Low-wage workers descend on D.C.

By Dante Strobino

Washington, D.C. — Tens of thousands of poor people, low-wage workers and their allies rallied here June 18 for the Poor People’s Campaign Moral March and Low Wage Workers Assembly against “poverty, systemic racism and voter suppression.”

From the stage, three blocks from the U.S. Capitol, speakers from nearly every state challenged Congress to address the immediate needs of over 140 million poor people inside this country. The action sought to unite “the undocumented, women, men, seniors, children, gay, transgender, Black, Brown, Native, white and Asian” people into a mass movement targeting elected officials in Washington, but also statehouses across the country.

Many acknowledged the historic significance of such a multinational gathering on Juneteenth, the date that enslaved Africans were liberated.

“54 years ago, my father launched the Poor People’s Campaign to revolutionize the economic landscape of our nation,” stated Bernice King, daughter of the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Then, quoting Coretta Scott King, her mother, she stated: “Poverty is not only a long-standing evil but an actual act of violence against the actual dignity, livelihood and humanity of its citizens.”

After introducing King, the movement’s most visible leader, the Rev. Dr. Bishop William Barber II took the stage. He riled up the crowd, stating, “We won’t be silent any more, especially after they denied 39 million people last year a $15-per-hour minimum wage. When they block health care coverage and then call us essential, we won’t be silent anymore!”

Barber was referencing the dozen holdout states, mostly in the U.S. South, that continue to refuse to expand Medicaid coverage after the passage of the Affordable Care Act over a decade ago.

Millions of workers across the South are still denied access to basic health coverage, mostly because they make around

FREE MUMIA!

By Leslie Feinberg

Feinberg gave these remarks at the historic Free Mumia rally, Madison Square Garden, New York City, May 7, 2000. (youtu.be/vVqRzNzJfJy)

My name is Leslie Feinberg, and we’ve come with Rainbow Flags for Mumia! We are here today to demand a new trial for Mumia. And we are here to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the family of Patrick Dorismond and all the victims of police brutality here today. Lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people are no strangers to police and right-wing violence.

When Matthew Shepard was murdered, we marched in the streets ten thousand-strong. And we made clear that we were no less outraged over the racist lynching of James Byrd Jr. in Jasper, Texas. Our march was viciously attacked. We were beaten and arrested by the same New York Police Department that lynched our brothers Dorismond and Amadou Diallo.

An injury to one is an injury to all! That’s why we fight to free Mumia. And Mumia stands with Rainbow Flags! Mumia, from death row, called for unity to stop anti-gay murders. It

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Free Mumia! Free ‘Em All! Support WW reporting

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

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

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

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

Then the system framed him, denied him a fair trial and attempted to kill him.

Those who understand how this racist, classist, capitalista system worked were in the streets over the last four decades to save Mumia’s life and promote his message.

Workers World Party was there, demanding his freedom from the get-go. Mumia has been a longtime reader of WW, noting that it had the best coverage he had read on the 1985 bombing of MOVE. Now the Prisoners Solidarity Committee of Workers World Party is supporting the international call to Free Mumia. Mumia’s case personifies everything wrong with the U.S.—the world’s largest center of incarcerated workers.

Your help is needed!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The U.S. is the richest country in the world, yet no one has a guaranteed right to shelter, food, water, health care, education or anything else — unless they can pay for it. Wages are lower than ever, and youth are saddled with 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 be socially owned and its distribution planned to satisfy and guarantee basic human needs.

Since 1959, Workers World Party has been 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
ww@workers.org

Atlanta
PO Box 18123
Atlanta, GA 30316
404.627.0185
atlanta@workers.org

Austin
austin@workers.org

Bay Area
PO Box 22947
Oakland, CA 94609
510.394.2207
bayarea@workers.org

Boston
284 Amory St.
Boston, MA 02110
617.522.6626
boston@workers.org

Buffalo, N.Y.
335 Richmond Ave.
Buffalo, NY 14223
716.883.2534
buffalo@workers.org

Central Gulf Coast
Workers World
1969 Evers Rd.
Mississippi
centralgulfcoast@workers.org

Cleveland
630 W. Ontario St.
Cleveland, OH 44113
216.692.1000

Durham, N.C.
919.322.9970
durham@workers.org

Kansas City
611 W. 13th St.
Kansas City, MO 64105
816.421.6333
kansas@workers.org

Los Angeles
1301 S. Vermont
Los Angeles, CA 90057
323.203.6463
la@workers.org

Philadelphia
PO Box 3429
Philadelphia, PA 19101
215.686.1491
philadelphia@workers.org

Portland, Ore.
3824 S.E. 158th
Portland, OR 97233
503.579.1059
portland@workers.org

Salt Lake City
801.730.0248
slc@workers.org

San Antonio
sanantonio@workers.org

San Francisco
543 McAllister St.
San Francisco, CA 94102
415.362.3632
sf@workers.org

West Virginia
West Virginia@workers.org

Join us in the fight for socialism!

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
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Juneteenth: emancipation, resistance and replications

By Mirinda Crissman
Houston

This article, which appeared in the June 23, 2021, issue of Workers World, is being reprinted here to celebrate the victory of Juneteenth officially recognized as a federal holiday.

After decades of struggle for recognition, Juneteenth has been made a federal holiday by Congress and was signed into law by President Joe Biden June 17, 2021. Federal workers had Friday, June 18, off as a paid holiday, as June 19, the official date, falls on Saturday. This is the first new federal holiday since Martin Luther King Jr. Day was enacted and signed in 1983, although not officially recognized until 2001.

Two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation was issued by President Abraham Lincoln on January 1, 1863, Union soldiers reached the still enslaved people of Texas by way of Galveston on June 19, 1865.

Rebellions carried out by enslaved people had ultimately forced the signing of the 1863 Proclamation. Manisha Sinha states in “The Slave’s Cause: A History of Abolition”: “Prominent slave revolts marked the turn toward immediate abolition, and fugitive slaves united all factions of the movement and the abolitionists to justify revolutionary resistance to slavery.” (NY Times, June 18, 2020)

Major General Gordon Granger and his Union troops marched through Galveston on June 19, 1865, reading General Order No. 3, which stated: “The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves the absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired labor. The freedmen are advised to remain quietly at their present homes and work for wages.” (Galveston Historical Foundation 150)

It took years for this message and Union troops to reach the hundreds of thousands of enslaved people in Texas — and even then, not all enslaved people were freed instantly. In fact the material conditions of Black people remained largely the same in many ways through the owning-class systems of sharecropping and convict leasing.

Prior to the general’s message, it was known that Texas was a safe haven for enslavers. Galveston, with its deep-water port, has the oldest known police force in the state. The police protected the property and wealth of the richest people. Like many early police forces on this continent, they served as slave patrols.

Henry Louis Gates explained: “Since the capture of New Orleans in 1862, slave owners in Mississippi, Louisiana and other parts east had been migrating to Texas to escape the Union Army’s reach. In a hurried rearrangement of the original middle passage, more than 150,000 enslaved people were moved west to Texas.” (What is Juneteenth? PBS.org)

After news of emancipation reached Texas, the rich still relied on the labor of those who were once legally considered their property. They did what they could to maintain that dominance and superexploitation.

Convict leasing = enslavement

That exploitation evolved into systems like sharecropping, where the formerly enslaved still worked in the same Texas fields under similar conditions. Another way the ruling class carried out their will was through the system of convict leasing, which was designed to keep freed Black people in “legal” slavery. This was sanctioned through a clause which still exists in the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Under this system, the Texas Department of Corrections hired out incarcerated workers — who were often Black and had been arrested by law enforcement for little or no reason — to do the work of owners and employers. Convict leasing could be even worse in some ways than slavery, because those exploiting the labor of the leased people had no economic stake whatsoever in their well-being or even in keeping them alive.

According to historian Robert Perkinson in “Texas Tough: The Rise of America’s Prison Empire,” more than 3,500 leased incarcerated workers died in Texas between 1866 and 1922 — more people than the number killed in the Civil War. Despite all of this, Black people in Texas have celebrated Juneteenth in defiance of being branded as property and treated as less than human. They have carried the tradition of celebrating the day into the present.

Elizabeth Hayes Turner’s essay, “Juneteenth: Emancipation and Memory,” quoted a direct heir to the tradition of the holiday: “The 19th of June wasn’t the exact day the Negro was freed. But that’s the day they told them that they were free… and my daddy told me that they whooped and hollered. …”

Juneteenth celebrations through the centuries have featured rodeos, barbecues, family reunions, dramatic readings, parades, ball games and Blues festivals. And they have even been used as political rallies around voting rights. (Texas State Historical Association)

Attica Locke, a Houston-born writer, told the New York Times that her family would usually join community celebrations at local parks, where dozens of people would grab tables to share food and party to music. She explained, “The way our freedom is celebrated is by one of the greatest things that was robbed from us, which was connection.” (June 18, 2020)

In Houston, many of those same parks are still used to celebrate Juneteenth, including Emancipation Park in the Third Ward. The park land was purchased in 1878 by Rev. Jack Yates and his congregation at Houston’s oldest Black church, Antioch Missionary Baptist Church. Many church members were formerly enslaved. At that time almost all Houston parks were segregated, off-limits to African-Americans. (Workers World, June 18, 2014)

Historical revision: a form of violence

While the emancipation holiday’s origins are in the Lone Star State, “The people from Texas took Juneteenth Day to Los Angeles, Oakland, Seattle and other places they went,” wrote Isaiah William in “In the Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America’s Great Migration.” (Vintage, 2010)

Juneteenth is jubilant in its origins. It calls upon us to consider the promises of freedom that have not been realized in the United States — particularly in 2021, its first year as a federal holiday.

Meanwhile, in opposition to what is called “critical race theory,” many states have proposed legislation banning the teaching of the racist history behind Juneteenth.

The attempt to rewrite such a history of jubilation in defiance of white supremacy and colonialism is a form of violence. Also violent are the prisons still standing in Texas, which were constructed during the era of convict leasing and which still cage and kill disproportionate numbers of Black people. In Texas, 75 out of 104 state prisons do not have air conditioning in a place where summertime temperatures regularly top 100°F.

Incarcerated workers in Texas are still legally required to labor for free. The University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston was experimenting on Texas prisoners as recently as the year 2000. (Prison Legal News, December 2002)

Juneteenth must come with replications for Black people, for all the harm that has been done and continues to be done as the legacy of enslavement. Anything less than replications is essentially symbolic and an affront to those who carry this true history.

Buffalo’s working-class Pride


Statements were made by Arjae Red and Lydian Stanfelder, who stressed that racism, gender, sexual and other oppressions are integral to and indispensable components of class oppression. This message was reaffirmed by the movie’s retelling of the dogged solidarity demonstrated by the lesbian and gay grouping to the miners. Both the miners and LGBTQ+ people were under attack by British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher’s brutal, inhumane Tory government.

People’s Pride in Buffalo originated during the absence of the corporate Pride Parades in 2020 and 2021. With the return of the latter, a People-loving Pride Parade to Buffalo this year, WW members held their ground and kept the militant tradition alive. — Report by Ryan Lockwood

Portland Pride says ‘Ban the cops!’

Thousands of loud and proud Portlanders lined the streets in downtown area of Oregon’s largest city on June 19 to show that queer people will not be silenced. As Portland Workers World Party members marched down the sidewalk carrying radiant signs, they were delighted to see the overwhelmingly positive reactions.

They were approached countless times by people wanting to take their photographs. The WW sign which read “Queer As In Fuck The Police!” attracted the most attention by far.

Over the last few weeks, Portlanders have made it clear that they do not want cops at Pride events and have pushed for an official ban barring police from the city’s celebration. They know who their enemies are. — Report by Madison Johnson
It’s time for workers to fight
An economic ‘hurricane’ is coming

By Larry Holmes

This slightly edited talk was given by WWP First Secretary, Larry Holmes, at a New York City membership meeting on June 16.

The economic crisis that is unfolding is by far the biggest development right now. Bigger than anything I can think of, and a lot of important things are happening. One of the things that makes it more dangerous, most insidious for capitalism and also for the working class, is that a number of other crises are developing at the same time. They all impact on each other. There’s the war crisis, which definitely impacts the economy. I’m not going to mention all the crises, but there’s a political crisis in this country with the ruling class, and the Jan. 6 hearings now on television are a reflection of that.

I want an overstatement to say that right now, even as distinct from a few weeks ago, Wall Street has been gripped by panic. Listening to these bankers and the “financial experts” and reading what they’re saying, they’re trying to tamp down demoralization and are freaking out like the world’s coming to an end. That seems to be the mood, at least on the part of a lot of bankers and investors—and a lot of people associated with financial capital, not only in this country but around the world.

I’m not going to talk right now about how it impacts the working class, which is far more important to us than how it impacts the capitalist system. But it’s important to look at how they see it and also to step back and take a view of how a capitalist crisis develops. The past is a prologue. Virtually every capitalist crisis is never really fixed but is somehow passed on, on the backs of the workers and the oppressed. It doesn’t really go away. It’s not resolved. And that tends to make the next capitalist crisis even bigger and potentially more explosive.

How capitalist crises evolve

In the 1980s, the working class was too weak to stop globalization, reindustrialization, job-killing technology — what the ruling class calls neo-liberalism — austerity and the like. But when the 2008 financial crisis came, it was initially precipitated by a credit crisis in the housing market. But a crisis in one area of the economy can just a catalyst to open up the floodgates, letting everybody see the extent of the general crisis underway.

The capitalists dealt with the financial crisis, after it almost crashed the financial markets. It was called the Great Recession, because of the jobs it destroyed. But there were signs that the storm had passed, and it in, and it particularly woke up young workers. There was a change of mood, of expectations, on the part of young workers. Perhaps the first expression of that was Occupy Wall Street.

The ruling class dealt with it in two ways. One was that it brought in Barack Obama, a very attractive, first African American president. That was sort of a concession to the working class. We all know how he turned out. He was not a leftist but a protector of the interests of capitalism, all the way.

And the other was to start with so-called quantitative easing — and that was a number of things. The biggest was that the Federal Reserve printed a lot of money. And actually central banks around the world printed a lot of money and funneled it into the financial system, to the tune of trillions upon trillions of dollars. Also, keeping interest rates close to zero was part of quantitative easing. The problem with that was that it couldn’t go on forever.

This creates inflation, in part, and creates a gigantic debt bubble, [where] all of this money is basically worthless, because it’s not based on workers producing something. It’s just phony, like Monopoly money. Try to imagine tens of trillions of dollars on top of the tremendous debt that already exists.

As Lenin explained in “Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism,” at a certain point, finance capital, the banks — which in the earliest stage of capitalist development were sort of the middle-person making sure that big and small companies got the capital, so they could create means of production and exploit workers — got bigger and bigger in relationship to the economy. Today finance capital has become predominant over the productive side of the capitalist economy, basically turning it into a giant Ponzi scheme.

That’s the situation that the global capitalist economy is in now, and that has created this tremendous bubble. And when there’s a crisis like this, and the capitalists have run out of ways to fix it, that bubble, to one extent or another, begins to burst, and the economy can become a house of cards. Before long, companies, banks, even countries, are going bankrupt, collapsing.

What the bankers are saying

Jamie Dimon, [Chief Executive Officer] of JP Morgan, is the most powerful banker in the United States and in the imperialist world. Try Googling “the most important banker” or “the biggest banker in the U.S.,” and you’ll get Jamie Dimon. It doesn’t mean that all the other bankers aren’t important. The head of the Federal Reserve, Jerome Powell, is an investment banker too. But the bankers who are on top of billions and trillions of dollars, they listen to JP Morgan.

An article about two weeks ago quoted Jamie Dimon as saying “We’re headed toward a hurricane.” Other investment bankers have been saying similar stuff. They’re not showing up on television, maybe trying not to panic the financial community around the world. Another well-known popular investor, Michael Novogratz, said today after the latest reading of the stock market, which was way down, that the economy is “going to collapse.”

Hypothetically, it’s possible that the capitalists will find some genie or some rabbit in a hat somewhere to stave off this crisis, to do some version of what they did 12 or 13 years ago, or in the dotcom crisis of the 1990s, or back in the 1980s. But it’s going to be much, much harder now, because they’ve run out of ammunition. And the fact of the matter is that they clearly say that they don’t know what they’re going to do if this thing gets out of control.

The only thing we can be sure of is the class struggle. The capitalists will try their damndest to have the working class and the oppressed — not only of this country but of the world, particularly the Global South — bear the brunt of this new crisis.

This is the situation we face — but there are good things happening. There is the upsurge of workers and the organizing drives, not only at Amazon and Starbucks but many, many more places. That’s a sign of a long-awakened reawakening of primarily young workers.

This left coalition in France, including remnants of the Communist Party, some socialists and others, practically won the first round of the recent parliamentary elections there. This is very important because, as many of you know, politics in France have for the longest time been strongly influenced by the neoassets.

As far as the role of the workers’ assembly movement here, an economic hurricane is in the making. The job of the workers’ assembly movement is to help as much as possible to get the working class really to defend itself — and to be on the offensive. And that usually suggests not only gains, but even at some point down the road going on the revolutionary offensive.

Fight against fragmentation is key

Our class is always fragmented to one extent or another when the labor movement, when the revolutionary forces, or even the progressive forces in the working-class movement are weak and not a strong force of gravity pulling the workers together, then the forces of fragmentation and bourgeois ideology are stronger. But that’s changing. The economic crisis, there’s a tendency for the fragmentation to go one way or another. The fragmentation can be exacerbated in a way contrary to the working class coming together.

But if the struggle takes hold and class consciousness wins out, the fragmentation can be diminished. Class solidarity and class struggle can prevail.

Amazon is now in Phoenix, Arizona, with its high-paid lawyers. They’ve dragged the leadership of the Amazon labor unions to Phoenix, demanding that the [National Labor Relations Board] hearing they wanted not be held in New York. They thought New York was prejudiced in favor of the workers. And so they wanted to take it to the South, where they thought it would be more advantageous for them.

This hearing is meant to overturn the results of the historic election held in late March, when the union won at the Amazon facility on Staten Island. Amazon has sworn to crush that. And they’re very serious about it.

I have no idea whether they’re capable of doing it. I know that the Amazon Labor Union already has to call days of action to keep them away. They’re not out there alone.

In the meantime, the AFL-CIO held a big convention in Philadelphia, and one of the workshops was on Amazon. But they did not even invite the leadership of the Amazon Labor Union or, for that matter, somebody from the Starbucks organizing drive to speak.

Look how strange this is. Biden invites the [ALU] leadership to come to the White House, but they say, “We’re not going to talk to them. They could have easily hooked up with someone from Starbucks. Someone from that union, wherever they were from, could have done it.”

This is an example of fragmentation. Everybody who follows this says, “This victory was historic, because it’s going to bring more victories.” Moreover, what the Amazon and Starbucks workers and others do will help transform the working class in a progressive, revolutionary way. If it affects just Amazon workers and Starbucks workers, it affects the whole class.

It would be a great thing if the workers’ assemblies could call days of action to demand that Amazon recognize the union. The question is are we capable of doing it?
Low-wage workers descend on D.C.

Continued from page 1

$12 per hour and do not qualify for standard Medicaid, nor do they make enough to afford to buy health insurance. After years of pressure, the North Carolina State Senate in recent weeks voted to support expansion of Medicaid, a sign that the movement has won a strategic victory that may spread across the South.

Unions such as the Service Employees International Union have played a major part in the mobilization of low-wage workers in recent years. SEIU has funded several campaigns to organize workers to lift wages and establish new union contracts. As the fight for $15, the Starbucks Workers United and many campaigns at hospitals and airports across the U.S. aimed to "build power; make real policies to fully address the growing economic crisis."

In the day's rally, many spoke against the criminal justice system and the rampant wage theft faced by migrant workers. Still others spoke out against climate change.

At the end of the action, Dr. Barber encouraged the crowd not to go home and continue business as usual. Rather, he put forth three action steps to declare an "Moral Movement": Shift the moral narrative; build power; make real policies to fully address poverty and low wages. He called for people to "decide what we want and do what we need to do to get there."

An economic ‘hurricane’ is coming

Continued from page 4

of doing that? If we did that, it would be not only a place where people who wanted to be with the workers could come out. It would also open up a fight, a healthy and necessary fight, with the trade union bureaucracy.

Our trade unions on every level could put pressure on them: "What are you doing? How come you’re not doing this?" And in other words, they could talk about the need to organize. Our workers are ready to go out and organize. That’s the moral narrative; build power; make real policies to fully address poverty and low wages. We are in a real economic crisis.

We must dig deep. Be very objective, be sober and ask ourselves how we can transform ourselves to be of service to the working class, and avoid the midst of what looks like a historic economic crisis. [1]
Mumia Abu-Jamal — a hero for young people

By Scott Williams

This excerpted text was first handed out at a youth conference for Mumia Abu-Jamal in Philadelphia, December 2002. Some statistics have been updated.

George Washington. Abraham Lincoln. John F. Kennedy. Young people in the U.S. are taught in school to see these men as heroes. But this is the history of conquerors and the elite — these white men are not heroes. The real heroes of history are all too often left to rot in prison and left out of the history books.

Amongst the 2.5 million prisoners in the U.S. right now, one man, Mumia Abu-Jamal, has come to symbolize the struggle against mass incarceration and the struggle for Black freedom and liberation.

Yet Mumia is not talked about in schools. Most young people probably do not know who he is. We need to change this.

Mumia, revolutionary

Mumia was born in a north Philadelphia housing project in 1954. As a student at Benjamin Franklin High School, he led a successful racist education campaign and for renaming the school after Malcolm X. By the age of 15, he helped found the

Young people have the most reason to fight. The capitalist system has offered us no future. Now we need to tear down the walls of injustice, the same walls which keep Mumia imprisoned and our communities in turmoil.

Black Panther Party for Self-Defense, Philadelphia chapter. Given his skills to teach and explain, Mumia became the “Black Leader of Information,” responsible for writing flyers and creating popular media. The Party grew quickly as Black people were tired of waiting for freedom — it was time to take it back!

The Black Panthers came from a tremendous history of rebellion, including slave revolts, resistance to racism and oppression and struggles of heroes like Harriet Tubman, Malcolm X and Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. for human rights and liberation. According to J. Edgar Hoover, FBI director at the time, “The Black Panther Party is a threat to our very way of life. They attempt, without question, represents the greatest threat to internal security of the country.” The Panthers’ militancy, discipline and strong political base in the Black community impacted millions of Black people, and especially Mumia.

Mumia organized with the Black Panthers in Philadelphia and across the U.S. Philadelphia was the scene of the historic 1970 Revolutionary People’s Constitutional Convention, organized by the Panthers, when 25,000 people from across the U.S. met at Temple University to discuss creating a new government, one for the people. The Philadelphia police, in an attempt to stop the meeting, RAIDed all three local offices of the Black Panther Party hours before the event.

Continued from page 1

Mumia2000.org

Georgia is seeking his execution — and why? In order to deal a blow to the rising progressive movement.

We must not allow ourselves to be divided. The Jewish Defense Organization tried to shut down this historic event. How dare this Klan-like group, that has bombed and murdered, claim to speak for all anti-racist Jews, of all progressive white people, be heard loud and clear.

For so long the Black and Latinx communities have suffered one police murder after another. We’ve seen mass demonstrations, even rebellions. But more white people need to protest. White people in particular have an extra responsibility to combat every manifestation of racism. We who believe in Mumia’s freedom shall not rest until it comes!

Patrick Dorismond was a 26-year-old Black father of two, murdered by two undercover NYPD officers March 16, 2000. His funeral in Brooklyn, joined by thousands of protesters, was attacked by the NYPD. The cops fired 41 shots at Diallo, who was unarmed, and were acquitted by a jury in Albany, New York, after a Bronx grand jury indicted them for murder.

Imam Jamil al-Amin is a political prisoner and former Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee chair, framed for murder by police in Fulton County, Georgia. He has been incarcerated since 2002.

Workers World, I am incarcerated in SCI Albion in Pennsylvania. I came across an older newspaper and love the content. I saw an ad and was hoping to get a subscription. I like your information and look forward to reading your newspaper. Thank you in advance

Dear Workers World,

We will please send me a copy of “Rainbow Solidarity in Defense of Cuba?” I’m at SCI Forest in Pennsylvania. I have been receiving Workers World for some time, and I really enjoy reading it. You guys are doing a great job getting the word out. So keep doing what you do. I strongly believe that everyone needs to unite to make this world a better place for everyone. There should not be any hate or discrimination. Also, we all need free universal health care.

Peace, love and solidarity,

Dear Mundo Obrero/Workers World, I am incarcerated in SCI Jefferson City Correctional Center. When 15,000 people from across the U.S. met at Temple University to discuss creating a new government, one for the people. The Philadelphia police, in an attempt to stop the meeting, RAIDed all three local offices of the Black Panther Party hours before the event.

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Letters from behind the walls

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Keep up the great work.

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Abolishing the death penalty—and capitalism

By Workers World Houston bureau

To understand the systemic cruelty and deep inequalities that persist in the criminal justice system in the U.S., one need look no further than the death penalty.

The death penalty evolved from the rope to the chair to the needle. On this continent, it evolved directly from Indigenous genocide and enslavement of African people on stolen Indigenous land. The death penalty persists, despite not deterring crime and despite the racist legal system getting fatal verdicts wrong so often. In practice, it is racist and anti-poor. Those without the capital, get the capital punishment.

The state of Texas has executed more people in the modern era than the next six U.S. states combined. The state has lynched 574 people since 1982. The state that has executed the second largest number of people in the modern era is Virginia, with 113 executions. In 2020 Virginia was the first former Confederate state to abolish the death penalty, which is a big deal, as legal lynchings have historically been concentrated in the South, coinciding with a history of enslavement and genocide at the hands of colonizers.

Currently, there are 23 states with no death penalty, three with governor-imposed moratoriums and 24 states that have the death penalty. Public support for capital punishment is down, thanks in great part to activists all over the world, collectively fighting its inhumanity for decades.

Positive movement against the death penalty

Despite the SCOTUS ruling on May 17—denying two Arizona death row prisoners, David Ramirez and Barry Jones, the right to appeal ineffective counsel in federal court—there is still quite a bit of positive movement against the death penalty, particularly in Texas.

According to the Death Penalty Information Center: “[In] Harris County, prosecutors are challenging Houston Judge Natalia Cornelio’s refusal to schedule an execution date for death row prisoner Arthur Brown in order to provide a new lawyer in time to investigate whether he is ineligible for the death penalty because of intellectual disability. In Nueces County, the Texas Attorney General’s Office has intervened in court proceedings to oppose District Attorney Mark Gonzalez’s motion to withdraw a death warrant scheduling the execution of John Henry Ramirez for October 5, 2022, ...”

“Gonzalez, a former defense attorney, was elected in 2016 on a platform of criminal justice reform. In response to an application filed by his office, the Nueces County District Court issued an order on April 12, 2022, setting an execution date for Ramirez. Two days later, citing his ‘firm belief’ that the death penalty is unethical and should not be imposed on Mr. Ramirez or any other person’ while he is Nueces County District Attorney, Gonzalez filed a motion to withdraw the death warrant.” (Deathpenaltyinfo.org, May 27)

Delia Perez Meyer, who has a brother on Texas death row, said at a rally in Harlingen, Texas, to free death row prisoner Melissa Lucio: “This system is so flawed. There’s tampering of evidence; there’s withholding of evidence; there’s collusion. A lot of terrible things go on in death row cases. Executions are wrong way to abolition. (“Inside Texas Politics,” wfaa.com, April 29)

On the way to abolition

The death penalty itself is part of the legacy of enslavement we contend with abolishing. From the rope to the chair to the needle—and methods such as death by lethal injection, firing squad and the gas chamber, still legal to use in places like South Carolina and Arizona—the capitalistic state has many methods with which to kill the poor and oppressed.

Much like in the case of Mumia Abu-Jamal, there are hundreds of thousands of human beings imprisoned in the U.S. serving a sentence with the possibility of parole. Mumia calls this “slow death row,” because unsanitary conditions and extreme medical neglect, behind bars often prove to be as lethal as an official execution date—just slower.

“Before America’s era of mass incarceration took hold in the early 1970s, the number of individuals in prison was less than 200,000. Today, it’s 1.4 million; and more than 200,000 people are serving life sentences—one out of every seven in prison. More people are sentenced to life in prison in America than there were people in prison serving any sentence in 1970.” (sentencingproject.org, Feb. 17, 2021, tinyurl.com/4y7vznh)

If we include the number of all members of the working class held captive in prisons, jails and detention centers, that would bring the total number under carceral control to 1.9 million people in the U.S. (prisonpolicy.org, March 14)

In tandem with capitalist cages, we live in a country where over a million people have perished from a deadly respiratory virus, many dying within prisons. We live in a world where capitalist legislators are comfortable with massacres through gun violence against children in school, against people of color shopping for groceries or at worship. We live in a world where the U.S. spends billions of dollars for war in Ukraine but has no plan to feed a populace struggling in a new era of mass poverty.

We live in a world where the minimum federal wage is only double the price of a gallon of gas, and where many cannot afford to even drive to work if they don’t live nearby. We live in a world where—as Angela Davis says—we have the freedom to starve rather than have our human needs met.

Capitalism, as it has been for so many members of the working class throughout history, is much like a death sentence. Capitalism is racist, anti-poor and ableist in the way it operates and is an enemy of all the oppressed. As we work to abolish the death penalty, the abolition of capitalism is next on the horizon.

WW COMMENTARY

June 19 – Yancy Balderas, an activist with the Texas Death Penalty Abolition Movement, led the call “Texas says death row!” Juneteenth marchers and parade watchers in Houston responded with “We say, hell no!” Balderas carried a sign with a photo of herself and her spouse that read, “My husband is innocent. Free Juan Balderas.”

Activists marched behind Leonard Benton’s pickup truck decorated with photos and signs condemning the four Texas executions currently scheduled, as well as advocating for others on Texas death row and for freedom for political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal. While the adults marched, the youngest abolitionist, nine-year-old Jason Perez handed out candy to those along the sidewalk. In near 100°F heat, there were close to 150 spirited groups parading, protesting and almost a thousand people lining the route.

Texas declared a general holiday in 1979, and the U.S. made it a federal holiday in 2005. But African Americans celebrated Juneteenth for over 100 years before that. ☑
Gay and lesbian historians who view history from a materialist vantage point have argued that the affront of capitalism and the affront and sexual identity appear to have existed in all epochs of human society, the conditions of capitalism were required for the rise of a political and social minority identity: gay and lesbian.

But Stonewall was not just a product of capitalism but of national oppression as well. The historians accurately point out that the ascendency of capitalist production in the United States created a vast class of “wage slaves”— workers who owned nothing but their ability to labor. The organizing of a large-scale workforce also centralized laborers, creating large-scale industry and dense urban living, with same-sex living situations and relative anonymity. They trace the devastating eco-economic dislocation of the 1929 capitalist Depression that shook the working class and oppressed, creating a widespread depression that shook the working class, the ranks of the military. And 1950s Cold War repression inevitably generated resistance.

These overall conditions under capitalism, heated to critical mass by the development of a large-scale workforce, led to the development of LGBTQ communities and to a fight-back consciousness. Liberation struggles and ‘Gay Power!’

National oppression was a key factor in the fight-back at Stonewall as well. It fueled the rebellion, which drew its leadership from the most oppressed, led to the development of LGBTQ+ communities and to a fight-back consciousness.

In that sense, the Stonewall insurrection was not the culmination of one history, but of multiple histories and imperialisms for the right of self-determination and national liberation.

The youth of color in leadership in the sustained battles against the police in Greenwich Village on three hot summer nights in June 1969— many of them homeless youth, who struggled to survive on the streets— fought for their right to define and defend their own bodies, sexualities and gender expressions. Their struggle was rooted in a long history of struggle against imperialism and for the right of self-determination and national liberation.

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Antwiwar protest planned for NATO Summit

By John Catalinotto

The most aggressive and powerful military alliance in the history of humanity, NATO is holding a summit June 29-30 in Madrid to plan its next confrontations with Russia and China — and to reinforce its domination of the world, despite contradictions within the imperialist camp.

In opposition to these plans, a coalition of international antiwar organizations will hold a countersummit June 24 and 25 and will march at the Atocha railroad station (Puerta de Atocha) in central Madrid Sunday, June 26.

The recent protest against Washington’s hemispheric “summit” in Los Angeles — where Biden met with presidents from Nicaragua, Venezuela and Cuba — showed how progressive forces could highlight an imperialist flop.

Instead of disappearing at the end of the Cold War, NATO has been growing rapidly over the last 25 years, nearly doubling the number of member countries as it expands its area of operations. Despite U.S. promises to the Soviet Union’s leaders not to move an inch eastward, the U.S.-led military alliance has absorbed most former members of the dissolved Warsaw Pact, including some former republics of the USSR and most of the ministates from the former Yugoslavia.

Some 50 delegations, including 30 heads of state, are expected in Madrid. NATO has recently invited Sweden and Finland to join and opened the door to Ukraine.

NATO operates worldwide

NATO has increased its area of operations beyond Europe and North America to South America and the Caribbean, Africa, Central and South Asia and even to the Pacific. It has openly intervened with military force in Yugoslavia, Iraq, Afghanistan and Libya and led wars in these countries.

Top representatives of Colombia, Israel and Japan will attend the summit. Despite these countries’ lack of geographic connection with the North Atlantic, they are already act as de facto members of NATO. The U.S. and its closest imperialist allies plan to focus the hostility of the alliance on Russia and China. Washington has already used the war in Ukraine — in which the U.S. and NATO provoked — to whip up war propaganda against Russia and whip its European allies into line against Russia, despite their contradictory interests.

While the competing interests of the various imperialist powers may undermine Washington’s plans at the NATO summit, workers and oppressed nations around the world have their own class interests in the outcome of the war talks. They have an existential interest in stopping the aggressive plans of the imperialist powers, for which the working class and oppressed nations and people pay the greatest price.

That there exist contradictory interests between the U.S. rulers and those of Western Europe makes an opportunity for the working class on both sides of the Atlantic to intervene against their own ruling classes. For all workers in imperialist countries, the main enemy is at home — that is, the bosses and bankers of the state that rules them.

The first line of struggle is the antiwar protest planned in Madrid, which will expose the crimes of NATO and begin a struggle to get the individual countries out of NATO — and get NATO out of the world.

Haiti suffers in U.S.-created turmoil

By G. Dunkel

Haiti is in a process of collapse in its ability to function as a country on a daily basis. Half of its people don’t have access to clean water and have trouble finding enough food to feed themselves and their families. Social services — education, roads, public health care in this time of pandemic — and other types of social and physical infrastructure have nearly vanished.

Haiti had not recovered from a major earthquake in 2010 that devastated Port-au-Prince and left hundreds of thousands of people dead or homeless, when another hurricane hit southern Haiti in 2021. There was no adequate response to deviation from the earthquake or that of the hurricanes and tropical storms. Workers and impoverished farmers were left facing a future they had little hope of surviving.

This chaos has now been intensified, because Haiti’s governmental structure has fallen apart. The assassination of President Jovenel Moïse in 2021 — whose ultimate authors have still not been uncovered — and the inability of Haitian politicians, year after year, to call elections has deepened this uncertain threat. The menace has been increased by the ability of criminals to kidnap almost anyone for a profit, even forcing bus riders to pay a ransom.

On top of runaway corruption and the dissolution of the political system, daily reality has become even more punishing for the population, as inflation has spiked almost 27%, the highest in 10 years. When the “Five Second Cry” seized Haiti’s main courthouse by force of arms (and probably some inside help) and began selling its furnishings, such as air conditioners and computers on the public market, the cops declined to act, claiming they didn’t have the heavy weapons they need to match the gang’s firepower.

U.S. role in Haitian catastrophe

The United States, with France’s assistance, has played a dominant role in creating Haiti’s current collapse, while the presence of the U.N. in different guises has led the U.S. to draw a line around its role.

At the end of February 2004, with insurgent forces on the outskirts of Port-au-Prince, the U.S. kidnapped democratically-elected President Jean Bertrand Aristide and his spouse Mireille Trouillot and flew them to the Central African Republic. U.S. troops, together with contingents from France and Canada, set up an interim government in Haiti. This was then replaced that June by the U.N. mission MINUSTAH, an acronym of its name in French. Thirteen years and $7 billion later, MINUSTAH was replaced by BINUH — a French acronym for the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti. Its mission was restricted to overseeing the cops and court system. BINUH’s mandate is now up for renewal by the U.N.

David Oxygène, secretary general of Moelgahf, told the Haitian news site AlterPresse June 17: “Under the control of the United States, the great imperialist powers still control Haiti. The question of renewing the mandate of BINUH falls within a logic of removing the sovereignty of Haiti, so that it is the international organizations which organize the elections in the country and place satellites in power. Moelgahf is a progressive movement for liberty, equality and fraternity of Haitians.

There appears to be some maneuvering going on in relation to BINUH, Haiti-Liberté, a Haitian weekly out of Port-au-Prince and Brooklyn, reported a meeting between Helen La Lime, the head of BINUH and a former top U.S. diplomat, and former President Aristide.

Le Nouvelliste, Haiti’s daily newspaper, reported June 17 that Lavalas, Aristide’s political party, held a demonstration in Cayes, a major city in south-west Haiti, demanding that Ariel Henry, the current acting president, step down and that Aristide be appointed as interim president.

U.S. continues to deport or refuse Haitian refugees

The daily contribution of the United States to Haiti’s current catastrophe is hundreds of deportees. In May the U.S. deported over 4,000 Haitians, a record, bringing the total number of deportees during the Biden administration to over 25,000. These were deported to a country in the throes of crisis created by colonialism and imperialism — a country lacking food, potable water, shelters, health care, jobs and physical safety for most of its people.

These deportees are the ones that Immigration and Customs Enforcement determines to be not covered by the Temporary Protective Status, established for some Haitians living in the U.S. before July 29, 2021. TPS was granted because of dangerous conditions in Haiti. The Border Patrol agents mounted on horseback have driven back Haitian refugees at the Texas border. The U.S. Coast Guard is turning back and repatriating hundreds of poor Haitians crossing by boat, generally overcrowded sailing boats.

A number of U.S. organizations, especially the Black Alliance for Just Immigration, have carried out the racist treatment of Haitians to the Biden administration’s promise to welcome 100,000 Ukrainian refugees — who are overwhelmingly of white European descent.

Labor union in Tunisia resists the IMF

By G. Dunkel

Tunisia’s President Kais Saied tried to stop the general strike, but 95% of the Tunisian General Labor Union (UGTT) membership walked out June 16. This led to closed airports, public transport, ports and government offices. The UGTT has about 3 million members.

Tunisia’s tourist trade — a large part of its economy — was devastated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to the war in Ukraine, the price paid for flour and wheat, to make the bread that’s an essential part of the Tunisians’ diet, has doubled and tripled.

Since Saied suspended the country’s parliament nearly a year ago, he has made concessions demanded by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) — cutting subsidies and wages.

The UGTT disagreed — and backed up its “No” with boots on the concrete.

“We are still trying to find a compromise with the government,” Heila Alaoui, UGTT’s deputy secretary-general in charge of external relations, said at the main rally in Tunis. He suggested that some less painful economic reforms might be possible. (aljazeera.com, June 16)

The day before the strike, the UGTT explained that workers would hold this strike to defend their economic and social rights, after the dithering of the government in the face of their legitimate demands.

The union denounced the worsening social situation of workers in all categories “in light of low wages, rising prices and the deterioration of purchasing power.” (*)

General strike in Tunisia, June 16

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The right to self-defense

We were still reeling from the racist massacre at Buffalo, New York, the slaughter of children in Uvalde, in his hands—who was shot dead by a cop? Remember touching with reality and stripped naked in Atlanta, nothing to attack. And here perhaps someone might say, “Oh good, and baseball cap “uniforms,” they drew the attention of a fascist “Unite the Right” rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, Arkansas, Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, Michigan, Missouri, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington and Wyoming. The hate group formed after the deadly neo-fascist “Unite the Right” rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, in 2017.


We as workers and oppressed people have the right to defend ourselves. The first line of self-defense—in the streets, on the job—is solidarity with each other. The second is to have a plan with each other about what to do if attacked—whether by the boss with intimidation or attacks at work, or by white supremacists at a PRIDE Day event. Plan ahead and communicate; be aware; be in solidarity; be prepared. It’s our right to defend our lives.

The best preparation for self-defense is revolutionary consciousness. In “Seize the Time,” Bobby Seale of the Black Panther Party for Self Defense said: “We do not fight racism with racism. We fight racism with solidarity...We fight capitalism with basic socialism. And we do not fight imperialism with more imperialism. We fight imperialism with proletarian internationalism.”

The significance of Juneteenth

By Monica Moorehead

This year marks the first anniversary of Juneteenth as an official federal holiday since it was signed into law June 17, 2021, by President Joe Biden.

The day is a recognition that on June 19, 1865, enslaved Black people were liberated in Galveston, Texas—two and a half years following the enactment of the Emancipation Proclamation made by President Abraham Lincoln. Many Black people were either kidnapped to countries like Cuba or Brazil where slavery still existed until the late 1860s or even murdered by Texas enslavers.

Many Black people view Juneteenth as the “second independence” following the U.S. “independence” from Britain in 1776. Even before Juneteenth—also known as “Freedom Day”—it was made a legal holiday. Black people celebrated this anniversary of their emancipation all over the U.S. with marches, rallies, along with an array of social and cultural events. But the bourgeois media paid little to no attention to these celebrations. The federal holiday will no doubt help to raise consciousness of the significance of the day for millions of people who have very limited knowledge of the heroic crime of slavery and the heroic struggle to overturn it—with rebellions led by enslaved people like Denmark Vesey, Gabriel Prosser and Nat Turner, and white allies like John Brown.

It took a bloody Civil War, where the Confederacy was defeated on the battlefield in 1865, to eventually end chattel slavery, granting legal freedom but also opening the path to semi-slavery for Black people. These are important historical and political events that in one degree or another are absent from the mainstream history books.

What led to this federal holiday—similar to the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday enacted in 1986—was the present-day mass struggle against racist police brutality and other forms of white supremacy under the banner of Black Lives Matter. This struggle reached its peak following the public lynching of George Floyd in May 2020, with millions of people taking to the streets that summer with the main demand, “Defund the police.”

Of course, the liberation of Black people did not begin nor will it end with Juneteenth. The suppression of Black Reconstruction in the aftermath of the Civil War meant the goal of granting Black people full bourgeois democratic rights was abruptly cut short. The white-supremacist counter revolution laid the foundation for today’s reality of Black people in disproportionate numbers being relegated to a second-class status, along with some of the worst housing, education, health care and nutrition in the country, along with being subjected to mass incarceration and police terror.

Anti-imperialists march to end U.S. crimes

By Richie Merino

An Independence for Puerto Rico contingent marched two miles up Fifth Avenue in the 2022 National Puerto Rican Day Parade in New York City on June 12. The contingent included the Puerto Rican Nationalist Party, Frente Independentista Boricua, Las Lolitas de NYC and Workers World Party.

The contingent demanded the decolonization of Puerto Rico and an end to the subjugation and exploitation by U.S. forces of the peoples of the island and throughout the Caribbean. The NY-NJ Cuba Si Coalition, which advocates for stopping the deadly U.S. economic blockade on Cuba, joined the contingent, as all chanted, “Puerto Rico, Cuba, somos una sola!” (“Puerto Rico, Cuba, We are one!”)

Despite attempts by police and corporate sponsors to divide up the anti-imperialist contingent, activists waved the Grito de Lares, Cuban, Nicaraguan and Venezuelan flags to cheer from the crowd. Many spectators put their fists up in the air in support of the Puerto Rican independence and the other anti-imperialist struggles represented.

The Puerto Rican independence movement holds that the struggles for Venezuelan, Cuban and Nicaraguan sovereignty are connected to their own struggles against U.S. imperialism.

The kidnapping of Venezuelan Alex Saab

WWP marchers carried a “Free Alex Saab” banner provided by the Puerto Rican independence fighter Oscar López Rivera, who leads the struggle locally as the honorary chair of the Free Alex Saab U.S. Campaign.

Puerto Rican Day Parade, New York City, June 12.

June 12 marked two years since the kidnapping of Venezuelan diplomat Alex Saab, while on a humanitarian mission to Iran to try to alleviate the effects of the U.S. economic warfare and sanctions against Venezuela.

While traveling to negotiate a deal for Venezuela to receive more fuel, food and medical supplies, Saab—a accredited diplomatic—was arrested without a warrant arrest or Interpol alert and was taken to the U.S. in October 2021.

Cape Verdean authorities had kept him arbitrarily imprisoned for 491 days without due process, in violation of the laws of Cape Verde. During that time, Saab experienced torture. Alex Saab’s abduction is an attack on Venezuela’s sovereignty and a violation of human rights and international law.

Free Alex Saab! Independence for Puerto Rico! End the U.S. blockades against Cuba, Nicaragua, Venezuela and everywhere!
Delegation brings solidarity to migrant seafarers

By Danny O’Brien
Portland, Oregon

Many of the participants took time off from the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) national convention taking place at the convention center alongside museum workers fighting for their first contract.

National AFSCME President Lee Saunders said: “The PMA Union is part of a rising grassroots movement of cultural workers, who are organizing with pride and passion, who are seeking the power that protects them, a union. This young, dynamic workforce is bringing new energy to the fight. ... They represent the labor movement of tomorrow, but more importantly they represent the labor movement of today ... like Rocky, they kick some ass.”

The PMA Union has been in contract negotiations with PMA management since October 2020. They’ve been negotiating for fair pay and affordable health insurance, for worker protections like job security and safety from harassment and for opportunities to build careers at one of the most prestigious museums in the U.S.

Museum worker Amanda Bock had to work in the construction division one day but get paid for another. “I definitely doubled the cost of health care, leaving her with thousands of dollars in medical bills. “For far too long the PMA has capitalized on the prestige of the institution in order to make a buck, but you can’t eat prestige,” she said.

While management delays responses to workers’ proposals, distorts the big issues and dismisses the union’s proposed improvements, PMA workers keep showing up and doing the work that brings the PMA to life and makes the museum a world-class institution.

PMA Union members say they’ve waited long enough for necessary change.

“Management, you may not see us, but we see you. Your refusal to sign an agreement that compensates us like the professionals we are is a refusal to see us and recognize us for the significant work we do to sustain this museum,” said PMA worker Jean Korey.

The high-energy event featured signs and floats, speakers and the audience joined special guests, including President Liz Shuler, representing the national leadership of the AFL-CIO; Randi Weingarten, President of the American Federation of Teachers; John A. Costa, International President of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; and Pacific Coast Coalition for Seafarers strives to: tinyurl.com/msd8knuc. It’s time for a fair contract now!
¡ORGULLO significa LUCHAR DE NUEVO!

Por Monica Moorehead

Nueva York

Traducción: Deborah Rodríguez

Al día siguiente del 1 de mayo—Día Internacional de los Trabajadores—un grupo de trabajadores de la construcción inicio una huelga, principalmente de Guatemala, lanzó la campaña Cabricanecos Internacional de los Trabajadores—un sindicato, su principal objetivo es mostrar a los trabajadores de la ciudad de Nueva York y Nueva Jersey.”

Por eso no debemos pensar en nosotros separadas. Son frentes superpuestos en las condiciones de trabajo peligrosas y de explotación, todos ellos endémicos en las comunidades de bajos ingresos de la ciudad de Nueva York. Esta campaña representa a 20 trabajadores. Estos valientes trabajadores prepararon una carta con sus demandas. Ante la mirada de sus partidarios, los trabajadores rodearon el coche de un jefe para intentar entregarles sus demandas. El jefe se negó a aceptar la carta, pero el argumento de los trabajadores sonó alto y claro: queremos ser tratados con dignidad y respeto, y que todos los trabajadores. Esta acción del 2 de mayo fue sólo el comienzo de una larga lucha.

Los trabajadores de la construcción representan por el Centro de Trabajadores de Lavandería, una organización mayoritariamente de inmigrantes que, según su página de FaceBook, “nace de la necesidad de desarrollar un liderazgo basado en la comunidad con el fin de mejorar las condiciones de vida y de trabajo de los trabajadores de las industrias de lavandería y de servicios alimenticios, así como de sus familias. Nuestro trabajo tiene como objetivo combatir abusos como el abandono de los propietarios, el robo de salarios y las condiciones de trabajo peligrosas y de explotación, todos ellos endémicos en las comunidades de bajos ingresos de la ciudad de Nueva York.”

Aunque el LWC no es un sindicato oficial, su principal objetivo es mostrar a los trabajadores con salarios bajos que tienen derecho a organizarse y a luchar por mejores condiciones, aunque no tengan un sindicato. El 30 de abril, Mahoma López, codirigente del LWC, habló con Mundo Obrero sobre la difícil situación de estos trabajadores. La mejora de los salarios es uno de las principales reclamaciones, pero igual de importante es la grave preocupación por la falta de protección en el trabajo. Muchas de estas obras no proporcionan a los trabajadores del amianto y de otras sustancias químicas debilitantes y potencialmente mortales a las que se expone todos los días, algunos de los cuales sufren de cáncer de pulmón.

Los trabajadores tampoco tienen armas para protegerse, y muchas veces, cuando se enfrentan a cargos de violencia, no tienen a quién acudir.

Trabajadores en construcción de construcción exigen condiciones de trabajo seguras

Mahoma López habla junto a los trabajadores de la construcción de Cabricanecos en la manifestación del Primer de Mayo en Union Square, Nueva York, organizada por la Asamblea de Trabajadores contra el Racismo (WAAR).

Los demócratas, a pesar de tener casi 50 años para codificar Roe v. Wade en la ley federal, no lo hicieron. ¿Por qué? Porque, al igual que el Partido Republicano, están en desacuerdo con las personas sobre el mecanismo fundamental dentro del capitalismo. Los ricos controlan la economía, y con ella, el poder político institucional. Es un ciclo monstruoso, y es la razón por la que muchas poblaciones son muy populares entre los votantes que no tienen ninguna posibilidad de ser aprobadas en el Congreso.

Así es como el patriarcado y la supremacía blanca siguen floreciendo. Si nos hace creer que el capitalismo es un sistema justo en el que el trabajo duro se traduce en éxito, pero eso es falso. El capitalismo es un sistema de opresión. Dado que las opciones se combinan entre sí, cuando se elimina la autonomía reproductiva, las personas negras, latinas e indígenas, las personas LGBTQ+, los discapacitados son los que más sufren. Por eso no debemos pensar en nosotros mismos como elementos no relacionados en la sociedad, sino como una sola clase, cuyos problemas surgen de la misma raíz. Si seguimos abordando los problemas uno por uno, sólo estaremos cortando ramas de este gran árbol venenoso. Debemos derribarlo por completo.

El Caucus LGBTQ+ del Partido Mundo Obren DENUENCIA los ataques a nuestros cuerpos —los ataques racistas a la gente de color como la violencia en Buffalo, Nueva York, los ataques a las mujeres y a otras personas con derechos reproductivos, de voto y de los hogares— con armas legales que ponen en peligro nuestros cuerpos y mentes. RECHAZAMOS todos los ataques a los derechos reproductivos, de voto y de los hogares.

Precisamente, los arcos de lucha se entrelazan para rechazar el desprecio que muchos no pueden sentir hacia las personas que las opresión social les obliga a cargar con materiales pesados. Y el resultado es que los trabajadores tienen mucho dolor en los hombros, la espalda y las rodillas.

“También hay mucho estrés emocional, porque tienen que terminar de llenar los camiones muy rápidamente. A veces llevan estos materiales desde la sexta planta, la séptima, sin ascensor hasta la planta principa

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En lugar de separar, se toman y se defienden! ¡Esta es una declaración del día de la liberación para mostrar derechos reproductivos, de voto y de los hogares— con armas legales que ponen en peligro nuestros cuerpos y mentes. RECHAZAMOS todos los ataques a los derechos reproductivos, de voto y de los hogares.

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Otro resultado del trato inhumano de estos contratistas ha sido el estrés que sufren no sólo los trabajadores, sino también sus familias, empezando por sus pareja. Muchos de estos trabajadores no quieren volver a trabajar por la posible ruptura de las familias.

Importancia del 2 de mayo

Los trabajadores decidieron llevar a cabo su acción el 2 de mayo, porque las obras de construcción se cerraron el domingo 1 de mayo. López explicó: “Este es el Día Internacional de los Inmigrantes aquí en Nueva York. Nuestra acción del 2 de mayo se llama Día de la Liberación para mostrar a las personas que la resistencia es un puente entre nuestras fuerzas; la comunidad está aquí con nosotros, y estamos exigiendo cambios estructurales para mejorar.

“Decimos que nadie merece morir en Continúa en la página 11...