, since WNBA players’ salaries are significantly lower compared to their male counterparts in the NBA, forcing them to seek employment outside the U.S.

Under Russian law, a conviction of illegal drug possession can carry a sentence up to 10 years in prison.

Many desperate appeals have been made by Griner, her spouse Cherelle Griner, and WNBA and NBA players to Russian President Vladimir Putin and to President

Joe Biden to release Griner by way of a prisoner swap.

Griner pled guilty on July 1, saying that the drugs were “inadvertently” in her luggage, with the hope her guilty admission will help her avoid a prison sentence. Her trial is scheduled to resume later this month.

Bill Richardson, former governor of New Mexico and former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, is reportedly planning a trip to Russia to negotiate for her release without the official endorsement of the State Department.

### Important factors to consider

It is understandable that so many people want Brittney Griner back home, especially her family, friends and the sports world, who are in so much pain. Cherelle Griner has accused Biden of not doing enough to bring her life partner back home.

It is important to put into political context that Russia is not the same as the former Soviet Union with progressive laws on the books. Since the collapse of the Soviet Union 30 years ago, Russia has developed a capitalist economy riddled with social divisions and inequalities. President Putin is not a proponent of LGBTQ+ rights, and so far he has not been inclined to intervene in the legal proceedings to insure Griner’s release.

The bigger factor is that the U.S. and its NATO allies



Brittney Griner and Cherelle Griner

are at war economically and politically with Russia, a war grown sharper during the military conflict in Ukraine. It is not beyond comprehension that the Biden administration would use Griner as a political pawn to further deepen anti-Russia sentiment amongst the U.S. masses.

So it is important to continue to put pressure on Biden to do everything possible to bring Brittney Griner home, while at the same time demand that the U.S. and NATO stop their intervention in Ukraine, which they are doing to promote their own imperialist interests. □

# WW photographer on panel ‘How We Stay Free’

By Workers World bureau Philadelphia

The Paul Robeson House Museum sponsored a panel discussion at the Philadelphia Museum of Art July 10, featuring Philadelphia activists who contributed to the Museum’s recently released book, “How We Stay Free.” The book is described as “an anthology-in-action for an uprising that remains unfinished.”

It chronicles the summer of 2020 in Philadelphia, which like much of the world was embroiled in Black Lives Matter, anti-police brutality protests responding to the Minneapolis police murder of George Floyd. “How We Stay Free” includes testimony, personal reflections, prose, poetry and photographs from several predominantly Black activists and organizations.

Co-Editor Christopher Rodgers hosted the discussion. The event was organized by Shivon Love, an education curator with the Museum of Art.

Speakers included Karen Asper Jordan, president of the Cecil B. Moore Philadelphia Freedom Fighters; writer, organizer and co-founder of the Black and Brown Workers Cooperative, Abdul-Aliy Abdullah Muhammad; and portraiture and street photographer Koren Martin.

Workers World newspaper is honored that one of our major contributing photographers, Joe Piette, is featured in the book and was part of the panel discussion.

Philadelphia-born and raised **Karen Asper Jordan** was 16 years old when Cecil B. Moore led the struggle to integrate Girard College, close to Jordan’s home but not accessible to her as a young Black woman in 1965. She described police barricades and press vilification of protesters during the seven-month struggle, during which demonstrators sang loudly all day long to the dismay of white students inside the college walls.

At age 17, Asper Jordan was arrested at a demonstration at the post office, demanding equal treatment in hiring for Black women, and again in 1967 during a demonstration against racism in the school district. “I got involved and never stopped.” Today she is a retired nurse, who continues to advocate for justice, equality and human rights. Jordan cautioned that



PHOTO: VALERYE GRIFFIN

From left, co-editor Fajr Muhammad, Joe Piette, Koren Martin, Coltrane Love, Christopher Rodgers, Karen Asper Jordan, Abdul Aliy Muhammad and Shivon Love.

“the fight for justice and equality is constant and might get worse before it gets better, but know you can always do something to make a difference.”

**Abdul-Aliy Abdullah Muhammad**, born and raised in West Philadelphia and a Black, queer and nonbinary activist, described becoming politically aware as a high school student just after the U.S. invaded Afghanistan and was pushing its war in Iraq. Their organizing in the nonprofit community around HIV/AIDS exposed the tension between staff and managers in this health field and led to their helping to establish the Black and Brown Workers Cooperative.

They recalled the brutal murder of Black trans woman Dominique Remi Fells in June 2020 and strongly criticized social media for releasing news of her death before her family was notified. They first became aware of Fells when asked to participate in a “Say their name” event, where they met Fells’ mother.

Abdullah Muhammad called on the movement to center the people who are victims of state-sanctioned violence — not as bodies but around how they were seen by their families and loved ones, describing Fells as “a nerd, a teachers’ pet, the cousin and sister who protected siblings and a lover of fashion design.”

Born and raised in Atlantic City, New Jersey, before moving to Philadelphia, **Koren Martin** described her awareness of segregation when forced as a child to only use Chicken Bone Beach, which was set aside for Black families. Her interest in photography stemmed from her mother’s oral history through photography of the impact of gentrification on Atlantic City and Philadelphia. Martin’s contributions to the book include photos from a protest for Mumia Abu-Jamal and a protester carrying a “Free Ant Smith” sign.

She began to use her camera as a visual “storyteller” focusing on Black women, both in the forefront of community struggles and as parents and often primary caregivers. Martin stressed the importance of networks of care, noting how much Black mothers sacrifice in order to take part in activist work.

### ‘You can’t helicopter into a protest’

Well-known movement photographer **Joe Piette** contributed pictures from the protests on or around the Art Museum steps, including one of the infamous “Rocky” statue on which hung a sign reading “No Justice, No Peace.” Another depicted chalk on multiple museums’ steps, calling out fascists as “bound to lose” — a reference to a Woody Guthrie song.

Born in St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada, Piette became aware of racism when his Québécois immigrant family moved to Lockport, New York, where he grew up in a low-income, multinational, working-class neighborhood.

Later Piette was drafted and served time in the U.S. Air Force during the war against Vietnam. He returned to the U.S., determined to understand what forces were behind the war, got involved in the antiwar movement and subsequently joined Workers World Party.

When Piette moved to Philadelphia in 1985, shortly after the city dropped a bomb that destroyed 61 homes in West Philadelphia and killed 11 members of the MOVE organization, he contributed his photographic skills to help the movement and “expose the crimes of capitalism and wealthy imperialists” and to “show the humanity and courage of resistance.”

Piette, who has over 23,000 pictures in hundreds of albums on Flickr, stressed that these albums should not be seen as “separate, but one movement with different parts. These photos are not meant to be hung on a wall. They are meant to help the movement grow and get to the point where revolution is possible. All these issues can’t be solved under capitalism. We need socialism.”

Asked to summarize what lessons he had learned from his work, Piette responded, “You can’t helicopter into a protest and take pictures. You have to understand what people are saying and why. You have to show respect, ask permission to take pictures and show care not to post photos that could be used by police to incriminate activists.

“I offer my photos to organizations so that people around the world can know what is happening in Philadelphia. One example of why this is important stems from the struggle in Ferguson, Missouri, in 2014, when images of Black activists being tear-gassed were shared around the world. Palestinians, well experienced in dealing with tear gas from Israeli forces, sent messages to people in Ferguson offering advice on how to deal with its impact.”

*How We Stay Free is available through CommonNotions.org.*



# Ons Jabeur: a trailblazer

By Monica Moorehead

The oldest and most prestigious Grand Slam tennis tournament is the All-England Tennis Championships, located at Wimbledon in a suburb of London, England. Founded in 1877, this year marks the centennial of the Wimbledon tournament being played at its current location — on Centre Court.

It would take 80 years for the first person of color, the African-American tennis legend, Althea Gibson, to win the title in 1957 and to repeat as champion in 1958. Evonne Goolagong, an Aboriginal Australian woman, won the title in 1971. Venus Williams was the first African American

since Gibson to win the title in 2000.

But no Arab or African woman has ever reached the finals of a Wimbledon tournament until 2022, when Ons Jabeur, a 27-year-old Tunisian, accomplished that feat. Before Jabeur lost the finals to 23-year-old Elena Rybakina from Kazakhstan in a three-set match July 9, she was the number two ranked player in the world by the Women’s Tennis Association and American Tennis Professionals.

As of July 11, she is ranked number five. She was ranked number 24 just a year ago, until she won a World Tennis Association title in Birmingham, England, earlier this year, along with winning a number of other tournaments.

Jabeur is nicknamed “Minister of Happiness” in her native Tunisia, a North African country of over 12 million people located on the Mediterranean Coast. Tunisia shares a border with Algeria and Libya; due to its close proximity to the Mediterranean Sea, Tunisia is also part of the Arab world.

Jabeur stated, “In the area, we want to see more players. It’s not like Europe or any other countries. I want to see more players from my country, from the Middle East, from Africa.” (CNN, July 8)

Tunisian citizen Mounir Karoui related



his feelings about Jabeur, saying, “She made us happy even in the economic conditions we have now” and has “shown a beautiful image of Tunisia to the world.” (Reuters, July 8)

Tunisia’s Sports Minister Kamel Deguich stated that there will be a national celebration in honor of Ons Jabeur when she returns home.

The next major Grand Slam tournament for Jabeur will be the U.S. Open, Aug. 29 to Sept. 11, in Queens, New York City.

*The writer witnessed Jabeur play in person at the 2021 U.S. Open.*

# Haiti’s president assassinated a year ago—much still unknown

By Catherine Charlemagne

*The following article is excerpted from an article that first appeared in Haitiliberte.com, July 7, 2022. The full article can be found at [tinyurl.com/3bxf5tcb](https://tinyurl.com/3bxf5tcb).*

It’s been one year since Haiti’s President Jovenel Moïse was machine-gunned at home in front of his wife and children.

The murder was carried out by a commando of Colombian assassins, presumably in the service of Haiti’s political and economic oligarchs, whose identities are still unknown. For a year, this case has been in the hands of examining magistrates. For a year, five investigating judges, appointed by the Dean of Port-au-Prince’s High Court, Bernard Saint-Vil, have received and then passed on the case, not one of them making any headway. In short, the investigation has gone almost nowhere in a year, and the most horrific magnicide of modern times remains unsolved.

Nonetheless, several people have been arrested in Haiti, Jamaica, the Dominican Republic, Turkey and Panama. Most of them are now imprisoned in Haiti, but the most important ones are held in the United States.

Others are still on the run, like Joseph Félix Badio, the alleged mastermind of the plot, believed to be somewhere in

Haiti. Haitian-Jordanian businessman Samir Handal was arrested in Ankara, Turkey, in November 2021. Haiti requested his extradition, but the Istanbul Criminal Court released him on Monday, July 4, 2022, saying that the documents provided by Haiti’s justice officers did not make clear how Handal was concretely implicated in the crime. As a result, Turkey rejected Haiti’s extradition request and freed Handal.

Some actors are also dead. In addition to three Colombian mercenaries whom Haitian policemen killed in the gun battles after the assassination, there is the case of businessman and former coup-plotting police chief Marie-Jude Gilbert Dragon, who died in Port-au-Prince’s National Penitentiary, reportedly of COVID-19.

The three most important prisoners accused of central roles in the murder are being held in Florida by U.S. authorities. They are former Haitian Senator John Joël Joseph (arrested in Jamaica), former convicted Haitian drug trafficker Rodolphe “Whiskey” Jaar (arrested in the Dominican Republic) and former Colombian soldier and mercenary Mario Antonio Palacios Palacios (arrested in Panama).

These suspects are being held in the U.S., at least in part because some of them have



Some Haitian-American and Colombian mercenaries arrested for participation in Moïse’s assassination

worked with and for the U.S. government. Indeed, in April a federal judge in Miami allowed the U.S. government to withhold from Palacios’ defense attorney unspecified evidence on the grounds that it was a “potential threat ... to [U.S.] national security.” Meanwhile it’s a matter of record that Jaar was previously a Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) informant.

The Haitian state, being totally dependent on and, indeed, installed by Washington, will find it nearly impossible to bring back to Haiti any of these suspects to answer for their actions.

At the same time, at least three businessmen who are also U.S. citizens — Antonio Intriago, Walter Veintemilla and Arcangel Pretel Ortiz — hired and helped finance, from U.S. soil, the Colombian mercenaries who killed Moïse. But not one of the trio has been charged or arrested.

By supposedly wanting to protect its

informants, the Biden administration is only making more credible charges that, at the very least, Washington was aware of the coup. The links between the most prominent alleged criminals and U.S. intelligence services deepens this suspicion. It is evident already that many of those involved in the plot were either “dormant” or perhaps still active U.S. agents.

Meanwhile, former Senator John Joël Joseph snuck into Jamaica after the assassination with his wife and two children, lived clandestinely in a remote village named Elizabeth but was squealed on and picked up by the local police. In May he was extradited to the U.S. Currently, there are 40 individuals of various nationalities suspected of participation in Moïse’s assassination who are under lock and key in Port-au-Prince without any of them being tried or sentenced.

A gang currently occupies the halls of justice. The prime minister apparently communicates with the man, his friend, who ordered the murder. The U.S. is holding three of the key suspects and withholding evidence. The ruling groups, who are surely the intellectual authors and chief financiers of the assassination, until today remain unknown and control most of Haiti’s politicians. What a challenge for justice to be found for this grisly crime! □

# Abe’s killing spotlights Japan’s global role

By John Catalinotto

Shinzo Abe, the right-wing former Japanese prime minister, was assassinated July 8 during an election campaign rally in the city of Nara, a former imperial capital. Reports from Nara show a man shooting Abe from behind at close range with a homemade weapon, firing two shots.

The 67-year-old Abe, who retired two years ago giving reasons of poor health, was still powerful within the Liberal Democratic Party. The LDP is a conservative, pro-capitalist and pro-imperialist party that has ruled Japan for most of the last seven decades.

The LDP won an election July 10 for the upper house of parliament by an even larger margin than anticipated. Some say the LDP gained a sympathy vote with Abe’s assassination.

No one has indicated that the assassination would result in substantial changes in Japanese international or domestic policies. It does throw a spotlight on Japanese

imperialism’s role in the world.

While Japan’s only current direct colony is Okinawa — whose population suffers from Tokyo’s rule and from the occupation by U.S. military bases — it is still a major state power in the imperialist alliance headed by the United States.

After the Japanese government and military surrendered to U.S. imperialism in 1945, soon after the U.S. dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, killing hundreds of thousands of civilians. World War II ended in the Pacific, not least because the Japanese ruling class wanted to avoid surrendering to the Soviet Union.

The U.S. military then occupied Japan and imposed laws preventing the rearmament of the Japanese Armed Forces. Over the years, Washington’s policy evolved as the U.S. rulers adopted a policy of using Japan’s military against the Soviet Union, People’s China and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.

Such rearmament was far from popular in Japan. The LDP in general and Abe in

particular pushed for a more rapid militarization of the Japanese Armed Forces. Abe was known as a Japanese nationalist — that is, chauvinist — and this fit U.S. military strategy, whatever reluctance Abe might have had about Japan being subordinate to Washington.

**Opinions of Nudutol**

Like Donald Trump in the U.S., Abe was known for refusing to apologize for the past war crimes of Japanese militarism before and during World War II.

Korea was the first nation Tokyo seized after joining the imperialist world. The opinions of a Korean liberation group, Nudutol, regarding Abe’s role, are on target.

“A powerful figure among Japan’s right wing,” Nudutol wrote on Twitter, “Abe was an apologist for imperial Japan’s war crimes and supported U.S. imperialist efforts in the Asia Pacific.”

Abe refused to acknowledge Japan’s WWII sexual slavery, imposed in areas controlled by Japanese troops on Korean

and Chinese women known euphemistically as “comfort women,” said Nudutol. “Abe disavowed and considered repealing the 1993 Kono Statement, which acknowledged and apologized to comfort women.”

“In October 2018, South Korea’s Supreme Court issued the opinion that Japanese corporations that used slave labor from Korea during WWII must pay \$89,000 in reparations to surviving slave laborers. In response, Abe declared a trade war.”

Nudutol pointed out that the Abe regime revoked subsidies for the Korean schools serving Koreans living in Japan and in general made life harder for them.

Shinzo Abe upheld U.S. imperialism in Asia, taking a hard line against North Korea and China, and he actively contributed to continuing the legacy of Japanese colonialism by denying Japan’s war crimes against enslaved Koreans. Nudutol said that Abe was a member of Nippon Kaigi group, which they characterize as “fascist.” □





Al Mundial de Fútbol, 19 de septiembre de 2016, la jugadora Megan Rapinoe se arrodilló durante el himno nacional estadounidense, en solidaridad con Colin Kaepernick.

# El Título IX se debilita con la sentencia Roe del TSE

El 23 de junio se cumplió el 50º aniversario del Título IX, la legislación federal que ordena la igualdad de oportunidades para la participación de hombres y mujeres en la educación, incluidos los deportes. Al día siguiente, el Tribunal Supremo de EE.UU. anuló otra decisión de hace 50 años -el caso Roe contra Wade-, negando así a las mujeres y niñas protegidas por el Título IX su autonomía corporal para elegir si quieren o no tener hijos.

El Título IX establece: “Ninguna persona en Estados Unidos podrá ser excluida, por razón de su sexo, de la participación en cualquier programa o actividad educativa que reciba ayuda financiera federal, ni se le negarán los beneficios de la misma, ni será objeto de discriminación”.

El Título IX dio a las mujeres la oportunidad de obtener becas para practicar deportes en la universidad sin tener que cargar con una enorme deuda de préstamos estudiantiles.

Años después de su aprobación, sentó las bases para que las atletas profesionales exigieran y obtuvieran la misma remuneración que los hombres. El 18 de mayo fuimos testigos del histórico acuerdo de negociación colectiva entre la Federación de Fútbol de Estados Unidos, la Asociación de Jugadoras de la Selección Nacional Femenina de Estados Unidos y la Asociación de Jugadoras de la Selección Nacional de Fútbol de Estados Unidos que creó una verdadera igualdad salarial en ese deporte.

En el aniversario de la aprobación del

Título IX, la revista TIME entrevistó a la campeona de fútbol profesional Megan Rapinoe sobre las deficiencias del Título IX y el impacto de la sentencia Roe de la SCOTUS. Rapinoe respondió que las deficiencias del Título IX “reflejan los agujeros de

la sociedad ... hay un punto ciego racial ... hay un punto ciego LGBTQ ... hay un punto ciego para los inmigrantes, todo eso”.

Rapinoe fue una de las más de 500 atletas femeninas que firmaron un informe amicus en apoyo del caso Roe contra Wade, argumentando que Roe era esencial para la eficacia del Título IX, ya que la elección ofrecía a muchas mujeres la oportunidad de practicar deportes. Afirmó: “Es absolutamente necesario que estemos atentos. Es realmente triste que 50 años después del Título IX, y tan lejos de Roe v. Wade, estemos sacando a relucir no sólo un derecho establecido, sino un deseo establecido y una progresión que la mayoría del país realmente desea. Esta no es la voluntad de la mayoría del pueblo, de ninguna manera”.

## Amenaza de cárcel por abortos

La mayoría de las atletas amparadas por el Título IX pertenecen al grupo de edad más afectado por la anulación de Roe v. Wade por parte de la SCOTUS. Sin la opción reproductiva, las mujeres se ven privadas del acceso a la competición deportiva. Verse obligada a llevar a término un embarazo no deseado podría limitar seriamente la capacidad de participar en muchos tipos de actividades deportivas.

La posibilidad de que se produzcan

abortos espontáneos como consecuencia de las actividades deportivas hace que las personas corran el riesgo de ser encarceladas en varios estados con las leyes antiabortistas más restrictivas. Para las atletas negras, que ya se enfrentan al mayor potencial de abortos y muertes maternas, el peligro se multiplica.

## Proteger a los violadores

El Título IX, promulgado por el presidente Richard M. Nixon en 1972, al tiempo que aumentaba enormemente las oportunidades deportivas de las mujeres y las niñas, también ofrecía recursos a las víctimas de agresiones sexuales o acoso en los campus. Sentó las bases de cómo las escuelas que recibían financiación federal debían manejar las acusaciones y proteger a las sobrevivientes.

Pero en 2020, la secretaria de educación de Donald Trump, Betsy DeVos, debilitó estas protecciones haciendo que las normas fueran más complacientes con los acusados. Las universidades tuvieron que ofrecer audiencias en vivo para adjudicar las denuncias de agresión sexual. En estas audiencias, el acusado podía repreguntar a los testigos e incluso interrogar a la víctima, lo que desanima fuertemente a las supervivientes a denunciar las agresiones sexuales o el acoso.

No es casualidad que las prohibiciones restrictivas del aborto en varios estados otorguen a los violadores y misóginos más control sobre los embarazos no deseados que el que otorgan a las personas a las que embarazaron criminalmente.

Para conmemorar el 50º aniversario del Título IX, el presidente Joe Biden propuso modificar las normas que rigen el

modo en que las instituciones educativas investigan y resuelven las reclamaciones por agresión y acoso sexual, incluyendo la eliminación de las audiencias en directo.

## Lucha para proteger a los deportistas transgénero

Los cambios propuestos por Biden en el Título IX también prohibirían a los colegios, institutos y universidades discriminar a los estudiantes transgénero. Si se aprueban, obligarían a las escuelas a acomodar a los estudiantes transgénero permitiéndoles usar los baños que coincidan con su identidad de género. Prohibirían el acoso escolar basado en la identidad de género y garantizarían que los alumnos se dirijan a ellos por sus pronombres correctos. Las escuelas que no cumplan con estas normas podrían perder la financiación federal.

Sin embargo, el actual movimiento reaccionario anti-LGBTQ+, envalentonado por la sentencia Roe de la Corte Suprema, presionará para que se aprueben más leyes estatales que excluyan a los estudiantes transgénero de los deportes. Hasta marzo, los legisladores estatales han presentado más de 200 proyectos de ley para negar a los estudiantes transgénero sus derechos.

Cualquier cambio en el Título IX puede ser realizado por el Departamento de Educación. No es necesaria la aprobación del Congreso. Sin embargo, el fallo de la SCOTUS que anuló el caso Roe vs. Wade es la prueba de que para proteger los derechos que hemos ganado con la lucha, tenemos que estar en las calles, no sólo desafiando a la SCOTUS, sino a todo el podrido sistema capitalista. □

# Hambre en África Oriental: cientos de miles de personas amenazadas

Por G. Dunkel

Los precios de los alimentos se están disparando en todo el mundo. No sólo los precios del trigo y otros cereales, que es donde Estados Unidos y sus aliados de la Unión Europea han centrado su atención, sino también en productos como la mantequilla industrial y la leche en polvo, cuyos precios se han disparado un 70% en un año. (Le Monde, 21 de mayo)

El Secretario de Estado Antony Blinken ha señalado el precio del trigo, afirmando que “Rusia está armando el suministro mundial de alimentos” en una conferencia que tuvo con funcionarios de la ONU el 20 de mayo. (Video del New York Times, 20 de mayo)

Pero los expertos en el campo de la gestión de crisis señalan otros factores que han afectado a los precios del trigo y de los alimentos en los que se utiliza. El precio de la energía utilizada para preparar los campos, plantar y cosechar el cultivo, y luego transportarlo al mercado se ha disparado, y por supuesto las empresas que suministran la energía pretenden que sus beneficios suban junto con sus precios.

La verdad es que Blinken y la maquinaria mediática de Estados Unidos están armando la amenaza de hambruna en algunas partes del mundo con el fin de



La sequía en Chad.

ganar puntos de propaganda contra Rusia en la actual guerra por delegación de Estados Unidos y la OTAN en Ucrania.

Gran parte de los fertilizantes que los agricultores necesitan para obtener buenos rendimientos provienen del gas natural, de la potasa y de la fijación del nitrógeno, todos procesos que requieren mucha energía. Buena parte del suministro mundial de fertilizantes solía proceder de Bielorrusia y Rusia, antes de que se aplicaran sanciones a estos países.

COVID-19 ha afectado a la producción de alimentos, con cuellos de botella en la mano de obra agrícola, el procesamiento, el transporte y la logística, así como cambios trascendentales en la demanda. Las regulaciones diseñadas para frenar o detener la propagación del COVID-19 a veces obstaculizaron la producción de alimentos.

La agricultura es un asunto estacional;

los cultivos deben plantarse, cuidarse y cosecharse en épocas fijas del año en función del clima. Las sequías que han afectado a muchas zonas exportadoras de trigo del hemisferio norte han limitado gravemente la producción, reduciendo la oferta, lo que ha provocado un aumento de los precios. Las olas de calor extremo que azotaron a la India esta primavera y las fuertes lluvias que azotaron a China cuando se estaba sembrando el trigo de invierno — ambos fenómenos asociados al calentamiento global — han tenido importantes repercusiones reduciendo la cosecha.

Según la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación (FAO), el descenso de las exportaciones de alimentos de la región del Mar Negro se ha visto parcialmente compensado por el aumento de las exportaciones de la UE y la India, lo que deja un vacío de unos 3 millones de toneladas.

Es una cifra pequeña a escala mundial. Pero Rusia y Ucrania aportan aproximadamente la mitad de los cereales que importan Líbano y Túnez, y dos tercios de esas importaciones para Libia y Egipto.

Las exportaciones de alimentos de Ucrania proporcionan normalmente las calorías para alimentar a 400 millones de personas. Estos cuatro países que importan cereales se enfrentan a graves dificultades

para encontrar proveedores alternativos.

La FAO insta a los países a tener mucho cuidado con la imposición de restricciones a las exportaciones, que “exacerban el aumento de los precios y reducen la confianza”. António Guterres, Secretario General de la ONU, advirtió recientemente de la amenaza de que la escasez mundial de alimentos pueda durar años. En todo el mundo, se prevé que 181 millones de personas se encuentren en niveles de crisis de hambre en 2022.

Aunque en África Oriental no se ha declarado oficialmente una hambruna, la gente -principalmente los niños- está muriendo de hambre. Oxfam calcula que es probable que 350.000 niños mueran antes del final del verano.

Oxfam y Save the Children calculan que en toda Etiopía, Kenia y Somalia mueren un promedio de seis personas cada cinco minutos a causa del hambre aguda relacionada con el conflicto, la COVID-19, la crisis climática y las presiones inflacionistas y de mercado aceleradas por el actual conflicto en Ucrania.

Hay suficientes alimentos para alimentar a todo el mundo con una dieta decente. El gran problema es que los grandes capitalistas no han descubierto cómo hacerlo de forma rentable. □