



Down with SCOTUS! We will fight back!

By Kathy Durkin

On June 24, the Supreme Court of the United States dealt a stunning blow to over half the country’s population when it overturned the right to access legal abortions, granted by the top court 49 years ago in the precedent-setting *Roe v. Wade* ruling. The court’s reactionary majority has denied women and all people who can bear a child equality, bodily autonomy and the right to make medical decisions. The dissent from Justices Stephen Breyer, Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan asserts the Court’s ruling means: “[F]rom the very moment of fertilization, a woman has no rights to speak of. A State can force her to bring a pregnancy to term, even at the steepest personal and familial costs.” In essence, these unelected “justices” ruled that once a woman is pregnant, she loses independence and becomes subordinate to the state. Her choices are gone. Pushed by the Republican right, 26 states

have enacted abortion bans, with 13 passing trigger bans; several went into effect when the *Dobbs* decision was announced. At clinics in Texas and other trigger states, desperate women were awaiting abortions when the news came down; they had to leave immediately. Many essential health centers stopped providing abortions or closed that day.

Rage at rallies

This horrific racist, sexist, classist ruling infuriated women and people of all genders across the country. Immediately, protesters amassed outside SCOTUS, while thousands more gathered in downtown Washington, D.C. Chants rang out: “We can’t go back! We will fight back!” and “Legal abortion on demand.” One group chanted “Ain’t no justice in this town!” A veteran of the earlier pro-choice struggle told everyone, “Don’t agonize! Organize!” Tens of thousands marched in multinational, multigender, multigenerational demonstrations across the width and



Philadelphia, June 24 WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

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breadth of the U.S. — in too many places to list, from big cities to little towns. As protesters assembled outside the state senate in **Phoenix**, police tear-gassed them. Ten people were arrested in a “night of rage” in **Eugene, Oregon**. Coat hangers mysteriously appeared at the capitol building in **Madison, Wisconsin**, a state with no abortion facilities. Signs in **Salt Lake City, Utah**, read: “We need a mass movement to protect abortion rights!” SCOTUS’ unjust, cruel ruling will disproportionately impact Black, Brown and low-income communities. Monica

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Queer Liberation March, New York City, June 26. Page 5. WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

Growing mass fury

Tens of thousands of mainly young people took to the streets in utter outrage on June 24 and June 25 when the U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* — the legalization of federal protection of the right of abortion for the past 49 years. Various groups are scrambling to find ways to make sure abortion on demand is accessible, including providing necessary funds for those forced to travel hundreds of miles to other states where clinics still provide this essential health care. This reactionary, barbaric ruling will turn back the clock for women — especially those of color — as well as gender-nonconforming and trans people. This is an attack on their right to choose for themselves when it comes to having a child or not. This ruling reflects how patriarchy, misogyny and racism are deeply rooted in U.S. society. The ruling signals a return to “states’ rights.” At one point in U.S. history, states had the right to enslave African people before the U.S. Civil War resulted in the military defeat of the Confederacy. One pro-life, right-wing politician had the unmitigated gall to put an equal sign

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On the picket line

By Marie Kelly

Union Kitchen workers win against union-busting boss

Union Kitchen workers in Washington, D.C., won a National Labor Relations Board-supervised union election June 21. The 50 workers at the company’s six locations voted overwhelmingly to join United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 400.

The workers announced their union drive in January and fought back against union-busting tactics, which included firing pro-union workers, by company founder and CEO Cullen Gilchrist. Travis Acton, a staff organizer for Local 400, said “I don’t expect Cullen to magically become pro-union now, just because workers won. Our contract fight will be worker-led and worker-focused.” (tinyurl.com/bddawzvz)

Besides pay increases and improved work schedules, workers want a say in store policy. In particular, workers object to a management policy banning students, who are predominantly Black. Workers worry this may unfairly target Black youths if law enforcement is called.

Immigrant hotel workers find support for unionizing

Half Moon Bay Ritz-Carlton workers, in San Mateo County, California, won their union election May 12, joining the 300,000 member-strong UNITE HERE Local 2. The workers, many of them recent immigrants, had brought their stories of vicious union-busting to their local parish priest.

In an open letter to the parishioners, Father Jose Corral encouraged their organizing efforts. “I feel obliged to communicate to you your right to organize and ask for

workplace protections through representatives. Unions are a way for workers to negotiate for just wages, benefits and better working conditions, and to look after the rights of vulnerable workers,” said Fr. Corral. (Portside, June 20)

Abortion clinic workers on the front lines

Fallout from the SCOTUS abortion ruling is already happening. Workers at clinics that provide abortions in states with no ban are preparing to provide care for desperate out-of-state patients, which will increase their workload.

Work in a clinic where abortions are performed is stressful. Besides the work itself, clinic staff must battle reactionaries who protest and threaten them. Clinic workers have rightly identified that only collective bargaining through a union guarantees workplace protections and proper staffing.

In May, anticipating that Roe would be overturned and to address issues such as low pay and burnout, 400 workers in 28 Planned Parenthood clinics in Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota filed an election petition with the NLRB stating their intent to unionize with Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Healthcare Minnesota and Iowa. The majority of workers had signed union authorization cards, but clinic management refused to voluntarily recognize the union. (LA Times, June 14)

Workers at Preterm abortion clinic in Cleveland unionized earlier this year. These clinic workers are on the frontline of the battle for reproductive justice and workers’ rights. □

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. □

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MUNDO OBRERO

WORKERS WORLD

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#4 & #5

Lavender and Red 4 & 5

War, sexual freedom and fascism in Germany

By Leslie Feinberg

In addition to the legislative attacks on women, gender-nonconforming people and LGBTQ+ lives, in June white-supremacist groups like the Proud Boys have attempted a military-style raid on Pride in the Park in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, and invaded public libraries — in Wilmington, North Carolina, and San Lorenzo, California — to disrupt children's events where LGBTQ+ related books were being read. These excerpts from Leslie Feinberg's Lavender & Red (June 24 and July 1, 2004, Workers World) remind us that Nazis used similar tactics to split up growing working-class power. Start organizing practical solidarity — and event security — for your local actions and read the entire series at workers.org/books.

The outbreak of World War I derailed the thrust of the movements for sexual and gender emancipation and for women's rights in Germany. ... In each of the capitalist countries, the bosses appealed to the workers to unite behind them in battle. ... Going along with this right-wing, murderous patriotism put the brake on every social movement—gay, trans and lesbian, women's rights, workers' and socialist struggles—because it gave the ruling class the upper hand, strengthened the right wing and set back the progressive movement. ...

But World War I contributed to making the monumental Russian Revolution a necessity. It was not military defeat on the battlefield, but revolutions in Russia and Germany, that brought World War I to an end.

Socialist revolutions strike down anti-LGBTQ+ bigotry

Eight weeks after the October 1917 Russian Revolution—which brought the Soviets of workers, peasants and soldiers to power—the new government led by Lenin abolished czarist antigay laws, which were similar to the German Paragraph 175. This went hand-in-hand with guaranteeing the rights of workers, land for the peasants and equal rights for women. ... The left wing of the Russian revolutionary movement did more than just strip the antigay laws from the Russian penal code. The Bolsheviks argued that walls separating same-sex love from the rest of human sexuality should be torn down. ...

The fresh winds of the Russian Revolution filled the sails of struggle in other parts of the world, including Germany. In 1918 mutiny broke out in the German Navy. Workers throughout the country went on strike in support. On Nov. 7, a council of workers, soldiers

and peasants established the Republic of Bavaria. The revolutionary wave spread to Berlin, where a socialist republic was proclaimed Nov. 9. The kaiser abdicated the next day.

Hirschfeld: queer socialist, internationalist

The revolution gave the Homosexual Emancipation Movement [in Germany] new energy and lent inspiration to the lesbian and gay movement's hope that their liberation was on the horizon. ...

Magnus Hirschfeld, a leader of the Homosexual Emancipation Movement, along with members of the Scientific Humanitarian Committee, supported the new republic. "We took the most active part in all the revolutionary events," reported the Committee.

Hirschfeld spoke at a Berlin mass rally on Nov. 10 at the height of the revolution. Between 3,000 to 4,000 people gathered in front of the Reichstag building, near where revolutionary Red Guards were fighting pitched battles with reactionary officers who supported the kaiser.

Recalling Karl Marx, Frederick Engels, Wilhelm Liebknecht and other revolutionaries, Hirschfeld said, not only in Germany "but elsewhere, nationalism attempts to destroy internationalism, and militarism attempts to destroy socialism."

Hirschfeld stressed why socialism was so important: "Socialism means solidarity, community, mutuality, further development of society into a unified body of people. Each for all and all for each!"

He said, "We want the community of peoples, struggle against racism and national chauvinism, removal of limitations on economic and personal communication between peoples, the right of peoples to self-determination regarding their relationship to a state and their form of government."

The greatest LGBTQ+ library in the world

Historians John Lauritsen and David Thorstad explain that when the [German] revolution broke out, "The Committee immediately sent a delegation to the new government to press for a total amnesty that would include the release from jail of all inmates convicted of homosexual acts.

"The removal of censorship and the greater freedom of the press and speech that ensued, following the revolution, were a boon to the gay rights struggle for a time. But perhaps the most tangible benefit to the gay movement was the acquisition of a building that was to become an international center for gay liberation and sex research. ..."

The first of its kind, [Hirschfeld's Institute of Sexual Science] compiled

historical, biological, anthropological, statistical and ethnological documentation regarding human sexuality and gender [in a collection of over 20,000 volumes. The institute is credited with being one of the first medical facilities in the world to provide gender-affirmation surgeries for trans people.]

Fascism burns books, targets LGBTQ+ people

At the same time the German counterrevolution—headed by Hitler and bankrolled and backed by a segment of the industrial and banking class—had obtained a base in the middle class.

This fascism targeted the gay/trans/lesbian and women's rights movements, even before anti-Jewish and antigay laws, codified in 1933-35, officially marked the unleashing of the widespread campaign of terror.

Hirschfeld was targeted by the Nazis because he was Jewish and gay, as well as a movement leader and socialist. ... On May 6, 1933, fascist youth were organized to march on his Institute for Sexual Science, accompanied by a brass band. They trashed the international archive, making a mountain of the many thousands of books, journals, photographs and charts—at that time the largest collection [on sexuality and gender] in world history. Storm troopers showed up and took over the ransacking. Four days later, the enormous heap of archive materials was publicly burned in Opera Square. ...

After 1933 the Nazis forcibly dismantled all independent youth organizations, even the Catholic ones, by denouncing their leaders as "homosexual degenerates." ... A harsh new antigay edict issued in 1935, Paragraph 175A, criminalized kisses, embraces, even homosexual fantasies. The law gave the fascist state license to carry out arrests and internment in camps with impunity. ... Although laws against lesbianism had not been codified, women were snared in the state web, rounded up in SS raids on lesbian bars, sentenced and sent to concentration camps where they faced horrific brutality.

Learning from mistakes

Communists and socialists of all sexualities and genders fought the Nazi attacks on the gay/trans/lesbian and women's struggles. Yet, was there backwardness about homosexuality on the part of socialists and communists in the German left? Yes.

"The Left" was [and is] not politically monolithic. ... Like a fast-moving river, political movements are made up of many currents. ...

Revolutionaries must constantly be working to shed centuries of ruling-class

indoctrination that serves to divide and conquer the vast laboring class. Every form of bigotry and backwardness holds back unity and progress in a revolutionary struggle of all sexualities, genders and sexes to abolish capitalism and liberate humanity.

Error vs. ideology

There is a profound difference, however, between political error and political ideology. [In 1928] lawyer Felix Halle ... provided this formulation of the German Communist Party's stance:

"The class-conscious proletariat, uninfluenced by the ideology of property and freed from the ideology of the churches, approaches the question of sex life and also the problem of homosexuality with a lack of prejudice afforded by an understanding of the overall social structure. ... In accordance with the scientific insights of modern times, the proletariat regards these relations as a special form of sexual gratification and demands the same freedom and restrictions for these forms of sex life as for intercourse between the sexes. ..."

The Nazis deliberately hid the fascist nature of their party by calling themselves "National Socialists." But their response to a poll [of German political parties about their position on Paragraph 175] shows the Nazi program was the opposite of a communist workers' party. The Nazi reply included this succinct sentence: "Anyone who even thinks of homosexual love is our enemy."

Capitalist repression, socialist resistance

By the late 1920s, the fascist movement—with its base in the economically devastated middle class—began to win the backing of a sector of German industrialists and bankers to carry out the dirty job of counterrevolution. State repression of sexuality, gender and sex to enforce the capitalist economic unit of the patriarchal nuclear family was a key plank in the fascist platform.

Nazi campaigns focused on eradicating homosexuality and abortion, mandating procreation and sharply restricting women's rights and role in society, in addition to vicious racism and national chauvinism.

The progressive movements battled the state to decriminalize variance in sexuality and gender. They were trying to free the lives of women of all sexualities and genders, who were tightly corseted by lack of basic social and economic rights.

These modest but vital goals, raised during a period of working-class struggle and capitalist economic depression, made these movements enemies of the Nazis. □

Boston: Trans Resistance Day

By Mairead Skehan Gillis

Hundreds marched through the heart of Roxbury in Boston June 26 for Trans Resistance Day, chanting "We're taking back Pride" and "Trans liberation, not gentrification!"

This was the third annual Trans Resistance Day in Boston, which replaced the corporate Pride parade in order to "advocate for the safety, joy and liberation of [trans and queer Black, Indigenous and people of color]." The march and festival center their voices, struggles and the issues they face—housing instability, attacks on reproductive health care, racist police and politicians, the war against immigrants, lack of access to gender-affirming health care, ableism, unemployment and poverty as low-wage workers.

The lively march was intentionally routed through Roxbury, as opposed to downtown Boston where Pride

previously took place, to directly connect with Black and Brown communities. The festival that followed in Franklin Park celebrated trans joy, community and leadership by highlighting queer musicians, voguing and dance, world-renowned drag queens such as Peppermint and local organizations committed to liberation—and by creating an outdoor space that supported freedom of expression for all.

The Sisters Against Fascism passed out gifts at the festival to trans, gender-nonconforming and queer Black, Indigenous and people of color and helped raise money for the Trans Joy Fund. This fund has made it possible to replace corporate Pride with politics and festivities by and for oppressed



PHOTO: DARK_MUSE

Tens of thousands from the LGBTQ+ community and supporters filled the streets of New York City June 24-26 to affirm the struggle for human rights and protested militantly against the patriarchy-dominated U.S. Supreme Court for their decision outlawing abortion.

— Renée Imperato

queer people, that are accessible and free.

Read more at transresistancema.com. □

Part 2

Family separation: An atrocity

By Sean Blackmon and Jacqui Luqman

The following is part two of an interview with Prisoners Solidarity Committee Co-chairs Mirinda Crissman and Teddie Kelly, which was conducted by Sean Blackmon and Jacqueline Luqman on the show “By Any Means Necessary” and broadcast on Sputnik Radio on June 11th. Listen to the full interview here: tinyurl.com/ypvsyrsz.

Sean Blackmon: It really drives home the centrality of capitalist exploitation when we discuss this whole issue [of family separation due to mass incarceration and the incarcerated father unable to attend the funeral of his daughter killed in the Uvalde massacre] and also just the unnecessary cruelty. Joe Biden, the U.S. president, and leaders, always in these times of these incidents, in these shootings and things like this, [act] with all the platitudes and the nice words and the things like this and meeting with the families.

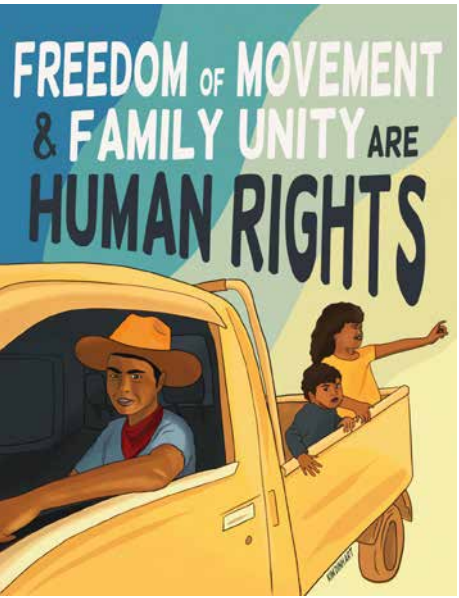
And it’s just hard for me to believe that there is not something that could have been done to release this man, so that he can go bury his daughter who died in this tragic way. I mean, the idea that he had to view the funeral virtually in a prison cell is just unconscionable, you know what I mean? But I think it just shows the fundamental inhumanity of this capitalist system and how the mass incarceration apparatus is just an outgrowth of that inhumanity.

Mirinda Crissman: Yeah, and the inhumanity that happens daily. People are forced to view all sorts of things from a screen, funerals of loved ones or perhaps chatting with people who they’re not allowed to see, due to different COVID-19 protocols for visitation. I want to bring in the struggle of migrants right now here in Texas. I mentioned earlier that there are prisons here, Texas prisons, at least the Briscoe unit in Segovia, that have been repurposed to hold migrants. They’ve emptied those TDCJ units, aside from about 200 Texas prisoners to do the labor for them.

But like most Texas prisons, I believe 75 out of 100 prisons here in Texas don’t have air conditioners — in the Texas heat,

where it regularly gets up to past 100 F. They did put AC in those [repurposed] prisons after that to make them ice boxes to hold these migrants. But the quarters where the prisoners are living still don’t have air conditioning, even though they’re being held in the same places, not having air conditioning in a box with very little airflow. That is a daily inhumanity.

That’s a fact of life for people in Texas prisons here and even migrants that are being held. The daily inhumanity of medical neglect is also very pernicious, and we’re not going to see that inhumanity stop with reform, prison reform that gets us more violence. If you reform something that started with violence, it’s going to continue to get violent.



Sean Blackmon: Teddie, give us your thoughts on the same point.

Teddie Kelly: I think this is so important, what Mirinda brings in. I have a friend who a few years ago was locked up. He was in a jail in Philadelphia. He couldn’t afford to post bail. He was held for a year and a half without trial. And at the end of that year and a half awaiting trial, he was found not guilty. But in the meantime, he missed the birth of his daughter, his first child.

There are over 20,000 elderly and dying prisoners in the United States who have sent petitions for compassionate release between January 2020 and June

2021, because they are dying in prison cells. Only 3,600 were granted. We have an extremely, extremely serious crisis of aging prisoners. There are over 300,000 people in the U.S. over the age of 50, who are in a prison cell right now as we speak. And compassionate release is a term that we use, and it has a very broad definition here in Pennsylvania. They only really let people out on the grounds of “compassionate release” if they are about to die.

We recently were able to win the release of a man named Bradford Gamble, who had spent decades behind bars until he found out that he had terminal cancer and was dying. He was 20 years old when he was condemned to spend his life in prison. And now he’s 66. And the only reason he was able to be released is because he is dying. This is an unspeakable cruelty that this system inflicts from the cradle literally to the grave. And I completely agree with what Mirinda said, to mitigate a system that is cruel is not enough, it must be abolished.

Jacqueline Luqman: And you know, Mirinda, we are up against an attitude toward this system in this country that makes abolition really difficult, because in Texas in particular, [there are] vigilantes and state officials that acted in concert, using force, to enforce the color bar in labor and terrorize Mexicans and Mexican Americans through beatings, torture and shootings and mass decapitations.

You know, during massacres, people still valorize the Texas Rangers and the U.S. Border Patrol, and they are generally pretty supportive of even detention centers where parents and children, families are separated. So how do you struggle with people to raise their awareness and educate them on the brutality of this system? That it’s not a good thing, and that it is, in fact, in service of white supremacy.

Mirinda Crissman: So one of the ways that we engage folks is using the teachings of our Native comrades, who have very well-documented recallings of how these white-supremacist bodies have been acting over the centuries. An educated proletariat is dynamite. Political education is absolutely key, when you have people who have family members who were lynched by the Texas

Rangers; or even in the case of someone like Melissa Lucio, who’s on Texas death row, one of six women on Texas death row — she was interrogated by the Texas Rangers for seven hours and she was a survivor of gender and domestic violence.

She was coerced into admitting that she killed her daughter, which she did not, and she wasn’t even present. She’s still on death row after well over a decade. Raising stories like hers are helpful to people seeing the inhumanity of this system. She was in a border town in south Texas, Harlingen. Her execution was stayed due to a struggle.

Is Texas the killing capital of the country? We’ve executed 574 people since 1982. In the modern era, that’s more than the next six states combined. Whenever we are able, we must lift up the struggle against the death penalty, whether inflicted through legal lynchings via lethal injection or the inhumanity of the daily incarceration through prisons, jails and detention centers.

We’re always lifting up the struggles of real people who are being oppressed. And political education is extremely important to that. When you raise the struggles of oppressed people, whether it’s here in Texas or in Palestine, and you talk about how courts on stolen land are not going to bring us justice, and you give a bit of history from here and abroad. It’s really helpful tying back into the Palestinian struggle. Israeli settler courts over there have a 99% conviction rate against Palestinians. There’s no justice in that.

And we see that even here in the United States, when you look at the current Supreme Court denying rights on a daily basis, we’re not going to get justice from these courts or these prisons or this capitalist state. And one of the ways that we take the critically educated folks that we struggle with is we organize, and we build organizations to fight back.

One of the groups of organizations that have come together to fight Operation Lone Star here in Texas against migrants has a website at endlonestar.com that people can check out and keep up with that struggle. It’s a whole lot of people building organizational power and providing education to fight this beast. □

Mumia Abu-Jamal honored in France

This slightly edited story was posted by Bea Phi from prisonradio.org on June 4. Jamal Jr. is the grandson of the African American political prisoner, Mumia Abu-Jamal.

On June 4, Jamal Jr. and Brenda Arjona honored the French “Libérons Mumia” Collective and the town of Villejuif [in France] with their presence at the inauguration of the murals depicting Nelson Mandela and Mumia Abu-Jamal, both honorary citizens of the municipality.

After an introductory speech by the

mayor, Jamal Jr. spoke to the assembled crowd of Mumia supporters, local dignitaries and other citizens. He placed his telephone in front of the microphone so that Mumia’s vocal message, in French, could be heard by all. Jamal then began his speech:

“Art is a weapon best used to be an inspiration to all who have the opportunity to decipher it. My grandfather, an artist, journalist, philosopher and family man galvanizes the revolutionary mind and soul of those seeking his revolutionary analysis ...”

During their stay Jamal and Brenda

visited the two streets named after Mumia, one in Saint Denis and the other in Bobigny. Mumia is an honorary citizen of these towns, both situated in the Paris suburbs.

The American delegation also met the artist Mustapha Boutadjine who presented Jamal Jr. with a print of his collage representing Mumia Abu-Jamal. The artist is renowned for his portraits of revolutionary figures, including Angela Davis, Che Guevara, Eldridge Cleaver and Fidel Castro. □



Jamal Jr. and artist Mustapha Boutadjine, left, in Paris June 4

Support grows to end the blockade of Cuba

By Lyn Neeley

Portland, Oregon activists have held monthly protests since January demanding an end to the U.S blockade of Cuba. This month’s June 26 protest is part of a growing international movement involving 20 cities in the U.S., seven in Canada and many more worldwide. The goal is to

raise public consciousness, build solidarity and put pressure on the U.S to end the 60-year-old imperialist blockade. Since its beginning in January, the Portland End the Blockade of Cuba Committee has grown to include 10 local organizations.

President Joe Biden’s administration has been forced to respond to the growing pressure to end the blockade and to

international political isolation. Biden has recently made it easier to travel to Cuba and for Cuban-Americans to send money. However, the brutal economic blockade remains unchanged.

As Danny O’Brien wrote in *Workers World* Feb. 10, “Cuba has been under a devastating economic blockade since Feb. 3, 1962, as U.S.-dealt punishment for its

people’s liberation. Food, medicine and other vital resources are forcibly withheld from the small island nation; and all trade with the U.S., its allies or client states is strictly forbidden. Each time it has come to a vote in the U.N., the nations of the world have voted against this blockade, but each time the United States has kept on with aggression and obstinance.” □



Why abolition of all forms of incarceration?

By Sophia Williams

“The majority of people who are in prison are there because society has failed them.” (Angela Davis)

Prison proponents — the police, courts, prosecutors, politicians, corporate media and corporations profiting from prisons — have no interest in prison abolition. They want people to believe that those in prison are really there because they did a bad act and deserve punishment.

Yet abolition is a more recognizable term today than ever. Individual activists, social justice groups and celebrities have been calling for defunding the police (most recently) and an end to mass incarceration for a much longer time. Abolition, simply put, is the tearing down of all entities of oppression. Specifically, prisons, jails, immigrant/migrant detention centers and ICE, parole and probation, the system of policing, the “justice” (injustice) system/courts.

Unlike reform, abolition in its essence calls for going to the root problems of society and dealing with those things from the source, in order to better prevent the symptoms — harms and ills of society. The harm with reform that is not immediately



ART BY LYDIA MAKEPEACE
"Abolition is about presence, not absence. It's about building life-affirming institutions."
— Ruth Wilson Gilmore

recognizable is that it deepens the already seismic problems or even reproduces the problems that reform claims to be fixing.

Creating a society that does not need prisons means sufficient redistribution of

power and money.

Abolition’s significance rings differently, because it is not something tangible people can see possible. Creating an abolitionist society means thinking outside the norm of the hierarchical-power structures in existence. Abolition speaks to a safer society, putting people’s social needs first, seeking restorative justice rather than a court system that seeks retribution.

So why abolition and not reform? Be clear that abolition and reform are two completely different things. Reform is an easy throw-around word that speaks to working on improving policing, for example, but not from the root. Reform tries to tackle the symptoms. Abolition, however, examines the issue of policing and uproots the deep-seated issues from the roots. This can mean doing away with the original matter in the first place.

Having a restorative justice (RJ) process when harm is done is essential to manifesting a world where punishment is not the answer. Restorative justice calls for the harmed party and the person who did the harm to come together

in dialogue, where the harmed party is responsible to make amends and repair the breach.

Community organizer and transformative justice advocate, Mia Mingus shares: “Transformative justice is a political framework for responding to violence, harm and abuse by responding to violence without creating more violence and/or engaging in harm reduction.”

Here are a few examples of restorative justice and peacemaking circles from artist-activist and co-founder of Designing Justice and Designing Spaces Deanna Van Buren: restorative economics spaces where job and entrepreneurship training can take place as restorative economics, peacemaking-restorative justice centers; pop-up buses on wheels that bring school education to students; and mobile refuge spaces for women who were just released from prison. (youtu.be/m6X1i8khmt8)

Abolition of all forms of incarceration allows for our humanness to thrive and these restorative spaces allow for mass incarceration to be chiseled away.

Williams is an organizer with the Campaign to Bring Mumia Home and #LoveNotPhear.

Prison hunger strikers challenge solitary torture

By Betsey Piette

Bulletin: WW received notice of a new letter from Michael Rivera who wrote: “While active participants in the hunger strike are down to 7 to 10 individuals, around 45 to 50 people in the IMU unit are refusing to do anything with the program, saying ‘without us there is no program.’ We are the majority so they [DOC] either fix it or the program is over.”

June 23 marked the 16th day of a hunger strike at SCI Greene, a Pennsylvania Department of Corrections (PADOC) supermax prison. Sixteen incarcerated people are refusing meals to protest the torturous conditions of their indefinite solitary confinement. All are confined in the Intensive Management Unit (IMU) and say they will continue the strike until the state Department of Corrections meets their demand for a pathway out of this solitary torture.

In a June 23 press release, the Human Rights Coalition (HRC), a grassroots prisoner-rights organization, described the inhumane solitary conditions and relayed the strikers’ demands, including access to programming required for parole eligibility. Strikers are calling on PADOC to adhere to its own IMU policy, which stipulates individuals graduate each phase after nine months, especially if they remain misconduct-free.

Additional demands include full access to the commissary to supplement

inadequate, cold and uncooked prison food and two additional family visit days that were promised but never granted.

The HRC seeks to bring PADOC in line with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, known as the Mandela Rules, which declare placement in solitary confinement longer than 15 days to be torture.



Along with PADOC denying a clear, prompt pathway out of solitary confinement, strikers have been stripped of basic human rights. Authorities have denied “yard time” to entire tiers without explanation, restricted phone calls, withheld personal property and denied access to the law library while confiscating legal correspondence.

PADOC has retaliated against the strikers by charging them a \$15 a day medical co-pay for nurse visits they never requested. Barred from holding any type of job, individuals in the IMU can’t even

earn the 19 cents an hour prison-slave wages paid by the state. As a result they are being forced into debt.

Michael Rivera, a striker who spent 7 1/2 years in solitary confinement, explained why the strike began: “I am not cooperating with these people [PADOC] on any level, because they are weaponizing this IMU program against us — being denied yard, having a light on 24 hours a day in our cell and privileges being stripped with no explanation, no due process, no anything. So, we’re no longer cooperating with this program.”

Continuing prisoner resistance

In June 2021, 20 incarcerated individuals at SCI Phoenix in the PADOC system issued nearly identical demands when they conducted a similar hunger strike. Many of the people who participated then had been transferred to Pennsylvania from Delaware, following a 2017 uprising at the James T. Vaughn Correctional Center. At that time they were being held in an IMU unit not officially recognized by the PADOC.

One of the main demands of the 2021 strike was that PADOC publicly acknowledge the existence of the IMU and develop clear policies for the individuals held in the unit to transition to the general population.

Prison abolitionist Shandre Delaney challenged a recent PADOC media statement that the IMU goal “is to provide benchmarks/objectives for each inmate

in the unit to work toward a way to get back to General Population.” The PADOC also characterized the striking inmates simply as “unhappy” with application of IMU program policy and transfers from other prisons for placement in the SCI Greene IMU.

Delaney told the press: “I find it interesting that they refuse to call the IMU what it is — a long-term solitary confinement unit. Instead, they call it a ‘program’ ... to give it some legitimacy and obfuscate what it truly is — a torture technique.

“What kind of program has no activities? What kind of program keeps you completely isolated 24 hours a day — not allowed to leave your cell? It is absolutely ludicrous to call the IMU a program. It is a high-tech torture chamber designed to break the wills and minds of rebellious prisoners.”

In order to cover up their illegal and inhumane policy of prolonged, indefinite solitary confinement, the PADOC keeps changing the names used to designate the torture. HRC notes: “The IMU is just the latest in the list of alphabet-soup terms (LTSU, SSNU, STGMU, BMU, RHU, SMU) that the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections has coined for solitary confinement. No matter what name the DOC uses, solitary is torture and needs to end!”

Donations to support the striking incarcerated activists can be made to the Solidarity Not Solitary Fund at tinyurl.com/5n8wy9rj. □

New York City: Reclaim Pride

In celebration of of LGBTQ+ Pride, thousands of people brought a powerful fighting spirit to the Queer Liberation March for Trans and BIPOC Freedom, Reproductive Justice and Bodily Autonomy on June 26.

Held the same day as the NYC Pride Parade, the protest march seeks to reclaim the spirit and meaning of Pride to better represent the LGBTQ+ community. The march excludes corporations and cops and is political in its focus on fighting injustices against all oppressed people.

The march came two days after the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade, and there were many signs

denouncing the ruling.

A contingent from Workers World Party carried a dynamic sign: “Abolish the Supreme Court! Workers: Rise Up to Smash Patriarchy! Stop Anti-Trans Attacks! Stop Racist Police Terror, End ICE Detention.” It stood out and attracted many people who took photos of it.

The crowd was multinational with many young people who were exuberant in celebrating Pride and in

committing to the struggles that lie ahead.

— Report and photo by Brenda Ryan



How the ‘Janes’ created underground abortion access

By Marie Kelly

A U.S. Supreme Court decision on *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization* overturned the 1973 SCOTUS *Roe v. Wade* ruling June 24 — and paved the way to re-criminalization of the right to abortion. At this writing 26 states are poised to outlaw abortion and impact the lives of 64 million women — and any person of childbearing age who has a uterus. (gutmacher.org/abortion-rights-supreme-court, U.S. Census Bureau)

Since the *Roe* decision, anti-abortion reactionaries have exerted unrelenting pressure — both legal and violently illegal — to undermine reproductive freedom.

Gender-related oppression from right-wing forces

As early as 1976, three years after *Roe*, Congress passed the Hyde Amendment prohibiting the use of federal funds like Medicaid for abortions, except to save “the life of the mother.” States have since enacted many other restrictive laws, such as mandating onerous insurance for clinics, requiring parental consent for an abortion, mandatory “counseling,” forced ultrasounds and waiting periods. Tax-exempt religious institutions like Catholic hospitals have prohibited their medical providers from performing abortions.

Right-wing extremists and religious fundamentalists have waged a violent war against abortion providers and abortion seekers, including the bombing of clinics and the murder of doctors, clinic staff and patient escorts.

Abortion — the termination of pregnancy — has certainly existed before the recorded history of class society. But let’s fast-forward to the Industrial Revolution, when the patriarchal ruling class in industrialized countries systematically seized reproductive rights away from individuals.

By the mid-19th century, male-dominated institutionalized medicine controlled reproductive services and withheld reproductive knowledge from their patients. The white upper class turned to sterile hospitals for care, while midwives, especially Black midwives, were vilified as incompetent practitioners or even witches. (“Traditions of health: Black midwives and doulas,” *Workers World*, March 16)

In the early 20th century, along with demanding the right to vote, women’s rights activists promoted contraceptives as an alternative to the grueling cycle of frequent, often life-threatening pregnancies, which disproportionately occurred in urban communities of immigrant, Black and Brown people.

But birth control in the hands of the people was not in the interest of industrial capitalists and imperialists. Capitalists needed to maintain control of the rate of reproduction of people to generate an adequate workforce and maximum profits. And white-supremacist imperialists wanted to boost the “Anglo-Saxon” population of the U.S. to occupy stolen Native lands in the West.

Congress passed notorious anti-reproductive rights legislation in 1873, the Comstock Laws, which banned sending “obscene” literature by mail, including any information about sexuality, contraception and abortion.

Some prominent birth control advocates, like Margaret Sanger, accepted the racist and ableist theory of eugenics and promoted white supremacy. In fact, beginning during enslavement, modern contraceptive and sterilization knowledge was developed through medical “experimentation” — torture without anesthetics — on Black, Brown, Indigenous and disabled people without their consent or full understanding of the harmful risks.

Meanwhile, the stigma and illegality of access to birth control and abortion forced pregnant women and others who wanted to terminate their pregnancies into desperate situations, either at the mercy of unqualified practitioners or through self-abortion.

These underground practices continued up to the 1973 *Roe* decision, especially among working-class people who did not have the money to travel to another country where abortion was legal and performed by a medical professional.

Women’s liberation activists fight back

The Civil Rights Movement and the movement against the U.S. war on Vietnam mobilized youth across the U.S. There were hotbeds of revolutionary activism, and there was violent reactionary response by the state.

Women seized the moment to seek their liberation, from equality in the workplace to reproductive autonomy.

In 1968 the military apparatus of the state, under the direction of white-supremacist Mayor Richard J. Daley, violently attacked peaceful protesters at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago. Images of blue-helmeted cops brutally beating young antiwar demonstrators were broadcast into homes across the country, where by then a television set was a “middle-class” staple. It was probably one of the first times the true oppressive face of the state was in plain sight of such a large audience.



These mugshots are of some of the seven Janes arrested in May 1972 for providing illegal abortions. Judith Arcana, far right, was a nursing mother when she was jailed.

premacist Mayor Richard J. Daley, violently attacked peaceful protesters at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago. Images of blue-helmeted cops brutally beating young antiwar demonstrators were broadcast into homes across the country, where by then a television set was a “middle-class” staple. It was probably one of the first times the true oppressive face of the state was in plain sight of such a large audience.

The Chicago Women’s Liberation Union began formation shortly after, with a strong emphasis on socialist analysis. In particular, some CWLU women, along with others, decided they had to act. As witnesses to the brutality of the state, they took the bold step to defend their right to self-determination and defy the state’s control over reproduction. They became known as the Janes, or more formally as the Jane Collective: the Abortion Counseling Service of Chicago Women’s Liberation.



A banner for the Jane Collective, the Abortion Counseling Service of Chicago Women’s Liberation, carried during a protest for abortion access.

In 1968 with abortion still illegal, pregnant working-class women had the same limited options they had a century before. Mortality rates were high for individuals who tried to self-abort or who went to unskilled crime-syndicate abortionists, who provided no follow-up care and abandoned clients with complications. One major Chicago hospital at that time had an entire ward for patients suffering from botched abortions.

The Janes began their work through word of mouth. People who wanted to terminate a pregnancy would reach out to friends or family for names of where to go. One woman found she was being contacted frequently by desperate pregnant women. She listened to their stories and realized that the right to plan if and when you would have a child was up to the individual, and the right not to have a child was the individual’s choice also. She made the decision to actively counsel people who wanted to terminate a pregnancy even though she risked being arrested.

As the volume of counseling requests became large, more women came together and developed a clandestine network where clients were counseled on the abortion procedure, referred to a carefully vetted though illegal practitioner and provided with follow-up services after the procedure, to make sure the person had no complications.

Contact by phone with the network was

viewpoint and believed that knowledge of one’s body and how it worked was essential to reproductive autonomy. They handed out copies of the now-historic book, “Our Bodies, Our Selves,” produced in 1970 by the Boston Women’s Health Book Collective.

The Janes approached each person having an abortion with empathy and without judgment. The decision to terminate a pregnancy was personal and never factored into whether they would accept or deny a client. Payment was what each person could give, and no one was turned away for lack of funds once the Janes were the sole abortion provider.

As the Service grew, it became known throughout Chicago and the surrounding area. Law enforcement was aware of its existence, but since many of the women who came to the Janes were the spouses or intimidated partners of police officers and politicians, there was a period of time when the Janes could practice with some degree of freedom.

However, the women knew they were lawbreakers and had to keep their identities secret. The Janes were willing to take the risk of doing something they knew was right but illegal in the eyes of the state. However, the stress was great, and the threat of retribution by the state was always present.

The law finally struck in May 1972. Chicago homicide police raided the apartment where the Janes were performing abortions. Seven of the Janes were arrested and charged. They were each facing a maximum sentence of 110 years.

True to their principles, while the seven awaited trial, the remaining members of the Service bravely continued operations and performed abortions!

The defendants hired Jo-Ann Wolfson as their lawyer. Wolfson knew the Supreme Court would be handing down a decision on *Roe v. Wade* in the near future, and it would probably be favorable to abortion rights activists. Her trial strategy was to stall, raising motion after motion to delay a verdict in the case of the Janes, in hopes their prosecution would be made null by a favorable SCOTUS decision.

When the *Roe* decision was announced in January 1973, Wolfson made a motion to dismiss all charges, and that was granted. The Janes were free.

The Janes estimated they provided over 11,000 safe abortions during their five years of existence — without a single mortality.

Lessons for reproductive justice now

What can we learn from the Janes now, during the current century’s right-wing ultrareactionary attack on reproductive justice?

First of all, abortion will not “go away.” Women — and anyone of childbearing age who has a uterus — will still need access to safe termination of pregnancy. They will still need nonjudgmental competent providers who will treat them with empathy and care. They will still need someone to provide the scientific knowledge necessary to make an informed decision about what is individually right for them.

They will need the security of never being coerced into a decision that will harm or exploit them, especially Black, Brown, Indigenous, disabled and

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The Janes advocated a feminist

Despite views of U.S. majority

Supreme Court overturns right to abortion

By J.M. Straughn

As of today, June 24, there is no federal right to access safe, legal abortions.

The Supreme Court of the United States overturned the legal right to access abortion, decided by the high court in 1973 in the Roe v. Wade case, which permitted abortions until “viability.” The state of Mississippi brought the case of Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization to SCOTUS and argued Dec. 1, 2021, that not only should abortions be banned at 15 weeks of pregnancy, but that the Roe decision should be overturned altogether.

The viability standard, which allows abortions until about 23 weeks of pregnancy, was upheld by the court in 1992 in Casey v. Planned Parenthood. That decision allowed medically necessary abortions after that deadline. That ruling is now null and void too.

A Supreme Court opinion, written by Justice Samuel Alito and leaked May 2, indicated that the reactionary majority of justices supported overturning the Roe decision and federal protection of legal access to abortions. Alito argued that the Roe ruling was “egregiously wrong” and that the 14th Amendment did not protect the right to abortion as a right of liberty or privacy. Now that the court has overturned the Roe decision, states can obstruct and ban abortions — and even criminalize the procedure.

Over the 49 years since the Roe decision, the impact of the right to abortion has been significant as part of the overall struggle for reproductive rights and autonomy. Without this fundamental right, the risks to the health and lives of pregnant people increase, depending on their ability to access adequate and affordable health care.

The worst burdens of this decision will fall on low-income people, Black, Latinx,

Indigenous women, migrants, youth and children, people with disabilities and those of various gender identities. It will impact millions of people’s lives.

Other rights endangered

There is concern by many people that Alito’s distorted reasoning could be used to overturn other landmark decisions and rights, which were granted under the 14th Amendment but not enshrined in writing. That includes the decisions in Griswold v. Connecticut, which legalized the right to use contraception, and in Obergefell v. Hodges, which permitted same-sex marriage.

all abortions, even in cases of rape or incest, saying “life begins at conception.” This policy endangers forms of contraception. The law would make performing an abortion a felony, punishable by imprisonment.

State bans and protections

The Guttmacher Institute says 26 states are likely to ban abortions if Roe is overturned; this includes 13 states which have immediate “trigger bans.”

However, 16 states and the District of Columbia have laws protecting the right to access abortions. Many states are pledging to add more protections for accessing the

fetus move. (Originalists interpret the Constitution as it was written at the time of its ratification.)

Alito cherry-picked moments in history to align with his ultrareactionary outlook. He revered the period around 1868, when patriarchal policies dictated that women’s role was to serve men as domestic servants, bearers of children and sexual partners. At that time abortion bans increased. To Alito, women’s return to the status as unpaid laborers and property of men was right; and therefore, abortion and women’s autonomy was wrong.

Alito cites misogynist jurist eight times

In his opinion, Alito cited Lord Matthew Hale, a 17th-century English jurist who presided over “witch” trials and ordered executions of those poor women. Hale held that women victims of rape should not be believed and that marital rape was legal.

The ambiguity in existing abortion laws has already resulted in grave risks to the lives, health and well-being of pregnant people, since medical problems can arise even during a wanted pregnancy. A medical practitioner can determine if a fetus is not viable and will die. In some cases, women have been forced to carry a fetus that could die at any moment, releasing toxic chemicals that can cause extreme illness and even death of the pregnant person.

Current laws have been interpreted in some states to prevent medically necessary abortions. Further, many medical practitioners are afraid to intervene to end a complicated miscarriage, worried they’ll be charged with performing an illegal abortion. Some state bans declare “life begins at conception,” which could cause physicians to be reluctant to remove deadly ectopic pregnancies, where there is no chance of embryonic development.

Since there are no federally guaranteed abortion exceptions for victims of rape or incest, even children, in SCOTUS’ decision on June 24, nor in many state bans, the potential horrors are innumerable.

Public outrage at the elimination of the legal right to access safe abortions has led to massive protests and calls for a total rejection of the authority and legitimacy of the Supreme Court. □



procedure, to accommodate abortion seekers from out of state. These actions are commendable but will probably not be able to meet the enormous need.

For decades the right to abortion has been under attack. Numerous laws have restricted federal funding and permitted abortion exclusions from private health insurance. Funds from Washington have been cut and restricted from being allocated to nonprofit women’s health care organizations. Some states have no facilities which provide reproductive health care.

Alito’s opinion revealed the reasoning he mustered to return pregnant people to a state of subjugation and oppression, and it was shown in questions the reactionary SCOTUS justices asked in the Dobbs hearing Dec. 1. Alito sought rationales in oppressive historical periods. To him, the era in which Roe was decided was too progressive.

Julie Rikelman, Center for Reproductive Rights litigation director and attorney for the Jackson clinic, explained in the SCOTUS hearing that even those arguing an “originalist” position could not rule against abortion, because common law at the time of the “founding” of the U.S. permitted abortions before “quickening.” That occurs when the pregnant person can feel the

Polls show the vast majority of the U.S. population supports legal abortions; yet many states’ reactionary legislatures do not represent the views of their populations. Already, several states have overturned or severely restricted the right to abortion.

Texas law forbids abortions after six weeks of pregnancy, with no rape or incest exceptions, even for children. That ban implemented a bounty hunter scheme, with a financial bonanza to anyone who reports those who aid abortion seekers. And the state restricts the use of abortions pills.

Oklahoma’s draconian law, set to be implemented this summer, bans

How the ‘Janes’ created underground abortion access

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gender-nonconforming people. They will need abortion options that are free for those who can’t pay and affordable for those who can.

They will need free access to contraceptives, fertility technologies and transgender medical care. They will need paid parental leave and free child care in order to raise the children they choose to have. The abortion providers and LGBTQ+ communities will need protection against violent right-wing attacks.

As Minnie Bruce Pratt stated in a 2019 Workers World article, “If proponents of the reactionary anti-abortion and anti-miscarriage laws currently being passed sincerely cared about mothers and children, they would be pressing above all for a more responsive, accessible and income-affordable maternal health care system.

“They would be facing and fighting the racism that causes disproportionate deaths in communities of color — from lack of health

care to police brutality to immigrant prison concentration camps. The pushers of reactionary laws tied to reproduction are seeking the criminalization of poor women, women of color, sexually independent and gender-defiant people. They are seeking to continue the dominance of white supremacy and capitalist patriarchy.” (“Policing the Womb’ in Alabama,” Workers World, July 7, 2019)

These crimes against the people will never be completely ended — and the guarantee of reproductive care and justice will never be fully realized — until capitalism is defeated.

The Janes have given us a lesson and an example of how to organize and win reproductive rights. Let’s learn from them!

For more, read Laura Kaplan’s “The Story of Jane,” watch the HBO documentary “The Janes,” and go to juditharcana.com/jane for the current struggle.

Coerced pregnancy: Legacy of enslavement



The following statement was issued by the African American Policy Forum on June 24.

We have barely emerged from a week of commemoration of emancipation, in which the legacy of coerced pregnancy that was the foundation of enslavement and the source of the profits in the slave trade has yet to be addressed. The consequence of our society’s failure to see coerced pregnancy as a legacy of enslavement has descended once again upon Black women and all pregnant people with lethal force. Had the project of liberation from enslavement been rooted in this

recognition, then coerced childbirth would have been prohibited as a foundational principle of freedom.

The incompleteness of our conceptions of liberty thus harken back to the unspeakable past and stretch forward into this painful moment, proving once again that the intersections of patriarchy, racism and heteronormativity will continue to undermine the freedoms that we all take for granted unless we learn how to address them simultaneously. Our response must not be siloed to a problem that is historically and continuously interconnected.

— Kimberlé Crenshaw
AAPF Executive Director

DOWN WITH SCOTUS!

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Simpson, Executive Director of the SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective commented: “Rolling back abortion rights is another example of white supremacy in America that’s played out in other facets of society. This is not just about abortion. These attacks are about their desire to stay in power. But this moment has given us the opportunity to build our collective power!” (SisterSong, Facebook)

Build a fighting people’s movement!

And what is the Democratic Party leadership doing? Wringing their hands and encouraging people to vote for their candidates in November’s elections. By then, how many pregnant people will have traveled hundreds, maybe thousands of miles for safe abortions? How many will have suffered injuries or even died from botched abortions? How many victims of rape and incest, including children, will be forced to carry a pregnancy to term? How many parents living paycheck-to-paycheck will have to bear another child at great personal cost?

President Joe Biden pledged that medication abortions will be available in every state, as federal approval preempts state restrictions. But several states are banning pills as well as surgical procedures. Will the administration prevail on this? Why hasn’t Congress codified abortion rights?

Women; gender-oppressed, LGBTQ+, intersex and Two Spirit people; people of color; and their allies are fed-up with Democrats’ talk and little, if any, action. Many activists are asking what these politicians are doing to help. They know voting won’t stop the far-right misogynists who are hell-bent on obtaining a national abortion ban and eradicating other hard-won rights.

Many women are realizing what



Boston WW PHOTO: MAUREEN SKEHAN

their siblings knew 50 years ago: Militant struggle is needed. Many have learned lessons from the Black Lives Matter movement and are now learning from workers’ unionization campaigns.

Political consciousness is growing. Many activists now recognize that it’s the capitalist system that is obstructing their rights — and that they can’t rely on the government to protect them. To win, they must mount a strong, unified, independent fighting movement with all oppressed peoples, workers, those of all genders and all progressive forces.

Highlights from June 24-26 protests

Workers World Party members participated in the following demonstrations.



Woodstock, New York WW PHOTO: JOHN CATALINOTTO

A mass of protesters converged on **Boston’s** streets for three consecutive emergency marches, asserting “We won’t go back!” They chanted “Hey, hey, ho, ho, the patriarchy’s got to go!” The multinational, multigendered, multigenerational protesters affirmed that abortions are safe, essential health care and asserted that the system and SCOTUS must go. Their message was “Abortion on demand without exception ‘by any means necessary!’”

An angry crowd of 20,000 people converged for a rally at Washington Square Park, **New York City**. Speakers denounced the SCOTUS ruling and called for continued resistance. “F**k the Supreme Court!” was a favorite chant in

the very militant march that followed, joining a rally organized by Planned Parenthood at Union Square. Thousands continued the march north to Times Square and beyond, for hours into the night. At least a dozen protestors were arrested holding the street in front of Fox News.

More than 150 people filled the Village Green on Tinker Street and Mill Hill Road in rural **Woodstock, New York**, to protest, expressing their anger with homemade signs to “abort the court.” Along with veterans of the women’s movement were young people, all cheering a call for a women’s strike.

Over 200 people gathered to chant “We dissent!” to the SCOTUS decision at the James M. Hanley Federal Building in **Syracuse, New York**. The angry crowd represented the full range of the community — from older National Organization for Women activists to wiccans, antiwar protesters, LGBTQ+ youth, Black community leaders, City Council members and representatives from the city’s im/migrant communities. Latinx support was visible on pink shirts with the slogan “Juntos con Planned Parenthood.”

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Union Square, New York City WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN



New York City WW PHOTO: RENEE IMPERATO



Syracuse, N.Y. WW PHOTO: MINNIE BRUCE PRATT

Thousands protest NATO Summit in Madrid

By John Catalinotto

With the U.S.-led NATO about to begin its June 28-30 Summit in Madrid, following an agenda that includes prolonging the war against Russia in Ukraine and adding China as a key strategic enemy of the imperialist alliance, thousands of people took to the streets of the Spanish capital to protest NATO aggression.

The protesters, mainly anti-imperialist forces in the Spanish state with some representatives from other NATO-member countries, marched from the main Atocha rail station through downtown Madrid to the Plaza España. They held banners reading “No to NATO” and “Bases out” and criticized the social-democratic government as complicit with NATO’s aggressive war policy.

While the Biden administration and the corporate media has presented NATO as united behind the U.S.-led intervention against Russia, many suspect this is a façade. Backing the anti-Russian war has put all Europe at risk of disaster. Sanctions aimed at Russia have boomeranged against European industries dependent on Russian energy sources.

And the latest war news implies that the Russian army is winning in the

Donbass region.

The Madrid protest added a dimension to NATO’s problems. It showed that a core of the working-class movement inside the imperialist countries had withstood the anti-Russia propaganda barrage. And it raised the possibility of a more massive resistance, as the imperialist ruling class imposes the cost of the war on the workers.

While the weight of imperialist propaganda has influenced part of the peace movement to criticize Russia as much as

NATO, there is another part that is convinced that the real source of aggression is the U.S.-led NATO militarists.

WW talks to UNAC representative

The U.S. antiwar movement has representatives in Madrid, and Workers World spoke with one of them, Joe Lombardo, after the June 26 demonstration. Lombardo, a leader of the United National Antiwar Coalition (UNAC), felt encouraged by the militancy and

anti-imperialist character of the march — which had participants from counter-summit conferences.

“There were two separate counter-summits in Madrid, both on June 24 and 25, to show opposition to the NATO summit and the dangers of war,” he said. “One was organized by mainly social-democratic forces. The other was mainly anti-imperialist forces in Spain, who welcomed my talk and the UNAC statement as part of their conference.”

Lombardo said in his talk to the anti-imperialists that “the United States is the main imperialist power in the world. NATO is its partner in crime.” Regarding Ukraine, he said that Washington “would like to see Russia become a country that will follow its dictates and eventually be used to help surround China, which is currently challenging U.S. hegemony and is therefore the main enemy of the U.S. today.”

Lombardo added that the war in Ukraine might have been avoided if the NATO leaders simply said they would not let Ukraine join NATO. He ended by saying that “the U.S. empire and hegemony was being challenged” in Ukraine and that “every socialist and every peace activist should take heart from this” and embrace it. See unacpeace.org for more information. □



UNAC spokesperson Joe Lombardo on banner (second from left) in Madrid march, June 26: ‘NATO no, bases out, government is complicit.’

WE WILL FIGHT BACK!

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Hundreds of protesters took to the streets in **Buffalo, New York**, carrying signs “We will not comply,” “Abolish the Supreme Court!” and “We will aid and abet abortions!” Speakers emphasized that abortion is a workers’ issue and that there is a need to create a fighting pro-choice movement outside of the Democratic Party. Another central theme was the importance of defending abortion for people of all genders, including trans men and nonbinary people.



Media, Pennsylvania

WW PHOTO: MARIE KELLY

Pro-choice residents of Delaware County, a Philadelphia suburb, gathered at the county courthouse steps in **Media, Pennsylvania**. The protest drew a multigenerational, multinational crowd of at least 500 people. Most speakers emphasized the need to vote for Democrats, however, despite how ineffective that has been in moving an agenda that protects the working class.

Highlights came from Delco Resist organizers, who called the action and who stressed the high maternal mortality rates among Black and Brown people and the escalating threat to LGBTQ+ communities. Juli Avalos, executive director of Domestic Abuse Project of Delaware County, cautioned that incidents of partner violence will increase where



Buffalo

WW PHOTO: ARJAE RED



Philadelphia

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

abortion access is outlawed. Close to 10,000 participants joined in the largest pro-choice rally in **Philadelphia** in decades. By early evening, the plaza around City Hall in Center City was packed with crowds. By the time the march kicked off after a short rally, the surrounding streets were filled with protesters. Marchers circled City Hall, then went down Market Street to the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall. But demonstrators did not stop there; they continued traversing the city streets, particularly in heavily populated restaurant areas, well into the night. Popular chants were “Abort the court!” and “Ban off our bodies!” Within hours of the announcement of the SCOTUS overturn of Roe v. Wade, multiple protests were held in **Atlanta** and its suburban cities, as well as towns large and small across Georgia. Thousands of enraged youth and longtime reproductive rights activists of all nationalities and genders took to the streets of Atlanta and gathered at the CNN Center and the state capitol building. Some carried signs of organizations, but most had written their own messages



Atlanta

PHOTO: GLORIA TATUM



Cleveland

WW PHOTO: SUSAN SCHNUR



Portland, Oregon

PHOTO: KRISTYNA WENTZ-GRAFF



Seattle

PHOTO: GENNA MARTIN

out the vote.” In **Portland, Oregon**, thousands of angry people marched through the streets protesting the reactionary ruling by the Supreme Court. Over 3,000 demonstrators flooded the Federal Building Plaza in **Seattle** to shout opposition to the abortion-ban decision. They moved into the streets to block them off, some sitting to risk arrest. Another pro-choice demonstration of at least 500 people from Westlake Center marched in and joined the crowd at the plaza. The rally was fueled by anger against women’s enforced second-class citizenship. Many speakers represented the labor movement, both the rank and file and leadership. Several speakers attacked capitalism and called for socialism. A woman demonstrator stated defiantly, “We won’t obey the court.”

Contributing to this article were John Catalinotto, Mairead Skehan Gillis, Marsha Goldberg, Marie Kelly, Dianne Mathiowetz, Jim McMahan, Lyn Neeley, Betsey Piette, Minnie Bruce Pratt, Arjae Red, Susan Schnur.

Famine fueled by greed stalks the world’s poor

By G. Dunkel

According to Oxfam and Save the Children, 1,500 people — mainly children under age 5 and elders — are dying every day in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia. The groups’ joint 2022 report, “Dangerous Delay 2: The Cost of Inaction,” relies on data from the U.N. and from relevant national, European Union and Pacific Community organization statistical sources. Oxfam projects 350,000 people in those countries are in danger of dying and that 5.7 million children are facing extreme malnutrition by the end of 2022. A previous famine in 2011 saw 260,000 people die in Somalia — half of these children under the age of 5. Other countries in Africa — particularly Nigeria and Egypt, as well as the nearby country of Yemen — are also suffering. Pictures and videos on social media of children with skin stretched over their bones are heart-wrenching and

soul-searing. The U.N. claims the world’s farmers are producing enough food to feed everybody and there is enough capital to pay the cost of doing so. But COVID-19 and the inflation that’s raging throughout the world has dramatically raised the price of food and the cost of getting it from producers to consumers. According to the U.N. Food and Agricultural Organization, global food prices reached an all-time high in March 2022. The whole of East Africa had the cost of a local food basket increase by 23% from February 2021 to February 2022. The countries of East Africa have had to endure four years of a deep drought that has seriously affected their ability to feed their livestock and grow food — particularly corn and wheat. While that area has suffered long droughts in the past, many scientists feel the intensity of the current drought is due to global warming. The U.N. World Food Program points to the particular vulnerability of

Ethiopia and Somalia due to the conflict in Ukraine. These countries have seen 66% and 36% rises in their food basket costs. (WFP, “Implications of Ukraine Conflict ...” Update #2, March 2022) German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock held a June 23 conference in Berlin ostensibly to consider how to blunt the effects of the Ukraine conflict on world food prices. Standing next to U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken at a press conference to mark its conclusion, Baerbock said, “Russia is waging a cynical grain war, using it as a tool to make food prices [skyrocket] and destabilize entire countries.” (Washington Post, June 24) However, the world’s imperialist countries want above all to use Russia’s blockade of Ukraine’s sea ports as the reason why the grain and edible oils that Ukraine produces can’t be exported. They certainly don’t want to consider that the Ukrainian mining of its harbors and the U.S.-instigated embargo against Russian wheat and fertilizer are major

impediments to the movement of these supplies. The G7 meeting of capitalist countries began June 25 with President Joe Biden making it clear that his coalition against Russia is still holding. The U.S. has backed up its support of Ukraine with over \$6 billion in military aid. Besides global warming and droughts, besides embargoes and boycotts, there is capitalist greed. According to an Oxfam report, 62 new “food billionaires” were created during the pandemic. The report was released ahead of this year’s Davos Forum, the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum, which advocates managing the “globalized world” with a self-selected coalition of multinational corporations, government and “civil society” organizations. Food and agribusiness billionaires raised their collective wealth by 42% in the past two years of the pandemic as global food prices soared by 33.6% in 2021. (tinyurl.com/646wpd5d). □

Title IX weakened by SCOTUS Roe ruling

June 23 marked the 50th anniversary of Title IX, the federal legislation mandating equal opportunities for men’s and women’s participation in education, including sports. The very next day, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a nearly 50-year-old decision — Roe v. Wade — thus denying women and girls protected by Title IX their bodily autonomy to choose when or whether to bear children.

Title IX states: “No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.”

Title IX gave women the opportunities to get scholarships to play sports in college without being saddled with massive student loan debt.

Years after its passage it provided the foundation for professional women athletes to demand and win equal pay with

men. On May 18 we witnessed the historic collective bargaining agreement by the United States Soccer Federation, the U.S. Women’s National Team Players Association and the United States National Soccer Team Players Association that created true pay equity in that sport.

On the anniversary of Title IX’s passage, TIME interviewed champion professional soccer player Megan Rapinoe about the shortcomings of Title IX and the impact of the SCOTUS Roe ruling. Rapinoe responded that Title IX shortcomings “mirror the holes in society. ... there’s a racial blind spot ... there’s an LGBTQ blind spot. ... there’s an immigrant blind spot, all of that.”

Rapinoe was one of over 500 female athletes who signed an amicus brief in support of Roe v. Wade, arguing that Roe was essential for the effectiveness of Title IX, as choice offered many women the opportunity to pursue sports. She stated:

“We absolutely need to be vigilant. It is really sad that 50 years on from Title IX, and that so far on from Roe v. Wade, we’re bringing up not just settled law but a settled desire and progression that the majority of the country really want. This is not the will of the majority of the people, by any means at all.”

Threat of jail for miscarriages

Most athletes covered under Title IX are of the age group most impacted by SCOTUS overturning Roe v. Wade. Without reproductive choice women are denied access to compete in sports. Being forced to carry an unintended pregnancy to term could seriously limit one’s ability to participate in many types of athletic activity.

The potential for miscarriages resulting from athletic activities puts individuals at risk of imprisonment in several states with the most restrictive anti-abortion laws. For Black women athletes, who already face

the highest potential for miscarriages and maternal deaths, the danger is multiplied.

Protecting the rapists

Signed into law by President Richard M. Nixon in 1972, while vastly increasing athletic opportunities for women and girls, Title IX also provided recourse for victims of sexual assault or harassment on campus. It laid the basis for how schools that received federal funding should handle accusations and protect survivors.

But in 2020, Donald Trump’s education secretary, Betsy DeVos, weakened these protections by making the rules more accommodating to the accused. Colleges had to provide live hearings to adjudicate sexual assault complaints. In these hearings the accused could cross-examine witnesses and even interrogate the victim, which strongly discourages survivors from reporting sexual assaults or harassment.

It is no coincidence that restrictive abortion bans in several states give rapists and misogynists more control over unintended pregnancies than they give to those they criminally impregnated.

To mark the 50th anniversary of Title IX, President Joe Biden proposed amending the rules governing how educational institutions investigate and resolve claims of sexual assault and harassment, including eliminating the live hearings.

Fight to protect transgender athletes

Biden’s proposed Title IX changes would also bar schools, colleges, and universities from discriminating against transgender students. If passed, they would compel schools to accommodate transgender students by allowing them to use bathrooms matching their gender identity. They would ban bullying based on gender identity and ensure individuals are addressed by their correct pronouns. Schools that fail to comply could risk losing federal funding.

However, the current conservative anti-LGBTQ+ movement, emboldened by the SCOTUS Roe ruling, will push for passage of more state laws excluding transgender students from sports. As of March, state legislators have filed over 200 bills to deny transgender students their rights.

Any changes to Title IX can be made by the Department of Education. No congressional approval is necessary. However, the SCOTUS ruling overturning Roe v. Wade is proof that to protect rights we have won through struggle, we need to be in the streets — not just challenging SCOTUS but the whole rotten capitalist system. □

Growing mass fury

Continued from page 1

between the end of abortion and the end of slavery.

This comparison is meant to confuse the masses into believing that to be anti-racist, you have to be anti-abortion — when in reality Black enslaved women were systemically raped by their white enslavers and forced to carry the resulting pregnancies to term — and the child was then the property of the enslaver.

In many of the protests held since June 24, not only were there signs defending the right to abortion but also those saying “Defund the police.” There were signs such as “Abolish SCOTUS!” and “Abort the court!” for having the power to hold the fate of millions of people in their hands.

There were signs emphasizing that SCOTUS cared more about people having the right to carry guns than people having a right to an abortion. This was in response to a SCOTUS decision, issued June 23, that struck down a New York State law that banned people from carrying guns in public.

In a 1989 political report to a Workers World Party conference, Chairperson Sam Marcy stated in response to the weakening of Roe v. Wade by SCOTUS: “The

abortion decision confirms that whenever the bourgeoisie is in a crisis, they will let nine people, unelected, appointed for life, decide the most critical issues concerning life in the United States.”

This observation is very timely today as the bourgeoisie and their fragile system face an unprecedented economic crisis on a global scale. And who will bear the brunt of this crisis? The economic and political rights of all sectors of the multinational, multigendered working class are on the chopping block.

Widespread radicalization

There is an old Marxist axiom, “Being determines consciousness,” meaning that social conditions shape how one thinks.

In terms of the attacks on abortion rights, workers’ rights and police violence against people of color and now against anti-SCOTUS protesters, there is great potential for class consciousness to be shifted to grow on a mass scale. The militancy and scale of the initial protests against SCOTUS have not been seen since the aftermath of the police lynching of George Floyd in May 2020, when millions took the streets during that summer.

Today some are calling on social media for a general strike of women and their

allies. This may be a premature call — but worsening conditions here and globally for billions of people may justify such a call sooner rather than later.

There is mass anger against this political offensive by the rabid right wing and against the ineffectiveness of the Democratic Party that has had ample time to strengthen abortion laws. The mass anger expressed now and over the coming months will be an important barometer for the outcome of the November mid-term elections.

But while these elections come and go, what will remain are the bread-and-butter, life-and-death issues propelling the masses into the streets. They will come to rely less and less on the phony-baloney promises of capitalist politicians to meet their human needs — including health care, housing, education, an end to state repression and the right to organize.

L.D. Barkley, one of the martyred leaders of the 1971 Attica Prison uprising, stated that the heroic prison rebellion was “the sound before the fury.” Well, what we are seeing in the streets today, over 50 years later, is another reminder that mass fury, despite ebbs and flows, will always rage until the people win justice. □

Colombians elect Gustavo Petro, beating right wing

By Martha Grevatt

Voters in Colombia made history June 19, when they elected the first progressive president in the country’s history. Gustavo Petro, previously a legislator and mayor of Bogota and one-time combatant with the M-19 guerrilla army, defeated right-wing candidate Rodolfo Hernández in a runoff election. Petro and Vice President-elect Francia Márquez — an environmentalist and the country’s first Afro-Colombian vice president — take office August 7.

Petro was previously the highest vote-getter in the May general election, where the right-wing ruling party’s candidate, Federico Gutiérrez, was defeated in the first round. Since the vote of the two rightist candidates combined was enough to defeat Petro, it was uncertain who would prevail June 19. Petro and Francia had the lead with 53% of the vote, beating Hernández by over half a million votes.

The new president will face huge difficulties. The right wing still controls the military and

the legislature and has enjoyed strong support from Washington under both Democratic and Republican administrations. Fascist paramilitaries remain armed and, in the period leading up to the election, assassinated candidates and campaign workers with the Historical Pact, the electoral bloc behind Petro.

But for the frequent targets of assassinations and terror — labor unionists, environmentalists, current and former guerrilla combatants, Indigenous and

Afro-Colombian communities and others — Petro’s election allows them to breathe easier, knowing the paramilitaries will no longer operate with impunity.

The election in Colombia follows a recent trend in Latin America of wins by progressive candidates, including in Honduras, Nicaragua, Peru, Chile and Venezuela last year. However, as Telesur commented June 24: “The new wave of progressivism aims to change the society but not the system, as the intention to impart justice and redistribute wealth is carried out within the rules of capitalism. Thus, the aspiration to transform Latin America under the model of the ‘Socialism of the 21st Century’ has been lately forgotten.”

The victory for the Historical Pact is nevertheless giving Washington the jitters, as Petro has already taken steps to restore friendly relations with Venezuela and its president, Nicolás Maduro. “I have communicated with the Venezuelan government to open the borders and



Gustavo Petro and Francia Márquez greet Colombian masses.

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Ecuador’s national strike at a crossroads

By Michael Otto
Ibarra, Imbabura Province, Ecuador

June 26 — The Indigenous-led National Strike in Ecuador that began June 13 enters its third week on June 27, as the people once again show their power in the streets and highways.

Roadblocks in 23 provinces have closed every paved road in Ecuador. The masses have said, “Enough!” to banker President Guillermo Lasso and five years of a brutal neoliberal economic war that has deepened the poverty of the Indigenous, peasants and the precarious working poor who labor in the informal economy.

Roadblocks are a huge weapon in the hands of the peasants — their economic response to the crushing neoliberal assault — just as workers withhold their labor in the class struggle.

The National Strike of June 2022 is deeper and more profound than the uprising of October 2019 against then-President Lenín Moreno. The causes reflect the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, neoliberal austerity, massive public sector and health care layoffs, the surge in narcotics trafficking and prison riots with more than 400 prisoners massacred since February 2021.

Today Ecuadorians suffer inflation that makes an adequate diet unaffordable for the poor, who are trapped in a spiral of impoverishment, deinstitutionalization and violence. Nearly two-thirds of employed workers have no social security, which means that their jobs and livelihood are precarious.

‘The struggle is resistance’

True to its glorious history of resistance dating back to the 1500s, when they fought against the Spanish conquest, the Indigenous movement of today is shaking the country. Leonidas Iza, president of the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of Ecuador (CONAIE), led an Assembly of the Peoples June 25 in Quito, the capital. Iza urged the people to stay focused and to conserve their strength. He said, “The struggle is resistance.”

Iza defined the struggle this way: “We met with all the authorities of the peoples and nationalities last night until the wee hours of this morning. We have made it absolutely clear why we are here. Let there



Leonidas Iza, president of the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of Ecuador, at microphone, with other CONAIE leaders.

be no confusion, comrades. We are here to take up the Ten Points in response to our communities and our peoples, comrades ... As long as we stay here in the city of Quito, we will also guarantee the actions at the national level in all the provinces.

“This is the struggle. It is clear to us that we have already won some points. But the central issues have not been won yet. Fuel. There is still no answer to the issue of affordable prices. There is no answer to the financial question. There is still no answer to the mining and oil issues. Our points are the Ten Points that have not yet been resolved.” (Transcribed and translated from CONAIE video)

The Ten Points involve reduction and control of fuel prices, moratorium and renegotiation of personal and family debts, fair prices for peasant agricultural production, promotion of employment and labor rights, moratorium on mining and oil extraction, respect for the 21 collective rights, no privatization of strategic sectors and public patrimony, control of basic prices and speculation, budget for health and education, effective security and protection policies. (10 Points — tinyurl.com/26znx3zj)

Economist Jonathan Báez reported on the question of “employed people who do not have social security, which shows that they are in precarious jobs. Thus, if in May 2021, this level was 62%, by March 2022 it will be 66%.” (Institute of Economic Investigations, May 25)

The strike in Ibarra

On June 20, 3,000 people marched miles down the mountain into Ibarra from the Indigenous farming communities in the heights south of the city. Men, women

with children and elders were greeted warmly by the merchants in the markets.

An Afro-Ecuadorian vendor told Workers World: “We support the strike because we all feel the calamity of the economic crisis. We support strikes like this of our Karanki people who come with respect, without violence, without attacking us merchants. We are united with our Karanki people.”

Residents of Ibarra are collecting food and donating money to support the protest in Quito. One, Zoila Ramírez, told WW, “I can’t be in Quito to help out, but I’m part of the resistance.”

Tens of thousands of Indigenous people marched or rode in caravans to Quito from the provinces. Thousands marched 40 miles on June 20, from Cayambe to Quito, and braved clouds of tear gas near Guayllabamba, a town near Quito.

State brutality

One young man from Guayllabamba died in a fall, while trying to escape the tear gas thrown by police and the soldiers who tried to stop the marchers and their caravan. Another injured marcher was struck in the forehead by a tear-gas canister.

A state of exception (martial law) and curfews were declared in six provinces, and police murdered five more protesters. In Puyo, Pastaza Province, a young Indigenous leader was killed by a tear-gas canister fired into his skull at close range on June 21. This gruesome assassination angered people and exposed the fascist and racist reality behind the facade of Ecuadorian democracy.

Chilling scenes of squadrons of police gassing peaceful marchers, young and old, women and children, elicited denunciations from human rights and U.N. observers. Clouds of gas were visible through the parks which border the Casa de la Cultura (House of Culture).

Police raided the Casa then occupied it as a barracks. Under public pressure police abandoned the Casa and then bombed it with gas when the movement used the House of Culture as a refuge and a rallying place. University campuses which served as refuges for the movement were attacked with tear gas during the night hours.

It’s clear that the government has

turned to brute force as its only means to achieve order, when the president has an 83% disapproval rating after only one year in office. Fascistic vandals and infiltrating provocateurs were doing the dirty work needed by the government and corporate media campaign to smear the National Strike and criminalize Indigenous people.

Indigenous movement’s tactics

The Indigenous movement publicly eschews violence. They hold Assemblies of the People; they march; they tend the wounded and find some rest in university spaces, despite the vicious police gas-bombing of their shelters day and night.

Indigenous communes in the provinces are mobilized to send food and whatever else is needed by their comrades in Quito, including transporting replacements for the wounded who return home.

On day 13 of the strike, hundreds of Indigenous women, feminists and dissidents assembled for a cleansing ceremony at the Plaza José Martí in Quito and marched to the Central University for an Assembly of Women.

After two weeks the government recognizes five deaths; eight people have disappeared, and hundreds are injured, some seriously. On June 26 the National Assembly debated the possible impeachment of President Lasso, but pro-impeachment forces lacked the necessary votes.

Solidarity from urban sectors including students, feminists, trade unions and laborers in the precarious informal economy can help the strike. Transport workers are expected to join the National Strike June 27. The Pan American Highway is closed. Buses are not operating.

Divisions among the people are a problem for the strike and are fraught with racism that stems from five centuries of colonialism. Racism marginalizes the Indigenous movement, whose glorious history of resistance has opened the door to the resistance of today.

Because they live from day to day, many urban workers in the precarious informal economy don’t participate in a strike, which they may support. The outcome of this unprecedented uprising is to be determined.

Mike Otto transcribed and/or translated the cited statements.

Colombians elect Gustavo Petro

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restore the full exercise of human rights on the border,” Petro tweeted. Maduro in turn tweeted that “The will of the Colombian people, who came out to defend the path of democracy and peace, was heard. New times are on the horizon for this sister country.”

‘Like a new dawn’

Petro opposes the U.S. War on Drugs as applied in Colombia, with a “scorched-earth” policy to eradicate coca production without creating economic alternatives for coca farmers. His priorities include addressing poverty and income inequality in Colombia, which has one of the highest rates of extreme poverty in Latin America. Petro wants to renegotiate the Colombia-U.S. Free Trade Agreement to be less tilted toward U.S. corporate interests.

The president-elect has pledged to implement the terms of the peace agreement between the Colombian government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia-Peoples Army (FARC-EP), which current President Ivan Duque attempted to scrap, leading some decommissioned FARC-EP combatants to form “dissident” groups and resume the armed struggle.

FARC-EP Segunda Marquetalia, one of the two dissident groups, said in a June 22 statement welcoming the election results: “Let us all meet at the front lines of the struggles for social justice, for the plurality of conscience — as Petro says — and for solidarity between peoples of variously colored skin and variously colored flags. Let us continue onward for agrarian justice and land for the peasantry, for a productive and decarbonized economy, new technologies and for a country with clean energy and environmental justice.

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

“It is a wise decision from the new government to promote more active integration in Latin America and the Caribbean. For let us not forget that Monroeism is still alive and conspiring against our unity in order to dominate us without our resistance.

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

France: Macron rebuked

By G. Dunkel

The second round of parliamentary elections in France held June 19 established two key facts.

President Macron’s party suffered a stinging rebuke. For the first time since France went to five-year terms for its president and held parliamentary elections after the presidential elections, the president’s party failed to win a majority. It got 245 seats, 44 seats less than a majority. It was clear that Macron won the presidential elections only because French voters didn’t want fascist Marine Le Pen, his rival in the runoff vote, to be president.

His party’s left-wing opponents, united in a coalition called NUPES, won 131 seats — the way the government counted them — and 142 seats the way NUPES tallied them.

The second key fact is that the fascist National Rally (RN), formerly named the National Front (FN), got 89 seats, 80 seats more than it had in the last parliament.

The General Confederation of Labor (CGT), the oldest and most militant trade union confederation in France, explains this startling gain for the RN, by pointing out that Macron’s party gave no support to nonmember candidates running against an RN candidate. Macron’s party had the position that it was opposed to both the “extremes,” those of the “left” from NUPES and those of the “right” from RN.

The CGT took the opportunity in its comments on the parliamentary elections to say it supports any improvement in the wages and social benefits for workers. □



Codicioso fabricante se enfoca en los jóvenes para obtener ganancias

Por Betsey Piette

En todo Estados Unidos, los políticos capitalistas, incluido el presidente Joe Biden, vomitan una verborrea interminable sobre la necesidad de controlar las armas de asalto, pero hacen poco para que esto ocurra. Mientras tanto, los padres de uno de los niños asesinados y un empleado de la escuela en Uvalde, Texas, han iniciado acciones legales contra Daniel Defense, el fabricante de armas que produjo el arma de asalto AR-15 utilizada para masacrar a 19 niños y dos profesores en la Escuela Primaria Robb.

Entre los posibles demandantes se encuentran la auxiliar de logopedia Emilia “Amy” Marin, Alfred Garza III, padre de Amerie Jo Garza, la niña de 10 años que llamó al 911 desde el interior de su aula antes de ser disparada, y su madre Kimberly García. Alfred Garza, en una carta enviada a Daniel Defense a través de sus abogados, declaró: “Mi propósito para estar ahora es honrar la memoria de Amerie Jo. Ella querría que hiciera todo lo posible para que esto no vuelva a sucederle a ningún otro niño. Tengo que luchar por ella”.

En los documentos judiciales presentados el 2 de junio en el Distrito Judicial 38 de Texas, Marin solicitó que se obligara a los funcionarios de la empresa a prestar declaración y a presentar materiales relacionados con el sitio web del fabricante de armas, sus beneficios, sus grupos de presión, sus ventas y su comercialización de rifles del tipo AR-15. Los archivos cuestionan la comercialización de Daniel Defense a los jóvenes, que razonablemente no deberían poseer armas de asalto.

Garza está representado por el abogado Josh Koskoff, que a principios de este año ganó un acuerdo de 73 millones de dólares contra Remington para nueve familias de las víctimas del tiroteo en la escuela primaria de Sandy Hook en 2012, y los abogados Mikal Watts y Charla Aldous, con sede en Texas.

Las posibles demandas se enfrentan a una ardua batalla. En octubre de 2005, el Congreso de EE.UU., bajo la presidencia de George W. Bush, y con un considerable apoyo demócrata, aprobó la Ley de Protección del Comercio Legal de Armas, cuyo objetivo es poner fin a las demandas de particulares y municipios para responsabilizar a los fabricantes y distribuidores de armas de fuego por negligencia cuando sus armas se utilizan en delitos. Treinta y tres estados han adoptado desde entonces leyes similares.

En su exitosa demanda contra Remington, los padres de Sandy Hook se centraron en la forma en que el fabricante del arma utilizada en ese ataque anunciaba sus armas y apelaba a las personas que corrían un alto riesgo de hacer un mal uso criminal del arma.

Daniel Defense: reputación de ir más allá de los límites

Fundada por su propietario, Marty Daniel, en el año 2000, la empresa Daniel Defense, con sede en Georgia, tiene unos ingresos que oscilan entre los 10 y los 50 millones de dólares anuales. Daniel tuvo su oportunidad en una feria de armas en Orlando (Florida) en 2002, cuando un representante de las Fuerzas Especiales de Estados Unidos se puso en contacto con él y consiguió un contrato de 20 millones de dólares para producir accesorios para rifles de combate militares. (N.Y. Times, 28/5)

Desde 2008, Daniel Defense ha recibido más de 100 contratos del Pentágono por un total de más de 13 millones de dólares. El 23 de marzo de 2022, la empresa recibió un contrato adicional del Pentágono por valor de 9,1 millones de dólares para producir cañones mejorados para su uso en sus armas.

El artículo del N.Y. Times señala que antes del año 2000, “los fabricantes de armas no comercializaban armas de asalto de estilo militar a los civiles”. En las ferias, estas armas estaban acordonadas del público en general. “Eso comenzó a cambiar alrededor de 2004, dicen los expertos de la industria, con la expiración de la prohibición federal de las armas de asalto”.

A partir de 2009, Daniel Defense comenzó a

comercializar armas de asalto de estilo militar a los consumidores, presentando combatientes fuertemente armados con el mensaje: “Usa lo que ellos usan”. Otros anuncios hacían referencia a los videojuegos “Call of Duty” o presentaban personajes de “Star Wars”, probablemente para atraer a los adolescentes.

Algunos anuncios mostraban a niños portando y disparando armas.



‘Buffalo... Uvalde... ¿Qué pudo inspirar estos actos de violencia tan indescriptibles?’

El día en que el tirador de Uvalde cumplió 18 años, Daniel Defense publicó una foto en la que aparecía un niño pequeño con un arma de asalto en su regazo y la leyenda: “Educa a un niño en el camino que debe seguir. Cuando sea mayor, no se apartará de él”.

Daniel Defense ha facilitado la compra de un arma de asalto AR-15. Los clientes pueden comprar el AR-15 de 1.800 dólares en un plan de pago a plazos, lo que hace que el arma costosa sea más asequible. Salvador Ramos, identificado como el tirador en Uvalde, acababa de cumplir 18 años y pudo comprar legalmente un AR-15 de Daniel Defense en línea.

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Tras publicar inicialmente un comunicado enviando pensamientos y oraciones a Uvalde, la empresa publicó a continuación una promoción para un sorteo de 15.000 dólares en armas o munición.

Desde el año 2000, las armas de asalto destinadas a la guerra, fabricadas por Bushmaster, Daniel Defense, Smith & Wesson Brands, Sig Sauer y Ruger, han inundado el mercado nacional, donde se han utilizado para llevar a cabo múltiples y horribles ataques contra civiles. En conjunto, estas empresas son responsables de la producción de más de 15 millones de armas actualmente en circulación.

Daños de un arma de asalto militar

Tras la masacre de Uvalde, las autoridades pidieron a los padres de los niños asesinados en la Escuela Primaria Robb que proporcionaran muestras de ADN. Muy pocos

medios de comunicación corporativos se molestaron en preguntar por qué.

Las balas de las armas que disparan de una en una atraviesan el cuerpo humano en línea recta y salen intactas. El daño no siempre es mortal.

El AR-15 de Daniel Defense es un arma de combate. Las balas disparadas por esta arma viajan a tres veces la velocidad del sonido. Las balas disparadas por un AR-15 explotan en pedazos, creando lesiones internas masivas. Al impactar, destrozan y hacen pedazos los huesos y órganos de sus víctimas hasta convertirlos en pulpa irreconocible. Un disparo en la cabeza o en la cara hace casi imposible la identificación física, como ocurrió con los niños asesinados en Uvalde. No quedaba nada que identificar.

Las hermosas fotos de las víctimas -los niños de 9 a 11 años y sus profesores colocadas en cruces fuera de su escuela- sólo sirvieron para ocultar el horrible daño que pueden causar estas armas de asalto legalizadas. ¿Cuánto mayor sería la indignación pública si se mostrara a la gente el daño real?

El mantra de la Asociación Nacional del Rifle es que “las armas no matan, las personas sí”. Ignora convenientemente la realidad de que las armas de asalto no sólo matan, sino que pulverizan a sus víctimas. Incluso la policía de Uvalde, criticada por no actuar para salvar a los niños, comprendió el poder de estas armas.

Biden y la hipocresía del Partido Demócrata

El presidente Biden interrumpió las televisiones nacionales el 30 de mayo para preguntar: “¿Cuándo, como nación, nos enfrentaremos al cabildeo de las armas?” Al día siguiente pidió que Estados Unidos enviara más cohetes a Ucrania, lo que supone un inequívoco impulso para los fabricantes de armas.

Los fabricantes de armas para uso doméstico y de armas para guerras en el extranjero son esencialmente la misma industria. El contrato de 9,1 millones de dólares de su administración con Daniel Defense en marzo para producir piezas de armas para el Pentágono es una prueba sólida de ello.

La Ley de Protección del Comercio Legal de Armas, que protege a empresas como Daniel Defense de la responsabilidad, se aprobó en 2005 con un apoyo considerable de los demócratas, que siguen optando por centrarse en la vigilancia de los consumidores en lugar de restringir a los fabricantes de armas que se benefician de la producción de armas de asalto.

Aunque es poco probable que Biden pueda conseguir que los senadores republicanos, y mucho menos su propio partido, aprueben medidas significativas de control de armas, sí podría revertir una acción de su predecesor Donald Trump que benefició a los productores mundiales de armas.

En mayo de 2019, Trump “deshizo” el Tratado de Comercio de Armas de Naciones Unidas, que Estados Unidos firmó en 2013 pero nunca ratificó. Este tratado, al que se opone fuertemente la NRA, se consideraba el esfuerzo más completo hacia el control internacional de armas. Biden podría devolver a Estados Unidos a este tratado a través de un acto ejecutivo que no requeriría la aprobación del Congreso. Todavía no lo ha hecho.

Estados Unidos fabrica y vende más armas que cualquier otro país. Esta trayectoria se remonta al colonialismo estadounidense y a la organización de los colonos europeos en milicias para atacar a los pueblos indígenas. La protección de la Segunda Enmienda del “derecho a portar armas” se remonta a este origen blanco-supremacista.

Workers World Party/Partido Mundo Obrero apoya el derecho de los trabajadores y los pueblos oprimidos a armarse para defenderse de los ataques del estado capitalista y sus matones armados racistas, supremacistas blancos y neofascistas. Pero nos oponemos firmemente a la producción de armas de asalto que son utilizadas por las fuerzas militares, policiales y supremacistas blancas contra la clase obrera y los pueblos oprimidos en los EE.UU. y en todo el mundo. □